

LINCARNATIONS

Volume 34 No. 1

July 2026

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

Association of Lincoln Presenters



Dan Bassuk,
ALP Founder



Stan Wernz,
President
Emeritus

If anyone has any events or activities that should interest us as historic portrayers, living historians or researchers, please share this (semiannual) newsletter, our Facebook, or webpage.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kevin Wood, your new ALP President as of our last conference in April in Bardstown, KY. I trust that I will not have to say, as President Lincoln did in his First Inaugural Address, that “apprehension seems to exist” on the part of some of our people about this new “administration”. I intend to carry on, to the best of my abilities, the fine work of our previous three Presidents: our founder Dan Bassuk for 15 years, Stan Wernz for 17 years, and most recently John Cooper for four years.

A little about me and my “Lincoln story”. I grew up in Michigan and Illinois, including attending high school in Metamora, IL, one of Lincoln’s stops on the Eighth Judicial Circuit; the courthouse still stands where Lincoln supposedly advised his 70-year-old client Melissa Goings – on trial for the murder of her husband – “that there was mighty good water in Tennessee”. In the year 2000, when I was 33 years old, I first portrayed Lincoln in my church and it became a bit of a hobby. I learned about the ALP in 2001 and telephoned Dan Bassuk, our founder and President, who encouraged me to join. The hobby eventually evolved into a side job and then quickly into a full-time job in 2015. That’s when I attended my first ALP conference, in Vandalia, IL, and began to get to know the wonderful people who make up our association.

This is my third career; I previously worked as an Environmental Scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Philadelphia regional office) for 11 years and then as a church-planter (missionary) in Spain for the next 10 years. I have five college degrees, but none in history; nearly everything I’ve learned to be Lincoln I’ve learned the same way Lincoln learned: through self-study.

Speaking of learning, I believe strongly in being a “lifelong learner”. This is one reason why I would greatly encourage our members to make an extra effort to attend our annual conferences, as these are great learning opportunities as well as a chance to interact with and enjoy the fellowship of some great, like-minded people! If you haven’t already done so, please mark your calendars for our 2027 conference which will be held April 22-25 in Buffalo, NY with Glenn Murray as host; this will be our first conference in New York State, the nation’s largest in terms of population – and arguably the most important one politically – in the Lincolns’ time.

But our conferences aren’t the only learning and fellowship opportunities we provide to our members. For the past couple of years, Laura Keyes has organized virtual ALP “Meet-Ups”, held via Zoom, and currently held every other month on Sunday evenings. These include an optional 30-minute “social time” at 6:30 pm Central Time followed by an hour-long presentation with Q&A at 7:00 pm. The next one will be on Sunday, July 19; see a separate article in this newsletter about these meetings. Quite frankly, I’ve been disappointed that more of our members haven’t been taking advantage of these free and beneficial sessions; to quote Lincoln again, this “is the great available, and yet unavailed of, force”!

A final note: We’ve set up a new e-mail account for the ALP President (president@lincolnpresenters.com) so that I can keep ALP correspondence separate from my regular Lincoln correspondence. If you haven’t received any e-mails from this address in the past few months, you may need to add it to your e-mail contact list to ensure delivery.

Thank you again for the opportunity and privilege to serve you, our membership, as ALP President.

Kevin Wood

MEET YOUR FELLOW LINCOLN

JACOB TRUAX

“Where does Jacob Truax end and Lincoln begin?” Jacob asks himself as much as the audience of a recent installment of Bloom Stage entitled *Diptychs, Doubletakes, and Doppelgängers: The Power of Two in Our Stories*.

Jacob Truax taught high school French for one score before becoming a high school gifted facilitator for Rutherford County Schools in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Jacob holds a bachelor’s degree in French and English and a Master’s in English as a Second Language from Middle Tennessee State University. Like Lincoln, he has a great appreciation for Shakespeare as evidenced by the fact that he hosts Shakespeare play readings biannually, has directed summer Shakespeare productions, and performed in them including as Macbeth. Jacob also enjoys reading, walking, hiking, baking, cooking, journaling, writing novels, contributing to his Blog – *Freethought Farm*, woodworking, participating in Spanish conversation groups, collecting cats, and entertaining on his 8-acre mini farm in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Jacob is a proud six-gallon lifetime donor to the American Red Cross. In addition to being a Lifetime ALP Member, Jacob is a member of the Alliance Française de Nashville, Murfreesboro Little Theatre, Oaklands Mansion, The Hermitage, and Historic Rugby. As a natural-born writer, Jacob won a short story contest last spring using AutoCrit. Jacob’s only sister is named Sarah, and, as a boy, Jacob devoured every book he could get his hands on, only to grow up to be the same height as Lincoln! Coincidence?!



While Jacob’s Mary, Laura L. Schlesinger, will never let him forget that his becoming a Lincoln presenter was her idea, she credits him with the monumental task of finding and developing his Lincoln. What Jacob and Laura have affectionately dubbed their “Lincoln Journey” began when they attended an author-presenter series at The Hermitage, which showcased Charles Dickens, Washington Irving, and Edgar Allan Poe. Laura told Jacob she could see him doing something along these lines, to which he responded that he would like to. He reminded her that he knew the most about Edgar Allan Poe and Shakespeare yet resembled neither, to which Laura responded, “You know who you look like? Abraham Lincoln!” Despite his admittedly knowing comparatively little about Lincoln, Jacob promised to think about it, which he did for three years!!! Then, he devoted over a year reading, researching, and writing, all of which culminated in his one-man show, *An Evening with Abraham Lincoln*, which may be best compared to Hal Holbrook’s *Mark Twain Tonight!* As a Lifetime ALP Member, Laura strives to follow Jacob’s lead as well as the precedent set by the ALP Marys in finding her interpretation of Mary Lincoln. Now, when antiquing, Laura and Jacob are on the lookout for Lincoln! What surprised Jacob is how he became an overnight celebrity as a Lincoln presenter; what hasn’t surprised him is how honored people are to meet him, considering everyone has a good feeling about Abraham Lincoln, a universally beloved figure, which is what Jacob appreciates most about being a Lincoln presenter.

Jacob first learned of The Association of Lincoln Presenters during a trip to Springfield, Illinois.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Upon learning that “there’s an association for that” Jacob applied and secured an interview, which, much to his satisfaction, resulted in his being initiated into the ALP. To say he hit the ground running is an understatement. In fact, what he did in merely three years’ time, virtually single handedly, is accurately portray Abraham Lincoln so that those today may learn not only about our 16th President but about the man who was once a boy who became a teenager and young man, a husband, father, politician, orator, gentle giant, and, lucky for Jacob, a master storyteller.

To date, Jacob has performed his ever evolving and adaptable one-man show at several historic sites, notably Oaklands Mansion (Murfreesboro) where he made his first appearance as Lincoln to a sold-out show of over 100 attendees and The Hermitage. Most recently, Jacob received a standing ovation of 200 at Forkland Community Center in Kentucky, just down the road from where Lincoln’s maternal grandmother is buried.

Historically, Jacob has introduced Eagleville School’s 4th graders, Rutherford County Virtual School’s 8th graders, and Michigan school-age children to Lincoln—the man, the myth, and the legend. One of Jacob’s fondest memories as a Lincoln presenter was getting to shake hands with a little boy who had come to one of his shows dressed as a Union soldier. Jacob’s Lincoln now has a standing invitation doing the morning announcements on February 12. He always shares that “because an 11-year-old girl had the temerity to write him a letter and make a request of him, she forever changed the face of history and so can you.” Not surprisingly, Jacob’s favorite Lincoln story is how Grace Bedell wrote a letter, suggesting that he grow a beard, forever changing the course of history.

Jacob has also presented Lincoln at the historic courthouse in Murfreesboro, Tennessee as well as VA hospitals, public libraries, community theatres, retirement homes, and 55-plus communities across the country. Additionally, Jacob has made two appearances with The Bloom Stage, an arts collaborative showcase deeply rooted in storytelling. In The Bloom Stage’s show *Diptychs, Doubletakes, and Doppelgängers: The Power of Two in Our Stories*, before intermission, Enter Jacob who openly reflects on “Where does Jacob Truax end and Abraham Lincoln begin?” and after intermission Enter Jacob Truax as Abraham Lincoln: two faces of the same coin. He also surprised an L.A.-based comedian who has had a fascination with Lincoln since he was a little boy!

Early on in Jacob’s “Lincoln Journey,” Judge Cotton assured Jacob that “Lincoln brings people together,” and has he ever! In April 2024, Jacob and Laura attended their first annual ALP conference and will continue to make every effort to attend as much as their busy teaching schedules will allow. They especially enjoyed this year’s annual conference in Bardstown, Kentucky where they stayed in the Lincoln Suite of the Old Talbott Tavern! Jacob and Laura have made lifelong friends and mentors in ALP members, and they love being a part of this close-knit enlightening community! Lincoln Days is now another annual tradition, and this past year, Jacob won the 2025 Abraham Lincoln Look-Alike contest with the end of Lincoln’s First Inaugural Address! Fellow ALP members were especially proud of Jacob’s accomplishment.

Come June, Jacob will tour England with five shows in London, two in Bath, and one in Coventry. Then, on the Fourth of July, Jacob will return to Kentucky where he will be featured in Danville’s parade in celebration of America’s 250-year anniversary. The second weekend in July, Jacob will perform in Jonesborough, home of the Storytelling Festival, which is historic, considering Lincoln was a master storyteller. Jacob hopes to publish his first Abraham Lincoln book of poetry as early as this year! Finally, for the third consecutive Presidents’ Day, Jacob will perform at The Hermitage.

Because of ALP member-presenters like Jacob, Lincoln continues to bring people together and leave a lasting impression and legacy. In his morning announcements to the student body, Jacob’s Lincoln further shared that he always wanted to do something great and knew he had when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Jacob would like to achieve something great like Lincoln. Like Lincoln, he is honest and modest—attributes worthy of excellence. However, with his self-written one-man show, he may already achieve something excellent and great.

Respectfully submitted by **Laura L. Schlesinger**

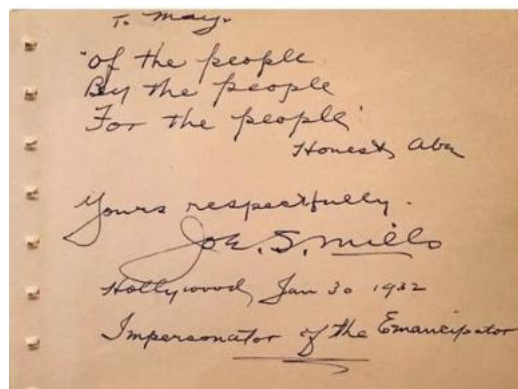
EARLY LINCOLN PORTRAYERS

Joseph Stapleton Mills

April 26, 1875 – October 19, 1935

Joseph S. Mills was a native of Yonkers, New York, but grew up in Alameda, California. His parents were Joseph Mills, a dyer from Dublin, Ireland, and the former Susan Stapleton, a homemaker native to Yonkers, but born to English parents. He was the second oldest of four children who lived to adulthood. Growing up in the San Francisco Bay area, he started as a shipping clerk then as an adjuster for the local gas & electric company. For several years, he was also a member of the Tivoli Singers, which later became part of the San Francisco Opera Company as a cast member, giving him an opportunity to perform on stage, and receiving generally good reviews by name. He married the former Mary Bertha Jansen, also of Alameda, on New Year's Eve 1908. By 1920, he and his wife, and his two widowed sisters-in-law, relocated to Los Angeles. They had no children of record. His draft registration listed him as tall.

In 1923, a casting call by First National Pictures for an ambitious film brought many opportunities for extras and supporting cast members. His first film role was as Montgomery Blair, Lincoln's Postmaster General in the Rocketts' production of *The Dramatic Life of Abraham Lincoln* released in 1924. He would appear in a few other films, usually small or supporting parts. In 1929, he would appear in a silent Western film, *The Overland Telegraph*, as Abraham Lincoln, who dispatches Captain Allan (played by Cowboy film star Tim McCoy) to investigate the troubles plaguing the laying of the overland telegraph to California. Two years later, he would reprise his role as Lincoln in another Western, *Two-Fisted Justice*, this time dispatching Kentucky Carson (played by Tom Tyler) to assess trouble on the frontier at the beginning of the Civil War. This was a sound film. He would have the rare distinction of being among the few who performed Lincoln in both a silent and a sound film. He also belonged to a private club for variety artists, the Troupers Club of Hollywood.



*Left, Mills giving an interview during the release of *The Overland Telegraph* (courtesy of Frank Thompson, *Abraham Lincoln: Twentieth-Century Popular Portrayals*); Right, an autograph note by Mills to Mary who enjoyed his presentation (courtesy, private collection).*

While his movie roles shrank to uncredited parts due to an on-set injury in 1931, he did have a bigger presence, at least in Los Angeles, impersonating Lincoln at civic events. Beginning with Lincoln's Birthday in 1931, he gave impersonations of Lincoln at the Trouper's Club, and by Memorial Day, he was in persona at the Sawtelle Soldiers' Home. He would give impersonations or readings at different venues about the city. Eventually, he was hospitalized in 1935 and by October 19, 1935, he died. His remains were cremated.

John M. McKee

THE LINCOLN QUESTION and ANSWERS

A QUESTION:

Are any ALP members doing anything special in the way of programs, etc., for the “America 250” celebrations taking place in 2026?



While I am not adding any new characters to portray, I have created an Illustrated Lecture about the Founding Mothers of our nation. At the request of the Springfield African American History Museum, I’ve also created an Illustrated Lecture called “They Fought Too: Black Revolutionaries.” That lecture debuted on 28 May. More information is available on my website: www.HistoricVoices.info

Laura Keyes



Regarding America 250 events, I have booked at least ten new clients this year who specifically mentioned America 250 as their reason for hiring Lincoln. A couple of these deserve to be mentioned. I appeared at Hillsdale College in Michigan for their kickoff weekend for the America 250 Freedom Truck. Hillsdale College is sponsoring six trucks outfitted with Revolutionary era displays. In April, the kick-off occurred at the college. Now these trucks are appearing all over the country.

I will appear for three days at the Columbus Air Show which attracts over 100,000 people over the weekend. They contacted me because of America 250. I also have been given a 12-day contract for the Ohio State Fair in July and August to be part of an America 250 exhibit at the state fair. Finally, I am hired for four days at the Ashland (OH) County Fair, a new client, because of America 250.

John Cooper



I have prepared a roughly 20-minute presentation to be given at celebrations of our nation’s founding. I used Mario Cuomo’s book *Lincoln on Democracy* as my primary source, taking Lincoln’s words from various speeches and letters from 1858 on to 1864, speaking of the Liberties of our Country set up by our founders, some trials and accomplishments of the first 88 years of our existence, and some thoughts for those listening as we move forward. I used no words of my own unless needed to tie statements together. It all flows well, and I hope those that hear it are as inspired as I was in my preparation. I have some presentations booked in various parts of Indiana at this time.

Murray Cox



I just wanted to let you know that my theatre group, Charleston Community Theatre in Charleston, IL, is collaborating with Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site to present “Voices of Freedom,” a program of historic patriotic speeches and songs at the LLCSHC auditorium on July 18 to commemorate the 250th anniversary.

Ann Bruehler



I’ve received invitations to a few “America 250” events and in general have been a bit busier, especially in these summer months. I’ve also found myself citing more often two Lincoln quotes about the Declaration of Independence: his well-known “I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence” (Feb. 22, 1861 at Philadelphia), and his somewhat less well-known speech on July 10, 1858 at Chicago in which he said that the roughly one half of our population who were relative newcomers from various European nations and who weren’t descended from people living here at the time of the Revolution, that when these people “look through that old Declaration of Independence they find that those old men say that ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,’ and then they feel that that moral sentiment taught in that day evidences their relation to those men, that it is the father of all moral principle in them, and that they have a right to claim it as though they were blood of the blood, and flesh of the flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration, and so they are. That is the electric cord in that Declaration that links the hearts of patriotic and liberty-loving men together, that will link those patriotic hearts as long as the love of freedom exists in the minds of men throughout the world.”

Kevin Wood

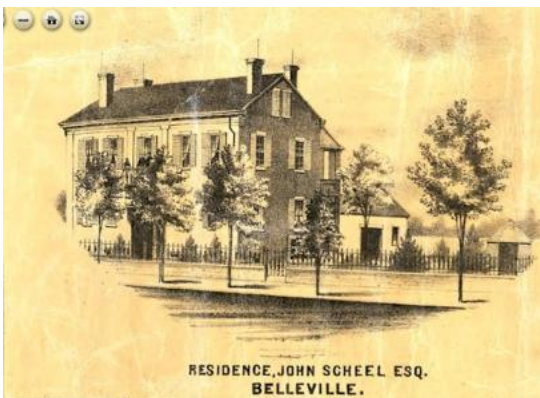
CURIOSA

The Lincoln Balcony Railing, Belleville, IL

The Victorian House Museum in Belleville, IL displays an object made of steel and covered in black paint, and measures 48 inches high, 10 feet long, and 42 inches deep.

Abraham Lincoln is known to have visited Belleville, IL, three times, with 1856 being his last. The occasion was stumping for Republican candidates – John C. Frémont for President, and William Bissell for Governor – and strengthen ties with other Republicans in southwest Illinois. First meeting with Republicans at their club headquarters, and then a rally on the Public Square. After being introduced to “Republican families” around town, he attended another rally on Market Square that evening, which included a torchlight parade.

Afterward, he returned to the home of John Scheel where he stayed the night. Scheel was a German immigrant, Gustave Koerner’s brother-in-law and a friend of Lincoln. His home was a 14-room two-story colonial brick mansion with 10 fireplaces. A crowd escorted him back from the rally and he addressed them from the second-floor balcony during a beautiful October evening.



The home was demolished and replaced by a junior high school decades later, and in turn by the YMCA in 2006. A local family salvaged the balcony railing and donated it to the St. Clair County Historical Society, where it is kept at the Victorian Home museum.

See: <https://gustavekoerner.org/lincoln-connections/>
<https://www.bnd.com/news/local/article277544928.html>

John M. McKee

Please feel free to share items that are not well known, but still interesting.

Association of Lincoln Presenters 30th Annual Conference

The Association of Lincoln Presenters (“ALP”) held its 30th annual conference in and around Bardstown, KY, the “Bourbon Capital of the World”, from April 9-12, 2026. Conference hosts were Larry and Mary Elliott.



Group Photo at My Old Kentucky Home in Bardstown (April 10, 2026)

On Thursday evening, we were welcomed by Bardstown Mayor Richard Heaton and then we played a Lincoln Trivia Game with 56 questions about Lincoln from his birth to Ford’s Theatre, and six winners received a presidential gold-plated Lincoln dollar.

On Friday, we toured the National Civil War Battles of the Western Theatre Museum (including the Women’s Civil War Museum) and the “My Old Kentucky Home” State Park and mansion, all in Bardstown. Then we had lunch at the historic Old Talbott Tavern where the Lincoln family had stayed as young Abe witnessed a land dispute trial held across the street at the courthouse, and where the owner John Kelley did a presentation on the history of the tavern, the oldest continuously operated tavern in Kentucky. The Mary Lincolns had their annual business meeting and enjoyed a Victorian accessories fashion show (a “show and tell”).

That afternoon we toured the Oscar Getz Whiskey History Museum in Bardstown and then we heard from the Executive Director Jack Rein who gave a presentation based on the question “What If Lincoln Had Lived?”. In the evening, we returned to “My Old Kentucky Home” for a social hour with the Lincolns attended by over 100 people from the surrounding communities, followed by a catered banquet dinner; we were very pleased that Jim Sayre, one of ALP’s “founding fathers”, was able to attend the dinner even though he is 90 years old and not in the best of health. The entertainment for the evening was historic portrayals by seven Abraham Lincolns, three Mary Lincolns, one Nancy Lincoln (Abraham’s mother), and one General Ulysses S. Grant. A total of 160 people were in attendance, with the Kentucky Home Guard Band playing Civil War music.

The whole evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Saturday, we toured the Lincoln Birthplace (NPS) in Hodgenville where we also had group photos taken. Then we toured the Lincoln Museum and heard a presentation by director Iris LaRue about significant women in Lincoln's life and had another group photo at the Lincoln statue. Then we proceeded to view the Austin Gollaher gravesite at Pleasant Grove Cemetery and then went to the Knob Creek Home (NPS) which is a museum about little Abe's life from ages three to seven. From there we went to the Kentucky Railway Museum in New Haven and had a catered lunch in the elegant dining car while the train traveled to Boston, KY and back. Departing the train, we got to pose for many photos with our fellow travelers and with people taking the next tour, and then we toured the museum in the train station before returning to our hotel.

On Saturday evening we enjoyed a buffet dinner and held our annual Business Meeting where we conducted the normal business of the organization, including committee reports; an update from Glenn Murray on our 2027 conference to be held in Buffalo, NY; the election of Franklin, TN as the site of our 2028 conference with Whit & Julie McMahan as hosts; and the election of board members and officers. Kevin Wood and Laura Keyes were re-elected to the Board and Ann Bruehler was also elected, replacing John Voehl who stepped down. John Cooper stepped down after four years as President but remains on the Board. We thank John C. for his service as President and John V. for his service as Secretary. Kevin Wood was elected as President (only our fourth President in 36 years), Laura Keyes and Danny Russel as First and Second Vice President, respectively, and Ann Bruehler as Secretary. Teena Baldrige received the ALP Excellence Award for her many services to ALP over many years.

We finished the conference on Sunday morning with a message from Pastor Rich Poe in the hotel conference room. A few attendees stayed over on Sunday afternoon for a tour of three sites in Springfield, KY: the Lincoln Legacy Museum, the Lincoln Homestead State Park (Berry Cabin), and Cornerstone Acres.

Our host hotel was the Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites in Bardstown. During the conference we held a silent auction to help cover conference expenses, set up in the hotel conference room.

Our conference photographer was Marty Justice Photography; to view and/or purchase photos (digital or prints) of the conference, visit <https://martyjusticephotography.shootproof.com>.

Submitted by Larry & Mary Elliott, Conference Hosts, and Kevin Wood, President



Marian King and Teena Baldrige at the Lincoln Birthplace (NPS) in Hodgenville (April 11, 2026)



Outgoing ALP President John Cooper and Incoming President Kevin Wood in front of the Lincoln Legacy Museum in Springfield, KY (April 12, 2026)



*Clockwise from the top left: Larry & Mary Elliott at Civil War Museum in Bardstown (April 10, 2026); Jacob Truax & Laura Schlesinger at Civil War Museum in Bardstown (April 10, 2026); Robert Broski performing in *The Many Faces of Lincoln* show at My Old Kentucky Home in Bardstown (April 10, 2026); and Michael Baete, Ron Carley, and Connor Baete at Women's Civil War Museum in Bardstown (April 10, 2026).*

SHUFFLE OFF TO BUFFALO!

Buffalo, NY 2027 ALP Conference

Now is the time to consider local attractions that are just some of many reasons to attend the 2027 Buffalo Conference.

We have an important change to announce regarding the agenda for the 2027 Buffalo conference. Instead of making a "road trip" to Westfield, NY (hometown of young Grace Bedell), we will visit Niagara Falls! Not only will this save us time and money, it will likely result in greater media coverage that will benefit the ALP.

President and Mrs. Lincoln visited Niagara Falls (twice!), and so should you, by attending our Buffalo conference! Lincoln remarked: "The thing that struck me most forcibly when I saw the Falls, was where did all that water come from?" <https://visitbuffalo.com/rush-to-niagara-falls/>

Here are just a few of the many local attractions within driving distance of our hotel. The site names can be Googled for more information.

1 mile

Pierce Arrow Car Museum

1 mile

Buffalo Presidential Center

1 mile

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

1 mile

Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino

2 miles

Buffalo Naval & Military Park

3 miles

Darwin Martin House, by world famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright

3 miles

Buffalo History Museum

3 miles

Buffalo AKG Art Museum

6 miles

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

33 miles

Old Fort Niagara

And our hotel (Aloft by Marriott Buffalo Downtown) has its own ARCADE GAMES, BOWLING ALLEY and PAINTBALL RANGE!



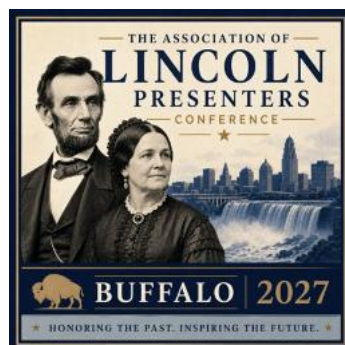
Conference presentations will not only be about President Lincoln, but also about Buffalo's Underground Railroad, the Erie Canal and how Western New York supported the Union Army, with soldiers and distinguished officers like Generals Bidwell and Chapin, the Irish firebrand Col. Cocoran's legendary Irish Legion, and General Ely Parker, a member of the Seneca nation, who as adjutant to General Grant drafted the surrender terms for General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox.

If you're wondering what connections President Lincoln had to Buffalo, here's a teaser – just one of many significant Lincoln-Buffalo events:

<https://buffalohistorymuseum.com/2016/02/12/abraham-lincoln-and-buffalo-ny/>

Buffalo 2027 will be a historic ALP conference – and a memorable vacation!

Mr. Glenn Murray



TRIVIALITIES

Finding a portrayal of President Lincoln that is not in English is unusual, if not unheard, among American audiences. While various films were dubbed into foreign languages for presentation overseas, these also included changing their titles. At least two stage productions about Lincoln were also performed with native cast members and under native direction. What plays were they, in what language and where performed?

Answer:

Abraham Lincoln by John Drinkwater. Performed in Japanese (Kabuki style) at the Imperial Theater in Tokyo, Japan, February 1946. Kamarasaki was identified as the Lincoln portrayer.

Abe Lincoln in Illinois by Robert Sherwood. French: *Si Je Vis...* ("If I Live...") – Directed and performed by Raymond Hermentier, St. George Theatre in Paris, France December 1948.

Abe Lincoln in Illinois by Robert Sherwood. Performed in English by an all-Indian cast (the Yattrick Players) on tour in India, directed by Tom A. Noonan of USAID. This coincided with the Centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, c. 1964.

Abe Lincoln in Illinois by Robert Sherwood. Performed in Yiddish by an American troupe travelling through South America in 1941, with Jacob Ben-Ami playing Lincoln.

Next Issue:

While dancing may not have been Lincoln's strong suit, he certainly enjoyed music and singing. While Benet's *John Brown's Body* featured both song and speech, Lincoln's words were spoken. On the dramatic side, Mary Lincoln was the subject of two operas. Name them. And did Lincoln sing in them?

(Answer in next edition)

John M. McKee

BOOK CLUB, ANYONE?

Is there interest in forming a virtual ALP Book Club? This would be open to any member who would commit to reading a book about the Lincoln Family/19th Century History/the Civil War every other month, and join their fellow ALP Members in learning more about our favorite First Family. Contact Laura Keyes (LFKeyes@gmail.com) before 25 July.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Donna McCreary's *Mary Lincoln Demystified*

An amended edition of Donna McCreary's award-winning book, *Mary Lincoln Demystified: Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham's Wife*, was recently released by Southern Illinois University Press. Copies may be ordered directly from the publisher (<https://www.siupress.com/>), at local bookstores, or directly through Donna (mtlincoln@hotmail.com).

OTHER CONFERENCES

Association of Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums Midwest Open Air Museum Council, Charleston, IL



Last November, three Mary Lincolns found themselves attending the same conference! From 6-8 November, the Midwest Open Air Museum Coordinating Council, a subset of The Association of Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums, held their conference in Mattoon, IL, just outside Charleston, IL. After a lovely opening night reception at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, Laura Keyes, Ann Bruehler, and Kathleen Jensen found themselves attending the conference together. Ann Bruehler gave a wonderful presentation honoring both of Lincoln's mothers.

[photo (L to R): Kathleen Jensen, Laura Keyes, Ann Bruehler]

LINCOLN REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

From *The Hamilton County Reporter*, May 26, 2026.

Submitted by

Danny Russel (www.famoushoosiers.com)

317-899-1254



“Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”

President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Danny Russel, honored our fallen veterans at the Hamilton County Courthouse grounds on Memorial Day, May 25. About 400 people, including many children, gathered on Monday morning to hear Mr. Lincoln recite the Gettysburg Address, which was the highlight of the ceremony. Mr. Lincoln was accompanied by Union soldiers Jason Shonkwiler and Tony English. The event was part of the 250th Anniversary of the U.S.A. and was sponsored by the Hamilton County Historical Society and VFW Post 6246 Ralph Lehr in Noblesville

MORE ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

Patches

The Association has two patches that are available to ALP members. The newest patch pictures Mary Lincoln in profile with her signature flower wreath in her hair. It is a 100% embroidered patch with a lovely lavender background. The logo of the Association of Lincoln Presenters is available in a multicolor patch. The distinctive pose of Lincoln is wearing a blue frock coat, vest, white shirt, and black tie.

Both these patches can be sewn onto shirts, polos, hats, and jackets. They cost \$4 each. Email Susan Miller at susanviolamiller@gmail.com to order the patches.



CONFERENCE PHOTOS FOR SALE

This is a reminder that photos from our 2026 conference are available for purchase in either digital or print format. Visit <https://martyjusticephotography.shootproof.com/> (click on “The Many Faces of Lincoln”) to see 456 photos (the “gallery”) arranged in 12 albums. You can purchase the entire gallery of digital photos in “social media size” for just \$25, or individual photos for \$1 each. If you’d like full-resolution digital photos, it would be \$150 for the entire gallery or \$10 each. And you also have the option of purchasing prints or canvases.

Kevin Wood, ALP President

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS IN 2026

Hello ALP Members!

I urge you to take the time to plan out the rest of the ALP Meet-ups in your calendar, and I hope to see you at ALL of them this year!

19 July 2026

Dr. Dale Magee – 19th Century Medicine and the Assassination of President Garfield.

13 September 2026

Libby McNamee, author of *The Union Spymistress: The Story of Elizabeth Van Lew*

8 November 2026

Harlan-Lincoln House

Lynn Ellsworth, Executive Board Member

Please contact me at LFKeyes@gmail.com for more information and to obtain registration link. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Best,

Laura Keyes, 1st Vice President

c/o Dean Dorrell
5 1/2 Daviess Dr.
Washington, IN 47501

Phone: 812-617-1806
E-mail: abe@honest-abe.com



New Members

NAME	PERSONA	MEMBERSHIP	LOCATION
John Colletti	Lincoln	Annual	Richmond, VA
Michael Danley	Lincoln	Life	Portsmouth, NH
Warren Greer	Lincoln	Life	Louisville, OH
Will Warren	Lincoln	Life	Chagrin Falls, OH
Darius Wallace	Frederick Douglass	Annual	Conyers, GA



IN MEMORIAM

NAME	PERSONA	MEMBERSHIP	DATE
Robert Brugler	Lincoln	Life	Mar. 23, 2026
Dorothy McClerren	Lincoln	Life	Jan. 17, 2026

We currently have 87 Abrahams, 40 Marys, and 26 “Other”. Our members come from 36 states.