



LINCARNATIONS

Volume 19 No. 1

July 2011

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



Taking Care of Business

2011 Conference:

Decatur, Illinois – A City of Lincoln Firsts

April 12-15, 2012

Decatur Conference Center and Hotel

Details coming soon!

Contact Joe Woodard, 602 N. Pine St., Hazel Dell, Ill. 62428; 217-932-5378; vwoodard@eiu.edu for details.

The 2013 Conference will be in Columbus, Ohio.

See inside for a letter from our president, Stan Wernz (p.2), and a full report from the recent ALP Convention in Greeneville, Tennessee by Joe Woodard. “Mary’s Velvet Rose” is on page 7 as always. Stan has included information about all of the ALP annual awards, how they work and what they are for. We have also included an article on the newly redesigned website, and a remembrance of Pete Raymond, who passed not long after our convention in April.

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Association of Lincoln Presenters
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

Dear Members,

All of us who attended the 17th Annual ALP Conference in Greeneville had quite a treat. Chris Small and his committee did a fantastic job. It mattered not whether it was hospitality, accommodations, program, transportation, etc. Chris and all who assisted him had the conference under control. Many thanks to all Conference Committee members for your outstanding efforts. All present benefited from your labor. For more on the Conference, see the article by Joe Woodard.

For some time our ALP Website has needed updating. Dean Dorrell, our Webmaster, is addressing this matter and plans to have the first phase of upgrades operational in early July. However, for this revised website to be most effective, we need the assistance of each member. Your information will only be added to the website when Dean receives written copy from you. To be certain that information is correct, he cannot rely on oral communication. There is too much room for error with the spoken word. Please follow this procedure if you have requests for revision of material already posted. Dean's email address is abe@honest-abe.com

Speaking of member cooperation, Larry Elliott, our Membership Chairman, has undertaken the task of updating the ALP Membership list. If you get a letter from Larry, please respond ASAP. We plan to provide a list of members for each of you. It has been some time since our last directory, and not all of our members use computers. Therefore, we intend to include the membership list with a "Lincarnation" publication.

Also, it is time to plan ahead. Joe Woodard and his Conference Committee are deep in the planning for our 18th ALP Conference in Decatur, IL. The dates are April 12-15, 2012. Please mark your calendars now so that you won't miss the special event.

Planning for our 2013 Conference in Columbus, OH, is also underway. Robert Brugler and John Cooper have started their laying of the foundation, and are seeking input from the membership. If you receive inquiries from them, please provide your valued opinion in a timely fashion.

With gratitude for the opportunity to serve you, and wishing you rewarding encounters, safe travels and good health, "your humble servant,"

Stan Wernz

ALP CONFERENCE REPORT

The 17th annual conference of the Association of Lincoln Presenters met in Greeneville, Tenn., in April 2011.

Greeneville lies in the extreme northeast section of the state of Tennessee. It is a historic town with several claims to fame, but arguably, is best known as the hometown of Andrew Johnson, Abraham Lincoln's second vice president and Lincoln's successor in office. Several of our members stated that they gained a new perspective on Andrew Johnson from what they learned during our conference.

Following registration and the board of directors meeting on Thursday, the members sat down to a welcome banquet at the General Morgan Hotel and Conference Center. Our after-dinner speaker was "Andrew Johnson", portrayed by Greeneville resident and National Park Service ranger Daniel Luther. Following the meal and speaker, we had a social time, providing an opportunity for members to meet, mingle and renew acquaintances.

Friday morning was devoted to academic historical presentations, this portion of the conference being simultaneous and co-terminus with a colloquium titled "Unpacking Lincoln: Research and Results," and sponsored by The Association of Lincoln Presenters, The Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, and others.

The principal speaker was noted author and speaker Harold Holzer, who spoke first and last to plenary sessions of the colloquium. Other "break-out" or "track" sessions we had to choose from included "Why Lincoln Chose Johnson," presenter Robert Orr; "The Other Andrew Johnson Family: His Slaves," presenter Randi Nott; "A Confederate Ironclad, Five Medals of Honor and McCormick Hall: The Story of the Wyalusing Bell," presenter Myron "Jack" Smith Jr.; "The Civil War in East Tennessee," presenter Carlos Whaley; and "Research, Results and Interpretation: A Practicum," presenter Kendra Hinkle.

Free time for most of the members followed Holzer's second presentation, until 4 p.m. when he gave his third presentation of the day – this time to ALP members only.

After the evening meal, the dining room was cleared and the hotel staff transformed the room into a ballroom. Local residents, dressed in mid-19th-century attire and collectively known as the 1860s Living History and Dance Society, joined ALP member for dancing contras, waltzes and some other dances appropriate to the Civil War period.

Our annual ALP Business Meeting convened following the dance. Those recognized for attendance at all 17 conferences were Charlie Brame, Jim Sayre and Homer Sewell. Vern Risty, so recognized last year, was unable to attend, as he was recovering from injuries received in an accident.

The webmaster, Dean Dorrell, announced that the ALP website now has three addresses – www.lincolnpresenters.net, www.lincoln-presenters.org, and www.lincolnpresenters.com.

Columbus, Ohio, was chosen as the site for our 2013 conference. John Cooper and Robert Brugler are the hosts.

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Robert Brugler, incumbent Jim Sayre and Chris Small were elected to three-year terms on the board of directors. Elected officers were Stan Wernz, president; Chris Small, first vice president; Robert Brugler, second vice president; Murray Cox, treasurer; and Sharon Wood, secretary.

Saturday's events began with an 8 a.m. worship service led by Chet Damron and Chris Small. An hour later, Mary Armstrong, our official photographer, took group photos on the steps of the General Morgan Hotel. The morning's tour began immediately thereafter. In the morning we visited Mordecai Lincoln's grave, Andrew Johnson's tailor shop/National Historic Site Visitor Center, Johnson's early Greenville home, a replica of Johnson's North Carolina birthplace, and the Andrew Johnson Homestead (his later, larger Greenville home).

Around noon, at the hotel, the ladies' luncheon and Mary Todd Lincoln Committee meeting took place.

In the afternoon, the bus left to take us to Tusculum College and the nearby Doak House. Some members took their own cars to the Davy Crockett birthplace. That evening, we took supper together at the hotel and then took the bus to the Niswonger Performing Arts Center, a large, very modern auditorium in Greeneville.

An audience of approximately 1,000 joined the ALP to enjoy a program titled "American Legacy," and featuring the 113th U.S. Army Band "The Dragoons", based at Fort Knox, Ky. The first portion of the program featured the band playing musical interludes between monologues by Daniel Luther as Andrew Johnson and four Tennessee ALP members --- Whit McMahan, John Mansfield, Dennis Boggs and Chris Small -- as Abraham Lincoln. The program after intermission was all music by the 113th Army Band. The program was sponsored by Takoma Regional Hospital, the Andrew Johnson Heritage Association, East View Eye Care, the Women's Center of Greeneville, COGfilm and others.

Sunday's worship service began with some short, personal remarks and special music by Chet Damron. A sextet of Lincoln presenters then sang two hymns. Following that, our host, Chris Small, led prayer and introduced the main speaker, Doyle Tunnel, a Greeneville barber and United Methodist minister. One verse of "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" and a closing prayer ended the service.

Around 9:00 a.m., a bus left the hotel carrying some of the conference attendees, while others followed in their own vehicles. The motorcade traveled to Harrogate, Tenn., and the Lincoln Memorial University and its Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum. Bus riders stayed for approximately two hours while others stayed longer. We were all treated to an entertaining and informative tour by the museum's director, Thomas Mackie. Following the tour, he took some of us into the vault and showed some items from the archives, told more about the institution's collection policy, and gave some of us hints on sources for our own research.

The bus riders returned to Greeneville where the 2011 conference officially adjourned.

Written by Joe Woodard, Lincoln Presenter

ALP Awards:

Early in ALP history, a decision was reached that it would be good for our organization to recognize outstanding presentations by our members. To this end, a series of award categories were established, along with criterion for selecting eligible candidates.

Because our membership is spread so far and wide, a nomination procedure was put in place. Anyone who recognizes a deserving member can nominate that member. The process is quite simple: contact any member of the Awards Committee and make known your desire to place the member in nomination.

The Awards Committee then confirms that the individual meets the criterion. All eligible nominees are sent a questionnaire related to the award category in which they are competing. The completed questionnaire must be returned to the Chairperson of the Awards Committee. Failure to return the questionnaire automatically removes the individual from consideration.

These completed questionnaires are then mailed to each member of the Awards Committee. The Award Committee members vote individually for the person they feel best for the category. The Awards Chairperson tallies the votes and announces the winner at the Annual Conference.

The Award Categories are: Abraham Lincoln; Mary Todd Lincoln; The Lincoln Legend; The Railsplitter; Best Abraham and Mary Lincoln Team (Glenn Schnizlein Memorial Award); the Outstanding Lincoln Team (Gordon Vincent Memorial Award).

One additional award category is the Bill Sublett Lincoln Longevity Award. This award is given to the oldest active Lincoln Presenter who is also in attendance at the Conference. Once a member receives this award, it is held until that individual becomes inactive in presenting. This award is currently held by Charlie Brame.

The Awards Committee members for this year are: Mary Elliott, Chairperson; Michael Crutcher, Max Daniels, Dona Ebert, Betty and John Mansfield, Jim Sayre, Chris Small, and Joe Woodard.

If you know a member deserving recognition for their presentations, please nominate them. You can make your nomination known to any member of the Awards Committee. Nominations are to be made not later than October 1 to be considered for the current year.

Stan Wernz

Website Redesigned

I have just completed a new design for the ALP Website. The previous design was getting quite outdated and had to be maintained using outdated software. I have tried to create a cleaner design, easier to navigate and easier to maintain. A standard menu bar at the top of each page is available for quick navigation.

There are some new features that I would encourage all of our members to take advantage of:

First is the on-line Membership Information form. One of the most difficult tasks in an organization as large and spread out as the ALP is keeping updated information on all of our members. This results in "Lincarnations" not being delivered in a timely manner if at all, and the contact information on the web site being outdated and incorrect. If you fill out the membership information form online and click the "Submit" button at the end, the information you submit will be forwarded to me, the president (Stan), and the Membership Chair (Larry Elliott), so that we all have consistent, current information when we need it. If you check the box requesting that your information be posted on the web site, I will do so, and your contact will be available, usually within a day or two of submission. **If you do not check that box, your contact information will not be published!** For now, the form is the same form that is used for new membership applications, but I hope to change that soon. In the meantime, just fill out your name and any information that may be outdated. As an alternative, you can mail or email me the information, but that is less efficient.

We can also publish a small picture with your profile information, but there is currently no way to add it with the information form. If you want a picture with your profile, you can send it to me at abe@honest-abe.com as an attachment. If the photo is more than about 200 pixels wide, I will resize it so that our page will load in a reasonable time. You can also mail me the photo c/o Dean Dorrell, 801 E. Walnut St., Washington, IN 47501 and I will scan it for the web site.

Second, and most exciting to me, is the new Member-to-Member section. Members can log in and post questions, answers, comments, event information, etc. It can be anything that may be of interest to other members. I am hoping this will be used for us to discuss all things ALP-related in between our conventions. Anyone can access the page, but in order to post, you must have a username and password. If you wish to participate, please email me your proposed username (first initial, last name will work fine. I use ddorrell) and password and I will set you up.

We also have a Lincoln resource page, with links to other web sites of use to our members. If you are aware of web sites that may be useful, please forward that information so that I can include it.

If you have a Lincoln-related web page, please add a link to the ALP web site. The more sites we have linked to ours, the higher we will show up in search engines when someone types in something like "Lincoln presenter" or "historical interpreter". All of the following web addresses will work: <http://www.lincoln-presenters.org> (our primary address), <http://www.lincolnpresenters.net> and <http://www.lincolnpresenters.com>. I would like to have [lincolnpresenters.org](http://www.lincolnpresenters.org) (no hyphen), but it is currently owned by a firm that helps companies incorporate in Japan!?

Please send questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns to abe@honest-abe.com or webmaster@lincoln-presenters.org.

Yours Truly,
Dean Dorrell
ALP Webmaster



Mary's Velvet Rose

The Ladies' Luncheon on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at the Captain Morgan Inn in Greeneville, Tenn., was both tasty and tastefully presented. We were pleased to be able to include just about every lady in attendance at the convention, including two young ladies who may very well become Mary Lincoln presenters themselves some day!

We filled the tables with about 30 of us, and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to relax, engage in pleasant conversation, renew old friendships and make new ones. After all, most of us see each other just once a year, so we delight in the time we can spend together!

As a way of directing a post-luncheon discussion to focus on a topic that might help us as we grow in our Mary Lincoln presentations, I proposed a question to consider -- "What would Mary say?" Many of us have been in the situation of being confronted or challenged or questioned about "our" behavior or sanity when we are appearing as Mary Lincoln. How do we respond?

I opened the discussion by saying that, at times, I have simply lost my temper (as Mary often did!) and told the questioner (who, more often than not, was a man) that "no gentleman would ever speak that way to a lady!" On another occasion, when confronted with a derogatory remark about Mary, I took that opportunity to begin a conversation about the difficult circumstances of Mary's life that contributed to her public persona.

Our discussion was lively and many helpful suggestions were made by those who had dealt with this issue before. For instance, we might point out the great sadness in Mary's life -- the loss of three of her sons and her husband; her long suffering from migraines; bouts of melancholia, and the limitations of medical care during her lifetime. We might also emphasize the wisdom of judging Mary Lincoln by the situations she faced in her own time period, not from a 21st-century perspective.

After we had bounced our ideas all around the room, "Maxine" made a comment that tied them all together. She wanted us to realize how profound an impact losing a child has on a woman. Maxine had just lost her own son, only a short time before our convention, and spoke most eloquently on the deep sorrow that she was feeling.

Later that evening, we all attended the wonderful 113th U.S. Army Band concert at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. After returning to the Inn, two of our ladies told me that they had the opportunity to put our discussion advice into practice at the theater, while mingling with other members of the audience during intermission and after the show.

Plans are being made for our luncheon and meeting at the 2012 ALP Convention in Decatur, Ill. Kathleen Jensen is a member of the planning committee and spoke to us about some of the early ideas for activities there. We look forward to seeing the convention schedule when it is completed, and hope that many of our MTL friends will join us there next April.

If you have any thoughts on any of the topics discussed here, or ideas to share, please contact me, MTL Committee Chair, at sharon_wood@pobox.com or send a note to me at 43 Centennial Street, Claremont, NH 03743.

*Sharon Wood,
Presenting Mary Todd Lincoln*

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ANOTHER "LINCOLN" GONE FROM THIS EARTH!

We regret to report the death of Pete Raymond, Lincoln Presenter from Wooster, Ohio. After an eighteen month battle with pancreatic cancer, Pete went to be with the Lord April 23, 2011 (which was the day before Easter). You all no doubt recall that Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1865, the day before Easter!

Pete was born July 30, 1934, was a graduate of Wooster High School (1953), and married his ever faithful wife of 57 years, Shirley. Shirley attended to Pete daily until the end.

Pete served his country in the Navy from 1955 to 57. Following his military service, Pete returned to Wooster for a varied career - heavy equipment operator in construction, the city police department, Asst. Chief of Security at the College of Wooster, worked at an automobile garage, and was warehouse manager for a distribution company.

Pete began presenting Abraham Lincoln in 2001. His remarkable likeness to Mr. Lincoln gave Pete many wonderful experiences and opportunities! His photograph appears on the cover of Andrew Ferguson's [Land of Lincoln](#); Adventures in Abe's America. He was a lifetime member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters, and he and Shirley attended many of the ALP Conferences, which they greatly enjoyed!

Pete and Shirley were/are members of the Central Christian Church, and Pete was a charter member of the Wayne County React. They have a son and daughter, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. The funeral in Wooster was attended by four fellow ALP members. As is traditional, the "Lincolns" stood behind the casket for the final hymn "Amazing Grace". The "Lincolns" then accompanied Pete's casket to the National Cemetery near Seville, Ohio for a most impressive burial service complete with color guards and a twenty one gun salute.

Written by Gerald Payn

