



# LINCARNATIONS

Volume 16 No. 1

June 2008

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



## Taking Care of Business

During the Alton conference, **Roger Vincent, California**, proposed that the ALP try to place a presenter in each state capitol on Feb. 12, 2009, and that each speaker would present “the words that are at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.” The Board of Directors approved his idea as a self-supporting (monetarily) project.

Vincent asks that interested presenters identify their respective state’s Bicentennial national representative, inform that person of this project, and ask for their help in setting up the actual event in that state. Interested persons should also contact Vincent ([rogervincent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rogervincent@sbcglobal.net)) about their willingness to participate or with questions about the project.

“If this is an idea whose time has come, all will go well and easily,” Vincent said.

### The ALP Says Goodbye to Macon Ray

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Macon Ray, 81, who died June 3, 2008, at his home in Corydon, Ind., after a battle with cancer.

For many years, Ray performed at Lincoln State Park’s outdoor amphitheater in Spencer County (Ind.) as Abraham Lincoln in Billy Edd Wheeler’s musical, “Young Abe Lincoln.”

Survivors include his wife, Linda, and two sons, Wyman and Warren, both of Kentucky.

The family suggests memorial gifts be made to the Macon A. Ray Scholarship Fund for Theatre and Performing Arts at the University of Southern Indiana, Evansville.

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Association of Lincoln Presenters  
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May 2008

Dear Members,

Thank you, the membership, for again voting me your ALP president for the coming year. It is an honor to serve you; I am grateful for your trust (!) and appreciate the support received from you and especially from our other board members.

All of us who attended the 14<sup>th</sup> annual ALP Conference at Alton, Ill., enjoyed quite an inspirational treat! The Conference Host Committee, lead by Patrick McCreary, did a fine job preparing for our arrival. Many of you contributed to completing the program with your portrayals. How fortunate we are to have so many dedicated and talented people among us. A HUGE THANK YOU! to all who shared in making the conference so memorable.

For those of you who couldn't be with us in Alton, you were missed. Whatever the reason for your absence -- whether illness or other personal reasons -- we hope the interfering matters have been resolved favorably and that you will be able to join us in Washington D.C. next year. Jim Rubin has many plans already in the works to provide us enlightening and inspirational experiences.

As you noticed during the Membership Committee report, Jim Sayre continues to recruit new members. Since returning from our conference, three additional membership applications have been received, reviewed and accepted. Often groups suffer because attention isn't given to replenishing and expanding ranks with talented members. From discussions at Alton with new members present, and from the three additional applications since the conference, we have wonderful additions to help us with our mission -- To Keep the Legacy of Lincoln Alive!

Ralph Borrer, our ALP webmaster, phoned me following the Alton conference. As many of you know, Ralph has been ill. He reports that he is on the mend, feeling much better. He also reported that the Web site had been down, but is now operational. A problem developed over our Web addresses: [www.Lincolnpresenters.com](http://www.Lincolnpresenters.com) and [www.Lincolnpresenters.org](http://www.Lincolnpresenters.org). These addresses were registered by Dan Bassuk while he lived in New Jersey. U.S. Postal delivery addresses were never updated, and when the renewal notices were mailed, they went to Dan's old address. Ralph is working to assure both addresses will be active again, but for now, please use the [www.Lincolnpresenters.com](http://www.Lincolnpresenters.com) address. Also, if your profile/bio on the ALP site needs updating, please send the correct information to Ralph at [abencamp@abraham-lincoln.net](mailto:abencamp@abraham-lincoln.net).

The ALP board members on several occasions have expressed a desire to recognize our talented members through our established awards program. At our business meeting in Alton, the board recommended and the membership adopted rules changes to help achieve that goal. Award winners will be ineligible for nomination in a category in which they have already received an award. Now we need your help. Make sure that the Awards Committee hears from you about deserving members to nominate in the various award categories. The Awards Committee consists of recipients of our awards at the past two conferences (in this case, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Alton). Your help is appreciated.

(This year's Awards Committee includes Dennis Boggs, Chet Damron, Jane DeBeaumont, Joan Howard, Donna McCreary, Nancy Peck, Fred Priebe (chair) and Jim Sayre, plus teams of Stephen and Sharon Wood and Cliff and Joan Howard.)

See you in Washington D.C.

Your humble servant,

Stan

## "Let Us Strive On ..."

by Patrick McCreary (Alton, Illinois)

A number of individuals have contacted me regarding the Alton 2008 convention. Inquiries centered around the logistics of convention planning. Continuity and support for the local organizing committees was a serious subject of discussion at our immediately past board meeting. Here let me share some personal observations and random thoughts that may serve as an informal checklist in successful convention planning for the future.

1. Develop a close relationship with your local/regional convention/visitors bureau. These folks are charged with coming up with viable opportunities to spotlight their cities on behalf of the merchants. We have a unique and attractive draw with the ALP. Use the convention/visitors bureaus for ideas. Get them to buy into the project as sponsors. Use their contacts on your local organizing committee.

The CVB was the first contact I made when contemplating a convention in Alton. (The people there) provided me with a ready-made power point presentation in making the pitch to hold the convention here. They provided the promotional materials that I shared with members. In Alton, the local CVB assisted me in selecting movers and shakers from the community for the organizing committee. I then proceeded to lay out my "big vision" of the convention and seek their input. Upon deciding upon the final schedule, I suggested that we divide the entire weekend's activities up into subcommittees, and delegated each to a member who had that interest and/or established contacts. Then it was a question of meeting on a regular basis to report on progress and determine outstanding challenges/needs.

The CVB printed and mailed all information out at its expense. (The people there) served as liaisons with all the government needs at City Hall. They did a series of promotional mailings to their established media mailing list. They used their local expertise to help with fine tuning and suggestions on the itinerary. They helped to provide manpower both before and during the event. They provided, stuffed and distributed all the welcome goodie bags. They provided a competent entrée for me to meet and make my pitch to the numerous local organizations with regards to the use of their space; the underwriting of food; and the order, scheduling and transporting of delegates. They identified prospective motels. They provided the special Quincentenary pins.

2. Resist the temptation to think you know it all, or even to know what is best. Be willing to listen and to learn, but realize that, in most cities, you have a tremendous calling card in the presence of the ALP, and leverage that fact with the many opportunities to provide members with an enriching, enjoyable convention and the local populace with the chance of a lifetime to rub shoulders with our greatest president(s) in as many appropriate forms as possible.

3. You can't start too early to make the rounds of the professional clubs: Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptomists, etc. These are your friends. They are also your allies. They may even become some of your sponsors or underwriters. Develop a relationship with them. Give them a vested

interest in participating. In Alton, every ticketed appearance was organized to raise money in benefit of local historical/educational charities, and every ticketed event was SOLD OUT! The money to underwrite the expenses for those activities had been raised from other sources for the most part. Some organizations, like the church, were so delighted to have such a special sharing that they hosted that incredible brunch just for the honor of our sharing the service and the wonderful program from President Brame.

4. Larger cities generally have an office of cultural affairs out of the mayor's office. Cultivate this contact quickly. Use well-connected locals identified from your contacts listed above to accompany you in making these pitches. Make sure your local advocate is thoroughly versed in what you propose. The local contact is the person who has the trust and confidence of the city official. Let him/her do the initial speaking. Listen carefully. Answer questions as asked, and keep it simple, honest and clear. You need to have them buy into this great event. They do not know you from Adam, so keep an expectant heart; a nimble, well-prepared thought; and a humble, professional attitude, But don't lose your passion.

*(Continued on page 8)*

### Mark Your Calendars...

#### **July 15 and 16, 2008 -- Mary Lincoln Death Day Commemoration, Springfield, Ill.**

Come and commemorate the 126th anniversary of Mary Lincoln's death with fellow ALP members and others who are interested in honoring Mary Lincoln. We have two days of great events planned, and by July, more things may be added.

#### ***Tuesday, July 15 -- 10 a.m., Lincoln Home Visitors' Center***

Donna McCreary will present "Mary, the Quintessential Hostess," which examines the Lincolns' entertaining and favorite foods, both in Springfield and in Washington. McCreary will also be available to sign copies of her newest book, "*Lincoln's Table: A President's Culinary Journey from Cabin to Cosmopolitan*." This second edition features more than 60 new recipes, as well as new photographs, art work and stories about the Lincoln family and food.

***Free and open to the public.***

#### ***Tuesday, July 15 -- 1:30 to 2 p.m., Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum***

James Cornelius, Lincoln Collection curator, will show items from the vault. Open to a limited number of participants; first-come, first-served. Notify Donna McCreary (*contact information follows*) if you'd like to be involved in this viewing.

#### ***Tuesday, July 15 -- 6:15 p.m., Wreath-laying Ceremony, Lincoln Tomb***

This will be followed by the traditional flag-lowering ceremony.

(Due to construction plans around the Lincoln Tomb, this event may need to be held elsewhere on the grounds or at a different time.)

***Free and open to the public.***

#### ***Tuesday, July 15 -- 7:15 p.m., Museum of Funeral Customs***

Donna McCreary and Donna Daniels will present a benefit program, "Victorian Mourning Customs," for and at the Museum of Funeral Customs (which has experienced funding cuts).

***Regular museum admission prices apply.***

#### ***Wednesday, July 16 -- 10 a.m., Lincoln Home Visitors' Center***

Donna Daniels will present her one-woman original play, "Mary, Lincoln's Widow." This production explains details of the last 17 years of Mary Lincoln's life.

***Free and open to the public.***

#### ***Wednesday, July 16 -- Noon, Tea Thyme, 111 N. Sixth, St., Springfield***

Come join us for lunch and dine with Mrs. Lincoln (Donna Daniels). Donna McCreary will discuss a couple of Lincoln's favorite desserts. Valerie Gugala will present a lecture about Mary's role as a mother. Reservations and lunch choice must be made through Tea Thyme at 217-527-1257; ask for Shannon. \$15 per person; lunch includes choice of salad, choice of sandwich, beverage (coffee, water or tea) and dessert.

**Note:** You are welcome to stay anywhere in Springfield, but the Baymont has offered us a group rate of \$65 per night, plus tax. This includes a continental breakfast (waffles, toast, bagels, oatmeal, choice of cereal,

hard-boiled eggs, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk, coffee and a cappuccino machine). The Baymont is located at 5871 S. Sixth St., right next to the Cracker Barrel. For reservations call 217-529-6655 and ask for Stephanie Lockhard.

*(Information Contact: Donna McCreary, 4620 Lake Forest Drive, Charlestown, Ind. 47111-9033; 812-256-2370; [mtlincoln@hotmail.com](mailto:mtlincoln@hotmail.com))*

### **October 4 and 5 -- Lincoln Days, Hodgenville, Kentucky**

*(Information Contact: Iris LaRue, [abe@lincolnmuseum-ky.org](mailto:abe@lincolnmuseum-ky.org))*

### **Miscellaneous**

*(Information Contact: Fred Priebe, 47111 Hull Road, Belleville, Mich. 48111-4296; 734-697-0484; [alincoln@comcast.net](mailto:alincoln@comcast.net))*

**July 5**-- Ewart, Michigan: The Lincolns visit this city in western Michigan to discuss humor and the 1864 election campaign.

**October 6**-- Dearborn Heights, Michigan: Lincoln and Douglas present a one-hour cutting of their debates at the Carolyn Kennedy Library

## **Scenes from Alton**



### “Our Members Share...”

The most recent "Our Members Share..." question came from an ALP member who, after having given a presentation, was asked, "What was your most outstanding legal case?" The very wording of the question leaves the meaning open to interpretation. Was it the case Lincoln was most proud of? The one which earned him his largest fee? Or could it be the one that brought him the most recognition/notoriety? How would you answer this question if it were presented to you?

#### From Bill Ames, Michigan:

"At a meeting of the Flying Farmer a couple weeks ago, I was asked that same question. I answered, 'the Duff Armstrong case.' Duff was the son of Jack Armstrong (whom he wrestled with) and Hanana Armstrong (who was one of his mothers, cooking for him, mending his britches and encouraging him). It should have given Lincoln great pleasure to get Duff off. See 'The Lincoln No One Knows' by Web Garrison (pages 43-49, 'A Hayseed Lawyer Who Barely Made A Living'). Several other cases are given in this book, along with his meeting of fellow lawyer and future Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in the Cyrus H. McCormick reaper case. Two great tales for Lincolns to tell."

#### From Bill Peck, California:

"St. Louis Railroad vs. Dalby -- 19 Illinois 352. (Not sure who was plaintiff and who was defendant in this case. I think it should be Dalby vs. the St. Louis Railroad.)

"This was a case which Lincoln took up to the appellate division in Illinois and won, resulting in the establishment of the liabilities of an employer for acts committed by employees.

"In this case, a husband and wife went to the railroad station to obtain tickets. The ticket agent told them he had no more tickets available, but gave them a note to deliver to the conductor when they boarded the train. When the conductor approached them for fare, they delivered to him the note from the ticket agent, together with the correct amount of money. They were told by the conductor that the fee would be more due to payment being made on the train itself. Dalby refused to pay the small extra sum, and the conductor called two brakemen over and instructed them to throw the couple off the train. Dalby refused to move, arguing his case, and a fight ensued. Dalby was badly beaten by the brakemen and, at that point, they commenced to beat his wife. Dalby told them to stop and paid the different fare.

"Dalby sued the railroad and lost the case. (The Dalbys) then went to Lincoln to file an appeal at the direction of their own counsel telling them that Lincoln was the best man to continue their fight with the railroad. Lincoln won a substantial amount of money for his clients, and created new law regarding agency liabilities which we have to this very day.

#### From Fred Priebe, Michigan:

"There are many to choose from, and one could make a case for them from various viewpoints. My choice is the 'Reaper Case,' McCormick vs. Manny before the U.S. Circuit Court at Cincinnati in September of 1855. I choose this case because of the involvement of Edwin Stanton. We all know that Stanton snubbed Lincoln. And yet Lincoln tapped him for the Secretary of War position in 1862. Says something about Lincoln's character.

"I choose it also because it involved something Lincoln had an aptitude for in terms of mechanical things. After all, Lincoln is the only president to hold a patent.

"Then I choose this case for the opportunity it gave Lincoln to study the methods of outstanding lawyers. He stayed on at Cincinnati to watch the trial from the gallery. He learned from watching the 'learned lawyers' in an effort to improve his own performance in his chosen profession. Again, it says something about Lincoln's character.

#### Correspondence from Kevin Koester, Wisconsin:

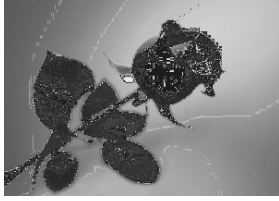
Koester has received some questions of his own that he would like help in answering. Feedback from other "Abes" would be welcomed, he writes.

- 1) If you could do things differently when you were president, what would it/they be?
- 2) What accomplishment as president were you most proud of?
- 3) Did you want to be president from a young age?
- 4) Was Elizabeth Keckley ever a slave?
- 5) Did you ever meet a slave?

Anyone wishing to respond to Koesters questions may contact him via the following info:  
Kevin Koester, 210 N. Washington St., Lancaster, WI 53813; 608-723-5629; E-mail: [IamAbrahamLincoln@yahoo.com](mailto:IamAbrahamLincoln@yahoo.com)

Also, **Robert Taylor, Oklahoma**, writes, "In the coincidences between Kennedy and Lincoln -- I cannot find where Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy? Can anyone help?"

He can be reached at [alncln2@juno.com](mailto:alncln2@juno.com).



# Mary's Velvet Rose

We look forward to our annual gatherings all year, ever more intensely as the time gets closer. Then, the weekend is here -- we travel, enjoy, return home and, in no time at all, we're caught up in "business as usual" and the ALP Convention is but another memory. But what wonderful memories they are!

I would like to thank Patrick McCreary and his hard-working committee who laid out a tightly-packed weekend and carried out their plans with remarkable success. Mother Nature did not grant us sunshine and warmth, but neither did she send heavy rain, snow or damaging winds.

The people of Alton were most gracious, the festivities were grand and, most importantly, we enjoyed each other's company once again.

I'd also like to thank Mary Elliott, Jane DeBeaumont and Vicki Woodard for joining me in our luncheon presentation. We received many compliments afterward, and it was very satisfying to be able contribute to the weekend's events in a new way.

Each convention's activities are different, influenced by the place in which we meet. The 2009 Convention will be like no other. The committee is limited by higher costs for lodging and food, the impossibility of our relying on our own cars to get around the city, and the need to adapt our usual convention activities to the uniqueness of our nation's capital.

At the board meeting in Alton, I suggested that the ALP actively seek underwriters to offset some of the costs of the convention. In the past, each year's convention committee has done that to varying degrees. I proposed that those of us who are willing to do so could send letters to our local newspapers or to potential donors in our town or state, asking for donations to help keep our convention costs down.

I have drafted a letter that could be used by individual ALP members all over the country, asking for underwriters for the 2009 ALP Convention. The board is still considering this proposal as this newsletter goes to press. When a consensus is reached, members will be notified. If approved, a sample letter will be sent for interested members to use.

Steve and I wish you all a wonderful summer. We look forward to visiting with you, our ALP friends, as often as we can in the years ahead.

Sharon Wood, MTL Committee Chair

**Association of Lincoln Presenters**

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*(Continued from page 3)*

5. Remember that, like your presentations, this all boils down to business. Without a clear vision and organized action, you have nothing of value. A lofty ideal and great enthusiasm do not win the day without a professional well-thought-out plan and a careful detail-oriented implementation. Remember, for the many contacts you make, it's not how great you may be, but, rather, it's what your event or a hybrid of your event can do for them, for their city, for their organization. There is nothing wrong with this. It's just business. We should have no false illusions that people are going to beat down our doors and open their pocketbooks to us at will. We have made a life of liberating Lincoln. It is incumbent upon us to speak in such clear and passionate terms that others will want to buy into this vision as their own.

6. Never fear who may get the credit for your work. There is treasure in Heaven for any who unselfishly serve all mankind.

7. Go with the flow of inspired, unfolding ideas. Things may not turn out exactly the way you originally envisioned, but your overriding desire to provide all with something of value will be your legacy.

These are just a few random thoughts from our recent experience in Alton. You, no doubt, have more and greater ideas for ongoing convention activities. Give yourselves the luxury of thinking big and not fearing to do whatever necessary in attending to the small details.