



LINCARNATIONS

Volume 15 No. 2

December 2007

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Taking Care of Business

Would You Like to Host the Conference in 2010?

At the Alton conference next year, we will select the site for our 2010 conference. As it will be an even-numbered year, that event should be held in a place where Lincoln walked.

If you would like to see this conference in your locale, it is not too early to begin planning. Whatever site is selected, there will need to be an ALP member in the area who can organize and make the arrangements for the conference. If you are willing to host our conference, check with the Lincoln site or the local convention and tourism bureau to see if they will help put together a presentation for the membership to vote on at Alton. They should be glad to do this for you.

Questions? Please contact Vern Risty (*Illinois*) at 847-577-0304 (vristy@hotmail.com) or Murray Cox (*Indiana*) at 260-563-7126 (IndianaLincoln@hotmail.com).

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



Inside this issue:

Letter from Stan Wernz	2
Convention Information	4
Good Answers	6
Mary's Velvet Rose	7

An Open Letter to the ALP Membership

From Stan Wernz, President

266 Compton Ridge Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215-4120

Dear Colleagues,

The 13th annual conference of the Association of Lincoln Presenters was held in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, on April 13-15, 2007. Through the able planning of Lee Williams and his team, conference attendees enjoyed two days of fun and fellowship. Thank you to all who worked so diligently to make this conference memorable. Look for reports from this conference in other parts of "Lincarnations."

Patrick McCreary has taken leadership responsibilities for the 14th annual ALP conference, to be held at Alton, Illinois. While details are being finalized, start making plans to attend.

Jim Rubin is chairman of the 15th annual ALP Conference Planning Team. The conference will be held in Washington, D. C. You won't want to miss this event as we celebrate the 200th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Preliminary quotations indicate expenses for this conference will be greater than for previous conferences. Please begin to plan for this event; you won't want to miss it.

All of you have been encouraged to insert yourselves in Lincoln Bicentennial plans for your state. You may believe others think you are making much ado about nothing; however, persevere. Your persistence will pay off. In one instance, the state just needed that additional encouragement to organize. After getting started, they are asking for assistance from ALPers. We need to make the "powers-that-be" know that we are here, and that we have expectations for this historic event. Our mission is important; this celebration is one more way to fulfill the ALP goal of keeping the legacy of Lincoln alive!

Godspeed!

Stan

Convention 2007 In Review

Elections:

Murray Cox (*Indiana*) and Joe Woodard (*Illinois*) were re-elected to three-year terms on the ALP Board of Directors.

Sharon Wood (*New Hampshire*) was elected as the 2007-2008 MTL Committee Chair. As such, she, too, serves on the ALP Board of Directors.

Officers for 2007-2008 were elected as follows: President – Stan Wernz (*Ohio*); First Vice President – Dean Dorrell (*Indiana*); Second Vice President – Joe Woodard (*Illinois*); Treasurer – Larry Elliott (*Kentucky*); and Secretary – Vicki Woodard (*Illinois*).

Recognition:

Charlie Brame (*California*), Vernon Risty (*Illinois*), Jim Sayre (*Kentucky*) and Homer Sewell (*Georgia*) were recognized as the four ALP members who have attended all conventions to date.

Bud Green (*Missouri*) was recognized as the new holder of the Bill Sublett Lincoln Longevity Award, which is presented to an ALP “Abe” based on age and activity. Green, as the oldest organization member (born in 1925) present at the convention, will hold the award until he “retires; or does not attend conferences, contests or ALP activities; or declines to associate with ALP members,” according to the ALP by-laws.

Twelve new members joined the ALP in the past year: Richard Berach (*Missouri*), Glenn Braun (*Illinois*), Michael Crutcher (*Kentucky*), Jane DeBeaumont (*California*), Stan DeHaan (*Iowa*), Matthew Freeman (*Alaska*), Glenn Holloway (*Kentucky*), Ralph Lincoln (*Pennsylvania*), Stephen McKendrick (*Pennsylvania*), Gerald Pitts (*South Carolina*), Joe Terwilliger (*New York*) and Christopher Ulinski (*California*).

Record Upkeep:

Membership certificates are being planned for each member of the ALP. In order to complete those certificates, the Board of Directors asks each member to provide the board with the year in which he/she became a member. “Abraham Lincoln” presenters are also asked to supply the board with their date of birth (for award purposes). All information, including any change in address, e-mail, status, etc., should be sent to Dean Dorrell in order to keep membership rosters up-to-date. He may be contacted at 801 E. Walnut St., Washington, Ind. 47501, 812-254-7315, (abe@honest-abe.com),

President Stan Wernz announced that he had formed a Professional Activities Committee, to be chaired by Joe Woodard. It is hoped that such a committee will help keep Wernz abreast of how active each member is, and who wishes to “entertain gigs.” Ultimately, this information could help the president when he is contacted for referrals, Wernz said. Please send announcements, newspaper clippings, etc., to Joe Woodard, 602 N. Pine St., Hazel Dell, Illinois 62428; 217-932-5378; ywoodard@eiu.edu.

Mark Your Calendars...

Convention 2008 – April 11, 12 and 13, 2008, in Alton, Illinois

Relive History...Make History...Preserve History

The state of Illinois beckons you to help kick off its statewide celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Lincoln and Douglas Debates at the final debate site of Alton, Illinois. Mark your calendars for the next Association of Lincoln Presenters National Convention, to be held April 11 through 13, 2008. Detailed information and registration information will be available this winter.

Relive History as you are guided by trained docents at the Elijah Lovejoy Monument; Lincoln-Douglas Debate Square; Lyman Trumbull House; Confederate Prison, Cemetery and Monument; Lincoln-Shields dueling site; the Lewis and Clark “Point of Departure” and more.

Make History with opportunities for members to perform in this major media-covered weekend of events, including public re-enactment of portions of the historic Lincoln-Douglas Debates; presentations on the very platform of Lovejoy's church; and attendance at the world premiere play, "Lincoln and Booth -- Frozen in Time." Barack Obama and Newt Gingrich have been invited to debate during our public weekend together. The governor has been invited. C-Span has been invited to revisit this historic site with members in attendance.

Preserve History as the ALP presence helps to raise money for local historical activities, children's charities and education.

The Alton Convention Committee is hoping to provide the following support to all attending members:



Free transportation to major sites.



Free dinner for annual business meeting. Members will then join with the general public for the world premiere of “Lincoln and Booth -- Frozen in Time.” Proceeds from this production will be donated to local children's charities.



Free dinner at the Presidential Period Ball (a fundraiser for local historical activities).



Free lunch on Sunday for those attending/participating in the church service where Lovejoy preached.

In addition, the committee is hoping to underwrite motel rooms for select members chosen to present in area schools the Thursday preceding the convention (April 10, 2008).

Accommodations at the Super 8, Homer Adams Parkway, Alton, Ill., with hair dryers, refrigerator and microwaves, are guaranteed at the special rate of \$55 per night if reserved PRIOR to March 11, 2008. More information and registration materials will be mailed in January.

For further advanced information, questions and/or suggestions, feel free to contact Patrick McCreary, 2008 national convention chairman, at onelincoln@charter.net.

ALP Member's New Book Examines the Wardrobe of Mary Todd Lincoln

Donna McCreary (*Indiana*) reports that her new book, "Fashionable First Lady: The Victorian Wardrobe of Mary Lincoln," was released in June. The retail price for the book is \$26.95, with shipping to run \$5 per copy.

Anyone interested in ordering a copy should send payment, shipping instructions and requests for special inscriptions or dedications to Lincoln Presentations, 4620 Lake Forest Drive, Charlestown, Ind. 47111-9033.

The book will also be available at The Lincoln Shrine in Redlands, Calif., and the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop in Chicago, among other places.

Our Members Share...

In the February 2007 issue of “Lincarnations,” several of our members shared some of the “funnier/more unusual/most difficult questions” that they’ve been asked over the years. Joe Woodard (*Illinois*) submitted the following:

“My question (‘How did you play when you were small?’) came from a second- or third-grade schoolchild. I was at a loss for answers that day. I subsequently read ‘Lincoln’s Youth,’ and I know a little more, but I am still not familiar with many of the games and sports which the book lists (‘Prisoner’s Base,’ for instance).”

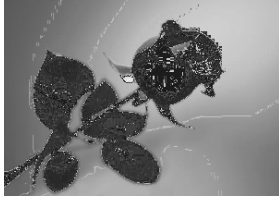
Murray Cox (*Indiana*) responded: “I have relied on ‘Lincoln’s Youth’ a great deal for what I do, and found some of the games mentioned in it in a book in the local library. I did not make good notes of the source, but it appears to have been the ‘Foxfire Book of Toys and Games.’ It had descriptions of Foxes and Geese, Hares and Hounds, Prisoner’s Base (sounds a lot like Capture the Flag), and Bull Ring. I couldn’t find anything on Wet and Dry Stones.”

The next question for the “Our Members Share...” section comes 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?

Send your thoughts to Vicki Woodard (see contact information below). Responses will be compiled and reported in a future issue of “Lincarnations.”

Please remember: “Lincarnations” is YOUR publication. Is there an issue or question you’d like examined in a future issue? Let us know. We’d love to hear from you.

Send ideas to Vicki Woodard, 602 N. Pine St., Hazel Dell, Illinois 62428, 217-932-5378, (vwoodard@eiu.edu), or Dean Dorrell, 801 E. Walnut St., Washington, Ind. 47501, 812-254-7315, (abe@honest-abe.com), co-editors.



Mary's Velvet Rose

When we all left the 2007 convention in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the 2008 convention seemed an eternity away. But time has a way of speeding by, and Convention '08 will be here before we know it.

At our business meeting in Iowa, we discussed developing bylaws for the Mary Todd Lincoln Committee. I've located our copy of the ALP bylaws, and they are very detailed and cover all members. MTL members are included in the wording of the mission statement, and the MTL chair is named as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Not having any experience in this area, I'd appreciate some input on whether we need separate bylaws. Or perhaps our own mission statement or a list of goals for the committee would be more appropriate.

A second topic of discussion was to find out what types of activities MTL members would like to have offered at future conventions.

Do we want to continue the Strawberry Socials?

Should they be scheduled at the same time as an alternate activity for the men and focus on topics related to portraying Mary?

Or, should we encourage all ALP members, men and women, to attend the socials by not scheduling another activity at the same time and offering a program or entertainment that would appeal to all?

Would you like to provide an opportunity for more of our members to present short samples of their programs at a convention?

Do you have any ideas for other convention activities?

Please send me an e-mail or put a note in the mail with your thoughts on these questions and I'll share the results with our members.

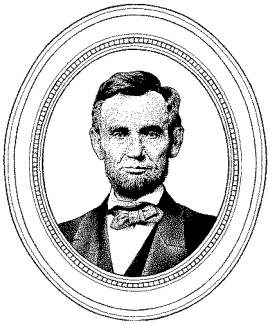
Steve and I value our membership in the ALP, and look forward to getting together each April. I hope we can all work together to help strengthen the organization and its mission to bring Abraham and Mary Lincoln to life through presentations that educate, entertain and inspire, and by honoring the words and works of the Lincolns.

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Lincoln Amphitheatre Update

For those of you interested in the status of the musical "Young Abe Lincoln" and the Lincoln Amphitheatre at Lincoln Boyhood State Park in Indiana, there is encouraging news. The budget for the state of Indiana for the next two years includes \$1.6 million to repair and upgrade the amphitheatre and prepare to re-open it in the summer of 2009 as part of Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration.

The amphitheatre will be run by the Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association, which will have a contract with the state of Indiana. The LBDA is currently running a nationwide search for a managing director and a playwright to create a new show, which is intended to be a drama with incidental music that focuses on how Lincoln's boyhood in Indiana affected President Abraham Lincoln. It is likely that they will not be alternating the main show with a Broadway musical, as they have done in the past.

More complete and up-to-date information is available at
<http://www.lincolnamphitheatre.com/>