NEWLY DISCOVERED PHOTOGRAPHS OF LINCOLN’S SPRINGFIELD

This photograph of the north side of the Public Square in Springfield, Illinois, circa 1860, was taken by Springfield photographer Frederick W. Ingmire from the cupola of the State House, now the Old State Capitol.

Richard E. Hart

Photographs of Lincoln’s Springfield are rare. Newly discovered ones are even rarer. Among the most familiar of the known photographs are those taken at the time of Lincoln’s funeral by Springfield photographer Frederick W. Ingmire—the Lincoln home and the Old State Capitol decorated in mourning and Lincoln’s horse posed in front of the Lincoln home.

Recently, a relative of Ingmire informed me that he had a number of photographs of Springfield taken by Ingmire in the 1860s. I thought that his photographs would be duplicates of the known funeral pictures.

When I received copies of the photographs, I was surprised to see new views of Lincoln’s Springfield, views I had never seen—the north side of the Public Square (shown above), the State House draped in mourning (shown on the back), the Mather residence, and the entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery in May 1865. Two of these newly discovered photographs are published in this issue and others will be published in future issues. I asked Springfield historian Curtis Mann to write about the photograph of the north side of the Public Square. His description follows on the next page.
North Side of Public Square

By Curtis Mann
Manager, Sangamon Valley Collection
Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois

The buildings shown in this circa 1860 photograph were located in the center of the north side of the Public Square—on the north side of Washington Street between Fifth and Sixth streets in Springfield, Illinois. The style of these buildings is representative of the style of commercial structures built in Springfield in the 1850s and 1860s—usually three stories, Greek Revival or Italianate in architectural style and built of brick with iron fronts and ornate hoods above the upper story windows. Most buildings were 20 feet wide.

The Pasfield Block

On the far left side of the photograph, one can see buildings built in 1856 by Springfield merchant George Pasfield. In 1831, Pasfield had acquired the building lot and on February 25, 1856, a fire destroyed two of the three wood frame buildings located there.

After the fire, Pasfield built two brick buildings on the east portion of the property. These are shown in the far left of the 1860 Ingmire photograph. Pasfield sold the west portion of the property to Dorwin and Dickey, tin shop operators who had been renting from him since 1853. Dorwin and Dickey agreed to construct a brick building of their own that would adjoin the two Pasfield buildings to the west and is not shown in this photograph. The firm of Hannon and Ragsdale were the architects and builders of all three structures.

Pasfield finished the upper two floors for a hall to be used for balls, concerts and other events. A sign reading “Concert Hall” can be seen between the windows for the second and third story.

At the time the photograph was taken, the occupants of the building were the Hammerslough Brothers, merchant tailors and clothiers, and Albert L. Ide, a watchmaker and jeweler.

The building just east of the Pasfield block was occupied by the dry goods and groceries firm of Coleman and Ayers. This building stood on the east twenty feet of lot 6 which was purchased by three businessmen, Milford O. Reeves, Grover Ayers and William Wardall. These three men were in the dry goods business together. Reeves sold his portion of the lot and building to Ayers and Wardall in 1855. They continued to operate in business as Ayers and Wardall at this location. Wardall and Ayers dissolved their partnership and by 1863 the firm of Abraham W. Coleman and Byron W. Ayers were in operation. Coleman was the former clerk for Ayers and Wardall, and Byron was a son of Grover Ayers. The firm apparently dissolved by 1864.

Joseph B. Fosselman

In 1859 former druggist Joseph B. Fosselman started a wholesale grocery and liquor business just east of Coleman and Ayers in a building owned by the Latham family. The exterior of Fosselman’s building is covered with signs for groceries, wines, liquors and cigars. Fosselman made a special point to note he was an agent for Lill’s Premium Ale. Several men stand on the sidewalk in front of the store sporting different styles of hats.

John McCreeery

Stove and hardware dealer John McCreeery made sure that every potential customer could locate his business stand by placing his last name in large letters on a sign located on the roof of his store building. A variety of stoves sit in front of the building, including one on its own stand. Later McCreeery became the proprietor of the St. Nicholas Hotel and served as the mayor of Springfield. The building housing his business was owned by John W. Priest, who also operated a stove business on the north side of the square earlier.

Telegraph Office

McCreeery shared this building with the telegraph office which was located on one of the upper stories. The telegraph line was carried by poles from the station at Third and Washington streets to this building. The pole for the line is located in front of the building and can be seen in this photograph. Abraham Lincoln received confirmation of his nomination as the Republican Party presidential candidate from this office.

Union Herald Newspaper

The last full building shown on the right side of the photograph was the office of the Union Herald newspaper. The newspaper was operated as a daily and weekly by Lewis and Company with Thomas Lewis as editor. He had previously worked as a shoemaker, merchant, and banker.

Background Structures

This photograph also provides wonderful views of buildings located to the north of the Public Square. The roof and steeple of the North Baptist Church can be seen above Fosselman’s store. Just beyond it and to the left is the back side of the English Lutheran Church. The large Italianate house featuring a cupola located just left of the Lutheran Church was the residence of merchant Samuel B. Fisher, who lived at the northwest corner of Sixth and Mason streets.
LINCOLN DAY IN SPRINGFIELD

Bayard L. Catron

Last year’s commemoration of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday surely set a high-water mark in ALA history not likely to be exceeded in the next 100 years. Newly inaugurated President Obama returned triumphantly to Springfield, where he had launched his presidential campaign two years before, to address the ALA banquet. Such historic moments are inevitably also occasions for political myth-making, which provides the lead for this report on Lincoln Day 2010.

Springfield, IL—Harold Holzer’s ALA banquet address completed a pitch-perfect encore to President Obama’s memorable February 12, 2009, appearance here in Springfield.

After reminding his audience of last year’s lively media and public attention to the many parallels (fact, fiction, and fantasy) between Obama and Lincoln, Holzer treated us to a panoramic look at the many ways American presidents (and candidates) since Lincoln have used and/or abused his name and words and image, regardless of their political party or ideology.

Everyone wants a piece of Lincoln, but few want him whole, entire. Many are quick to wrap themselves in his flag, but few have been called to walk in his footsteps. Everyone eagerly invokes Lincoln’s political lineage. We Americans are all Lincoln Unionists today, aren’t we?

Holzer’s talk was a fascinating illustration of political myth-making in action, featuring many political candidates across generational and ideological lines in American history. Not bad coverage for a 40 minute banquet speech!

At the earlier, delicious luncheon, Richard W. Fox, USC professor, an expert on 19th century American history, and also author of an important biography of American Protestant minister and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, shared with an attendant audience a vivid portrayal of American reactions to the news of President Lincoln’s assassination on the night of April 14, 1865.

Fox showed how, especially among Northern white Protestants, his image as Savior of the Union, only just won and still tenuous, immediately assumed mythic proportions. To the Virginia Negroes who gathered round and walked with President Lincoln on April 4 when he strode down the middle of Richmond streets to inspect the quarters of fleeing Confederate President Jefferson Davis, the president must have seemed, if not an apparition, God incarnate. Surely it must have been a prophet who set them free, and was martyred just like Jesus and John the Baptizer before him.

Aided by stunning visuals, including an array of fanciful “death-bed scenes” of the time, Fox suggested that several stark images conveyed a sense of a family in quiet mourning, as in a formal parlor in an upper-middle class Northern white Protestant home, presented so as to draw viewers in, constituting metaphorically an invitation by the family to share their grief as a National family.

The afternoon symposium was convened by Thomas F. Schwartz, Illinois State Historian, in the gorgeous Hall of Representatives in the Old State Capitol. The mood was subdued, respectful. Perhaps others were somewhat awed and humbled, as I was, sitting there as Lincoln had, in crowded narrow chairs at desks equipped with ink well and quill pen, listening to speeches delivered against the backdrop of a gigantic portrait of George Washington. Special recognition is due the committee who selected “Lincoln and His Critics” as this year’s theme and convened such a super panel; it was just the right perspective for the 201st anniversary.

The whole Nation (including many of us!) gorged last year on all things Lincoln, no doubt enlarging (whether clarifying or distorting) his iconic place in American life as man and myth. Focusing this year instead on his critics and adversaries provided a leaner diet, more broccoli, quite unlike last year’s lush spate of Lincoln biographies and juicy media commentaries.

Three experts presented (lengthy) scholarly papers, followed by a lively commentator, showing us the personas, character and dedication of some of Lincoln’s critics, his adversaries and avowed enemies. I was reminded that the price of savior status might be martyrdom by 1000 cuts, not a savory prospect for most, even the most grandiose and flamboyant among us. The thorny thicket of characters the panelists described included:

The Fire-eaters, devout disunionists who exploited every opportunity to inflame public opinion and provoke Southern secession.

Border-state leaders, and the blowback after the Emancipation Proclamation.

And, especially when the war was going badly, the strident Copperheads, Northern anti-war Democrats who demanded peace regardless of cost or consequence, including capitulation to the South’s demand for independence.

(The political landscape was littered with many other factions, of course—Douglas Democrats, Abolitionists, Know-Nothings, Wide-Awakes—each with its agenda, claims and interests, and all complicating the story.)

What treacherous political terrain Mr. Lincoln traversed to win the election! What crushing pressures he endured as president to preserve the Union, subject not only to the tides of war, but to the fickle winds of public opinion, and the shifting sands of political allegiances.

The ALA announced nine new Directors at the Friday evening ceremonies. Outgoing president Dick Hart was praised for his “bold leadership” by the distinguished jurist and long-serving former ALA president, the Honorable Frank J. Williams, who also received the well-deserved Lincoln the Lawyer Award. The baton passed smoothly to Robert Lenz, Bloomington-Normal lawyer and former vice president of the ALA.

So now, on to the Sesquicentennial of Lincoln’s election and presidency, which I guess officially begins this coming November 6. To whet our collective appetite for our five-year adventure ahead, I conclude with a quotation from Harold Holzer’s recent book, Lincoln President-Elect:

“The cannon salvo that thundered over Springfield, Illinois, to greet the sunrise on November 6, 1860, signaled not the start of a battle, but the end of one. The bitter, raucous, and exhilarating six-month-long campaign for president of the United States was over at last. Election Day was finally dawning.”

Bayard L. Catron, a Springfield native, is Professor Emeritus of Public Policy and Administration, George Washington University. Catron recently retired back to Springfield and has become a new ALA member as well as a new student of Lincoln. This was his first Lincoln Day experience.
Lincoln Day Events: The Symposium

The 2010 ALA Symposium was held in the Hall of Representatives in the Old State Capitol on the afternoon of February 12, 2010. The symposium topic “Lincoln’s Critics” featured three noted Lincoln scholars pictured above from left to right: Eric H. Walther, associate Professor of History at the University of Houston; William C. Harris, Professor Emeritus of History at North Carolina State University; Jennifer L. Weber, assistant Professor of History at the University of Kansas; and commentator Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr., Wepner Distinguished Professor in Political Science at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Lincoln Day Events: The Luncheon

At noon on February 12, 2010, Professor Richard Fox, who teaches courses in nineteenth-century American history at the University of Southern California, spoke to over 150 at a luncheon held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Fox described American reactions to the news of President Lincoln’s assassination on the night of April 15, 1865.


New ALA Board Members Welcomed

Harold Holzer Speaks at 201st Lincoln Birthday Banquet

Harold Holzer was the featured speaker at the annual banquet held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield on the evening of February 12, 2010. Holzer is a nationally known scholar and author, former ALA Board member, and Co-chair of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is also a frequent expert guest commentator on various television programs.

Presentation of Colors by the 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated at the 201st Lincoln Birthday Banquet.

The Southeast High School Show Choir directed by Tiffany Williams led the banquet attendees in singing the Star Spangled Banner.

Retiring President Richard E. Hart is presented an award of appreciation by newly elected President Robert J. Lenz.

Carl Butt, the 2009 winner of the Abraham Lincoln High School Essay contest, led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joann Drake, Virginia Williams and Edith Holzer enjoying the banquet.

Hayley McNamara and Jacob Lawhan, Williamsville High School juniors, led the banquet in singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.
Frank J. Williams Receives Lincoln the Lawyer Award

As a youth, Frank J. Williams began his life-long obsession with reading and collecting anything about the Sixteenth President. He studied law and served in private practice before his appointment as Associate Justice of the Superior Court in Rhode Island from 1995 to 2001 and then his appointment as Chief Justice there from 2001 to 2008. In 1976, Williams was elected to the ALA’s board of directors. As president of the ALA from 1986 to 1995, Williams expanded the Journal to a semi-annual publication. He worked aggressively at raising funds for research and conferences sponsored by the ALA. Here is what Robert J. Lenz said of Justice Williams.

Frank, in recognition of your years of service to the Abraham Lincoln Association, your accomplishments in the field of Lincoln scholarship, your work with the Lincoln Forum and the National Bicentennial Commission as well as your career as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, we present to you the Lincoln the Lawyer Award.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our 49 new members. They reside in 14 different states and one foreign country.

Jason Beyersdorff  
Boulder, Colorado

Noellyn Mangonda  
Marseille, France

Madge Williams

Bloomington, Illinois

Shane Evans

Hobart, Indiana

John Eliff

Alexandria, Virginia

Bill Howe

Rocklin, California

Dan Deneer

Bloomington, Illinois

Robert G. Dever

Louisville, Kentucky

Bjorn Skaptason

Chicago, Illinois

Bob LaPorte

Bloomington, Illinois

Paul Kallina

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Nelson O. Ottenhausen

Gulf Breeze, Florida

Julie and Paul Meints

Bloomington, Illinois

Wally and Jan Hood

Normal, Illinois

Paul Harmon

Normal, Illinois

Judith A. Ciesler

Springfield, Illinois

David R. Richert

Chicago, Illinois

Greg Koos

Bloomington, Illinois

D. Jeanie Cooke

Danville, Illinois

Kay Coate

Washington, Illinois

Jeanine Tew

Salt Lake City, Utah

Donald and Nancy Maxwell

Champaign, Illinois

Michael Tate

Effingham, Illinois

Sandra Carlson

Springfield, Illinois

Martha Plog

Springfield, Illinois

John Groves

Bloomington, Illinois

Laura Tischauer

Chicago, Illinois

Jim Pratt

Hammond, Indiana

Chuck Scholz

Quincy, Illinois

Dan Van Hafen

Batavia, Illinois

Timothy Connors

Freeport, Illinois

Peter Ciotta

Amherst, New York

Robert O. Ackley

Mundelein, Illinois

Pamela Rollins

Edmond, Oklahoma

Martha E. King

Milford, Connecticut

Jerry Ringer

Bloomington, Illinois

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick C. Keefe

O’Katie, South Carolina

Linda Wheeler

Strasburg, Virginia

Joe Rubini

Park City, Utah

Steve Wannemacher

Bloomington, Illinois

Julia Davis

Bloomington, Illinois

Albert O. Eck, Jr.

Springfield, Illinois

Mary and Jim Anderson

Bloomington, Illinois

Edna Greene Medford

Bowie, Maryland

Ralph S. McCrea

Vero Beach, Florida

Jodi Murphy

Urbana, Illinois

Adrienne Osborne Ives

Bloomington, Illinois

J. Steven Beckett

Urbana, Illinois
Logan Hay Medal Presented to Earl W. Henderson, Jr.

Earl W. Henderson, Jr., a long-time member of the ALA Board of Directors, was presented with the Logan Hay Medal at the banquet on February 12, 2009. The presentation was made by James W. Patton, III, and this is what Jim said about Wally:

The purpose of the Logan Hay medal is to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Abraham Lincoln Association. The award was established in 1967 by the Association and Logan Hay descendants in honor of Logan Hay, who played an important part in the formative years of the Association.

Our recipient, as a former chairman of the banquet committee, followed the dictum of the mission of our organization for several years by successfully organizing the annual banquet observing the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and then later serving on that same committee.

Our medalist promoted the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of Lincoln’s life and career by spearheading the development of the Abraham Lincoln Association Lyceum, with its collection of works primarily written by authors who are and are members of the Abraham Lincoln Association, many of whom are here tonight.

The first two recipients of this award played a large part in the life of tonight’s medalist, for they were the facilitators for the completion of a great project that would preserve and make more accessible a landmark associated with Lincoln’s life. They were Gov. Otto Kerner and Oliver J. Keller. It was with the governor’s blessing that the funding could be appropriated and with Mr. Keller’s urging that it transpired. However, it takes an architect to design a building. If you will reach into your pocket or purse and pull out a relatively new penny, you will see Lincoln standing in front of that building, the Old State Capitol.

It is with a great deal of pleasure and admiration that we present the Logan Hay medal to a longstanding member of this organization, a veteran, a humorist, and a very competitive sailor, Earl Wallace “Wally” Henderson.

Michael Burlingame Investiture

On the evening of February 11, 2010, Michael Burlingame was invested into the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield. The Abraham Lincoln Association was honored to share the evening with the University and to witness the colorful academic investiture ceremony of our friend and ALA Board member. The event was held in the historic House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol and was attended by over 250 persons.

ALA President Richard Hart introduced Michael and announced that Michael had been selected as the 2010 recipient of the Lincoln Prize, a prize awarded annually for the finest scholarly work in English on Abraham Lincoln or the Civil War and the most prestigious award in the field of Lincoln scholarship. The award was for Michael’s Abraham Lincoln: A Life, his widely acclaimed two-volume biography of Lincoln.
This photograph of the State House in Springfield, Illinois, on May 4, 1865, was taken by Springfield photographer Frederick W. Ingmire from the northwest corner of the Public Square.