

For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association

Volume 2, Number 4

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Springfield, Illinois

Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Progress

by Dr. Robert S. Eckley

The new Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund is nearing the end of its first full year with contributions from ten donors. An endowment procedure is in place, and the initial investment placements have been made. We invite all ALA members and friends to consider gifts that will enable it to fulfill the Association's stated mission when established in Springfield in 1908 to prepare for the centennial of Lincoln's birth.

The purpose of the endowment is to strengthen the financial resources of the ALA and to assist in its budgetary and planning functions. Increasingly, the Association is viewed as the leader in coordinating and assisting Lincoln organizations and activities throughout the nation and world. There is immediate need to participate in the revision and enlargement of *Lincoln Day By Day* (revised in 1959) and the new Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Recently, the Association has made a grant of \$5,000 for a student Outreach Initiative, utilizing the newly published resources of the Lincoln Legal Papers research project.

There are many diverse methods in which assistance and support may be provided. Gifts of cash or appreciated stock would enable us to reach our goal most rapidly. Various forms of bequest by will or other deferred giving arrangements may be more convenient in many cases. Charitable remainder unitrusts offer an opportunity for the donor to gain an immediate tax deduction, while retaining an income flow from an invested asset.

This may provide an enhancement in current income.

Assistance is available in gift design from any members of the ALA Endowment Committee who are willing to work with prospective donors or their legal counsel. The Association board members who serve on this

Committee are Robert S. Eckley, Chairman, Judith Barringer, Treasurer, ALA, Donald H. Funk, Richard E. Hart, Vice President, ALA, and Fred B. Hoffmann, and they may be contacted through the ALA address at One Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701.

Make Your Reservations Now for February 12

Mark your calendars now for February 12. In addition to the usual morning events at the Lincoln Home and Lincoln Tomb, a groundbreaking ceremony for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum will occur. Beginning at 11:30, authors of recent Lincoln scholarship will be available in the Old State Capitol to sign copies of their books. Among the confirmed authors available for signing will be John Patrick Diggins, Barry Schwartz, and John Ashworth. The Symposium will feature the announcement of the First Annual Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize. The prize will be offered to the best dissertation published in Lincoln studies within the past five years. The Abraham Lincoln Association in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Institute of the Mid-Atlantic will each award a prize in 2001. Beginning the following year, the prize will alternate between the organizations and will be awarded either in February by the ALA or in March/April by the ALIMA. The theme of the symposium is "Abraham Lincoln, History, and the Millennium."

The speakers and the titles of their talks are, John Patrick Diggins, City University of New York, "Abraham Lincoln: Political Philosopher," Barry Schwartz, University of Georgia, "Lincoln at the Millennium," Stewart Winger, American University in Cairo, "To the Latest Generations": Lincoln's Use of Time, History and the End Time in Historical Context." Comments will be by John Ashworth, University of Nottingham.

The Abraham Lincoln Association is honored to have Michael Beschloss, award-winning historian of the presidency and the author of six books, as the banquet speaker. He is a regular commentator on PBS's *The News Hour* with Jim Lehrer and a contributor to ABC News. He is currently working on a book on the Lincoln assassination. The symposium is free of charge. Banquet reservations are \$50 per person. Seating is limited to 380 persons so make your reservations now by calling Cathy LeConte at 217.747.5502.

Jacksonville Dinner a Great Success

by Molly Becker

October 15, 2000, found 110 Lincoln enthusiasts gathered at a gala reception in the historic Joseph Duncan home in Jacksonville, Illinois, to begin our third annual membership event.

Hosted by the ALA, the Morgan County Historical Society, and Jacksonville's *Journal-Courier*, this Lincoln Evening enhanced Jacksonville's yearlong celebration of their

one hundred and seventy-five-year anniversary.

Daughters of the American Revolution members, attired in period dress, were our gracious guides at the Duncan Mansion. Joseph Duncan was the sixth Governor of Illinois, and served from December 3, 1834, until December 7, 1838. The reception was followed by dinner at Cummings Hall on the campus of Illinois College, and culminated in historic Beecher Hall. Here Don Tracy gave a succinct and

most interesting summary of the ALA before introducing Professor Douglas L. Wilson of the Lincoln Study Center at Knox College. Professor Wilson's topic was, "Still Learning about Lincoln."

We are most grateful to John Power and the *Journal-Courier* for underwriting the reception and mailing expenses. As a result both the D.A.R. and the Joseph Duncan Association benefited from the \$1,250 profit that was made from the event.

Member News

Dr. Earl J. Hunt displayed pieces from his Lincoln collection at the Community Arts Center of Cambria County in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "My Life with Lincoln," ran from February 9 through 27. An optometrist by profession, Hunt's interest in Lincoln began when his sister Kay gave him a Lincoln bust for his birthday in 1967.

Robert French donated his extensive library of Lincoln and Lincoln-related books to Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin. The collection remains intact with a special bookplate designating the "Robert French Lincoln Collection."

Kenneth J. Winkle's *The Young Eagle, The Rise of Abraham Lincoln* describes Abraham Lincoln's life up to the 1860 election will be published in March by Taylor Publishers.

Charles Strozier is revising and expanding his Lincoln psychobiography, *Abraham Lincoln's Quest for Union*.

Jack Smith has been featured in numerous news articles reporting on his Lincoln print and photograph collection. Smith's collection is currently one of the major features of the exhibition "Picturing Lincoln: The Changing Image of America's 16th

President," at the Northern Indiana Center for History, South Bend, Indiana. The exhibit, guest curated by Illinois State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz, has broken all attendance records at the center. A symposium featuring Lerone Bennett, Jr., Mark E. Neely, Jr., Eric Foner, Jonathan Nashel, and Tom Vander Ven, will be a special feature of the exhibition on March 30 and 31. For reservation information, call 219.237.4261.

Daniel Stowell, Director of the Lincoln Legal Papers, has obtained a \$100,000 grant from the Cromwell Legal Foundation to place copies of the DVD-ROM edition of the Lincoln Legal Papers in law school libraries throughout the United States.

Allen Guelzo, Douglas L. Wilson, Garry Bunker, and William Gienapp have contributed essays for the Lincoln issue of the *Illinois History Teacher*. This publication provides secondary educators the latest scholarship with accompanying curriculum materials on significant topics in Illinois history.

Mark Plummer will publish an article, "The Last Hours of Lincoln: The Haynie Diary," in the spring issue of the *Journal of Illinois History*. Illinois Adjutant General Isham Nicholas

Haynie was present at the Petersen House the night of Lincoln's assassination and transcribed the testimony of witnesses in his diary. The diary is part of the Isham Nicholas Haynie Papers at the Illinois State Historical Library. Plummer's *Lincoln's Rail-Splitter: Governor Richard J. Oglesby*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

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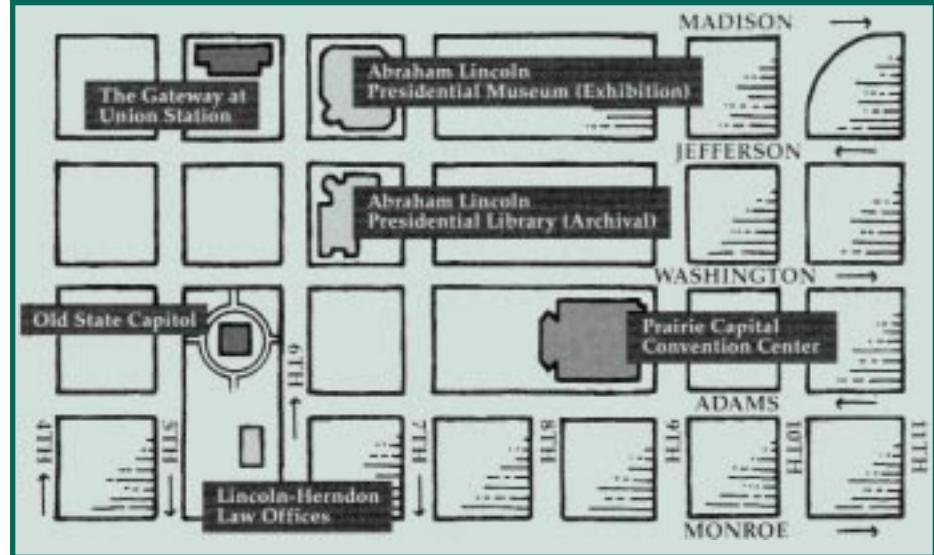
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New Books on Lincoln

The following titles are available at a discount to ALA members until March 31, 2001. This is part of an ongoing effort to make available significant Lincoln works at reduced prices to ALA members. The

ALA is grateful to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's Marketing Unit for providing this service to the ALA. Please make checks payable to "IHPA". Illinois residents must add 7.25% sales tax.

Please send me ____ copy(s) of Michael Beschloss, ed., *American Heritage Illustrated History of the Presidents*

Retail: \$35.00 ALA members: \$28.00 IL/Sales Tax \$2.03

Please send me ____ copy(s) of John Patrick Diggins, *On Hallowed Ground: Abraham Lincoln and the Foundations of American History*

Retail: \$27.95 ALA members: \$22.36 IL/Sales Tax \$1.62

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Retail: \$30.00 ALA members: \$24.00 IL/Sales Tax \$1.74

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Retail: \$35.00 ALA members: \$28.00 IL/Sales Tax \$2.03

Please send me ____ copy(s) of Barry Schwartz, *Abraham Lincoln and the Forge of National Memory*

Retail: \$27.50 ALA members: \$22.00 IL/Sales Tax \$1.60

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Groundbreaking for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to Occur on February 12

The much awaited groundbreaking ceremony for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum will take place on February 12, 2001, in the Atrium of National City Bank, Springfield. Those who attended the February 12, 2000, banquet will remember that Doris Kearns Goodwin gave a memorable talk in this same space. The ceremony will feature Governor and Mrs. George Ryan, with brief remarks from

Senator Richard Durbin, Speaker Dennis Hastert, and noted presidential historian Michael Beschloss. The Air Force Band, the Union Baptist Choir, and the Springfield Children's Choir will provide musical selections. Immediately following the indoor ceremony, a brief outdoor groundbreaking will take place in the area where the old Coney Island building stood. The three-quarter-block area will house the Illinois State Historical

Library collections. Quarters for the library will be built first with construction of the museum to follow in the block area directly north of this site. Planning is underway to convert the old Union Station into a Visitor's Center (see map on p. 3). The three-building complex will serve as the gateway for individuals and families interested in Abraham Lincoln and his times. The public is invited to attend and be part of this historic occasion.

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