



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2007

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

THE OTHER SIDE OF MARY LINCOLN

PART 2

BY JEWETT E. RICKER JR.

This is the second and concluding installment of Jewett E. Ricker's 1937 speech to the Joliet Illinois Women of Rotary. Mr. Ricker is the grandson of Mary Todd Lincoln's friend, Reverend David Swing.

To me, the story of Mary Todd Lincoln is the most tragic story of any character in American history. Certainly she was tested and tried as few persons ever have been. And certainly, with her temperament to combat, she did a far better job than most women could have done under similar circumstances.

Consider, if you will, the trying—almost impossible—situation which she faced in the White House. Being of southern stock, her family was divided in its allegiance to the North and South. Most of her brothers and sisters, and practically all of her half-brothers and half-sisters were sympathetic to the southern cause. Indeed, nearly all of her male relatives, as well as the husbands and sons of her sisters and half-sisters, fought in the Confederate Army. Yet she—as the wife of the President of the United States—was obliged to turn a deaf ear to the appeals and entreaties that came to her from her relatives and friends in the South. She was obliged to stand four-square behind the President in his determination to prosecute the war relentlessly, even though she knew that almost every battle would cost lives of her own kin.

Place yourself for a moment in the position of Mrs. Lincoln. In the North, because of her southern connections, she was distrusted almost from the moment she and her husband entered the White House. Many of her closest relatives—sisters and brother—were actually spied upon when they visited her, and on several occasions their letters and baggage were opened. In fact, as the war went on,

Mrs. Lincoln herself was openly accused of sending important information to her relatives in the Confederate armies. Things became so bad that—at her own request—all letters and packages sent to her were opened by Federal officers and thoroughly inspected before they were handed to her.

On the other hand, her relatives in the South looked upon her as a traitor to her people and their principles. They hated her with an even greater hatred than they had for the President himself.

She had four brothers in the Confederate army, as well as three brothers-in-law. In addition, hosts of other relatives and friends were wearing the gray and serving under Lee and Jackson.

As, one after another, these brothers and brothers-in-law fell on the field of battle; as—one after another—she re-

ceived word of the death of her other kinsfolk, Mrs. Lincoln was unable to openly shed a tear for them. Every evidence of sympathy or sorrow on her part was instantly taken up in the North and spread over the front pages of the newspapers. Only her husband understood the depth of the trials she was forced to face.

On top of all this, Mrs. Lincoln was so detested by many of the public officials in Washington that all manner of stories were circulated about her. She did make mistakes—no doubt about it. At times she embarrassed the President by issuing orders to public officials, and—because of her inherent pride—she refused to be as tactful as she should have been.

But, taken as a whole, unbiased historians believe that she was a constructive influence on her husband. Often her judgment of men was better than his, and she was always the first to detect those who were disloyal to the President personally or to the Northern cause.

General Sickles, who probably knew more about the home life of President and Mrs. Lincoln than any one else, had this to say: "It was my privilege to know President Lincoln and his consort through all the years they spent at the White House. I have never seen a more devoted couple. He always called her Mother and she always called him Father. In their domestic relations and in their devotion to each other and to their children, I have never seen a more congenial couple. He always looked to her for comfort and consolation in his troubles and cares. Indeed, the only joy poor Lincoln knew after reaching the White House were his wife and children. She shared all his troubles and never recovered from the culminating blow when he was assassinated."

I could, if time permitted, give you

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The earliest known photograph, a daguerreotype, of Mary Todd Lincoln believed to have been taken in Springfield in 1846 by one of Springfield's earliest photographers, Nicholas H. Shepherd. Daguerreotype collection, Library of Congress.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN T. TRUTTER

1920 - 2007

John T. Trutter, 86, died on February 2, 2007. John served on the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association from 1981 until 2003, and thereafter was an Emeritus Director.

John lived for many years in Evanston and he was the consummate Chicago businessman and public servant. But John's roots were in Central Illinois where he grew up in Springfield. According to Trutter family lore, his great-grandfather, Philip Mischler Jr., played with the Lincoln children. John was a founder and the first president of the Sangamon County Historical Society, a former President of the Illinois State Historical Society and a former Chairman of the Council for Illinois History. He had a passion for Illinois history in general and the Lincoln story in particular.

At the time of his retirement from Illinois Bell Telephone Co., John was senior vice president for community affairs and public relations. At one point during his career with Illinois Bell, John was in charge of the Northern Illinois switchboard operators, a number of whom became good friends. John's daughter, Edith English Trutter Hauph, remembers that her father "could tell you which one had the best Christmas potluck dinner."

From his days as student body president at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, John was an organizer and leader. He served in ROTC at the U. of I. and in the Army during World War II.

In addition to his service to the ALA, John served a host of civic organizations. From 1986 until 2002, he was chancellor of the Lincoln Academy, which honors Illinois residents for contributions in business, science and the arts, and in 1980 that organization awarded him the Order of Lincoln, Illinois' highest honor. He was also a former Chairman of the Canal Corridor Association, which protects and promotes preservation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. He served as President and Chairman of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago and after retiring from Illinois Bell, he headed the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau.

John's wife, Edith English Woods Trutter, died in 1997. We offer our condolences to his daughter, Edith, his son, Jonathan, and his two grandchildren.

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many, many other evidences of the high regard in which Mrs. Lincoln was held by those who knew her best. But we must pass by these troublous days. We cannot even dwell at length on the tragedy of the death of their dearly beloved son, Willie, who died in the White House in February of 1862. During all of the days of his illness, Mrs. Lincoln never left his bedside—nor was she ever the same after he was taken from her.

To Mary Todd Lincoln, the death of Willie was the beginning of the shadows through which she walked the remainder of her life. From that time

on she was the victim of terrifying fears. Her headaches—from which she had suffered for many years—increased in intensity. But, no one—not even the most bitter of her biographers—has ever said that she lost her courage.

During the remainder of the War, she was obsessed with fears of the assassination of her husband—fears that were founded upon the receipt of scores of letters threatening his life. Then, in August of 1863, her youngest brother—her "baby brother," as she called him—was killed in a skirmish at Baton Rouge—killed in the uniform of

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ALA SUPPORTS UPDATES OF *THE LINCOLN LOG*

Richard E. Hart, President of The Abraham Lincoln Association

For generations, two works have been indispensable to those who study the life of Abraham Lincoln—the 9 volume *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* and *Lincoln Day by Day*. The Abraham Lincoln Association is the parent of both.

In 1926, The Abraham Lincoln Association began the publication of a series of seven pamphlets detailing Abraham Lincoln's daily activities during the years 1854 to 1861. In 1933, these pamphlets were published in a single volume titled *Lincoln 1854-1861, Being the Day-by-Day Activities of Abraham Lincoln from January 1, 1854 to March 4, 1861*. The author was Paul McClelland Angle, the executive secretary of The Abraham Lincoln Association from 1925 to 1932.

In 1936, a second volume covering the years 1847 to 1853 was authored by Benjamin P. Thomas, executive secretary of The Abraham Lincoln Association from 1932 to 1936. Finally, in 1939 and 1941 volumes for the years 1840 to 1846 and 1809 to 1839 respectively were prepared by Henry Edward Pratt, executive secretary of The Abraham Lincoln Association from 1936 to 1943.

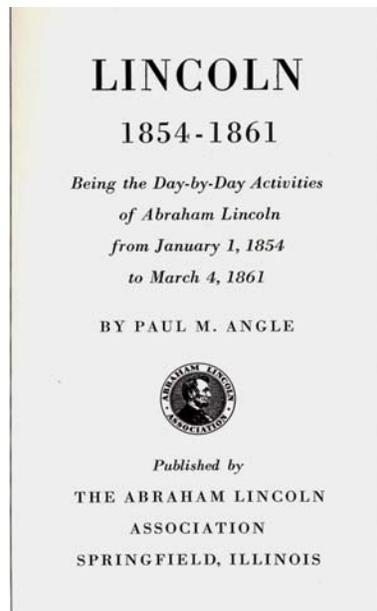
In the 1960s, the Association

transferred its copyright of these works to the Federal government and they were revised and expanded to include the Presidential years, 1861 to 1865. In the 2003, *Day by Day* was made available on-line as the *Lincoln Log* at

www.thelincolnlog.org.

The Collected Works and *Day by Day* were produced during what some have called The Abraham Lincoln Association's "Golden Age" of Lincoln scholarship. We all owe much to Angle, Thomas and Pratt who literally began with blank canvases and painted multiple masterpieces, among which are the chronologies of Lincoln's pre-Presidential life.

A new generation of scholars is now working on an update of the *Collected Works*, known as the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. They have also taken on the task of updating *Day by Day*, calling it *The Lincoln Log*. The Abraham Lincoln Association supports both projects and its Board of Directors has authorized the initial funding for the updating of *The Lincoln Log* under the supervision of the staff of the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. The Association's funds have been used to engage Marilyn Mueller to perform those services. Marilyn has been working hard at this tedious task since July 2006 and Daniel Stowell, editor of the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, has prepared the following report of her activities to date.



Frontispiece from *The Abraham Lincoln Association's 1933 first, single volume publication of Lincoln 1854-1861*.

REPORT ON WORK OF MARILYN MUELLER

Daniel W. Stowell, Editor of the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*

Abraham Lincoln lived for 20,517 days. Thanks to the careful research embodied in *The Lincoln Log: A Daily Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln* (www.thelincolnlog.org), we know what he was doing on 7,084 of them. Although the first third of his life will forever remain in the shadows of frontier boyhood and young adulthood, we now know much about the daily patterns of his adult life. Fewer than forty days during his presidency have no entry in *The Lincoln Log*.

Since July 2006, The Abraham Lincoln Association has engaged Marilyn Mueller to work part-time on

updating *The Lincoln Log*. During that time, Marilyn has added new entries, corrected mistakes, added content to existing dates, and revised citations to make them more complete and accurate. Her task is foundational research, the type of research that The Abraham Lincoln Association has sponsored for nearly a century, the type of research upon which most of the existing Lincoln scholarship has been built.

Mueller is currently completing her master's thesis in history at the University of Illinois at Springfield.



Marilyn Mueller at her desk in the offices of the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, updating the *Lincoln Log*.
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She served as a graduate assistant for the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* for two years and brings a great deal of practical research experience to this complex task.

Material for new or revised entries comes from a variety of sources. Many of the revisions are based on the research of the *Lincoln Legal Papers*, a project that The Abraham Lincoln Association helped to establish and has supported for two decades. The research of the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* has also uncovered new documents that have yielded new entries and revisions to existing entries. Editors with the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* pass along new documents to Marilyn to review for potential addition to *The Lincoln Log*. Illinois Historic Preservation Agency historians Bryon Andreasen and Mark Johnson have also generously contributed information from their own research. Occasionally, the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* receives information by mail or e-mail from researchers around the country who

have additional documentation for particular entries. All of these sources combine to enrich the daily chronology of the life of Abraham Lincoln.

When Marilyn receives or uncovers new information about Lincoln's daily activities, she carefully evaluates it for inclusion. If there is no entry for the date of the new material or if the documentation describes a new activity for an existing entry, Marilyn drafts a new or revises an existing entry. She carefully checks original letters, newspapers, and other primary sources for accuracy and completeness and cites those sources in the notes for that entry. Each draft entry is then copy-edited for clarity and consistency before it is added to the online publication. Finally, Marilyn keeps a chronological paper file with copies of the sources for each new or revised day's entry.

Nearly every existing entry needs clarification or better citation of sources. Electronic publication allows for fuller entries, with complete citation of sources and even links to

online versions of the sources, such as *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. Many individuals mentioned in *Lincoln Day by Day* were referred to only by last name. Casual readers often did not know anything about the person or his or her relationship with Lincoln. Electronic publication exacerbates this problem because users may access an individual entry without seeing the entries that precede or follow it. Electronic publication also removes the space limitations that confined earlier chronologies and open exciting opportunities for identifying individuals.

Thus far, Marilyn Mueller has added 40 new day entries to *The Lincoln Log* and she has revised more than 130 additional entries. The effort is painstaking and requires concentration and attention to detail. It continues a tradition of scholarship stretching back to the mid-1920s when an earlier generation of scholars began to assemble brief summaries of Abraham Lincoln's daily activities. Here are a few examples of the new entries that Marilyn has added to *The Lincoln Log*.

Wednesday, April 17, 1839.

Springfield, IL.

In the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Lincoln files a bill for injunction in the case of *Ball et al. v. Lockridge et al.* Lincoln and John T. Stuart represent plaintiffs Japhet A. Ball, Smith Ball, John S. Ball, and David Black. The plaintiffs are suing Elijah H. Lockridge, Joseph Lockridge, and William A. Lockridge for an injunction to prevent them from executing two judgments against the plaintiffs. In the bill for injunction, Lincoln argues that the Lockridges do not hold the title to a sawmill and a lot that the Balls and Black purchased from them. The plaintiffs seek to stop payments to the defendants until or unless the defendants can prove that they hold a legal title to the property. Stephen A. Douglass, Stephen T. Logan, and John D. Urquhart represent the Lockridges.

Bill for Injunction, filed 17 April 1839, *Ball et al. v. Lockridge et al.*, Tokyo Lincoln Center, Meisei University, Tokyo, Japan.

Friday, May 10, 1839.

Springfield, IL.

Lincoln writes a receipt for the \$15 fee that Nicholas Moore paid to Stuart & Lincoln for representing him in the case of *Moore v. Chrisman*. Moore sought to collect on a promissory note that defendant St. Clair Chrisman owed to the estate of Nicholas Sintz. Lincoln signs the receipt "Stuart & Lincoln."

Receipt, 10 May 1839, *Moore v. Chrisman*, IHi, Springfield, IL.

Friday, August 30, 1839.

Springfield, IL.

Lincoln writes to Chicago attorney Jonathan Y. Scammon regarding money due to Kinzie & Hall from the estate of Samuel Musick, and signs the letter "Stuart & Lincoln." Lincoln writes, "We suppose there is a small sum in the hands of our Probate Justice due to the claim of Kinzie & Hall against Musick. Procure an order to the Probate Justice from Kinzie & Hall to pay over to us what may be due them, and we will draw it and send it to you." After Kinzie & Hall authorize the Probate Justice to pay the judgment due to them to Lincoln, Lincoln will forward the money to Scammon.

Abraham Lincoln to Jonathan Y. Scammon (copy), 30 August 1839, Newman Collection, Chicago History Museum, Chicago, IL.

Wednesday, September 4, 1839.

Pittsfield, IL.

Lincoln writes two affidavits for the criminal case of *People v. Edwards* in the Pike County Circuit Court. Lincoln defends William W. Edwards, who seeks a new trial after a jury found him guilty of resisting an officer. Edwards claimed that one of the jurors was not a U. S. citizen. In separate affidavits, Thomas S. Edwards and Thomas Simpkin, the juror in question, declare that Simpkin "was born a subject of the King of Great Britain, and that he has never been naturalized according to the laws of the United States."

Affidavit of Thomas S. Edwards (copy), 4 September 1839, *People v. Edwards*, copy files, IHi, Springfield, IL; Affidavit of Thomas Simpkin, 4 September 1839, *People v. Edwards*, IHi, Springfield, IL.

Thursday, September 5, 1839.

Pittsfield, IL.

Lincoln participates in two cases in the Pike County Circuit Court. In the debt case of *Hall v. Smith*, Lincoln writes the affidavit of his client, defendant Amasa Smith. Smith asserts that his son William E. Smith can verify that Amasa delivered lumber worth \$125.50 to plaintiff Thomas L. Hall, thereby repaying his debt. Amasa Smith states that his son resides in Ohio, and therefore would be unable to appear as Amasa's "material witness" until the court's next term. In the case of *People v. Edwards*, Lincoln writes the affidavit of defendant William W. Edwards. Edwards claims that a person on the jury that found him guilty of resisting an officer is not a U. S. citizen. Edwards also states that he has asked the court to "arrest" the "judgment" against him.

Affidavit of Amasa Smith, 5 September 1839, *Hall v. Smith*, Private Collection; Affidavit of William W. Edwards (copy), 5 September 1839, *People v. Edwards*, copy files, IHi, Springfield, IL.

Sunday, August 1, 1847-Friday, August 6, 1847.

Springfield, IL.

Lincoln invites some of the delegates attending Illinois's state constitutional convention to his home. David Davis, a convention delegate from Bloomington, is one of approximately twenty guests. In a letter to his wife, Davis recalled the affair: "Mr. Lincoln invited about 20 gentlemen of the Convention to his house last week. No ladies present--not even Mrs. Lincoln...The Bill of fare the same as is usual in this town. Mrs. L. I am told accompanies her husband to Washington City next winter. She wishes to loom largely. You cant make a gentleman in his outward appearance, out of Lincoln to save your life."

David Davis to Sarah W. Davis, 8 August 1847, David Davis Family Papers, folder B-2, IHi, Springfield, IL.

Monday, April 5, 1852.

Springfield, IL.

In preparation for the upcoming term of the Tazewell County Circuit Court, Lincoln writes and mails a notice of motion to Alexander McNaghton and William Cromwell, the plaintiffs in the Tazewell County Circuit Court case of *Cromwell & McNaghton v. Baker and Tazewell County, Illinois*. Lincoln represents defendant Edward D. Baker in the case regarding a mortgage foreclosure.

Notice of Motion (copy), 5 April 1852, *Cromwell & McNaghton v. Baker and Tazewell County, Illinois*, copy files, IHi, Springfield, IL.

In addition to adding entries for dates that currently have no information, Marilyn is also correcting mistakes in existing entries. The following examples show the entry both

before and after revision. Note that the original entry for Tuesday, April 13, 1852, incorrectly included the dismissal of the case of *Rorebeck v. Bennett*. The correct date for the dis-

missal is April 14th, and that entry has been updated with the correct information.

(Before Revision)**Tuesday, April 13, 1852.**

Pekin, IL.

Hall v. Tyler is tried by court, which affirms decision of justice's court. Lincoln appears for appellee. Complainants in *Rorebeck v. Bennett*, bill for conveyance continued from Sept. term, dismiss case. Lincoln is attorney for defendant.

Record.

[In Springfield, Mrs. Lincoln joins First Presbyterian Church. Beveridge, *Abraham Lincoln*, 1:595n.]

(After Revision)**Tuesday, April 13, 1852.**

Pekin, IL.

In the Tazewell County Circuit Court, Lincoln makes a motion to quash the indictment of defendant James West in the criminal case of *People v. West*. West had been indicted by the state's attorney for allegedly passing a \$20 "forged bank note." The court apparently denies the motion, and West pleads not guilty to the charge. Later in the day, the court approves Lincoln's request for a continuance and requires West to file a recognizance bond for \$300. In the appeal case of *Hall v. Tyler*, Lincoln represents plaintiff Ira B. Hall. The justice of the peace court had earlier ruled in Hall's favor in his suit to recover \$17.66 from Benoni Tyler. Lincoln argues before the court and presents evidence from four witnesses. Judge David Davis rules in favor of Hall, approves the lower court's award, and orders Tyler to pay all the court costs.

Order, 13 April 1852, *People v. West*, General Record F, 393, Tazewell County Circuit Court, Tazewell County Courthouse, Pekin, IL; Order, 10 April 1852, *People v. West*, Tazewell County Circuit Court, Illinois State Archives, Springfield, IL; Order, 13 April 1852, *People v. West*, General Record F, 395-96; Justice of the Peace Transcript, 13 February 1852, *Hall v. Tyler*, case file, box 27; Judgment, 13 April 1852 *Hall v. Tyler*, General Record F, 397; Fee Book Entry, 24 September 1852, *Hall v. Tyler*, Fee Book, 617, all in Tazewell County Circuit Court, Tazewell County Courthouse, Pekin, IL.

[In Springfield, Mrs. Lincoln joins First Presbyterian Church.

Beveridge, *Abraham Lincoln*, 1:595n.

Church Meeting Minutes Entry, 13 April 1852, *Session Minutes, 1828-1862*, 89, First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL.]

Marilyn says of her work, "I believe my work on this project will enhance the research done by the original editors of *Lincoln Day by Day* for new generations." Her goal is to

make *The Lincoln Log* an even more reliable and useful resource for researchers as well as casual readers interested in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

The Abraham Lincoln Association continues its century-long commitment to fundamental research by supporting Marilyn's efforts.

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the Confederacy. And, as fate would have it, this particular skirmish was part of an army movement that had been ordered by President Lincoln himself.

And so it went—one tragedy after another; one sorrow after another—each one greater and harder to bear than its predecessor until, finally, on the night of Friday, April 14, 1865, her own husband—sitting beside her in their box at Ford's Theater—was taken from her forever at the very moment when Mrs. Lincoln had pressed her head against him and said: "What will Miss Harris think of my hanging on to you so?"

"She won't think anything about it," responded her husband—and those were his last words. They might as well, also, have been the last words of Mary Todd Lincoln, for—from then until the end of her life—she was never again completely herself.

It now becomes necessary—if I am to do what I am supposed to do—to couple some personal events—family experiences—to the next few years in the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, for it was after the death of the President that my family—my mother, in particular—came to know Mrs. Lincoln intimately.

My father had met Abraham Lincoln in Cincinnati in 1859. In fact, as a boy of twelve, he had been color-bearer for the Cincinnati Zouaves who had escorted the Lincolns to the Burnett House, and—during the subsequent few days—he had seen both of them several times. During this same period my grandfather, who was also living in Ohio, had become well acquainted with some of Mrs. Lincoln's cousins and had also had the pleasure of meeting both Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

But it was not until 1865 that either of these acquaintances was renewed. In May of 1865, Mary Lincoln, broken in health and mind, left the White House for Chicago, accompanied by her two sons, Robert and Tad. My grandfather, David Swing, preached a sermon on Abra-



A photograph of Mary Todd Lincoln and two of her sons, Willie on the left, and Tad on the right, taken in Springfield in 1860 by Springfield photographer Preston Butler.

ham Lincoln following the assassination, was visiting for a day or two in Chicago, and was taken to see Mrs. Lincoln by a friend who thought she might be interested in talking with him—as she had in some way seen a reprint of the sermon and been greatly pleased with it. While I am not sure on this point, I believe it was Mr. Abram Pence—a prominent lawyer of Chicago—who took my grandfather to see Mrs. Lincoln. I assume it was he, because Mr. Pence had—since 1862—been endeavoring to persuade my grandfather to come to Chicago.

It was not until the next year—1866—that my grandfather resigned his position as professor of Latin and Greek in Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and removed to Chicago. At this time he accepted a call to the Westminster Presbyterian Church, which stood on the corner of Dearborn and Ontario Streets. Of course, Mrs. Swing; my mother, Mary Swing, and her younger sister, Helen, accompanied my grandfather to Chicago, where the family took up their residence on Cass Avenue.

During the next few years—from 1866 to 1875—Mrs. Lincoln

was often in Chicago, and on these visits she invariably got in touch with my mother and my grandparents. For one thing she had an obsession that she was bankrupt—at least she did at times. On other occasions, she was very much her old self. I do not know just how a modern psychiatrist would classify her illness, but she was undoubtedly mentally disturbed. For the most part her mind was clear and alert, but at other times she would do exceedingly strange things and become dreadfully depressed.

Her chief obsession, or hallucination, was that she was a pauper, and she actually found pleasure in dramatizing herself as such. She often told her friends that she was obliged to "seek shelter from one place to another," which, of course, was not true, for Mr. Lincoln—when he died—had left an estate of \$110,000 which was to be equally shared by Mrs. Lincoln, and her two sons.

During this period she had tremendous physical vitality and the old Covenanter spirit was often manifest. I know that both my mother and my grandfather marveled at her quick changes of mood—and at the way in which her mind would clear. Though dreadfully depressed and discouraged, she never lost her fighting spirit. She was always trying to prod herself; always trying to get a fresh grip on life.

It was, I believe, in 1867 that Mrs. Lincoln hit upon the idea of selling her personal effects at a public auction in New York, but the plan created—as well it should have—so much public indignation that the sale was almost a complete failure. This criticism, in turn, gave Mrs. Lincoln months of anguish for—by the time criticism was at its height—she had snapped out of her mental depression, and realized all too well what a horrible thing she had attempted.

As a matter of fact, Mrs. Lincoln—during all of this period—was well supplied with funds, and was never in need. In 1869 she managed to finance a trip to Europe, taking

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with her her son, Tad. They visited Germany, France, and England—during most of which time Mrs. Lincoln lived in retirement. Whether she wrote any letters to my grandfather during this period, I do not know, but she wrote to other friends—and some relatives—in America, some of these letters being very well written, while other were quite rambling.

In the spring of 1871, Mrs. Lincoln and Tad returned to America, and she again took up her residence in Chicago. On these occasions she lived either at the Grand Pacific Hotel or the Clifton House. She was living at the latter hotel, when—not long after her return to America—Tad contracted a severe cold, which quickly developed into pneumonia. He died on July 15th—one more terrific blow to the shaken mind and body of Mary Lincoln. His physician during this illness was Dr. N. S. Davis, Sr.—who was for forty years our family physician, and I have heard him tell many times of the tragic incidents connected with the illness and death of Tad.

Now I must again mention family experiences, for it was after the death of Tad that Mrs. Lincoln seemed to transfer her affections to my mother, then a young girl of 15. My family by that time had moved to Ohio Street, and the Westminster Church, of which my grandfather was pastor, had been merged with the old North Church. The combined church became the Fourth Presbyterian Church, of which my grandfather was the first pastor.

While my mother was living on Ohio Street, Mrs. Lincoln several times a week would call at the house and take her driving. During this period she was going over many of her old things, and gave my mother several mementos. Only one of these, I believe, survived the Chicago Fire that came in October of that year. This—a little ring—I shall show you later. However, following the Fire, the friendship continued whenever Mrs. Lincoln was in Chicago and during this period she gave

my mother a number of articles which we have always prized very highly. I shall show you a few of these later. Others, which I shall be unable to show you, are pictures which hung in her own room in the White House. We have them still, but they are carefully stored away.

Meanwhile, following the Fire, the night of which, by the way, my mother and her sister and parents spent in a cabbage patch on the site of the present McCormick Theological Seminary, the Swing family returned for a time to Oxford, Ohio. My father, who was then in the banking business in Oxford, had a date with my mother in Chicago for the night of October 10, 1871. But, instead of keeping this date, he accompanied the Cincinnati Relief Party on a special train that was rushed to the stricken city. On the way to Chicago, this train passed the train on which my mother and her parents were returning—homeless—to Oxford.

My mother remained in Oxford for some time. My grandfather took a trip east for the purpose of raising funds with which to rebuild the Fourth Presbyterian Church. While in Brooklyn, he met Henry Ward



A carte de visite of Mary Todd Lincoln dressed in mourning clothes following the death of her son Willie in February of 1862.

Beecher for the first time—a friendship that lasted, through good and trying days, until the end.

Upon his return to Chicago, the Fourth Church resumed its services in Standard Hall, the only available auditorium on the south side of Chicago. Later—after McVickers Theater had been rebuilt—the congregation worshipped there. Meanwhile, the Fourth Church was being rebuilt at the corner of Superior and Rush Streets, and—at the same time—my grandfather was building a new home for the family at 401 East Superior Street, which, at the time, was near the shore of Lake Michigan.

It is with some hesitancy that I go into this bit of family history, but I do so for a purpose. My reason is that during this period, I have been unable—even in the biographies I have read—to find out what became of Mrs. Lincoln. Probably she returned for the time being to Springfield, or she may have traveled in the East.

In any case she was back in Chicago by the time the new building of the Fourth Church was completed, and—good Presbyterian that she was—she attended the first services. This was on January 4, 1874. Four days prior to this—on January 1, 1874—she had presented my mother with a copy of Tennyson's poems, which you will note—if you care to look at it later—is inscribed to my mother as "a souvenir of the New Year." On the preceding Christmas—December 25th, 1873—Mrs. Lincoln had also presented my mother with two volumes of Longfellow's poems. After I have finished, I am going to ask you—if you care to do so—to note the perfection of Mrs. Lincoln's handwriting at that time. I do this because, as I shall explain, it was not very long after this that the good lady was adjudged insane.

During the year 1874, Mrs. Lincoln and my mother saw each other many times each week, and she took a great deal of interest in my mother's approaching marriage, which occurred on October 22, 1874.

(Continued from page 8)

In fact, she herself purchased the going-away hat that my mother wore, as well as several articles of clothing contained in her trousseau.

Now please remember that Mrs. Lincoln was supposed to be in very serious mental condition at this time. Yet, on the night of the wedding—the first held in the Fourth Presbyterian Church—she, herself, dressed my mother for the service, checked up on all details, and talked so entertainingly to my father that he was almost late in walking in to meet his bride.

Somewhere I have a clipping of my father's and mother's wedding, which lists the presents given them by Mrs. Lincoln and others. Among the gifts was a set of ice cream spoons which we still have and still use. There were many others—some of which we have, and some of which have been lost or broken. I know that my mother felt quite badly when a case Mrs. Lincoln had given her was broken some years ago.

However, the things we treasure most are the napkin ring and goblet which were used by Abraham Lincoln himself during his term in the White House, and a pair of bracelets which Mrs. Lincoln herself wore and later presented to my mother as a personal token on the day of her wedding. Most of these things were shown at the Chicago Historical Society at the time of the Lincoln Centennial in 1909.

Now let us return to the sad story of Mary Todd Lincoln. Following my mother's marriage, she and my father returned to Oxford, Ohio, where they lived until 1880. Meanwhile, Mrs. Lincoln wrote occasionally to my mother—and my mother to her. These letters—Mrs. Lincoln's letters—are still somewhere, but I have been unable to locate them. However, there were not a great many, because Mrs. Lincoln seemed—after the beginning of 1875—to lose ground rapidly.

In March of 1875, Mrs. Lincoln—then visiting in Florida—became obsessed with the idea that

her son, Robert Todd Lincoln, was seriously ill in Chicago, and wired Dr. Isham that she was returning to Chicago at once. Her son was perfectly well, but Mrs. Lincoln could not be convinced. Even when, greatly fatigued, she arrived in Chicago and was met by Robert Lincoln himself, she still insisted that he was a dying man.

From this time on hallucinations followed one another until finally—on May 19th, 1875—Robert Lincoln was regretfully obliged to go before the County Court of Cook County and have his mother committed to the care of an asylum. The jurors were all prominent citizens of Chicago, and it was with the greatest of sorrows that they arrived at their verdict.

Five of these men who served on this jury, as well as both of the doctors who testified, were close friends of my father and mother, and—in subsequent years, during my boyhood in Chicago—I often heard this sad case discussed in hushed voices. Robert Todd Lincoln also lived only four doors away from my grandfather, and it was my privilege as a boy to know him quite well. But he, too, was saddened by the tragedy that befell his mother and never ceased to brood and worry about it. Even after he became president of the great Pullman Company and held a position of leadership in the business life of Chicago, he remained silent—a man apart.

The day after the hearing, Mrs. Lincoln made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide. She was immediately taken to the private sanitarium of Dr. R. J. Patterson at Batavia, Illinois. Even then the newspapers would not let her alone. All sorts of stories went the rounds—ghastly, libelous, malicious stories. Some said that her son was keeping her at Batavia to be rid of her. Others said she was a raving maniac. These stories became so numerous and so outrageous that Dr. Patterson finally wrote a public letter explaining her condition, which was published in the Chicago Tribune.

After being at Batavia for about three months, arrangements were made to transfer Mrs. Lincoln to the home of her sister in Springfield. Here, under careful care and attention, she remained for several months more. Then—on June 15, 1876—a new appeal was made to the County Court of Cook County, and Mrs. Lincoln was declared—by another jury of leading citizens—to be restored to health.

Five years of wandering followed, a good portion of which time she spent in seclusion in Europe. In 1881 she returned to Springfield, then traveled to New York to consult with specialists. Unfortunately, all of these efforts availed but little, and Mrs. Lincoln once again returned to the Springfield home of her sister—Mrs. Edwards.

There, in a room with shades drawn and a single candle gleaming, she spent the remainder of her days. She would see no one. She would talk to no one. She was living with the one desire that a merciful God would take her away to her husband and her children. And this he did—quietly and without pain—on July 16, 1882.

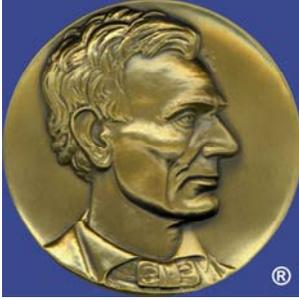
Probably in all American history there is no story quite as tragic as that of Mary Todd Lincoln. Certainly there is none of any person who achieved a greater place in the sun, or descended to a deeper place in the shadows.

But that is not the real tragedy of her life. The REAL tragedy lies in the fact that she was so little understood—that even today, after all of these years, historians will stoop so low as to write only of her temperamental weaknesses, and to repeat stories and gossip which reliable historians have long since disproved.

For that—to my mind—there is no excuse.

This article is transcribed from a typescript presentation by Jewett E. Ricker Jr., who delivered it in a speech to the Joliet Illinois Women of Rotary in February 1937. For additional information, see Ann Ricker's "Mary Lincoln and the Swings," published in the Spring 2000 issue of For The People.

LOGAN HAY MEDAL RECIPIENTS



At the Association's Lincoln Banquet on February 12th, the Logan Hay Medal was presented to two worthy recipients, Georgia Northrup and Robert S. Eckley.

The Logan Hay Medal is the highest honor given by The Abraham Lincoln Association. In 1967, the Association and descendants of Logan Hay established the award to honor Logan Hay, who played a most important part in the formative years of the Association. The Medal is awarded to individuals in recognition of their noteworthy contributions to the mission of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

GEORGIA NORTHRUP

Georgia Northrup has faithfully served the Association since 1977, when she joined the Board of Directors. During that service, she has become the public face of the Association. For over two decades, she has tended to the Association's membership records. Georgia welcomed each new member with a handwritten note. She has watched the Association's membership grow from 240 to its current 800 members. For many years, she personally labeled and saw to the mailing of the Association's *Journal*, newsletter, symposium and banquet notices and membership correspondence. Many know her as the maestro of the seating and reservation arrangements for the Association's annual February 12th banquet. She has a genius for seating people with others who might share their interests. She is always there to greet first time banquet attendees and make them feel welcome. Her gracious spirit and smile are the heart of not only that event, but of The Abraham Lincoln Association.



Georgia Northrup speaking to the Association's Annual Lincoln Banquet after receiving the Logan Hay Medal.

DR. ROBERT S. ECKLEY

Dr. Robert S. Eckley, longtime member, provided distinguished service as president of The Abraham Lincoln Association, from February 12, 2002, to February 12, 2004. His professional career demonstrated both versatility and conspicuous success, first in college teaching, then with the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, later as Chief Economist at Caterpillar in Peoria, and culminating as President of Illinois Wesleyan University for nearly twenty years. During his tenure on the Board of Directors of the Association, he brought uncommon wisdom, a steady hand and quiet leadership. He is currently the Chairman of the Association's Endowment Fund which he inaugurated in 2000. The Fund has grown to over \$150,000 under his polite but relentless prodding. In future years this endowment will enable the Association to undertake new initiatives and sponsor worthy events. He has also found time to research and publish interesting columns and articles for our publications. Bob is the consummate gentleman, scholar and friend.



Robert S. Eckley listening to remarks of Cullom Davis presenting Eckley with the Logan Hay Medal.

These two very special people have each made noteworthy contributions to the mission of The Abraham Lincoln Association. They are worthy recipients of the Logan Hay Medal. We thank them for their service.

New Members

We welcome our new members.

- Charles and Mary Banks,
McHenry, Illinois
- Dr. Rick Beard,
Springfield, Illinois
- R. Rhudy Bell,
Tampa, Florida
- J. Gordon Bidner,
Carlock, Illinois
- Robert L. Carter,
Ottawa, Illinois
- Richard Chrisman,
Bloomington, Illinois
- Keith Erekson,
Bloomington, Indiana
- Matthew Fink,
Chey Chase, Maryland
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Gaynes,
Silver Spring, Maryland
- Bradley Greenberg,
Phoenix, Arizona
- Verne Hargrave,
Arlington, Texas
- Harold Hertlein,
Coupeville, Washington
- Prof. David H. Hopper,
St. Paul, Minnesota
- James Howard, Jr.,
Peru, New York
- Fred J. Martin, Jr.,
San Francisco, California
- Emily Pease,
Williamsburg, Virginia
- William A. Rowe,
Paxton, Florida
- Dr. Virgil D. Short,
Normal, Illinois
- Dr. Jason H. Silverman,
Rock Hill, South Carolina
- Zack Stamp,
New Berlin, Illinois
- Joseph D. Terwilliger,
New York, New York
- John C. Waugh,
Pantego, Texas
- Cathy A. Wilkins,
Des Moines, Iowa

2007 ALA LINCOLN DAY BANQUET PICTURES

Our thanks to David Blanchette and Dulany Sriner for these photographs of the Association's 2007 Banquet. For more pictures, visit our website at



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For The People (ISSN 1527-2710) is published four times a year and is a benefit of membership of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

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DAY BY DAY***CALENDAR OF COMING ALA EVENTS***

October 4, 2007	<i>Lincoln Press Conference</i> , Springfield George Buss, Lincoln impersonator, will field questions from the press.
8:30	Iles Magnet School
12:00	Luncheon (Location to be announced)
6:30	Reception, Old State Capitol
7:00	Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol
October 12, 2007	2:00 ALA Board of Directors Meeting, Springfield
February 11, 2008	1:00–4:00 <i>Symposium</i> Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield
	7:00 Illinois Symphony performance of <i>An American Dream</i> Springfield (Location to be announced)
February 12, 2008	10:00 ALA Board of Directors Meeting, Springfield
	1:00–4:00 <i>Symposium</i> Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield
	6:00 <i>Lincoln Day Banquet</i> , 100th Anniversary of ALA Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield
February 13, 2008	7:00 Illinois Symphony performance of <i>An American Dream</i> Bloomington Center for Performing Arts, Bloomington
	Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield

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