

THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

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Spring 2025

FORUM XXX PROMISES TO BE A REUNION LIKE NO OTHER

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The Lincoln Forum will be celebrating its 30th birthday this November—with a special prequel and an all-star lineup focused on Lincoln's final months in office eight score years ago in 1865.

Following our special midyear gathering at Robert Todd Lincoln's home "Hildene" in Manchester, Vermont, The Lincoln Forum will reconvene in Gettysburg for our 30th annual symposium.

Prequel: *Lincoln on Film*

To celebrate our pearl anniversary, we will host a prequel at the *Beyond the Battle Museum* on Saturday, November 15, beginning with a special presentation by **Christopher Oakley** and **Mark Pohlad** on the discovery of real and fake photographs of Abraham Lincoln.

This will be followed by a screening of the long-lost 1956 live TV drama *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, which starred Raymond Massey (Lincoln), Lillian Gish (Mary), and Jack Lemmon (Booth), with Charles Laughton as narrator. The screening will be preceded and followed by comments by Lincoln assassination expert **Richard Sloan**. We will also see excerpts from *The Heart of Lincoln*, the recently discovered and widely publicized 1922 silent-screen film starring Francis Ford.

The Anniversary Forum, November 16-18

For the anniversary Forum, a star-studded roster of bestselling historians and Forum favorites will come to Gettysburg to offer new insights about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Movie star **Stephen Lang** will join Forum Chairman **Harold Holzer** in a

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Cecily N. Zander



Stephen Lang



Lucas Morel

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

COMMON CENTS



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It was President Theodore Roosevelt—a lifelong admirer of Abraham Lincoln—who ordered the U.S. Mint to introduce copper pennies bearing Lincoln's image in time for the centennial of his birth in 1909. It would mark the first time an American coin featured the likeness of an American president.

TR personally chose the design: a bas-relief medal by sculptor Victor Brenner, a Lithuanian-born Jewish immigrant (who had earlier sculpted TR!). Brenner had based his Lincoln medal on the profile photograph made in 1864 by Mathew Brady, himself an immigrant from Ireland. Teddy Roosevelt was hardly an immigration cheerleader—he fretted about dual loyalties and assimilation—but consciously or not, he selected artists who represented two of the biggest waves of foreign migration to America: Irish Catholics in the 1840s, and Eastern European Jews in the 1890s.

Earlier this year, perhaps spurred on by the cost-cutting “efficiency” operation managed by yet another immigrant, Elon Musk, President Trump marked the approach of Lincoln's birthday by declaring the iconic coin “wasteful” and ordering the Treasury Department to “stop producing new pennies.” Not that the penny will soon disappear; one expert has calculated that there are two *trillion* of them in circulation today or, more likely, languishing in boxes, bins, tins, and jars in homes across America.

Nonetheless, I have two cents worth of objections to ending production of the coin, some admittedly evoked by nostalgia, some inspired by my five-decades-long study of Lincoln, and some based on my service as co-chairman of the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission back in 2009—the year the Lincoln penny itself reached the age of 100.

“Away back in my childhood,” to adapt a phrase Lincoln once used, I collected pennies for UNICEF. Didn't everyone of my age? Like other 1960s families, we also had a repository for loose change, pennies of course predominating (my own was a glass figurine of Lincoln with a coin slot in its tw0it-off top hat) to be toted to the bank in bulk once a year to exchange for currency.

I actually tried collecting old pennies as a kid, shiny and dull alike, laboring to gather one example—usually of the worn-down and worthless variety—for every year since their introduction. I especially treasured the World War II-era pennies, made from lightweight, gray-hued steel, stubbornly minted during the years the military hoarded copper for its own purposes.

As a historian, I later came to understand the broader, symbolic importance of the Lincoln penny. The most titanic of our presidents had been intentionally commemorated on the very smallest denomination of coinage, a constant reminder that he was of, by, and for

the masses. “Common looking people are the best in the world,” Lincoln had once said. “That is the reason the Lord makes so many of them.”

Perhaps that is why the Mint has made so many pennies. In the century-and-a-quarter since 1909, it has churned out an astonishing 55 quadrillion coins—making it the most ubiquitous piece of coinage in American history. Some of Lincoln's successors would likely frown at being remembered on such an ordinary coin of the realm; Lincoln would likely have loved it.

Twenty-five years ago, President Clinton named me to co-chair the U.S. Bicentennial Commission, one of whose tasks was to heed a congressional mandate (when congressional mandates mattered) to choose a new series of images to adorn the backs of all 2009 pennies. For half a century, the penny's reverse image had featured wheat-leaf wreaths surrounding the words “One Cent.” For Lincoln's 150th birthday back in 1959, that image had been supplanted by a miniature rendering of the Lincoln Memorial, with a minuscule figure of the seated Lincoln (kind of) discernable inside.

The new law ordered us to choose four new designs, one for each of the places Lincoln once lived. We took the job seriously, ranking submissions as if we were selecting an architect for the White House. Ultimately, our Kentucky coin would feature a tiny log cabin; the Indiana penny, a tiny figure of young Lincoln reading a book; the Illinois coin, an intricate scene of Lincoln standing before the State Capitol; and the Washington, D.C. penny an engraving of the U.S. Capitol dome, whose construction Lincoln insisted go forward during the Civil War, iron shortages be damned. Altogether, we minted two *billion* new bicentennial coins.

Yes, today's pennies are not without their problems. They cost more than double their face value to produce. They are no longer made of copper—but rather a kind of brushed zinc. But should they really be erased in the name of efficiency when they mean so much to so many?

The Lincoln penny was designed not just to pay its way but to remind us that a non-billionaire—born on the prairie, self-educated, and committed to the idea of upward mobility—could rise from a log cabin to the White House. As Teddy Roosevelt instinctively knew, Lincoln's image belonged not only on the largest portrait sculpture in America, the statue in the Lincoln Memorial, but also on the modest penny.

To remove our least expensive and most accessible coin in the new age of Bitcoin, the exclusive currency of the wealthy few, would send a terrible message to the American many. It may prove penny wise and pound foolish to continue minting them, but it would be a blow to our national identity to discard Lincoln just as we need his example more than ever—especially his commitment to malice toward none. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Harold Holzer".

Harold Holzer, Chairman

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin* marks an important transition. It is the first issue I have had the privilege of editing, and it is also the last to be designed by Henry (Hank) Ballone. After many years of expert and dedicated work, Hank has decided to retire from his design role. We are deeply grateful for his remarkable contributions to the Bulletin and the Forum over the years.



I would also like to express my gratitude to Henry Cohen, who has served as the Bulletin's trusted copyeditor for many years. His sharp eye and meticulous attention to detail have ensured the quality of this publication, and I am thrilled he agreed to stay on to help bring this issue—and future issues—to life.

While there are changes behind the scenes, the content of the Bulletin remains as engaging and informative as ever. This issue offers a preview of the Fall 2025 symposium and includes several articles reflecting on the success of our 2024 symposium, highlighted by the exceptional work of our talented photographers Hank Ballone, Tim Branscum, Joe Card, and Dave Walker.

Inside, you'll find articles showcasing original research and fresh interpretations, thanks to our contributors—from familiar names such as Michelle Krowl and Jason Emerson to first-time contributors Andrew Lawler and Dave Taylor.

Harold Holzer and Jonathan White, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Lincoln Forum, respectively, have been instrumental in shaping the Forum's direction. They also served as the Bulletin's previous editors. Their dedication has helped build this publication into what it is today, and I deeply appreciate their trust in me to carry this work forward.

I am also grateful to our advertisers, whose support makes it possible for us to produce this high-quality, full-color publication. Finally, to you—our members and readers—thank you! Your continued support of the Lincoln Forum and your contributions of original research ensure that the Bulletin remains an essential resource for Lincoln scholars and enthusiasts alike. We couldn't do it without. 📖

— Samuel Wheeler

The *Lincoln Forum Bulletin* welcomes contributions from members and historians, including articles and photographs. Send to editor Samuel Wheeler at SamuelWheeler@Yahoo.com.

FORUM XXIX FIRST TIME ATTENDEES



FORUM XXX PROMISES TO BE



Christopher Oakley



James Oakes



Richard Sloan



Mark Pohlade

continued from page 1 performance of dramatic readings Lincoln first learned as a teenager—and continued to recite to lucky witnesses during his presidency.

Coming all the way from Oxford University in England, **Richard Carwardine** will explore the role of religion in Civil War America based on his new book, *Righteous Strife: How Warring Religious Nationalists Forged Lincoln's Union* (2025). Brown University historian **Michael Vorenberg** will discuss his highly anticipated new book, *Lincoln's Peace: The Struggle to End the War* (2025). And **Saladin Ambar** of Rutgers University will analyze Lincoln's first major speech—the Lyceum Address (1838)—based on his new book, *Three Murders on the Mississippi: A Thousand Days That Made Abraham Lincoln* (2025).

Drawing from his many works on the antislavery movement, CUNY professor of history emeritus **James Oakes** will address the provocative question, “Was the Emancipation Proclamation Illegal?” **Julian Sher** will tell the fascinating history of Confederate plots in Canada to kill Lincoln, drawn from his book *The North Star* (2023). And **Cecily N. Zander** will discuss antimilitarism in the Civil War era based on her new book, *The Army Under Fire* (2024).

This year's Forum will feature two special conversations about Lincoln's legacy. Novelist **Thomas Mallon**—who penned the 1994 historical novel *Henry and Clara* (about the couple who attended Ford's Theatre with the Lincolns)—together with the author of *Mourning Lincoln* (2015), **Martha Hodes**, will bring their literary and historical expertise to a conversation on “Lincoln's Death in Myth and Memory.” **Lucas E. Morel** and Forum Vice Chairman **Jonathan W. White** will present material from their new book, *Measuring the Man: The Writings of Frederick Douglass on Abraham Lincoln* (2025), which contains nearly 100,000 words written by the great abolitionist about the Great Emancipator, including nearly a dozen new documents that have never been seen by Lincoln or Douglass scholars.

Chairman Holzer will introduce the first panel, “*The Peacemakers: Lincoln's Last Council of War*,” by discussing the artistic merits of George Healy's famous painting of the last major strategy meeting of the Civil War. Panelists **Anne E. Marshall**, **John F. Marszalek**, **Craig L. Symonds**, **Susannah J. Ural**, and **Frank J. Williams** will then discuss the figures in the painting—Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, and Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter—and the plans they had for bringing the Civil War to a close.



Saladin Ambar



Julian Sher



Michael Vorenberg



Jonathan W. White



George P. A. Healy
The Peacemakers, 1868

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A REUNION LIKE NO OTHER



Anne Marshall



Craig Symonds



Michelle A. Krowl



Fergus M. Bordewich

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In the second panel, “The Voice of the People,” moderated by Forum secretary **Michelle A. Krowl**, panelists will discuss Lincoln’s relationship with his final session of Congress. Biographer **Jeffery Boutwell** will discuss George S. Boutwell (with whom he shares a common ancestor), a member of both the Lincoln and Grant administrations. **Fergus Bordewich** will draw from his bestseller *Congress at War: How Republican Reformers Fought the Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, and Remade America* (2020). **Stephen Puleo** will discuss Charles Sumner of Massachusetts based on his two books, *The Caning* (2012) and *The Great Abolitionist* (2024). And **Cecily Zander** will discuss the Republican Party’s approach to military policy in the Civil War era.

Breakout Sessions

The 2025 breakout sessions are sure to delight attendees. After a two-year hiatus, Forum Chairman Emeritus **Frank J. Williams** will resume his “Cooking with the Chief and the Chef” together with the Wyndham’s **Chef Trevor Shearer**. **Daniel Weinberg**, the proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, and **John Lupton**, the executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission, will reveal “Lincoln Forgeries We Have Known and Loved.” **Jonathan White** and **William J. Griffing** will discuss “Lincoln on eBay,” based on their new book *A Great and Good Man: Rare, Firsthand Accounts and Observations of Abraham Lincoln* (2024). We will also have a special breakout session to mark the 160th anniversary of the Lincoln assassination.

In other breakout sessions, **Michael Vorenberg** and **Anne Marshall** will explore the “Countdown to Appomattox.” Retired law professor **Roger Billings** of Northern Kentucky University’s Salmon P. Chase College of Law and Massachusetts judge **Dennis J. Curran** will look at “Lincoln, the Lawyer President.” Finally, **Reg Ankrom**, **Jan Jacobi**, and **Scott Schroeder** will discuss “Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in Fact and Fiction,” based on Ankrom’s many books about Douglas, Jacobi’s new young adult fiction book about the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, and Schroeder’s deep research on the debate sites.

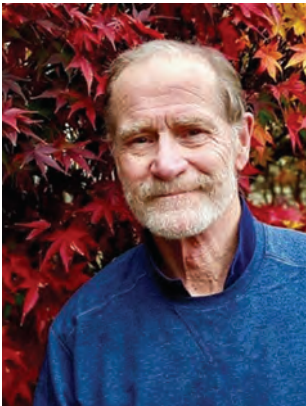
For our fourth consecutive year, Carol Reardon will lead the highly acclaimed First-Time Attendees’ Battlefield Tour. And as always, attendees will enjoy meals, drinks, and good conversation, the Forum bookstore and art and artifact displays, as well as the annual all-author book signing. 📖



John Marszalek



Susannah Ural



Jeffrey Boutwell



Frank J. Williams



Stephen Puleo



Carol Reardon

THE SCOTTISH EARL WHO PAVED THE

By Andrew Lawler

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, 1863, is rightly considered one of the most important decrees made by an American president. By freeing enslaved people under rebel rule, Lincoln gave the Union a clear moral compass in its fight against the Confederacy and encouraged Black men to enlist in the war effort. Yet the famous document's origins can be traced back to a surprising source in the early days of the American Revolution.

King George III appointed John Murray, the Fourth Earl of Dunmore, as royal governor of Virginia in 1771. The Highlander aristocrat arrived in its capital of Williamsburg to oversee what was

then the largest, most populous, and wealthiest of the thirteen colonies in British North America. He quickly purchased land and slaves, and he became fast friends with many of Virginia's elite, especially George Washington.

On April 19, 1775, growing tensions with Britain exploded into violence at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. Less than two days later, the governor seized the colony's gunpowder stores in Virginia's capital. When armed patriots threatened to attack his home in retaliation, he warned that any attempt to harm a British official would prompt him to "declare

freedom to the slaves and reduce the city of Williamsburg to ashes." Given that two out of every five Virginians were enslaved, this posed a major challenge to white patriots. The crisis soon passed, however, before Dunmore acted on his threat.

In June, he fled Williamsburg, and in July the governor established a loyalist base near the port of Norfolk, and enslaved Virginians seeking liberty flocked behind British lines. Dunmore had only a handful of redcoats and Royal Navy ships, so these Black refugees offered his only hope for building an army to counter the expanding patriot militia. On November 7, Dunmore drafted his emancipation decree but waited until a propitious time to publish it. A week later, a multiracial force made up of redcoats, white loyalists, and enslaved Black men defeated a larger patriot militia at Kemp's Landing, in what is now Virginia Beach. One Black man, armed only with a sword, wounded and captured the white militia leader.

In the wake of the victory, a delighted Dunmore issued his proclamation declaring free those indentured servants and enslaved people who were under the control of the patriots and "able and

willing to bear arms" with "his Majesty's troops." The decree, printed on his shipboard press, was widely distributed around the Chesapeake Bay, and newspapers went on to reprint the document, which was circulated throughout the colonies.

What filled enslaved people with hope outraged many white Americans. A *Virginia Gazette* writer lambasted "the baseness of Lord Dunmore's heart, his malice and treachery" and warned that the families of those who escaped could expect to suffer "the fury of the Americans." Any person captured in flight

could expect torture, imprisonment, and even death. In countless shacks, barns, attics, basements, and cabins throughout Virginia and beyond, those held in lifetime servitude engaged in whispered debates and endured heartbreaking leave-takings. Choosing a chance at liberation over continued captivity was very possibly a life-or-death decision.

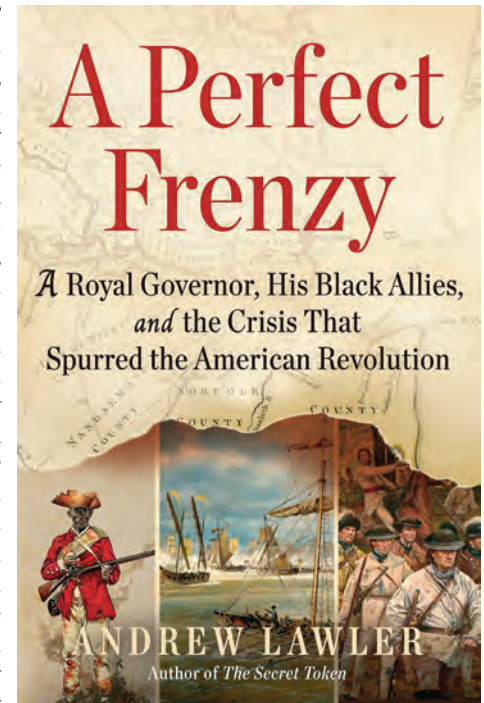
Well over a thousand people throughout the colonies chose to flee. "Slaves flock to him in abundance," one patriot leader wrote. John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, informed George Washington of the decree, which threatened to fill British ranks with men eager to fight for their freedom. Dunmore's former friend responded that "the fate of America" depended largely on defeating Dunmore. "If, my dear sir, that man is not crushed before spring," he told Richard Henry Lee in Philadelphia, "he will become the most formidable enemy America has—his strength will increase as a snowball by rolling; and faster, if some expedient cannot be hit upon to convince the slaves and servants of the impotency of his designs."

The proclamation forced Washington to reverse his stance refusing to reenlist Black men in the Continental Army. The governor, meanwhile, formed Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment, the first Black unit in British history. In December, these troops and British redcoats suffered a major defeat at Great Bridge, south of Norfolk, at the hands of a larger patriot army, and were subsequently forced to retreat to ships in the harbor. The regiment remained active in Virginia until August 1776, when disease and patriot attacks forced them to depart for New York, where a large British force was poised to invade. The Black soldiers fought at the Battle of Long Island and eventually were subsumed by the Black Pioneers, an army engineering and construction battalion created by General Henry Clinton.

Clinton went on to release his own emancipation document on June 7, 1779, from his headquarters in Phillipsburg, New York. The proclamation promised "to every Negro who shall



John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore



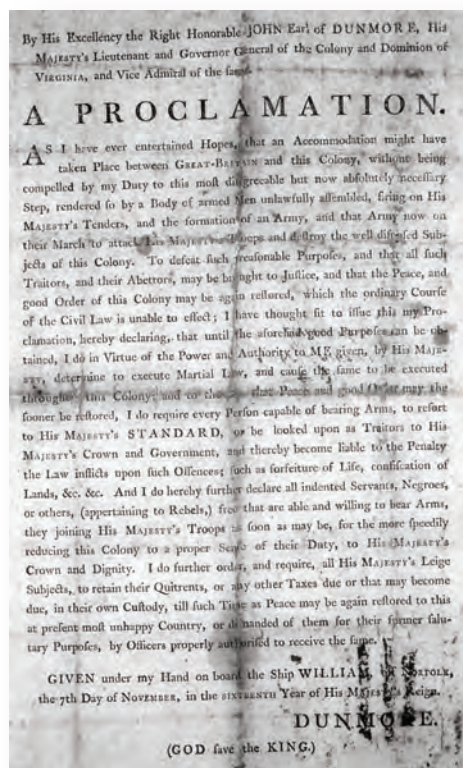
A Perfect Frenzy by Andrew Lawler

WAY FOR LINCOLN'S EMANCIPATION

desert the Rebel Standard, full security to follow within these lines any occupation which he may think proper." There was no explicit promise of full emancipation, nor did Clinton issue a provision for Black men to take up arms, but it gave Dunmore's decree the stamp of official British policy.

During six years of fighting, about 20,000 Black men fought for the British, compared to some 5,000 who joined the patriots. Aside from Dunmore, however, British commanders were reluctant to provide their Black recruits with weapons, whereas Black patriots often fought alongside whites and proved militarily more effective. With the 1783 Treaty of Paris, Britain agreed to return those formerly enslaved to their white owners. "I have thirty missing, many of which I understand are dead, but there are still some that are very valuable," Virginia governor Benjamin Harrison wrote that year to General Washington, adding that he hoped his friend could ensure their recovery.

But General Guy Carlton, the British commander at the end of the war, outraged Harrison, Washington, and other planters when he argued that those in bondage had been freed by the British during the war and therefore could not be counted as confiscated property. Over the protests of Washington and the Continental Congress, Carlton's staff signed some three thousand certificates ensuring the freedom of formerly enslaved people and granting them the right to emigrate. Most sailed on British ships to Nova Scotia, although some ended up as far away as Germany and Australia.



Lord Dunmore's Proclamation

Long after the Revolution was won, Dunmore remained a notorious villain among white Southerners. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, many feared that Lincoln—who was born two weeks after the earl's death—would follow in the hated earl's footsteps. Even a staunchly pro-Union Maryland paper advised the president against a reprise of Dunmore's controversial decree. That

"scheme of very questionable wisdom" had produced "violent irritation without affording adequate benefits."

Those who opposed slavery were also aware of the earl's precedent. In 1863, Massachusetts senator and fervent abolitionist Charles Sumner noted in a speech that the royal governor's decree was the first in a series of proclamations that gave Lincoln the legal cover he needed to emancipate those enslaved in enemy territory. "Slavery should be struck to save precious blood," Sumner argued, noting that "in our Revolution, this appeal was made by three different British commanders—Lord Dunmore, Sir Henry Clinton, and Lord Cornwallis." Sumner, who no doubt made the same argument privately to the president in 1861 and 1862, insisted these examples vindicated freeing those enslaved by rebels.


Like Dunmore, Lincoln knew that emancipation would spark an outcry from whites on both sides, yet both realized that African American troops could turn the tide in their favor. At a July 22, 1862, Cabinet meeting, Secretary of State William Seward urged Lincoln to wait for a battlefield victory so that the proclamation did not seem "the last resource of an exhausted government . . . stretching out its hand to Ethiopia." The president ultimately drafted a document that, like Dunmore's, cast not as a moral statement but as "a fit and necessary war measure."

The next month, he penned a public letter to Horace Greeley designed to assure white Americans that emancipation was a step of last resort to win the conflict. "If I could save the Union without freeing *any* slave, I would do it," he wrote. "What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union."

When Union troops repulsed Confederate forces outside the Maryland town of Sharpsburg near Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862, Lincoln seized the moment, much as Dunmore had done after his victory at Kemp's Landing. "I made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee was driven back from Pennsylvania," the president told his Cabinet soon after, "I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves." He also was careful to make no public mention of Dunmore, lest his move further infuriate whites.

Both decrees were highly conditional. Dunmore had promised to free only people enslaved by patriots, and then only those capable of fighting. Lincoln's document liberated only those enslaved in rebel states, and then only in areas not occupied by federal troops, a limitation designed to avoid a constitutional challenge in the courts. Lincoln did not require enslaved people to fight in exchange for freedom, as the earl had done, but he did provide a path for them to serve the Union under arms. "[S]uch persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service."

Nearly two hundred thousand Black men ultimately flocked to the Union standard, providing desperately needed troops to defeat the Confederates. Dunmore's effort to beat the rebels of his day may have failed, but it set the stage for Lincoln's more famous proclamation that helped save the Union, finally putting the United States on the path to abolish slavery.

(Andrew Lawler is author of A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis that Spurred the American Revolution, published in January 2025. For more, see www.andrewlawler.com) 

WILLIAM JONES RHEES: A SMITHSONIAN

By Michelle A. Krowl



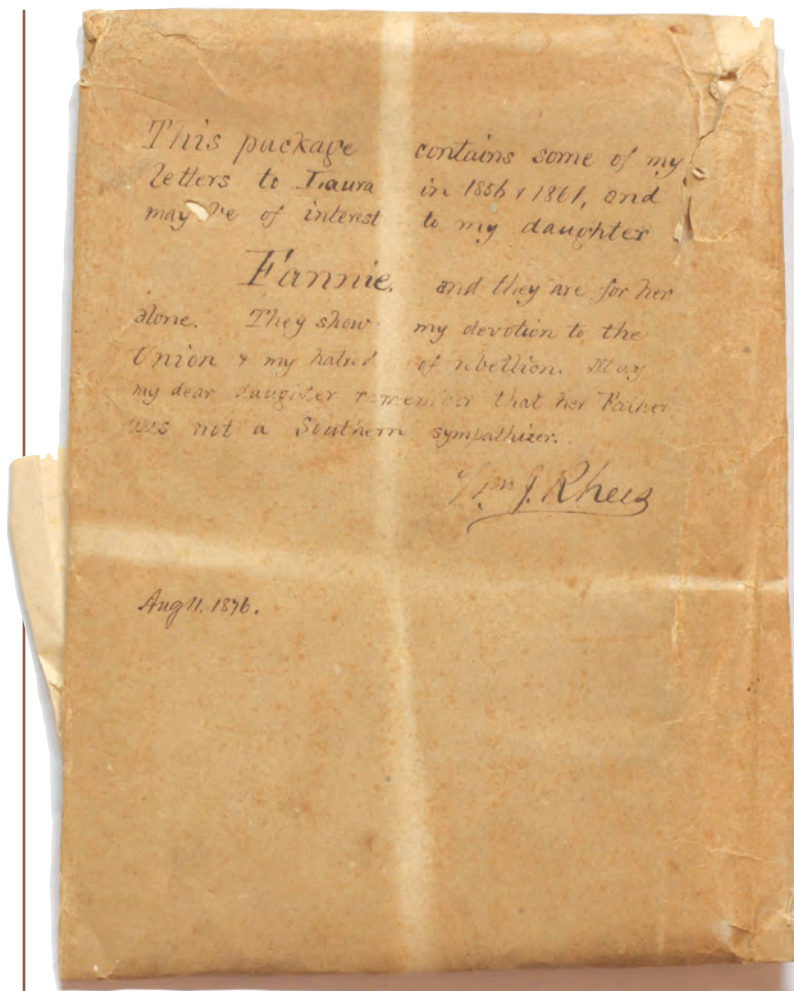
William J. Rhees

When the Civil War began in April 1861, William Jones Rhees (1830-1907), the chief clerk of the Smithsonian Institution, was in a good position to witness the wartime changes in the nation's capital. While his wife Laura stayed with family in Pennsylvania, Rhees used their frequent correspondence to relay family news, report on his church activities, describe his daily life, and express his love for his absent wife and young daughter, Frances. But he also shared in his letters to Laura the ways in which the war manifested itself in his own backyard in Washington, D.C., in 1861.

Living in wartime Washington meant the excitement of soldiers arriving in the capital. Watching troop reviews and attending flag-raising ceremonies added variety to Rhees's days,



Rhees to wife, 06-23-1861, WJ Rhees Correspondence, MSS, LOC, image 01

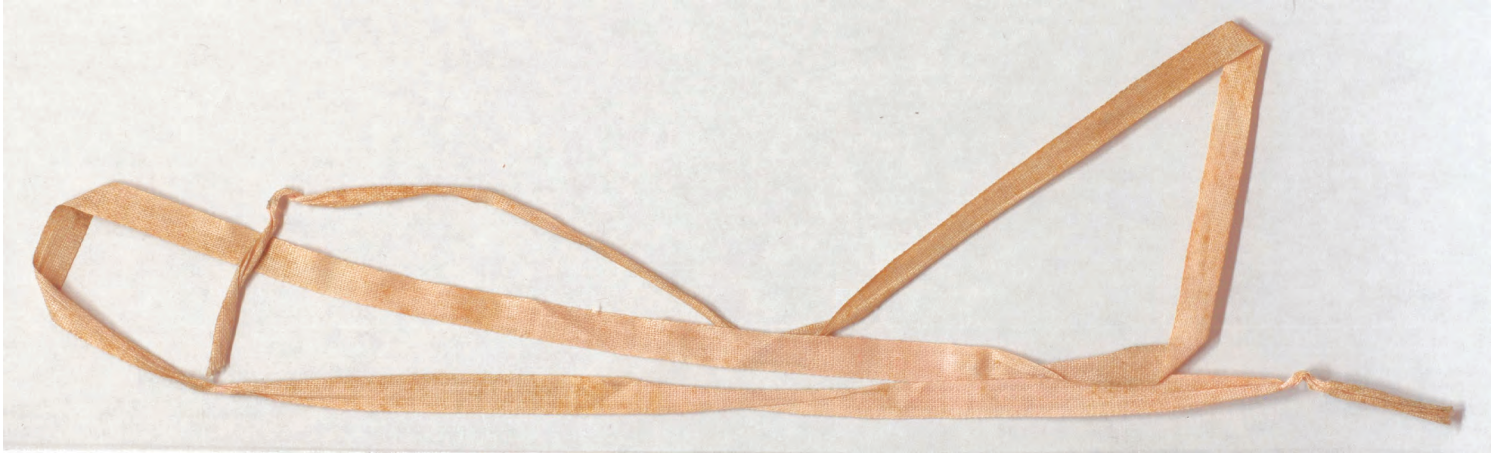


Document wrapper containing the Rhees letters

especially early in the war. These public events occasionally allowed Rhees to observe Abraham Lincoln. On June 18, for example, Rhees tagged along with two Pennsylvania regiments on their way to the White House because he wanted "to hear the band & see our boys the first Pennsylvanians I had seen." The music must have attracted President Lincoln as well, as, according to Rhees, "Old Abe rushed out of the door, & stood in the sun on the road while the band played Hail Columbia & Star Spangled Banner." "He is an odd genius," Rhees said of Lincoln, "seems to do just as he pleases." After the band concluded, Rhees joined the crowd south of the White House, which watched aeronaut Thaddeus S. C. Lowe ascend in his balloon "Enterprise." Although the balloon was tethered to the ground with ropes, Lowe was able to see for miles around Washington, demonstrating the military possibilities of aerial reconnaissance. Rhees may not have known that Professor Lowe was accompanied by a telegraph operator, who transmitted a message from Lowe to President Lincoln, which Lowe claimed was the "first dispatch ever telegraphed from an aerial station." All Rhees knew is that he "would have gone up if I had had a chance."¹

Military funerals offered Rhees interesting, but less joyous events to attend. In contrast to the "large & imposing" procession on Pennsylvania Avenue in May that accompanied Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth's body on the day of Ellsworth's funeral at the White House was that of President Lincoln's friend Senator Edward D. Baker. Baker had been killed on October 21, at the Battle of Balls

CLERK CHRONICLES WARTIME WASHINGTON




Red tape securing the document wrapper

Bluff near Leesburg, Virginia, while leading troops as the colonel of the 75th Pennsylvania Infantry. “It was not at all imposing,” Rhees wrote disapprovingly of Baker’s October 24 funeral procession. “Two regiments of boys, certainly half must have been under age, without guns & in rather dirty looking uniforms, a number of old hacks, together with the President & Cabinet in open barouches, a few bands of music & that was all.” “I expected more,” Rhees concluded. “Poor Baker. He was a talented & gallant fellow.” Rhees shared with Laura that the Union army’s debacle in Leesburg “has filled the city with gloom. . . . We were beaten completely. It does seem as if we were contending against the Fates. We have nothing but loss, loss, loss, and the Administration has lost the confidence of all earnest men.” In that sentiment, he included himself.ⁱⁱ

Although Rhees never mentioned ever meeting the president, he did interact with a member of Lincoln’s staff while at the Willard Hotel in November. He “sat an hour with Mr & Misses Stuart. Young Hay, private secretary of the President was one of the group.” And what did Rhees think of the twenty-three-year-old John Hay? “He is a very conceited but agreeable young fellow. He looks 16 but is said to be 25 years old.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Laura Rhees died in 1864. In 1876, William J. Rhees collected the letters he wrote to her during those tumultuous years around the start of the war, wrapped them in paper, and secured them with red tape. On the wrapper he wrote, “This package contains some of my letters to Laura in 1856 & 1861, and may be of interest to my daughter Fannie and they are for her alone. They show my devotion to the Union & my hatred of rebellion. May my dear daughter remember that her Father was not a Southern sympathizer.” It is not known if Fannie ever opened the package and read the letters, but the red ribbon remained firmly tied when a

Rhees descendant approached the Library of Congress about donating the collection. For the first time in many decades, Rhees’s love for his wife and country, and his observations of wartime life in the nation’s capital were revealed. Those approximately 140 letters from William to Laura were donated to the Library of Congress in 2018, and are now publicly available as part of the William Jones Rhees Papers in the Manuscript Division.

(Michelle A. Krowl is the Civil War and Reconstruction specialist in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. She serves as secretary of The Lincoln Forum’s executive committee.) 

¹ William J. Rhees to Laura Clarke Rhees, June 18, 1861, 10 p.m., William Jones Rhees Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress. Rhees’s wish came true in July 1861 when he ascended in Lowe’s balloon during a demonstration on the National Mall. On July 14, 1861, Rhees excitedly wrote Laura about his own “ride by the ‘air-line’ to regions in the skies.” Telegram, Thaddeus S. C. Lowe to Abraham Lincoln, June 18, 1861, as quoted in “A Successful and Important Experiment,” *The Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.), June 19, 1861, page 2, column 1. Available online through *Chronicling America* (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>) hosted by the Library of Congress.

² William J. Rhees to Laura Clarke Rhees, May 25 and October 25, 1861, Rhees Papers.

³ William J. Rhees to Laura Clarke Rhees, November 5, 1861, 4 p.m., Rhees Papers.

The leadership of THE LINCOLN FORUM thanks all of our members who have made donations over the past 29 years. Your generosity has made our programs a success. We are pleased to announce that donations and membership payments can now be made directly at our website: <https://www.thelincolnforum.org/>

Thank you again for your continued support!

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT STUDENT NAMED FRANKLIN-MEDFORD SCHOLAR

Last year, one of the Franklin-Medford Scholars was unable to attend The Lincoln Forum symposium in Gettysburg, so she will instead attend the event at Hildene in April. Lainey Pratzner is a senior at Christopher Newport University, in Newport News, Virginia, majoring in American Studies, with minors in Leadership Studies and U.S. National Security Studies. Over her four years at CNU, she has been a star on the varsity field hockey team and has worked as a research assistant for Prof. Jonathan W. White. After she graduates in May, she will continue at CNU in the Masters of Arts in Teaching program and plans to become a high school social studies teacher. Pratzner admires Lincoln's character, wisdom, and judgment, and she hopes to teach his commitment to American values to her future students.



Lincoln's writings than she had ever encountered before. Pratzner has also been White's research assistant for four years. As a Junior Fellow with CNU's Center for American Studies, she conducted research for his new book, *New York City in the Civil War*. During the summer of 2024, she also received one of CNU's prestigious Summer Scholars grants, through the university's Office of Research and Creative Activity. As a Summer Scholar, Pratzner assisted White in the completion of *A Great and Good Man: Rare, First-Hand Accounts and Observations of Abraham Lincoln*. White wrote in his letter of recommendation: "Lainey's work proved instrumental to my scholarly agenda. For the entire month of June, she and I sat across my desk from one another transcribing, editing, annotating, and proofing letters and diaries about

Pratzner was born in the Hunan Province of China and was abandoned in an orphanage due to China's "one child" policy. Her adoptive parents were both in the U.S. Air Force and stationed in Korea in 2003 when they found and adopted her. Two years later they adopted another girl who was discovered in an abandoned college dormitory in China. She and her sister grew up in a triracial family in Virginia, and both are now students at Christopher Newport University.

In her first two years at CNU, Pratzner took every course offered by Forum Vice Chairman Jonathan White, who is a professor of American Studies there. In these classes, she read many of

Lincoln. When I was out of the office she took the initiative to expedite certain parts of the project with ideas that I never would have had. It is no exaggeration to say that I would not have finished *A Great and Good Man* without Lainey's help." Pratzner and White are now working on a new collection of accounts of Lincoln that she will coedit with him.

The Franklin-Medford Scholarship, which is named for historians John Hope Franklin and Edna Greene Medford, was created by Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors member Patrick Anderson to bring a student of color to the Forum. Pratzner is the fourth Franklin-Medford Scholar. 🏠



The LGDC "Sisterhood" at the Lincoln Forum — Pictured here, from left to right are Bonnie Harper, Janet Saros, Carolyn Landry, Debbie Jackson and Rachel Riley. All are members of the Lincoln Group Study Forum, where they bonded into their sisterhood.

JIMMY CARTER AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By Dave Taylor

On December 29, 2024, former President Jimmy Carter passed away at the age of 100. The 39th president was the definition of a humanitarian, advocating for peace, aid, and health for all people around the world. Throughout his post-presidency, Carter negotiated treaties, using diplomatic efforts to secure the release of political prisoners, and constructed countless homes for Habitat for Humanity. In many ways, his post-presidential life represented the “better angels of our nature” of which Abraham Lincoln once spoke.

From January 7 to 9, 2025, President Carter lay in state in the U.S. Capitol. His casket was placed upon the Lincoln catafalque, the same cloth-covered wooden support constructed to hold Lincoln’s casket in 1865. Carter became the thirteenth president to lay in state upon this catafalque.

The bond between Carter and Lincoln runs deeper, involving a fellow centenarian by the name of Mudd.

Born in 1901, Dr. Richard D. Mudd was the grandson of Dr. Samuel Mudd, the Maryland doctor who was convicted as a conspirator in Lincoln’s assassination. Richard Mudd spent much of his life advocating for his grandfather’s innocence, writing letters to various presidents, hoping for some measure that could overturn the conviction. Most presidents responded that nothing could be done to change history, especially since Dr. Samuel Mudd had accepted a pardon and with it, its implied guilt.

Like his predecessors, Jimmy Carter replied to Richard Mudd, saying there was no legal way to overturn his grandfather’s conviction. However, Carter’s response stood out because he shared his personal belief that Dr. Mudd was innocent of the crime, citing President Andrew Johnson’s pardon of Dr. Mudd, which seemed to imply doubt as to Dr. Mudd’s culpability. “I am hopeful that these conclusions will be given widespread circulation, which will restore dignity to your grandfather’s name and clear the Mudd family name of any negative connotation or implied lack of honor,” wrote President Carter.

Though most historians, including this author, disagree with President Carter’s view of Dr. Mudd’s innocence, Carter demonstrated empathy for the Mudd family and their complicated historical legacy.

Another important connection between Carter and Lincoln occurred a year and a half earlier when President Carter attended a gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of the reopening of Ford’s Theatre as a working theater. Carter became just the second sitting president to see a show at Ford’s Theatre since Lincoln’s assassination. His attendance established a tradition, with each subsequent president attending the Ford’s Theatre gala, which has become a nonpartisan night of speeches and entertainment. Just before heading off to the gala in 1978, President Carter hosted a reception at the White House. Despite the tragedy that had occurred at the site, Carter reflected on the significance of the event:

“It wasn’t the character of Lincoln to have a source of entertainment, tragedy, and humor kept closed and isolated from the people of our Nation. And so a unique occurrence has been recognized tonight that happened 10 years ago, when a national



historical site was opened, not as a museum, a closed or a dead thing just to be looked at and admired, but an open and a live thing which is the source of both entertainment and inspiration for us all.”

Carter ended his remarks by saying:

“So, as a southerner, as a President, I would like to say that I’m very proud of all of you for helping to unite the consciousness of our Nation to remember the past, but also to prepare for the future with confidence and also with pleasure. That’s the way President Lincoln would have liked it. And you’ve honored him in performing as you have in keeping Ford’s Theatre alive.”

May we likewise honor the life and achievements of Jimmy Carter by keeping alive his spirit of selflessness, service, and compassion for all—values that transcend political divisions and echo the enduring legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

(Dave Taylor is an expert on the Lincoln Assassination. His work can be found on his website LincolnConspirators.com) 

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GETTYSBURG DEDICATION

By **Therese Orr**

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, marked the 161st anniversary of the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Despite a forecast of cloudy skies, the sun shone through scattered clouds, and temperatures in the 50's made for a very pleasant day for an outdoor activity.



Craig Symonds and Wendy Allen

The day began with a carriage ride for our rostrum participants (speakers, ministers, special guests) from the David Wills house, where Lincoln stayed the night before he gave the Gettysburg Address, to the Baltimore Street gate of the cemetery. In 1863 the procession to the cemetery travelled from the Wills House, south on Baltimore Street, until turning onto today's Steinwehr Avenue and Taneytown Road.



Harold Holzer delivers the Gettysburg Address

The cemetery program began with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soldiers' National Monument. Bugler Jari Villanueva sounded "Assembly"; National Park Service (NPS) Ranger Chris Gwinn provided a historical interpretation; wreaths were presented; participants were awarded One Hundred Nights of Taps 2024



Harold Holzer receives honorary membership to the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania

commemorative coins; Lincoln Fellowship historian John Tuskan spoke of 2LT Edmund Dascomb (the soldier honored on the coin); and Bugler Brian Poffenberger sounded "Taps."

As the Rostrum participants took their seats, the "One Hundred Nights of Taps, Gettysburg Fanfare" was played. Following the singing of the national anthem by the Gettysburg Choral Society and the Invocation by Rev. Dr. Theresa Smallwood of the United



Dedication Day Rostrum Participants

DAY CEREMONY, 2024



Naturalization Ceremony

Lutheran Seminary, brief remarks were given by Superintendent Kristina Heister, Gettysburg National Military Park; Gene Barr, Vice Chair, Gettysburg Foundation; Robert Iuliano, President, Gettysburg College; and Wendy Allen, President, Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania. Music was also provided by the Gettysburg High School Ceremonial Band and baritone Wayne Hill.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Craig Symonds, Professor Emeritus of History at the United States Naval Academy. He focused his remarks on his introduction to the Gettysburg battlefield as a youth and the story of a New York soldier who died in the battle, SGT Amos Humiston.

Two long-time supporters of the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania were presented with honorary memberships in our organization by our president, Wendy Allen. Plaques made from pieces of the witness Sycamore from Baltimore Street were given to Lincoln scholars Harold Holzer and Dr. Gabor Boritt. In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower became the Fellowship's first Honorary Member. In 1959, Carl Sandburg became the second on the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Following this

presentation Harold Holzer delivered the Gettysburg Address.

Each year a special ceremony takes place as part of our Dedication Day program: the naturalization of 16 new citizens of the United States. As one listens to the oath of allegiance they take, one realizes the significance of what they are leaving behind and the promises they make to be citizens of our great country.

Mrs. Beth Carmichael, widow of Dr. Peter Carmichael, was presented a flag flown at the cemetery on November 19. Dr. Carmichael was the Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

Rev. Stephen Herr, Christ Lutheran Church, provided the Benediction.

We hope to see you in 2025, and also in 2026, when we will re-create the original Dedication Day ceremony as part of the nationwide America 250 celebration.

(Therese Orr is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg and board member of the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania.) 🇺🇸

FORUM MEMBERS: PLEASE RENEW NOW

If you have not renewed your Lincoln Forum Membership for 2024-25, please do so soon. Members at all levels receive access to the annual symposium, the twice-yearly *Bulletin*, and other benefits. We need your annual support and urge you to make sure your membership is up to date.



Jonathan, Clara & Charlotte White



Leonne M. Hudson



Thomas Horrocks & Jon Grinspan



Jim Gillespie



William C. Davis, Gary Gallagher
Edna Greene Medford, & Craig Symonds



Ski Schanher



Erin Carlson Mast & Leonne M. Hudson



Kathryn Harris & Wendy Wieggers



John Marszalek & Gary Gallagher



Jake Boritt & Jeff Shaara



Henry F. Ballone



David Kent, Tom Horrocks, & Tim Branscum



Harold Holzer



David Cuculich & Ruth Hotaling



David Collins, Thomas Peet, & Ted Quill



Walter Stahr



Thomas Peet, Michael Bratton, & Daniel Pritchett



Ted Leventhal & Richard Willing



Richard Mancini, Ruth Hotaling, & David Cuculich

FORUM MEMORIES



Frank Williams & Harold Holzer



Jan Jacobi, Karen B. Winnick, & Jonathan White



Philip Harris & Michelle Miller



Dana Shoaf & Scott Schroeder



Georgita Washington, Toni Tolbert, & Mia Kang



Joan Waugh & Gary Gallagher



Ross Hodel & Al Azinger



Melissa Williams & Jen Hafner



Henry F. Ballone & Chris Burne



Bill Bartlett, James Larew



Kurt Carlson & Linhart



Lauren & Jonathan White



Adriel Vaughn



Kathleen Bowman



Allen C. Guelzo & Nigel Hamilton



Kevin Wagner, Melissa Williams, & Jen Hafner

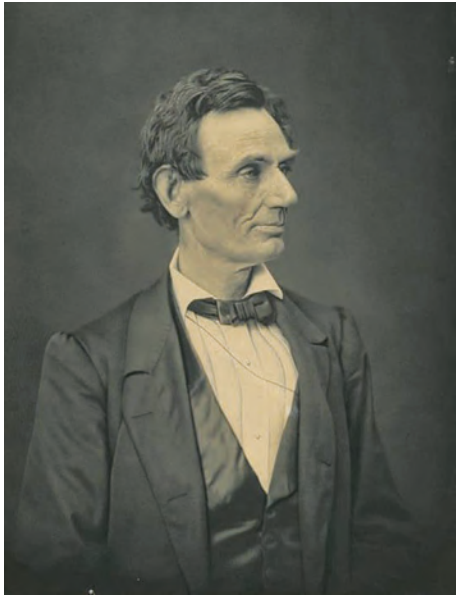


Brian Keefe, Carrie LeBlanc, Jeff Howey, & Joe Trafton

ROBERT LINCOLN'S FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS FATHER

By Jason Emerson

For over sixty years, Robert Lincoln was the arbiter of his father's public image. Robert's likes and dislikes, his objections and preferences, all paved a path towards the popular Lincoln image that



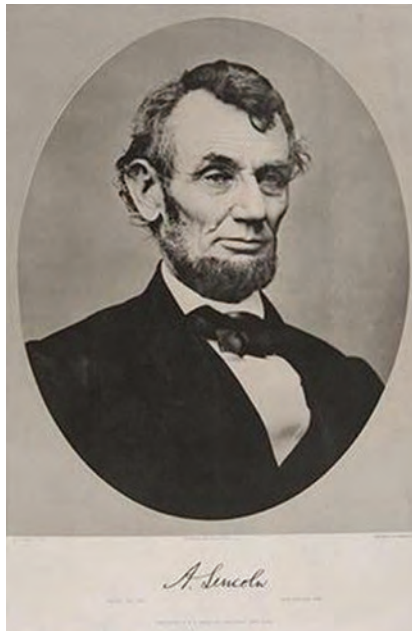
Lincoln by Alexander Hesler, June, 1860

we know today. As the oldest son, Robert knew his father in a way only a child can know a parent — and knew him better than almost anyone but Mary in the years before the Lincoln presidency. So what did Robert think about all the attempts to capture Abraham Lincoln's image in photographs?

It may be unsurprising to note that Robert preferred images of his father without a beard, as that was the father he knew for sixteen years

before going off to preparatory school and college. "The [Volk] Bust itself has always been to me one of the most satisfactory portraits of my father of this character, as it represents him before he ceased to shave his beard," Robert wrote in 1900. "Other sculptors have felt compelled, by historical exigencies, to represent him with a beard, in which he is not to me so familiar."¹ Robert's favorite photograph of a beardless father was that taken by Alexander Hesler in Springfield in June 1860, when the photographer traveled down from Chicago specifically for a sitting. Hesler took four pictures that day, but Robert's favorite is known today as Meserve no. 27. William Herndon later wrote of this photo, "There is the peculiar curve of the lower lip, the lone mole on the right cheek, and a pose of the head so essentially Lincolnian; no other artist has ever caught it."²

Going by Robert's letters over a sixty-year period, however, the Hesler print was not Robert's favorite photo of his dad. That distinction belonged to the picture of the bearded Lincoln taken by Anthony Berger on February 9, 1864, in Matthew Brady's Washington studio, and today is known as Meserve No. 85 — best known as the Lincoln image on the five-dollar bill. "I



Edward Bierstadt print, 1885



Lincoln by Anthony Berger, 1864

regard [the picture] as by far the best existing portrait of my father," Robert told Brady in 1882, when requesting the photographer send a negative to portraitist Edward Bierstadt, who intended to make a large ambrotype of the image. In 1884, Robert complimented Bierstadt for the "exceedingly accurate copies of the photograph which I like best," and even sent him an autograph of Abraham Lincoln for use in the picture.³

In 1904, Robert again suggested Meserve No. 85 to an artist — Jacques Reich — for an etching and declared the result "a very fine piece of work."⁴ He also influenced Reich to change the remarque at the bottom of the print from Meserve 71 (taken Feb. 23, 1861) to Meserve 81, 82, 83 (taken February 9, 1864, and strikingly similar to the image later used on the U.S. penny).⁵ "I regard it as the most excellent likeness of its kind," Robert wrote to Reich. "I think you will agree with me that it will make a much better remarque than the one you have." Reich took Robert's suggestion and made the change. Robert liked the finished piece so much that he ordered at least two copies of it in later years.⁶

Just one year later, in 1905, Robert gave permission to the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, to use his father's portrait in the company's eponymous letterhead and sent them a copy of Meserve 85.⁷ The company, celebrating its 120th anniversary this year, still uses the name and Lincoln portrait today.

These are just a few examples not only of Robert's preferred photographic image of his father, but also of how often he used, or suggested to be used, that specific photo in numerous works — and today it is the best-known photo of Abraham Lincoln. *continued on page 17*

LINCOLN FORUM PRESENTS AWARDS IN GETTYSBURG

In November, the Forum presented its highest honor, the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement, to Allen C. Guelzo. In presenting the award, Vice Chairman Jonathan White said that Guelzo “has a gift for elegant writing. He seamlessly brings together political,

military, and social history to give readers an intimate and engaging portrait of Abraham Lincoln and his world.” White added, “His books have transformed the way we think about slavery and the Civil War, and the role that Abraham Lincoln played in preserving American democracy.”

Chairman Harold Holzer presented the Wendy Allen Award to the spectacular new Beyond the Battle Museum in Gettysburg. Accepting the award on behalf of the museum was Andrew Dalton, the museum’s impressive young founder and CEO.

Jon Grinspan won the Harold Holzer Lincoln Forum Book Prize for *Wide Awake: The Forgotten Force That Elected Lincoln and Spurred the Civil War*. In presenting the award, prize committee chair Tom Horrocks remarked, “Grinspan presents a beautifully written, riveting account of the grassroots movement that played an influential role in the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency.”



Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement



Harold Holzer Lincoln Forum Book Prize

ROBERT LINCOLN’S FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS FATHER

continued from page 16

(Jason Emerson is the author or editor of eight books, including *Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln*. He is currently compiling and editing the complete letters of Mary Lincoln. His website is www.jasonemersonhistorian.com.)

Emerson is currently compiling a book on the collected letters of Mary Lincoln (to be published through the Lincoln Studies Center at the University of Illinois Springfield) and asks anyone who owns or knows of any unpublished Mary Lincoln letters to please contact him at jsnemerson@gmail.com.

¹ Robert Lincoln to Mrs. Wyatt Eaton, Montreal, Canada, June 4, 1900, Robert Todd Lincoln Letterpress Books, vol. 34, reel 57, page 260, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

² Charles Sweet (for Robert Lincoln) to Louis J. Keller, Esq., c/o

Joseph Butler, Esq., Orland, Indiana, October 15, 1902, RTL LB: v36, r60, p113-114; Charles Hamilton and Lloyd Ostendorf, *Lincoln in Photographs: An Album of Every Known Pose* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press), 46.

³ A copy of Bierstadt’s photographic print is in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, Indiana State Museum. Robert Lincoln to Matthew B. Brady, Esq., Washington, DC, August 10, 1882, LB, v7, r9, p195; Robert Lincoln to Edward Bierstadt, Esq., 58 & 60 Reade St., New York City, July 11, 1884, LB: v11, r17, p457.

⁴ Robert Lincoln to Jacques Reich, December 12, 1904, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.

⁵ A remarque is an original drawing, sketch or painting done in the margins of a print that personalizes and enhances the piece.

⁶ Robert Lincoln to Jacques Reich, November 25, 1912 and November 24, 1914, both in Robert Lincoln Collection, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.

⁷ Robert Lincoln to Arthur F. Hall, Secretary, Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 3, 1905, Robert Todd Lincoln Correspondence, Lincoln Collection, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, Indiana State Museum.

Lincoln Forum Student Scholars for 2024

By Thomas A. Horrocks

The November 2024 meeting of The Lincoln Forum marked the twelfth year of the Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship program, named in honor of the Forum's distinguished chairman emeritus. The program recognizes outstanding middle and high school students who have an interest in the life and career of Abraham Lincoln and in the Civil War. The scholarships enable the winners to attend Forum meetings by covering registration, travel, and hotel expenses.

This year's student scholars, chosen by a selection committee composed of John Marszalek, Paul Ellis-Graham, Emma Benun, Michelle Krowl, Leon Reed, and me, were Ennis Marcus, a 10th grader at Tuscola High School in Western North Carolina; Chase Dubovy, a junior at Mast Academy in Miami, Florida, and Adriel Vaughan, an 8th-grade student at Charles W. Sullivan Preparatory Academy in Louisville, Kentucky.

In their reports on their Lincoln Forum experiences, all three students wrote glowing accounts of the people they met, the presentations they heard, and the Gettysburg battlefield they toured. According to Ennis Marcus, attending The Lincoln Forum "is an experience that I will never forget. Each session provided a deeper understanding of Lincoln's era, the complexities of his leadership, and the enduring legacy of his commitment to democracy and justice." Chase Dubovy claimed his scholarship "provided me with a unique opportunity...that not only deepened my understanding of Lincoln but also connected me with a community of like-minded individuals passionate about history.... The attendees were diverse, including people from all walks of life from across the United States and around the globe." Forum participants "were so accepting and inclusive.... I quickly understood why so many refer to the Forum as a 'family.' Everyone I met was welcoming, engaging, and eager to share their knowledge and perspectives, or to start a conversation about their passions." At 12 years of age, Adriel Vaughan was the youngest of the student scholars. "I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that was afforded to me by the Frank J. Williams scholarship program," she wrote, this "was not an experience I could have had without it. The memory of my weekend at The Lincoln Forum will remain a treasured one."

In 2021, Forum member Patrick Anderson generously created a scholarship to encourage diversity at the Forum's annual symposium. Named in honor of two historians, John Hope Franklin and Edna Greene Medford, the scholarship is open to students of color who are full-time undergraduates or graduate students. Due to the



The Chairman and Vice Chairman with 2024 Student Scholars

2023 scholarship winner withdrawing due to unforeseen circumstances, the selection committee for this award, consisting of the same Forum members who serve on the Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship committee, selected two scholars for 2024: Phillip Harris, a graduate student at Morgan State University; and Lainey Pratzner, a senior at Christopher Newport University majoring in American Studies and minoring in Leadership and US National Security.

In his report on the Forum, Phillip Harris expressed his appreciation of "the sense of welcome and belonging by all of the attendees when I first walked into" the symposium; "I came as a stranger to all and left as a friend to many." He plans to attend future Forum symposia and hopes to see increased representation of African Americans, other people of color, and women historians and scholars. "Whether they are students in middle or high school, college or graduate students, scholars, or just lovers of history," Harris asserted, "I believe drawing the circle wide will assist in fostering diversity in the organization," and "I would be open to the opportunity to help...with this endeavor if needed." He plans to begin a doctoral program in history in the fall of 2025.

Lainey Pratzner was unable to attend the November Forum symposium but will attend the Forum's meeting at Hildene this coming April. She is featured in another article in this issue of the *Bulletin*. 📖



WAYNE C. TEMPLE DIES AT 101

As the *Bulletin* went to press, we learned of the passing of Lincoln authority and longtime Forum advisory board member Wayne Calhoun Temple at the age of 101.

The Fall 2025 issue will contain more about this remarkable scholar and his long career in the Lincoln field. 📖

SYMPOSIUM INSPIRES THE 2024 VIRGINIA WILLIAMS TEACHER SCHOLARS

By Clark Zimmerman

The Lincoln Forum continued its dedication to education by inviting three teachers to take part in the 2024 symposium in Gettysburg. Now in its 15th year, the teacher scholarship initiative awarded three scholarships to teachers currently teaching Social Studies in an elementary, middle school, or high school in the United States. These scholarships cover all expenses to attend the Forum. The three-member selection committee who had the privilege of selecting this year's winners consisted of advisory board members Ruth Squillace, Scott Schroeder, and Clark Zimmerman. The nearly forty applicants were of varied backgrounds and experiences from twenty-five states across the United States. This year's recipients of the 2024 Virginia Williams Teacher Scholarship were warmly welcomed into the Forum family.

Kathleen Bowman traveled from Tucson, Arizona, where she has been teaching for the past 17 years. She is a 5th grade teacher at Manzanita Elementary School. Her objective in the classroom is for her students to realize they possess the power to change our world for the better. Kathleen uses storytelling as a technique, believing the stories of our past engage her students in the classroom. She is looking to connect the issues of race from the Civil War with those of today, so that her students can use those connections in conversations on racial issues. Of her experience at the Forum, Kathleen said, "The Lincoln Forum has reignited my 'why' for teaching!" Kathleen admits that she can get caught up in the day-to-day distractions of teaching, but attending this year's symposium reminded her of the reason she became a teacher, and that's her "passion for American history." She continues, "I learned so much from the speakers and panels, I have a heavier suitcase due to book purchases and met so many wonderful people. I will go home with a thankful heart and a notebook full of ideas I will use with my students."

Ryan Fisher is in his 8th year of teaching U.S. history and American justice in the Garden State. Ryan teaches 10th and 11th graders at South Brunswick High School in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey. His interest in our 16th president comes directly from his father, who is obsessed with Abraham Lincoln. Ryan finds inspiration in Lincoln's leadership and challenges his students to approach their lives and their world with curiosity and empathy. Ryan remarked on the Forum, "It was truly an enriching, educating, and edifying experience. As a high school history teacher, the opportunity to hear firsthand from top-of-their-field scholars like Harold Holzer, Alan Guelzo, and Gary Gallagher (among many others) was remarkable. To be in a room with hundreds of fellow



The 2024 Teacher Scholars

history appreciators who were there for no other purpose than simply to learn more about a subject they love was energizing for me. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend and was so impressed with every element of the Forum."

Emily Bohn is also a fellow New Jersey resident and teaches at the Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy in Wayne, New Jersey. As a veteran of our United States military, Emily's primary focus on Lincoln was as commander-in-chief, but as a teacher she has grown to realize that few other individuals understood the values of our country as Lincoln did during his time. Her goal is to combine her experiences here at the Forum, along with her abilities as a C-SPAN Fellow, to help Lincoln's voice speak in as many American classrooms as possible. Emily stated about her experience at the Forum, "Attending the Lincoln Forum was an amazing opportunity to learn about our history straight from the experts, to connect with others who have a passion for history, and to reflect on why this study deserves our time and attention. I leave inspired to continue learning, connecting, and sharing what I learned with my students. I am so grateful for this opportunity and have no doubt that it will leave a permanent, positive impact on me as well as on my students."

The Lincoln Forum continues to develop opportunities and resources for educators. If you are interested in applying to be a Williams Teacher Scholar at the 2025 Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg, please visit the Lincoln Forum website. Please consider making a tax-deductible financial gift to the Forum supporting these types of opportunities for teachers around the United States. 📖

GRINSPAN VOTED FAVORITE SPEAKER AT FORUM XXIX



Gary W. Gallagher and Joan Waugh

Jon Grinspan was voted the favorite speaker at Forum XXIX, earning a 9.6 on the post-symposium surveys. Following close behind were Harold Holzer and Allen Guelzo (9.5 each) and the duos of Gary Gallagher and Joan Waugh (9.2) and William C. “Jack” Davis and Sue Bell (9). Attendees gave the symposium an overall rating of 9.3, the hotel 8.7, meals 9.1, and *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin* 9.2.



Jon Grinspan

The breakout sessions at Forum XXIX received some of the highest ratings of all time. The slave trading session featuring Robert Colby and Jonathan White received a perfect 10. Close behind were Lincoln in Indiana with Bill Bartelt, Joshua Claybourn, and Scott Schroeder (9.6), Lincoln’s Cabinet with Mark Neels, Walter Stahr, and Craig Symonds (9.5), and the first-timer battlefield tour with Carol Reardon (9.5).

Several attendees commented that they wished they could have attended more than one breakout session. Others noted the

perennial problem of not all elevators being in service. (All three elevators were working a few weeks before the symposium—we don’t know what went wrong!) Several attendees remarked that the concert by the Gettysburg Choral Society was a perfect ending to the Forum.

Comments on post-symposium surveys included, “Although I have only attended 3 Forums, it feels like a special family to me. I am looking forward to the next one eagerly.” Another wrote, “As a First-Timer, I was a little nervous, not knowing what to expect. But I have to say, I immediately made new friends, thoroughly enjoyed the talks, brought home WAY too many new books, and really loved the experience of the battlefield tour with Carol Reardon—she’s just the best. My thanks to all the folks who worked so hard to plan this event. I’m so impressed.” Another first-timer added, “I loved my first Lincoln Forum. The people in the group are amazing and the speakers and panelists were excellent and I learned from each of them.” 📖



Allen Guelzo

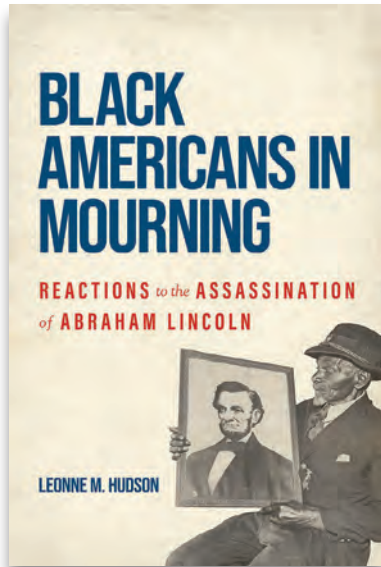


William C. Davis and Sue Bell



Gettysburg Choral Society

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Black Americans in Mourning

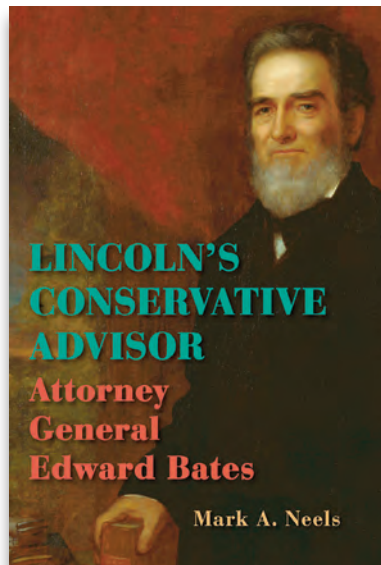
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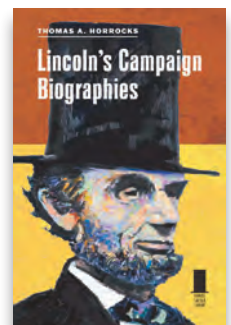
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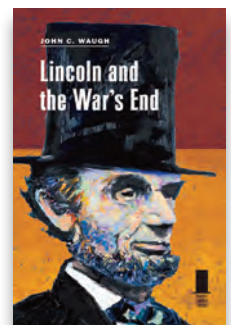
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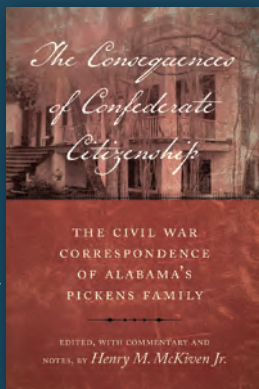
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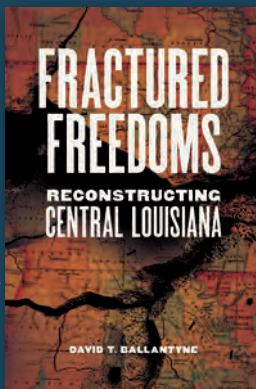
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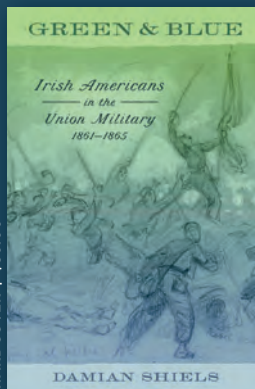
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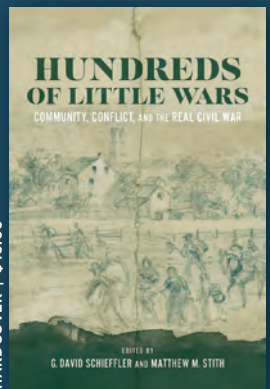
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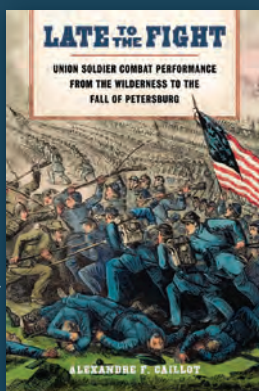
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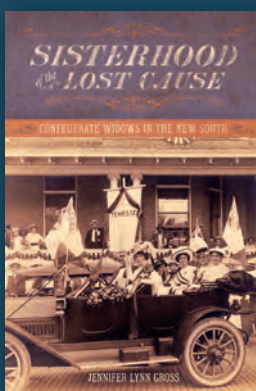
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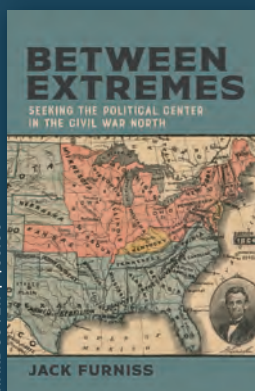
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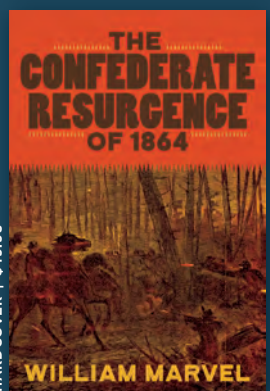
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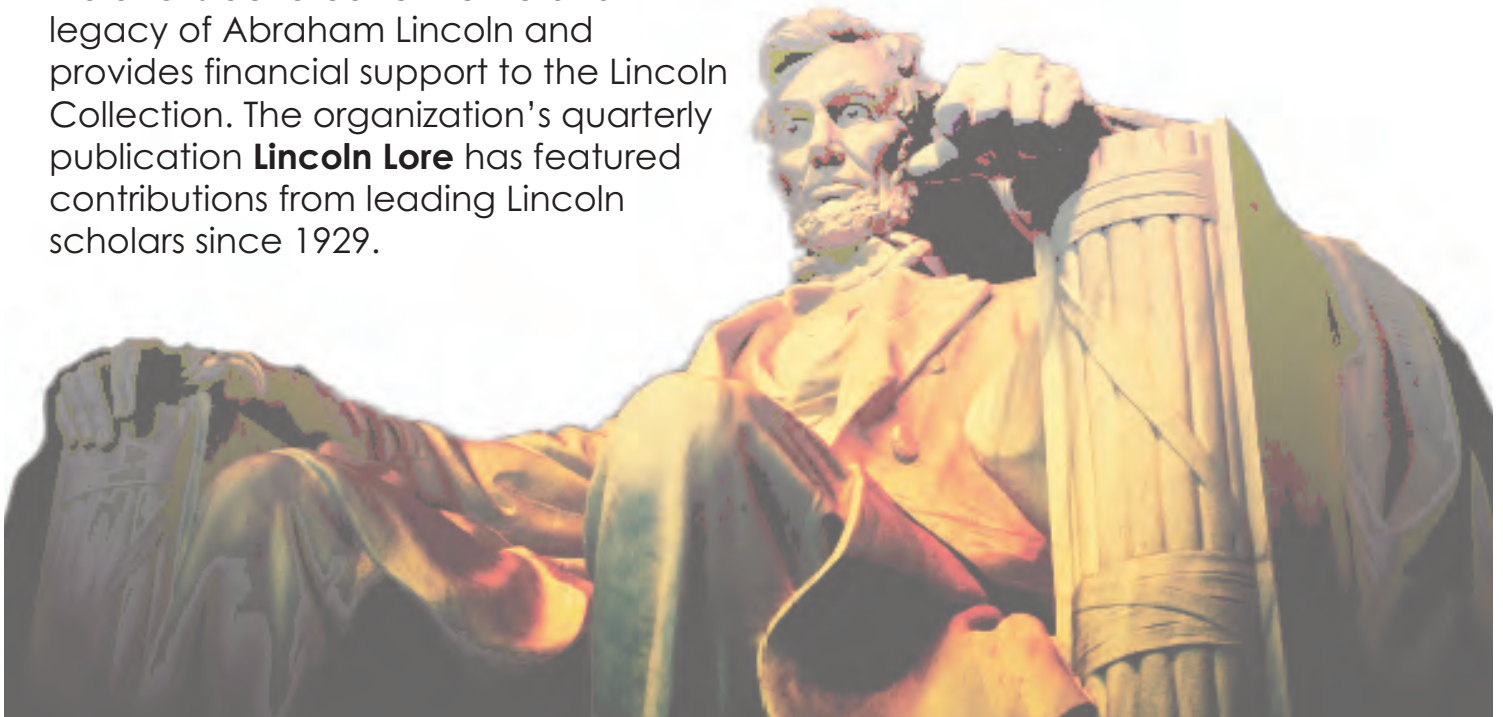
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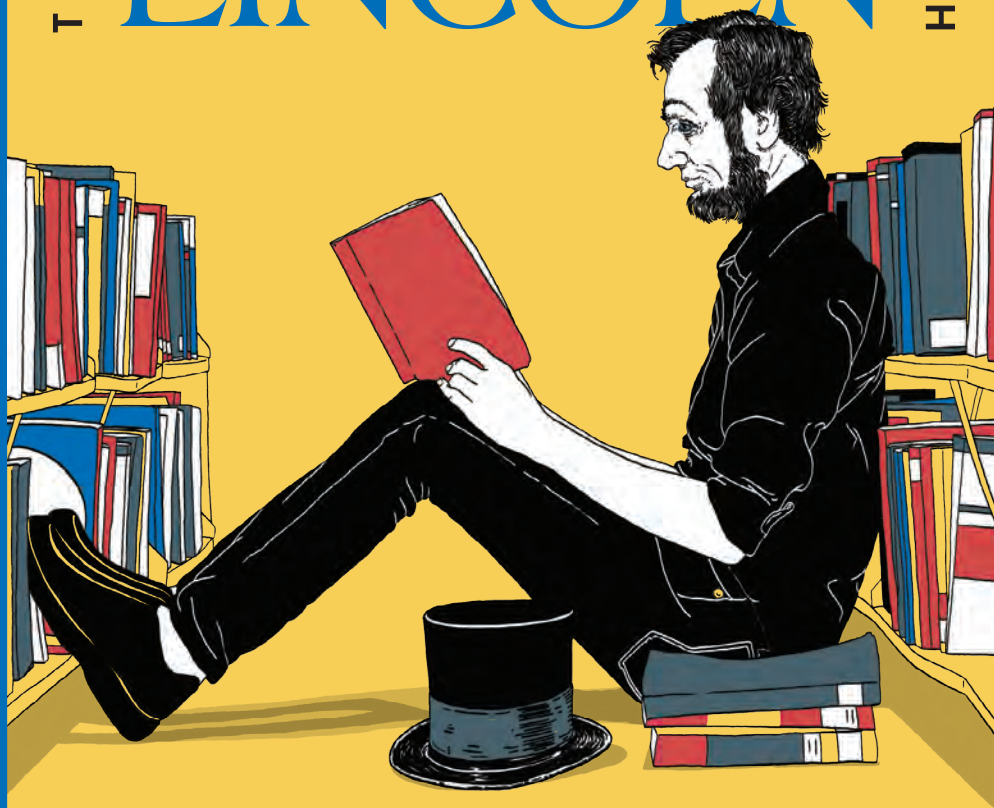
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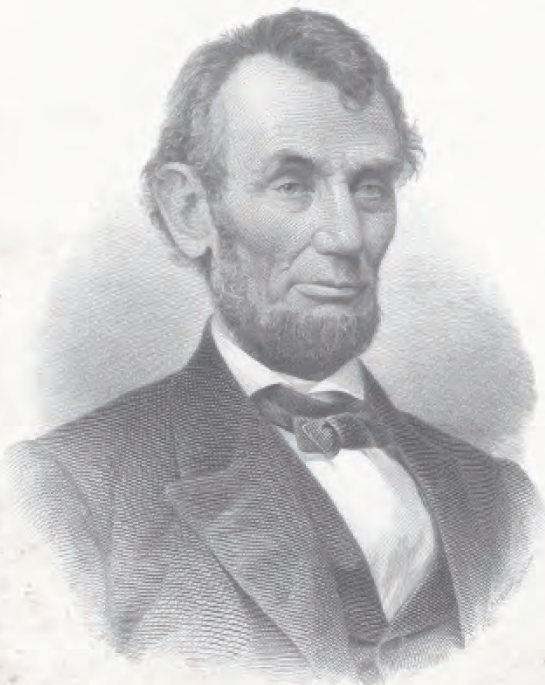
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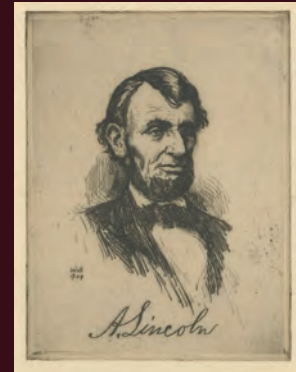
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