



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

<http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org>

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Bernice A. King 2016 Banquet Speaker

Daughter of Coretta Scott King and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bernice A. King is the Chief Executive Officer of The King Center, which was founded by her mother in 1968. Born the youngest daughter of the late Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Bernice began her oratorical journey when she spoke in her mother's stead at the United Nations at age 17. In the summer of 2000, she narrated the *Lincoln Portrait* with a symphony orchestra in Kiel, Germany. She is a graduate of Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, and holds a Master's of Divinity and a Doctorate of Law degrees from Emory University. She received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Wesley College. She is a member of the Georgia State Bar. On January 30, 2007, the first anniversary of her mother's death, Bernice returned to her alma mater at Spelman College to announce the establishment of the "Be A King Scholarship in honor of Coretta Scott King." With a strong concern for youth, community, and

family partnership, Bernice served as a law clerk in the Fulton County Juvenile Court system. There she realized that a growing number of teens have been double victims: first of society and second of an ineffective legal system based on retribution instead of rehabilitation. She has served as a mentor to 5th-grade girls at an inner-city Atlanta elementary school. In 2007, Bernice spoke at the inauguration of the Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy (CSKYWLA), where she gave the charge to the 6th-grade girls who would be attending the new, all-girls school. She spearheaded the global events that took place in Washington, D.C., to commemorate on August 28, 2013 the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington and her father's famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Bernice has founded Be A King, whose mission is to re-brand and re-image generations of people to



Bernice A. King

elevate the way they Think, Act, Live, and Lead. She received the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Advocate Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. As an author, she has to her credit a compelling and inspiring book, *Hard Questions, Heart Answers: Speeches and Sermons*.

At the banquet, Governor Jim Edgar will present the Spirit of Lincoln Award to Ms. King to honor her father.

Lincoln's Birthday Should Be a Federal Holiday

By Boardman W. Kathan

The writers were wrong! During the 2014-15 season, the TV game show *Jeopardy* included a clue on the popular kids' tournament regarding the two people honored on Presidents' Day. The correct answer, in the

form of a question of course, was "Who are Lincoln and Washington?" This is a common mistake, because a number of states have added Lincoln to the observance of the holiday on the third Monday of February, and much advertising combines the two presidents. The truth is that the U.S. Congress merely moved Washington's Birthday to that Monday, a day that will never coincide with his birthdate of Feb. 22, and efforts to include Lincoln have failed in committee.

Lincoln's Birthday should be declared a federal holiday for at least seven reasons:

1. Polls consistently show that Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the greatest presidents in American history, if not the greatest;
2. The 16th president provided the

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LINCOLN FAMILY MOVES FROM KENTUCKY TO INDIANA

By William Bartelt

*Member of the Board of Directors
The Abraham Lincoln Association*

We reached our new home about the time the State [Indiana] came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.

With these words Abraham Lincoln described the Lincoln family's arrival in Indiana around December 11, 1816 — the date the territory gained statehood. Young Lincoln was only age 7 when Indiana became his home for the next 13 years and 3 months: almost a quarter of

his life. During these formative years Lincoln received most of his formal education, suffered deep sorrow at his mother's and sister's deaths, received loving encouragement from his stepmother, realized the vastness of America during his flatboat trip to New Orleans, and began forming his social and political thought.

Despite critical debate about Lincoln's relationship with his father, during the Indiana years Thomas Lincoln significantly influenced Abraham's development. Speaking of himself, Abraham reportedly said that although his father taught him to work, he "never learned . . . to love it." Chiefly young Lincoln performed farm work, although in the off-season he also helped in his father's carpentry activities. Years later, neighbors

remembered Thomas Lincoln as a fine cabinet maker and house joiner; his skill and craftsmanship appear in extant pieces today, his work known especially for the star-and-streamer pattern and the hole-and-tooth design on cherry corner cupboards.

In this bicentennial year celebrating Indiana statehood, we recognize both the Lincolns' crossing of the Ohio River into the new state and the superb woodwork of one of Indiana's early pioneers.

Editor's Note: The Abraham Lincoln Association has published a 2016 Calendar picturing the furniture of Thomas Lincoln. See pages 5 and 8 for how you may obtain one of the calendars.

(continued from page 1)

indispensable leadership to save the Union when 11 states had seceded and formed the Confederate States of America and the Civil War was fought;

3. Lincoln led the fight to abolish slavery, a cruel and inhumane institution which ran counter to all American ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. The recent Steven Spielberg film *Lincoln* demonstrated the wheeling and dealing that was required to get the 13th Amendment passed;

4. Two of the most important pieces of literature in American, if not human history, were contributed by Lincoln: the immortal Gettysburg Address, and the Second Inaugural Address;

5. Lincoln was the main exemplar of what has been called "American civil religion" or what Benjamin Franklin called "public religion." Outstanding examples include the addition of "under God" to the Gettysburg Address, and his prophetic understanding of the complicity of the northern states in the existence of slavery;

6. In his famous debates with Stephen Douglas and his addresses on the way to, as well as in, the White House, he reclaimed the founding documents of the country, recalling for his fellow citizens that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their creator with

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

7. The existence of the Lincoln Memorial, dedicated in 1922, as the western anchor of the National Mall demonstrates his preeminence, along with the monument to George Washington. The Greek temple for Lincoln and the Egyptian obelisk for Washington are the only memorials to U.S. presidents on "America's backyard."

Lincoln's Birthday has never been a federal holiday, but the fact that it is an official holiday in 7 states and is added to Washington's day in many more states indicates that the 16th president was far more than just the favorite son of Illinois. Washington's Birthday should be restored to its original date of February 22, and the several states can then decide, as they always have the right to do, whether to acknowledge both holidays, combine them, or ignore them.

There will be those who will object to making Lincoln's Birthday a federal holiday. Some will say that it would make 2 holidays in the month of February. They forget that New Year's Day and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day are both in the month of January, and that Veterans Day and Thanksgiving are both celebrated in the month of November, with the Friday after Thanksgiving thrown in for good measure.

There will be opposition on sectional or regional grounds, since southern states

have not recognized Lincoln's Birthday. It is true that in some respects the Civil War has never ended. Thousands of people participate in Civil War Round Tables, and thousands don the blue or gray uniforms for battle re-enactments, and the Confederate Flag is still fought over, 150 years after the end of the Civil War. It is past time that we put down our muskets, uniforms, battle flags, and fierce rhetoric and recognize that we are a united country, one nation indivisible, and that we focus our attention on a world divided by geopolitical fault lines, confronted by environmental degradation, and threatened by extremists who would destroy the relics of antiquity and the advances of human civilization.

The Rev. Boardman W. Kathan was ordained by the Chicago Association of Congregational Christian Churches, served congregations in Illinois, Minnesota, and Connecticut, and has a book soon to appear, American Holy Days: The Heart and Soul of Our National Holidays.

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the ALA website at:
abrahamlincolnassociation.org

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at (866) 865-8500.

DNA Tests: Nancy Hanks is Daughter of Lucey Hanks

On October 21, 2015, The Nancy Hanks Lincoln mtDNA Study, a group of independent researchers, released an analysis that combines scientific and historical data. Their conclusion is that Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Abraham Lincoln, was the daughter of Lucey Hanks (later Lucey Hanks Sparrow). They further conclude that Lucey was the daughter of Joseph Hanks and Ann Lee Hanks.

These scientific results confirm the genealogical studies of Paul Verduin (1995) and William E. Barton (1929). They support what Dennis and John Hanks, both cousins of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, told William Herndon in 1865. These new results disprove the theory of Louis P. Warren (1926, 1959) and others that Nancy's mother was Lucy Shipley. Also ruled out are lineages shared with Mitchells or Berrys.

Verduin's outline of the Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks descendants is an appendix to Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, eds., *Herndon's Informants* (1998). He is an independent genealogist and historian in Silver Spring, Maryland.

One basis for the conclusion, according to Suzanne W. Hallstrom, administrator of the Hanks project since 2002 and an author of the new study, is that "full mitochondrial (mt) sequencing results, the most advanced available for tracing one's direct maternal lineage, have shown that all lines tested are in the extremely rare X1c subhaplogroup of the relatively rare X haplogroup."

Donald R. Graham, M.D., a director of The Abraham Lincoln Association though not a geneticist, commented, "This report carries enough importance to be published in an independent, peer-reviewed, scientific jour-

nal, not just a news release. We have waited over 150 years to learn the identity of the maternal grandmother of Nancy Hanks. I'd be willing to wait a few more months for confirmation." Neither the ALA nor the Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum currently take a position on Nancy Hanks's parentage.

The lab testing was done by a firm in Houston, Texas, called Gene By Gene Ltd. A scientific chart on the website of Family Tree DNA, which posted the independent team's results but was not otherwise involved, lists generations of names in several branches descended from Joseph and Ann Hanks, as well as color-coded mtDNA results for the current study.

www.familytreedna.com/public/HanksDNAProject/default.aspx?section=news

Rich Hileman, another author of the study, added, "Our study isolates the mtDNA of Abraham Lincoln, and we have so far tested 5 matrilineal descendants of Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks, his great-grandparents. The study confirms that Lucey Hanks Sparrow, the mother of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was Joseph and Ann's daughter. Our study also confirms that Lucey had a second illegitimate daughter, a sister to Nancy Hanks Lincoln named Sarah "Sally" Hanks, who was the mother of Sophia Hanks Lynch Legrand. This means that Sophia's account of her relationship to Nancy Hanks Lincoln, as related in Arthur E. Morgan's 1920 *Atlantic Monthly* article 'New Light on Lincoln's Boyhood,' is also proven true."

Ms. Hallstrom and Mr. Hileman both indicated that the independent group will publish their results.

Because there are no living descendants in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln / Abraham Lincoln / Robert T. Lincoln line, nor any extant DNA chain for them, it is possible only to analyze data from daughters, sisters, or aunts of Sarah Hanks, Lucey Hanks, or Ann Lee Hanks. Biological information is passed to all of a woman's offspring (sons do not pass that along), and a matrilineal chain can thus be built. Patrilineal proof, that is, of fatherhood far back in time — a topic so misunderstood in the Thomas Jefferson / Sally Hemings case, e.g. — is beyond current science, in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln case or any other.



Dennis (left) and John Hanks — their story now confirmed

Photograph courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

Reading Matters

Dr. Wayne C. Temple, ALA Distinguished Director, has published his 8th book, *Lincoln's Surgeons at His Assassination* (Mayhaven Press), 224 pages. Among his findings on the medical community of wartime Washington is that Dr. Charles Sabin Taft (2nd doctor to reach the box at Ford's Theater) apparently had no formal training.

Paul Cunningham's book *Lincoln's Metallic Imagery: A Catalog*, has been 10 years in the making and updates Robert P. King's 1933 standard guide to coins, medallions, tokens, and plaques. 450 pages, all color, broadly illustrated, and cross-referenced to King; with current prices for some of these collectibles. Includes campaign ferrotypes. \$90.00 from cunninghamchips@hotmail.com

Lincoln 2015 Funeral Re-creation is a display at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum of programs, photos, and memorabilia of the events re-created in Springfield on May 2-3, 2015. The ALA helped to sponsor the events of those days.

Connecticut Schoolteacher Advanced Fight for Equality in America



By Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Prudence Crandall's courage in the face of racial prejudice speaks to us as clearly today — as we continue to address issues of race and discrimination — as it did in the 1830s. Her efforts advanced the cause of equality and touched two of the most fateful Supreme Court decisions in American history.

Prudence Crandall, a 28-year-old teacher, opened a school for women in Canterbury in 1831. At the end of the school's successful first year, Sarah Harris, the black daughter of a local farmer, asked Crandall if she could enroll. Connecticut law did not require segregation, but social custom dictated separation of the races. Crandall admitted Sarah.



Prudence Crandall

Crandall's white students did not complain when Sarah joined them in the classroom. When their parents found out, however, they presented Crandall with an ultimatum: dismiss Sarah or they would withdraw their daughters, forcing the school's closure. Crandall thought of a third option. She would reopen it as a school for black women only.

In taking that bold step, Crandall put northeastern Connecticut at the center of New England's anti-slavery movement. There were not enough local black families who could afford to pay tuition; with the help of activists, including publisher William Lloyd Garrison, Crandall recruited black students from Boston, New York, Provi-

dence, New Haven, and Philadelphia, and reopened her school in April 1833.

Town leaders reacted with outrage. "The colored people never can rise from their menial condition in our country," one opponent said. "They are an inferior race of beings, and never can or ought to be recognized as the equals of the whites." A local attorney and state representative, Andrew Judson, helped pass a new state law — the Black Law — prohibiting the education of Crandall's black students from other states.

When Crandall continued to teach her students, she was arrested and jailed, and the controversy exploded into a national news story. Crandall's trial in Windham County was the first civil rights trial in America. Her attorneys argued that her black students were U.S. citizens entitled to the same rights as any white citizen, and that the Black Law was unconstitutional. Crandall's lead attorney, William Ellsworth, said, "these pupils are human beings, born in these states, and owe the same obligation to the state and the state's governments, as white citizens." After two trials at the superior court level, the Connecticut State Supreme Court dismissed the case on a questionable technicality (it appears that the Court was eager to avoid ruling on the merits of the case).

The result satisfied no one, and on September 9, 1834, at midnight, a large group of men gathered outside Crandall's school as her students slept. They attacked the school with wooden clubs and iron bars, smashing out all of the front windows on the first and second floors. After a night of terror, Crandall concluded she could no longer guarantee the safety of her students and decided to close her school.

Crandall's legal legacy had a significant impact. In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court quoted the *Crandall* case in the notorious *Dred Scott* opinion that upheld slavery and opened the door to the Civil War. According to legal historian Howard Jay Graham, the arguments made by Crandall's attorneys helped influence the drafting of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing due process and equal protection under the law. In 1954, NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall cited *Crandall* in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, calling it "one of the fountainheads of anti-slavery constitutional theory."

After the assault on her school, Crandall moved to Illinois and later to Elk Falls, Kansas, where she farmed while living in near poverty. In 1886, when Crandall was

82 years old, townspeople in Canterbury petitioned the Connecticut legislature to provide her with a modest pension, to compensate her for the loss of her school. After two public hearings at which witnesses unanimously praised Crandall and her courage, the legislature denied her petition. Many legislators preferred to forget the controversy and prejudice of the Black Law days, and refused to concede the state's complicity in legislative and judicial weakness on a grand scale.



First academy in New England for African-American women: home and school of Prudence Crandall

Newspaper editors — led by Stephan Hubbard of the *Hartford Courant* — blasted the legislators. The story was soon reported throughout the country. "In no small sense, the eyes of the nation are turned on Connecticut to know what she shall do for Prudence Crandall," Hubbard wrote. "To plead the statute of limitations in such a case, or to avoid doing justice on any pretext whatever, is beneath the dignity of the state, and is to neglect a golden opportunity to wipe out a foul blot on its record." As criticism mounted, legislative leaders relented. They approved a yearly pension of \$400 for Crandall. Four years later, Crandall died and was buried in Elk Falls, Kansas.

Prudence Crandall was a schoolteacher who risked her livelihood and safety for the principle of equality. In 1954, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court struck down school segregation and finally protected what Crandall sought when she admitted Sarah Harris as a student in 1833. Crandall's fight against racism, however, continues to this day.

Donald E. Williams, Jr., is the author of Prudence Crandall's Legacy (2014). He is the director of policy, research, and reform at the Connecticut Education Association, and is past president of the Connecticut State Senate.

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PRESIDENT ROBERT A. STUART'S REPORT

Dear fellow members of the Abraham Lincoln Association:

2015 marked the sesquicentennial anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It has been a solemn year as we have revisited his assassination and its aftermath. There are so many lessons from Lincoln's life that still resonate today, the most important being the 13th Amendment.

We have sought to commemorate this and the fight for civil rights by inviting Bernice King to be our 2016 banquet speaker. She will discuss the theme of "Lincoln, King, and the Civil Rights Movement." Ms. King is the Chief Executive Officer of the King Center, and started the *Be A King* project to help empower young people.

Our thanks to Michael Burlingame and James Cornelius for their work putting together another powerful lineup for the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium.

This is my last banquet as President of the Abraham Lincoln Association. I want to thank the Board and you our membership for your support as we observed the final sesquicentennial year of the Civil War. I have enjoyed leading the Association and wish our incoming President, Kathryn Harris, well. It has been a true pleasure and privilege to work together with so many distinguished and great people.

I hope to see many of you on February 11 and 12.



President Stuart, pictured in the center, is chair of the Nepal Earthquake Relief Donor Advised Fund of The Rotary Foundation, a project to assist 140 schools and 1000 homes. This photograph of Bob was recently taken at the Handover ceremony by Rotary District 3292 Nepal/Bhutan of a community hall and 47 homes in Sindhupalchok and ground breaking at Burunchuli for another 55 homes.

Robert A. Stuart, Jr., President

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome 8 new members, from 5 states.

John M. Barr
Kingwood, Texas

Donald R. Graham, Jr.
Miami, Florida

Hugh M. Graham
New York, New York

Eric R. Jackson
Florence, Kentucky

James J. O'Connor
Chicago, Illinois

Patricia Tomczak
Quincy, Illinois

Tom Turpin
Chesterfield, Illinois

Robert Wedgeworth
Chicago, Illinois

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COCKTAIL RECEPTION

All Members Invited

Thursday February 11, 2016,
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Edwards Place, 700 N. Fourth Street

Unveiling of the **Restored Piano** —
Heard by Abraham and Mary while
courting in 1840-42.

Contribute to the piano restoration
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Overlooked Letter to Lincoln Reveals Misstep in 1855 Senate Race



By Tom George, M.D.

An unusual letter to Lincoln sent by a postmaster reveals how Lincoln may have miscalculated in his 1855 campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Beveridge Befuddled

The 1855 race in Illinois for a U.S. Senate seat was a complex affair. In July 1926, while writing his seminal biography *Abraham Lincoln, 1809 – 1858* (posthumously published in 1928), historian and former U.S. Senator Albert Beveridge wrote to contemporary Lincoln scholars to ask for their help in interpreting Lincoln's explanation of his loss in that race. To J. W. Fesler, who would later write *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address* (1944), Beveridge asked, "So I should like to know what you think of Lincoln's letter to [Elihu] Washburne right at the end of the chapter. In view of the facts, I cannot understand it at all – indeed, I can scarcely make heads nor tails of it. So do let me know how you figure it out."¹

The responses he received were unhelpful. Fesler wrote back, "You ask what I think of his explanation of his defeat for the Senate in 1855, as stated in his letter to Washburne. I think the explanation is ridiculous. It would seem to have been written most carelessly and without the slightest thought as to what he was saying."²

From Ferris Greenslet, director of the Houghton Mifflin Company, and Beveridge's publisher, Beveridge got this: "You ask my opinion as to Lincoln's excuse for his failure to be elected at the Senate. To tell the honest truth, I don't quite get it, but so far as I do get it, it seems a little disingenuous or perhaps I might better say sophisticated."³

Beveridge and his correspondents were referencing a letter Lincoln had written to Congressman Elihu Washburne on February 9, 1855, one day after a combined session of the Illinois House and Senate had, on the 10th ballot, chosen Lyman Trumbull as their next U.S. Senator.⁴

Prior to the 17th amendment in 1913, U.S. senators were elected by their own state legislatures. This election typically took place at a special session held early in the year following the swearing-in of the new legislature and the election of its officers. Since a campaign for U.S. Senate was focused on garnering a majority vote from among the newly elected legislators, it was often conducted out of the public's view.

The 1855 Senate election in Illinois was particularly complicated. Prior to the organization of the Republican Party in Illinois, the legislature was mostly split into three factions: Whigs, Democrats, and Anti-Nebraska Democrats. An analysis of the voting in the legislative record shows that 15 different candidates received votes. Lincoln, then a Whig, led the voting on the 1st ballot, but in subsequent voting

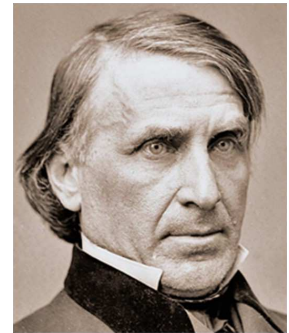


Albert Beveridge

many of his supporters switched to other candidates. On the 7th ballot a block of Democrats switched their votes from the incumbent Democratic U.S. Senator, James Shields, to the Democratic Governor, Joel Matteson. On the 9th ballot, Matteson received 47 votes, or 3 short of the 50 needed to win. (With 75 house members plus 25 in the Illinois senate, the majority would normally have been 51, but 1 member was absent.)

On the 10th ballot, with Matteson on the verge of winning, Lincoln asked his supporters to vote for the Anti-Nebraska Democrat, Lyman Trumbull. All but 1 of

the Whigs, in addition to most of the Anti-Nebraska Democrats, followed that instruction, giving Trumbull 51 votes and the victory.⁵



Elihu Washburne

In his letter to Washburne, Lincoln cites Matteson's influence with "the members round about the canal" and with Whig representative John Strunk of Kankakee, who had been pledged to Lincoln but who "leaked it out that he was going for me the first few ballots & then for Govr. Matteson." Lincoln further stated, "I could have headed off every combination and been elected, had it not been for Matteson's double game – and his defeat now gives me more pleasure than my own gives me pain."⁶

Beveridge was apparently unaware of a second post-election review that Lincoln penned to Illinois Congressman Jesse O. Norton (a letter that was published in 1990 in the 2nd supplement to *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*). In this letter, written February 16, Lincoln was blunter, telling Norton that "Matteson made his first successful hit by tampering with Old man Strunk."⁷

Had Beveridge and his cohorts had access to the Norton letter and later revelations, they might have concluded that Lincoln was implying that Strunk had been bribed.

In *The Collected Works of Lincoln*, the words "tamper," "tampering," or "tampered" appear in only two other instances. In both cases Lincoln was describing corrupt behavior. In 1837 Lincoln wrote that a witness who had been fed an answer to a question had been

“tampered” with, and in 1839 he wrote John T. Stuart that someone had been “tampering” with an individual in an effort to induce him to run for office.⁸

Matteson’s Stealth Campaign

Governor Joel Matteson had a reputation for wealth and generosity. He had been a successful contractor on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the canal Lincoln was referring to in his letter to Washburne. During the canal’s construction, the state had run out of money and had resorted to paying contractors with IOUs or “canal scrip.” Matteson made a fortune by speculating in scrip and other state indebtedness. (In 1859, a grand jury would narrowly fail to indict him on a charge of fraudulently redeeming scrip over the previous two years.)⁹ In 1842 Matteson, a Democrat, was elected to the State Senate to represent the Joliet area. He chaired the Senate Committee on Finance, and continued to work as a contractor on the canal until its completion in 1848. He is said to have befriended members from across the political spectrum and was a major supporter of Stephen Douglas.¹⁰ He was elected to a four-year term as governor that began in 1853, and was thus midterm when the election for the U.S. Senate approached.

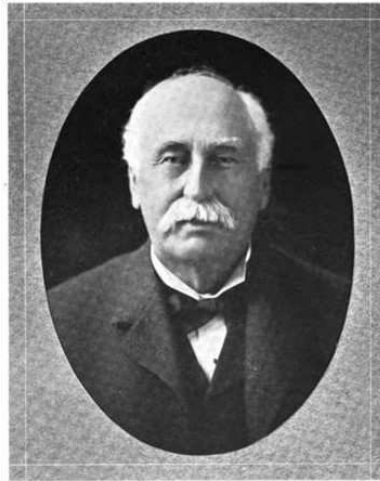
Given the factions in the new legislature, it was evident that incumbent Democratic Senator James Shields would have difficulty being re-elected. Should Shields fail, it was reasoned that Matteson, who had not taken a position on the extension of slavery, might be acceptable to both the traditional Democrats and to the Anti-Nebraska Democrats. Matteson and his supporters kept his candidacy secret.

Lincoln Writes Opponent’s Son-In-Law

Lincoln would not have known that Matteson was a candidate when on December 6, 1854, he wrote to Matteson’s son-in-law, Roswell E. Goodell, of Joliet, asking for his help in obtaining the support of area legislators. Lincoln was familiar with Goodell because Goodell had been appointed clerk of the Canal Claims Commission on which Lincoln had served in 1852. Goodell had then been elected Secretary of the Illinois Senate. Subsequently Goodell married the oldest of Governor Matteson’s four daughters, Mary Jane, in 1853. It is unclear whether Lincoln was aware of the union, though it seems plausible given Mrs. Lincoln’s later remarks in a letter in which she discussed the wedding

of another of Matteson’s daughters.¹¹

Lincoln’s letter to Goodell has never been found, but in an odd twist Lincoln received a response, not from Goodell, but from the Postmaster of Joliet, James F. McDougall. McDougall’s handwriting is difficult to read and his letter has not been cited in other scholarship on the 1855 election. Based on McDougall’s response, the content of Lincoln’s letter to Goodell can be inferred.¹²



R. E. Goodell of Joliet, the son-in-law of Governor Joel Matteson as of 1853, received Lincoln’s letter for help.

On December 11, 1854, McDougall wrote Lincoln that seeing the December 6 letter to Goodell was “past received” and believing that Goodell was out travelling to New York and Washington, he, McDougall, had opened the letter on Goodell’s behalf and taken it upon himself to respond. From McDougall’s response, it is clear that Lincoln had been inquiring of Goodell as to the disposition of area legislators concerning the Senate race.¹³

McDougall reassured Lincoln that he was of the same political persuasion (a Whig), and proceeded to answer Lincoln’s “interrogatories” to Goodell regarding the area legislators. McDougall went on to discuss his impressions of five area legislators: representatives Strunk, Hills, Strawn, Day, and G. D. A. Parks.

Eleven days later, Lincoln’s friend Leonard Swett, who was assisting on the campaign, visited Joliet and reported back to Lincoln. Therein he included reports that Matteson was now a candidate for the Senate. But he also reported that he had personally met with McDougall, and that from him he had learned that Goodell had recently returned from Washington. Swett

wrote that McDougall had been told by Goodell that Governor Matteson was not a candidate for the Senate but that Congressman William Bissell was “anxious to be elected.”¹⁴

Was Goodell unaware that his father-in-law the Governor was a candidate for the U.S. Senate and therefore telling the truth? Or was he helping to keep the campaign secret by purposefully misleading McDougall, knowing that the information might be passed on to Swett and Lincoln?

Of course today it is impossible to know if Goodell was aware of his father-in-law’s plans. It seems likely, though, when we consider that his positions both as Clerk of the Canal Claims Commission and then Secretary of the Senate were partisan positions appointed by the Democratic-controlled legislature. Goodell had also been appointed Clerk of the Canal Office by his father-in-law after his election as governor, and in 1859 he would testify as a character witness on behalf of Matteson during the investigation of the Canal Scrip fraud. Later yet, he would serve as Secretary at an Illinois State Democratic Party convention and would be appointed to the Democratic State Committee. It seems hard to imagine that a political aspirant and future Democratic State Committeeman would be unaware that his father-in-law was running for the U.S. Senate.¹⁵

According to the post-election analysis that Lincoln sent Washburne, Matteson had secretly been a candidate since even before the 1854 fall legislative elections. Lincoln admitted that this became clearly evident to him only on January 30, or 10 days before writing Washburne and only 9 days before the election. By this time it was too late to win the canal area legislators back. Had Lincoln not been misled by Swett’s report, perhaps he would have put more effort into securing their votes or at least not taken their votes for granted.¹⁶

Assuming that Goodell received Lincoln’s December 6 letter from the postmaster on his return home, and assuming that he was complicit in his father-in-law’s stealth campaign, he could easily have shared the letter with the governor, who maintained a residence in Joliet, or with his agents. In either case, Governor Matteson’s campaign would have been fully apprised of Lincoln’s efforts to woo Representative Strunk and the area’s other legislators. This knowledge then could have been essential in creating the scenario whereby Matteson and his allies “tampered” with

Strunk and engaged in the “double game” Lincoln latter accused them of, and which confused Beveridge and his associates. The voting later demonstrated that Matteson had in fact obtained the support of all “the members round about the canal.”

As Horace White recounted in an address to the Illinois State Historical Society in 1908, Governor Matteson “had been able to recruit a small third party composed of members from the vicinity of the Illinois and Michigan Canal who were devoted to his personal interests.”¹⁷

Most of the canal area legislators were Anti-Nebraska Democrats who plausibly might have preferred Matteson despite his lack of a position on the question of extending slavery to new territories. But it was shocking that Lincoln’s fellow Whig, Representative John Strunk, would cross party lines to vote for Matteson.

Following the election, there were unproven allegations and rumors that Matteson had attempted to buy votes. Lincoln’s use of the phrase “tampering” in his letter to Norton, and his accusation of a “double game” in the letter to Washburne, are not that specific, but suggest that he was at least suspicious of Matteson’s campaign tactics.¹⁸

Lincoln’s letter to his main opponent’s son-in-law during the peak of the 1855 Senate campaign created two mechanisms whereby his campaign was potentially harmed. The first was the ability of Matteson’s campaign to feed Lincoln, from Goodell to McDougall and Swett, the false information that Gov. Matteson was not himself a candidate. This gave Lincoln a false sense of security as the election approached and may have caused him to focus his energies in the wrong areas.

Second, assuming the contents of the letter were similar to those Lincoln sent other supporters during the campaign, it would have provided Goodell and thereby Matteson with Lincoln’s own assessment of where he stood with the legislators in the Governor’s own former state-senate district. This information would have proven invaluable as they sought to win those votes to their own campaign.

Lincoln’s 1855 campaign for the U.S. Senate was, in the end, likely hampered by his communication to his opponent’s politically astute son-in-law.

Endnotes

1. Albert Beveridge to J.W. Fesler, July 13, 1926, Albert Beveridge Papers, Lib. of Cong., Washington, D.C.
2. Fesler to Beveridge, August 13, 1926, *ibid.*
3. Ferris Greenslet to Beveridge, July 23, 1926, *ibid.*
4. See also, Beveridge to Harry Bennett, July 14, 1926, and Beveridge to John T. Morse, August 10, 1926, *ibid.* John T. Morse (1840–1937) was co-editor of the *International Review* and editor of the “American Statesmen” series.
5. *Journal of the House of Representatives* (Springfield:

Lanphier & Walker, 1855) and *Journal of the Senate of the Nineteenth Assembly of the State of Illinois* (Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, 1855).

6. Lincoln to Elihu B. Washburne, Feb. 9, 1855, Roy P. Basler et al., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 9 vols. (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press / ALA, 1953-1955), 2:304-6 (hereafter *CW*).

7. Lincoln to Jesse Olds Norton, Feb. 16, 1855, *CW: Second Supplement*, 9-11.

8. Lincoln letter published in the *Sangamo Journal*, Oct. 18, 1837, *CW* 1:101-6. This was Lincoln’s only use of the word “tampered” found in the *CW*, with Lincoln writing that a witness’s answer “shows upon its face, that he had been tampered with, and the answer dictated to him.” Lincoln used the word “tampering” in a letter to John T. Stuart, Nov. 14, 1839, *CW* 1:154. He wrote, “Also someone has been tampering with old Esqr. Wycoff, and induced him to send in his name to be announced as a candidate.” See also Mary Lincoln to Emilie Helm, Nov. 23, 1856, in Justin G. Turner and Linda Levitt Turner, *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972), 45-48.

9. *The Great Canal Scrip Fraud. Minutes of Proceedings, and Report of Evidence in the Investigation of the Case, by the Grand Jury of Sangamon County, Ill., at the April Term of the Court of Said County, 1859.* Ordered to be published by a vote of the Grand Jury. Springfield: Daily Journal Steam Press, 1859.

10. James T. Hickey, “An Illinois First Family: The Reminiscences of Clara Matteson Doolittle,” in *The Collected Writings of James T. Hickey* (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Society, 1990), 102-117.

11. In Lincoln’s Feb. 9, 1855, letter to Washburne he implies that he had learned of Matteson’s plans only recently; *ibid.* Wayne C. Temple, *Lincoln’s Connections with the Illinois & Michigan Canal, His Return from Congress in ‘48, and His Invention* (Springfield: Illinois Bell, 1986). This study gives an account of Lincoln’s service on the Canal Claims Commission and his interaction with R. E. Goodell. See also “Report of Commissioners Appointed to Investigate the Illinois and Michigan Canal Claims,” *CW* 2: 162-187. The report, signed by Lincoln, includes the itemization of Goodell’s salary and travel expenses for his work as clerk (S. 161).

12. James McDougall to Lincoln, Dec. 11, 1854. Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. I came across the McDougall letter in the digital collection of the Library of Congress while working on an earlier study, “‘Mechem’ or ‘Mack’: How a One-Word Correction in the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* Reveals the Truth about an 1856 Political Event,” *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 33:2 (Summer 2012): 20-33. An image of the letter is available online, but unlike many others in the collection it is not accompanied by a transcription. James F. McDougall, Postmaster of Joliet, is not to be confused with James A. McDougall, U.S. Senator from California and another correspondent to Lincoln.

Other recent scholarship on the 1855 Senate race includes an article by Matthew Pinsker, “Senator Abraham Lincoln,” *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 14 (Summer 1993): 1-21, and Michael Burlingame, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life, Vol. 1* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), Chapter 10, pp. 1127-1149. Neither of these accounts cites the McDougall letter. According to *The History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. LeBaron Jr. & Co., 1878), p. 363, McDougall was a Whig who had been appointed to the post by President Zachary Taylor in 1850.

13. Other letters Lincoln wrote to allies during the campaign include requests for help with various legislators assumed to be known to the recipient. These frequently end with the injunction, “Let this be confidential.” See for example his letters to Charles Hoyt, Nov. 10, 1854 (*CW* 2:286); to Jacob Harding, Nov. 11, 1854, *ibid.*, 2:286; to Thomas J. Henderson, Nov. 27, 1854, *ibid.*, 2:288; to Hugh Lemaster, Nov. 29, 1854, *ibid.*, 2:289; to Joseph Gillespie, Dec. 1, 1854, *ibid.*, 2:290; and to Herbert Fay, Dec. 11, 1854, *ibid.*, 2:292.

14. Leonard Swett to Lincoln, Dec. 19 and Dec. 22, 1854. Abraham Lincoln Papers, Lib. of Congress. In Swett’s Dec. 22 letter he also included reports that Matteson may in fact be a candidate. He reported that Alexander McIntosh, the editor of the *Joliet True Demo-*

crat, felt that Matteson was “secretly working for himself” and that Representative Parks had been “solicited in favor of Matterson.” (sic)

15. For Goodell’s election as Clerk of the Senate, see *Journal of the Senate of the Eighteenth Assembly of the State of Illinois* (Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, 1855). For Goodell’s involvement with the Illinois State Democratic Party, see *Prominent Democrats of Illinois: A Brief History of the Rise and Progress of the Democratic Party in Illinois* (Chicago: Democrat Publishing Co., 1899), pp. 26, 30. For a biographical sketch that includes a picture of Goodell, see *Sketches of Colorado in Four Volumes* (Denver: The Western Press Bureau Company, 1911), 1: 268-269.

16. Lincoln to Washburne, Feb. 9, 1855, *CW* 2: 304-306. Horace White repeated the assertion that Lincoln learned of Matteson’s candidacy only 10 days before the election: *Lincoln in 1854: An Address Delivered before the Illinois Historical Society, at its 9th Annual Meeting at Springfield, Illinois, Jan., 1908* (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Soc., 1908), p. 16.

17. Horace White, *ibid.*

18. A complete account of the allegations of impropriety during the campaign and their sources is given in volume 1, chapter 10 of Michael Burlingame’s *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*.

Tom George, a practicing anesthesiologist for over 30 years, is a past-president of the Historical Society of Michigan. His publications include articles in Michigan History Magazine, The Journal of the ALA, The New England Journal of Medicine, and The Journal of the American Medical Association. In 2000 he was elected to the Michigan legislature and went on to represent the Kalamazoo area for 10 years, retiring due to term limits.

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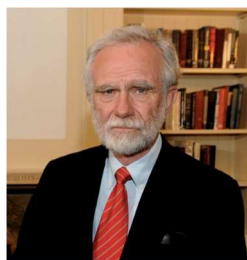
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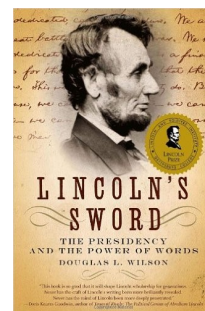
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The 2016 ALA Speakers

Douglas L. Wilson



Douglas L. Wilson taught English and American literature at Knox College, where he is currently George A. Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus and, with Rodney O. Davis, Co-director of the Lincoln Studies Center. His collaboration with Prof. Davis, which began as a teaching partnership, has produced *Herndon's Informants* (1998); the annotated transcriptions for the website of the Library of Congress's Abraham Lincoln Papers (1999-2002); and new editions of *Herndon's Lincoln* (2006), *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (2008), and *Herndon on Lincoln: Letters* (2015). His writing on Abraham Lincoln has appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The American Scholar*, *Time*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Two of his works, *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln* (1998) and *Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words* (2006), were awarded the Lincoln Prize.

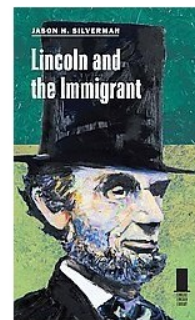


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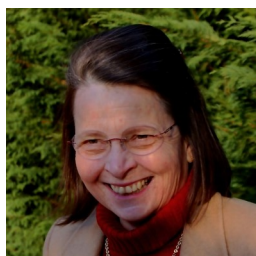


Jason H. Silverman has taught History at Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, S.C., for 31 years. Previously he taught at Yale University for 4 years. Author or editor of 11 volumes, his recent work is *Lincoln and the Immigrant*, a 2015 publication by Southern Illinois University Press that inspired an exhibit in 2015 at President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C.

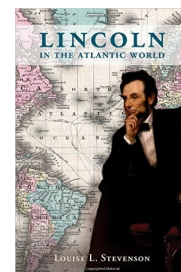
Silverman received his undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia and his graduate degrees at Colorado State University and the University of Kentucky. Among his teaching awards are Winthrop's Outstanding Junior Professor Award, the University's Distinguished Professor, and the Pi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching award 3 times. In 2011 he was named the inaugural Ellison Capers Palmer, Jr., Professor of History at Winthrop. He is working on a companion volume detailing President Lincoln's reputation in 19th-century Europe.



Louise L. Stevenson



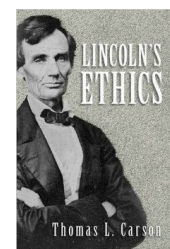
Professor of History and American Studies at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., Louise L. Stevenson writes about 19th-century American cultural and intellectual life in its transatlantic context. *Lincoln in the Atlantic World* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2015) follows her *Scholarly Means to Evangelical Ends: The New Haven Scholars and the Transformation of Higher Learning in America, 1830-1890* (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1986); *The Victorian Homefront: American Thought and Culture, 1860-1880* (1991; new ed., Cornell Univ. Press, 2001); and many articles on books and reading in everyday life, including James Thomson's *The Seasons* in the 18th century, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in the 19th century, and *Harry Potter* in the 21st century.



Thomas L. Carson



Thomas L. Carson is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago; he has also taught at Virginia Tech and at UCLA. He is the author of *Lincoln's Ethics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015). His previous books have been *The Status of Morality* (Dordrecht and Boston: D. Reidel Pub. Co., 1984), *Value and the Good Life* (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 2000), and *Lying and Deception: Theory and Practice* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR THESE EVENTS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2016

There are two events on February 12, 2016, for which you will need reservations to attend:

1. **Luncheon: \$30 per person.** 1:00-2:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 6th and Jefferson Streets
2. **Banquet and Reception: \$85 per person.** President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 7th and Adams Streets

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Banquet: 7:00 p.m. Presidential Ballroom

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How Do You Pronounce 'Lamon'?

By James M. Cornelius
*ALA Board Member
Lincoln Curator, ALPLM*

New evidence has turned up on the pronunciation of the surname of Ward Hill Lamon, friend of the attorney and bodyguard of the president. These days one can hear it said LAY-mon, LEMM-on, LAMM-on, or la-MAHN. Lincoln dodged it by calling his friend 'Hill.' In Danville, Illinois, no such dodge is possible: at Lamon House in Lincoln Park,



Ward Hill Lamon

locals pronounce it 'LAY-mon,' though that site was named for a cousin of Lincoln's friend.

W. H. Lamon's only child, his daughter Dorothy Lamon Teillard, sent her father's papers to the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif. No sound recordings were included.

Now turns up a 1985 letter by Sadavioe Goddin of Elkins, West Virginia. She wrote a friend about her clear memories of 1946 and 1948 trips to Springfield, home of her lifelong hero. Mrs. Goddin spelled well, wrote a lovely hand, and vividly described people and places.

Spelled well except this: She met Dorothy, and in the letter rendered her name 'Dorothy Lanham Teillard.' Twice she spelled it "Lanham," and felt that "She was one of the most interesting people I have ever known." It seems to this writer that one could easily mis-hear LAMM-on as 'Lanham'; whereas one who heard LAY-mon might have spelled it 'Layman'; and one who heard

'la-MAHN' might spell it some other way.

In the very good low-budget / high-entertainment film about the burly bodyguard, *Saving Lincoln* (2012), the name is pronounced 'LAMM-on.' Couple the 'authority' conveyed by film with the newly discovered 1985 letter recalling a 1946 conversation, and we may consider it all evidence that 'LAMM-on' was the surname -- even if this evidence might not stand in a court of law.



Dorothy Lamon Teillard

1Free and
Open to Public**ALA Keynote Address**

Thursday, February 11, 2016

7:00 p.m. House of Representatives, Old State Capitol

Douglas L. WilsonGeorge A. Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus;
Co-director, Lincoln Studies Center, Knox College*Herndon in His Own Voice***2**Free and
Open to Public**George L. Painter Looking for Lincoln Lectures**

Friday, February 12, 2016

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Visitor Center, Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Bryon C. Andreasen*Lincoln and Mormon Country*

(2nd speaker to be announced)

3Free and
Open to Public**ALA-Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium**

Friday, February 12, 2016

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. House of Representatives, Old State Capitol

Jason Silverman and Louise Stevenson*Lincoln, Immigrants, and the Atlantic World***4**Reservations
Required \$30**Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon and Lecture**Friday, February 12, 2016 **\$30 per person.**

1:00-2:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Thomas L. Carson*Lincoln as a Moral Exemplar***5**Free and
Open to Public**Round Table Discussion with All Speakers**

Friday, February 12, 2016

2:30-4:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 2nd Floor

Michael Burlingame, *Moderator***6**Reservations
Required \$85**Lincoln Banquet**Friday, February 12, 2016 **\$85 per person.**President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, a DoubleTree
by Hilton Hotel, 7th and Adams Streets

Banquet Reception: 6:00 p.m. Presidential Ballroom Lobby

Banquet: 7:00 p.m. Presidential Ballroom

Bernice King*Lincoln, King, and the Civil Rights Movement*

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