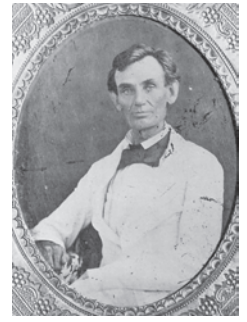


Lincoln Newsletter

First/Second Quarter 2014

*A publication of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission
Beardstown, Illinois*



Spring ~ time for fantastic road trips

Snow. Cold. Road salt. Frozen water pipes. Frozen ears, noses and toes. Yeech!

Perhaps we are tempting the Fates, but we are optimistic that all of that is behind us for many months to come. And with the return of spring, it is time to consider some road trips.

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA) is a large region comprising communities in Central Illinois which have connections to Lincoln (*see the December issue of the newsletter for a map of the area*).

Beardstown, because of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum (OLCM) and the Looking for Lincoln Wayside exhibits in the city, is one of the original Looking for Lincoln Communities. For this, we owe a special thanks to the efforts of Commissioner Emeritus Suzie McClure.

A steering committee of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition (LFL) is charged with overseeing this area, establishing policies for community participation and marketing the area. OLCM Commission Chair Paula Woods is a member of the LCL Steering Committee as well as the Community Self-Assessment Sub-committee.

Last summer, when establishing quarterly meeting dates for the Steering Committee, Sara Watson, LCL executive director, determined that Steering Committee members should be familiar with sites other than their own, and scheduled meetings in places other than Springfield. The committee's September meeting was held at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, the November meeting in Pittsfield, and the January meeting at the Old State Capitol in Vandalia. The April meeting will be at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington.

That brings us to the road trip, as each site is worth a visit.

Although Lincoln was in Springfield when his father and stepmother moved to the site of the Lincoln Log Cabin (www.lincolnlogcabin.org/) in 1837, there is a reconstruction of the cabin and outlying farm buildings. About a mile away is a reconstruction of the Reuben Moore home where Lincoln bid farewell to his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, just before he left Springfield for Washington, D.C. in 1861. Lincoln's father, Tom, is buried in the nearby Shiloh Cemetery, now named the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery. One of the attractions at Lincoln Log Cabin is an interpretive center detailing life of farmers in the 19th century.

Pittsfield boasts the Abe Lincoln Talking Houses Tour (www.pikelincoln.com/TALKING_HOUSES.html), where



one can tune the car radio to the designated frequency posted at each house to hear the story of each 11 houses, several of which have close connections to Lincoln, such as the Charles Lane and Michael J. Noyes houses.

Pittsfield is part of the Pike County community, and the local committee is working to discover more places throughout the county with Lincoln connections.

The Old State Capitol in Vandalia (capital of Illinois 1819-1839) is the beautifully restored site where Lincoln first served as a state representative. If you go in the winter take a good coat because the building is not heated, as in the 19th century. In the House of Representatives Chamber replacement floor boards have not been finished to match originals: the Vandalia historic society wants to be sure that the floorboards upon which Lincoln trod are obvious! Vandalia also boasts a good small museum.

On the last Friday and Saturday in September, The Grand Levee Festival is held on the Old State Capitol grounds and Gallatin Street. The two day celebration is a recreation of the social life of Vandalia during its tenure as the Illinois State Capitol (www.vandaliaillinois.com/oldstatecapital).

The David Davis Mansion postdates Lincoln but is connected to him because David Davis was a political ally of Lincoln. In 1862, Lincoln appointed Davis to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Davis wrote the majority opinion in a landmark decision restricting the rights of military courts to try civilians. In 1877, he resigned from the court after being elected to the U.S. Senate by the Illinois legislature.

Continued on the next page...

The aim of LFL is to make ALNHA a “destination” place or places where visitors from around the state, nation and the world can learn about those aspects of Lincoln’s life that prepared him for the presidency. Such a “destination” concept also hopes to improve economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for residents in the heritage area.

Back from ‘vacation’ and catching up

April 1st was a no fooling day for the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum (OLCM) as we officially reopened after being “on vacation” since December.

Though we had no events scheduled during our annual hiatus, a small number of visitors did manage to brave the polar vortexes to view our collection. The new audio/visual system makes it possible for visitors to enjoy the OLCM in the absence of our team of volunteers.

The OLCM again participated in the tree decorating at the Executive Mansion in Springfield. Those decorating the tree included OLCM Commissioners Ann Chelette, Chris Massie and Paula Woods, along with OLCM Friends Suzie McClure and Carol Kinzer. The OLCM tree is regarded as one of the best of the 30 plus trees on display. It is worth a trip to Springfield between Thanksgiving and New Years to see the trees and other decorations in the mansion - so mark your calendars now.

The tree in the museum was once again decorated by Ann Chelette and Connie Foley with help from Jess Chelette.

There was some leakage from the heating system in the River Museum, but there was no damage to the exhibits. If anyone has suggestions for improving the River Museum, please e-mail Paula Woods at pmw41@casscomm.com or call 217-323-3225 or 217-323-4514 and leave a message.

Most importantly, plan now to visit the OLCM in April. And be sure to check out the Gift Shop. We have many neat new items, including this recently acquired unique painting (*right*).



Essay contest underway

Abraham Lincoln consistently is ranked as America’s greatest as well as most popular president.

Now the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission (OLCMC) wants to know why students and adults admire Lincoln.



The OLCMC’s 5th Annual Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest is underway. Cass and Schuyler county middle school and high school students as well as adults are invited to write an essay on this

topic: “Abraham Lincoln has often been referred to as ‘Honest Abe.’ What attribute of Lincoln do you admire, and why?”

Prizes will be awarded to the top three essay writers in each category. The winning essays will be read and authors recognized at a public reception to be held in the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum (OLCM) at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

Essays are to consist of three typed paragraphs. All essays must be original. Judges will consider content, organization, originality, grammar and punctuation. Students essays must include the student’s name, age, school, home address and phone. Adults should list their name, address and phone.

Completed essays may be submitted online to annchelette@gmail.com or brought to the OLCM in Beardstown by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25. Students also may give their completed essays to their principals by April 25.

If you now receive a printed copy of this newsletter and wish to have it delivered by email, please send your name and email address to: pmw41@casscomm.com. You will find that email delivery is convenient and fast. In addition, email reduces our costs. Please notify us if you receive both a printed and email copy.

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Email: oldlincolncourtroom@gmail.com

Web: LincolnInBeardstown.org

Avast, me mates. A treasure hunt it be!

Let's go on a scavenger hunt in search of some of our treasures as you tour the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum.

Remember to look up, down and sideways so you don't miss a treasure!



Did you know???

We hope you had fun searching for a few of the museum's treasures, and we hope it helped you find many more of our treasures.

But did you know that real pirates once preyed on American pioneers?

Indeed, these outlaws were as vicious as those pirates who roamed the Seven Seas.

One of the most notorious river pirate hideouts was on the Ohio River in Southeastern Illinois, about 260 miles from Beardstown.

Cave-In-Rock State Park is the site of the 55-wide River Pirate Cave. From the late 1700s to the mid-1800s, river pi-

rates would lure travelers to the cave with promises of provisions and other assistance. Once at the cave, the pirates would kill their victims, dumping their bodies in the river.

Pirates known to have used River Pirate Cave at one time or another include Samuel Mason and his Mason Gang, James Ford and the Sturdivant Gang. The Harpe Brothers, who murdered a total of

40 people, also spent some time at Cave-In-Rock late in their criminal careers.

At the age of 19, Abraham Lincoln helped Allen Gentry take a flatboat down the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans in April of 1828. During that trip, Lincoln and Gentry passed River Pirate Cave though it is unlikely they stopped as Gentry was well aware of the peril.

The 1828 journey and Lincoln's 1831 flatboat trip from New Salem to New Orleans is explored in an excellent book written by Richard Campanella. *Lincoln in New Orleans: The 1828-1831 Flatboat Voyages and Their Place in History* was published in 2010 by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press.

By the late 1800s, the pirates were gone and River Pirate Cave had become a popular rest stop for travelers.

Today, the Cave-In-Rock State Park area appears much as it did in the 19th century, including cave graffiti dating as far back as 200 years.

Lincoln Room

1. What object in the Lincoln Room was carried during the Civil War?
2. In what literary style was the "deed" done?

Founder's Room

3. Where is Thomas Beard buried?
4. How many siblings did Thomas Beard have?

Hallway

5. In the arrow-head display cases, find an object not used on the end of an arrow.

6. How tall was Abraham Lincoln?

Passage Way on Lower Level

7. Find the map and find out what it represents.

Beardstown Room

8. In the Beardstown Room and the Courtroom there are two paintings done by a former Beardstown resident. What is his name?

9. In what year was Beardstown High School a baseball state finalist?

10. What item belonged to Dr. Unland?

River Room

11. What can you find that was enlightening to river boat captains?

12. Name the woman who was a riverboat pilot.

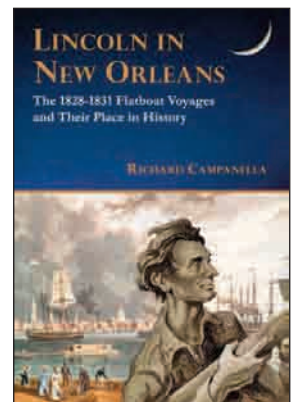
Jail

13. Who was the famous person housed in the jail?

Rudie Black Museum

14. Name the gun used at the end of a covered wagon.

15. Who was the professor of medicine at Washington University from 1986 to 1998?



~Dottie Gholson, Melanie Schroll and Connie Foley

OLCM Friends report

Thank you for your support, which helps make so much of what we do possible.

We are now looking ahead to an exciting 2014.

OLCM offers the Friends of the Courtroom five gifting categories:

Mr. Lincoln's Friend – \$25.00 - \$49.00
Mr. Lincoln's Bar – \$50.00 - \$99.00
Mr. Lincoln's Barristers – \$100.00 - \$249.00
Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff – \$250.00 - \$499.00
Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers – \$500.00

We are listing our donors, first those who contributed during 2013. These Friends are followed by the early birds who have made 2014 contributions.

You have plenty of time to make your 2014 contribution. Use the form found on the next page.

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Mr. Lincoln's Friend Annual Gift \$25.00 - \$49.00

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Mr. Lincoln's Friend Annual Gift \$25.00 - \$49.00

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Randy & Sue Reichert
Dale Robertson

Sangamon Valley

Sangamon Valley, which is east of Beardstown, has seen many changes through the years.

The first inhabitants were Native Americans – the mound builders followed by various other tribes. They came to the area because of the abundance of wild game and the river.

Mississippian Indians built several mounds about five miles east of Beardstown, close to the Sangamon River. Only a few of these mounds remain visible today.

Recently, anthropologists found evidence verifying that a wall once surrounded some of these mounds. It was a village similar to Cahokia, but on a much smaller scale.

Around 1900, farmers working in a field near the mounds saw a man of Native American ancestry walk up to the mounds. The man looked around for a while, then dug down several feet with a shovel. He lifted something out of the hole, covered it with a blanket he had brought, and walked away with it, never to be seen in the area again. It was assumed he must have been a descendant of the Indians who once lived there.

The Indians moved west about the time Illinois became a state as a result of a treaty the government signed with the Kickapoo tribe.

Settlers began coming to the valley in the 1820s, with much larger numbers arriving in the following decades.

By the 1920s, there were about 30 houses in the valley and about 20 small farms.

Today, there are just a few houses, and all of the land is owned by a much smaller number of people.

~Dale Robertson

Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

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I prefer to become a lifetime member of Mr. Lincoln's Supreme Court.
My pledge is in the amount of \$_____.

Method of Contribution

My Annual Gift is enclosed: Amount: \$_____

I'd like to make my annual gift in two equal installments.

[Mr. Lincoln's Barristers; Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers;
Mr. Lincoln's Supreme Court only]

Installments will be due March 1 and September 1

I'd like to make my annual gift in four equal quarterly installments.

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Installments will be due March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please forward your payment (payable to **Friends of the Courtroom**) to:

Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum
PO Box 381
Beardstown IL 62618

Check here if this is a renewal of your membership _____



LINCOLN SHOWS DOUGLAS THE RIGHT ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

A cartoon from the 1860 presidential campaign.

One more inning

Folks know Keith Rice as a gifted artist who creates magnificent pottery in his workshop near Beardstown.

Rice also creates pictures such as this drawing entitled “*The First Practice*,” now available in our Gift Shop.

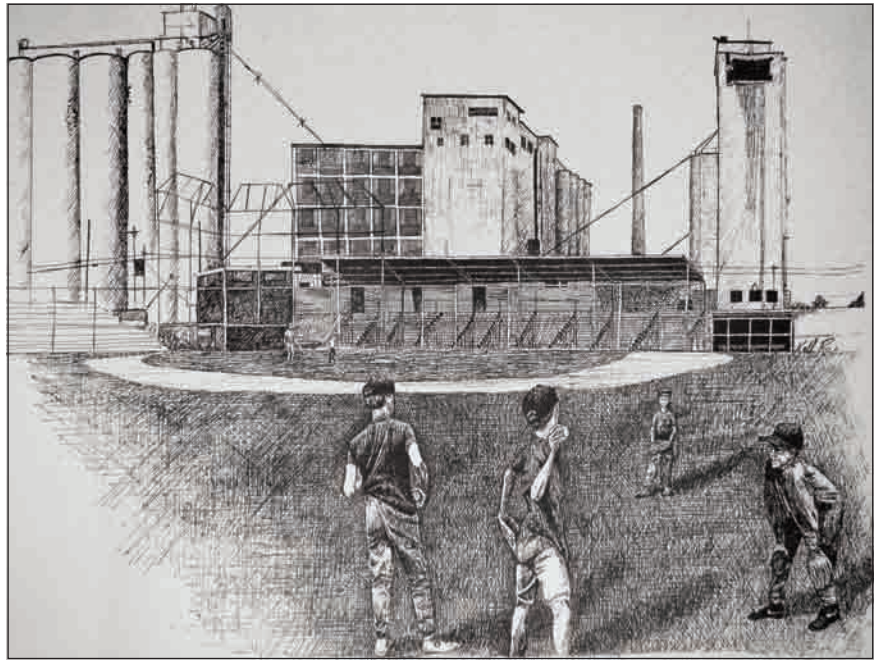
Though Rice’s work celebrates the season’s first baseball practice, it reminded me of a March 3, 1978 column penned by the incomparable Mike Royko. In part, he wrote:

“When I was a kid, the worst of all days was the last day of summer vacation, and we were in the schoolyard playing softball, and the sun was down and it was getting dark. But I didn’t want it to get dark. I didn’t want the game to end. It was too good, too much fun. I wanted it to stay light forever, so we could keep playing forever, so the game would go on and on. That’s how I feel now. C’mon, c’mon. Let’s play one more inning. One more time at bat. One more pitch. Just one? Stick around guys. We can’t break up this team. It’s too much fun.

“But the sun always went down. And now it’s almost dark again.”

Royko wrote that column for the final edition published by the *Chicago Daily News*. I knew the feeling. My newspaper, *Chicago Today*, came to an end a few years earlier, leaving the afternoon newspaper field to the *Daily News*.

We’ve all had those last days. Graduation day. The day the class reunion ended. The day a child went off to college. The end of a holiday weekend.



Rice’s work fills one with optimism. Oh yes, the sun will eventually set. It always has and it always will.

Nonetheless, this piece of art fills me with warm, wonderful memories as well as renewed optimism because it reminds us that we can make more memories that will gladden the heart and those of loved ones in the years ahead.

Thanks, Keith, for creating a treasure.

~Leigh Morris

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