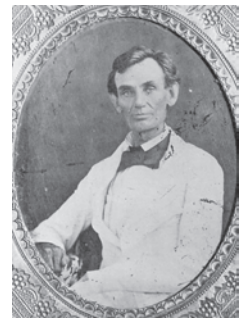


Lincoln Newsletter

First Quarter 2015

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



Commemoration events

150th anniversary of Lincoln's funeral

Three years ago, the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition hoped to stage a complete reenactment of Abraham Lincoln's funeral train, including operating a replica train from Washington, D.C. to Springfield. Sadly, this will not happen.

Kloke Locomotive Works of Elgin, Ill., has built a working replica of an 1870s steam locomotive. Owner Dave Kloke also is completing the construction of a replica of Lincoln's funeral car.

On March 3, Kloke told the *Chicago Tribune* the funeral car and locomotive will be trucked to Springfield and placed on tracks near the Amtrak station. The article noted there are tentative plans to truck the pair to other cities on the funeral train route during 2015.

However, many other activities are planned:

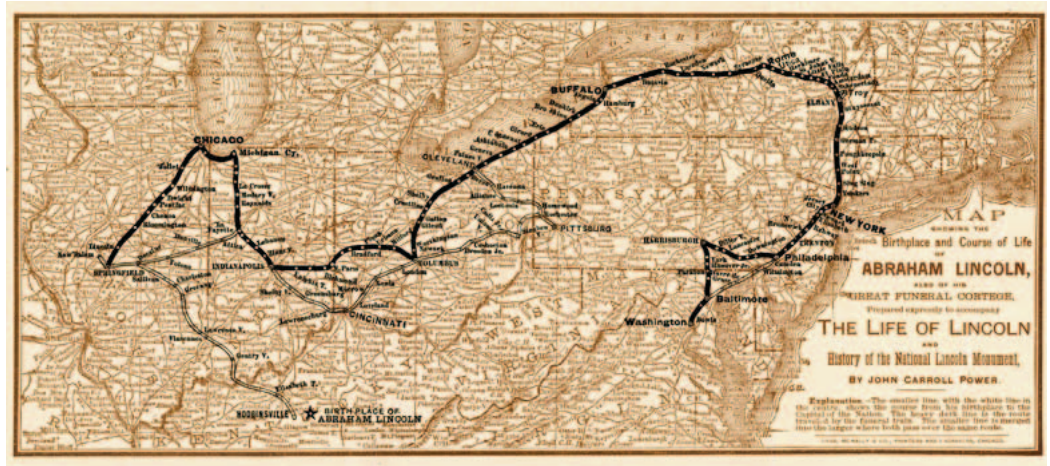
- The play *Mr. Lincoln* will be presented on April 17, 18 and 19 in the indoor theater at New Salem Historic Site. The play spans Lincoln's life from youth to his years as president. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$11 for those 55 and older and \$8 for children 12 and under. Call 217-241-3241 for information and to purchase tickets.

- *Our American Cousin* will be presented at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield on April 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19. This is the play Lincoln was watching when he was assassinated. Tickets are \$16 and \$18. Call 217-523-2787 for information and tickets.

- *Mourn Father Abraham: Lincoln's Assassination and the Public's Response* will be presented in the Brookens Auditorium, University of Illinois Springfield on April 30. The 7 p.m. event is free and reservations are not required.

- *The Lincoln Train* musical presentation on May 1 and 2 by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra at the Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois Springfield. Tickets are \$20, \$40 and \$60. Call 800-207-6960 for information and tickets.

- Several activities will take place in Springfield on Saturday, May 2. These include a reenactment of the funeral procession from the Amtrak depot to Oak Ridge Cemetery. There also will be opening ceremonies. In the evening, a



Map showing the 1865 route of Abraham Lincoln's funeral train.

candlelight vigil will begin, lasting until early Sunday morning.

Also on May 2, Guy Fraker, author of *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit*, will present a lecture on the Chicago-Springfield portion of the Lincoln funeral train journey. This will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Springfield. Free admission.

- On Sunday, May 3, the funeral reenactment will begin at Grace Lutheran Church. There will be a procession to Oak Ridge Cemetery. Times had not been announced as this issue went to press.

A calendar of funeral events can be found on The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition website (LincolnFuneralTrain.org).



Lincoln's home decorated for his funeral.

Abraham Lincoln's final return to Springfield

A tremendous crowd of mourners watched in near silence as a somber conductor solemnly signaled the engineer to begin Abraham Lincoln's final journey home.

The place was Washington, D.C. The day was Friday, April 21, 1865. The train, dubbed "*The Lincoln Special*," would travel 1,654 miles, mostly retracing the route Lincoln had traveled in 1861 to begin his first term as president of a divided nation.

The train rarely exceeded 20 mph and often crawled along at 5 mph for safety reasons, and to allow those who lined the tracks to catch a glimpse of the funeral car and pay their last respects. Some writers have claimed 10 million or more people saw the train. In reality, the number was much smaller as the population of the entire nation was about 31 million.

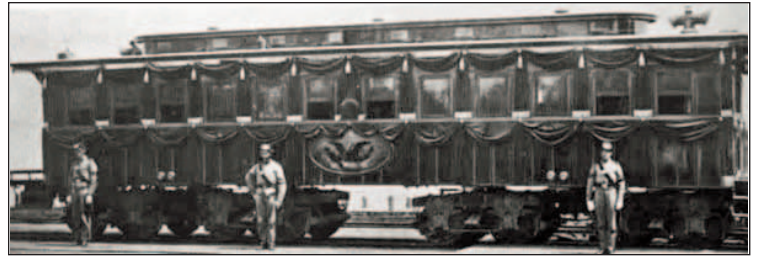
At Baltimore, the coffin was carried to the Merchant's Exchange Building and opened for public viewing. This was repeated at Harrisburg, Pa., and then in Philadelphia where Lincoln's coffin was placed in Independence Hall for viewing. There more than 300,000 viewed his body,

The train then passed through New Jersey, next stopping in New York. His remains were taken to City Hall where at as many as 500,000 viewed it. On April 25, Lincoln's casket was carried in a magnificent hearse through the streets of New York.

"*The Lincoln Special*" then traveled to Albany, where there was another funeral procession. From there, the train rolled to Buffalo and then to Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis and Chicago, where the coffin was placed in the Cook County Courthouse.

From Chicago, the train headed south through Lockport, Joliet, Pontiac, Bloomington, Lincoln and finally Springfield. This route is now owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and hosts Chicago-Springfield-St. Louis Amtrak passenger trains.

The train was under the command of the War Department, which selected the route and put the host railroads under the control of the U.S. Military Railroads.



Lincoln's funeral car.

Not well known is the fact there were two trains. In addition to "*The Lincoln Special*," there was a pilot train that ran about 15 minutes ahead of the funeral train. This train assured the track ahead was safe. The situation grew more complex when the train crossed into Illinois. There a third train joined the procession to Chicago. A total of five trains made the trip from Chicago to Springfield. At least 42 locomotives were used between Washington and Springfield.

Also, many people do not realize that the funeral train carried two bodies. In addition to the president, a second coffin contained the body of Lincoln's son, Willie. In 1862 at the age of 11, Willie contracted typhoid fever and died a painful death in the White House. It was decided his body should be disinterred so he could be buried next to his father in Springfield.

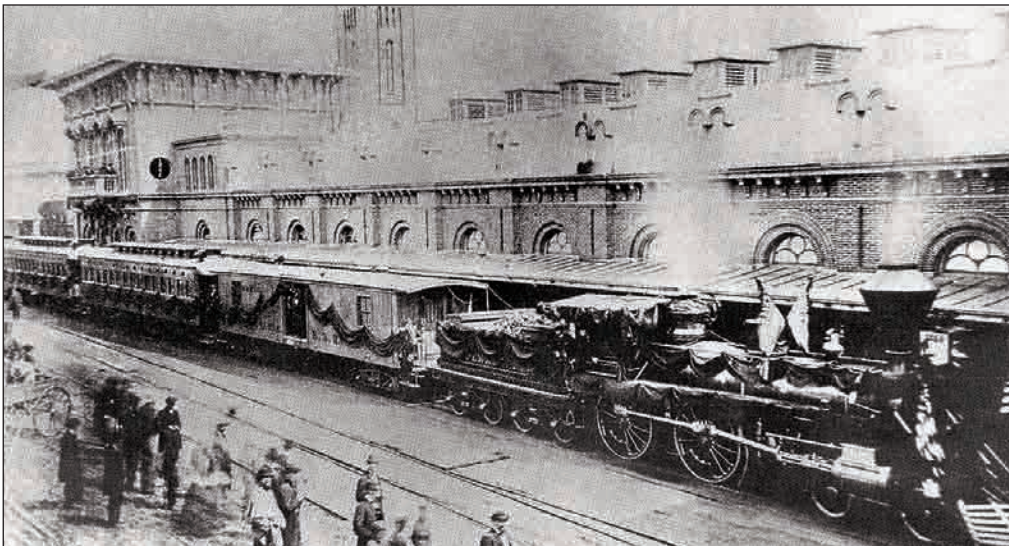
As noted earlier, much of the route retraced the path taken by Lincoln's inaugural train. Initially, Mary Lincoln had resisted the idea, but reluctantly agreed after much persuasion.

The funeral car had been built in 1865 for Lincoln's use though he never had the opportunity to ride it as president. Despite its great historical significance, the car wound up in Minneapolis and was destroyed by fire in 1911.

Funeral train facts:

- The train passed through seven states and about 180 communities.
- Newspapers published the scheduled stops, locations and hours for public viewing, and procession routes.

- About 300 people rode the two trains. Several hundred more rode the additional trains in Illinois.
- "*The Lincoln Special*" consisted of nine cars, including a baggage car.
- A large portrait of Lincoln was placed on the front of the locomotive.
- Lincoln's body was embalmed several times during the trip from Washington to Springfield in an effort to retard decomposition. Nonetheless, many mourners were shocked by the state of decomposition when they viewed Lincoln's body.
- George Pullman's first true sleeping car, *Pioneer*, was used to transport the Lincoln family from Chicago to Springfield.



Lincoln's funeral at Harrisburg, Pa.

Our American Cousin

As part of the commemoration of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the funeral in Springfield, Pam Brown will produce *Our American Cousin*, the play the Lincolns were attending when John Wilkes Booth shot the president. Brown, a well regarded Mary Todd Lincoln interpreter, produced this play six years ago at the Hoogland Center in downtown Springfield, where she will repeat the production.

Our American Cousin, by English playwright Tom Taylor, was first produced in New York in 1858 by Laura Keane at the theater named for her. The production which the Lincolns attended was the thousandth, a special benefit performance for Laura Keane, who received a "portion" of the proceeds as well as her fee as the leading actress in the play. The first woman in American theater to produce as well as perform in drama, Keane produced the play many times, making it the first truly "long-run" play in American theater history.

Described as a farce, *Our American Cousin* "made" the careers of Joseph Jefferson, who played Asa the American cousin, and E.A. Southern, whose portrayal of Lord Dunderbary turned a relatively minor role into a memorable comic character, establishing Southern as one of the best known comic actors of the 19th century.

Brown's production will take place on two successive weekends, April 10-12 and April 17-19. For more information, contact the Hoogland Center box office at 217-523-2787.

For more information and a detailed schedule of events for the funeral commemoration, consult LincolnFuneral-Coalition.org.

~ Paula Woods



Laura Keane and others performing in the play *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre prior to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Looking for memories

Looking for Lincoln is searching for accounts of the reaction of Central Illinois residents to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

If you have accounts of ancestors or others in documents or oral tradition, please send copies to the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum, 101 W. Third St., Beardstown IL 62618 or to our winter email: pmw41@casscomm.

We will forward them to the Looking for Lincoln office and keep copies for our reading area.

Lincoln on the Web

Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition (LFL) is joining the internet!

Actually, the website (LookingForLincoln.com) has been up and running for some time, providing information about the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA) and about events related to Abraham Lincoln at various sites in the area.

Soon a new and improved website make its debut. A Twitter account is in the works as well. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Meanwhile "like" LFL on Facebook!



Kerby Drennon pottery

If you are looking for a unique gift, you need to stop by the Gift Shop.

We now are featuring a variety of pottery items created by Kerby Drennon. You are certain to find the perfect gift item or a keepsake for yourself.

Beginning April 1, our Gift Shop will be open Monday through Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you.

OLCM Friends report

Thank you for your support, which helps make so much of what we do possible. 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 who made 2014 contributions.

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

Anthony J. Bigger
Benny's Pizza – Anthony Vitale
Don & Blanche Chipman
John, Alecia, & Paul Crowe
Hankins, Glenn & Patricia
Frances Hegener
Earl & Doris McKenzie
Warren R. Musch
Mike & Cristy Nordsiek
Charles & Judy Taylor
Vredenburgh Lumber Company
Walker Nursing Home
John Winston

Mr. Lincoln's Bar Annual Gift \$50.00 - \$99.00

Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks
Ron Culves
Cathy Rae Duffie – Was Tysons
First National Bank of Arenzville
Glenn & Patricia Hankins
Carl J. & Anna Marie Hood
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Bill and Dot Leistritz
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Lovekamp
Dr. R. Thomas Loyd
Mrs. Virginia Thompson

Mr. Lincoln's Barristers Annual Gift \$100.00 - \$299.00

Arnold Family Farms
George Bell
Arline Bley
Hon. Thomas & Cynthia Brannan
Mr. & Mrs. H. O. Brownback
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Mr. & Mrs. David Carls

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Mrs. Dorothy Lamb
Mrs. Irene Lamkin
Mr. & Mrs. L. Milton McClure
Lloyd M. McClure IV
Judge Richard & Rachel Mills
Leigh & Norma Morris
Thomas & Elizabeth Prather
Randy & Sue Reichert
Dale Robertson

Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers Annual Gift \$500 and up

Wal-Mart

Now is the time to make your 2015 contribution.

If you are renewing your commitment, please consider increasing the amount of your gift.

On the other hand, if you have not yet contributed, consider becoming a Friend of the Courtroom at any gifting amount.

Why become a Friend of the Courtroom?

Built in 1844, it officially became the Cass County Courthouse in 1845 when the seat of government was moved to Beardstown from Virginia. Voters approved moving the county seat back to Virginia on Nov. 12, 1872, but the two seats fought a legal battle that was not resolved until June 1875. County commissioners then gave the building to the city of Beardstown, which used it as the city hall.

Abraham Lincoln was a frequent visitor. And it was in the second floor courtroom where Lincoln successfully defended William Duff Armstrong on a murder charge. Armstrong had been accused of participating in the murder of James Preston Metzker.

Not only can visitors walk where Lincoln walked, but they can view a tremendous historical collection that help tell the story of our collective past.

Truly, this is Beardstown's crowning jewel.

Your gifts to the Friends of the Courtroom are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. More importantly, your gifts help sustain and enhance the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum.

Use the donation form on the next page.

Meet Ron Culves

Our newest commissioner is Ron Culves, who was appointed to the commission in October 2014.

A Beardstown native, Culves graduated from St. John's Lutheran School and was a member of the Beardstown High School Class of 1990.



Culves earned a Bachelor of Arts in accountancy and a Master of Arts in accountancy, both from the University of Illinois. He began his career by working in the banking industry for five years and for a public accounting firm for four years. More recently, he employed as the chief

financial officer at Central Counties Health Centers, Inc. in Springfield for eight years. In April 2014, Culves was named vice president of finance for Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Culves has always had an interest in local and family history. He recently completed his third family history book. Culves first book was a six generation descendant account completed in 2009 titled "*Descendants of Clamor Reller & Elizabeth Pauk Reller.*" It was as a result of this research that Culves became acquainted with the late Jerry Gorsage and expressed an interest in someday purchasing Jerry's home, which was originally the Reller home, located at 309 W. 8th Street in Beardstown.

In June 2012, Culves purchased and began renovations on the Reller home, moving back to Beardstown in April 2013. The house had been built by his great-great-grandfather, Clamor Reller, circa 1912. The home was occupied by Clamor and Elizabeth Reller until their deaths in 1925 and remained in the family until the death of Culves' great-aunt, Erna Reller Owens in 1981. He has many fond memories of his Aunt Erna and their time spent at this house. That, along with the history of the home, certainly contributed to his interest in purchasing it.

Since moving back to Beardstown, Culves has become active in the community. In addition to his recent appointment to the commission, Culves serves on the Cass County Historical & Genealogical Society Board of Directors and is treasurer of the VFW Post 1239 Men's Auxiliary. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Culves is the son of Tonie Beard Culves and Cliff (wife Nancy) Culves. He is the grandson of Bonnie Culves and the late Earl "Joe" Culves, Raymond Glenn "R.G." Beard, and Hazel Jeanne Reller Beard. All are Beardstown natives.

Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

Yes, I wish to become a Friend as follows:

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

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.

[Mr. Lincoln's Supreme Court only]

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 _____

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Connie Foley, Secretary - 217-370-1205 -
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Chris Massie - 217-997-5971 - ifp@casscomm.com

Leigh Morris - 217-371-0481 - studebaker055@yahoo.com

Randy Reichert - 217-323-4597 - suereichert@casscomm.com

The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission
PO Box 381

Beardstown IL 62618

Email: pmw41@casscomm.com

Web: LincolnInBeardstown.org

Though changes have occurred, Abraham Lincoln would still recognize the second floor courtroom. He appeared here on many occasions, but none surpassed May 7, 1858 – the day of the world famous Almanac Trial. This is the only courtroom in which Lincoln appeared as an attorney that is still regularly used as a courtroom. *(Photo by Brian DeLoche)*



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