



Lincoln Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Preserving our heritage

Digital arrives at OLCM

Move over, Mount Rushmore. Make room for Beardstown's Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum.

Last Wednesday, a pair of experts with high-tech equipment arrived at the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum. Their mission was to digitally preserve the 171-year-old building in the same way Mount Rushmore, the Tower of London and the Lincoln Memorial have been preserved. The building originally served as the Cass County Courthouse, beginning in 1845.

The building's claim to fame is its link with Abraham Lincoln. In 1858, Lincoln successfully defended accused murderer William Duff Armstrong in what became known as the Almanac Trial. This trial took place in the historic building's second floor courtroom. Of course, Lincoln was in the building on numerous other occasions.

Cass County's historic treasure was first suggested for digital preservation by prominent historian Daniel Stowell, director of The Papers of Abraham Lincoln. He had been contacted by Makenna Murray, partnership development specialist for CyArk. An international nonprofit. CyArk utilizes "new technologies to create a free, 3D online library of the world's cultural heritage sites before they are lost to natural disasters, destroyed by human aggression or ravaged by the passage of time."

Murray said CyArk had wanted to create digital preservations of such Lincoln sites as the Lincoln Home and Lincoln Tomb in Springfield. However, various factors nixed that idea for the moment. Stowell then suggested the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum (OLCM) as a starting point. Stowell reached out to the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission, which readily agreed to participate.

The experts who came to Beardstown last week were Brent Wassi, owner of The Wassi Group of Morton, and Bob Hohimer, Jr., of US Laser Scanning, a division of The Wassi Group. They utilized a sophisticated 3-D scanner from FARO Technologies, Inc.

Placed on a tripod in a corner of the courtroom, the small 3-D scanner began a rotation, taking up to 900,000 measurements per second. When finished, the device then took photos of the same area. Hohimer and Wassi placed the scanner in 10 locations within the courtroom in order to obtain measurements and images of the entire room. They then moved on to the other rooms in the building. On Thursday, they returned to capture exterior measurements and images. Some of these were taken from the roof of the Trone Appli-



Brent Wassi of The Wassi Group adjusts the FARO 3-D scanner. Wassi and Bob Hohimer, Jr., of The Wassi Group subsidiary US Laser Scanning, were in Beardstown last week to conduct 3-D scanning of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum building.

ances building.

"When we finish, the measurements and images we capture could be used to completely recreate this building," Hohimer said. This is especially valuable since all the plans and construction documents for the building have never been found.

From the public's point of view, the main benefit of this project will be the creation of 3-D images that will allow anyone in the world with Web access to tour the OLCM. Eventually, these will be available on the CyArk website (www.cyark.com). No doubt, this will encourage some people to travel to Beardstown to tour the OLCM and visit the city's Lincoln Waysides.

CyArk was established in 2003 by Iraqi expatriate Ben Kacyra. Wassi said motivated by the destruction of ancient Middle East archeological sites. Alarmed that these treasures would be lost for all time, Kacyra and his wife Barbara responded with CyArk. To date, CyArk has placed nearly 200 sites on its website covering the world's seven continents.

Stowell said it is hoped CyArk will be able to scan other Lincoln sites to create a Lincoln section on their website. However, it will be necessary to find supporters who will provide financial support for such a project.

~Leigh Morris

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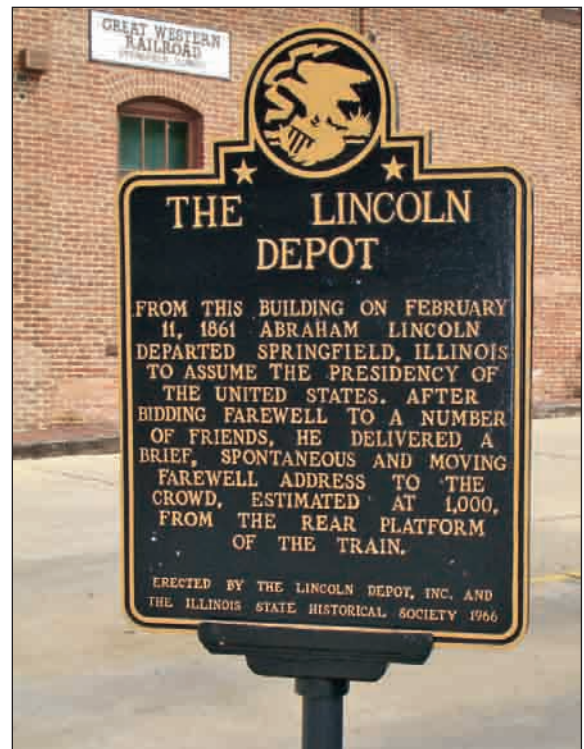
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Now is the time for you to make your 2016 Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum contribution. Make your check payable to "Friends of the OLCM" and mail it to Friends of the Courtroom, PO Box 381, Beardstown IL 62618.

Thank you for your support.



The Great Western Railroad depot in Springfield is worth a visit.

Paul Blakeman, volunteer extraordinaire

When Paul Blakeman hears, “Hi Paul, this is Connie,” he knows the Display Committee has another project for him at the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum. His response is always, “I can do that.”

Blakeman is an outstanding museum volunteer who spends hours working on woodworking projects for the many displays throughout the museum. The only cost to the Museum is for materials. He has made picture frames, display cases, display case doors, custom legs for a desk, a 5-foot button display case, and a reading room case housing many newspapers and reading materials.

Woodworking became a way of life for Blakeman about 40 years ago when introduced to the skill by two friends. Those friends had the equipment and wood and must have been good teachers because Blakeman soon bought his own equipment and has been hard at work ever since. He has made bedroom sets, table, chairs, picture frames and coffee tables to mention just a few projects. Not only generous with his time and talents to the museum, he also has helped friends with remodeling homes as well as working on his own home.

Blakeman graduated from Ashland High School and married Kay McMurl in 1963. They moved to Beardstown in 1963. He retired in 2004 after working for Oscar Mayer and then Cargill. The Blakemans have two sons: Mike, married to Jackie, and Scott, married to Adrienne. The sons are retired military (Air Force). Blakeman is very proud of his three grandsons: Andrew, Jared and Zack. Andrew and Zack are both in the Air Force.

The Blakemans keep extremely busy visiting the families located around the country.

Woodworking and furniture construction are Blakeman’s favorite hobbies, but he also enjoys working at the First Christian Church in Beardstown, where he is an elder, as well as gardening and volunteering his skills for the museum.

The Beardstown Exchange Club is a very important part of the lives of the Blakemans. Kay is an active member, therefore Paul, who is not a member, does countless hours of volunteering on the outstanding services the Exchange Club provides. He is a former member of the Beardstown Jaycees and is an avid Cardinal fan who greatly enjoys going to games. The Blakemans and dear friends Earl and Doris McKenzie attended many games together.

Paul wanted to stress to everyone how much he has enjoyed the museum. He admitted he had not spent much time visiting the facility before becoming an active volunteer. He has been amazed by the wealth of information that is available within the museum and encourages everyone to visit.

Thank you so much, Paul, for your contributions in making the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum such an outstanding facility for the city of Beardstown!

~Connie Foley





The mission of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area is to bring visitors to Lincoln sites within the area and to develop experiences for those visitors that will include other unique attractions in the areas.

To this end, the Looking for Lincoln Heritage coalition is developing a series of itineraries for the sites – half-day, full day, multi-day – featuring activities and places that may interest visitors who come primarily for the Lincoln sites.

For example, someone who visits the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum may find the Schuyler County Jail Museum & Genealogical Center in Rushville, Clayville at Pleasant Plains and the Rexroat Prairie in Virginia worth visiting.

These itineraries also will list places to eat, sleep and even to buy gas! And as they are developed, they will be posted on the Looking for Lincoln website (LookingForLincoln.com).

The anticipated signs for “entrances” to the area will be posted soon at the “Gateway” sites, beginning with the interstates.

A new year for OLCM

Yes, the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum reopens after our winter respite on April 4.

We invite each and every one of you to stop by, browse the exhibits and then take a look at what we have to offer in our Gift Shop.

And looking ahead to the Memorial Day weekend, we anticipate welcoming many returning Beardstown High School alumni. If they have not visited us for a few years, we believe they will be both surprised and pleased by what they will find within our walls.

We look forward to seeing you.



Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

Yes, I wish to become a Friend as follows:

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- Mr. Lincoln’s Bar: Annual Gift \$50 - \$99
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I prefer to become a lifetime member of Mr. Lincoln’s Supreme Court.

My pledge is in the amount of \$_____.

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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

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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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- Paula Woods, Chair - 217-323-4514 - pmw41@casscomm.com
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- Leigh Morris - 217-371-0481 - studebaker055@yahoo.com
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The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission
PO Box 381

Beardstown IL 62618

Email: pmw41@casscomm.com

Web: LincolnInBeardstown.org

‘A River Town A Lincoln Place’

For several years, the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum joined with other historic sites in participating in the Christmas at the Mansion tree decorating at the Executive Mansion in Springfield.

Our ornaments were designed and made by Theresa Kleinschmidt, a talented local artist and craftsperson. Unfortunately we were unable to participate in the festivities last year as there was no Christmas at the Mansion.

The Old State Capitol invited the historic sites which had decorated trees to participate in their festivities. Unfortunately, the Capitol was unable to accommodate trees, so wreaths to decorate the Old State Capitol building were requested. We decided that we should use ornaments from past trees. Since those ornaments are large, we were able to get space for two wreaths.

OLCM Commissioner Randy Reichert decided on using the theme “A River Town, A Lincoln Place” for which Kleinschmidt had designed ornate ornaments featuring pictures and drawings of Lincoln and Beardstown scenes with burgundy and gold edges. Following this theme, Reichert fashioned wreaths with gold and burgundy touches.

The wreaths were hung prominently on the doors of the Old State Library on the first floor. Reichert also designed and made an informational poster on which to display the OLCM’s flyers.

Thanks go to Randy Reichert for a job well done and to Theresa Kleinschmidt for her contributions. We’ll see what next year brings!

~Paula Woods



One can find a wealth of interesting places associated with Abraham Lincoln in Illinois to visit.

Some are restored sites, such as the Old State Capitol (above) and Lincoln’s home (above, left) in Springfield and the two other surviving courthouses in which Lincoln practiced law, Mt. Pulaski and Metamora.

Remember, the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum is the



ONLY one of the three courthouses to have a courtroom that remains in regular use by the Circuit Court.



Along such sites as Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site (above) and the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site near Lerna, these historic places provide a glimpse of what life was like during the youth and early manhood of Abraham Lincoln. And Vandalia State House Historic Site offers a look where Lincoln worked as a state legislator before the capital moved to Springfield.

Non-historic sites also give interesting information about Lincoln. One is the Museum of the Grand Prairie in Mahomet, which as part of the Champaign County Forest Preserve, which is surrounded by woods and natural area. Another is the Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College in Lincoln. This museum boasts an interactive “experience” that takes visitors through important events in Lincoln’s life. This experience would be especially interesting to older children.

Consider trips to these facilities for both entertainment and education.

As you will discover, Illinois has a lot to offer both visitors and residents.

~Paula Woods

Thomas Jones captures the real Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln faced difficult days following his 1860 election.

South Carolina took the first step toward secession. Georgia quickly followed suit. While the president-elect pondered the growing crisis, people streamed into Springfield to ask Lincoln for federal jobs and contracts.

One Lincoln visitor was distinguished sculptor Thomas D. Jones of Cincinnati. Several prominent Ohio Republicans had commissioned him to make a bust of the president-elect.

Jones sought to capture Lincoln's complex nature, something photographers could not achieve and painters failed to do. "None of the artists or pictures have caught the deep, though subtle and indirect expression of this man's face," Walt Whitman wrote of the those who tried to portray Lincoln. "There is something else there."

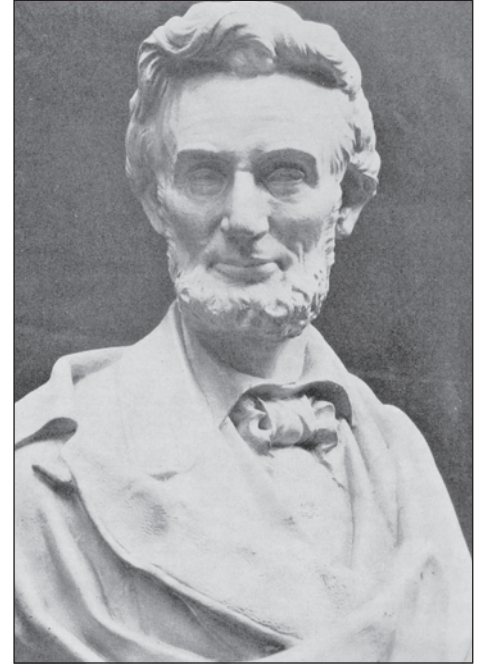
Jones achieved what had eluded others. The sculptor's work presents a man in the prime of his life. The face is strong, reflecting inner strength. There is a slight smile that conveys personal warmth. This is no cold sculpture, but a warm portrayal of one of history's greatest men.

Lincoln's contemporaries believed Jones' work captured the essence of the great man. Even Lincoln approved: "I think it looks very much like the critter." ("The Eloquent President" by Ronald C. White, Jr.)

It was publicly displayed in Springfield in August of 1861. Only a few castings of this bust were ever made. One eventually went on permanent display in the lobby of the St. Nicholas Hotel. Jones also created a bronze bust of Lincoln in 1864. Another may be seen at the Lincoln Heritage Museum in Lincoln

Jones won a commission to produce a larger-than-life version of the plaster bust. Sculpted in Carrara marble, this piece holds a place of honor in the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus.

Ironically, Illinois never purchased a Lincoln bust from Jones, nor was he commissioned to create any other image of Lincoln for the state.



Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission
PO Box 381
Beardstown IL 62618