

Lincoln Newsletter

Memorial Day Edition, May, 2017

Published by the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission



Welcome BHS Alumni

The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission Welcomes You Home.

One of Beardstown's crown jewels is the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum. The Commission, the Display Committee, and many volunteers have worked to expand the collection to represent the many aspects of Beardstown's rich history, and **we would love for you to visit us while you are here.** Our Memorial Day Holiday Hours are:

Friday, May 26: 10 AM – 4 PM

Saturday, May 27: 10 AM – 4 PM

Sunday, May 28: 1 - 4 PM

Monday, May 29: 10 AM – 4 PM

In addition to the Old Lincoln Courtroom, displays include:

The Lincoln Room, The Founders Room
The River Museum, The Transportation Room
Vintage Clothing Room, The Military Room
The Judges' Chambers, The Beardstown Room
The River Art Gallery, The Jail
The Heritage Room, Beardstown Ladies Room

The Gift Shop is also open with a wide selection of Beardstown area and Abraham Lincoln related gifts for adults and children (see gift shop pictures later in this Newsletter). Local and former Beardstown artists' and authors' works are available for purchase.

Lincoln Courtroom Receives Hesler Print of Abraham Lincoln



The Hesler print of Abraham Lincoln hangs above the walnut desk in the Lincoln Room of the OLCM.

According to Mark W. Sorensen in "Portraits of a Prairie Lawyer" which appears in the Jan./Feb. 2017 edition of *Illinois Heritage*, a publication of the *Illinois State Historical Society*, Lincoln did not seek to have his picture taken, but he was sought out by admirers or
(continued on page 2)

(Hesler Print, continued)

photographers. Sorensen cites Roderick M. Cole, a Peoria photographer who, when he asked Lincoln's permission to take a photograph, was told, "*I cannot see why all you artists want a likeness of me unless it is because I am the homeliest man in the State of Illinois.*"

Alexander Hesler's photograph came at the request of Republican party leaders about two weeks after the Republican National Convention in Chicago, where Lincoln had been nominated for President. They felt they needed a new campaign image of the candidate and, according to Sorensen, sent Alexander Hesler, the renowned Chicago photographer, to Springfield, where, on June 3, 1860, he took several photos of Lincoln in what we now call the Old State Capitol.

Sorensen says that Lincoln's response to the photos was "*That looks better and expresses me better than any I have ever seen; if it pleases the people I am satisfied.*" Billy Herndon, Lincoln's law partner also liked the photo: "*There is the peculiar curve of the lower lip, the lone mole on the right cheek, and a pose of the head so essentially Lincolnian; no other artist has ever caught it.*"

This photo captures Lincoln before he took the advice of eleven-year-old Grace Bedell, who wrote to the presidential candidate admonishing him to "let his whiskers grow."

The Illinois State Historical Society has made copies of this print available to all Illinois courthouses and other prominent Illinois institutions with the goal being to have it hanging in as many public buildings in Illinois as possible. It is not without cost, however; the ISHS asks to be reimbursed for the cost of the print and frame. The Old Lincoln Courtroom Museum gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Paula M. Woods and Richard and Laura Zillion who purchased the print and presented it to the OLCM.

A Certificate of Authenticity (full view) (text follows) helps to explain the history of the print as well as document its authenticity. The Certificate of Authenticity is signed by William Furry, Executive Director is the ISHS and is dated February 21, 2017.

– Randy Reichert

Text of Certificate of Authenticity Hesler Print #491, (full view)

"This is to certify that **Old Lincoln Courthouse and Museum** is the owner of Hesler Print number 491, a full view of Abraham Lincoln, from the Illinois State Historical Society. Alexander Hesler took the picture on June 3, 1860, in Springfield, Illinois, after Mr. Lincoln's nominator for president.

Instead of using conventional film as is done today, Mr. Hesler exposed the image onto an 8-inch by 10-inch glass negative. At the time of President Lincoln's death, Mr. Hesler made a back-up copy of the negative called a glass positive. George Ayres, Mr. Hesler's assistant, became owner of the negative and positive when Mr. Hesler retired in the late 1860's.

The Smithsonian Museum has owned the negative since the early 1930's. It is broken and unusable. King Hostick, a prominent collector of Lincoln memorabilia, purchased the positive from the Ayres estate at a date that cannot be firmly determined. In 1993, Mr. Hostick bequeathed the positive to the Illinois State Historical Society in his will.

The appraisal service of Christie's Auctions in New York has determined that the positive from which this print is derived is likely the only such positive that exists."

The seal of the Illinois State Historical Society is affixed, and the Certificate of Authenticity is signed by William Furry, Executive Director, and is dated February 21, 2017.

Recent OLCM Visitors

Although OLCM has been open only since April 3, we have had visitors from Virginia, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Texas, as well as from several places in Illinois.

Three of these visitors have been National Parks passport holders. One is collecting stamps during business travels, detouring to various sites. Another, from Minnesota, having learned about the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, was traveling through the area to visit as many as possible of the sites.

An art professor from Texas A&M University who had mounted a show in Bloomington, decided to visit several sites while he was in the area. He was especially impressed by the Hesler photograph and the White Suit photograph, as well as John (Bud) Anderson's painting of the Almanac Trial which hangs in the courtroom.

Maricella Chavez, the Spanish language narrator for the videos on the monitors in the museum, brought a group of newcomers to the city for an introduction to Beardstown and Lincoln's association.

- Paula Woods

OLCM Hosts Looking for Lincoln Steering Committee



On April 5 The OLCM hosted the quarterly meeting of the Looking for Lincoln Steering Council for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA). The meeting was held in the City Council Chamber in Beardstown City Hall, courtesy of the City of Beardstown.

The steering council is the governing body for ALNHA, forty-two counties across Central Illinois having connections to Lincoln. It encompasses lesser known sites such as the talking houses in Pittsfield as well the wealth of sites in Springfield.

OLCM becoming better known Lincoln site.

While a small site when compared to Springfield, Beardstown's Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum is becoming one of the better known. Because it is also the museum for the city of Beardstown, it provides us the opportunity to tell Beardstown's story, as well as how the city is connected to Lincoln.

Matthew Mittelstaedt, council chair, from Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, presided. Paris, IL, was welcomed as the newest Looking for Lincoln community. Beardstown is one of the original communities.

The Steering Council reviewed the new Looking for Lincoln Community signs to place at the entrance to the communities, which state "Looking for Lincoln

Community?" Currently there is little uniformity in signage among the various sites. There are "gateway" signs on the highways at the entrances to ALNHA at Quincy, Alton, Danville, Bloomington, and while Springfield is not really a gateway to the area, it is important enough to warrant a sign.

Economic impact is \$258.6 million.

Much of the discussion concerned the study of the economic impact of ALNHA. Sarah Watson, Executive Director of Looking for Lincoln reported that the annual economic impact the presence of the National Heritage Area generates for Illinois is \$258.6 million!

Looking for Lincoln Book Series

Also under discussion was the Looking for Lincoln book series. There are currently two books completed: Lincoln's Springfield and Lincoln and Mormon Country. A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit is due out in October 2017. A fourth volume is planned for Fall 2018 featuring historic house museums.

Heather Wickens, Program Manager for Looking for Lincoln, discussed Looking for Lincoln participation in the activities at the Illinois State Fair. Looking for Lincoln has a prominent presence at the fair, occupying the entire front lawn of the Illinois Building, at the main entrance to the fairgrounds. There are musical events, craft demonstrations, children's games, and other activities.

After the meeting adjourned members of the council visited the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum.

- Paula Woods

A personal note: I joined the ALHNA Steering Council at the invitation of Sarah Watson in 2013. It has been an exciting and enlightening experience. Meeting with persons from across the area and learning about their experiences and exchanging ideas concerning the future of ALHNA has been valuable part of my experience with the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum and the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition.



Rustic coasters, "Welcome to our Cabin" sign, and Lincoln Log Cabin banks are in the Gift Shop.



Passport Stamp Program

Since the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area is affiliated with the National Park Service (NPS), sites in the area are eligible to participate in the Passport Stamp Program of the National Parks.

The Passport to Your National Parks program is a voluntary program in which nearly all the parks within the National Park Service (NPS) participate. There are 33 stamp locations in 22 Looking for Lincoln Communities, of which Beardstown is one.

The passport documents are similar to national passports, but, while there is a place for a picture, thank goodness none is required. Visitors can purchase official NPS Passports and record visits by having their passports stamped with the location of various sites throughout the NPS. These cancellation stamps record the name of the site and the date of the visit.

Possessors of the passports are enthusiastic about visiting as many national parks and historic sites as possible to get their stamps. One even made her companions on a business trip detour to a park previously unknown to her so that she could pay a short visit and have her passport stamped! Since the OLCM opened April 3, three visitors have been possessors of passports.

National Parks Passports are available for sale in the museum gift shop of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum where visitors may have their passports stamped. Cost is \$9.95, standard for the National Parks, and each passport includes a map of the national parks and a brief history of the National Park System.

For information about stamp sites in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, consult the Looking for Lincoln website: www.lookingforlincoln.com.

- Paula Woods

Thank You Ann Chelette

The Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission has accepted the resignation of Ann Chelette after nine years of service.

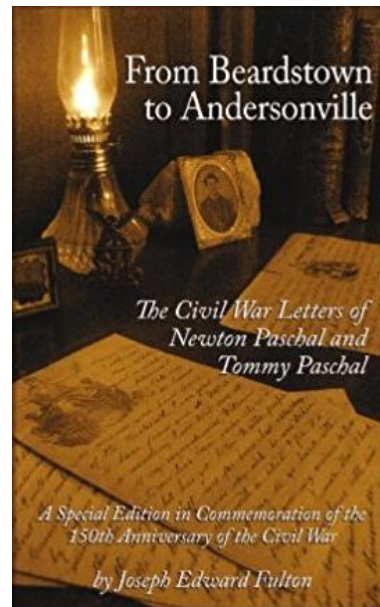
Ann has served as Treasurer of the commission as well as volunteering as guide in the museum. She has also served to educate and train other volunteers, as well as designing various materials for the museum and planning events.

Her letter of resignation reminds us of the mission of OLCM. "The Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum is the most treasured historical site in Beardstown and a fascinating passion of a growing number of citizens of our community, our United States, and other nations. They find much inside our doors to inform and excite them!"

We will regret Ann's absence from the commission and will no doubt call upon her expertise from time to time. Watch out, Ann!

- Paula Woods

A Good Book to Read



From Beardstown to Andersonville: The Civil War Letters of Newton Paschal and Tommy Paschal.

Two farm boys leave the safety of their home near Beardstown to serve the Union. Newton gave the ultimate sacrifice.

This book contains the unedited Civil War letters of the

two brothers as well as troop movements of the 114th and 47th Illinois regiments and detailed descriptions of the Battle of Brice's Cross Roads where Newton became a prisoner of war. Newton died in 1864 at Andersonville.

This special edition also includes love letters to Mary Paschal from Pvt. Thomas Cuppy and an addendum of short biographies of Beardstown area soldiers mentioned in the Paschal brothers' letters.

- Randal Reichert

We Thank Our 2017 Friends Donors

The adage, "Everyone Needs a Friend" could not be more true. These Friends annually help us maintain the history of Beardstown and the integrity of the Museum & Courtroom collection. Thank you.

2017-to-Date Friends Contributors

Mr. Lincoln's Friend: Annual Gift \$25- \$49

1. Ann Brewer
2. Tonie Beard Culves
3. Imogene Drawve**
4. Leslie Harris**
5. Warren Musch
6. Loren & Hilma Stover

Mr. Lincoln's Bar: Annual Gift \$50- \$99

1. Roy L. French

Mr. Lincoln's Barristers: Annual Gift \$100- \$249

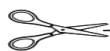
2. J. Steven Beckett
3. Brent Bordenkircher
Edward Jones Investments
4. Bob & Carol Burget
5. Ron Culves
6. Ross & Connie Foley
7. Melody Foley Glidden
8. Judge Carson & Carole Klitz
9. Betty J. Korsmeyer
10. Carnell Korsmeyer
11. Mrs. Irene Lamkin
12. Kevin & Chris Massie - IFP
13. Mr. & Mrs. L. Milton McClure
14. Judge Richard & Rachel Mills
15. O'Hara Auto Glass**
16. Randy & Sue Reichert
17. Dale Robertson
18. Richard & Laura Zillion
19. Chris & Megan Zimny**

Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff: Annual Gift \$250- \$499

20. Thomas & Elizabeth Prather
21. Paula M. Woods

Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters. Please react to the Newsletter, tell us what you would like to see in future editions, relate your experiences in the Beardstown area, pass along information you feel we should know, relate your impressions of our museum. We look forward to hearing from you.



Yes, I wish to become a Friend as follows:

- Mr. Lincoln's Friend: Annual Gift \$25-\$49
 Mr. Lincoln's Bar: Annual Gift \$50-\$99
 Mr. Lincoln's Barristers: Annual Gift \$100-\$249
 Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff: Annual Gift \$250-\$399
 Mr. L's Judges' Chambers Annual Gift \$500/+

My pledge is in the amount of \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

This is a _____ new membership.

This is a _____ renewal membership.

Please forward your payment (payable to **Friends of the Museum/Courtroom**) along with this information form to:

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

I would like to receive my newsletter in the form of

_____ a paper copy

_____ an e-mail copy

From our Gift Shop

Remember the Days of Lye Soap?



For those who would like to renew those memories of lye soap or who would like to have it for its various natural uses, the Gift Shop provides. It features both fresh lemon and cinnamon and oatmeal ingredients,

is gentle for shower, shampoo, dishes, clothes, acne, eczema, psoriasis, and poison ivy. Instructions explain its various uses and a history how the soap was made, which was often done in the old summer kitchen or back porch from ashes collected from the fireplaces and stored in a wood hopper where water was added to yield liquid lye (potassium hydroxide, or potash). This was added to meat fat from hog killings and frying meats then put in an iron pot outside and melted over an open fire, stirred for hours, then cut into bars after drying. The favorite type for making lye soap often coincided with butchering in the fall of the year.

Our featured display:

The Military Room

Since Memorial Day is coming soon, we would like to acquaint our readers with our Military Room. While we can only touch on a few highlights, this display goes a distance to familiarize our visitors with the contributions of our local soldiers.



This case contains a number of uniforms and equipment belonging to former Beardstown military. The oldest uniform belonged to Edwin Job Savage, a Private in Troop D, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. It and his S/A War medal were donated by Charles Huffman. A W.A.C. Officer's Uniform and cap worn by Roberta Savage Kloker represents the women's contributions. An Eisenhower Jacket from the Korean War was a donated by Dale Lovekamp, and a Field Jacket from the Korean War was donated by George Bell along with an issue slip detailing equipment issued to Bell, a trenching shovel, and an opium pipe (none issue). A Navy Uniform, cap, laced spats, and duffel bag belonged to W.B. Davis. Another WWI uniform, cap, and laced spats was worn by Alfred Dettmer.

Canteens and Helmets



Canteens and helmets represented the basic necessities for soldiers constantly on the move and the helmet also provided some degree of safety. WWII soldiers began using the huge surplus of sandy-colored canteens left from WWI. These canteens

represent those issued in the last several years of WWII. Over 22 million M1 steel helmets were manufactured by the end of WWII, complete with chin straps to prevent falling off when maneuvering quickly.

The Taylor Family Makes a Unique Contribution to the Armed Services



This grouping of pictures is dedicated to the memory of Mable and Lyle Taylor, Sr., Beardstown, who were parents of 10 sons who served in the US Armed Services.

Left to right, top to bottom: Keith D. O'Hara, PFC, '52-'58; Lyle O. Taylor, Jr., '54-'57; Raymond G. Taylor, GM/3, '54-'58; James A. Taylor, CSM E-9, Retired, '55-'75; Jerry J. Taylor, SP/4, '62-'69; Robert E. (Bobby) Taylor, SP/4, '63-'66; Floyd M. Taylor, SP/4, '65-'68; David E. Taylor, Sgt., '66-'69; Melvin L. (Buddy) Taylor, SP/4, '66-'68; Lloyd M. Taylor, SP/4, '66-'69. All served in the U.S. Army except for Raymond, who was in the U.S. Navy.

The Officer's Guide



The Officer's Guide is a ready reference on customs and correct procedures which pertain to Commissioned Officers of the U. S.

Colored photographs of insignia of all ranks and units of the armed services helped officers learn to navigate complex interactions.

The opening pages of the *Guide* contain "A Soldier's Creed" written by General Douglas MacArthur (1940): "the history of failure in war can almost be summed up in two words: Too Late. Too late in comprehending the deadly purpose of a potential enemy. Too late in realizing the mortal danger. Too late in preparedness: too late in uniting all possible forces for resistance: too late in standing with one's friends. Victory in war results from no mysterious alchemy or wizardry but depends entirely upon the concentration of superior force at the critical points of combat.

Antique Drum



Drums were an important part of early American warfare serving both as means of communication and rousing patriotic feelings during parades.

According to family lore, this drum was played in a Civil War band. Donated by Bill Schlueter.

Beardstown Woman Honors Local Soldiers Leaving for the Armed Services

It was the custom of Mrs. Ailene Stoker to treat each Beardstown man leaving for the service to dinner at her restaurant, the Bridge Café, located where Mile 88 Park now stands.

Many of this group had joined the Illinois National Guard, and a photograph of members of Company F of the 123rd Infantry, 44th Division of the Illinois National Guard is displayed in The Military Room.

The photograph of the unit was taken at Camp Cook, California, and was sent to Mrs. Stoker in appreciation of her kindness by members of Company F.

The framed photographs was donated to the museum by Dr. Shannon Creeley, DVM, granddaughter of Mrs. Stoker.

More Recent Uniforms



(left) The uniform of Robert C. Unland., son of Charles and Mary (Reller) Unland, served in South Korea along the demilitarized zone ('68 – '69) with the 2nd Infantry Division. His job was Fire Direction Computer with a 4.2" mortar platoon.

(center) Uniforms of Sgt. Matt Chipman, son of Don and Blanche Chipman, who was one of the first Americans serving with the NATO force to land in Bosnia in '95. A framed newspaper article relates the difficulty and confusion of rapid deployments and the hardships of notifying family of the move.

(right) West Point tunic, hat, and shoes from West Point Military Academy ('90) worn and donated by Lloyd M. (Trey) McClure IV. He is the son of L. Milton and Susie McClure. – Randal Reichert

Camp Butler

Located in Sangamon County near Riverton, IL, Camp Butler National Cemetery was the second largest military training camp in Illinois during the Civil War. States struggled to fulfill President Lincoln's request for soldiers, and those who enlisted were severely lacking fighting skills; hence the need for training camps.

General W. T. Sherman came to Springfield in 1861 where he met with Governor Richard Yates and State Treasurer, William Butler, who helped him find the ideal location with high ground for camping purposes and lower area for drills and training as well as room for a cemetery.

August 1861 saw the arrival of the first 5,000 trainees, and in February 1862, 2,000 Confederate prisoners arrived representing 11 southern states except for Florida. The prisoners constructed a stockade and a hospital. Barracks were poorly constructed, however, and primitive sanitation facilities, rations of no more than hard biscuits and a cup of thin coffee led to rapid deaths. Summer heat and severe winter cold added to the problems as well as smallpox, typhus, and pneumonia.

The American Veterans (AMVETS) donated a carillon as part of their living memorial program, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans erected a monument within the Confederate Section.

- Richard Zillion & Randal Reichert

American Flag Scarf



Ladies, here, just in time for Memorial Day and the 4th of July, is a scarf which will allow you the opportunity to express your patriotism as well as give you a variety of ways to dress up your wardrobe. These scarves are available for purchase in the OLCM Gift Shop.

Old Lincoln Courtroom
& Museum Commission
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The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

Commission

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Beardstown IL 62618

Email: pmw41@casscomm.com

Web: LincolnInBeardstown.org

From the Gift Shop

Almanac Courthouse Museum T-Shirts



The Almanac Courthouse Museum t-shirt is the latest in our t-shirt offerings. It features David Badger's drawing of the courthouse as well as the photograph of Lincoln taken wearing a white suit at the time of the Almanac trial. This is the only photo in existence of Lincoln wearing a white suit, and it was taken right here in Beardstown.