

Lincoln Newsletter

Labor Day Edition, September, 2018

Published by the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission

Meet Our New Exhibits



Winchester 1873 Sporting Rifle – “The Gun That Won the West”

Serial #400798B – Manufactured in 1891 with a walnut stock

The 1873 Winchester was the most popular lever-action center-fire rifle that Winchester produced. It was designed for the more powerful 44-40 cartridge, and was available in several different configurations (“Styles”).

In 1879 Winchester offered this gun in the .38-40, in 1882 the .32-20, and, beginning in 1884, in a .22 caliber. The 1873 Winchester was produced from 1873 through 1919, and during that 46-year period, over 720,000 guns were sold.

According to the Cody Firearms Museum of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, based on the serial number of this rifle, the manufacturer’s data indicates:

Type: Rifle Caliber: 32
Barrel Type: Octagon Trigger: Plain
Received in warehouse on November 23, 1891
Shipped from warehouse December 12, 1891 –
Order number 16759

The rifle gained new fame in 1950 with the release of the Universal-International film “Winchester ‘73” starring Jimmy Stewart, Shelly Winters, Dan Duryea and Stephen McNally.

Note: a misconception among some people believes the “B” in a serial number means a replacement barrel. Not True! In 1882, Winchester began adding “A’s” into 1885. Winchester then continued with the “B” until the end of production.

The rifle was donated by the family of Jack Harding, Manchester, Illinois. -Randy Reichert

9 Volumes of Beardstown Ladies’ Scrapbooks

Downsizing can be a problem, and such was the situation Susan Gross Conner, one of the many Friends of the Museum, faced recently. Among items too good to throw away were nine volumes of scrapbooks featuring the Beardstown Ladies from their founding until the death of Shirley Gross, one of the original Beardstown Ladies who kept these scrapbooks.

The answer to Susan was obvious – they belonged in the Old Lincoln Courtroom Museum, and the problem was solved. The scrapbooks, labeled in the chronological order in which they were compiled, now have a home in the Beardstown Ladies Room at the OLCM where they are readily available.

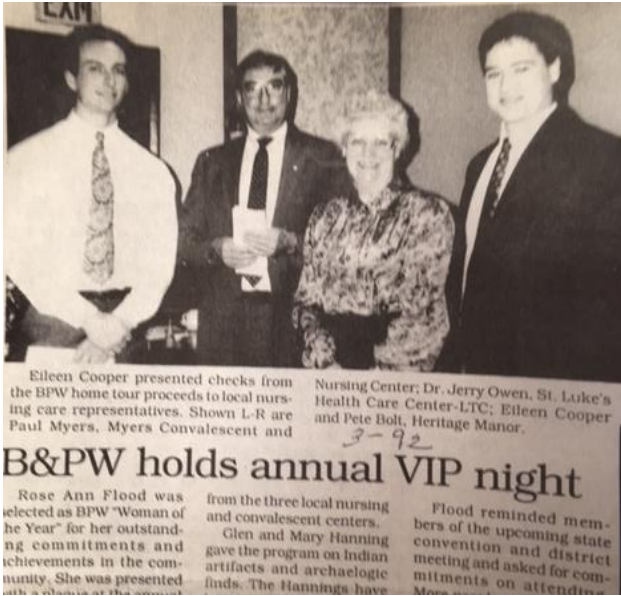


An early photograph of the Beardstown Ladies

When it comes to the world of investing, three words come to mind: overwhelming, intimidating, and scary. For us "regular Joes," the questions seem never-ending. Not so with this local group of women. For years they have been and are still in the national news. Come to the Museum and see their fascinating story.

- Randy Reichert

Business and Professional Women Scrapbooks



A case of "what to do with scrapbooks for an organization that no longer exists" was recently solved by Rose Ann Flood, the last person tasked with recording events for the Business and Professional Women's organization.

Like Susan Conner, Roseann thought of the OLCM and made the contact. These scrapbooks now have a home in the Beardstown Ladies Room and are available to anyone wishing to learn more about the activities of the BPW in Beardstown. - Randy Reichert

Doodlebug's Bell



The "Doodlebug" locomotive operated between Camp Ellis and London Mills transporting soldiers and workers. In addition to the passengers, the single car also carried eggs, milk, other perishables, and even

coffins. It stopped at each small station on its twice daily trips and was a lifeline for area people.

When that route ended, the locomotive was purchased by the Toledo, Peoria, and Western Railroad to pull weigh cars (cars that carried perishable items which were weighed) until retired and pieced out.

The bell was made of steel, not cast. It was turned on a lathe in a shop, and the lathe markings can still be seen. Originally the bell was rung with a pneumatic clapper, but that was then changed to a regular, free-swinging clapper so the bell could be used other than on a locomotive.

Doodlebug's bell can be seen in the Transportation room on the second floor of the Museum.



No, this is not a picture of the Doodlebug, although a bell can clearly be seen behind the first person standing on the train. This picture is one of several in the Transportation Room that, along with numerous items including sections of track, oil can, gauges, keys, signs, and train schedules help tell the story of the importance of the railroads to Beardstown's rich history.

- Randy Reichert (information/Dick Zillion)



Mabel Hines Buck is on the cover of the *Special Report on Health*, Feb. - Apr., 1989. The photo identification notes Mabel is 100 years old. The magazine can be found in the OLCM reading room.

OLCM Conducts Lincoln Cabin Quilt Raffle



Photo by Brian DeLoche

The Old Lincoln Museum and Courtroom Commissioners are conducting a quilt raffle to help raise funds for the continued period appropriate restoration of the OLCM foyer flooring.

The design of the 84"x 96" reproduction quilt alternates stars with checkerboards of double four-patches, two simple blocks such as a quilter would employ in the 1820's when piecing a quilt for a frontier cabin bed. Cass County seamstress Judy Armstrong pieced and bound the quilt.

While visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Barbara Brackman and Deb Rowden saw the exhibit of young Lincoln reading by the firelight while his father and others were asleep under a quilt nearby. They realized that the quilt used in the display was vintage, but not the correct vintage – it actually belonged to a later period as the fabric was too bright and commercially produced whereas the cabin quilt would most likely be made from handwoven fabrics.

These ladies then began research to find a period appropriate design and the correct fabrics and colors that came from common natural dyes such as indigo for rich blues, walnut for browns, and madder for cinnamon reds.

The fabrics common on the frontier were handwoven, such as hickory cloth or linsey-woolsey (a combination of linen and wool into a single fabric).

A maximum of 500 raffle tickets will be sold, each costing \$5.00. The quilt will be on display at various financial and retail businesses and tickets may be purchased there, the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Gift Shop, or at the Fall Fun Festival. The drawing will be held upon completion of ticket sales no later than December 10, 2018. - Randy Reichert

A Lincoln Rose

Last December a flower from the funeral bier of Abraham Lincoln was discovered in Lockport, a hundred and fifty years after his assassination.

A cardboard box containing a small clear sealed case enclosing a dried pale rose bud, along with some documents and medals belonging to James G. Elwood who had served in the Civil War, was found by Sandy Vasco, the president of the Will County Historical Society. Under the rose there was a folded note with the words "flower" and "bier" visible thru the case.



The actual rose is not photographed to prevent deterioration of the rose and no known photographs of the funeral bier with flowers exist.

Writing on the bottom of the box indicated that the rose was a gift presented to General I. M. Haynie a resident of Illinois, from General J. S. Todd, a cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln. General Haynie then gave the rose to Mrs. Elwood. Both generals had been present at Lincoln's deathbed.

Lincoln's body traveled to Springfield on a nine-car funeral train, and in ten cities along the route public viewings and memorial services were held. The train reached Springfield on May 3, 1865.

A news article in the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that flowers, including roses, rested on the funeral bier. Some flowers now belong to the Library of Congress, and the "Lockport rose," which has been verified as authentic by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, now rests securely in a safe at the Will County Historical Society in Joliet.

- Judy Hager Carlsen

***But he who dares not grasp the thorn
Should never crave the rose.***

- Anne Bronte

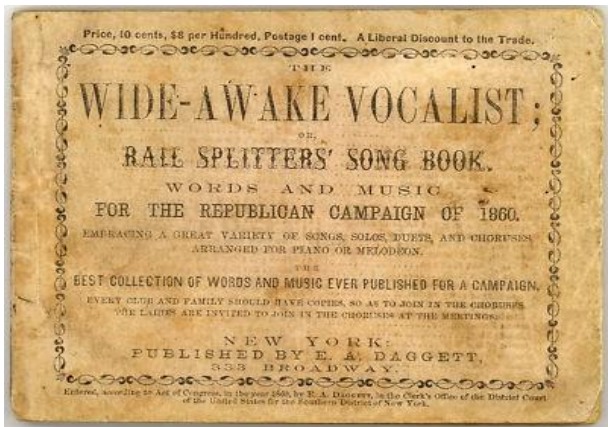
Wide Awakes Reenactment

In Springfield on August 4, a reenactment of the Wide Awakes parade of August 8, 1860, supporting Lincoln's candidacy for the presidency was sponsored by the Illinois Humanities as part of the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration.



The August 4 parade featured students from the Springfield Urban League's Brandon Summer Camp and various 4-H groups. The young people, dressed in caps and capes made by campers and 4-H members, marched in the parade following a big rolling ball and the 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Band, playing period instruments. The parade participants were accompanied by a good-sized crowd of spectators as the parade made its way from the Lincoln Home to the Old State Capitol.

At the Old State Capitol, panelists Samuel Wheeler, Illinois State Historian from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Anne Moseley, Director and Curator at the Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College; and Paul Durica of Illinois Humanities discussed the Wide Awakes' importance to the campaign of 1860. The band and Chris Vallillo presented a selection and discussion of important music of the 1860s.



Who were the Wide Awakes? They were young people who were attracted to the Republican Party and the change it represented. The first group was organized in Hartford, CT, by five store clerks. The organization was "formed out of people who didn't have a spot in politics," observed Moseley. Many of the members would vote for the first time in 1860.



Not much is known about any formal governing rules for the national organization, but chapters were organized by city. The Wide Awakes took on a paramilitary appearance, wearing caps and capes for meetings and marches.



Agents électoraux des partis politiques aux Etats-Unis. Agents du parti Lincoln.

Continued next page

Wide Awake Reenactment, continued

The August 8, 1860, march in Springfield drew about fifty groups from Springfield, Lincoln, Atlanta, Mt. Pulaski, Williamsville and Middletown as well as others, supposedly 75,000 people in all.

The importance of the social aspect of the groups was evidenced by invitations to “young ladies” to attend meetings. Although they could not vote, women were active participants, making “womanly” contributions.

The women’s auxiliary from Middletown showed their interest by making a banner that was draped over Lincoln as he closed the parade with remarks to his supporters. Lincoln was not a formal part of the parade but joined it as it progressed through Springfield.

The Wide Awakes may have faded from popular memory, but the August 4 event was fun. As Durica said: “It was nice to see a mix of people and people bringing a historical experience to life.”

- Paula Woods

OLCM Visitors

The summer at the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum has been busy. There have been nearly 300 visitors since late May! Of course, it has been feast-or-famine with some days, or even two or three in a row, when nary a soul crossed the threshold. Some days really made up for that; there were days when visitors numbered 19, 25, and 32.

Many visitors know a great deal about Lincoln and/or Beardstown, and others know little to nothing, but most want to learn. A number are new residents seeking to learn about the town’s history.

Some of the visitors were most interesting.

Three people from Springfield come every year to catch up on any changes we’ve made.

One man who had come in several years ago, waving an old plat map, wanting to know “What happened to the river?” [Sangamon] returned to see the museum. He had been searching for his great grandfather’s, (Wm. Vette), farm in the Sangamon Valley, expecting to find a meandering stream, but his map was earlier than the channelization of the Sangamon.

On the same day as the return of Mr. Vette, a middle school teacher from Joliet arrived to see the courtroom for real. He was a genuine Lincoln buff, having just attended a book discussion at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield!

Interest in the Jail

One day a man entered with the question “Where is the jail?” He had good reason for the request—he is the great grandson of Thomas Burns who built the jail.

Two families from Northern Illinois with children who were showing at the State Fair in the 4H competition came in Thursday before the Fair began. A teenage boy in one of the families is very knowledgeable about Lincoln, having been a presenter at several Lincoln conferences! (One of the mothers in the group bought tickets for the quilt raffle!)

Children have interests in history.

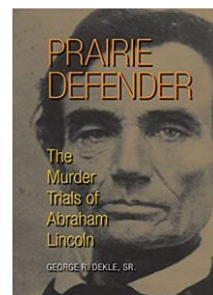
Perhaps the best visitors are children who are really interested in Lincoln. One girl only wanted to come to the museum for her birthday! One little boy about 8, had a good grasp of Lincoln’s life and importance. He was a “learner,” interested in just about everything and eager to learn more. (Can we clone him?)

A number of people see the sign on the highway and think that we are an African-American museum. There was even a call about the “Black Museum” from an out-of-state man who was disappointed that we are a Lincoln/Beardstown venue.

Visitor observations

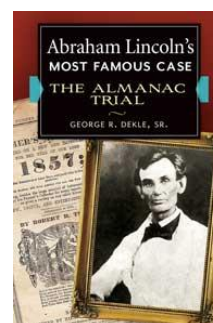
Visitors are surprised at the extent of the museum. “It is a lot larger than it looks like outside” is perhaps the remark made most often. We’ve heard “fantastic,” “well displayed” (thanks to Dottie Gholson and Melanie Schroll), “better than Springfield.” One observation made by persons returning to Beardstown after some time—often years: “So much has been done since the last time I was in here.” – Paula Woods

New Books In Gift Shop



Prairie Defender: The Murder Trials of Abraham Lincoln by George R. Dekle, Sr.

Dekle, a legal skills professor and former assistant state attorney, argues that Lincoln was a skilled murder defense attorney.



Abraham Lincoln’s Most Famous Case: The Almanac Trial by George R. Dekle, Sr.

The book discusses versions of how Lincoln won the Almanac trial and how the stories about the trial affected events in the years to come.

OLCM Hosts Local Summer Intern

This summer the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum hosted an intern from Illinois College, Nathan Moore. Illinois College supports summer internships for students who will be seniors in the fall.

Nathan inquired about an internship with OLCM because he is a Beardstown resident and a history major at IC. He was interested in the workings of a museum and in learning more about the history of his hometown and its connection to Lincoln. (He also has an old car and didn't want to intern far from home—lucky for us.)



Nathan proved to be an excellent addition to the museum, quickly learning the techniques of guiding tours and explaining about the OLCM's collections to visitors. Because of his abilities, he was able to "preside" over the museum by himself on

several occasions.

But perhaps the best evidence of his ability to learn quickly, to be a quick study, was his grasp of the process of cataloging donations. Whenever a donation comes in, we register a detailed description of the item as well as information about the donor(s). This can be complicated, depending on the item, involving measurements, condition of the item etc. After one demonstration, Nathan accurately registered a large number of donations that had come in this summer.

Having Nathan here was a rewarding experience. We hope that more Illinois College students will consider the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum as a place to intern.

- Paula Woods



This dish towel can also be made into a unique patriotic country pillow. Look for this unique item in the Gift Shop

Taste of Beardstown & Art in the Park



The OLCM participated in the Taste of Beardstown/ Art in the Park activities with the above street painting done by the High School Art Club. This appeared on the street directly in front of the OLCM complete with arrows directing viewers into the Museum.

In addition, the OLCM erected a tent in the park and sold Lincoln Cabin raffle tickets, OLCM T-shirts, and Lincoln Log Cabin banks.

A number of attendees took the opportunity to visit the OLCM and the Gift Shop.

- Randy Reichert

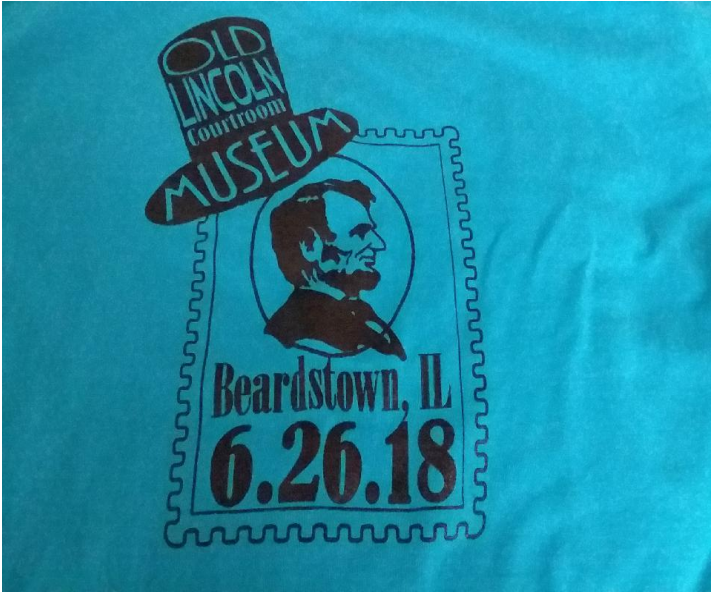
Look for us September 28, 29, & 30



2018 Beardstown Fall Fun Festival

6.26.18

Once In A Lifetime



What do a summer date and the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum have in common?

June 26, 2018, was Zip Code Day for Beardstown. Our zip code is 62618, remember? And 6.26.18 is the abbreviated date.

Spearheaded by Megan Zimny, the Main Street organization planned festivities celebrating Zip Code Day. Events were to have been in the city park, right across Third Street from the Courthouse, but rain threatened, and the celebration was moved to the Round House, which Alecia and John Crowe generously donated. Food trucks and bouncy houses, a watermelon eating contest for kids and entertainment of various sorts provided a fun event.

Main Street asked the Old Lincoln Courtroom to have the t-shirt concession (see design in the photo above). Megan Zimny and Ron Culves designed the shirt with help from Paula Woods and True Value. The shirts were a hit! We sold out!

Determining Zip Code Day can be confusing. The first three numbers of the zip code correspond to the calendar month and day; the day must be represented by two numbers, and the last two digits are the year.

Sorry, Bluff Springs, you will have to wait four years until 6.26.22. And Rushville will have to wait until 2081!

- Paula Woods

Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.

- Abraham Lincoln

ALNHA Activities

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA) Steering Council met in Petersburg on June 27, 2018.

This meeting was something of a “changing of the guard,” since it was the first meeting chaired by Justin Blandford, Curator of the Governor’s Mansion, who replaced Matthew Mittelstaedt, site director of the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.

Members of the council shared brief updates on community activities. Beardstown/OLCM’s contribution recounted the 6.26.18 festivities which had been held just the evening before. This discussion prompted some calculating of zipcode/date matches.

One of the interesting matters considered concerned the Looking for Lincoln Pollinator Partnership. The National Park Service is working with National Heritage Areas to promote conservation of pollinators (including bees, moths, butterflies, birds, bats, and others), and each community should identify those groups that are working on pollinator efforts.

Looking for Lincoln will host the meeting of National Heritage Areas meeting in October in Springfield.



ALNHA Illinois State Fair Participation

What has come to be a regular activity for Looking for Lincoln is its presence at the State Fair. Occupying the front lawn of the Illinois Building, LfL volunteers from the sites that make up ALNHA provide information about the various sites. In addition, they provide period games and activities for children as well as demonstrations of crafts from Lincoln’s day and musical and dramatic presentations.

This year volunteers handed out fans with Lincoln’s picture on them (irreverently known as “Abe on a stick”) which on the hot days of the fair were a definite hit!

- Paula Woods

Old Lincoln Courtroom
& Museum Commission
P.O. Box 381
Beardstown, IL 62622

Commissioners

Paula Woods, Chair

217-323-4514 - pmw41@casscomm.com

Chris Massie, Vice Chair

217-997-5971 – ifp@casscomm.com

Randy Reichert, Secretary

217-323-4597 – suereichert@casscomm.com

Ron Culves, Treasurer

217-323-5077 - rculves@aol.com

Nancy Bley Cowen

217-323-2575 – ncowen@casscomm.com

Dick Zillion

217-323-5571 - richardzillion@hotmail.com

The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

Commission

PO Box 381

Beardstown IL 62618

Email: pmw41@casscomm.com

Web: LincolnInBeardstown.org



COMING EVENTS

Look for the tent in front of the OLCM at the Fall Fun Festival, September 29 and 30.

We will be selling Lincoln Cabin Quilt raffle tickets, OLCM T-shirts Log Cabin banks and other items.

The OLCM and gift shop will also be open, and chances of encountering Mr. Lincoln himself are very high. In fact, he plans to be present in the courtroom to talk to those who want to meet him.

2018 Friends

Contributions to Date

Is your name on this list? Is it time to send your 2018 contribution or join the list of Friends?

Our Friends are truly the life-blood of the OLCM. Their annual contributions allow us to fund the preparation of exhibits, restore aging gifted items, and sponsor activities that help us meet our mission of preserving valuable history and educating others. We welcome new friends. See the form to the right.

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

1. Ann Brewer
2. Don & Blanche Chipman
3. Tonie Beard Culves

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

1. Ann Chelette
2. Dale & Wylla Lovekamp
3. Dr. R. Thomas Loyd
4. John & Melanie Schroll **
5. Mr. & Mrs. Luke A. Thomas **

Mr. Lincoln's Barristers: Annual Gift \$100.00 - \$249

1. Mr. & Mrs. H. O. Brownback
2. Bob & Carol Burget
3. Jack & Marti Fearneyhough **
4. Mr. & Mrs. Ross Foley
5. Dottie Gholson
6. Melody Foley Glidden
7. Mary A. Hardwick
8. Bettejane N. Herzberger. **
9. Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Massie – IFP
10. Carol E. Kinzer
11. Mr. & Mrs. Carson Klitz
12. Betty J. Korsmeyer
13. Carnell Korsmeyer
14. Mr. & Mrs. L. Milton McClure
15. David & Georgeanne Osmer
16. Mr. & Mrs. Randal Reichert
17. Dale Robertson
18. Evelyn M. Thomas
19. Wessel Law Firm, Timothy J. Wessel **
20. Tina Williamson **
21. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zillion

Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff: Annual Gift \$250.00 - \$499.00

1. Culves, Ron

**Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers:
Annual Gift \$500.00**

In Memory of
Mary Arlene Bley \$1,850.00
Thelma Hill Culves \$250.00
Portia Zillion \$180.00

**** new members in 2018**



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 OLCM**) 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

Credit Card Donations

Please charge my

___MC ___Visa ___AMEX ___Discover

Donation Amount \$ _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____/_____

Three-digit security code _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Phone # (____) _____

The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum is sponsoring the

Lincoln Cabin Reproduction Quilt Raffle

to raise funds for the period restoration of the OLCM foyer



Quilt Size: 84" x 96"

This pattern reflects the type of quilt that would have been used in the Lincoln cabin.

The design alternates stars with checkerboards of double four-patches.

Drawing before Christmas 2019

Tickets are available at the OLCM Gift Shop Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Or

Pay via mail or credit card And we will fill out the ticket stub And enter it in the drawing for you.



Yes, I wish to purchase the following number of raffle tickets for the Lincoln Cabin Reproduction Quilt. My information will be entered on each ticket purchased and entered in the drawing.

Number of tickets _____ x \$5.00 = _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please forward your payment (payable to Friends of OLCM) along with this information form to:

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

_____ I wish to pay by check

_____ I wish to pay by credit card (below)

Credit Card

Please charge my

__MC __Visa __AMEX __Discover

Raffle Ticket Amount \$ _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____/_____

Three-digit security code _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Phone # (____) _____

