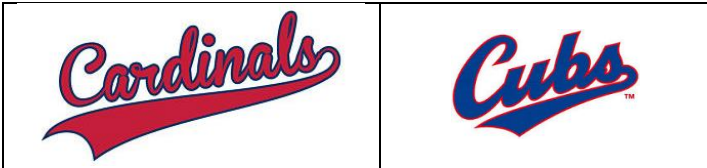


Lincoln Newsletter

Labor Day Edition, September, 2019

Published by the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission

Meet our New Exhibits



30 Years of Beardstown Day in St. Louis

The idea of Beardstown Day in St. Louis began in 1965 when Tom Penwarden was approached by Don Baugher, then President of the Chamber of Commerce. Don had received a letter from the St. Louis Cardinals organization inviting Beardstown to participate in a program that recognized towns and cities within the Cardinals' broadcast area.

Irony definitely played a part in this scenario as Tom Penwarden was and is an ardent Chicago Cubs fan while his wife is just as committed to the Dodger fan club. Still, Tom was interested, especially since this this last home game would be on a Sunday, and the Cards were playing the Cubs. Over the course of the 30 years that Beardstown participated, 18 of the 30 games featured a Cards/Cubs contest.



Tom arranged to meet Joe Cunningham during the Chesterfield, MO, Community Days and Jim Weimer's son, living in Edwardsville, IL, at the time, was involved as well. The deal was that Beardstown

would sell 500 tickets for the event. The group would meet in St. Louis prior to the game where they met for a program which lasted from 9:00 to noon during which they met with Cardinal notables such as Stan Musial and Bob Costas and were treated to a fine meal.



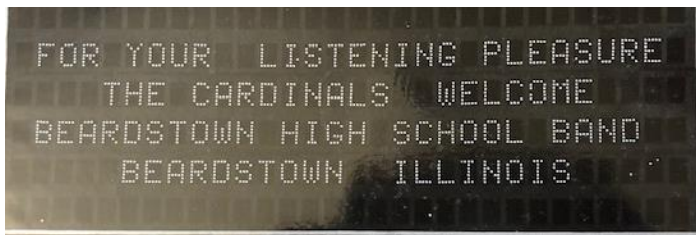
Participation in this program ultimately led to Joe Cunningham bringing the Cardinal Caravan and other groups of Cardinals to Beardstown where he was accompanied by Whitey Ford and Fredbird along with other Cardinal personnel. They presented a program for the Methodist Men's Club and received a fine home-cooked meal in return.



Tom treasures his many meetings with Joe Cunningham, now 88 years old. Joe had a long, colorful

career in baseball, and he was a famous player in his own right.

Joe told Tom that in his first two games as a baseball player, he hit three home runs. He laughingly noted "If it wasn't for Stan Musial, I might have gone somewhere." - continued



Beardstown fans have many impressive memories of Beardstown Day in St. Louis from 1965 – 1995, and many feel it would never have happened without the dedicated efforts of Tom Penwarden. Memorabilia of the 30 years are on display in the Beardstown Room.



Pre-game activities included members of the Beardstown fans with Fredbird and other St. Louis Cardinal celebrities. -Randy Reichert

Other Donations

The OLCM has received several interesting gifts recently.

Polly Pastre of Ranch Cucamonga, CA, sent an 1895 wedding announcement, a 1901 wedding invitation, a BHS commencement program from 1889, and a photocopy of a letter from Thomas Beard to his father Jedidiah, January 2, 1814. Ms. Pastre is a descendant of Jedidiah Beard.

Other Donations, continued

Margaret Wagner of Beardstown donated a tonette and book of instruction and melodies for the tonette. This musical instrument is on display in the Black Museum on the second floor.

Larry McGill of Beardstown donated a program for the Scholarship Recognition Banquet of 1966, several spring band concert programs, and “A Complete List of the Graduates of Beardstown High School, Beardstown, May 1921,” a pamphlet which lists dates of those who graduated and also when family members graduated.

Lois Fischer donated city directories from 1943 and 1947, another time-occupying item as well as photos of Dr. Theodore Hoffman, a friend of Lincoln, and of his house which stood where the old Masonic Temple is today at 6th and State.



A large pastel painting shows the original buildings of the Schultz Baujan mill. This is an interesting view and one that compliments the later picture of the mill hanging in the Beardstown Room.

This painting was done before the large elevator was built. It includes rail cars and locomotive, a truck and people.

A panel across the bottom reads “SCHULTZ-BAUJAN 7 COMPANY – BEARDSTOWN, ILL.” The Fischer family speculates this may have been a preliminary painting done for the purpose of showing what could be done and how the facility would look.

- Paula Wood

T.J. Wessel

Cass County Judge



Judge T.J. Wessel was sworn in as Cass County Circuit judge by Judge B. G. Hardwick on December 1, 2018. Elected November 6, 2018, Judge Wessel practiced law in Beardstown. He is a Cass County native.

In preparing remarks for this article to focus on the role of an attorney and judge in the Lincoln Courtroom, Judge Wessel noted, "The Honorable Diane Lagoski stated on November 30, 2018, 'I would like to introduce Timothy J. Wessel, Cass County Resident Circuit Judge.'" I had never heard greater words in my life. I had attained my greatest goal in my career. However, with this great honor come awesome responsibilities.

One responsibility is unique to the Cass County Judge. That responsibility is to continue holding court in the Lincoln Courtroom and maintain this public treasure. Cass County is quite distinctive in that over the last 50 years Cass County has only had three Resident Circuit Judges, namely the Honorable Fred Reither, the Honorable Bob Hardwick Jr. and now myself.

Judge Reither started the tradition of regularly holding court in Beardstown in the Lincoln courtroom in the 1960's. This tradition continued when Judge Reither retired in 2001 and Judge Hardwick was elected to Circuit Judge.

Judges usually have an exit/entrance interview with one another as one is retiring and one is starting their term. Judge Reither made Judge Hardwick promise that he would continue using the Lincoln Courtroom. Judge Hardwick upheld that promise. In November of

2018 I made that same promise to Judge Hardwick and I plan on upholding it.

The Lincoln Courtroom is the only circuit courtroom (also known as a trial courtroom) in the State of Illinois that is still in use today in which President Lincoln practiced. To my knowledge and research, the only courtrooms still in existence in which Mr. Lincoln practiced are: Beardstown, the 5th District Appellate Court in Mount Vernon, Illinois, Mt. Pulaski, Metamora, and the old Logan County Courtroom that used to be located in Lincoln, Illinois, but was purchased by Henry Ford and is now located at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan.

To any history buffs, you must make a trip to Greenfield Village. I have been there multiple times and it is worth the trip every time. One time a tour guide was talking about the old Logan County Courtroom and stated it was the only courtroom that is still in existence that Mr. Lincoln practiced law. I promptly corrected the tour guide. I believe I made Judge Reither and Judge Hardwick proud that day.

Every day I take the bench, I am in awe of the awesome role and responsibility a Circuit Judge assumes and the reverence the public has for that position. On days, just like today as I write this, that I hold court in the Lincoln Courtroom, that awe I spoke to is doubled. To be serving as a Circuit Judge in the same courtroom as President Lincoln practiced is incredible in its truest sense.

I invite each and every member of the public to come to the Lincoln Courtroom and watch court. As you sit there, picture yourself sitting in the gallery listening to Mr. Lincoln making his impassioned closing argument to the jury. We, the citizens of Cass County, have a historical gem in the Lincoln Courtroom and I promise, not only to Judge Reither and Judge Hardwick, but to the public that I will continue to promote this wonderful treasure.



- Paula Woods

1816, the Year Without a Summer Effects Are Felt World-Wide

Lately it seems that the unusually wet weather has dominated our lives and concerns about changes in climate continue to worry us. Changes in weather and climate have long played a role in history and the devastating weather event in 1816 is a striking example.

Also called “the poverty year” or “froze to death” year, 1816 was the year without a Summer across the northern hemisphere in both North America and Europe when global temperatures decreased by an average of over one-degree F. Heavy rainfall began in early Spring and by May and June cold weather set in, bringing killing frosts in July and August and even snowstorms. Rivers were frozen and crop failures occurred causing food shortages.



A series of volcanic eruptions believed to be the largest in 1300 years happened in 1815 in Indonesia. At Mt. Tambora tremendous clouds of ash and dust exploded into the atmosphere, blocking heat and light from the sun and causing a cooling effect throughout the Northern Hemisphere. In North America the Maritime Provinces of Canada and the New England states were especially affected. Some areas had reports of freezing every day in May. And from upstate New York came the report: “all was froze” and the hills “barren like winter.”



Cold weather not only was a hardship for people and animals but it drastically affected both food supply and firewood. Crop failures were aggravated by inadequate transportation networks with few roads and no railroads. Prices rose for wheat, grains, meat, vegetables, butter, milk, and flour. Consequently, thousands of farm families left New England and New York State and moved into the Northwest Territory in search of a more hospitable climate, richer soil, and better growing conditions.



As a result, the population of the territory of Indiana grew so quickly that it became a state in 1816. The same thing happened to the territory of Illinois two years later. And, by 1819, Thomas Beard had settled on the steep bank along the Illinois River, the site of Beardstown. “His hut was the westernmost outpost of civilization at this time,” although the town was not platted for another decade. Beard’s first cabin was probably located across the river from the foot of State Street. Unfortunately, he had the very unpleasant experience of discovering the following spring, that he had built his cabin on a den of snakes. Later, he built another home on the Beardstown side of the river. (The Rev. P.C. Croll, “Thomas Beard, the Pioneer and Founder of Beardstown, Illinois” from Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society, 1817).



There were other unusual cultural effects from the Year without a Summer. For example, in June of 1816 a group of European literary figures traveled to Switzerland for a holiday. The “incessant rainfall” caused them to stay indoors at their mountain villa and

to pass the time away they decided to have a contest to see who could write the scariest story. The winner? Mary Shelley, 18, who wrote *Frankenstein!* Another author, Lord Byron, wrote “A Fragment” which was the inspiration for his friend John Polidori to write “The Vampire,” the forerunner to Dracula. Wretched weather was their muse.

Another interesting effect appears in the paintings of the English artist J.M.W. Turner. Known for his depictions of gorgeous sunsets with yellow tinges, he painted the color of tephra which was released by the volcanic eruptions.

In addition, there was near famine in areas of Germany which meant no food for horses because people ate what little was available. This led an inventor named Karl Drais to find a new means of transport, the velocipede, a kind of two-wheeler, which led to the bicycle.

Very recently, 1816, the Year without a Summer, attracted the attention of N. K. Jemisin, the author of a new novel, *The Fifth Season*.

There is another interesting account of unusual weather in the early history of Sangamon Valley in a memoir of Dr. Charles Chandler the founder of Chandlerville. On Monday, December 20, 1836, there was a dramatic change in temperature that nearly claimed the life of Dr. Chandler.



The previous day (Sunday) was warm and rainy but conditions were about to change. About noon the next day Dr. Chandler was

returning home after making some professional calls. He was about eight miles away when there was a sudden change of temperature and a black cloud appeared in the northwest followed by piercing cold winds. Within twenty minutes puddles of water and mud in the road froze solid and by the time an hour had passed the temperature fell from 60 degrees to 20 below zero (his observation). Without warm clothing Dr. Chandler suffered severely, stopping four times at farmhouses along the way to warm himself. When at last he arrived home, he was so chilled he required help to dismount and get to the fireside.

The cold was so intense that many birds and animals, even horses and cattle perished. Other accounts told that the mud froze so quickly many pigs, sheep, and chickens had their feet caught and were held fast until frozen to death.

Dr. Chandler wrote (in an understatement) that December 20, 1836, was a “memorable” cold day.

- Judy Hager Carlsen

ALNHA



The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Association Steering Council met at the Macon County Museum of History in Decatur, July 24. 19 members, 4 guests, and 3 LFL staff members in attendance.

Sarah Watson, Executive Director of Looking for Lincoln shared information about “Lincoln, The Great Communicator,” a program by George Buss and Chris Vallillo discussing Lincoln communication prowess from the New Salem days through his presidency. Six presentations of this program were financed by a grant, which featured quotes from Lincoln and music from the era. Attendance at the 6 performances throughout the heritage area was approximately 450.

Looking for Lincoln is applying for an additional grant to bring the program to about a dozen more communities. [Note: I saw this program in its rough stages a year ago, when Buss and Vallillo were developing it, and it is GOOD, thought provoking as well as entertaining.]

“Lincoln the Great Communicator” is a Looking for Lincoln media endeavor encouraging people to explore the history of the heritage area. The idea is to encourage people to explore the history of Illinois within driving distance of their homes and to enjoy easy weekends or just one day adventures. Check Looking for Lincoln’s Facebook page to see information on this venture.

- Paula Woods



Looking for Lincoln was again a presence at the Illinois State Fair, August 9-18, 2019, occupying the front lawn of the Illinois Building. Activities for both children and adults included demonstrations of crafts, site displays, musical performances, and information.

Of course, Abe Lincoln was present, visiting with attendees and participating in activities. Photo ops with Mr. Lincoln were popular. The last day of the fair Mr. Lincoln participated in a race down the giant yellow slide with members of the state police. That activity was featured on TV news reports and photos have appeared in a number of newspapers.

- Paula Woods

Visitors Continue to Enjoy the Museum

During the summer months (including May) the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum hosted more than 500 visitors from 28 states and 4 foreign countries. In May the Beardstown Fourth Graders visited for their field trip as part of their study of Beardstown history.

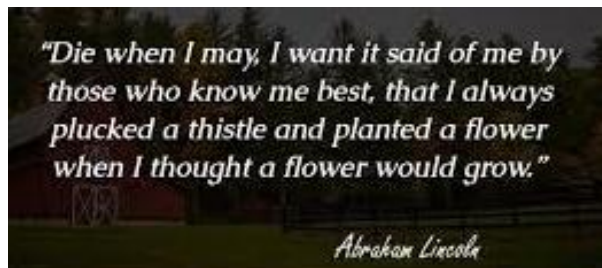


We also had several groups visit, notably the Daughters of the Union. And there have been several Loopers (people traveling by boat looping through the Great Lakes, down the Illinois and Mississippi, and then through the Gulf and Atlantic to their home ports) visit, while sailing around the eastern part of the U.S., stopping at Beardstown before tackling the LaGrange locks. The OLCM is featured in several Looper guide books as an interesting place to visit.

Many visitors are interested in Lincoln. Most know about the trial and are pleasantly surprised to learn about Lincoln's other connections: the voyage of the *Talisman*, the Black Hawk War, and the campaign speeches of Lincoln and Douglas. They are often surprised to learn that the courtroom is the only courtroom in which Lincoln practiced that is still and always has been an active courtroom.

Others are interested primarily in the Beardstown city part of the museum, the Halligan planes especially. The Black collection of arrowheads and other Indian artifacts never fails to impress visitors.

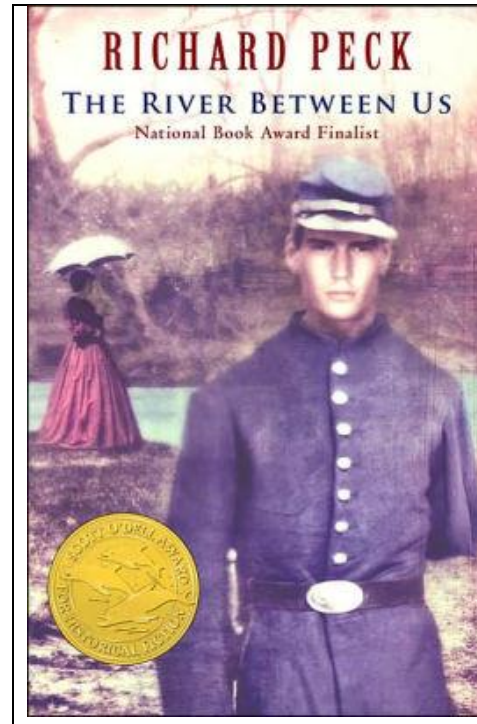
- Paula Woods



From our Gift Shop

The River Between Us

Written by Richard Peck, Copyright 2003
Published by Penguin Press division of Random House Publishing



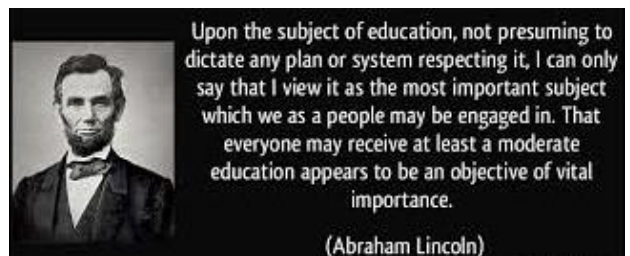
This book is a National book Award Finalist and won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. *The River Between Us* is a story set in southern Illinois (little Egypt) near the small town of Grand Tower during the Civil War. A Saint Louis

doctor takes a vacation and travels with his sons to the area where he grew up in order to visit their grandparents and other family members.

The reader is then taken back in time to the youth of the grandparents when steamboats traveled the Mississippi River. Two young women from New Orleans arrive by steamboat and become a part of the community during the war years. They bring new customs and ideas to the area in southern Illinois where many people support the Confederacy and its ideals. Obviously accustomed to money the new girls are the center of attention. War, politics, and romance are entwined throughout the book. Local color and history combine to give the reader a look at how real people had to deal with the times in which they lived.

It is an interesting book, easy to read and follow, and has a surprise ending that you won't forget.

- Kathy Haut



Roy Roberts Authors *The Life of Thomas Beard*



The Life of Thomas Beard 1794-1849

*Including the History
of the Area Before
Beard's Arrival*

While most 97-year-olds have retired and loaf their days away in a variety of ways, Roy Roberts, formerly a local farmer and Director of the Beardstown Park District, writes weekly articles for the *Daily-Illinoisian Star*, and recently finished his book about the life of the founder of Beardstown, Thomas Beard.

Just a glance over the Table of Contents reveals an abundance of research that was necessary to pull all the parts of Beard and his contemporaries' lives together to portray the daily events and the various forces that forged the new frontier.

Readers find it easy to assign a number of different occupations to Thomas Beard, including explorer, trader, ferry owner/operator, occasional representative for a government agency, and banker. Simultaneously he was very involved in the community activities and was an excellent organizer and leader.

OLCM Hosts Autograph Event



Roy Roberts autographs a book for Brian DeLoche.

June 19, 2019, the OLCM hosted an autograph day for Roy Roberts to personally sign books for those who wished to have an autographed first edition. Enconced in the Beard Room of the Museum, Roy met with each purchaser and enjoyed talking with each.

In addition to signing the books, the author demonstrated his generosity and support for the OLCM by donating the proceeds for the first 100 copies to the Museum's Periodic Restoration Fund. Thank you, Roy.

And for you readers, another book is already in progress. This one features the letters Roy wrote to Christine while he was serving in the armed services. In his capacity as official photographer for his unit, Roy photographed his unit's progress throughout the war, and the book is well illustrated with these pictures.

The text also contains Roy's observations of the daily activity and especially the soldiers' feelings. Because of morale and security, many thoughts and feelings were not always contained in letters and other writings. Now that the war is history, the true thoughts can be expressed.

Copies of the Thomas Beard book remain on sale in the Museum's Gift Shop at the reasonable price of \$15.00.

- Randy Reichert

Our New Commissioner Keith Rice



Keith Rice has been confirmed by the Beardstown City Council as the newest member of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission.

Mr. Rice is a Beardstown artist and business owner

who has been a teacher and is currently a potter whose knowledge of business practices and art will be valuable to the financial and display aspects of the Museum.

Because of his interests in Illinois history, early Illinois architecture, pottery and antiques, Mr. Rice believes that the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum gives a visual history of Beardstown to visitors.

- Paula Woods

Old Lincoln Courtroom
& Museum Commission
P.O. Box 381
Beardstown, IL 62618

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The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

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*Let's all come together
right now!*

*Join the Old Lincoln
Courtroom and Museum
as we celebrate the
festive weekend.*

*Take a few minutes to stop in
and see our new exhibits and
explore the Gift Shop*

2019 Friends Contributions to Date

The adage, ‘Everyone Needs a Friend’ could not be truer. These Friends annually help us maintain the history of Beardstown and the integrity of the Museum & Courtroom collection. **Have you sent your 2019 membership renewal?** Thank you.

Mr. Lincoln’s Friend:

Annual Gift \$25.00 - \$49.00

1. Claude L. Alber
2. Ann Brewer
3. Doris McKenzie
4. Jo. D. Roley
5. Vredenburg Lumber Company
6. Justin & Lyndsey Wellenkamp**

Mr. Lincoln’s Bar:

Annual Gift \$50.00 - \$99.00

1. Glenn & Pat Hankins
2. Carl J. Hood
3. Dale & Wyllia Lovekamp
4. Dr. R. Thomas Loyd
5. Warren Musch
6. John & Melanie Schroll
7. Virginia Thompson

Mr. Lincoln’s Barristers:

Annual Gift \$100.00 - \$249

1. John Ashcraft
2. Alta Aten**
3. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Brannan
4. Bob & Carol Burget
5. Pat & Kelly Cagle
6. Roger & Judy Carlsen
7. Ann Chelette
8. Stephen & Abbie Colwell
Colwell Memorial Home**
9. Susan Conner
10. Nancy Cowen
11. Molly & Steve Daniel
12. John & Mita Elam**
13. Jack & Marti Fearneyhough
14. Ross & Connie Foley
15. Dottie Gholson
16. Melody Foley Glidden
17. Mary A. Hardwick
18. Bettejane Herzberger
19. Carol E. Kinzer
20. Mr. & Mrs. Carson Klitz
21. Betty Kormeyer
22. Carnell Kormeyer
23. Dorothy Lamb
24. Irene Lamkin
25. Kevin & Chris Massie / IFP
26. Mr. and Mrs. L. Milton McClure
27. Judge Richard & Rachel Mills
28. Leigh & Norma Morris
29. Joyce Potts
30. Randy & Sue Reichert
31. Dale Lee Robertson

32. Linda C. Snow**

33. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zillion

Mr. Lincoln’s Bailiff:

Annual Gift \$250.00 - \$499.00

1. RuthAnne & Michael Arnold
2. Tom & Ann Prather

Mr. Lincoln’s Judges Chambers:

Annual Gift \$500.00

** new members in 2019

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bonnie Culves - \$315.00

Karmen R. Kruse, Sharon J. Baker, John & Rosemary Holler, Richard & Laura Zillion, Kenneth & Doris Pilger, Cathy Gibson, Carol McCombs & Family, Paula M. Woods, Anne Brewer

In Memory of David Parish - \$40.00

Ross & Connie Foley, Randy & Sue Reichert

In Memory of Coila Kays - \$180.00

Randy & Sue Reichert, Carole Brannan, Auxiliary VFW Post 1239, Judy Guernsey, Richard & Laura Zillion
Ruth Ann Brown, Carol McCombs

In Memory of Don Elam – \$75.00

Randy & Sue Reichert, Nancy Cowen

In Memory of L. Milton McClure - \$150.00

Judy & Roger Carlsen, Jean & Dick Piehler, Donna & Bob Hickernell; Elaine and Jon Taylor, Paula Woods

175th Anniversary Fundraiser

Since 2019 is the 175th anniversary/birthday of the courthouse, the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum is having a fundraiser to celebrate.

The overall goal is a step-by-step plan to convert the interior to a more period-appropriate look. So far we’ve replaced the carpet in the foyer with plank flooring. This follows replacement of fluorescent lights in the foyer with chandelier type lamps and addition of shutters to the interior gift shop windows to help with climate control and overall ambiance.

As a gimmick we are asking for donations of 175: \$1.75 (appropriate for children); \$17.50 for most of us; \$175.00 if you had an Income Tax refund; \$1,750.00 if you had a really good refund; \$17,500.00 when you win the lottery.
– Paula Woods

175th Anniversary Fund - \$2,427.50

Melody Foley-Glidden, Paula Woods, Mr. and Mrs. L. Milton McClure, Bob & Carol Burget, Roger and Judy Carlsen, Jack & Marti Fearneyhough, Mary Hardwick, Marsha Hutson

To make a contribution use the form on the reverse of this page. Thank 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 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 # (____) _____



Yes, I wish to give a Memorial or donate to the 175th Anniversary Fund as follows:

The amount of the memorial is \$ _____.
Amount - 175th Anniversary Fund \$ _____.

The donation is in the memory of

The donation is made by

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

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

Credit Card Donations

Please charge my

MC Visa AMEX Discover

Donation Amount \$ _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ / _____

Three-digit security code _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Phone # (____) _____

Enjoy our Flower Boxes

Commissioner Chris Massie again brings her horticultural expertise to the exterior of the OLCM by planting these old wooden flower boxes with vegetation that evokes the nostalgia of the plains look from the 1800's. Perhaps Abraham Lincoln approves as well and helped send abundant rains to help them thrive. Thanks, Chris.



