THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

THE BROADSIDE

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Whether one agrees with the practice or not, poking fun of political figures is endemic to Western society and has been part of American tradition for a long time. With the upcoming presidential election and the ensuing mud slinging between candidates and their respective parties, we are reminded of the rampant criticism Abraham Lincoln faced as 16th President. Lincoln's presidency coincided with the introduction of illustrations into popular reading materials—newspapers and magazines and as a result, insulting and exaggerated images of Lincoln appeared in both domestic and foreign newspapers and periodicals, such as *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Punch*. Everything was fair game to 19th century illustrators when it came to Abraham Lincoln. They capitalized on and caricatured his frontier roots, his habitual joke telling, his character, his physical image, and his leadership ability. The scornful cartoons that appear in the Whispering Gallery shock ALPLM visitors who equate Lincoln with honesty and integrity. Our favorite president has not always been so favored.

Director's Corner

Santa Claus as portrayed in many different cultures and ages will visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum from November 3, 2012 through January 4, 2013.

Joyce Schmale, a resident of Mahomet and a long time friend of the Museum, offered to loan a portion of her collection of more than 30 Santa Claus figures to the Museum for display during the Christmas season. The Schmales began to collect Santa Claus figures when she and her husband were first married. They discovered they both loved Christmas with its joyous spirit and beauty and felt that Santa embodied the spirit of giving to all especially those in need. "At first we pretended there was a Santa" she said "and then we discovered in a way there really was"!

This summer, Joyce and her husband, Dr. John Schmale, brought five Santas to the Museum for the exhibit team to see. Among the figures was the familiar Thomas Nast Santa dating back to 1863, and a medieval version of Sinterklaas dressed as a bishop with a shepherd's staff. Mike Casey and John Malinak, members of the exhibit team, immediately began to envision a display that would include the famous Depression Era Coca Cola Santa Claus- five feet tall, jolly and round, bearded with a joyous face. With families in need during the 1930s his joyous appearance seemed to promise a brighter future. Actually, he may have come into being through a brilliant advertising ploy - Coca Cola needed to sell what was perceived as a summer drink in the winter, and who better than Santa to offer a tantalizing Coke?

At the Museum our education and theatre staff and some volunteers joined in the discussion about the potential Santa Claus exhibit. Phil Funkenbusch imagined an afternoon or evening of selected readings including the familiar Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as well as lesser-known international fare. We know he will provide a spectacular event! Complementing this exhibit Lee Shafer, a retired IHPA employee, has grown a white beard and will portray the 19th century Santa drawn by cartoonist Thomas Nast, widely believed to be the model for all successive images of Santa Claus. Lee will talk with children about their wishes for the holiday season. A detailed schedule will soon be announced

I was interested in the home-grown stories about sidewalk Santas who accompany the Salvation Army bell ringers. They ask for our coins to send to needy children throughout the nation. "What if I were Santa?" I thought. What would I wish for every boy and girl in Springfield, throughout our state, and beyond? What if school age children and youth could join adults and become Santa – what would they wish for? I would wish for two loving parents for each child. No matter how tired from an overly hectic and backbreaking schedule I would want parents to read with their children nearly every night and to help their children with homework.

Thus the idea of an essay contest was born. Working with our excellent volunteers who will act as judges, we have organized an essay contest for grades five through high school with great cash prizes for winning entries. The winners' essays will be displayed at the Presidential Library and on our social media sites. We hope for many entries.

I recognize that Santa may not be able to provide for each child. Hillary Clinton some time ago drew upon the proverb that it takes a village to raise a child. Caring for the next generation is something that Museums take as part of our educational mission. In years to come, we will continue to offer great and memorable field trips, special opportunities for families to visit the Museum and Library, innovative curricula for dedicated teachers, and youth internships that will entice them to join with us in museum work. Additionally working with library schools, we are exploring new ways to tempt youth to visit museums in person and on-line. We are learning from students who have wonderful ideas for interesting historical collections and exhibits. Throughout the Museum and Library, from Mrs. Lincoln's Attic through the Treasures Gallery, we will continue to imagine new ways to involve families in our great new productions now and in the future.

ALPLM Department Spotlight: Conservation Lab

With a Master degree in Library Science, Bonnie Parr was fresh out of grad school when she applied for the position of Library Conservator at the Illinois State Historical Library when it became a division of the newly created Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) in 1985. Hired to create an in-house conservation lab, Bonnie's first course of action was to outfit the new laboratory, determine the preservation/conservation needs of individual departments and establish a work flow.

Bonnie's interest in conservation was piqued when she enrolled in an experimental course in the preservation of library materials offered at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. Bonnie specializes in the conservation treatment of documents and books and has continually worked to improve her conservation techniques by attending workshops, seminars and furthering her professional training. A member of the American Institute for Conservation and the Guild of Book Workers, Bonnie has a large network of colleagues in Illinois and around the country she can call upon when she needs information, solutions to problems, and assistance.

A document waiting conservation

Currently, Bonnie manages the in-house conservation treatment laboratory for the collections of the ALPLM. Bonnie's lab, which she designed, is a light infused space on the third floor of the Presidential Library envied by many of her fellow conservators. Here, she works on library collection materials needing conservation treatment and prepares items for ALPLM exhibits in consultation with exhibit staff. She also educates staff and interns in techniques for the conservation of documents and books including cleaning methods, repairs, rebinding, deacidification, encapsulation, and box making.

Tools of the trade

Both low tech and high tech supplies and tools can be found in the ALPLM conservation lab, from book presses and sewing frames (the designs for which haven't changed in six centuries) to an ultra-sonic welder for encapsulating documents. Once a week, Bonnie inspects the stack areas of the Presidential Library where she monitors the temperature and humidity of the storage environment by utilizing a variety of tools including hygrothermographs (low tech chart recorders) and dataloggers (high tech digital recorders).

The work load of the Conservation Lab is remarkable. Usually, Bonnie is a department of one, but last fiscal year with the assistance of nine interns, volunteers, and visiting curators, over 2100 conservation treatments were undertaken and the staff treated and mounted an additional 444 items that were placed in exhibits or loaned to other institutions. Recently, Bonnie finished conservation treatment on nine Lincoln Collection documents that were loaned to the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles where a "Creating the United States" exhibit sponsored by the Library of Congress is being mounted.

Bonnie assists and advises the public about the preservation of historical materials through her participation in workshops, webinars, and statewide preservation activities. The following are online resources that Bonnie recommends for those interested in learning more about preservation issues:

Illinois Collections Preservation Network (ICPN) http://icpn.museum.state.il.us/

Conservation Online - http://cool.conservation-us.org/

Connecting to Collections - http://www.connectingtocollections.org/about/

American Institute for Conservation - www.conservation-us.org

Recent ALPLM Retirements

Linda Bee, Volunteer Service Coordinator

Two weeks after Linda Bee retired, I found her at the ALPLM Union Station Visitor Center where she was hard at work greeting visitors and answering their questions. When one has devoted as many years to historic sites as Linda has, it is hard to stay away.

Linda began her career as a seasonal historic tour guide in 1975 at the Old State Capitol, which at the time was administered by the Illinois State Historical Library. While visiting a friend who was employed at the OSC Linda thought to herself, "I can do this"—and she did for 14 years. Over the next 36 years, Linda worked at the Lincoln Tomb (five years), the Dana-Thomas House (11 years), and came back to the Historical Library, now the ALPLM in 2004.

A relaxing retirement of traveling, hunting, fishing, gardening, and canning, all things she loves to do, may not be in store for Linda, who owns a 200 acre farm in Missouri, 23 acres locally, and a bevy of animals. Rather than begging for a dog or a cat, as most kids do, Linda's dreams were more exotic—she wanted reindeer, buffalo, and alligators. Part of her dream came true when she began raising elk and buffalo in 2000. Sad to say, she is still waiting for the alligator. Currently she has 15 head of Black-Angus cattle, many in calf.

Working with community organizations also keep Linda hopping including her service on the board of the Sangamon County Historical Society, the board for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for Sangamon County through Senior Services of Central Illinois, and a trustee for the Loami Township.

"Enjoy people and don't have bad days," are two important pieces of advice Linda offers to young people just beginning their careers. As Volunteer Service Coordinator, Linda truly enjoyed people and was instrumental in developing the ALPLM volunteer program, now numbering 470, into one of the largest in central Illinois.

Randy Wiseman, Director of Education

When asked what plans she had for retirement Randy Wiseman responded, "To do what I want whenever I want to." Those plans include traveling, visiting her 12 grandchildren scattered throughout Illinois, Georgia, and Tennessee; and brushing up on her organ playing skills by taking additional lessons.

Randy, who taught elementary school in southern Illinois before moving to Springfield with her family in 1989, came to the ALPLM from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, where she coordinated teacher training and developed curriculum materials. Additionally, she facilitated state-wide teacher workshops on environmental education for DNR, including the multi-disciplinary award winning Project Learning Tree.

The opportunity to work in a museum environment with top notch historians is what drew Randy to the ALPLM in 2006. As Director of Education, Randy was instrumental in developing teacher resources and programming including classroom curriculum and educator workshops. The best part of the job, according to Randy, was being able to work with teachers.

Through Randy's encouragement Library staff partnered with Museum staff to develop educational outreach projects. Randy made a point of finding out what interests and expertise Library staff had and in her convincing way, she drew them into Classroom Connections, Teaching American History Grants, and the Horace Mann-Abraham Lincoln Fellowship. All of the ALPLM staff were enriched because of Randy's support. Her efforts to make the "bridge" between the Library and the Museum more than just a walkway were a success and transformed the cooperation between the North and South sides of Sixth Street.

Retirements cont'd: Dennis Suttles, Genealogical Librarian

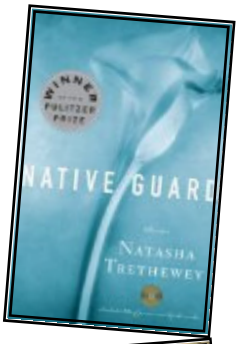
After teaching at elementary schools in Griggsville and Winchester, Illinois, Dennis Suttles joined the staff of the Illinois State Historical Library in 1988, working as Assistant to the Head Cataloger through early 1989 and then moving to the Manuscripts Department. He joined the staff of the Lincoln Legal Papers in 1990, first as a research associate and then as assistant editor, traveling to courthouses in the Old Eighth Judicial Circuit to locate and document the law practice of Abraham Lincoln. Dennis joined the Presidential Library staff as Genealogical Librarian in 2004. Drawing upon his interest and research in local history, and having researched his own family, Dennis became the Genealogical Librarian—a perfect professional match. Dennis also worked nights and weekends as a part time reference librarian, sharing his expertise with students at Lincoln Land Community College. As the Genealogical Librarian, he served as the liaison to the Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) and hosted and participated in their quarterly meetings; this relationship resulted in the Society's commitment to enhancing and enriching the Library's genealogical collection with significant acquisitions. Dennis loves both Lincoln history and Illinois history as demonstrated by the publication of a chapter in the Papers of Abraham Lincoln about the case of the steamboat "Effie Afton" and his curatorial role in the impressive exhibit, "The Cherry Mine Disaster." Dennis' knowledge of the Library collection, his love of Lincoln research, and his enthusiastic and welcoming demeanor toward library users will be sorely missed. We wish you all the best in retirement, Dennis.

History Detective Redux

In the last Broadside newsletter, we gave advance notice that season 10 of the PBS-TV "History Detective" series would feature a purported original Lincoln document. The document was a soldiers' discharge, written on a scrap of paper and was found in the collection of the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum in Royal Oak, Michigan. Much of the filming took place in the ALPLM conservation lab where Dr. James Cornelius authenticated the document as having an original signature by A. Lincoln. To watch the entire segment visit: http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/investigation/lincoln-oath/

U.S. Poet Laureate to Appear in February

Credit: Joel Benjamin



Mark your calendars for **February 7, 2013** when Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Natasha Trethewey, who was recently named 2012-2013 United States Poet Laureate, will appear at the ALPLM. Trethewey is Professor of English and Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for her third collection of poetry, *Native Guard*, her poems explore a multitude of themes including cultural memory, historical erasure, and displacement. Among her many honors are a Guggenheim fellowship, the Grolier Poetry Prize, and a Pushcart Prize. Her work has been widely published and anthologized, appearing in *The New Young American Poets*, *Gioia*, *Kennedy's Introduction to Literature* and *Introduction to Poetry*, *Oxford Anthology of African American Poetry*, and *The Best American Poetry.*

Trethewey is also the author of *Domestic Work*, *Bellocq's Ophelia*, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast,* and her latest poetry collection, *Thrall.* This promises to be a very exciting evening and one many of us are looking forward to.

ALPLM Bustles with Summer Entertainment

Summer is a busy time at the ALPLM. Not only does it bring tourists from all over the globe, but the Museum's Shows Division has also been busy with performances as well. Grants from History Comes Alive!, the Susan Cook House Trust, administered by JP Morgan Chase as trustee, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation enhance the day-to-day atmosphere of the Museum with performances. These have included concerts each Thursday and Friday by The Lincoln Troubadours and the much anticipated appearance of President Lincoln in the White House kitchen each week. The 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Band from Springfield and the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band from Bloomington are outstanding Civil War bands who have serenaded us with their brass band compositions, and the 97th Regimental String Band trio from Largo, Florida performed traditional American songs in authentic period costumes.

Throughout the summer numerous talented musicians entertained and educated visitors with their renditions of 19th century music including Chicagoan Phil Passen, who played the hammered dulcimer; Barry Cloyd, who portrayed Joseph Henry Monroe, one of the youngest boys to enlist in *The Drummer Boy of Shiloh*; Chris Vallillo who performs regularly at the ALPLM and illustrated Lincoln's life through song; Mike Anderson, who played period instruments such as the banjo, mountain dulcimer, jawharp, and bones; The Prairie Aires; Dale C. Evans and Steve Staley who performed period music; and Maryland's Judy Cook who sang ballads and read excerpts of letters written by her great, great-grandparents while encouraging her audience to participate in the chorus.

Louis May Alcott was portrayed by local actor, Aasne Vigesaa, who engaged visitors in the new Civil War exhibit, *To Kill and to Heal* with Alcott's real life experiences as a Civil War nurse. Seasonal ALPLM actor, Cory Blissett and Illinois College intern, Anna Booher, captured the attention of visitors with their portrayals of theater patrons the night of Lincoln's assassination in Ford's Theatre gallery. Additionally, local actor, Karl Bockemeier, performed as Walt Whitman, speaking about his experiences in Civil War Washington. And plans are underway to reprise the popular one-act play, *One Destiny,* which has been on hiatus since the fall of 2011.

Preparations are underway to mount a major production by James Still, *The Heavens Are Hung in Black* from **November 8-11** and **15-18** in the Union Theatre. The play, originally commissioned by Ford's Theatre to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, takes place between the death of Lincoln's son Willie and the delivery of the Emancipation Proclamation. Richard "Fritz" Klein will portray Lincoln in this emotional, large-cast production.

With such a hectic summer schedule Phil Funkenbusch, Director of Theaters & Shows Division and Ed MacMurdo, Attractions Coordinator, also found time to produce and perform in New Salem's Theater in the Park production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Hopefully you had the opportunity to see it.

14th Annual Illinois History Conference

What do 20th Century Political Stories, Poets, Ballads and Picture Books, Illinois Baseball Stories, Abraham Lincoln, African American Experiences in 19th Century Illinois, Laws, Courts and Lawyers, Gilded Age Stories, and Illinois Women who Built with Frank Lloyd Wright all have in common? They represent the variety of sessions being offered at the 14th Annual Illinois History Conference, the state's largest meeting devoted to the history of the Prairie State. Sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, the history conference will be held on **October 11-12, 2012** at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

TEACHERS! This conference is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education for CPDU.

To download a program visit: http://www.state.il.us/HPA/PDF/conference12.pdf

Law in Lincoln's America Book Discussion

Stacy Pratt McDermott, Assistant Director and Associate Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and author of *The Jury in Lincoln's America*, will hold a book discussion and signing Thursday, **September 20** at 7 p.m. in Union Theater at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations should be made by calling 217-558-8934. Copies of McDermott's book will be for sale that evening. Organized into chapters entitled: Jury Law and Tradition in the Antebellum Midwest; the Composition of Juries in Sangamon County, Illinois 1830-1860; the Work of Jurors in the Antebellum Courtroom; and the Struggle for Legal Power in Lincoln's America, Stacy's book is a community study that explores how central the law was during the formative era in American law.

Generous Donors Help with Upgrades to Mrs. Lincoln's Attic

One of the most popular attractions for families visiting the ALPLM is Mrs. Lincoln's Attic. Here, children and grownups alike can see how they "measure up" to the Lincoln family; explore, in miniature scale, the only home Lincoln ever owned; dress in child-sized period costumes; "prepare" meals in a small rustic kitchen; and play with period toys.

Each year, approximately 50% of Museum visitors play and learn in this hands-on attraction, and that means a lot of wear-and-tear. Two recent donations made possible much-needed upgrades to the Attic. A gift from lead donors Robert and Alice Campbell of Los Angeles, California, provided funds for a new table and chairs and carpet installation expenses. Staff Carpet of Springfield, Illinois, made an in-kind donation to replace the well-worn carpet that has served the space since the Museum opened in April 2005. We thank them both for their generosity.

Best Selling Author Appears at ALPLM

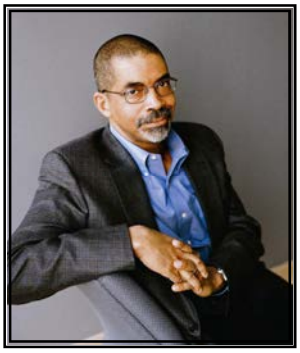
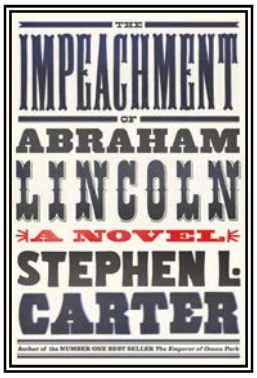


Photo credit: Michael Lionstar

Every president has engaged in unlawful activities in time of war in order to protect the country and Abraham Lincoln was no exception, according to Stephen L. Carter who reiterated several times that people must remember that his newest book, *The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln*, is a novel. Carter appeared at the ALPLM on August 2, to discuss his most recent novel— an imaginary impeachment trial of Abraham Lincoln that examines what would have happened had Abraham Lincoln not been assassinated. Set in our nation's capital, Carter's post Civil War novel is rife with murder mystery, courtroom drama, political suspense, and racial tension.

Carter attributed his interest in Lincoln to reading Carl Sandburg's multi-volume biography of the 16th President while in grade school. Asked why he chose a black woman as the book's protagonist, Carter replied that he wanted to tell the story from the perspective of an outsider and was motivated by a fascination of the black middle class during the 19th century. Mixing fact and fiction, *The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln* recreates the sights, sounds, and smells of 1876 Washington and took considerable research as did deciphering the president's personality. Carter modeled Lincoln's dialogue on actual conversations, stories, and speeches. Carter explained that the novel was more about Lincoln's times than Abraham Lincoln, and while writing, he constantly had to ask himself whether or not situations and their outcomes were plausible.



The author of the national best-selling novels: *The Emperor of Ocean Park*; *New England White; Palace Council*; and *Jericho's Fall*, Carter has also written thought-provoking nonfiction books including: *The Culture of Disbelief: How American Law and Politics Trivialize Religious Devotion; Civility: Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy*; *God's Name in Vain: The Wrongs and Rights of Religion in Politics*; and *The Violence of Peace, America's Wars in the Age of Obama.*

November 14 Book Discussion with James Wright

James Wright, President Emeritus and Eleazar Wheelock Professor of History at Dartmouth College, will appear at the ALPLM on **November 14, 2012** to discuss his latest book, *Those Who Have Borne the Battle: A History of America's Wars and Those Who Fought Them.* The book released last spring has been called, "An astute view of America's enthusiastic but often-unrealistic attitude toward those who fight its wars," by Kirkus Reviews.

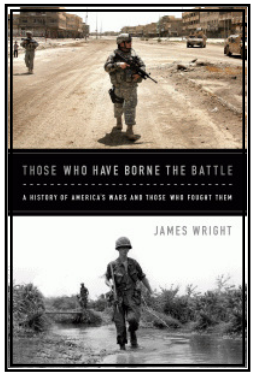


Photo credit: Robert Bossi

Focused on America's treatment and the experience of her veterans, Wright's book title is borrowed from Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall **have borne the battle** and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

A Teacher Talk will precede the public book discussion. Please telephone 217-558-8953 to register.

Presenting the Fashionable Mary Lincoln

Until the end of November, visitors to the ALPLM will have a chance to see items that once belonged to Mary Lincoln including: a heart-shaped diamond and red coral necklace; a black onyx brooch and ear fobs; a parasol and a fan; a plaid lap rug; pieces of three custom-made dresses; ivory desk items and a letter seal; a music portfolio; and a mahogany vanity with mirror. All of the original items in the exhibit come from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's collections, and many have never been publicly displayed.

The darker side of Mrs. Lincoln's extravagances are also featured in the exhibit including: vouchers for overdue bills; a letter apologizing for a late payment to a merchant; the black mourning veil and scarf worn after her husband's assassination; a painting of President Lincoln's deathbed scene showing Mary weeping; and the 1875 signed jury verdict declaring Mrs. Lincoln insane.

The Presidential Museum exhibit is the latest in a series of events held this year surrounding the life of this controversial First Lady. Still to come are the re-trials of Mrs. Lincoln on insanity charges **September 24** in Chicago and **October 1** in Springfield using modern legal standards and judges; and two "Culture of Clothing" events **November 12** in Chicago and **November 19** in Springfield that will examine the role of fashion in women's history.

If I Were Santa Claus Essay Contest

An essay contest for fifth grade through high school students with the "If I Were Santa Claus" theme will open September 10, and the winners will be recognized during a historic Santa Claus exhibit later this year at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. The deadline to submit entries is **November 2**. The contest will include cash prizes of $500, $250, $100, $50, and $25. The entries, between 200 – 250 words, must be postmarked between September 10 and November 2 and may be handwritten or typed, and must be submitted by U.S. Mail to: Santa Claus Essay Contest, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62701. Entrants should include their grade level and contact information.

"Essays should deal with themes of generosity, love, charity, peace or any of the positive attributes associated with Santa. Entrants should use their imaginations to write original, creative interpretations of the theme," said Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Director Eileen Mackevich. "Our role is to support parents and students in their search for knowledge and to help them appreciate the value of history."

The essay contest winners will be announced the week of Thanksgiving and be displayed in the Presidential Library, across the street from the historic Santa Claus exhibit in the Presidential Museum. The winning essays will be transcribed and available on the Presidential Library and Museum's social media sites. Library and Museum volunteers will judge the contest. The prizes are being provided by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. For more information about the essay contest, visit the Presidential Library and Museum's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lincoln.museum.

An exhibit in the Ghosts of the Library queue area of the Museum will consist of up to 30 historic Santa Claus figures from around the world from the 18th century to the American Depression Era, including the famous Coca Cola Santa Claus upon which most modern depictions of St. Nick are based. The exhibit opens November 3 and runs through January 4, 2013. The Santa figures of various sizes are being loaned from the collection of Joyce and Dr. John Shmale.

Mrs. Tubman Goes to Washington

Bound for Washington, D.C., with a prayer in her heart and pack of business cards in her pocket, Kathryn Harris will perform her hugely popular Harriet Tubman first person presentation at the 42nd Annual Legislative Conference, the premier conference on legislative and policy issues impacting the African-American community. This year's theme, "Inspiring Leaders/Building Generations," is sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc., a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy, research and educational institute that aims to help improve the socioeconomic circumstances of African Americans and other underserved communities.

Kathryn had just given a Juneteenth celebration portrayal of Harriet Tubman while visiting her sister in Waukegan when she was asked about her willingness to give another performance. Assuming it would take place in the Chicago suburb, Kathryn was flabbergasted when an offer to perform in Washington, all expenses paid, was offered. Realization of the importance of the venue left her further honored.

Kathryn's session, a reprisal of the Lincoln Home National Historic site's, "Journey to Greatness," (http://www.teleologic.net/Journey/html/index.html) also includes a forum of local high school students, sponsored by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice.

Kathryn's performance will be held on September 20th and she has graciously donated her honorarium to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

Bloody Battlefields Continued: Fredericksburg

Confederate artillery position on Marye's Heights overlooking Fredericksburg

Mark DePue, historian and Director of the ALPLM Oral History Program, will continue the Civil War Sesquicentennial series he began in 2011 with his latest presentation of "The Battle of Fredericksburg" on **December 13**. Following the Union Army's tenuous victory at Antietam in September of 1862, President Lincoln went searching for a commander who could lead the Army of the Potomac to victory, someone to replace the arrogant yet maddeningly tentative General George McClellan. Lincoln selected the reluctant General Ambrose Burnside to take over command, a decision that led to tragic consequences at Fredericksburg. Held in the Union Theater at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, the programs are free and open to the public, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 217-558-8934.

A Spooktacular Evening with Abe

Would you like to experience the Presidential Museum decked out to celebrate Halloween? If the answer is yes, plan on attending the first *Spooktacular Evening with Abe* event on **October 18**. The Museum will open its creaky doors at 6:00 PM and trap you inside until 8:00 PM for a fun-filled night of games, eerie music, crafts, storytelling, and costume contest. Scattered throughout the Museum will be kid-friendly spooks where you least expect them. The event is free to all members of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. General admission for the public is $10 per family and tickets must be purchased in advance. The deadline for registration is October 15. Adults please note: NO MASKS or HOODS. For more information please visit: http://www.alplm.org/foundation/foundation.html

Volunteer Extraordinaire

Doris McLaughlin, wearing her favorite black cape and surrounded by just some of her creations

Shortly after the Presidential Museum opened in 2005, Doris McLaughlin visited the Museum and fell in love with what she saw. At lunch one day, she overheard a conversation about the Museum's need for volunteers and hesitant to continue paying the price of admission, decided to offer her skills and time. A retired teacher, Doris particularly liked working in Mrs. Lincoln's Attic and was an active volunteer until health issues forced her to cut back her hours. For the past two years, Doris has found it difficult to get to the Museum, but that has not stopped her from helping out.

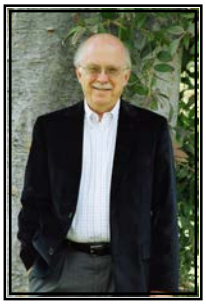
While working in Mrs. Lincoln's Attic, the seamstress in Doris couldn't help but notice the condition of the dress-up clothes. After being tried on by tens of thousands of children, big and small, they were desperately in need of repair. Buttons were falling off, elastic was stretched to its limit, hems were falling, bodices were torn, and cuffs frayed. Jumping right in, Doris began the never-ending-battle of mending and creating new outfits. Because of Doris' efforts, the extent and variety of boy's and girl's clothes has blossomed over the years to include reticules, capes, and Zouave ensembles. An accomplished seamstress, Doris came by her love of sewing through her mother who made all of Doris' clothes but did not teach her daughter the art of sewing, which Doris picked up on her own, making her first quilt when she was eight years old. Doris continued to expand her sewing skills by studying the Sears Roebuck catalogs and making patterns from the clothes she saw advertised in them.

One of the Museum's more experienced volunteers, Doris was born in Springfield in 1920, graduated from Western Illinois Teachers College, and received her Masters degree in Education from Peabody College for Teachers, now part of Vanderbilt University. Doris' first teaching assignment was at Decatur Senior High School where she was paid $1200 a year. Although Doris began her career as a high school math teacher she was soon recruited by Northwest Missouri State Teachers College where she taught anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, general physical education, and dance.

After Doris married Chase McLaughlin, an established newspaper man, the couple moved to Humboldt, Iowa where her husband published the *Humboldt Republican* and the *Humboldt Independent Newspapers*, and Doris resumed teaching 7th grade math, retiring in 1986.

Doris, who also happens to be the great, great, great granddaughter of Peter Cartwright, Illinois' most famous frontier evangelist, continues to sew and is currently making pinafores for the Attic.

Book Discussion with Ronald C. White, Jr.



New York Times bestseller and Christopher Award honoree, Ronald C. White, Jr. will present "Abraham Lincoln's Diary" Tuesday, **October 2** at 7 PM in Union Theater at the ALPLM. Considered one of the foremost historians on our 16th President, his *A. Lincoln A Biography* has been called the "first comprehensive, single-volume biography of Lincoln since David Herbert Donald's in 1996," according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Author of *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words* and *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural*, White is currently working on a biography of Ulysses S. Grant that will be published by Random House. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations should be made by calling 217- 558-8934. A book signing will be held prior to the presentation at 6:30 PM.

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The Broadside is produced by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Education Division.
Questions or comments? Email us at noreen.obriendavis@illinois.gov or call (217) 558-8953