

**2013 ALP Conference – Columbus, Ohio by John Cooper, Conference Coordinator**

The ALP gathered in Columbus, OH for 2013 (April 11-14) where we were treated to a "weekend with our Ohio generals." During the weekend, we enjoyed presentations by Gen. Grant (member Larry Clowers) as well as Gen. Rosecrans (Ohio resident Tom Paul) and Gen. Sherman (Ohio resident Frank Bullock, who is actually a resident of Sherman's hometown of Lancaster, OH and affiliated with the Sherman Birthplace Museum). We also were educated by our Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon Chase (also a former Ohio governor who was portrayed by Ohioan Monty Chase, who is a relative of Salmon Chase). Our final guest speaker was Frederick Douglass, portrayed by member Michael Crutcher.

Our tour day included a visit to the Ohio Statehouse (which was actually finished in 1861, just before Abraham Lincoln arrived on his inauguration train). Lincoln was one of the first persons to speak in the newly completed building when he addressed the state legislature in February of 1861. We were permitted to use the statehouse chambers, where member Gerry Payn recreated Lincoln's speech from that day in 1861. We then made a short visit to the Camp Chase Cemetery which is a burial site for 2200 Confederate POWs and was on a site of both a POW camp as well as a muster in point for nearly 200,000 Union soldiers. We also saw a large mural that commemorates Camp Chase (named for Salmon).

Our tour continued to Lancaster, OH to visit the Sherman House museum, then to Groveport, OH for a tour through the Motts Military Museum, which commemorates all wars, but has a strong Lincoln and Civil War display.

During the evening, we were treated to a highlight for many of our members as the Encore Academy in Reynoldsburg, OH performed "Our American Cousin," the play which was performed the night Lincoln was assassinated. Before the play, the school treated us to dinner. We then were part of an audience of 300-400 people (including many other re-enactors in period dress), who thoroughly enjoyed the play. It turns out that the play still is funny and does translate well to present times, as the audience repeatedly laughed heartily at the pratfalls of the characters. And, unlike April 14, 1865, this night the play was concluded (although the cast did pause for a moment of reflection after Lincoln was shot at the end of that "sockdologizing old man-trap" line). The school recorded the play and copies are still available for \$10 each. John Cooper, expects to have a few copies with him at the 2014 convention. This may be the only recording of this play available anywhere. In fact, the school had to imagine and create all of the stage actions in the play as all they could find was just the script with words and no directions included.

For many, the convention highlight was Saturday, when we spent all afternoon and evening at the Ohio History Center in Columbus. Our members performed two one-hour programs for the center's patrons (and our own members) where ten of us took turns offering reflections of portions of Lincoln's life. These programs were also recorded and all attendees received a copy as part of conference fees. Those who did not attend can buy a copy through John Cooper for \$10 (also should be available at 2014 convention). We also had a four member panel (Damron, Elliott, Mansfield, and Cooper) that led a discussion with audience members on "How I Became Lincoln," while others were treated by the Center in a program on period dress, using samples from the history center's collection.

Our Saturday evening was a "Dinner with Lincoln," also at the center. Patrons paid to have dinner with our members with a Mary and Abraham Lincoln seated at each table. After dinner, our evening program included the presentations by Frederick Douglass and Gen. Grant. Our silent auction also collected nearly \$1000 toward convention and ALP expenses.

We had one more enjoyable event on Sunday morning, as all of those who stayed over attended church in Pickerington, OH. About 45 total attended, including 23 Lincolns, as well as Gen. Grant, Gen. Rosecrans, Frederick Douglass, and a couple new convention guests, Gen. Garfield and Jefferson Davis (yes, that rebel guy, portrayed by Ohioan David Walker). What made the church service extra special was the preaching by member Chris Small, who performed in character and preached on the spiritual journey of Abraham

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Lincoln. (The church provided a recording of the service, which was distributed to all members who attended). Nine of the Lincolns also joined voices as the "Singing Lincolns," directed by Stan Wernz, as we sang a few of our traditional hymns. The church then provided a good luncheon for us and one of the church's groups (known as the "Old Kids Club," maybe because they are in our age group), served the luncheon and then joined us for lunch. We all then said our sad good-byes, promising to meet again next year.

(Editor's note - Hats off to John and Bob Brugler, who did an outstanding job organizing and conducting the conference!!! Thank you, fellows!!!)

Conference Links <http://news.yahoo.com/lincoln-impersonators-rub-gangly-elbows-ohio-172353609.html>  
<http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/Multimedia/MediaLibrary/Collection.aspx?pageSize=16&collectionId=108535&isPublished=True&start=33>

### **Mary's Velvet Rose 2013 by Sharon Wood, MTL Chair**

My Dear Friends,

Our MTL luncheons at the ALP Convention have been evolving over the years and we've enjoyed spending some time together in different locales, with a variety of menus created especially for us. The folks in Decatur in 2012 and Columbus in 2013 treated us to lovely meals, including some recipes from Donna McCreary's "Lincoln's Table." Many thanks to Vicki Woodard (2012) and Barbara Brugler (2013) for their efforts on our behalf.

In Decatur, we enjoyed an informative and enjoyable talk, "How Children Lived in Lincoln's Time," by Nancy Togerson. She brought with her a wonderful display of clothing, toys, and other household items from the period and we wish there had been more time allowed for her presentation.

Time constraints were the only problem with our luncheons, and I suspect that would be the case even if we'd had another hour to spend together. We do enjoy socializing over our meal! The business meeting sometimes lasts longer than anticipated when members take an active part in the discussions, as we all should feel comfortable doing. Program speakers need a suitable amount of time to cover their topic.

In Columbus, we didn't have a program in the luncheon room, which turned out to be a good decision. We needed to travel to the Ohio State History Museum, where some of our members were scheduled to present brief samples of their living history presentations. Those were most enjoyable and a wonderful way for us to learn from each other.

One item of business we discussed in 2012 was trying to draw all women who attend ALP Conventions to formally become members of the ALP. Whether we portray Mary Lincoln ourselves or support our Abraham Lincoln partner in his portrayal behind-the-scenes, we all have much to contribute to our group. Membership applications can be downloaded from the ALP website at [http://www.lincolnpresenters.net/membership\\_form.html](http://www.lincolnpresenters.net/membership_form.html) and mailed to Membership Chair, Robert Brugler, 886 Middlebury Dr. N., Worthington, OH 43085. We look forward to adding new MTL members to the ALP member roster!

At the April 2013 luncheon, I made a suggestion that our ALP/MTL committee provide a commemorative wreath for the ceremony sponsored by Mary Lincoln's Coterie each July on the anniversary of Mary's death. With the approval of the ALP Board, I sent emails to our members asking anyone who wished to do so to send a contribution to me.

I received more than enough to purchase a lovely wreath from a florist in Donna McCreary's town of Charlestown, IN. She picked it up for us and drove it to the event at the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, IL, where it was placed with the other floral pieces.

Over the years, participating organizations have been the Coterie, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, the Mary Todd Lincoln Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Illinois State DUVCW, and the Danville Civil War Roundtable. It is fitting and proper that the ALP is now represented.

Because the wreath was made with artificial flowers, it will last for several years. Donna has arranged

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for it to be stored between ceremonies and brought to Springfield each year. We thank Sue Wright, Mary Elliott, Nancy Peck, Caroline Krandell, and Sharon Wood for their contributions, which totaled more than the florist charged us. The donors voted to divide the remaining amount between the ALP & the Coterie.

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As we head into our next conference, let's be thinking of topics we might want to talk about when we get together in Natchez. It's always wonderful to visit with everyone who is able to attend our yearly gatherings and we send out our best wishes to those who are unable to be with us every time.

### **Another Lincoln leaves this earth**

Stan Wernz note - We were saddened to hear of the passing of Charles Long, Lincoln Presenter from Shepherdsville, KY, on June 19, 2013. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Shirley and the rest of the family. It is hard to believe that Charlie and Shirley joined us at the ALP Conference in Columbus this past April, and he was gone just two months later! Below is a wonderful tribute written by a friend of Charlies, Donald W. Howard;

We met Charlie and Shirley when we moved into our new home in Shepherdsville Ky. in June of 1971. We were leaving the "big city" of Louisville and bought a tract of paradise. Charlie and Shirley were doing the same. As we were close to the same age and we had two boys and they two girls, the friendship was a natural. Charlie was a remarkable man that could take life as it came to him good and bad always with a calm demeanor, slight grin and a shrug, then move forward. We were assembling a patio cover at his house one day in the summer of '71, I took a break and went home for lunch. In that time a storm blew in and wrecked Charlie's patio. When I returned I found Charlie gathering pieces. He grinned at me and we started all over. Never did a word of anger or frustration cross his lips. I could recount many situations like the aforementioned but it would be pointless. They all came out the same - Charlie being Charlie, calm and embracing life as it came.

In December of 1979 when I was shot in the line of duty as a police officer and taken to Louisville General Hospital the usual people were there, cops everywhere, wife & kids, medical staff, media and who knows who else. Unknown to me Charlie arrived at the hospital and maintained a vigil by himself in the hospital lobby. When cops are wounded, friends like Charlie are excluded by the powers that be. They are not considered important to the injured officer. Charlie, a soft spoken and quiet man, did not protest but quietly withdrew to maintain a prayer vigil for me, his friend. The next morning Lizz found Charlie and took him in to see me in my hospital, his eyes moistened for me. To this day that act of friendship and devotion is as real as the day Charlie came to visit the hospital 34 years ago. You know when we talk about sharing the love of Christ we often think of a great speaker proclaiming the gospel and often give little regard to folks like Charlie who answer the question "What would Jesus do" not by what they say but what they **do** very quietly, humbly without expecting recognition or praise.

I would say one of Charlie's greatest joys was being an Abraham Lincoln presenter. He bore a remarkable resemblance to Mr. Lincoln and loved to talk about the Lincoln conventions he attended. He showed me during our recent visit a picture of himself in full Lincoln attire, in a periodical, once again looking like Old Abe himself. Appearance aside Charlie had other attributes of Mr. Lincoln. He had a genuine love for his fellow man, a remarkable sense of humor, he valued friendship, he could find the good in anyone, and he always had the desire to leave the world a better place. I do believe Charlie was successful. Also like Old Abe, Charlie had a place in his heart for the downtrodden and needy. He would help a neighbor or a stranger simply because he was Charlie. Charlie would serve Christ in his church like he lived, quietly helping others and never drawing attention to himself. I am so appreciative that one of the last activities Charlie and I shared is we worshipped at his church.

Let me end with this - when Mr. Lincoln died on the morning of April 15, 1865 Secretary of War Edwin Stanton said "Now he belongs to the Ages". Please allow me this for my friend to honor him, "Charlie" Long aka Abraham Lincoln "Now he belongs to the Ages". My tribute to a friend and a great man.

### **Those Lincoln Boys** - submitted by Murray Cox

As Lincoln traveled to Washington to be inaugurated, he was not well recognized. Willie and Tad would go up to people and as if they wanted to meet old Abe. They would then point out some other tall person that was not Lincoln, and then hide and watch in great amusement.

Willie and Tad told their father they liked going to the Fourth Presbyterian Church better than the New York Avenue Church, where the Lincoln family began to attend, because it was "livelier". When asked what made it "livelier", they said because it was mostly "secesh", and they liked to hear the pew doors slam when the minister prayed for the president.

There was a cord in each room of the Executive Mansion that could be pulled to summon servants. The cord was attached to wires in the attic that rang a bell in the servants area. The servant could tell from the bell system to which room they were being summoned. Willy and Tad found the wires in the attic, and would send the servants scurrying as they played with the wires.

### **ALP Excellence Award Guidelines** - discussed and passed at the business meeting in Columbus in April, 2013

This is a reminder that nominations for the ALP Excellence Award are due by November 1 each year. Nominations should be submitted to any member of the Awards Committee -- Homer Sewell (chair, [abeusa16@aol.com](mailto:abeusa16@aol.com)), Joan Howard ([cjhow5@yahoo.com](mailto:cjhow5@yahoo.com)), Vern Risty ([vristy@hotmail.com](mailto:vristy@hotmail.com)), Jim Sayre ([lincolna@dcr.net](mailto:lincolna@dcr.net)) or Joe Woodard ([vwoodard@eiu.edu](mailto:vwoodard@eiu.edu)). The award will be presented at the April conference.

#### **ALP AWARD GUIDELINES NOMINATION FORM**

Criteria, as approved by the organization membership at the April 2013 conference, can be found below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Association of Lincoln Presenters ----- (year) Excellence Award for ----- (category name)

#### **Categories:**

- A. Performance – For excellence in a single performance or multiple performances of any character in any production related to Abraham Lincoln and performed in the stated year.
- B. Writing – For any script, screenplay, or composition of multi-media production related to Abraham Lincoln.
- C. Film or Video – Of which the member had intellectual/artistic control and was released in the stated year.
- D. Scholarship – Non-fiction book, article, etc.
- E. Distinguished Service – Qualifications to include three or more of the following:
  - a.) Elected office in the Association of Lincoln of Presenters.
  - b.) Service on the Board of Directors.
  - c.) Service on an ALP committee.
  - d.) Host of an annual conference (or providing significant help thereto).
  - e.) Several years' experience in presenting historical characters.
  - f.) A history of Lincoln scholarship.
  - g.) An experience of video or multi-media production of Lincoln-related works.
  - h.) Service to Lincarnations.
  - i.) Organizing pre- or post-conference activities.
  - j.) Other outstanding incident(s) of service to the organization and/or its cause.

#### **Eligibility:**

If to a person, he or she must have been a member while the performance was given, when the film/video was released, or script/book/article, etc., was published. If to a production (e.g., play, film, book), the work must be composed/written/acted in by a member(s) of the ALP. Receipt of the Excellence Award would bar the recipient from eligibility for three subsequent years.

#### **Frequency:**

Preferred frequency would be one single award per year, but the committee would have the authorization to NOT issue an award if no one/no work was found to merit an award during that year.

#### **Method of Choosing:**

The president appoints a committee of three or five members. A given committee serves for one year. Service on the committee in a prior year would be no bar to an award committee appointment. Anyone (ALP member or non-ALP member) could nominate a member for consideration to any awards committee member. (4)

**Jim Getty Advice** - by Chris Mautner of The Patriot News on November 06, 2012 - printed with permission - Submitted by Robert Brugler, Lincoln Presenter.

Jim Getty has been portraying Abraham Lincoln for several decades....to find out what it takes to play one of the most beloved historical figures in America, we sought advice from Lincoln actor and Gettysburg resident Jim Getty, as well as local historians. **Advice** Do your research. One of the best ways to learn about Lincoln's mannerisms and personality is to dig into the myriad number of books and articles about him. "You have to be knowledgeable about the character," Getty said. "People are going to ask you questions. You have to know about the personalities he worked with. I'm still reading and learning."

**Don't overdo it.** "Lincoln was a very reserved, private man," said Allen Guelzo, professor of Civil War-era studies at Gettysburg College. "He did not often unload in public even when angry, and there were moments when he could be quite angry. He was a very self-controlled person. Don't portray him as passionate and excited with his arms waving like windmills."

**Don't have a spring in your step.** "He walked very flat-footed," Getty said.

**Don't lower your voice.** Many historians suspect Lincoln had a high-pitched voice with a bit of a frontier twang, obtained from his years growing up in Kentucky. "He drops the 'g' [in words] so it's good mornin'," Getty said.

**Get the hair right.** Getty goes to the hairdresser every two months to have a Lincoln-styled perm ("a little lift and cut off on the sides"). He makes the mole that graced Lincoln's face out of nose putty and glues it on with spirit gum.

**Study photos from the time.** Not just of Lincoln, but also of his contemporaries to get an idea of how men dressed back then.

**Don't get political.** Be respectful toward the character you're portraying. "Don't be tempted to inject something that would favor a political party," Getty said. "You don't want to enter a political discussion."

**LINCOLN FACTS He had an arthritic back.** "If you were standing in the room talking to him, he'd shift his weight from one foot to the other to relieve pressure," Getty said.

**He loved apples.** Just as President Ronald Reagan had his jelly beans, Lincoln had his apples. "You'd have an appointment with him and find him peeling an apple," Getty said.

**He didn't write the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope.** That appeared in a fictional story written in 1903 and took on a life of its own. "Put a stake through the heart of that," Guelzo said.

**He loved minstrel shows.** "He would go out of his way to attend a minstrel show and when he went, he would sing along and clap," Guelzo said. "He thought of it as being a rollicking good fun time. That's something I don't expect to see in the Spielberg movie."

**He was tough.** "People imagine that Lincoln was just so empathetic and nice and good and he was, but he was very tough," said Matthew Pinsker, associate professor of history at Dickinson College. "He could be cold and hard. It's one thing to say he was a man of integrity. It's another to say he was nice to be around."

**He wasn't arrogant.** "He didn't mind surrounding himself with people smarter than he was," said Jim Broussard, professor of history at Lebanon Valley College. "I can't think of another president who put into his Cabinet almost a half-dozen rivals for his nomination."

**He was incredibly successful.** "People overestimate how much of a failure he was," Pinsker said. "He was a very prominent business attorney. He was a classic self-made man."

**He was healthy.** Contrary to myth, Lincoln didn't have a fatal disease that would have killed him if Booth hadn't. "Lincoln was one of the healthier presidents we have had," Guelzo said. "He could take the White House steps two at a time."

## **UNION LIGHT GUARD FROM OHIO** - submitted by Jerry Payn

It is timely to report on the Union Light Guard, considering that they assumed duty guarding Pres. Lincoln in Washington City this past Dec. 23 (150 yrs. ago, 1863). I have found practically nothing written about the Light Guard in the books on Lincoln and the Civil War.

Fortunately, two of the members of Lincoln's guard wrote their memories, one being Sgt. Smith Stimmel from Columbus, OH and the other Cpl. Robert McBride from Mansfield, OH. Stimmel's grandson, Leroy Fladseth and wife Loris, have attended some of our ALP Conferences (they plus their son were at the Columbus Conf. this past April). Leroy added to and edited his grandfather's book "Personal Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln" which many of us have purchased (there are a limited number still available for \$10.00 each - either contact me at <gmpayn@sssnet.com> or Loris Fladseth, 3524 Aragon Dr., Lansing, MI 48906). I also have a CD of a recording done 60 years ago by Stimmel's son, Howard (Leroy's Uncle), telling about his father's experiences. McBride's story (including names of the 108 members of the Light Guard, etc) are available "on line" from *Indiana Historical Society Publications* "Lincoln's Body Guard". Both are fascinating stories!!

I have been honored and pleased to have two gentlemen accompany me quite often at C.W. reenactments, etc, portraying Stimmel and McBride. You might recall that Hugh Mullen from Niles, OH attended most of our Conference in Columbus. He is in the group picture (at the Ohio History Center - the Union Cavalry Sgt.). Mark Watts and wife Tabitha from near Ashland, OH also attended the Conference and were present at the theatre Friday evening and the "festivities" at the Ohio History Center on Saturday (they all were a great help with the "silent auction" that evening - thank you folks!).

**Story of the Union Light Guard** - Ohio Gov. Tod, while visiting in Washington City in the summer of 1863 was impressed with the little protection for the President (other than his good friend and fellow attorney from Springfield, Federal Marshall Ward Hill Lamon and members of the PA "Bucktail" regiment). The President was known to "wander" around on his own not concerned about his protection - "he could only die once". Gov. Tod (notice only one "d"), with the permission of Sec. Stanton, came back to Ohio and suggested each of the 88 counties nominate a "soldier" to volunteer for special service. The term would be three years or until the end of the war. Many of the volunteers had already served their "time", perhaps as 90 day volunteers, etc. They did not know what they were volunteering for! The unit began with 108 volunteers, who came from most of the counties in the state, and were officially the Seventh Independent Company of the Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. They were mustered in on Dec. 17, 1863 in Columbus and began guarding the president Dec. 23, 1863.

The soldiers didn't know until they arrived in the City what their duty was to be! They were assigned to barracks near the "White House" and camped at the Soldier's Home when the Lincoln's stayed in the summer "Cottage". In shifts, they escorted the president, his family, and visiting dignitaries wherever he/they would travel. They were dressed splendidly as US Cavalry and mounted on black horses, and were a most impressive sight! While not escorting, they were posted at the gates and doors to the "White House" or "Cottage". The Sgt. of the guard would blow his whistle every 30 minutes or so for the guard to change. The story goes that Tad somehow got hold of the Sgt's. whistle and was blowing it every few minutes. The guard didn't know for a while what was happening. In spite of this trick, they became great friends with/for lonely Tad!

The question usually comes up "Where were the Light Guard that night, Apr. 14, 1865, at the Ford Theater?" During the days since Apr. 9, with the surrender of Gen. Lee and the horrible, long war being virtually over, people were ecstatic and the guard had a quite a time controlling them around the President. They were exhausted by that Friday evening and the President told them to stay back and get some much needed sleep. He felt there was little or no concern since the war had been "over" for five days (in spite of Edwin Stanton's and other's pleas to not go). He didn't want to disappoint the people that were expecting him and spoil their happiness, since it had been advertised that he and Mary would be there! Friend and Marshall, Ward Hill Lamon, had been sent to Richmond, VA to take care of some business there for the Union! The rest of the story is history! Members of the Light Guard were terribly devastated when they were awakened that evening, along with Lamon and many, many others! Members of the guard had the privilege of knowing the real man who was the President! Any of them would gladly have given their own lives to have saved his!

Registration Form  
 The Association of Lincoln Presenters 2014 Conference  
 Natchez, MS April 10-13-2014 *Please print clearly*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Day	Activity	Cost per person	Attendees	Total \$
<b>Thurs.</b> 4/10	Bus pickup from Airport	\$35-50 to be paid in cash on board bus		
	Social Hour/Buffett Supper w/ 2 guest speakers & musician	\$ 33 per person		
<b>Fri.</b> 4/11	Frogmore Cotton Plantation with combined history/Civil War Tour	\$18 - Price included in conference fee	18	<b>X</b>
Fri.	Buffett Lunch @ Hotel & MTL meeting	\$19 - Price included in conference fee	19	<b>X</b>
Fri.	Academic session w/ guest speakers	\$10 - Price included in conference fee	10	<b>X</b>
Fri.	Southern Feast at Antebellum Mansion	\$45 - Price included in conference fee	45	<b>X</b>
<b>Sat.</b> 4/12	Grant Campaign Tour to Vicksburg with expert leaders	\$29 - Price included in conference fee Box Lunch Please check here if vegetarian is preferred_____	29	<b>X</b>
Sat.	Vicksburg Nat'l. Mil. Park admission	\$ 5 per person (free with Senior Parks card		
Sat.	Vicksburg Reconstruction Forum (Public event w/ guest participants)	\$10 - Price included in conference fee	10	<b>X</b>
	Banquet @ Hotel w/ music & public	\$22 - Price included in conference fee Please check here if vegetarian is preferred_____	22	<b>X</b>
<b>Sun.</b> 4/13	Tour of Antebellum Mansions	Price included in conference fee (All Fri. & sun. A.M. bussing donated)		<b>X</b>
	Grant Campaign Tour to Vicksburg (or early tour to Jackson Airport)	\$45-60 to be paid in cash on board bus Expert leaders + box lunch		
	Conference Registration	\$ 245		\$ 245
		<b>Total \$</b>		

Please make checks out to "ALP" and return to  
 Norman Zucker  
 484 Liberty Road  
 Petaluma, CA 94952

[Zooch2@aol.com](mailto:Zooch2@aol.com)  
 (707) 658-4441

\*Refunds fee for cancellation = \$25 until 3/10/14 \$50 thereafter

\*Please keep in mind that although this is somewhat higher than in other years, it includes meals and extra events/speakers; considering you "flyers" do not need to rent a car for \$300.00, it is less than most years.

*Association of Lincoln Presenters*

Gerald Payn, Editor  
768 Greenwood Blvd.  
Wooster, OH 44691  
330-345-5547  
gmpayn@sssnet.com

Submitted by Stan Wernz, President, Association of Lincoln Presenters

Dear Members,

If you have not done so. Please submit your reservations for our 2014 Conference in Natchez, MS. Norman Zucker has been working very hard to provide a very educational program, and to be certain that our understanding of “this war” is expanded. I am confident that all who attend will gain considerable knowledge, and have a deepened basis to respond to questions at future presentations.

A point of possible interest: Recently a member of my audience knew we were meeting in Natchez. He suggested that anyone who had time may want to walk some creek beds. The gentleman had lived in Vicksburg until recently, and suggested that when walking creeks in this area you frequently will come across ordnance from the Civil War.

An important event at our Conference is the Annual Meeting. This meeting is scheduled at Eola Hotel (110 N. Pearl St., Natchez, MS), Friday evening, April 11, at 8:00 PM. It is at this meeting that you elect your ALP Board, and the Officers of our Association. Another item of business is selecting the site for our 2016 Conference. If you wish to host that conference, please contact Joan Howard (cjhow5@yahoo.com ) or Joe Woodard ([vwoodard@eiu.edu](mailto:vwoodard@eiu.edu)) for details about promoting your city or town.

Finally, it is not too early to begin planning for 2015. Our host will be Abe Clymer, and we will be in Vandalia, IL. Many of you will recall our last conference in Vandalia, when we were treated to meeting in the Historic Capital Building where Lincoln served as representative. Abe Clymer is already planning the conference, and has secured the new Holiday Inn as the conference headquarters.

I wish you safe travels, and I look forward to seeing you in Natchez!

Your humble servant, Stan





