

THE WIDE AWAKE BULLETIN

THE LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK

DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Paul Ellis-Graham

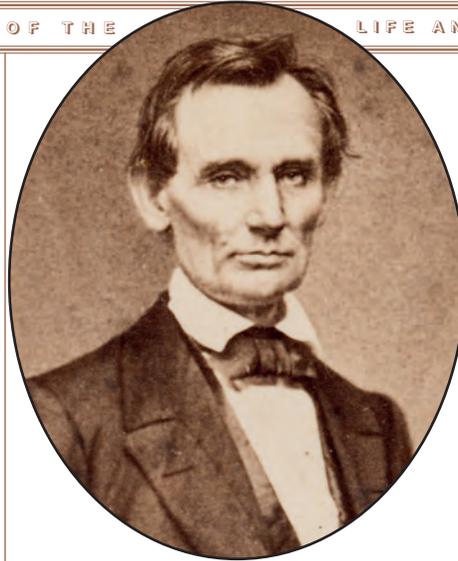
Dear Members,
The last year has been another trying one for all of us, but we are very grateful that we have come through it together. We were able to continue meeting, even if only remotely, for most of the year, and were fortunate

that we could return to Villa Mosconi for our November meeting. Those who were able to attend enjoyed the opportunity to meet with old friends again as well as to hear an engaging presentation by CUNY professor James Oakes on his new book, *The Crooked Path to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Antislavery Constitution*, followed by an extensive Q&A.

At that meeting I was particularly pleased to recognize two members of our Executive Committee for their past service to the LGNY as we weathered the continuing Covid-19 crisis. Both Hank Ballone, past president, treasurer, and original newsletter designer, and Bob Langford, former treasurer and current Zoom coordinator, received plaques for their work on our behalf.

If the fates allow, we will continue to meet in person at Villa Mosconi in the coming year. Unfortunately, because frequent supply chain interruptions have affected the restaurant, as they have so many other businesses, it has been forced to raise its dinner prices for 2022. We have no choice but to adjust to that cost as well, but we still believe that we are lucky to get such good food at a reasonable price in New York City.

I am also pleased to report that Covid-19 has not diminished our enthusiasm for studying the life and times of Abraham



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FEBRUARY 2022

Lincoln. Considering that we had the opportunity to hear not only Jim Oakes but also CUNY's Ted Widmer and veteran Lincoln scholar Ed Steers Jr. in 2021, we have every expectation that our meetings will continue to provide a rich experience for all those who participate in the future.

Finally, we are very happy to be able to bring you the second issue of this newsletter in its revised format, thanks largely to the efforts of Vice President Rob Kaplan and designer Fritz Metsch. We hope you find it full of enlightening commentary on our past year's activities as well as on other points of interest that only true Lincoln aficionados (which ALL of you are) can fully appreciate.

May you and your family remain safe through 2022. On behalf of our officers and our Executive Committee, I want to thank all of you for being supportive during these challenging times.

Sincerely,
Paul Ellis-Graham

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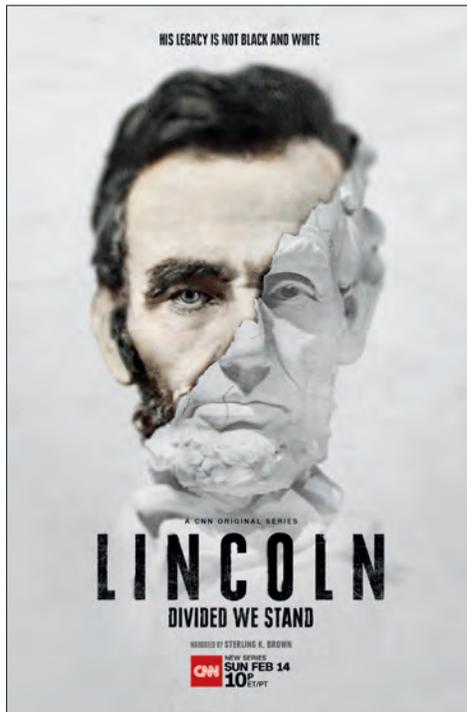
The editor would like to express his appreciation to Paul Ellis-Graham, Steven R. Koppelman, and Fritz Metsch for their assistance in preparing this issue of *The Wide Awake Bulletin*.

CNN SERIES "LINCOLN: DIVIDED WE STAND"
WINS AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2021

The Glass Entertainment Group's "Lincoln: Divided We Stand" has been chosen as the recipient of the Lincoln Group of New York's 2021 Award of Achievement. The award, presented to the individual or organization that has done the most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln during the year, has been conferred annually since 1988. Executive produced by Nancy Glass and Jon Hirsch, and directed by Mr. Hirsch, the six-part series aired on CNN between February 14 and March 21, 2021, and is the first television production to receive the award.

Over the more than thirty years that the award has been given, the majority of the winners have been books about Abraham Lincoln. This year, however, taking into account the extraordinary quality of "Lincoln: Divided We Stand," and the enormous popularity of the series—each of the episodes was seen by close to two million viewers when they first aired—the members of the Award Committee unanimously agreed that the award should go to the Glass Entertainment Group.

As described by CNN, the series took "a holistic approach to the remarkable and unexpected story of Abraham Lincoln by delving into his complicated inner world, seamlessly interweaving his tragic personal life with his history-making political career. Through a mix of expert interviews, cinematic recreations, rare artifacts, and never



before broadcast photos and letters," the series guided "viewers on a transcendent journey into the life and times of this iconic U.S. president."

Narrated by Sterling K. Brown, who won an Emmy Award for his performance, the series drew on the expertise of nearly two dozen stars of the Lincoln universe, including

Edna Greene Medford, Michael Burlingame, Allen C. Guelzo, Mary Frances Berry, Eric Foner, Catherine Clinton, Kate Masur, and LGNY Executive Committee member Harold Holzer, among others.

The six hour-long episodes, which presented Lincoln's story in chronological order, included "Rising Star," covering his difficult early years through his tumultuous courtship of Mary Todd; "Portrait of a Leader," focusing on his political rise through his election as president; "A Country on Edge," examining the beginning of his presidency and the start of the Civil War; "A Proclamation," discussing his path to the Emancipation Proclamation, including questions about his motive for issuing it; "The Dogs of War," examining the evolution of his thinking on slavery and equality, as exhibited in the Gettysburg Address, the Thirteenth Amendment, and the Second Inaugural Address; and "Hope, Tragedy, and the New Normal," chronicling his assassination, the manhunt for his killers, and the impact of his death on the civil rights struggle from Jim Crow to Black Lives Matter.

The award committee members for 2021 were Rob Kaplan, Steve Aronson, and Tony Czarnecki. The award will be presented to Mr. Hirsch at our February 2022 dinner meeting, when he will speak about the creation of the series.

2021 MEETING REVIEW - FEBRUARY 8, 2021



Ted Widmer

Our first meeting of the new year, organized online thanks to the good offices of Executive Committee member Bob Langford, opened with President Paul Ellis-Graham welcoming all those who were able to join us. Although it was regrettable, he said, that we were unable to meet in person,

it was necessary given the pandemic that was still gripping the country, and we were fortunate to be able to hold a virtual meeting. He also expressed his hope that we would be able to resume regular meetings in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. Ellis-Graham then turned the program over to Rob Kaplan, chair of the LGNY Award of Achievement Committee, to introduce Ted Widmer, author of this year's winner, *Lincoln on the Verge: Thirteen Days to Washington*, the story of Lincoln's 1,600-mile train trip from Springfield to Washington, DC in February 1861 for his inauguration. Mr. Kaplan began by noting that, when he first heard that the book was being published, and knowing there were already several books on the subject, he wasn't sure there was actually anything further to be said about it. He hastened to add, however, that he needn't have been concerned. Mr. Widmer's book showed not only that there was more to be said, but more important, more to be understood about the trip.

In addition to adding a considerable amount of new detail to the story, Mr. Widmer had been able to provide readers with a sense of what it must have been like to be on the train with the president-elect and the various dignitaries who came and went as it travelled across the country. More important, he had brilliantly put the trip into an historical context in a way that none of the earlier books had done. Mr. Kaplan also mentioned that although Mr. Widmer's was one of the first of the fifteen books the committee had considered, he and the other two committee members, Steve Aronson and Tony Czarnecki, whom he thanked for their participation, knew from the beginning that it would be difficult to beat. And so it was.

Mr. Widmer, who is currently a distin-

guished lecturer at Macaulay Honors College of the City University of New York, is also the author of half a dozen previous books on American history, and editor of several others. In addition, he was instrumental in creating the “Disunion” series that ran in *The New York Times* during the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Finally, Mr. Kaplan said that, things being what they are these days, he was unfortunately unable to literally hand the award to Mr. Widmer, but was nevertheless very pleased to present it to him.

Mr. Widmer opened his remarks by explaining that when he was growing up, in Providence, RI, there were two subjects he found particularly fascinating—trains and Abraham Lincoln. The interest in trains came from his father’s model train set, their occasional forays into trainspotting near their home, and, especially, an overnight trip to Washington, DC when he was eight. The interest in Lincoln, he said, was the result of reading a biography for young people that left him struck by the beauty of Lincoln’s story and the sense of tragedy that hung over his life. It wasn’t, though, until the fall of 2010, when he was approached by some fellow historians to work on the “Disunion” series, that he started thinking about bringing the two subjects together.

He began the story, then, where it began, with Lincoln’s farewell address to his neighbors in Springfield. In the speech, which Mr.

Widmer called “a brilliant piece of statecraft,” Lincoln spoke openly about his life there, an unorthodox step for an incoming president. In doing so, he presented himself as an archetypal American from a small town, the kind of place where people talk to each other over backyard fences, and the kind of person people would like to have represent them. Even more important, the speech was telegraphed around the country and helped those who read it—virtually none of whom knew Lincoln, and who were fearful of what was to become of the country—to feel he would be a good president.

But, Mr. Widmer said, the trip was much more than just a train ride—it was an odyssey that gave Lincoln the opportunity to look the country over and gave the country the opportunity to look him over. The trip, in fact, was like a whistle stop campaign, except that he’d already won the election. And like a whistle stop campaign, it was an arduous one. Over the course of thirteen days he became physically and mentally exhausted from having to speak every day as well as cope with the pressures of the crowds trying to get to him—all the while trying to say something meaningful to people who were desperate to hear what could be done to save the country, which was by then already splintering. Although there were a few lighter moments during the trip, such as the time in upstate New York when the man introducing Lincoln to the crowd

went on so long that when he finally got up to speak the train started to pull out of the station, overall it was extremely difficult.

Even so, when Lincoln spoke in Philadelphia, the last place he was scheduled to do so, he made what Mr. Widmer considered a great speech about the meaning of the Declaration of Independence. Lincoln had always considered the Declaration to be the bedrock of American democracy, and he demonstrated it in the speech by quoting “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

In closing, Mr. Widmer explained that Lincoln’s trip was essentially a quest to reach the capital in order to save democracy. What he meant by “Lincoln on the Verge” was that when he started cross country Lincoln was not fully formed, he was still essentially a work in progress, but by the time he got to Philadelphia he was. Over the course of the trip he had seen and been seen by millions of Americans, grown tremendously as a writer and a speaker, survived a serious assassination attempt, and arrived safely in Washington, where he could do the work he needed to do. Without the train trip, Mr. Widmer concluded, Abraham Lincoln would never have become Abraham Lincoln.

APRIL 20, 2021



Ed Steers, Jr.

Our second meeting of the year began with President Paul Ellis-Graham welcoming all the members who were able to attend and expressing his appreciation to Executive Committee member Bob Langford, who continues to serve as our Zoom coordinator. At that point

Mr. Ellis-Graham introduced the speaker of the evening, Edward Steers Jr.

Mr. Steers is best known for his numerous works on the Lincoln assassination, including *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* and *The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia*. His latest book, however, and the subject of the evening’s presentation, is *Getting Right with Lincoln: Correcting Misconceptions about Our*

Greatest President. He began by pointing out that Lincoln is one of those individuals whose life has become surrounded by myths, some of which have regrettably replaced reality. While, he said, historians can and do disagree over various aspects of Lincoln’s life, such as his relationships with his father, with his wife, and with Ann Rutledge, the ultimate determining factor in biographical history is sources. Some of those sources, like *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, are entirely reliable, while others, like Wilson and Davis’ *Herndon’s Informants*, relying as they do on memories of events that sometimes took place decades earlier, are more open to question. *Getting Right with Lincoln*, he said, is an effort to clarify some of the controversies that have arisen and set the record straight.

Although the book discusses several such controversies, this evening Mr. Steers chose to

focus on questions that have been raised, particularly by historian Michael Burlingame, about the authorship of the famous “Bixby Letter.” Lydia Bixby was, of course, the middle-aged widow who claimed she was the mother of five sons who died in battle while serving in the Union army. It was later determined that only two of her sons had died, one had been honorably discharged, and the other two had apparently deserted to the Confederate army. Unaware of this at the time her story was brought to Lincoln’s attention in 1864, he wrote an extraordinarily touching letter that is considered to be, along with the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address, one of his greatest literary achievements.

However, Lincoln’s authorship of the letter was brought into question in 1940 through the publication of a memoir by Columbia

University's president, Nicholas Murray Butler. Butler wrote that he had been told by British statesman John Morley that John Hay, Lincoln's assistant secretary and subsequently secretary of state in Theodore Roosevelt's administration, had claimed that he was actually the author of the letter. The claim was revived by Michael Burlingame in a 1995 issue of the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* when, in researching a biography of Hay, he found a scrapbook of Hay's that contained many of the poems and articles he had written, including a clipping of the Bixby letter. Thinking it odd that Hay would include something he hadn't written among examples of things he had, Burlingame concluded that Hay must have in fact written the letter. Mr. Steers, however, disagreed.

As he pointed out, Burlingame's conclusion relies in part on an area of scholarship known as "text analysis" or "linguistic analysis." Practitioners in this field look at writing in terms of words, rhetoric, punctuation, and style. But, Mr. Steers said, six years before Burlingame made his claims, two such analysts, Joe Nickell and Jean Pial, reviewed the Bixby letter and determined that, based on a comparison of the



Lydia Bixby

letter to Lincoln's and Hay's writings, Lincoln was in fact its author. Another argument against Burlingame's contention is that in a series of correspondence between Robert Lincoln and journalist Isaac Markens, when Markens asked Lincoln about the author of the letter, Lincoln said that Hay, with whom he had discussed the letter, apparently had no knowledge of it when it was first written. Nevertheless, Burlingame reiterated the claim of Hay's authorship at a symposium at Ford's Theatre in 2019, citing a new technology, N-Gram Analysis—essentially a mathematical approach to the problem—designed to analyze short documents in order to determine who wrote them. But, as Mr. Steers explained, further research on his part indicated that the process, while useful in some instances, is highly unreliable when analyzing a particularly short piece of writing like the Bixby letter, which contains only 139 words, well below the number necessary to accurately prove its authorship. All of which, Mr. Steers concluded, led him to believe that, despite Mr. Burlingame's insistence, in all probability it was Abraham Lincoln rather than John Hay who wrote the justly famous letter to Lydia Bixby.

NOVEMBER 9, 2021



James Oakes

President Paul Ellis-Graham opened our first in-person meeting since November 2019 (due, of course, to the coronavirus) by expressing his happiness at seeing everyone back at Villa Mosconi, and his appreciation for their coming. He also said that he was looking forward to a point in the

hopefully not-too-distant future when more of our members will be able to attend meetings. Then, as is our tradition, Mr. Ellis-Graham noted that since this was November, and the 168th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, a member of the group had been asked to read the speech. Because 2020 was the 100th anniversary of women being able to vote for the first time—a milestone we were unable to commemorate last November, in order to do so now Executive Committee member Paula Hopewell would recite the address, which she then did admirably.

Mr. Ellis-Graham then announced that, in

order to thank them for their many years of service to the Lincoln Group of New York, it had been decided that two of our members would receive special plaques in recognition of their contributions—Bob Langford and Hank Ballone. Mr. Ellis-Graham accordingly asked Mr. Langford to come to the podium where he and Vice President Rob Kaplan presented Mr. Langford with the plaque. (Mr. Ballone was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, but he was subsequently given his plaque at the Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg the following week.)

Mr. Ellis-Graham also noted the passing of Lincoln scholar Stephen B. Oates. The author of *With Malice Toward None* as well as several other books on Lincoln and the Civil War era, Mr. Oates was a great mentor and friend of Mr. Ellis-Graham (whose remembrance of him appears on page 5). He then mentioned the passing of John Howard, an avid student of the Lincoln assassination and the Lindbergh kidnapping, and turned the floor over to Executive Committee member Richard Sloan, who spoke of the many occasions on which he and Mr. Howard worked

together presenting tours and theatrical productions concerning the two subjects.

Finally, Mr. Ellis-Graham told the group that because long-time member Tom Danes had contributed a particularly large number of books for our raffle, for which he thanked him, it had been decided that rather than hold our usual raffle, anyone who wished to could purchase any one of the books for five dollars. The books quickly disappeared from the shelf on which they had had been placed, and business then being concluded, dinner was served.

After the usual excellent meal, President Ellis-Graham introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. James Oakes. Dr. Oakes teaches at the Graduate Center of City University of New York and is the author of several books on the Civil War era, including *The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics* and *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865*, both of which earned him the Lincoln Prize. His most recent book, and the subject of this evening's talk, is *The Crooked Road to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Antislavery Constitution*.

Dr. Oakes began by explaining that, as it concerned slavery, the US Constitution was a result of compromises between those who favored and those who opposed it. This had not been an issue in 1776 when the American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, because the thirteen original colonies had all allowed slavery. But between then and 1787, when the Constitution was being drafted, the situation had changed—many of the Northern states had abolished slavery, and it was only possible for the thirteen states to agree on a Constitution by compromising on the issue. As a result, it contained both proslavery and antislavery clauses, giving rise to opposing interpretations. Those who saw it as a proslavery document could point to the three-fifths clause, which counted each slave as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of representation in the House and the Electoral College, and to the fugitive slave clause, which gave slaveowners the right to go into free states to capture their escaped slaves. Those who saw it as an antislavery document pointed to its inclusion of the federal government’s right to stop the importation of African slaves after 1808, Congress’ power to ban slavery from US territories, the fact that the word “slave” appeared nowhere in the document, and that, despite the best efforts of delegates from the Deep South, slaves were consistently referred to as “persons” and not as property.

But between 1790 and 1860, Dr. Oakes



Paul Ellis-Graham, Rob Kaplan, and Bob Langford



LGNY members presenting a plaque to Henry Ballone at the Lincoln Forum, Gettysburg, PA, November 18, 2021

said, slavery’s opponents, arguing that as far as the Constitution was concerned, “Freedom is the rule; slavery is the exception,” were considerably more effective than its proponents in legislatively establishing a long list of limitations on slavery. This was part of what Dr. Oakes refers to as “The Antislavery

Project,” essentially an effort to surround the slave states with free territories so they would not be able to expand and would ultimately have no choice but to abolish slavery on their own.

Abraham Lincoln, as he said himself, had “always hated slavery,” and although it was not his primary concern when he entered politics, as a northern Whig he did eventually endorse elements of the Antislavery Project. In the 1850s, when the Whig party collapsed, Lincoln joined the antislavery Republican Party, and in 1854 began to define himself as an antislavery politician who believed in an antislavery Constitution. The Dred Scott decision in 1857, which argued that under the Constitution Black people were property, and that they accordingly had “no rights the white man was bound to respect,” further solidified Lincoln’s position. Intent on refuting the decision, when he spoke at Cooper Institute in New York in 1860, he argued that the Framers actually intended the Constitution to be an antislavery document, specifically citing the fact that they had always referred to slaves as persons rather than property. And when, Dr. Oakes concluded, Lincoln was subsequently elected president, he acted accordingly, taking numerous steps to further limit slavery, eventually issuing the Emancipation Proclamation and, finally, working diligently and ultimately successfully toward the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.

STEPHEN B. OATES (JANUARY 5, 1936–AUGUST 20, 2021)
A STUDENT’S TRIBUTE TO HIS TEACHER, MENTOR, AND FRIEND

by Paul Ellis-Graham



Stephen B. Oates

Meeting only three times a year, as the LGNY does, it is often difficult for us to share our stories of what brought us into the sphere of Lincoln enthusiasts. As a boy I watched plenty of Lincoln films (“Young Mr. Lincoln” was my favorite), built numerous structures with Lincoln Logs, and even played Civil War in the wooded backyards of my neighborhood. While in high school I developed a love of history and was determined to teach it once I graduated from college

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and even played Civil War in the wooded backyards of my neighborhood. While in high school I developed a love of history and was determined to teach it once I graduated from college

By far, however, the biggest influence on my love of Lincoln and the Civil War era was Stephen B. Oates, my professor and mentor while I attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I read all of his books and still consider his one-volume biography of Lincoln, *With Malice Toward None*, my all-time favorite. In that book, as well as in his biographies of John Brown and Martin Luther King Jr., Stephen placed the lives of these three Americans in the context of their turbulent times even while illustrating their personal strengths and weaknesses as they grappled with the complex issues facing the nation.

I took three courses with him—his undergraduate and graduate seminars on the Civil

War period and his undergraduate course on the American West—and his lectures were no less inspiring. They exhibited an infectious enthusiasm and a mastery of his subject that were ever-present. Stephen was also a consummate professional whose dedication to the Lincoln field led then-LGNY President Joseph Garrera and me to present him with a lifetime achievement award in the presence of his colleagues at UMass Amherst in 2009.

In person, Stephen was engaging, friendly, and supportive. Once I started my own teaching career, I brought my students to his lectures and used his books in my classroom to further my own students’ interest in the sub-

ject matter. Unfortunately, Stephen suffered from a degenerative physical condition that caused severe back pain. Despite his long illness, we communicated regularly, and each Lincoln's Birthday we would talk about both history and current events. Before the Covid crisis hit the US in 2020, I traveled to meet him at his home in Amherst and spent several

hours reminiscing about teaching history and sharing our love of movies.

Stephen B. Oates was a great teacher, a fine writer, and a close personal friend. His passing this past summer from pancreatic cancer ended a lifetime of educational and scholarly service. When I left UMass Amherst as an undergraduate in 1975, and before I

returned as a graduate student, he wrote the following inscription in my copy of his Lincoln biography:

For Paul, with affection and fond memories of those bygone days when you fought the Civil War and took wagons west with me at the University of Massachusetts —Stephen

JOHN E. WASHINGTON AT LINCOLN'S TOMB



John E. Washington

John E. Washington's 1942 book, *They Knew Lincoln*, is both a memoir of growing up in the Black community in Washington, DC in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and a collection of stories by and/or about African Americans who had encountered Abraham

Lincoln before and during his presidency. Washington was a lifelong admirer of Lincoln's and, as he explains in the book's foreword, was determined "to get a true picture of Lincoln as he appeared to the ignorant slave and his offspring." Toward that end, he traveled extensively around the country to gather their stories. One of the places he visited, of course, was Springfield, Illinois where, for the first time, he had the opportunity to see where Lincoln lived and, especially, where he was buried. His description of that initial visit to Lincoln's Tomb is one that should sound very familiar to any Lincoln devotee who has shared that experience.

"When I arrived in Springfield the Lincoln Tomb was my first objective.

"I shall never forget my impression of it as I entered the Oak Ridge Cemetery. In front of it I saw a group of colored people and as I approached I met Mr. Fay who was in charge of the monument. He was about to lead the group in singing 'America.' Just think of a large number of colored people, both young and old, standing about the tomb of Lincoln singing,

'My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.'

"My mind certainly returned to the past, and I could see again all of my old folks singing this piece which Lincoln had first made a reality for them.



Lincoln's Tomb

"When the group had departed and I had examined the Fay collection of pictures, letters, photographs, I was directed how to enter the circular chamber in which the bodies of Lincoln, his wife and three sons are entombed. I went through a narrow passageway to a circular room, in the center of which was a beautiful block of stone with the name of Lincoln on it. Flags of the states in which Lincoln lived were in holders around the room between the windows.

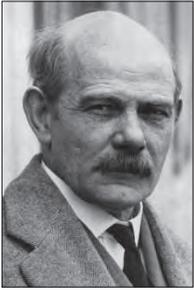
"I was alone here—a soft light bathed the scene and a cold stillness told me that while I was in the midst of life I was with death. My earthly ambition was fulfilled! At last I stood

beside the resting place of the man I loved and admired, the man who gave his life for the freedom I enjoyed. Oh, what a sensation! No words can picture it! I seemed to be petrified, and my soul was gripped with a feeling, not of fear, but with a something that told me I was in the hidden presence of one of the most beloved persons who ever trod the sod of this sinful world. He was a mortal who became really immortal because of his determination to break the chains of Slavery and make America the land of the free.

"I was in the presence of Lincoln!"

(Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press)

by Rob Kaplan



Gutzon Borglum

Beauty is not usually the first word that comes to mind when we think of Abraham Lincoln. In fact, his lack of beauty is a subject he not infrequently commented on himself. Not surprisingly, his critics were even less kind. During the presidential campaign of 1860, for example, the *Houston Telegraph* called the Republican candidate “the leanest, lankiest, most ungainly mass of legs, arms, and hatchet face ever strung upon a single frame. He has most unwarrantably abused the privilege which all politicians have of being ugly.” Today, of course, we see him differently, either due to our familiarity with his features or because our appreciation of his life and legacy have rendered those features admirable. But there was at least one man who nearly a century and a quarter ago recognized beauty in our sixteenth president, and in 1908 set out to present it to the world.

John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum may not be a household name in America today, but at the turn of the twentieth century he was even less well known. A son of Danish immigrants, born in 1867 near Bear Lake in what was then Idaho Territory, he would eventually create one of the best-known, and largest, sculptures in the United States—the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota, which he worked on from 1927 until his death in 1941. Borglum was also responsible for the original design of the Confederate Memorial in Stone Mountain, Georgia, which he began in 1923. (Incidentally, the Ku Klux Klan, reinvigorated in part by the 1915 release of D.W. Griffith’s *The Birth of a Nation*, was a major source of funding for the memorial. Perhaps paradoxically, according to John Taliaferro, author of *Great White Fathers: The Story of the Obsessive Quest to Create Mount Rushmore*, while Borglum may not have been a member of the group, he was an avowed racist who attended Klan rallies, served on Klan committees, and involved himself in Klan politics.) However, due to disagreements with the committee overseeing the project he was fired in 1925, and the work he had done to that point—the head of Robert E. Lee—was destroyed. He was reportedly

bitter about the dismissal, but it enabled him to take on the Mount Rushmore project when he was subsequently approached about it.

But neither of these commissions would have come about had it not been for a sculpture he did on his own in 1908, a 40-inch high, 375-pound marble bust of Abraham Lincoln. It was after seeing the statue that Borglum was contacted by C. Helen Plane, a founding member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, about the Stone Mountain project, and it was after learning about Borglum’s work at Stone Mountain that Jonah Robinson, secretary of the South Dakota State Historical Society, approached him about Mount Rushmore. It is perhaps not surprising that Plane and Robinson were so impressed with Borglum’s work, considering that, when Robert Lincoln, the son of the late President, saw his sculpture of Lincoln, he is reported to have said, “I never expected to see father again.” Eventually purchased by Eugene Meyer, Jr. and donated to the US Congress, the bust was originally placed in Statuary Hall and is now on exhibit in the crypt of the US Capitol. A full-size copy also stands in front of Lincoln’s Tomb in Springfield, Illinois.

But, as Borglum explained in his article “The Beauty of Lincoln” in the January-June 1910 issue of *Everybody’s Magazine*, creating such an extraordinary work was no easy task. No one, the artist believed, had ever depicted his subject accurately. In order to do so, he felt, it was necessary to consider not only the way Lincoln looked and moved but who he was, how he thought, and how those thoughts animated his features. “Lincoln, one of the greatest of observers,” Borglum wrote, “was himself the least truly observed. God had built him in the backyard of the nation, and there, wrapped in homely guise, had preserved and matured his pure humanity. He was heard, but seems rarely, if ever, to have been truly seen. The reports we have of him do not satisfy, do not justify themselves, are inconsistent. The Eastern, Old-World eye could not read beyond the queer hat, bad tailoring, and boots you could not now give away—and he was so long he fairly had to stoop to look the little world in the face.” Even so, he insisted, “. . . it is surprising that professional observers, artists and writers alike, have drawn and redrawn an untrue picture of this man. Out

of the hundreds of Lincoln’s pictures few are reliable, even as records of fact; and the hundreds of copyrighted lives of him, in their personal description, are largely reiterated popular opinion and hearsay.

“A great portrait,” Borglum went on, “is always full of compelling presence, more even than is at all times seen in the original; for a great portrait depicts great moments, and carries the life record of the whole man. It is, therefore, not sufficient to draw a mask. . . . No mask will satisfy us; we want to see what we care for; we want to feel the private conscience that became public conduct. With his coming, the West has steadily rolled back the East, and of his ways the world has many. The silk hat, the tall figure, the swing, the language and manner have become American, and now we understand and love this man because he was wholly one of us and made true democracy a living fact. . . .

“Nor is it strange that this first product of the West should confound Old-World-trained eyes. They were blind to the real man; they ever read him by official and Continental standards. His free, easy stride, not Indian but Western—developed in the open road, where men, with bent head, study the unbroken trail—was misnamed. His deference and native, Middle-West directness led the superficial observer into making those caricatures by which the public knows him best.

“It was speculation of this kind that gradually led me to a careful analysis of Lincoln the man. I felt that the accepted portraits of him did not justify his record. His life, his labors, his writings made me feel some gross injustice had been done him in the blind, careless use of such phrases as *ungainly*, *uncouth*, *vulgar*, *rude*, which were commonly applied to him by his contemporaries.”

But, Borglum wrote “I did not believe there ever was a grotesque Lincoln. I did not believe the man who could whip his way to the head of a band of ruffians, reason his way to the head of a town meeting, inspire and fire a nation, win and hold the hearts of millions, was gawky—or even awkward. . . . No, Lincoln was not an awkward man. He was long of limb, and, as is the method of long-limbed men, he moved his arms from his shoulders, his legs from his hips; and this gives rise in the mind of the observer to a sense of awkwardness, because the whole body always

takes up part of the labor, producing an appearance of effort not perceived in people of medium height. It is not generally known that this is the true way to ease and grace, and that so all natural human beings move....

“His walk was free, and he moved with a long, but rather slow, swinging stride; he looked down as he walked, like a man picking his way carefully over a newly harrowed field, lifting his feet quite clear of the soft ground. It was this movement that gave the long fold in the thigh part of his trousers, straining the garment—an effect often commented upon.

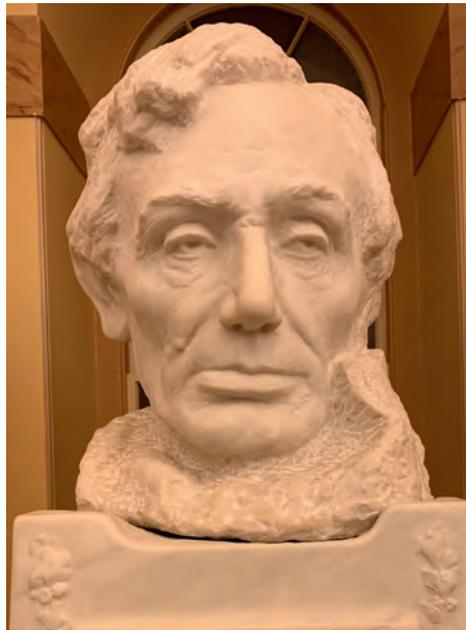
“His arms hung free, and he carried his hand open. Anyone wearing an eight and a half glove could take his hand easily in his. His hands were not disproportionately large; but the cut of his sleeve was generous, as of his period, and in the swinging use of his arms so much of his wrists came through that they seemed large. In his early life hard labor had developed the palms of his hands, and the thick muscle part of his thumb was full and strong; but this shrank later to the thumb of the literary man, and, strangely, considering his early life, he carried it closely into his hand, as becomes the habit, or is the nature, of literary men.

“He was erect. He did not stoop at the shoulders, as nearly everybody states. There are no wrinkles in his coat, forward, between the lapel and the shoulder, nor is there a corresponding strain in the back, to show the garment’s yield to the stooping tenant. On the contrary, there is evidence of an erectness, definite and purposeful.”

“I believed the healthy, powerful youth and frontiersman, the lover, lawyer of spotless record, legislator, victor over the artful Douglas, the man thrice candidate for President, had been falsely drawn. I believed, if properly seen and truly read, the compelling and enduring greatness of the man would be found written in his actions, in his figure, in his deportment, in his face, and that some of this compelling greatness might be put into marble.

“In order to do this, I read all, or nearly all, he had written, his own description of himself, the few immediate records of his coming and going. I then took the life mask, learned it by heart, measured it in every possible way—for it is infallible—then returned to the habits of mind which his writings showed; and I came to the conclusion that five or six of the photographs indicated the real man.”

But, he continued, “There is another point that cannot be too much insisted upon if one will draw this great plainsman truly. You must



Borglum's Bust of Lincoln

get into *his own* story—follow him closely through his first years—and, forgetting nothing, you will find nothing to forgive. Slight not his love for Ann Rutledge, nor his conduct following her death, which sounds the highest note of a heart’s cry. Then if you wish to conjure up the man, move quickly to the most serious cabinet meeting of the century, opened with a reading from Artemus Ward, and watch him continue it, fulfilling his compact with himself, with God, freeing four millions of slaves. This scene admits of the greatest possible distortion; it might have been grotesque; it was godlike. Is there any other character in history who could repeat it? This extraordinary act sent to their beds his cabinet with impressions never to be forgotten....”

Not surprisingly, though, it was on his subject’s face that the artist focused most closely. “His face,” Borglum wrote, “was large in its simple masses. Nature seems to have intended him to be ten or twelve feet in height, and as he failed to grow to that, the free skin settled back to fit the natural man. His head was normal in size; his forehead high, regular, and classical in shape. He was wide through the temples; his brow projected like a cliff. The hollow of the eye was large and deep, and the eye seemed to lie in a kind of ravine; it would hardly have been perceptible if you had passed your hand over the ball. His cheek bones were not high; they seemed high because of the careworn flesh that shrank sharply beneath. Below this, again, the face lost the splendid regularity of the upper part. The nose yielded to the constant activity of the right side of his

face, and was drawn in that direction. The line of the mouth ran up toward the right side. This becomes very perceptible if one looks at any of his good, full-face portraits.

“His eyebrows were very strong, and hung out over his face like the huge cornice of a mountain bungalow. They were bushy and moved freely, and developed a set of wrinkles similar to those seen in the face of Homer. There was a large wrinkle that descended from the lower and outer part of the eye almost straight into the hollow of the cheek line, and became very strong when he laughed; in severity, this would straighten out like a guy rope.

“His mouth was not coarse nor heavy. His upper lip was as regular as can be—bearing a little to the right; but his lower lip was drawn toward the right side at least half an inch—and some irregularity of his teeth and the way his jaws came together forced the lower lip out, giving the exaggerated line we see.

“I discovered by carefully tracing individual expressions, tendencies to expression, wrinkles, and other developments of his face, the habits of the separate features. Little can be determined about a man by the structure of his nose, nor can his character be fixed because he has a small eye or a full one, high cheek bones or practically none, a full mouth or a small one. But the use he makes of those features, and the record that use makes daily upon the features and the whole face, can be read as easily as the headlines of a New York paper. And so I found that the storm center of Lincoln’s face was about his right eye. He would peer out at you for an instant with this right eye half closed; then would follow that uplift of his head and the receptive expression that was so generally misread as bewilderment, hesitancy, and indecision. The mirth center was also in the right eye.

“The eye always gives the first evidence of humor in a merry soul; and Lincoln, I believe, had naturally a merry Soul. But sadness changed this, and I found evidence that he smiled very, very often with his mouth alone when his nature took no part in it. It was the saddest feature that he had, and yet about the right corner there always lingered a little memory of a smile.

“The left eye was open, non-committal, dreamy. The brow seemed ever to question, and all this side of the face seemed primitive, unfinished. The expression was sad, undetermined, and I believe he knew this and that it explains why he managed so often to get the photographer to the right side of him. This right side was as cautious as Cassius, and in

profile remarkably like that of Keats. The profile from the left was pure Middle-West plainsman. All expressions of pleasure, when they reached this side of his face, seemed to lose their merriment, and the habitual lowering of the line of the mouth on this side accentuated the sadness. Expressions on his face seemed to begin about the left upper brow, travel across to the right eye, down the right side, and stop at the upper lip, or lose themselves over the rest of his face.

“Briefly—the right side of this wonderful face is the key to his life. Here you will find the record of his development, the centuries-old marks of his maturity. All the man grew to seemed engraved on this side. It guards his

plan—watches the world, and shows no more of his light than his wisdom deems wise. The left side is immature, plain—and physically not impressive. It is long, drawn, and indecisive; and this brow is anxious, ever slightly elevated and concerned.

“You will find written on his face literally all the complexity of his great nature—a nature seeing at once the humor and the pathos of each situation as it presents itself to him. You see half smile, half sadness; half anger, half forgiveness; half determination, half pause; a mixture of expression that drew accurately the middle course he would follow read wrongly by both sides. We see a dual nature struggling with a dual problem, delivering a single result.

“He was more deeply rooted in the home principles that are keeping us together than any man who was ever asked to make his heartbeat national—the first great human return from the West—too great to become president, except by the extraordinary combination of circumstances then existing.

“It is yet to be shown in bronze or marble,” Borglum concluded, “what manner of man he was—his majesty, his simplicity, his humanity.” But, as Robert Lincoln did more than a century ago, those who have seen this extraordinary portrait are likely to believe that Borglum, with his own hands, proved himself wrong, in the process leaving an indelible portrait that truly demonstrates the beauty of Lincoln.

“AS NEAR A PERFECT MAN AS GOD GENERALLY MAKES” -
WILLIAM H. HERNDON ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN



William H. Herndon

It will come as no surprise to anyone familiar with William Henry Herndon that he idolized as well as idealized his senior law partner. Even so, the extent to which this is exhibited in a letter he wrote to a Mr. Noyes in January 1874, nearly a decade after Lincoln’s death, and published in

The Boston Evening Transcript in February 1932, is so extraordinary that even those who are equally—or almost equally—enamored of Lincoln may well be taken aback. Although no one without an extremely healthy ego is ever likely to become president of the United States, and our sixteenth president was no exception, one can’t help but wonder how Lincoln, who at least in public tended to be self-effacing, might have reacted to such effusive praise. On the other hand, who among us would not like to hear someone speak so highly of us so many years after our death?

Chinkapin Hill P.O.,
Sangamon County, Ill.,
January 15, 1874

Mr. N.:

You say you desire to know all possible things of the good and great dead. I have just now a few moments to spare, and I do not know how better to spend them than to tell you what Mr. Lincoln really was and what he was not. Mr.

Lincoln was a kind, tender and sympathetic man, feeling deeply in the presence of suffering, pain, wrong or oppression in any shape; he was the very essence and substance of truth; was of unbounded veracity, had unlimited integrity, always telling the exact truth, and always doing the honest thing at all times and under all circumstances. He was just to men; he loved the right, the good and true, with all his soul. I was with Mr. Lincoln for twenty-five years, and I can truthfully say I never knew him to do a wrong thing, never knew him to do a mean thing, never knew him to do any little dirty trick. He was always noble. In his nature he felt nobly and acted nobly. I never knew so true a man, so good a one, so just a one, so uncorrupted and incorruptible a one. He was a patriot and loved his country well, and died for it. Mr. Lincoln expressed his great feelings in his thoughts, and his great thoughts in his feelings; he lived in his thoughts, and thought in his feelings. By these his soul was elevated and purified for his work. His work was the highest and grandest religion, noble duty nobly done.

Mr. Lincoln was cool and calm under the most trying circumstances; he had unbounded charity for all men. In religion he was a Theist, somewhat after the order of Theodore Parker. Mr. Lincoln was not a speculative-minded man, was, like Washington, severely practical; he never ran in advance of his age, and yet was always directing the ideas and feelings of men to purely practical ends, to something that would end in good. Mr. Lincoln never shaped his veracity, integrity or virtue to circumstances; he fashioned and formed circum-

stances, so far as he could, to virtue, veracity and to integrity. He scorned meanness everywhere and at all times, and was bold and manly in his denunciation of wrong, however and by whomever done; he was not a foxy, tricky man; he was a statesman high above all tricks. How such a man as Lincoln could walk up to the highest point of human grandeur, from such a low origin, God only knows. But so it was ordained from the beginning and so it is. Mr. Lincoln was a man of great fidelity to what he believed was right—was true to friends, never deserting them till they deserted virtue, veracity and integrity. Mr. Lincoln could be, and was, trusted by the people with almost omnipotent power, and he never abused it nor shook the public faith in him. He was true to his trust, true to his country, and true to the rights of man. What a noble man, and what a noble life he lived! Washington was America’s creator; Lincoln as its saviour. Mr. Lincoln now stands up against the deep blue sky the grandest figure of the age.

I have now stated to you Mr. Lincoln’s leading characteristics, and if you like him better for them I am well satisfied with what I have told you. I have weighted every word and sentence, and can truly say they are true to Lincoln and Lincoln true to them. Mr. Lincoln was not a social man. He was not spontaneous in his feelings; was, as some said, rather cold; he was rather reflective—not cold. However, take him all in all, he was as near a perfect man as God generally makes.

Yours truly,
W.H. HERNDON

Campaign songs are a long-established tradition in American presidential elections. Depending on who you ask, the first one was either "God Save Great Washington," a slightly altered version of "God Save the King" (although actually written in 1786, three years before Washington's inauguration), or "Adams and Liberty," written by Robert Treat Paine, Jr. for John Adams' reelection campaign in 1800, and sung to the tune of "To Anacreon in Heaven" (the same one subsequently used for "The Star-Spanned Banner"). Later in the nineteenth century some of the songs were made available to the public in songsters, small pamphlets containing new lyrics for several songs intended to be sung to already familiar tunes.

In 1860 the best-known collection supporting Lincoln's candidacy was *Hutchinson's Republican Songster*, published by O. Hutchinson, Publishers, in New York. It included 50 songs, among them "Lincoln and Liberty," which began

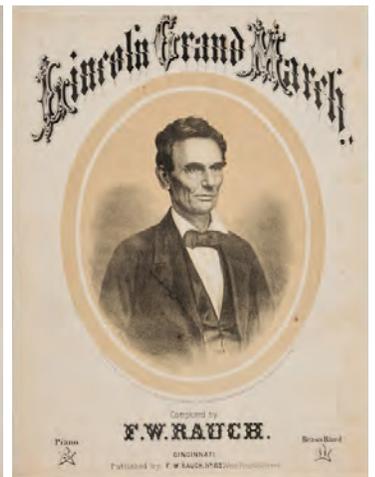
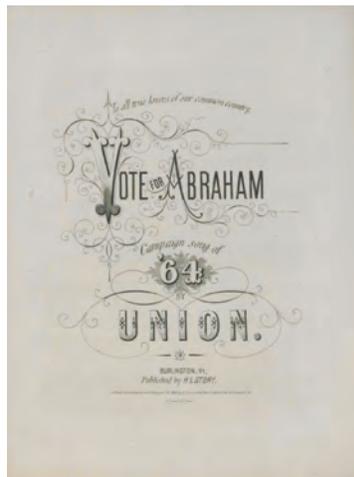
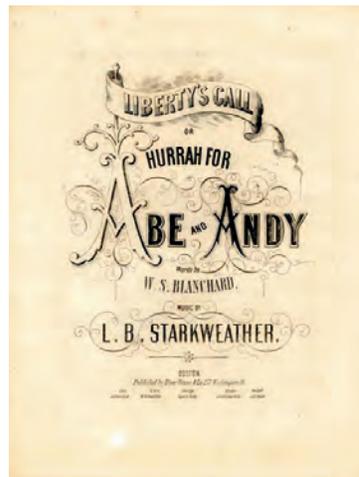
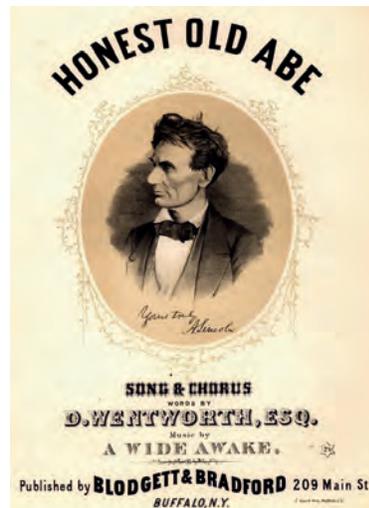
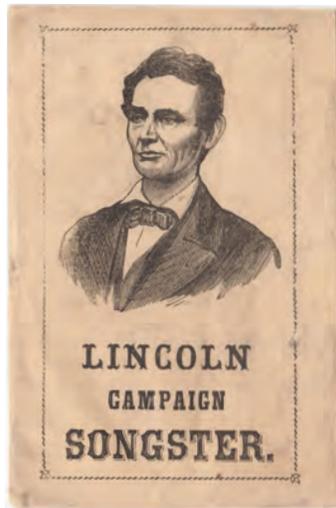
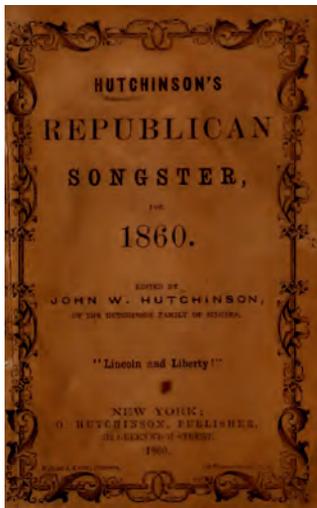
"Hurrah for the choice of the nation!
Our chieftain so brave and so true;
We'll go for the great Reformation—
For Lincoln and Liberty too!"

During Lincoln's reelection campaign one of the most popular pamphlets was the *Lincoln Campaign Songster*, published by Mason & Company in Philadelphia. It included such songs as "Shout Aloud for Lincoln," "Cast

Your Votes for Abraham," and "Rally Round the Cause, Boys," sung to the tune of "Battle Cry of Freedom," with the now-familiar chorus,

"For Lincoln and Johnson, huzza,
boys, huzza!
Down with rebellion, on with the war;
We rally round the cause, boys, rally
in our might
Singing the holy cause of freemen."

During both campaigns, however, there were also numerous songs with new tunes and/or lyrics intended to encourage people to vote for Abraham Lincoln, some examples of which appear here.



Nearly 100 years ago, in 1924, Ida Tarbell, the famous journalist, muckraker, and Lincoln biographer, said, “There is no man in American history with whom the people so desire intimate acquaintance as they do with Abraham Lincoln.” In the years since, the American publishing industry has done its best to fulfill that desire. And in 2021, even through an ongoing pandemic, publishers have continued to do so. It should be pointed out, however, that although the list of new books that follows is a substantial one, it does not include every Lincoln book published in the past year. Rather, it includes only new—or new editions of—adult nonfiction books published in hardcover and/or paperback by traditional publishers (i.e., not independently published) that are largely if not entirely about Lincoln.

There are, as is usually the case, a number of books that while not fitting these criteria might nevertheless be of interest to Lincoln devotees. Among these is *The Mythic Mr. Lincoln: America’s Favorite President in Multimedia Fiction* by Jeff O’Bryant (McFarland & Co., 222 pages, paperback, \$39.95), a survey of fictional representations of the sixteenth president in short stories, novels, radio and television shows, films, and other media. Another is Bradley M. Gottfried and Linda I. Gottfried’s *Lincoln Comes to Gettysburg: The Creation of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery and Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address* (Savas Beatie, 192 pages, paperback, \$14.95), an illustrated history of the development of the idea to establish a cemetery in Gettysburg, its planning and construction, and the organization and execution of the dedication ceremonies. A third is *To Address You As My Friend: African Americans’ Letters to Abraham Lincoln* edited by Jonathan W. White (University of North Carolina Press, 304 pages, cloth, \$29.95), a collection of more than 120 letters from African Americans to Lincoln that offer intimate portraits of Black soldiers’ and civilians’ experience in wartime and express their thoughts and feelings about the “Great Emancipator.” There is also *The Lincoln Memorial* by Kevin S. Schindler and Brian Anderson (Arcadia Publishing, 128 pages, paperback, \$23.99), the latest entry in the publisher’s “Images of America” series, which provides a fully illustrated history of the planning, design, and construction of the memorial in Washington, DC.

Although our annual list has traditionally

included only printed books, there was an item published in 2021 that, while in a different format, is equally deserving of mention—James L. Swanson’s audio book, *The Lincoln Obsession: The Author of Manhunt Chases Down His Own Lincoln Obsession* (Audible Studios on Brilliance Audio, 3 hours: 39 minutes, \$19.99). In it, the author shares the backstory behind the making of the bestseller *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln’s Killers*, discusses his personal journey and lifelong obsession with Abraham Lincoln, and reveals some of what he refers to as the “mysteries and unanswered questions” about the Lincoln assassination.

Finally, since 2011 Southern Illinois University Press has published, along with many other excellent books about our sixteenth president, a series called “The Concise Lincoln Library.” As the name suggests, these books provide brief overviews of specific subjects relating to Abraham Lincoln, many of them written by well-known authors in the field, including Michael Burlingame, Richard Carwardine, Brian R. Dirck, Edna Greene Medford, Edward Steers Jr., and Frank J. Williams, among others. The two books from SIUP on this year’s list—Mark E. Steiner’s *Lincoln and Citizenship* and Michael S. Green’s *Lincoln and Native Americans*, the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth in the series—are regrettably the last new books scheduled to be published. (Although Jason Emerson’s *Lincoln the Inventor*, the 2009 book that inspired the series, will be rereleased as a matching paperback, and incorporated into the Library, in 2022.) The Press is certainly to be congratulated for this singular achievement, and it is to be hoped that at some point in the future there will be additional volumes added to this invaluable series.

Abraham Lincoln’s Humor: Yarns, Stories, and Anecdotes By and About Our 16th President by John Grafton, Dover Publications, 176 pages, paperback, \$10.95 – A selection of almost 200 examples of Lincoln’s humor drawn from A.K. McClure’s classic *Anecdotes & Stories of Abraham Lincoln* (1884) as well as other sources, and divided into four sections covering “Early Life,” “Frontier Lawyer,” “Politics and the Presidency,” and “The Civil War.”

An American Marriage: The Untold Story of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd by Michael Burlingame, Pegasus Books, 310 pages, cloth, \$27.95 – A highly critical evalua-

tion of Mary Todd Lincoln’s character and the effect she had on her husband, accusing her of such trespasses as seducing Lincoln to get her to marry him, beating their children, accepting bribes and conducting affairs while in the White House, and being at least partly responsible for his assassination, among others

America’s Original Sin: White Supremacy, John Wilkes Booth, and the Lincoln Assassination by John Rhodehamel, Johns Hopkins University Press, 480 pages, cloth, \$27.95 – An argument that, contrary to traditional explanations, John Wilkes Booth’s motivation for killing Abraham Lincoln grew entirely out of his increasing belief in white supremacy, and an effort to show, through alternating chapters, how throughout their lives, even as Booth’s devotion to slavery grew so too did Lincoln’s commitment to emancipation.

The Black Man’s President: Abraham Lincoln, African Americans, and the Pursuit of Racial Equality by Michael Burlingame, Pegasus Books, 320 pages, cloth, \$29.95 – A narrative history of Lincoln’s personal interactions with Black people that demonstrates his unfailing cordiality to them, his willingness to meet with them in the White House, to honor their requests, to invite them to consult on public policy, and to treat them with respect, all manifestations of his egalitarian spirit and a demonstration of why Frederick Douglass referred to him as “the black man’s president.”

The Broken Constitution: Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Refounding of America by Noah Feldman, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 384 pages, cloth, \$30.00 – A legal scholar’s assertion that as president Lincoln intentionally and repeatedly violated the spirit if not the letter of the Constitution to suspend civil liberties, enable the federal government to interfere with slavery, and use the military to prevent states from seceding—all in an effort to break the Constitution in order to remake it.

The Crooked Path to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Antislavery Constitution by James Oakes, W.W. Norton & Company, 288 pages, cloth, \$26.95 – A discussion of the differences, prior to the Civil War, between those who believed that the Constitution was

a pro-slavery document and those who believed it was anti-slavery, and how Lincoln's evolving beliefs regarding racial equality were a direct result of his increasing commitment to the latter.

Getting Right with Lincoln: Correcting Misconceptions about Our Greatest President by Edward Steers Jr., University Press of Kentucky, 216 pages, cloth, \$27.95 – A reasoned analysis and refutation of several of the most widespread misconceptions about Lincoln, including the alleged shiftlessness of his father, the actual author of the famous “Bixby Letter,” the truth about his relationship with Ann Rutledge, the belief that he only reluctantly issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and his attitude toward Native Americans, among others.

His Greatest Speeches: How Lincoln Moved the Nation by Diana Schaub, St. Martin's Press, 224 pages, cloth, \$27.99 – Based on the contention that Lincoln perceived America's national character as having been defined by three key events—the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the creation of the Constitution, and the introduction of slavery into the United States, an in-depth analysis of the three speeches that best represented his understanding of the significance of those events—the Lyceum, Gettysburg, and Second Inaugural Addresses.

Lincoln and Citizenship by Mark E. Steiner, Southern Illinois University Press, 192 pages, cloth, \$24.95 – A brief study of the evolution of Lincoln's understanding of the meaning of citizenship, moving over the

course of his life from the belief that suffrage should be limited to those who met certain obligations to the state, to universal—i.e., white male—suffrage, to quicker incorporation of immigrants into the body politic, and ultimately to citizenship for Black Americans.

Lincoln and Native Americans by Michael S. Green, Southern Illinois University Press, 176 pages, cloth, \$24.95 – A concise discussion of how Lincoln thought about Native Americans, interacted with them, and was affected by them, both personally and politically, arguing that while his record was by no means exemplary, he was nevertheless more sympathetic and more attentive to their concerns than other politicians of his day.

Lincoln in Lists: The Civil War President in 25 Lists by Thomas R. Flagel, Stackpole Books, 320 pages, paperback, \$19.95 – A series of annotated lists intended to present a cross-section of Lincoln's life, providing information in such areas as homes and jobs; mentors, friends, and allies; books and reading; legal cases; speeches and addresses; accomplishments as an Illinois legislator and U.S. congressman; and others.

Lincoln in Private: What His Most Personal Reflections Tell Us About Our Greatest President by Ronald C. White, Random House, 352 pages, cloth, \$28.00 – A rare glimpse into Lincoln's private thoughts through an analysis of twelve of the 111 extant notes he is known to have written for his own use, including discussions of slavery, his debates with Stephen Douglas, his private feelings about his defeated bid for a

Senate seat, God's role in the Civil War, and other subjects.

Lincolnomics: How President Lincoln Constructed the Great American Economy by John F. Wasik, Diversion Books, 320 pages, cloth, \$31.99 – A discussion of Lincoln's belief in the importance of what is now called infrastructure to America's success, including his championing of internal improvements as a young Illinois state legislator in the 1830s, his work as a lawyer representing the Illinois Central Railroad in the 1850s, and his support of the Transcontinental Railroad and land grant colleges during his presidency.

Lincoln's Mentors: The Education of a Leader by Michael Gerhardt, Custom House, 496 pages, cloth, \$32.50 – An examination of how Lincoln developed the leadership skills that enabled him to succeed through the mentoring, including inspiration as well as instruction, of five men, two of whom he never met—Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson, and three of whom he knew—Zachary Taylor, John Todd Stuart, and Orville Browning.

The President and the Freedom Fighter: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Their Battle to Save America's Soul by Brian Kilmeade, Sentinel, 304 pages, cloth, \$28.00 – The Fox co-host's best-selling overview of Lincoln and Douglass' separate paths to prominence, the points at which those paths converged, and the significance of those meetings for their participants as well as for subsequent American history.

AWARD COMMITTEE: A special thanks to our dedicated members who served on the 2021 award committee:
Rob Kaplan, Chair / Steve Aronson / Anthony Czarnecki

The Wide Awake Bulletin is the annual newsletter of The Lincoln Group of New York. We welcome your feedback, letters, and comments. Please direct correspondence to Rob Kaplan, Editor, *The Wide Awake Bulletin*, 399 Furnace Dock Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 - robkaplan@optonline.net. For more information about the Lincoln Group of New York visit our website at www.lincolngroupny.org.