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,

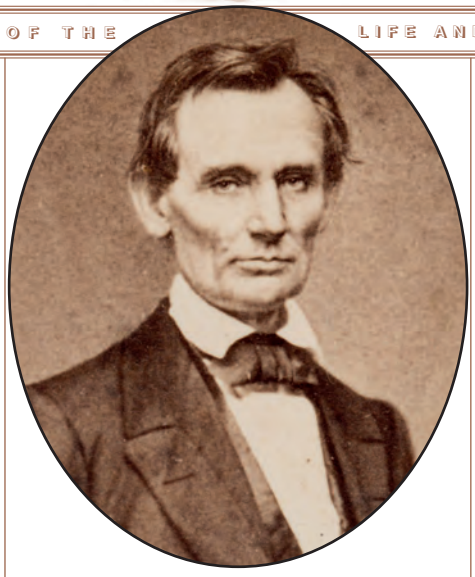
As we welcome in 2023, I can honestly say that while the problems caused by Covid-19 in the previous two years—both for our group and everyone else—have diminished significantly, 2022 was still a year that challenged our ability to be flexible. When we plan our dinner meetings we make every effort to bring in speakers who will energize, excite, and inspire our members. However, as a direct result of the ongoing effects of the virus, as well as some logistical issues, we were forced several times to change program dates to accommodate those we had engaged to speak.

In February 2021 our scheduled speaker, LGNY Award of Achievement winner Jonathan Hirsch, director and co-producer of the CNN docuseries, "Lincoln: Divided We Stand," contracted Covid, and we had to reschedule the meeting twice. Fortunately, he was finally able to meet with us in June to receive his award and talk to us about the popular series. In November, Dr. Diana Schaub, who was to speak to us about her book, *His Greatest Speeches: How Lincoln Moved the Nation*, was too ill to attend. We were able, however, on very short notice, to bring in Mr. Joseph D. Collea, Jr. to talk about his book, *New York and the Lincoln Specials: The President's Pre-Inaugural and Funeral Trains Cross the Empire State.*

We are planning to invite Dr. Schaub to speak at our November meeting, and remain hopeful (but cautious) that we can get back on our regular meeting schedule through the rest of 2023. In the meantime, speaking for the officers and members of the executive committee, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support for our organization.

Lastly, on a personal note, in September I attended a special day of tribute at the University of Massachusetts for Stephen B. Oates, who served as my teacher and mentor when I was both an undergraduate and graduate U.S. history student there. There were many fine speakers who delivered words of inspiration honoring Stephen for his dedication to the art of biography and the teaching of Civil War history. I was especially moved by the words of his son, Craig, his daughter, Stephanie, and my close friends Harold Holzer and Frank Williams. Stephen and his family continue to be in my thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

Sincerely,
Paul Ellis-Graham



EDITOR: ROB KAPLAN
EDITOR EMERITUS: STEVEN R. KOPPELMAN
DESIGNER: FRITZ METSCH

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter 1
Jon Meacham Wins Award of Achievement 2
2022 Meeting Review 2
Lincoln Memorial Centennial Celebrated 5
The Curious Case of the Controversial Penny. 5
Abraham Lincoln, Socialist . .. 7
LGNY Members Attend the Lincoln Forum 8
A Republican Party Argument for Its Presidential Candidate, 1860 8
Edwin Booth's Shame 9
Lincoln Books 2022.. 10

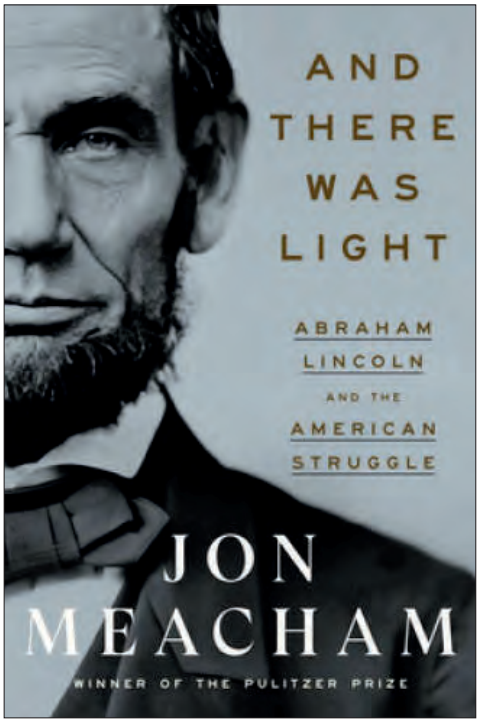
The editor would like to thank Paul Ellis-Graham, Steven R. Koppelman, Anthony Czarnecki, and Fritz Metsch for their assistance in preparing this issue of *The Wide Awake Bulletin.*

JON MEACHAM WINS AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2022

Jon Meacham

Jon Meacham, author of *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle,* has been chosen as the recipient of the Lincoln Group of New York's 2022 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. Mr. Meacham holds the Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair in the American Presidency at Vanderbilt University, and is the author of numerous *New York Times* bestsellers, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. Among his most recent books are: *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope; The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*; *The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross*; *Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music That Made a Nation* (with Tim McGraw); and *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*.

And There Was Light is a biography, but one that goes well beyond the standard retelling of its subject's life. Rather than focus primarily on what Lincoln *did*—although the

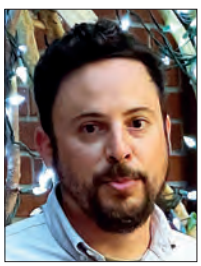


major events of his life are covered, it shows, even more importantly, who he *was*, and the people, experiences, and ideas that influenced him. The book also fuses together two aspects of Lincoln's personality. In the first, Mr. Meacham shows him as a practical politician who knew, for example, how to gauge public sentiment and to press his agenda only as fast as the public could follow him, as he did during the war by stressing the importance of maintaining the Union rather than of destroying slavery. In the second, the author portrays him as a man of enormous faith who believed God takes a hand in the day-to-day lives of people, who acted, as Mr. Meacham puts it, "according to motives higher than the merely political," and always strove to determine what God wished him to do and to act accordingly. As one of the many examples of this belief, Mr. Meacham cites Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles's description of the cabinet meeting at which Lincoln announced his previously postponed decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln, Welles wrote, "remarked that he had made a vow—a covenant—that if God gave us the victory in the approaching battle [at Antietam], he would consider it an indication of Divine will, and that it was his duty to move forward in the cause of emancipation." The result is a book that provides readers not only with a brilliantly written recounting of what Lincoln achieved, and how he achieved it, but also places those achievements into a context that enables readers to gain a deeper understanding of the man Abraham Lincoln was.

The award committee members for 2022 were Rob Kaplan, Steve Aronson, and Tony Czarnecki. The award will be presented to Mr. Meacham at our February 2023 meeting, where he will speak about the book.

2022 MEETING REVIEW – JUNE 22, 2022

Rob Kaplan



Jon Hirsch

Although the Covid-19 pandemic may have abated to some extent by the beginning of 2022, because the scheduled speakers for both our February and April meetings contracted the virus it was necessary for us to postpone our first meeting until June. Opening that meeting, President Paul Ellis-Graham spoke briefly about those difficulties, then expressed his appreciation, and extended a welcome, to those members who were able to attend. He also mentioned the passing of Tom Dames, a longtime member of the group, and of historian Stephen Oates, who had been a mentor and friend of Mr. Ellis-Graham's since his student days at UMass Amherst, and asked for a moment of silence as a remembrance. Turning then to business, he explained that it was time to have an election for the group's officers and executive committee. The executive committee, he said, had recommended maintaining the current slate, which was then voted on and approved by the membership. Finally, he announced dinner would be served.

Once dinner was concluded, Mr. Ellis-Graham turned the program over to Rob Kaplan, vice president and chair of the Award Committee, to announce the winner of the 2021 LGNY Award of Achievement. The winner, Mr. Kaplan said, was the Glass Entertainment Group for its television series "Lincoln: Divided We Stand," which was executive produced by Nancy Glass and Jon Hirsch and directed by Mr. Hirsch, and aired on CNN between February 14 and March 21, 2021. Mr. Kaplan noted that over the more than thirty years that the award has been presented, the vast majority have gone to authors of newly-published books about Abraham Lincoln. The members of the Award Committee, which this year included Steve Aronson, Tony Czarnecki, and Mr. Kaplan, consequently reviewed the fifteen books published in 2021 that fit the criteria established for the award, and among them found several that were more than worthy of receiving a

prize. He noted, however, that the primary criteria for our award is that it be presented to the individual or organization that did the most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln during the year. And the members of the committee unanimously agreed that given the quality of "Lincoln: Divided We Stand," and the reach of a cable news network, which is many times larger than the reach of any but the best-selling books, there was no question in their minds that the award should be given to the Glass Entertainment Group.

As described by CNN, Mr. Kaplan said, 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, it drew on the expertise of nearly two dozen stars of the Lincoln universe, including Edna Greene Medford, Michael Burlingame, Allen C. Guelzo, Catherine Clinton, and LGNY executive committee member Harold Holzer, among others.

The six hour-long episodes presented Lincoln's story in chronological order. The first was titled "Rising Star," and covered Lincoln's early years through his courtship of Mary Todd. The second, "Portrait of a Leader," focused on his political rise through his election as president. The third episode, called "A Country on Edge," examined the beginning of his presidency and the start of the Civil War. That was followed by "A Proclamation," which discussed Lincoln's path to the Emancipation Proclamation, including questions about his motive for issuing it. The fifth episode, "The Dogs of War," covered the evolution of his thinking on slavery and equality, as exhibited in the Gettysburg Address, the Thirteenth Amendment, and the Second Inaugural Address. And, finally, "Hope, Tragedy, and the New Normal" chronicled 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 evening's speaker, who would accept the award on behalf of the Glass Entertainment Group, was Jon Hirsch, director of the series, an Emmy Award-winning producer/director and SVP and executive producer for the Glass Entertainment Group. In addition to overseeing the group's non-scripted programming, he executive produces, writes, and directs many of the company's documentary series and specials. Finally, Mr. Kaplan said that at that point it was customary to introduce the speaker. However, he explained, this year there was an unusual circumstance in that one of our members was himself deeply involved in the project—was in fact one of the two historical consultants on the series, and had expressed a wish to make the introduction. Mr. Kaplan then introduced that member, Harold Holzer. Mr. Holzer, in turn, spoke about what a pleasure it was to work with Mr. Hirsch, lauded his talents, and praised the quality of the series and the picture of Lincoln that it presented. He then introduced Mr. Hirsch.

The series, Mr. Hirsch said, was a daunting project, a team effort that required more than a year of work. When they began working on it, he explained, their first goal was to answer three questions. First, what do most people know about Abraham Lincoln? Second, how does Lincoln's story impact on us today? And, third, how do you capture the essence of Lincoln? In order to answer these questions, he said, his team had to reach out to people who could help them. Once they had the answers to those questions, he said, telling the linear story was easy. Bringing it to life was the hard part. This was done, he said, in three ways. First, by providing viewers with information about the events of Lincoln's life, including doing additional research to find things that most people would not have already known about Lincoln. Second, by providing anecdotes that illustrated those events, accomplished largely by the on-screen comments of the numerous Lincoln experts the team had gathered. And, third, by capturing emotions and keeping the audience engaged. In addition, knowing how important the narration would be in achieving their aims, the team chose Sterling K. Brown, who took the assignment very seriously and asked many questions about Lincoln and the Civil War. That interest, Mr. Hirsch said, showed in his performance, which he felt brought everything together.

Finally, he thanked the group for the award. He added that he was particularly pleased by, and appreciative of, the fact that a group of serious Lincoln devotees had been so impressed with the series, because he felt it meant that he had hit the mark and had accomplished what he had intended to do.

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Joseph D. Collea, Jr.

President Paul Ellis-Graham opened our November meeting by greeting all the attendees and thanking them for coming. He then explained, as he had in the email blast sent out a few days earlier, that our originally scheduled speaker, Dr. Diana Schaub, author of *His Greatest Speeches: How Lincoln Moved the Nation*, had fallen ill and was unable to join us. Fortunately, he said, Joseph D. Collea, Jr., author of *New York and the Lincoln Specials: The President's Pre-Inaugural and Funeral Trains Cross the Empire State,* was kind enough to make himself available on very short notice. Mr. Ellis-Graham then welcomed several first-time attendees, including Ross Heller, Peter Heller, Joe Termine, and Fritz Metsch, the book designer who for the last several years has generously volunteered his professional services to design *The Wide Awake Bulletin* for us. Mr. Ellis-Graham then asked Arlene Maher to come to the lectern to do our annual reading of the Gettysburg Address, which she did excellently, after which dinner was served.

After dinner Mr. Ellis-Graham introduced the evening's speaker. Joe Collea, he noted, spent forty-seven years in public education, first as a history teacher and then as a building administrator. Since retiring in 2016 he has spent his time researching and writing, and has had four books published, including *The First Vermont Cavalry in the Civil War: A History; Our Town—Ilion, New York: A Selective Look at 300 Years of History; Boots Day: A Life in Baseball;* and, most pertinent to our group, *New York and the Lincoln Specials.*

Although Mr. Collea's book on the trains focused primarily on their trips through New

Illinois State Capitol

Lincoln's Home

York State, he began his presentation where Lincoln himself started on the first of those journeys, in Springfield, Illinois. To provide a sense of what the city looked like at the time, Mr. Collea displayed several vintage photographs, including images of Lincoln's home, the old statehouse, the train station, and a train engine typical of the era. He also spoke about the touching farewell address Lincoln gave when he left Springfield, which concluded with "Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

The trip, he explained, was essentially a "whistle-stop" tour, but unlike those of later presidents, this one took place not during the campaign for the presidency but after it, as a means of showing himself to the people. The president-elect did not want the train to be too elaborate, and intended it to consist of only two cars, one for the family and the other for guests. As it moved across the country, though, additional cars had to be added to accommodate the many other individuals who wanted to join Lincoln's entourage. He noted, too, that while the passenger cars remained the same throughout the journey, the engines were changed as the train moved from the tracks of one system to another. He also mentioned the several cities through which the train traveled, including its first stop in New York, in Westfield, where Lincoln called for Grace Bedell—the little girl who had written him to suggest he grow a beard—to come forward in the crowd, and when she did, picked her up and kissed her, much to the audience's delight.

Moving on to Washington, DC, Mr. Collea briefly discussed how the city appeared prior to the Civil War and showed several photographs as illustrations, including one of the capitol with its still unfinished dome, noting that after Lincoln took office he insisted that the work to complete it go on to signify the continuance of the Union. He also displayed pictures of the first and second inaugurations as well as of the Lincolns in their box at Ford's Theatre on the night of the assassination, along with their guests, Major Henry Rathbone and his fiancée, Clara Harris. Speaking about the assassination led Mr. Correa to read excerpts from letters written by several Union soldiers expressing their grief over it, which led in turn to some discussion of mourning rituals during the Victorian period.

US Capitol

By today's standards, he said, these rituals would be considered excessive, citing for example the fact that, since photography was still not as generally available as it became later, people weren't always photographed when they were alive, and were subsequently frequently photographed after death. Lincoln himself was photographed in his coffin during the funeral ceremonies in New York City. Edwin Stanton, who handled all the funeral arrangements, had insisted that no photographs be taken, but a photographer was able

Lincoln's Funeral Train

to take some in New York, and although the secretary of war commandeered them, one was found many years later. Secretary Stanton's arrangements, Mr. Collea said, included the use of a special car that had been prepared for Lincoln but had never been used, and was modified to accommodate his coffin, as well as that of his son Willie, who had died in the White House in 1862.

Finally, Mr. Collea spoke—and showed illustrations—of the crowds of people who waited along the tracks as the funeral train moved across the country on its way to Springfield. There had, he said, been considerable discussion about where Lincoln would be buried—both Washington and Chicago were among the suggested sites—but Mary Lincoln insisted that he be buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, where today there is an imposing monument to his memory.

Lincoln's Tomb

LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED

by Anthony Czarnecki

This year marked the centennial of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, America's shrine to its beloved sixteenth president. It took fifty-seven years after Lincoln's death in 1865 to finally complete the funding, design, and construction process that culminated in a dedication ceremony on May 30, 1922, presided over by President Warren G. Harding and Chief Justice William Howard Taft. Lincoln's only surviving son, 78-year-old Robert Todd Lincoln, was in attendance but declined to speak before the assembled, although segregated, crowd of 50,000 people.

The centennial milestone was celebrated on May 22, 2022 with a re-dedication program organized by the National Park Service, the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, and the Lincoln Forum. This historic event took place on the plaza below the fifty-eight steps—two for Lincoln's terms in office and one for each year of Lincoln's life—that lead to the chamber of the Lincoln Memorial. It was hosted by David J. Kent, president of the Lincoln Group of DC, who acted as master of ceremonies. Music was provided by the Brass Quintet of the U.S. Marine Corps Band and included a powerful performance of "Ashokan Farewell," the familiar theme of Ken Burns' TV series *The Civil War*, which was written by NY State musician/composer Jay Unger from Somers.

The formal program began with a joyful invocation by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson, pastor of the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, where the Lincoln family worshipped during their White House years. Speakers included Charles Sams III, director of the National Park Service; Dr. Edna Greene Medford, professor emeritus of Howard University; Dr. Charlotte P. Morris, president of Tuskegee University; and historian/author Harold Holzer, co-founder and chairman of the Lincoln Forum. Dr. Morris' presentation was particularly noteworthy because her predecessor Dr. Robert Moton, then-president of Tuskegee Institute, spoke at the 1922 dedication. His remarks, however, in which he noted that African Americans were still not being treated as equals, had been censored by the organizers because they wanted to emphasize the "re- unification of the states" rather than the "unfinished agenda of the Great Emancipator." During her own speech Dr. Morris delivered Dr. Moton's unspoken words and made a passionate call for the nation to embrace Lincoln's "vision for unity and equality."

Our own Harold Holzer delivered a moving address entitled "Work Over. Victory His," using the same words sculptor Daniel Chester French did to explain the meaning of his masterpiece—that Lincoln's work was done and the Union victory belonged to him. Mr. Holzer, whose authoritative biography of French, *Monument Man*, was published in 2019, explained that French labored at his studios in Stockbridge, Massachusetts and Manhattan to create the now-iconic *seated* nineteen-foot sculpture of Lincoln because "he wanted Lincoln's face to be visible from the bottom step all the way up to the top" of the neo-classically designed memorial. Concluding his presentation, Mr. Holzer paid tribute to the sculptor, saying, "In line with his vision, let's continue to cherish his artistic victory while pursuing the nation's unfinished work."

The celebration was enriched by a musical performance by singer/actress Felicia Curry, recreating Marian Anderson's famous 1939 appearance at the memorial, and a dramatic reading of Lincoln's words by award-winning film/stage actor Stephen Lang. Fittingly, the program concluded with a memorable rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" by the Brass Quintet of the U.S. Marine Corps Band that served to remind everyone in attendance that "His truth is marching on!"

Members of the Lincoln Group of New York attending this historic event included Mr. Holzer, a founding member and current executive committee member; President Paul Ellis-Graham; Henry Ballone, a former president and current executive committee member; and Anthony Czarnecki, a current executive committee member. President Ellis-Graham also placed a wreath from the LGNY, made by his wife, Mary, on the steps of the memorial. The entire two-hour ceremony can be viewed in its entirety on C-SPAN at www.c-span.org/video/?520493-1/lincoln-memorial-centennial-ceremony

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL PENNY

by Rob Kaplan

There may well be nothing that seems quite so noncontroversial as the humble penny. And yet, there have been controversies over the Lincoln Cent since it was first proposed, in 1909, to replace the Indian Head Cent, which had then been in use for fifty years. One argument was between those who felt the sixteenth president was so important that he deserved to be on a coin with a higher denomination and those who believed that, since Lincoln was "the common people's president," the penny was the most appropriate choice. But there were also several other disagreements about the coin at the time, the story of which was presented in a—relatively—early issue of *Lincoln Lore*, on August 30, 1937.

Today *Lincoln Lore* is a handsomely produced 28-page quarterly published by The Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana and edited by Sara Gabbard, its executive director. However, it began life on April 15, 1929, as a one-page weekly bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation in Fort Wayne, Indiana, edited by the then-dean of Lincoln Studies, Dr. Louis A. Warren. By the summer of 1937 Dr. Warren had already produced more than 400 issues of the bulletin,

providing stories about everything from "Lincoln's Wearing Apparel" to "Lincoln Interprets the Declaration of Independence" to "Publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates." It wasn't until nearly twenty years after the fact that the editor apparently felt it was time to tell the one-cent coin's story, which he did under the title "Collecting Lincoln Pennies." (Note that in the second and third paragraphs of the excerpt from that article below there are several blatantly racist references to Native Americans which, while presumably acceptable in 1937, are clearly by no means acceptable today.)

"Abraham Lincoln was the first famous American to have his portrait appear on a coin of the United States. In 1909, during the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, the Lincoln one cent piece was put in circulation. Each successive year since then the mints of the country have struck off an ample supply of bright shining pennies.

"The bronze penny, much the same in size and metal content as the one we use now, first came from the mint in 1864 while Abraham Lincoln was President. On one side of the penny was the head of an Indian, symbol of primitive American life. Often it served as young America's first glimpse of the peculiar features of the savage of the wilderness.

"As we become further removed from the days of the red man, we pay more attention to those of our own race who have advocated principles and stood for ideals upon which our civilization has been built. It is appropriate indeed that the head of Abraham Lincoln should now appear on the penny as he has often been called 'The First American' and in him we see the personification of our republic.

"The head of Lincoln was not placed on the penny without much opposition because sentiment had been decidedly against the use of portraits of public men on the coins of the land. One editorial writer commented, 'No President, with the possible exception of Washington, occupies any such relation to the American people as justifies his being memorialized on their coins.'

"Largely through the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt, who was then President, the necessary legislation was enacted to authorize the new coin, and a Lincoln bust submitted by the sculptor, Victor D. Brenner, was selected as the model for the design. The profile had been made by Brenner in 1907 and was used on a Lincoln centennial medal in 1909 when it was brought to the attention of

1909 Lincoln Penny

1959 Lincoln Penny

2009 Lincoln Pennies

2010 Lincoln Penny

President Roosevelt. A heroic copy of the original medallion measuring three feet in diameter may be observed in the Philadelphia City Hall.

"When the penny was finally distributed there were many adverse comments but inasmuch as it was thought the coin would only be used as a memorial penny during the year 1909, some of the objections were withdrawn. One editor looked upon the coin as an omen of ill fortune to the American Democracy as he observed that 'This new Lincoln cent may be said to mark the first visible and outward emblem of the transition from a republic into an empire.'

"The new penny was issued on August 2, 1909 by the Philadelphia mint and the face or obverse side appeared as follows:

"Obverse side-Clothed, bearded bust of Lincoln facing right. Inscription above bust, 'IN GOD WE TRUST'; to left of bust, 'LIBERTY'; to right of bust, the date, beneath which appears the mint mark if any.

"The inscription 'In God We Trust,' which until 1909 had not been used on the one cent piece, was appropriately inscribed on the Lincoln penny. A law had been passed by Congress on March 3, 1865, authorizing the use of the motto on American money. This was a month and a half before Lincoln's assassination.

"It was the inscription on the reverse side of the penny which drew most attention, however, after the Lincoln portrait had been reluctantly accepted by some:

"Reverse side-Two sprays of wheat in a conventional form enclosing inscription in five lines 'E PLURIBUS UNUM ONE CENT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.' Between the two sprays of wheat on the inside of the rim the initials V. D. B.

"When Victor D. Brenner placed his initials on the coin he did not anticipate the outburst of disapproval over having the design thus mutilated, and pressure was immediately brought to bear upon the director of the mint to have the initials removed. The objection to the inscription was sustained, shipments of pennies were stopped, and new dies prepared to conform to the new order.

"The controversy over the sculptor's initials, following closely the heated argument over the use of the portrait of a historic character, gave the new penny tremendous publicity. The coin dealers all rejoiced and filled their vaults with the V.D.B. one cent pieces. Venders appeared on the streets selling the initialed pennies at three for five cents. The daily press reported that at one time the subtreasury in Wall Street was so conjested *[sic]* with people attempting to secure the pennies in exchange for currency that twenty policemen were summoned to maintain order.

"Hundreds of coin collections were started with the acquisition of a V.D.B. penny. Yet today, many are not aware that the sculptor's initials were again placed on the Lincoln penny in 1918. No considerable stir was cre-

ated at the time although the new initials are on the obverse instead of the reverse side of the penny. The V.D.B. inscription is microscopic but plainly visible with a magnifying glass on the extreme lower part of the bust itself, under the shoulder and near the rim of the penny.…"

There were, though, still more changes to come. The Lincoln Memorial, which had been completed in 1922, was put on the reverse (tails) side of the coin in 1959 to honor the sesquicentennial of Lincoln's birth, including an image of the statue inside (although, like Brenner's initials on the 1918 penny, very difficult to see without a magnifying glass). Fifty years later, to commemorate Lincoln's bicentennial in 2009, it was replaced by four different designs intended to represent the four major aspects of Lincoln's life: his birth and early childhood in Kentucky, his formative years in Indiana, his professional life in Illinois, and his presidency in Washington, DC. (Incidentally, in the same year the U.S. Postal Service similarly issued four stamps representing Lincoln as a "Railsplitter," "Lawyer," "Politician," and "President.")

These changes, however, were not intended to be permanent, and the following year the reverse was changed again, this time to exhibit a Union Shield, designed, according to the U.S. Mint, to be "emblematic of President Abraham Lincoln's preservation of the United States as a single and united country." More recently, in 2021 there was an unsuccessful effort made by several Lincoln organizations, spearheaded by the Lincoln Society of Peekskill, to convince the Secretary of the Treasury to restore the image of the Lincoln Memorial, which had been replaced in 2009 by the four different designs, in order to celebrate the centennial of the Memorial's dedication. (An article about the ceremonies marking the anniversary appears on page 5.)

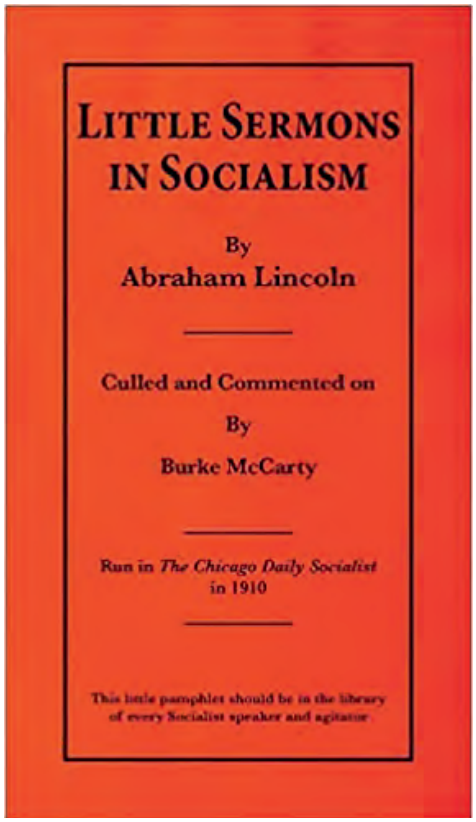
Today, well into its second century, the future of the Lincoln penny may be a bit less clear. There has for some years been an ongoing argument over whether or not the penny should be eliminated, as was done in Canada in 2013. In an article titled "Should We Get Rid of the Penny—8 Reasons to Keep It vs. Eliminate It," which appeared on the Money Crashers website on June 7, 2022, Amy Livingston gave four reasons for and four against continuing its use. Those who argue against it, she wrote, claim that pennies are useless, waste time, are bad for the environment, and cost the government money. Those on the other side insist that they keep prices low, charities depend on them, they honor Lincoln, and Americans like them. Interestingly, according to Livingston, this last is "the least substantive argument in favor of keeping the penny, and yet, ironically, it's probably the most effective. So long as most Americans remain attached to the penny—whether their reasons are logical or not— it's unlikely that a bill to eliminate it will ever make it through Congress." And those who do not want the Lincoln Cent to disappear can perhaps take some comfort in that.

(The excerpt from "Collecting Lincoln Pennies" is reprinted with permission of Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana, Inc., for which the editor wishes to express his thanks.)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SOCIALIST

Even though Abraham Lincoln was not universally popular in his own day, or even in ours for that matter, there have been many people in both the past and present who have wanted to align themselves and/or their causes with our sixteenth president. As Jackie Hogan wrote in her 2011 book, *Lincoln, Inc.*, "Lincoln's name and image have been usefully appropriated by myriad, often competing interests: Democrats and Republicans, socialists and corporate executives, deists and evangelists, peace activists and war hawks, the civil rights movement and the Ku Klux Klan. Because of the complexity and malleability of Lincoln's image, each faction has been able to fashion him into the champion of their cause. In a sense, each faction has remade Lincoln in their own image."

A good if somewhat obscure example of this phenomenon is a small pamphlet titled *Little Sermons in Socialism by Abraham Lincoln*, "culled and commented on," as noted on the cover, by Burke McCarty. Originally published by *The Chicago Daily Socialist* in 1910, it is essentially an argument for Lincoln's socialist leanings. To be fair, immediately following the book's title page is a note in which the author says "We do not claim Abraham Lincoln was a Socialist, for the word had not been coined in his day.… We do claim, and know, however, that Abraham Lincoln was in spirit to the hour of his death, a class conscious working man, that his sympathies were with that class…and had he lived and been loyal and consistent with those principles which he always professed, he would be found within the ranks of the Socialist Party."



McCarty then proceeds to offer fourteen "sermons," as he calls them (an odd choice of words considering that one of the primary aims of socialism is to eliminate organized religion). Each starts with a statement of Lincoln's that expresses sympathy for the working man (although not surprisingly, given his era, not the working woman). This is followed by a brief argument purporting to show that the idea behind the statement is essentially identical to a tenet of socialism, even though more often than not there is only a general similarity between them. This, for example, is Sermon XI:

"More than fifty years ago [on March 6, 1860] Abraham Lincoln stood on truly

Socialistic ground when he addressed the striking shoe makers of New Haven, Conn., when he said:

"I am glad to see that a system of labor prevails in New England, under which laborers can strike when they want to; where they are not obliged to work under all circumstances, and are not tied down and obliged to labor whether you pay them or not. When one starts poor, as most do in the race of life, free society is such that he knows that he can better his condition; he knows that there is no fixed condition of labor for his whole life.

"I am not ashamed to confess that twenty-five years ago, I was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on a flat boat—just what might happen to any poor man's son.

"I WANT EVERY MAN TO HAVE THE CHANCE—and I believe the black man is entitled to it—IN WHICH HE CAN BETTER HIS CONDITION." [Capitals in original]

"The above utterance of Lincoln, is the ethical basis of the strike and it is the end for which Socialists are striving. A system which will allow every boy and every girl an equal chance to rise in the world and to better his or her condition!"

A rousing statement, and it is true that Lincoln did make some comments that, especially taken out of context, appear to reflect the tenets of socialism. In this case, however, strategically omitted, after "I want every man to have a chance—and I believe a black man is entitled to it—in which he can better his condition," are the words "when he may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year and the next, work for himself afterward, and finally to hire men to work for him! That is the true system." In other words, capitalism, not socialism. Not surprisingly, all of McCarty's other "sermons" are similar and, as such, do not make for a very convincing argument.

This of course represents only one of the many groups which have, over the last 150 years, sought to "Get right with Lincoln." And while the arguments they offer may be questionable—and certainly a good number of them are—the benefits of learning about them are twofold: it demonstrates, as Jackie Hogan wrote, that "Abraham Lincoln has become a recognizable brand, whose name and image imbue diverse causes with qualities like integrity, wisdom, and unimpeachable Americanness," and it enables us to see him from a different, and frequently interesting, perspective.

LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK MEMBERS ATTEND THE LINCOLN FORUM

A sizeable contingent from the LGNY attended the 27th Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from November 16th through the 18th. Seen from left to right are Jack Billig, Priscilla Frein, Chris Garrabrant, Steve Koppelman, Hank Ballone, Rob Kaplan, Harold Holzer, Paul Ellis-Graham, Stuart Schneider, and Paula Hopewell. Members Tom Horrocks and Henry Cohen were also in attendance.

A REPUBLICAN PARTY ARGUMENT FOR ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, 1860

There are, to be sure, similarities between political campaigns of today and those of the past—both distant and recent, but there are clearly substantial differences as well. One of these differences, particularly noticeable in last year's off-year election, is the character traits, or lack thereof, that the American public apparently now expects from its candidates. The fact that changes have taken place is made especially clear by a pamphlet written in 1860 by a Congregational minister named Ichabod Codding and titled *A Republican Manual for the Campaign. Facts for the People! The Whole Argument in One Book*. Its purpose, as the author explained in the preface, was to "put in a condensed form, and easy of reference, the *principles, facts and authorities*, most required in the Republican argument, and best adapted to refute the *Slaveocratic* party against which we are contending." Toward this end, it opened with a sketch of Abraham Lincoln, reprinted from the *Chicago Press and Tribune,* entitled "Mr. Lincoln's Personal Appearance, and Habits," which began with a physical description and then went on to discuss the kind of person the party's presidential candidate was, as follows:

"Mr. Lincoln stands six feet and four inches high in his stockings. His frame is not muscular, but gaunt and wiry, his arms are long, yet not unreasonably so for a person of his height, his lower limbs are not disproportionated to his body. In walking, his gait, though firm, is never brisk. He steps slowly and deliberately, almost always with his head inclined forward and his hands clasped behind his back. In matters of dress he is by no means precise. Always clean, he is never fashionable, he is careless, but not slovenly. In manner he is remarkably cordial, and at the same time simple. His politeness is always sincere, but never elaborate and oppressive. A warm shake of the hand, and a warmer smile of recognition, is his method of greeting his friends. At rest, his features, though those of a man of mark, are not such as belong to the handsome man, but when his fine dark gray eyes are lighted up by an emotion, and his features begin their play, he would be chosen from among a crowd as one who had in him not only the kindly sentiments which women love, but the heavier metal of which full-grown men and Presidents are made. His hair is black, and though thin, is wiry. His head sits well on his shoulders, but beyond that it defies description. It nearer resembles that of Clay than that of Webster, but is unlike either. It is very large, and phrenologically well proportioned, betokening power in all its developments. A slightly Roman nose, a wide cut mouth, and a dark complexion, with the appearance of having been weather-beaten, completes the description.

"In his personal habits, Mr. Lincoln is as simple as a child. He loves a good dinner and eats with the appetite that always goes with a great brain, but his food is plain and nutritious. He never drinks intoxicating liquors of any sort, not even a glass of wine. He is not addicted to tobacco in any of its shapes. He never was accused of a licentious act in all his life. He never uses profane language. A

The Republican Party's Candidate

friends says that once, when in a towering rage in consequence of the efforts of certain parties to perpetuate a fraud on the State, he was heard to say "They shan't do it, d---n 'em!" but beyond an expression of that kind, his bitterest feelings never carry him. He never gambles, we doubt if he ever indulges in any game of chance. He is particularly cautious about incurring pecuniary obligations for any purpose whatever, and in debt, he is never content until the score is discharged. We presume he owes no man a dollar. He never speculates. The rage for the sudden acquisition of wealth never took hold of him. His gains from his profession have been moderate, but sufficient for his purposes. While others have dreamed of gold he has been in pursuit of knowledge. In all his dealings he has the reputation of being generous but exact, and, above all, religiously honest. He would be a bold man who would say that Abraham Lincoln ever wronged him out of a cent, or ever spent a dollar that he had not honestly earned. His struggles in early life have made him careful of money, but his generosity with his own is proverbial. He is a regular attendant upon religious worship, and though not a communicant, is a pew-holder and liberal supporter of the Presbyterian Church, in Springfield, to which Mrs. Lincoln belongs. He is a scrupulous teller of the truth—too exact in his notions to suit the atmosphere of Washington as it now is. His enemies may say that he tells Black Republican lies; but no man ever charged that, in a professional capacity, or as a citizen dealing with his neighbors, he would depart from the Scriptural command[ments]. At home he lives like a gentleman of modest means and simple tastes. A good sized house of wood, simply but tastefully furnished, surrounded by trees and flowers, is his own, and there he lives, at peace with himself, the idol of his family, and for his honesty, ability and patriotism, the admiration of his countrymen.

"If Mr. Lincoln is elected President, he will carry but little that is ornamental to the White House. The country must accept his sincerity, his ability and his honesty, in the mould [*sic*] in which they are cast. He will not be able to make as polite a bow as Frank Pierce, but he will not commence anew the agitation of the slavery question by recommending to Congress any Kansas-Nebraska bills. He may not preside at the Presidential dinners with the ease and grace which distinguish the 'venerable functionary,' Mr. Buchanan, but he will not create the necessity for a Covode Committee [a House Select Committee that investigated Buchanan's administration, and possible impeachment] and the disgraceful revelations of Cornelius Wendell. He will take to the Presidential chair just the qualities which the country now demands to save it from impending destruction—ability that no man can question, firmness that nothing can overbear, honesty that never has been impeached, and patriotism that never despairs."

EDWIN BOOTH'S SHAME

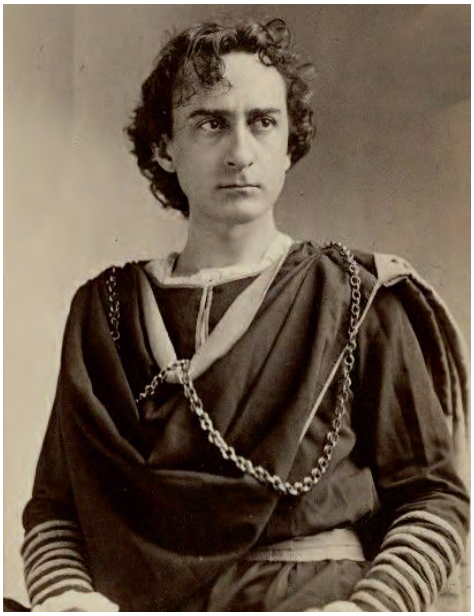
by Rob Kaplan

One of the more interesting Lincoln-related books published in 2022 was the Booker Prize long-listed *Booth* by Karen Joy Fowler, a fictionalized history of John Wilkes Booth's family juxtaposed against events in Abraham Lincoln's life. Booth himself is portrayed, correctly, as the only member of the family—including his English emigree parents, Junius Sr. and Mary Ann, and his numerous brothers and sisters, all raised in Maryland—who was a Southern sympathizer. After chronicling the Booth family's life up until Lincoln's assassination, Fowler provides vignettes displaying Booth's siblings' horror on learning that their brother was responsible for it. It's not an aspect of the story we often, if ever, think about, but, at least in Fowler's telling, it appears that the assassin's

family was as shocked by John Wilkes' crime as everyone else.

John Wilkes' older brother Edwin, a popular leading actor like their late father, was particularly affected. According to William Winter, author of *The Life and Art of Edwin Booth* (1894), Edwin was in the middle of a run at the Boston Theatre when, "on April 14th, a sudden calamity overwhelmed and almost ruined him. The people of America and the heart of Christendom suffered in it a terrible shock and bitter bereavement. Consternation, grief, and rage swept over the land. The excitement of that hour was wild and indiscriminate, and the relatives of the maniac who took the life of President Lincoln suffered under the odium of unjust suspicion and popular resentment. The knowledge that a brother was thus steeped in guilt and ignominy was a heavy weight of woe to Edwin Booth. Immediate and superficial troubles incident to the hideous experience could be endured and surmounted; but the sense of the crime itself, as done in its awful wickedness and madness by one of his own kin, imposed upon his sensitive, conscientious nature an unspeaking anguish."

Despite the somewhat overheated Victorian prose, Winter's description of Edwin's state of mind was clearly an accurate representation of the actor's feelings. On the morning of April 15th, when it became clear that it was John Wilkes who had assassinated the president, Henry C. Jarrett, manager of the Boston Theatre where Edwin was appearing, concerned about the public's reaction as



Edwin Booth as Hamlet

well as the safety of his star, decided to close the theater and sent a note to Edwin advising him of it. Exactly how shocked and heartbroken Edwin was over his brother's act is clear from the letter he sent in response to Jarrett.

My Dear Sir:
With deepest sorrow and great agitation I thank you for relieving me from my engagement with yourself and the public. The news of the morning has made me wretched indeed, not only because I have received the unhappy tidings of the suspicions of a brother's crime, but because a good man, and a most justly honoured and patriotic ruler, has fallen, in an hour of national joy, by the hand of an assassin.

The memory of the thousands who have fallen in the field, in our country's defence, during this struggle, cannot be forgotten by me, even in this, the most distressing day of my life. And I most sincerely pray that the victories we have already won may stay the brand of war and the tide of loyal blood.

While mourning, in common with all other loyal hearts, the death of the President, I am oppressed by a private woe not to be expressed in words. But whatever calamity may befall me and mine, my country, one and indivisible, has my warmest devotion.

Edwin Booth

Edwin left Boston the next day to join his mother in New York, where he remained in seclusion for several months. It wasn't until January 1866 that he appeared on stage again, starring as Hamlet, which was to become his signature role, at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York. Eventually Edwin's devotion to his country, and his craft, were repaid. By the time he died on June 7, 1893, he had regained the public's favor, ultimately surpassing even the popularity that his father, Junius Sr., had enjoyed. But he never let his brother's name be spoken in his home again.

(Edwin Booth's voice can be heard, although with some difficulty, from wax cylinder recordings made in 1890, reciting selected lines from Othello, at https://archive.org/details/OthelloByEdwinBooth1890.)

LINCOLN BOOKS 2022

In Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* (1926), Lincoln is reported to have told his cousin Dennis Hanks, "The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll git me a book I ain't read." While neither Sandburg nor Hanks may have been the most reliable sources of information, this is still the kind of quote book lovers are likely to appreciate, perhaps especially lovers of books about Lincoln himself. In fact, when it comes to the latter, it's probably fair to say that we're all always trying to "git" books we "ain't" read. And this year, as usual, publishers have not disappointed us. Also, as we have in the past, in an effort to make the list of new books manageable we have winnowed it down to include only new—or new editions of—adult nonfiction books published in cloth and/or paperback by traditional publishers (i.e., not independently published) that are largely if not entirely about Lincoln.

There are also, however, several books that don't entirely fit our criteria but may well be of interest to Lincoln devotees. One of these is a reproduction of a unique Lincoln artifact, *by Abraham Lincoln: His 1858 Time Capsule* edited by Ross E. Heller (CustomNEWS/Seaside Books, cloth/paperback, 166 pages, prices from $24.95 to $150.00). The book is an actual-sized copy of a notebook of newspaper clippings Lincoln put together containing what he'd said about slavery and African Americans during his 1858 debates with Stephen A. Douglas, and subsequently gave to James N. Brown, an Illinois politician who had asked for a concise statement on his position. This edition has an introduction by Harold Holzer, reproductions of the pages of the notebook, Lincoln's covering letter to Brown and handwritten notes explaining which debates the selections were from, and information on the subsequent history of the notebook, including its original publication in 1901.

Another book is *Lincoln's Unfinished Work: The New Birth of Freedom from Generation to Generation* edited by Orville Vernon Burton and Peter Eisenstadt (Louisiana State University Press, cloth, 448 pages, $49.95). A collection of essays by such writers as Richard Carwardine, Eric Foner, and others, the book discusses the efforts made over the last 150 years to realize, or obstruct, the "new birth of Freedom" that Lincoln promised in the Gettys-

burg Address. As such, it includes essays about Lincoln, the unfinished work of Reconstruction, and the ongoing challenge of dealing with the legacy of slavery and white supremacy.

Yet another is an interesting and unusual reference book, *Abraham Lincoln and His Times: A Sourcebook on His Life, His Presidency, Slavery and Civil War* edited by Thomas J. Ebert and Allen Carden (McFarland & Company, paperback, 461 pages, $125.00). Covering from Lincoln's birth in 1809 to Andrew Johnson's announcement of the end of hostilities in 1866, the book combines a detailed timeline of significant events in Lincoln's life, as well as on the national stage, with a collection of more than 380 documents relating to major issues facing the United States during that period and placing those events in context. The documents represent a particularly wide variety of sources, including speeches, letters, diary entries, executive orders, legislative acts, congressional reports, autobiographical and biographical sketches, and others.

In addition, there is the Booker Prize longlisted novel *Booth* by Karen Joy Taylor (G.P. Putnam's Sons, cloth, 480 pages, $28.00). An excellent fictionalized family biography, the book includes brief glimpses into the life of Abraham Lincoln inserted into a history of the eccentric family of Junius Brutus Booth, Sr. and his erstwhile wife, Mary Ann, who left their native England for America where they raised ten children, including of course John Wilkes Booth. Told from the perspective of several of those children, the book is a fascinating look at the family's dynamic between 1822 and Lincoln's assassination in 1865. (A related story, about John Wilkes' brother Edwin's real-life reaction to the assassination, appears on page 9.)

And, finally, for those who have long-since worn out their copies of Bruce Catton's classic *The Army of the Potomac Trilogy: Mr. Lincoln's Army / Glory Road / A Stillness at Appomattox*, there is a new one-volume edition edited by Gary Gallagher (Library of America, hardcover, 1,296 pages, $45.00).

Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President, 2nd Edition by Allen C. Guelzo, Eerdmans, cloth, 539 pages, $29.99 – An updated edition of the Lincoln Prize-winning study of how the events of Lincoln's life interconnected with his inner faith, and how both were influenced by the intellectual currents of his day, with a new preface discussing developments in Lincoln Studies since the book's original publication in 1999 as well as the author's "unusual path to becoming a Lincoln scholar."

Abraham Lincoln, American Prince: Ancestry, Ambition and the Anti-Slavery Cause by Wayne Soini, McFarland & Company, paperback, 211 pages, $39.95, An exploration of how Lincoln saw himself, the people he felt most indebted to, and what he most hoped to achieve, arguing that, based on comments Lincoln made primarily to biographer William Herndon, it was his mother, Nancy Hanks, and his father, whom the author insists was a "Virginia Gentleman" rather than Thomas Lincoln, who had the most influence on him throughout his life.

Abraham Lincoln's Wilderness Years: Collected Works of J. Edward Murr edited by Joshua Claybourn, Indiana University Press, cloth/paperback, 298 pages, $60.00/$22.00 – An annotated collection of the writings of one of the few chroniclers of Lincoln's Indiana years (1816-1830)—a minister who grew up with Lincoln's cousins and interviewed locals who knew him, divided into three sections covering selections from the author's unpublished book-length manuscript on Lincoln's youth, his series on Lincoln's life in Indiana originally published in the Indiana Magazine of History, and a series of letters between Murr and Senator Albert J. Beveridge about the senator's 1928 biography, *Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1858*.

And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle by Jon Meacham, Random House, cloth, 720 pages, $40.00 – Winner of the LGNY Award of Achievement, a deeply researched chronicle of Lincoln's life from his birth and youth in Kentucky and Indiana; his young adulthood, self-education, marriage, and legal and political career in Illinois; and finally his presidency during the most trying period of the country's existence, portraying him as a very human man who, increasingly over the course of his life and especially during the Civil War, was strongly influenced by his belief that God involves himself in the affairs of men and women, and always strove to do the right, in his own words, as God gave him "to see the right."

Bonds of War: How Civil War Financial Agents Sold the World on the Union by David K. Thomson, University of North Carolina Press, 288 pages, cloth/paperback, $95.00/ $29.95 – A financial and political history detailing how the U.S. government entrusted Philadelphia banking house Jay Cooke & Company to finance the Union's war effort at the beginning of the Civil War, selling bonds in the U.S. and overseas by convincing buyers of the ultimate success of the Union cause, and in the process providing foreign countries with a vested interest in the Union's success that led to an interdependence with American financial interests during and immediately after the war.

A House Built by Slaves: African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House by Jonathan W. White, Rowman & Littlefield, cloth, 288 pages, $26.00 – Designed to counteract arguments made in recent years that Lincoln was actually a racist who had no genuine concern for African Americans, a recounting of the numerous instances of his welcoming them to the White House, from the visit by African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne in April 1862 to Frederick Douglass' attendance at the White House reception held after Lincoln's second inauguration in March 1865.

In the Houses of Their Dead: The Lincolns, the Booths, and the Spirits by Terry Alford, Liveright, cloth, 320 pages, $27.95 – An examination of the connections between the Lincoln and Booth families which, despite their many differences, shared the grief of losing loved ones and, as a result, an interest in spiritualism—a mid-nineteenth century movement fostered by the thousands of Civil War deaths, including attending seances by some of the same well-known mediums of the day, among them one who knew of John Wilkes Booth's feelings about Lincoln and repeatedly warned the president of danger.

Knowing Him by Heart: African Americans on Abraham Lincoln edited by Fred Lee Hord and Matthew D. Norman, University of Illinois Press, cloth, 576 pages, $39.95 – A collection of speeches, letters, book excerpts, and other writings by African Americans expressing their evolving views on Abraham Lincoln, and the emotional and intellectual bonds between themselves and our sixteenth president over the course of the last 150 years, including works by such authors as Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, Gwendolyn Brooks, Barbara Jeanne Fields, Barack Obama, and others.

Lincoln: The Fire of Genius: How Abraham Lincoln's Commitment to Science and Technology Helped Modernize America by David J. Kent, Lyons Press, cloth, 344 pages, $29.49 – Arguing that Lincoln had a "lifelong fascination" with science and technology—including the fact that he is the only president to have registered a patent, a chronicle of the numerous instances in which Lincoln exhibited such an interest, advocated for technological advancement in the Illinois legislature and U.S. Congress, and as president institutionalized science through the Smithsonian Institute, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Agriculture.

Lincoln and Chicago by John Toman and Michael Frutig, The History Press, cloth/paperback, 144 pages, $33.99/$21.99 – Contending that Lincoln's life was inextricably tied to Chicago, an in-depth examination of his relationship with the city from his first trip there in 1847 to his numerous visits, his first debate with Stephen Douglas, the politicking that provided him with a home field advantage when the city hosted the Republican Convention in 1860, and, finally, to the thousands of Chicagoans who paid their respects when his funeral train made its penultimate stop on its way to Springfield.

Lincoln and the Fight for Peace by John Avlon, Simon & Schuster, cloth, 368 pages, $30.00 – A study of the last six weeks of Lincoln's life—including the Second Inaugural, his meeting with Grant at City Point, his visit to Richmond and the battlefields, and his assassination—showing the evolution of his conviction that the South should not be punished but treated magnanimously and welcomed back into the Union, followed by a discussion of how some American leaders, being conscious of and in sympathy with this philosophy, applied it to defeated enemies at the conclusion of several twentieth century conflicts.

Mary Lincoln Demystified: Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham's Wife by Donna D. McCreary, Southern Illinois University Press, paperback, 366 pages, $26.95 - A thorough, sympathetic, but generally unbiased biography of Mary Todd Lincoln, presented as a chronologically-organized series of questions and answers covering from her birth and childhood to her widowhood and death, paying particular attention to the question of her sanity, her family relationships, her views on slavery and African Americans, and her personality and habits, and including several appendices, among them a detailed timeline of her life.

A Nation So Conceived: Abraham Lincoln and the Paradox of Democratic Sovereignty by Michael P. Zuckert, University Press of Kansas, cloth, 416 pages, $34.95 – A study of Lincoln's political thought arguing that his political ideology was based on a core idea best expressed by the term "democratic sovereignty," the first premise of which is "that all men are created equal," and focusing, in the context of politics in the U.S. from 1845 through Lincoln's death, on a dozen speeches made over the course of Lincoln's career that demonstrate his developing understanding of what the author calls the "paradoxical duality" of "created equal."

Ways and Means: Lincoln and His Cabinet and the Financing of the Civil War by Roger Lowenstein, Penguin Press, cloth, 448 pages, $30.00 – A broad picture of an infrequently covered aspect of the Civil War, an explanation, in language clear enough for non-specialists to understand, of how Lincoln and Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase successfully developed the U.S. banking system as it now exists and engineered the Union's economy during the war, particularly in comparison to Jefferson Davis' much less successful efforts, in the process demonstrating how the economy affected society and society in turn affected the economy.

AWARD COMMITTEE: A special thanks to our dedicated members who served on the 2022 Award Committee:
Rob Kaplan, Chair / Steve Aronson / Anthony Czarnecki

The Wide Awake Bulletin, the newsletter of the Lincoln Group of New York, has been published annually since 2004, and is named for the groups of young men who, in 1860, demonstrated their support on behalf of Abraham Lincoln's candidacy for the presidency. 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.