THE

WIDE AWAKE BULLETIN

THE LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK

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

FEBRUARY 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Rob Kaplan

Dear Members,

At a time in which many organizations like ours are shrinking, and more and more are resorting to virtual rather than actual meetings, I am pleased to report that the Lincoln Group of New York is still going strong. We added several new members this year, including, I'm glad to say, some younger individuals, although regrettably two of our members also passed away—our friends Bob Langford and Howard Rosenthal. Both will be sorely missed, and there is a heartfelt memorial to them by Vice President Paul Ellis-Graham on page 9.

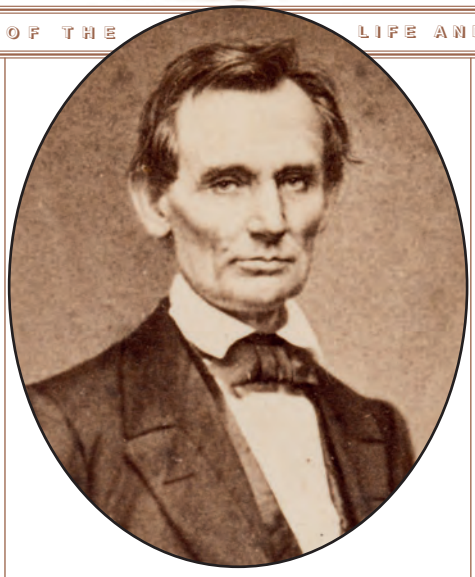
We also had three very enjoyable and informative meetings this year—not to mention delicious dinners. In February we had the opportunity to hear Edward Achorn, winner of our annual Award of Achievement for his book, *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History,* provide us with essentially the inside story of how Lincoln managed, against all odds, to win the presidential nomination in 1860. In April we had an unusual treat—thanks to executive committee member Richard Sloan, we had the opportunity to see the otherwise virtually unavailable 1956 CBS-TV production of "The Day Lincoln Was Shot," an early TV dramatization based on Jim Bishop's best-selling book, starring Raymond Massey, Lillian Gish, and a very young Jack Lemmon as John Wilkes Booth. And finally, in November, Bradley Gottfried, author of *Lincoln Comes to Gettysburg: The Creation of the Soldiers' Cemetery and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address* shared with us some of his insights on the complex development of the national cemetery and, of course, Abraham Lincoln's speech. We are planning what will hopefully be equally entertaining and informative programs for the upcoming year.

In the meantime, outside the confines of our organization, this year also saw a particularly volatile presidential campaign. Of course, in any election there can be only one winner, so once the votes have been cast, counted, and, under our system, certified, one of the candidate's supporters will be happy and the other's will not. This is the way it is supposed to work in a democratic nation. Even so, given the differences between the two candidates, the vehemence with which both sides argued their cases, and the rancor that was evident during the campaigns, we may experience its repercussions for many years to come.

Bearing that in mind, it would be beneficial to remember what Abraham Lincoln said in response to a serenade at the Executive Mansion on November 10, 1864, in reference to the just concluded presidential campaign: "…the election was a necessity. We can not have free government without elections…. The strife of the election is but human-nature practically applied to the facts of the case. What has occurred in this case, must ever recur in similar cases. Human-nature will not change. In any future great national trial, compared with the men of this [one], we shall have as weak, and as strong; as silly and as wise; as bad and [as] good. Let us, therefore, study the incidents of this, as philosophy to learn wisdom from, and none of them as wrongs to be revenged." It would be equally beneficial for us to remember that this is from a man who failed more times than he succeeded, and who understood the lessons to be learned from those failures, as should we all.

Best,

Rob Kaplan



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HAROLD HOLZER WINS AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2024

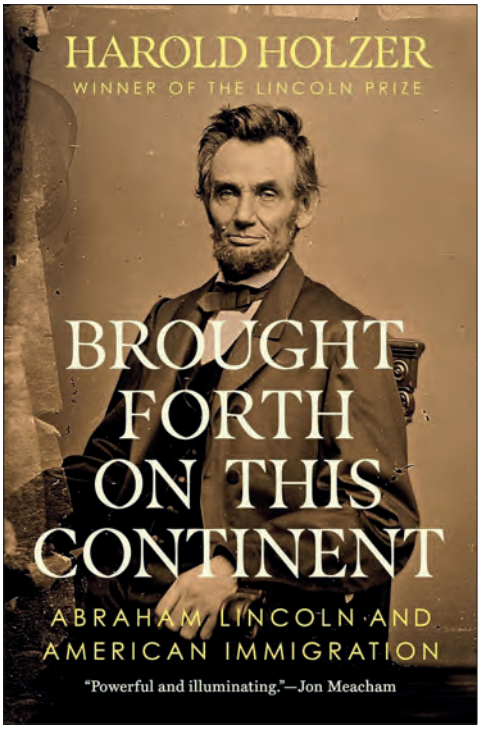
by Anthony Czarnecki



Harold Holzer

Harold Holzer, author of *Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration,* has been selected as the recipient of the 2024 Award of Achievement of the Lincoln Group of New York, which was founded in 1978. The award, first presented in 1988, honors an exceptional book or media project that contributes to the LGNY's mission to "advance the body of knowledge" and "perpetuate the legacy" of America's sixteenth president.

Mr. Holzer, who is widely recognized as a leading authority on the Lincoln presidency, has written or edited more than fifty books about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He was the long-serving vice president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, functioned as co-chair of the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and is now the director of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College (CUNY). Mr. Holzer has previously been the recipient of numerous other awards, including, in 2015, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's prestigious Lincoln Prize.



Brought Forth on This Continent recounts the previously untold story of three important ethnic groups that rallied to the Union cause in significant numbers to defend the Union during the secession crisis from 1861 to1865: German-Americans, Jewish-Americans, and Irish-Americans. Many of the 200,000 soldiers who formed special ethnic regiments were foreign-born and lacked any citizenship status but were prepared to fight and die for their adopted homeland. The book also documents how Lincoln grappled with immigration and citizenship issues that faced America during the nineteenth century.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Jon Meacham, author of *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle,* has called Mr. Holzer "a brilliant historian," and Doris Kearns Goodwin, who wrote *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, hailed Mr. Holzer's latest work as a "splendid book that... analyzes the Union president's vital role in mobilizing the foreign-born population to help win the Civil War."

Executive committee member Anthony Czarnecki, chair of the Award Committee, is a past president of The Lincoln Society in Westchester County. Also serving on the committee were Vice President Paul Ellis-Graham and executive committee member Paula Hopewell. In announcing the decision, Mr. Czarnecki declared that "Harold Holzer is a national treasure with an encyclopedic knowledge of Abraham Lincoln's life story and its impact on America's story." He also noted that this award represents the record-breaking sixth time Mr. Holzer has been so honored by the Lincoln Group of New York.

The award will be presented to Mr. Holzer at the LGNY's meeting in February.

MEETING REVIEW – FEBRUARY 27, 2024



Edward Achorn

President Paul Ellis-Graham opened our first meeting of the year by welcoming all the attendees, particularly those who were joining us for the first time—including new members Joe Termine and Bernard "Buddy" Clark—and our speaker for the evening, winner of the 2023 Lincoln Group of New York Award of Achievement, Edward Achorn, author of *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History*.

Since our executive committee always meets immediately prior to our February meeting, and the current term of officers and committee members was about to expire, Mr. Ellis-Graham announced that the committee had recommended, by mutual agreement between him and Vice President Rob Kaplan, that they exchange places for the coming term, and that all the current members of the committee be re-elected. Put to a vote, the members acceded to the committee's recommendations, and Mr. Ellis-Graham turned the meeting over to Mr. Kaplan.

Taking up the metaphorical gavel, Mr. Kaplan expressed his appreciation that the executive committee and the members had sufficient confidence in him to ask him to take on these new responsibilities and promised to do whatever he could to carry on the excellent traditions of the LGNY. He also thanked Mr. Ellis-Graham for the wonderful job he had done over the previous several years, and for having encouraged him to get involved in the group, which has become an important part of his life. Finally, he asked that any members who had suggestions for making the group better share them with him going forward, after which he announced that dinner was served.

When dinner was over, Mr. Kaplan introduced the evening's speaker, Edward Achorn. Mr. Achorn, Mr. Kaplan said, is a working journalist who is both a Pulitzer Prize finalist for commentary and a winner of the Yankee Quill Award. In addition to having written *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History,* he is the author of

three earlier books, two of them on nineteenth-century baseball—*Fifty-Nine in '84: Old Hoss Radbourn, Barehanded Baseball, and the Greatest Season a Pitcher Ever Had* and *The Summer of Beer and Whiskey: How Brewers, Barkeeps, Rowdies, Immigrants, and a Wild Pennant Fight Made Baseball America's Game*—and the third his previous book about Lincoln, titled *Every Drop of Blood: The Momentous Second Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln*.

Mr. Achorn, Mr. Kaplan added, is eminently deserving of our award in that, drawing on an amazing array of sources, he managed to cover everything from the contentious political climate in the country; the backstories of the potential nominees; the organization of the convention; the action on the floor and in the stands of the convention hall; the discussions that went on and the decisions that were made in smoke-filled rooms in various Chicago hotel rooms; and, not least of all, the strategy developed and implemented by David Davis, Lincoln's unofficial campaign manager. Most importantly, he presented it all in a way that keeps the reader guessing about how it was going to come out. At one point about halfway through the book, Mr. Kaplan said, he found himself thinking, "Oh God, I hope Lincoln wins!" And with that, he introduced Mr. Achorn.

Mr. Achorn began his talk by mentioning his books on nineteenth-century baseball, but noted that "anyone who wants to write about the most remarkable figure of the nineteenth century has to be drawn to Abraham Lincoln," even though, considering the number of books on our sixteenth president, the prospect was daunting. But, he said, while he had worked on his previous Lincoln book he had learned that "a very narrow focus on a historical event can give us an understanding that the usual omniscient historical view cannot. It brings us very close to the ground, instead of viewing everything from 30,000 feet up…. [H]istorical figures almost magically become flesh-and-blood, real human beings, subject to emotions and other vicissitudes, including the politics of the moment. It becomes clearer they were groping in the dark and had no idea how things would turn out. With this forced perspective, we also get a stronger sense of how everything looked, sounded, and smelled."

With this perspective in mind, Mr. Achorn explained that by the time the Republicans met in the Wigwam in Chicago in May 1860, many Northerners were unhappy with the Democratic Party. Democrats had been unable to choose a candidate at their earlier convention—they eventually nominated two—and because of their split the Republicans had a good chance of winning the presidency. Even so, Lincoln was, as Mr. Achorn put it, "the darkest of dark horses." In a center spread with pictures of the various Republican candidates in that week's issue of *Harper's Weekly*, Lincoln's picture was among those on the bottom, and the written description of him was one of the last. In fact, Lincoln's campaign was so disorganized that when his friend and nominal campaign manager, David Davis, arrived in Chicago, he discovered that no one had even bothered to reserve a hotel room to serve as its headquarters. By contrast, the presumptive nominee for the Republicans was the famous William Henry Seward, one of the founders of the party, a former governor of New York, and a current U.S. senator. Seward had both more money behind him than any other candidate and the benefit of being managed by the politically powerful and strategically brilliant Thurlow Weed.

As Mr. Achorn pointed out, however, Lincoln also had several advantages over Seward and the other potential nominees. One was that on the volatile issue of slavery, while Seward was extremely well known for his strong anti-slavery position, Lincoln, who held many of the same views, was less well known and thus less threatening to swing voters. Seward had also been a strong supporter of immigration at a time when many Republicans were former members of the anti-immigrant American (or "Know-Nothing") Party, and Lincoln's position on the issue was so little known that some thought he was a "Know-Nothing" himself (although he was actually very pro-immigrant). Yet another advantage Lincoln held was that many members of the party were less concerned about who would make the best president than they were about which candidate would have the widest coattails—ensuring the election of more Republicans and along with it more power, jobs, and money—and Lincoln was considered the most likely to do so.

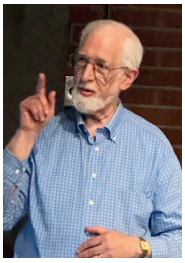
In addition, although Lincoln was still relatively little-known outside of Illinois—notwithstanding the national exposure he received during his debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858 and the Cooper Union speech earlier in 1860—he was extremely popular among Republicans in the state, and because the convention was held in Chicago, Davis was able to bring many loyal supporters to help him win over the delegates. Finally, early in the convention the most likely alternative to Seward appeared to be Edward Bates of Missouri, a conservative judge whose supporters argued would be able to placate the South and avoid secession. Importantly, Bates had the backing of Horace Greeley, editor of the influential *New-York Tribune*, who blamed Seward for stifling his political ambitions. But Bates had earned the enmity of German immigrants around the country because of his connections with the American Party, and while Germans made up only a small proportion of Republicans in the North, there were enough of them to affect elections, making him a problematic nominee.

All of these factors were already in place by the time the convention began, but, as Mr. Achorn explained, Davis also took steps to increase the likelihood of his candidate's nomination. Unable to convince enough delegates to switch from Seward to Lincoln on the first night of the gathering, on a subsequent night, there still being no consensus among the delegates, Davis provided an additional advantage by "finding champion shouters and assigning them spaces in the hall for maximum effect." Also, for the next day's session one of Lincoln's supporters had counterfeit admission tickets printed so that when Seward's adherents arrived at the venue they found their seats already filled with Lincoln men. Finally, after that evening's session was over, although Lincoln had specifically told him not to do so, Davis spent a good part of the night promising cabinet positions and other jobs to various delegates, sometimes the same position to several men. When one of his friends afterward said, "You must have prevaricated somewhat?" Davis replied, "Prevaricated? We lied like hell!"

Lincoln did of course ultimately win the nomination, and Mr. Achorn rightly referred to it as the "Lincoln Miracle," because so many things, many of which were beyond Lincoln's control, had to fall into place in order for it to occur. In closing, he said that "The delegates who nominated him succeeded in getting their jobs, power, and patronage, for the most part, but they had no real idea of Lincoln's greatness, of his political brilliance, humanity, pragmatism, flair for the English language, and powers of endurance that would be crucial to the nation's survival and the end of slavery during the Civil War."

New LGNY president Rob Kaplan opened our second meeting of the year by welcoming the attendees and thanking them for coming. Because we had an unusual—and unusually long—program, he said, he wanted to take up as little time before dinner as possible. However, there was one item he wished to discuss. Many groups like ours, he explained, had been having some difficulty retaining members post-COVID. During the pandemic, people got used to meeting online rather than in person, which, he admitted, was easier on all involved. But while attending a meeting online is better than not attending any meeting at all, it doesn't compare to getting together, as we were, to sit and eat and drink and listen, and enjoy each other's company. Fortunately, he added, we've lost very few members, but in order to ensure that we will be able to continue meeting together like this he suggested that for our next meeting everyone try to think of someone they know who might be interested in attending one of our meetings and invite them to join us. He also asked that anyone who has ideas for increasing our membership to share them with him. And, then, he announced that dinner would be served.

Dinner completed, Mr. Kaplan returned to the lectern to introduce the speaker for the evening—Richard Sloan, a co-founder of the Lincoln Group of New York, a past president, and a member of the executive committee. He is also a student—the word he prefers over expert—of the Lincoln assassination and has been since he first read Jim Bishop's best-selling book *The Day Lincoln Was Shot* when he was eleven years old. In addition, Mr. Kaplan said, he is a collector of Lincolniana, especially of items related to the performing arts, and it is in that capacity that he would be speaking to us tonight. Specifically, he has brought with him an extraordinarily rare copy of the live, 1956 CBS-TV adaptation of Bishop's book, one of the last examples of the "Golden Age" of television drama. It's a particular treat, Mr. Kaplan said, because the show is not generally available to the public. Unlike many films and TV productions about Lincoln, there are no films, no VHS tapes, no DVDs, and nowhere that the show can be streamed, so we are very fortunate to be able to see it tonight. With that, Mr. Kaplan turned the program over to Mr. Sloan.


Richard Sloan


"The Day Lincoln Was Shot"

Mr. Sloan has done a considerable amount of research on the making of the adaptation of "The Day Lincoln Was Shot," and before starting the film, he said, he wanted to share some of what he had learned about it. Jim Bishop's book was published in 1955 and became an instant bestseller, largely because the story of Lincoln's assassination had never been told in such a gripping, hour-by-hour, manner. The following year the screen version of the story was produced and shown as part of the CBS-TV Ford Star Jubilee series. It was directed by Delbert Mann and starred Raymond Massey as Abraham Lincoln, Lillian Gish as Mary Todd Lincoln, and Jack Lemmon, in a very early role, as John Wilkes Booth, with Charles Laughton serving as the on- and off-camera narrator.

Mann, Mr. Sloan said, was one of television's most respected directors, and when asked about his invitation to direct the show he said, "With my lifelong interest in the Civil War, it took me no time at all to say 'Yes.'" The director recognized that it would be his job to convey the drama and sense of foreboding that permeated Bishop's book, but even after two scripts had been written he wasn't satisfied. He was particularly unhappy that John Wilkes Booth had been portrayed as a raving maniac, especially in a monologue in his hotel room, because Bishop had written that the assassin was not insane, and Mann wanted to follow the book as closely as possible. In fact, Mann was so unhappy that he refused to direct the show unless someone could provide a better script. Fortunately, someone did so, but despite its being clearly superior to the first two, the new script portrayed Booth as a undramatic, colorless, cold-hearted Southern patriot who hated Lincoln, and Mann found himself, ironically, reinstating Booth's rant from the original script.

There were additional challenges as well. One potentially problematic scene in the show was Booth's dramatic leap onto the stage from the president's box after he shot Lincoln. Jack Lemmon wanted to do it during the dress rehearsal, but Mann told him not to attempt it until the live show that night because it was too risky. After all, Lemmon had neither a stunt man nor an understudy, and if he broke his leg the whole show would be in jeopardy. But Lemmon insisted, jumped during the rehearsal, and sprained his ankle. Years later, Mr. Sloan said, when he had an opportunity to speak to Lemmon about it, he said "It hurt like hell." Fortunately, a doctor was able to tape up his ankle to make it stiff as a board and enable Lemmon to go on that night.

There was also a time problem that had to be overcome. In the show, after Lincoln was shot, he was shown lying on the floor of the box. The problem was that twenty-eight seconds later he had to be seen lying on the bed in the Petersen house across the street from the theatre. Bear in mind that this was live television, and it was impossible for Raymond Massey to get from the box set to the bedroom set in twenty-eight seconds. The problem was solved by having a double stand-in—or more correctly, lie-in—for Massey in the first scene to give him enough time, two minutes and eight seconds to be exact, to get into bed in the Petersen house.

There were also, Mr. Sloan said, a few things missing from the show—such as why Booth felt it necessary to have William Seward and Andrew Johnson assassinated—and some things portrayed that never happened—such as Lincoln's prescient dream shortly before he was killed. Even so, he added, he was especially impressed with the dialogue because it was so authentic, Jim Bishop having found it all in published reminiscences and private letters. Raymond

Massey's portrayal of Lincoln, which was one of many, was also one of the best, he felt, and critics at the time agreed. Those critics were, however, less enthusiastic about Lillian Gish's performance as Mary, complaining that she overacted in the scene set in the Petersen house, which Mr. Sloan credited to their being unaware of how distraught she had been at the time. He also lauded Jack Lemmon for his portrayal of Booth, with which the critics concurred, especially, interestingly enough, for his performance in the "raving maniac" scene in his hotel room.

Finally, Mr. Sloan said, "Now, join us as we go back in time to the night of February 11, 1956, and watch, live from Television City in Hollywood, 'The Day Lincoln Was Shot.'"

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

President Rob Kaplan opened our last meeting of the year by welcoming all the attendees and thanking them for coming. There were also two individuals he said he particularly wanted to welcome. The first was Jon Stieglitz, the newest member of the group, to whom Mr. Kaplan expressed the wish that this would be the first of many meetings he would attend. The second was Phyllis Rosenthal, a longtime member and the widow of another longtime member—Howard Rosenthal, who died suddenly on September 26th. In addition to being our treasurer, Mr. Rosenthal was also the president of the Civil War Forum of Metropolitan New York, and a particular favorite among members of both groups.

Unfortunately, Mr. Rosenthal was only one of two members we lost this year. The other was Bob Langford, who had been ill for some time and passed away on August 19th. Mr. Langford, Mr. Kaplan said, had been a very active member for many years who was always willing to do whatever was needed to further the goals of the group, including serving as a member of the executive committee and as our treasurer for several years, in which role he was succeeded, as it happens, by Mr. Rosenthal. There is a remembrance of both members by Vice President Paul Ellis-Graham on page 9.

This being November, Mr. Kaplan said, when we particularly remember Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, our speaker for the evening is Bradley Gottfried, author of *Lincoln Comes to Gettysburg* as well as several other books, who will speak on the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and, of course, Lincoln's speech. Also because it is November, when we traditionally ask a member of the group to recite Lincoln's address, this evening we have asked Greta Cohen to do so. Ms. Cohen is a member of many years' standing who, before she retired, was a social studies teacher, department chairperson, and assistant principal at Monroe Woodbury High School in Central Valley, New York, and, not coincidentally, also Mr. Ellis-Graham's supervisor. After Ms. Cohen recited the address, Mr. Kaplan announced that dinner would be served.


Bradley Gottfried

Dinner being concluded, Mr. Kaplan took the podium again to introduce our guest speaker. Bradley Gottfried, he said, holds a PhD in Zoology and spent forty years in higher education, including as a full-time faculty member, department head, campus dean, chief academic officer, and president before he retired in 2017. Like many if not most of us, Mr. Kaplan added, Mr. Gottfried's interest in the Civil War began at an early age. His early writings were primarily on the Battle of Gettysburg, about which he has written five books, including *Lincoln Comes to Gettysburg: The Creation of the Soldiers' Cemetery and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*. More recently he has been working on a series of books that provide thorough descriptions of Civil War campaigns through the use of detailed maps, as well as a number of other Civil War-related projects. Finally, he is an Antietam Certified Battlefield Guide, a Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide, and lives in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, just west of Gettysburg.

Mr. Gottfried began by noting that there are 164 national military cemeteries in the United States, of which Gettysburg was one of the first, having been dedicated in 1863, although the federal government was not involved in its development. When the battle was over, there were 8,000 men to be buried there, an enormous task, and there were two men who played major roles in the effort. The first was Governor Andrew Curtin of Pennsylvania, who, recognizing the need for someone to take charge of the situation, appointed David Wills, a prominent attorney in Gettysburg, to act as the agent of the state and the governor's office.

In addition to arranging for the burials, Wills was involved in all aspects of planning the cemetery, including making arrangements for a ceremony to dedicate it once it was completed. Because the planners were expecting 10,000-15,000 people to attend, they felt they needed an orator, and Wills accordingly invited Edward Everett, a world-renowned figure and the most prominent orator of the day. They originally wanted Dedication Day to be in October, but Everett asked that it be moved to November because he had other obligations to meet before then and felt he wouldn't otherwise have enough time to prepare his address.

Because the ceremony was to include not only speeches but music and prayers as well, Wills also asked Lincoln's friend Ward Lamon—whom Lincoln had named U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia—to help with the planning. Lincoln himself was not originally expected to even be invited to the ceremony, and when he was, local Democrats didn't want him to speak. He was accordingly asked to make only "some appropriate remarks," and then only on November 2nd for the November 19th ceremony. David Wills did, however, subsequently write the president suggesting that he bring his wife and son Tad. He also invited Lincoln to stay at his home while he was there, but on the 17th Tad came down with smallpox and Mary wouldn't leave him, so Lincoln decided to go by himself.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton initially suggested that Lincoln travel to Gettysburg on the morning of the 19th and come back later that same night, but Lincoln insisted on going the day before to be sure that he arrived in time. To help ensure that, John W. Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad, lent Lincoln his personal railroad car for the trip. When the time came to leave Washington, Provost Marshal General James Fry, who had been assigned to escort the president, tried to hurry Lincoln, but Lincoln told him that they didn't have to worry because the ceremony wouldn't start without him. Accompanying the presi-

dent were his secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay, and three cabinet members—Willam H. Seward, John P. Usher, and Montgomery Blair—as well as numerous other dignitaries.

When the train arrived in Gettysburg, Lincoln and his entourage walked to the Wills house, on the Square in the center of town, where they were treated to dinner, after which he went upstairs to his bedroom. According to Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews's story *The Perfect Tribute*, first published in *Scribner's Monthly* in 1906, Lincoln had written his speech on the back of an envelope while enroute to Gettysburg. Although widely believed, it wasn't true—he began working on it before he left Washington and finished it only after dinner at the Wills house the night he arrived in Gettysburg.

The next morning, the 19th, he and Seward went to visit the battlefield, although no one knows exactly where, and then came back, had breakfast, and dressed for the event. When it was time to go to the battlefield, Lincoln was given a horse to ride in the procession. However, Mr. Gottfried said, there was something of a political disagreement over the president's mount. Because of Lincoln's height, the Republicans in the group wanted him to have a large horse, while Democrats wanted him to have a small one, knowing he would look silly on it. Compromising with a medium-sized horse, they began the march through the streets to the cemetery.

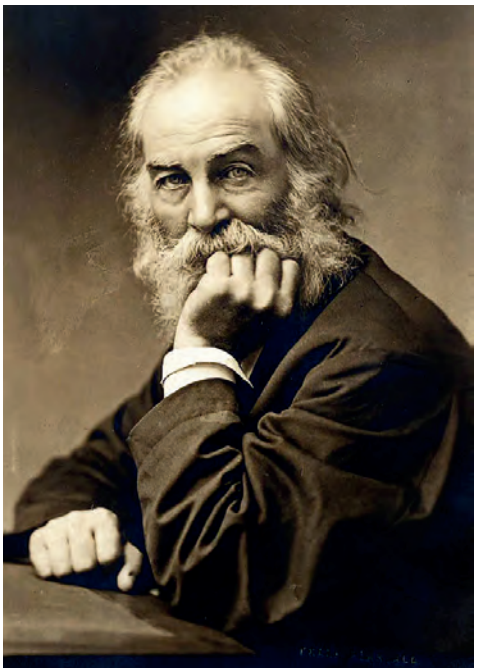
A platform had been built to provide seating for the speakers and other dignitaries. There have for a long time been questions about exactly where on the battlefield the platform was situated and, according to Mr. Gottfried, despite recent claims by Christopher Oakley there is still debate about it. There is no debate, though, about Lincoln's demeanor. Several witnesses reported that he had a sad, melancholy affect, as though he was carrying the nation's burdens in his heart. Nor is there much disagreement about how little of the audience could actually hear Lincoln when he spoke, the crowd being so large. Despite that, contemporary newspapers said that there was applause from the audience when he finished, and Gottfried thinks that was so.

After the ceremony, Lincoln had lunch at the Wills house and then stood in a reception line for a time. He then went to the Presbyterian Church, where Republicans were having a political rally, and where he fell asleep, feeling the effects of the smallpox that he had contracted, probably from Tad, which made him ill for the next several weeks. In fact, he was very sick when he got back to Washington, where he was cared for by William H. Johnson, who subsequently died from the disease. Lincoln paid for his funeral and arranged for him to be buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Finally, Mr. Gottfried said, he believed Lincoln did not think the speech had gone well, and was accordingly pleased with the note he received from Edward Everett in which he said, "I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

WALT WHITMAN ON LINCOLN'S DEATH

Walt Whitman never met Abraham Lincoln, but he often saw him as the president rode from the Executive Mansion to his cottage at the Old Soldiers' Home on warm summer evenings. As he noted in his journal, "We have got so that we always exchange bows, and very cordial ones." Always a great admirer of Lincoln, Whitman was profoundly affected by his death, as is clear from the several poems he wrote about it, particularly "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" and "O Captain, My Captain." But Whitman also wrote an account of Lincoln's assassination based on the description he heard from his companion, Peter Doyle, who was in the audience at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865, and which was first published in *The New York Sun* in February 1876. He subsequently used it as the basis for a lecture on Lincoln which he delivered several times between 1879 and 1890. Regardless of its origins, that account, a portion of which appears below, provides a narrative that could have come only from the hand of the Good Gray Poet.



Walt Whitman

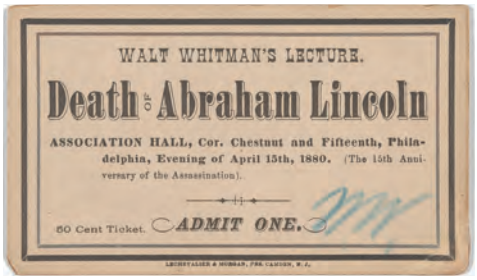
The day, April 14, 1865, seems to have been a pleasant one throughout the whole land—the moral atmosphere pleasant too—the long storm, so dark, so fratricidal, full of blood and doubt and gloom, over and ended at last by the sun-rise of such an absolute National victory, and utter break-down of Secessionism—we almost doubted our own senses! Lee had capitulated beneath the apple-tree of Appomattox. The other armies, the flanges of the revolt, swiftly follow'd. And could it really be, then? Out of all the affairs of this world of woe and failure and disorder, was there really come the confirm'd, unerring sign of plan, like a shaft of pure light—of rightful rule—of God? So the day, as I say, was propitious. Early herbage, early flowers, were out. (I remember where I was stopping at the time, the season being advanced, there were many lilacs in full bloom. By one of those caprices that enter and give tinge to events without being at all a part of them, I find myself always reminded of the great tragedy of that day by the sight and odor of these blossoms. It never fails.)

But I must not dwell on accessories. The deed hastens. The popular afternoon paper of Washington, the little "Evening Star," had spatter'd all over its third page, divided among the advertisements in a sensational manner, in a hundred different places, *The President and his Lady will be at the Theatre this evening…* (Lincoln was fond of the theatre. I have myself seen him there several times. I remember thinking how funny it was that he, in some respects the leading actor in the stormiest drama known to real history's stage through centuries, should sit

there and be so completely interested and absorb'd in those human jack-straws, moving about with their silly little gestures, foreign spirit, and flatulent text.)

On this occasion the theatre was crowded, many ladies in rich and gay costumes, officers in their uniforms, many well-known citizens, young folks, the usual clusters of gas-lights, the usual magnetism of so many people, cheerful, with perfumes, music of violins and flutes—(and over all, and saturating all, that vast, vague wonder, *Victory*, the nation's victory, the triumph of the Union, filling the air, the thought, the sense, with exhilaration more than all music and perfumes.)

The President came betimes, and, with his wife, witness'd the play from the large stage-boxes of the second tier, two thrown into one, and profusely draped with the national flag. The acts and scenes of the pieces—one of those singularly written compositions which have at least the merit of giving entire relief to an audience engaged in mental action or business excitements and cares during the day, as it makes not the slightest call on either the moral, emotional, esthetic, or spiritual nature—a piece, ("Our American Cousin,") in which, among other characters, so call'd, a Yankee, certainly such a one as was never seen, or the least like it ever seen, in North America, is introduced in England, with a varied fol-de-rol of talk, plot, scenery, and such phantasmagoria as goes to make up a modern popular drama—had progress'd through perhaps a couple of its acts, when in the midst of this comedy, or non-such, or whatever it is to be call'd, and to offset it, or finish it out, as if in Nature's and the great Muse's mockery of those poor mimes, came interpolated that scene, not really or exactly to be described at all, (for on the many hundreds who were there it seems to this hour to have left a passing blur, a dream, a blotch)—and yet partially to be described as I now proceed to give it. There is a scene in the play representing a modern parlor, in which two unprecedented English ladies are inform'd by the impossible Yankee that he is not a man of fortune, and therefore undesirable for marriage-catching purposes; after which, the comments being finish'd, the dramatic trio make exit, leaving the stage clear for a moment. At this period came the murder of Abraham Lincoln. Great as all its manifold train, circling round it, and stretching into the future for many a century, in the politics, history, art, &c., of the New World, in point of fact the main thing, the actual murder, transpired with the quiet and simplicity of any


WALT WHITMAN'S LECTURE.

Death of Abraham Lincoln

ASSOCIATION HALL, Cor. Chestnut and Fifteenth, Philadelphia, Evening of April 15th, 1880. (The 15th Anniversary of the Assassination).

50 Cent Ticket. ADMIT ONE.

Lecture Ticket

commonest occurrence—the bursting of a bud or pod in the growth of vegetation, for instance. Through the general hum following the stage pause, with the change of positions, came the muffled sound of a pistol-shot, which not one-hundredth part of the audience heard at the time—and yet a moment's hush—somehow, surely, a vague startled thrill—and then, through the ornamented, draperied, starr'd and striped space-way of the President's box, a sudden figure, a man, raises himself with hands and feet, stands a moment on the railing, leaps below to the stage, (a distance of perhaps fourteen or fifteen feet,) falls out of position, catching his boot-heel in the copious drapery, (the American flag,) falls on one knee, quickly recovers himself, rises as if nothing had happen'd, (he really sprains his ankle, but unfelt then)—and so the figure, Booth, the murderer, dress'd in plain black broadcloth, bare-headed, with full, glossy, raven hair, and his eyes like some mad animal's flashing with light and resolution, yet with a certain strange calmness, holds aloft in one hand a large knife—walks along not much back from the footlights—turns fully toward the audience his face of statuesque beauty, lit by those basilisk eyes, flashing with desperation, perhaps insanity—launches out in a firm and steady voice the words *Sic semper tyrannis*—and then walks with neither slow nor very rapid pace diagonally across to the back of the stage, and disappears. (Had not all this terrible scene—making the mimic ones preposterous—had it not all been rehears'd, in blank, by Booth, beforehand?)

A moment's hush—a scream—the cry of *murder*—Mrs. Lincoln leaning out of the box, with ashy cheeks and lips, with involuntary cry, pointing to the retreating figure, *He has kill'd the President.* And still a moment's strange, incredulous suspense—and then the deluge!—then that mixture of horror, noises, uncertainty—(the sound, somewhere back, of a horse's hoofs clattering with speed)—the people burst through chairs and railings, and break them up—there is inextricable confusion and terror—women faint—quite feeble persons fall, and are trampled on—many cries of agony are heard—the broad stage suddenly fills to suffocation with a dense and motley crowd, like some horrible carnival—the audience rush generally upon it, at least the strong men do—the actors and actresses are all there in their play-costumes and painted faces, with mortal fright showing through the rouge—the screams and calls, confused talk—redoubled, trebled—two or three manage to pass up water from the stage to the President's box—others try to clamber up—&c., &c.

In the midst of all this, the soldiers of the President's guard, with others, suddenly drawn to the scene, burst in—(some two hundred altogether)—they storm the house, through all the tiers, especially the upper ones, inflamed with fury, literally charging the audience with fix'd bayonets, muskets and pistols, shouting *Clear out! clear out! you sons of*——

Such the wild scene, or a suggestion of it rather, inside the play-house that night.

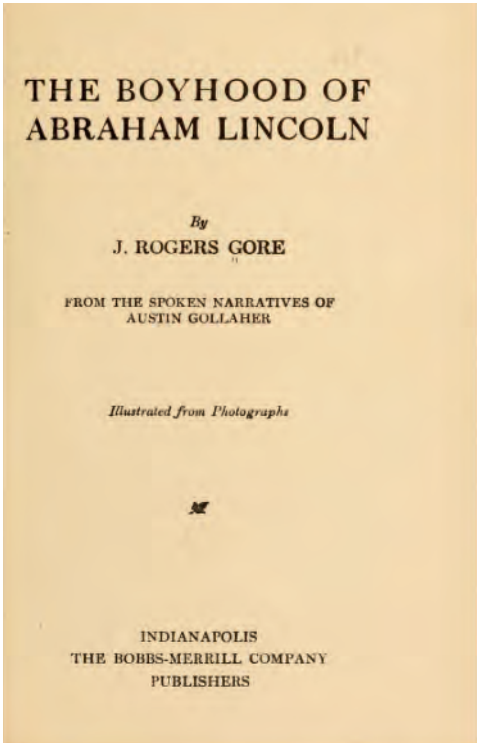
Outside, too, in the atmosphere of shock and craze, crowds of people, fill'd with frenzy, ready to seize any outlet for it, come near committing murder several times on innocent individuals. One such case was especially exciting. The infuriated crowd, through some chance, got started against one man, either for words he utter'd, or perhaps without any cause at all, and were proceeding at once to actually hang him on a neighboring lamppost, when he was rescued by a few heroic policemen, who placed him in their midst, and fought their way slowly and amid great peril toward the station house. It was a fitting episode of the whole affair. The crowd rushing and eddying to and fro—the night, the yells, the pale faces, many frighten'd people trying in vain to extricate themselves—the attack'd man, not yet freed from the jaws of death, looking like a corpse—the silent, resolute, half-dozen policemen, with no weapons but their little clubs, yet stern and steady through all those eddying swarms—made a fitting side-scene to the grand tragedy of the murder. They gain'd the station house with the protected man, whom they placed in security for the night, and discharged him in the morning.

And in the midst of that pandemonium, infuriated soldiers, the audience and the crowd, the stage, and all its actors and actresses, its paint-pots, spangles, and gas-lights—the life blood from those veins, the best and sweetest of the land, drips slowly down, and death's ooze already begins its little bubbles on the lips. . . .


Austin Gollaher

It is generally accepted that Joshua Speed was the closest friend—if not the only close friend—Abraham Lincoln ever had. But when Lincoln was just a boy in Knob Creek, Kentucky, he had a friend three years his senior named Austin Gollaher, whose family had a farm near the Lincolns'. Although Gollaher is barely mentioned in modern biographies of the sixteenth president, there is a story about how he supposedly saved Lincoln from drowning in Knob Creek recounted in both *Herndon's Lincoln* by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik (1888) and Ida M. Tarbell's *The Life of Abraham Lincoln* (1900). Whether for that reason or some other, Lincoln apparently had fond memories of his childhood companion. According to at least one source, even as president he is said to have told a visitor to the White House that "I would rather see Gollaher than any man living."

Most of what we know about their relationship comes from a 1921 book called *The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln* by J. Rogers Gore, who had the opportunity to interview Gollaher over a period of four or five years before the latter's death in 1898. "Mr. Gollaher," Gore wrote in the Preface to the book, "was unschooled, but he possessed a keen intellect, and talked interestingly and intelligently of his and Lincoln's childhood in Larue County. In answer to my questions Mr. Gollaher, little by little, related the narratives quite free from intentional embellishment, I feel sure." But, he added, "In following these pages…the reader is asked to bear in mind that they are leaves from the loving memory of an old man. Abraham Lincoln was, in the recollection of Austin Gollaher, the great event; he was at once playmate and prophet, the day's companion and the man for the ages." So, Gore admits, "…it would have been extraordinary, if not impossible, for his narration of early youth to escape the coloring and the glamour of an imperishable name." The chapter from the book that follows, "Honey's Old Master," recounts how Lincoln reacted when he was confronted by the man who had owned a dog Lincoln had found in the woods and subsequently named "Honey," and who insisted that the dog be returned even though he'd badly mistreated him—a very early example of Lincoln's well-known affection for animals. (Incidentally, there is a lovely children's picture book called *Honey—The Dog Who Saved Abe Lincoln*, written by Shari Swanson and illustrated by Chuck Groenink, that tells a different—if entirely fictionalized—story of Abe and Honey's adventures.)


THE BOYHOOD OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By
J. ROGERS GORE

FROM THE SPOKEN NARRATIVES OF AUSTIN GOLLAHER

Illustrated from Photographs

INDIANAPOLIS
THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

Within a dozen feet of them mumbling to himself and peeping mysteriously from behind a tree stood a little man, pinched of face and stoop-shouldered, frightful to look upon. His yellow, shaggy, dog-like hair fell over his eyes and ears, and there was a scar half circling from the corner of his left eye to his chin.

The stranger's presence was inexplainable; it seemed as if he must have sprung from a hole in the ground, and Abe and Austin were both somewhat startled. The hair on Honey's back bristled; his mouth curled, and he growled through set teeth, readying for a battle royal. Instinct warned him that he faced an enemy.

"Honey, behave yourself," commanded Abe when he had recovered from the first surprise. But Honey only growled the more fiercely. Abe put his arm around the dog's neck and tried to quiet him, but Honey was not so easily appeased; he had fight in him and Abe had to cling tightly to keep him from springing on the stranger.

The ugly, dirty, little man seemed bewildered, but he spoke to the dog and snapped his fingers at him in an effort to make friends, though there was no inclination on the part of Honey to be friendly."

"Go away, or he will tear you to pieces," warned Austin; but the man did not move.

"Where did you get that dog?" But before Abe or Austin could answer he continued: "I believe on my soul it's my dog, Whistle, come back to life. Whistle, don't you know me? Don't you know your old master? Come to me, Whistle; I want you. I want you to forgive me."

But Honey only snapped and growled the louder.

"Where'd you get the dog? Where'd you get my Whistle? The little man inquired pathetically.

Abe and Austin were too astonished to answer; they were quite convinced now that the man was crazy. Finally, he repeated the question, and Abe replied:

"No, sir, this is not your dog; he is my dog. I found him in the road with his leg broken, and I fixed his leg and nursed him till he got well. He's my dog, and nobody can take him from me."

"Exactly, exactly," mumbled the little man. "I know now Whistle was not killed. I thought he was dead when I saw him at the foot of the cliff with blood running from his mouth, and I went away and left him. I want him back; he is my dog," the old fellow whined.

"How did Honey get hurt?"

"Well," came the shamefaced answer, "I got mad at him because he wouldn't mind me, and I kicked him with my heavy shoe and he rolled over the cliff, and when I looked down I thought he was dead. And I felt sorry for him, and went away and left him there."

"There then came into Abe's face a terrifying expression," said Mr. Gollaher. "It wasn't anger; it was righteous wrath, I suppose; I don't know how to describe it. But when Abe opened his mouth and spoke, I knew there was fight and defiance in every word.

"'If you try to take Honey away from me, I'll make him tear you up," he said. 'I'll make him grab you by the throat. Let's see you take him," and there was a blazing light in his eyes. 'I dare you to try to put your hands on him! Here he is, take him! Why don't you take him! You are a coward!'

"All the time Abe was speaking, Honey was growling and gnashing his teeth. The two warriors were defiant and ready for battle. I

was a little frightened, but it tickled me to hear Abe talking that way, because I always wanted to see him fight.

"'Why," Abe continued, 'what right have you got to Honey? You tried to kill him; you kicked him and broke his leg and left him bleeding to death. Look at Honey's leg now, all twisted, because you kicked him over the cliff. Why don't you fall over a cliff yourself, and break your own leg? Then you will know how Honey felt. A dog suffers when he is hurt just as much as a human. No, sir, you can't get Honey! He would rather die than go with you, and I would rather die than let him!' were Abe's parting words to Honey's old master."

'Come on, Austin, let's go," said Abe, and the boys retraced their steps toward the Lincoln cabin.

"Look, Abe," cried Austin excitedly, "that old man is following us, and he has a big stick in his hand."

"Let him follow" answered Abe, "father and Mr. Keith are at home and they'll give him a thrashing if he fools with them; and anybody who treats a dog like he treated Honey ought to have a whipping."

The stranger followed close behind until they reached the cabin, where with one voice they excitedly related their adventure with the dirty little man in the woods. Mr. Lincoln, who happened to be in the house, met the stranger and politely asked what he could do for him.

"I want my dog Whistle," he said, and there was a tone of demand in his voice.

"My friend," answered Mr. Lincoln, "you can't have the dog; even if I should consent I don't believe you could persuade the dog to go with you. He would tear you to pieces. He's trying to get at you now. He very likely remembers your cruel treatment."

"Well, sir," Mr. Gollaher commented, "when Abe heard his father talking that way his face fairly beamed."

"I will have him," the little man cried out, as he reached for a knife that hung from his belt.

But Mr. Lincoln was too quick for him. His arm shot out and the belligerent stranger tumbled in a knot to the ground. Then Mr. Lincoln lifted him up, and shaking him, said: "I believe you are an escaped criminal. What are you doing prowling around this neighborhood?"

The dirty face whitened, and he began to whine and beg.

"Let him go, father," Abe put in; "let him get out of this neighborhood."

But Mr. Lincoln questioned him further, believing that the man might be wanted by the officers of the law.

"What is your right name?" asked Mr. Keith, who had heard the story and watched the encounter.

"Rolling Stone," was the sarcastic answer.

"Very well," answered Mr. Keith, "we'll just roll Mr. Rolling Stone to Elizabethtown and hold him in jail while his past record is investigated."

And so they delivered the strange little man to the jailer at Elizabethtown, who held him until it was learned that he was a harmless, half-witted rover, who never before had made trouble for any one. He had sense enough, however, to stay away from Abe and his dog, and never again visit the Knob Creek community.

IN MEMORIAM

by Paul Ellis-Graham



Bob Langford



Howard Rosenthal

It is with heavy hearts that we in the Lincoln Group of New York say goodbye to two of the most active leaders in our organization. Longtime member of the group, executive committee member, and former treasurer Bob Langford passed away on August 19, 2024, after a long illness, and current treasurer Howard Rosenthal passed away suddenly on September 26, 2024.

Bob, who was an enthusiastic lover of all things Lincoln, was first introduced to the LGNY in 1997 when he attended a book signing for our own Stuart Schneider in Morris Plains, New Jersey. It was there that Bob met then-LGNY president Joe Garrera, who invited him to join our organization. And for more than twenty-five years Bob served the group well, always stepping up when help was needed, such as when he coordinated our Zoom meetings during the COVID crisis. He also entertained us with his personal stories, particularly his favorite about how he almost got locked INSIDE Lincoln's tomb (yikes!). Bob was also an avid New York sports fan. We will miss him dearly.

Several years ago, when Bob became unable to fulfill his responsibilities as treasurer, it was Howard Rosenthal who volunteered to take over the position. Howard, a certified public accountant, shared our strong interest in Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era. In addition to being our treasurer, he was the president of the Civil War Forum of Metropolitan New York. As president, he planned the group's regular monthly meetings and organized a trip every year to important Civil War sites across the country for his members. We are extremely grateful to Howard for coming forward to serve in our time of need, and thankful that we had the opportunity to know him.

These two men were loyal and active participants in the Lincoln Group of New York. We send our love, sympathy, and condolences to their families while we celebrate and honor the lives of Bob and Howard.

LINCOLN'S EXAMPLE

On February 12, 1908, twenty-one gentlemen met at Delmonico's Restaurant at Fifth Avenue and Forty-Fourth Street in New York City, for the first annual meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship, a forerunner of the Lincoln Group of New York. The organization faded away within a decade, but while it was active, members and attendees included such individuals as Ida Tarbell, Alexander McClure, Joseph B. Oakleaf, and Alonzo Rothschild. Rothschild, author of *"Honest Abe": A Study in Integrity Based on the Early Life of Abraham Lincoln,* was among

the speakers at the group's third meeting, on February 12, 1910, in the course of which he discussed what he considered to be Lincoln's most significant contribution, as follows:

"Abraham Lincoln's most important contribution to our history does not consist in the immortal proclamation that led to the emancipation of the slaves, nor in the fact that his strong hand was on the helm of the ship of state when it tossed in the wildest storm that any nation has yet encountered and wholly survived. These things, important as they are, were but incidents that loom large in our eyes now; but in time to come they will recede into their proper places in the perspective of history, as if they were but milestones on the eternal highway over which the nations of the earth are moving. What, then, is the important thing? It is the man's example—the influence of his character and his career that will, as time goes on prove to be the richest heritage left by the nineteenth century to the American people, and, in fact, to the people of all countries where what is true, and pure, and great, in public life, is now or shall hereafter be the sole standard for leaders of men."


Alonzo Rothschild

THE MAN ON THE HOTEL STEPS

Frank McGlynn Sr. (1866-1951) was an American actor best known for his many portrayals of Abraham Lincoln, appearing in twenty-one films between 1915 and 1939, as well as onstage in John Drinkwater's *Abraham Lincoln*, first performing the role on Broadway from December 1919 to May 1920, and then for two years in touring companies. Traveling around the country as he did, he was frequently approached by people who said they had known the sixteenth president, and in 1947 he published a book about his experiences titled *Sidelights on Lincoln*. One of the individuals he met was a venerable gentleman in Boston named John Dodge, a great devotee of Lincoln, who told McGlynn that he had belonged to one of the Pennsylvania regiments nicknamed "The Bucktails," which had been stationed in Washington during the Civil War as Lincoln's bodyguards. The two men had been talking for some time when, as McGlynn explained:

At this juncture, old John Dodge paused for a moment, then looked up at me with indescribable questioning, horror and sadness. "Mr. McGlynn, would you believe this? Would you believe that on the night when President Lincoln was assassinated, a man stood on the steps of a hotel in Washington, and watched the commotion in the street below and asked the cause of the trouble and upon being told that President Lincoln had been shot, replied 'Damn him, he ought to be shot!' Would you think, Mr. McGlynn, that any man could say that?"

"What did the crowd do?" I asked. "Did the others tear him to pieces?"

John Dodge looked at me for a long time with an expression of astonished horror in his eyes, and then he dropped his head into his hands as though he were undergoing some mental anguish. He held this position for, I should say, ten or twenty seconds. Finally, he recovered himself and began to talk about some other phase of his experience in the White House, never again referring to the incident of the man on the hotel steps.

About a year after this interview with John Dodge, I was visited in the theatre by a distinguished-looking elderly gentleman who had been a surgeon during the Civil War. I regret that I do not remember his name. Among other things, he said, "Mr. McGlynn, a very remarkable thing happened the night of President Lincoln's assassination. A man was standing on the steps of the Willard Hotel in Washington and when he saw the commotion he asked what it was all about. Some one told him that the President had been shot, and this man remarked, 'Damn him, he ought to be shot!' A young soldier standing near by ran his bayonet right through the man!"

When I heard this, I could not help but recall old John Dodge in his attic room on Carver Street in Boston, with pictures and mementoes of Lincoln all about him, as he gazed at me and asked the question: "Would you think that any man could do that?" I remembered seeing his venerable head drop into his hands in anguish, and I wondered.

LINCOLN BOOKS 2024

Abraham Lincoln was, if nothing else, a man who appreciated the importance of reading. In his address to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society on September 30, 1859, he told the assembled farmers that: "A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems. And not only so. It gives a relish, and facility, for successfully pursuing the [yet] unsolved ones." Generally speaking, books about Abraham Lincoln are not specifically intended to solve problems but, rather, to provide readers with a deeper understanding of the man whom many consider our greatest president. And, as usual, in 2024 America's publishers produced a good number of new books meant to fulfill that purpose. As in the past, it's important to note that the following is by no means a definitive list of Lincoln books published last year. What distinguishes them is that they are all 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 our sixteenth president.

As has also been the case in the past, there were several books published last year that did not fit these criteria but may nevertheless be of interest. The first of these is ***The Age of Reconstruction: How Lincoln's New Birth of Freedom Remade the World*** by Don H. Doyle (Princeton University Press, 392 pages, cloth, $35.00), the story of how Lincoln's widespread, if short-lived, "new birth of freedom" brought about democratic reforms, emancipation movements, and even revolutions in France, Britain, Russia, Mexico, Spain, Italy, and other European and Latin

American countries. The second is Matthew Stewart's ***An Emancipation of the Mind: Radical Philosophy, the War over Slavery, and the Refounding of America*** (W.W. Norton, 400 pages, cloth/paperback, $32.50/$19.99), the story of how, in response to the Great Awakening of antebellum America, the revolutionary era's radical idea that all men are created equal provided the philosophical foundations for the subsequent abolitionists' war against slavery. In the third, ***The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860-1920*** by Manisha Sinha (Liveright, 592 pages, cloth/paperback, $39.99/$19.99), the author expands the traditional timeframe of Reconstruction—from the close of the Civil War to the corrupt presidential election of 1876—to encompass the period from the election in 1860 through the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. This is the era she refers to as the "Second American Republic," arguing that its rise and eventual fall were brought about by numerous events, not only traditional Reconstruction but also the Indian Wars in the West, labor problems in the North, women's suffrage, Chinese exclusion, and the establishment of an American empire overseas, among others."

It's not unusual for at least a few children's book publishers to weigh in with new publications about Abraham Lincoln every year, but there were two such books in 2024 that were of particular interest. The first is ***My Day with Abe Lincoln*** (Reedy Press, 96 pages, paperback, $11.97), the story of a young girl who travels back in time and meets young Abe and his sister, Sarah, in the backwoods of Indiana in the 1820s. It was written by Jonathan W. White, with the assistance of his two young daughters, and includes illustrations by Madeline Renaux. Professor White is the author of numerous books for adults on Lincoln and the Civil War (including one on the list below), vice chairman of The Lincoln Forum, and co-winner of the Lincoln Prize for 2023. Aside from being a book that "will fire a kid's imagination about Lincoln and history," according to Allen C. Guelzo, what makes the book notable is that it's not often that such a distinguished Lincoln scholar writes a book for children. The second is ***Rebecca's Prayer for President Lincoln*** by Jane Yolen with illustrations by Laura Barella (Kar-Ben Publishing, 32 pages, cloth, $19.99). Based on a real event that occurred at Temple Emanuel in New York City, the book tells the story of a young Jewish girl who, attending synagogue one Saturday morning in April 1865, is stunned to hear of Lincoln's assassination and then astonished to see the entire congregation rise spontaneously to recite Kaddish, the traditional Jewish prayer of mourning. Although there have been children's books about Lincoln aimed at Christians, a book for Jewish children appears to be unique. There is also one other book that, despite its somewhat misleading title, could be of interest to those who wish to further indulge their inner child: ***The Gettysburg Address Adult Coloring Book***, an 8½ x 11, $7.99 paperback independently published by Chris Godsong, that contains thirty pages of well-drawn, patriotic, Civil War-related images to color.

Abraham Lincoln and Women in Film: One Hundred Years of Hollywood Mythmaking by Frank J. Wetta & Martin A. Novelli (Louisiana State University Press, 252 pages, cloth, $45.00), provides a discussion of what is known about the women in Lincoln's life—his mother, his stepmother, Ann Rutledge, Mary Owens, and Mary Todd; how they—and he—have been portrayed in feature-length films, television shows, and miniseries; the difference between the films and history; and how these cinematic versions of Lincoln's life informed our perceptions of him.

Abraham Lincoln on Screen: Live-Action Portrayals on Film and Television, 3rd Ed., edited by Mark S. Reinhart (McFarland & Company, 357 pages, paperback, $95.00), is a unique reference work providing information on the more than 250 fictional and documentary film and television portrayals of Lincoln produced since the development of motion pictures, organized chronologically and including data on the cast, production, historical accuracy, and critical commentary for each show, updated to include Stephen Spielberg's *Lincoln* and other more recent screen works.

Abraham Lincoln: His Life in Print: Books and Ephemera from the David M. Rubenstein Americana Collection by David M. Rubenstein (The Grolier Club, 272 pages, cloth, $60.00), presents an illustrated study of more than 300 printed items, including books, pamphlets, documents, handbills, and periodicals that depict Abraham Lincoln's life from his rise to prominence through his death, and includes essays by twelve leading historians—including Edna Greene Medford, Ted Widmer, Martha Hodes, and Harold Holzer, each of which provides discussion of a different aspect of the sixteenth president's life and legacy.

Abraham Lincoln, Statesman Historian by Jesse Derber (University of Illinois Press, 278 pages, cloth/paperback, $110.00/$24.95), argues that Abraham Lincoln considered history to be a source of wisdom, and by relying on both the assertions of historians of his own day, and developing the skills used by today's historians, applied that wisdom in his political career to shape people's understanding of the past as well as to demonstrate how it can be useful in providing effective leadership in the present.

Black Americans in Mourning: Reactions to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln by Leonne M. Hudson (Southern Illinois University Press, 208 pages, cloth/paperback, $65.00/$24.95), shows that no group mourned Lincon's death more than people of color, and beginning with the assassination and the three-week-long national funeral, demonstrates the grief shown by both prominent figures like Frederick Douglass, Martin R. Delany, and Elizabeth Keckley, and lesser-known Black people around the country, concluding with discussion of the efforts made by African Americans after the war to gain citizenship and guarantee their right to vote.

Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration by Harold Holzer (Dutton, 464 pages, cloth, $35.00), this year's winner of the LGNY Award of Achievement, echoing today's arguments over immigration, and considering Lincoln from a new point of view, essentially provides an analysis of his political career from the perspective of immigration, and his extensive dealings with the commanders of foreign-born units during the Civil War, demonstrating how his attitude toward the foreign-born—both personal and political—changed from that of a sometime ally of the nativist American ("Know-Nothing") Party to an enthusiastic promoter of immigrants, even as his views evolved on abolition and Black citizenship.

Chorus of the Union: How Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas Set Aside Their Rivalry to Save the Nation by Edward Robert McClelland (Pegasus Books, 352 pages, cloth, $32.00), chronicles the nearly life-long rivalry between the two Illinois poli-

ticians, concluding with their battle for the presidency during which, realizing he could not succeed, Douglas abandoned his own campaign and turned to help build support for Lincoln in order to stave off the fracturing of the Union and civil war.

The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson (Crown, 592 pages, cloth, $35.00), based on contemporary diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, plantation records, and similar documents, tells the story of the turbulent months between Abraham Lincoln's election in November 1860 and the attack by Confederate forces on Fort Sumter in April 1861, written in a manner designed to enable readers to experience the discord and resulting fear that gripped the Union and the newly formed Confederacy.

A Great and Good Man: Rare, First-Hand Accounts of Abraham Lincoln edited by Jonathan W. White and William J. Griffing (Reedy Press, 176 pages, paperback, $22.50), presents a collection of more than 200 unpublished letters and diary entries by men and women—most of them contemporary—who encountered Abraham Lincoln in various settings, that provides readers with a portrait of the Civil War era based on previously unheard voices sharing their thoughts on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the presidential election of 1860, the Secession Winter, the Civil War, Lincoln's re-election in 1864, and, finally, Lincoln's assassination.

Lincoln vs. Davis: The War of the Presidents by Nigel Hamilton (Little, Brown & Company, 800 pages, cloth, $38.00), offers a magisterial dual biography of the Civil War's competing Kentucky-born leaders—Lincoln the country lawyer and Davis the West Point graduate and former secretary of war, examining the similarities and differences between them, and arguing that Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 fundamentally transformed the purpose of the war and, in the process, doomed Davis's rebellion.

Lincoln's Rise to Eloquence: How He Gained the Presidential Nomination by D. Leigh Henso (University of Illinois Press, 312 pages, cloth/paper, $125.00/$30.00), presents the case that Lincoln's growing writing and speaking skills in the years prior to his campaign for the presidency, as exhibited by detailed theoretical analyses of thirty-one major compositions as well as lesser works, were so closely interrelated with his political skills that without them it would not have been possible for him to achieve the political heights he did.

Our Ancient Faith: Lincoln, Democracy, and the American Experiment by Allen C. Guelzo (Alfred A. Knopf, 272 pages, cloth, $30.00), essentially a meditation on Lincoln's strongly held belief that democracy was the greatest political achievement in human history, shows how Lincoln's determination to maintain a balance between majority and minority rule enabled him to take a firm stand against secession at the beginning of the war as well as to express an equally firm commitment to reconciliation once the war was over.

Senators Beholden to the People: Lincoln and the Doctrine of Instruction by Richard Lawrence Miller (McFarland & Co., 130 pages, paperback, $29.95), examines the debate during America's founding between direct democracy, as practiced in local town meetings, and representative democracy, in which decisions are made by senators and members of congress, and particularly the question of the "right of instruction," citizens' ability to expel government officials who have not followed the peoples' will, as perceived during Abraham Lincoln's pre-presidential career.

Wide Awake: The Forgotten Force that Elected Lincoln and Spurred the Civil War by Jon Grinspan (Bloomsbury USA, 352 pages, cloth, $32.00), details how the Wide Awakes, the working class, mostly young men's antislavery groups that demonstrated during the 1860 presidential campaign, represented, depending on one's point of view, either the power of a majority to protest against slavery or a paramilitary force organized to invade the South, ultimately raising questions about the always delicate relationship between violent speech and violent actions.

AWARD COMMITTEE: A special thanks to our dedicated members who served on the 2024 award committee:
Tony Czarnecki, Chair / Paula Hopewell / Paul Ellis-Graham

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.