

# THE CHARGER

April 2013

494th Meeting

Vol. 34, #8

*Tonight's Program:*

## An Evening with President Lincoln

It is February of 1865. President Lincoln has been reelected in November 1864 and will be inaugurated for his second term on March 4th. His wife, Mary, in her efforts to raise money for soldiers and their families, has committed the president to speak at a fundraiser before an audience at Ford's Theater. The President in this unusual setting will discuss his life, beliefs, policies, and the war as it nears its end. His words will provide insights into that era, seasoned with his characteristic sense of humor. The president will take questions from the audience after his remarks. All are encouraged to participate.



Lincoln on August 13, 1860 (left) and February 5, 1865 (right). A civil war will age you.

*Tonight's Speaker:*

## Mel Maurer

Portraying President Lincoln this evening will be Cleveland Civil War Roundtable past president Mel Maurer. Mr. Maurer is a retired executive of the Dana Corporation and a student of history. In addition to the Roundtable, Mr. Maurer is a past president of the Philosophical Club of Cleveland and a member of the Titanic Historic Society. An Abraham Lincoln scholar, Mr. Maurer is a lifetime member of the Lincoln Forum, attending its Symposium in Gettysburg every November. He speaks regularly on many topics (including Abraham Lincoln) around Northeast Ohio and has presented to the Roundtable on many occasions. Mr. Maurer lives with his wife Elaine in Westlake, Ohio.

*Date:* **Wednesday,  
April 10, 2013**

*Place:* **Judson Manor  
1890 E. 107th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio**

*Time:* **Drinks 6 pm  
Dinner 6:45 pm**

*Reservations:* **Please send an email to  
[ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com) with your reservation, or  
call Dan Zeiser at (440) 449-9311 by 9 pm the  
Sunday before the meeting.**

*Meal:* **Entree, vegetable, rolls, salad, and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
FOUNDED 1957**

*President:* **Michael Wells** m.wells@csuohio.edu  
*Vice President:* **Jim Heflich** laureldoc@gmail.com  
*Treasurer:* **Patrick Bray** pbray360@aol.com  
*Secretary:* **Chris Fortunato** learnedhand@live.com

**Directors:**

Lisa Kempfer Paul Burkholder  
 C. Ellen Connally Howard Besser

website: [www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com](http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com)

email: [pkburkholder@gmail.com](mailto:pkburkholder@gmail.com)

**Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser**

email: [danzeiser@aol.com](mailto:danzeiser@aol.com)

## Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2012 Paul Burkholder  
 2011 Lisa Kempfer  
 2010 Dennis Keating  
 2009 Jon Thompson  
 2008 Terry Koozer  
 2007 John Fazio  
 2006 Dave Carrino  
 2005 Mel Maurer  
 2004 Warren McClelland  
 2003 Maynard Bauer  
 2002 Bill McGrath  
 2001 William Vodrey  
 2000 Bob Boyda  
 1999 Dick Crews  
 1998 John Moore  
 1997 Dan Zeiser  
 1996 John Sutula  
 1995 Norton London  
 1994 Robert Battisti  
 1993 Kevin Callahan  
 1992 Bob Baucher  
 1991 Joe Tirpak  
 1990 Ken Callahan Jr.  
 1989 Neil Glaser  
 1988 Martin Graham  
 1987 George Vourlojianis  
 1986 Tim Beatty  
 1985 Brian Kowell

1984 Neil Evans  
 1983 William Victory  
 1982 John Harkness  
 1981 Thomas Geschke  
 1980 Charles Spiegle  
 1979 William Bates  
 1978 Richard McCrae  
 1977 James Chapman  
 1976 Milton Holmes  
 1975 Thomas Gretter  
 1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh  
 1973 Arthur Jordan  
 1972 Bernard Drews  
 1971 Kenneth Callahan  
 1970 Frank Schuhle  
 1969 Donald Heckaman  
 1968 Frank Moran  
 1967 William Schlesinger  
 1966 Donald Hamill  
 1965 Lester Swift  
 1964 Guy DiCarlo Jr.  
 1963 Paul Guenther  
 1962 Edward Downer  
 1961 Charles Clarke  
 1960 Howard Preston  
 1959 John Cullen Jr.  
 1958 George Farr Jr.  
 1957 Kenneth Grant

## President's Message

Greetings:

Hopefully, you have read about our spring program changes. If not, here is another reminder:

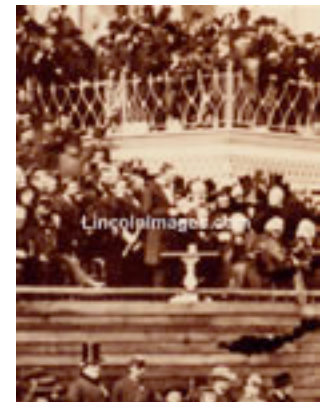
April 10th Mel Maurer, *An Evening with Lincoln*, new program, same date;

May 15th Harold Holzer, *Lincoln*, program as originally intended on **new date**;

June 12th Originally intended play about Grant and Lee meeting in Grant's White House on **new add-on date**.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wells



Lincoln at the March 4, 1865 Inaugural from a distance and close up. All are Alexander Gardner photos.

Images taken from  
[www.lincolnimages.com](http://www.lincolnimages.com)

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## 2012-2013 SCHEDULE

September 12, 2012

### *South Mountain*

**John  
Michael  
Priest**



January 9, 2013

### *Dick Crews Annual Debate: President Lincoln's Biggest Mistake*

**Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey**

February 13, 2013



**Edwin M. Stanton  
Buckeye Warlord**

**William F. B. Vodrey**

October 10, 2012



### *Morgan's Raid*

**Lester Horwitz**

March 13, 2013

### *The Assassination*

**Michael Kaufman**



November 14, 2012



### *Fort Pillow*

**Dr. John V.  
Cimprich**

May 15, 2013

### *Lincoln*

**Harold Holzer**



December 12, 2012

### *The Irish and the Civil War*

**Dr. W. Dennis Keating**



June 12, 2013

### *Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Players Present: Grant and Lee at the White House*

# The Lincoln Family Continued

## Thomas Lincoln

Thomas was born in Virginia and his family soon brought him west to Kentucky. Indians killed his father, named Abraham Lincoln, while he was clearing farmland, leaving young Thomas and his family fatherless. He moved to Hardin County, Kentucky in 1802 and, one year later, purchased his first farm. Thomas married Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806. They had three children: Sarah (February 10, 1807), Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809), and Thomas (1812), who died in infancy.

Historical documents show that Thomas was a responsible citizen and community leader, but he repeatedly fell victim to Kentucky's chaotic land laws and was constantly frustrated by the presence of slavery. In 1816, Thomas and his family crossed the Ohio River and purchased a farm directly from the federal government in what is today Spencer County, Indiana.

Two years later, his wife died due to milk sickness and Thomas married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnston. Although Lincoln developed a close relationship with his stepmother, his relationship with his father was strained. In 1830, he moved with his father for the last time when they travelled to Illinois. A year later, he set out on his own. His father continued farming in Coles County, Illinois until his death in 1851. He was buried in the Shiloh Cemetery, near his Illinois farm.

Sources: *The Lincoln Encyclopedia*, (1982) by Mark Neely and *Lincoln's Youth* (1959) by Louis A. Warren.

## Nancy Hanks Lincoln

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born in Virginia in 1784. Her family later moved to Kentucky where, on June 12, 1806, she married Thomas Lincoln. She gave birth to three children: Sarah (February 10, 1807), Abraham (February 12, 1809), and Thomas (1812), who died in infancy.

In 1816, the Lincoln family migrated to what is today Spencer County, Indiana. Two years later, on October 5, 1818, she died of "milk sickness," an illness contracted by drinking milk from a cow that had consumed the poisonous white snakeroot. She was buried in a hilltop, pioneer cemetery near the Lincoln farm. Lincoln probably knew little of her background, since she died when he was nine, and his father quickly remarried. In later years, he referred to her as his "Angel Mother," that is, his deceased mother.

Sources: *The Lincoln Encyclopedia*, (1982) by Mark Neely and *Lincoln's Youth* (1959) by Louis A. Warren.

## Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln's stepmother was born in what is today Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Her first husband, Daniel Johnston, whom she married in 1806, appeared on the delinquent tax list for Hardin County in 1806. When he was sued to collect a debt in 1810, he was found without funds. In 1814 he was appointed Hardin County jailer, but died two years later, leaving Sarah with no money.

Widower Thomas Lincoln travelled from southern Indiana to Elizabethtown in 1819 to marry her. The two had known each other while they were both living in Kentucky. Thomas and Sarah married on December 2 and soon travelled to the Lincoln farm in Indiana. She found the country "wild, and desolate" and Thomas's children in meager conditions. She claimed that they needed to be "dressed...up" to look "more human."

Nine people lived in the Lincoln cabin, two from Thomas's first marriage and three from Sarah's first marriage: Thomas and Sarah, their five children (Sarah Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln, Elizabeth Johnston, John D. Johnston, and Matilda Johnston.) Abraham's cousin -- Dennis Hanks -- also lived with them throughout most of their Indiana years.



Sarah always spoke fondly of Abraham and he spoke fondly of her. He described her as "a good and kind mother" and referred to her as "Mother" in his letters. After Abraham left home, he visited her "every year or two" in Coles County, Illinois, where she lived from 1831 until her death. Lincoln attended to her welfare as much as he could from a distance. When Thomas died in 1851, Lincoln retained a 40 acre plot of land in his own name "for Mother while she lives."

Abraham last saw his stepmother on January 31 and February 1, 1861, when he came to bid her farewell before going to the White House. When she later recalled the visit after her stepson's death in 1865, she wept. She died in 1869, and was buried next to her husband, Thomas Lincoln, in the Shiloh Cemetery in Coles County.

Sources: The Lincoln Encyclopedia, (1982) by Mark Neely and Lincoln's Youth (1959) by Louis A. Warren.

## The Lincoln Home and Neighborhood

Mr. Lincoln lived at the corner of Eighth and Jackson for seventeen years. Like the rest of Springfield, Lincoln's neighborhood had the diversity that he thought should be representative of the nation. Mr. Lincoln was a neighbor to families of Irish immigrants, including the Burch and Carrigan families. Mrs. Julia Sprigg, born in Baden-Baden (Germany), was also a neighbor of the Lincolns. There were twenty-one African Americans living within a three block radius of the Lincoln home in 1860. This number represented 10% of the African American population living in Springfield.

Taken from the National Park Service website for the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.



Clockwise from top left: The Lincoln Home on the corner of Eighth and Jackson in Springfield; historic outbuildings; the Lincoln neighborhood; the Robinson House; the Arnold House; the Cook House; and Fido, the Lincolns' pet dog, a retriever/shepherd mix. Fido lived with the Lincolns until they left for Washington City. He remained in Springfield with family friends.

## Springfield, Illinois in 1860



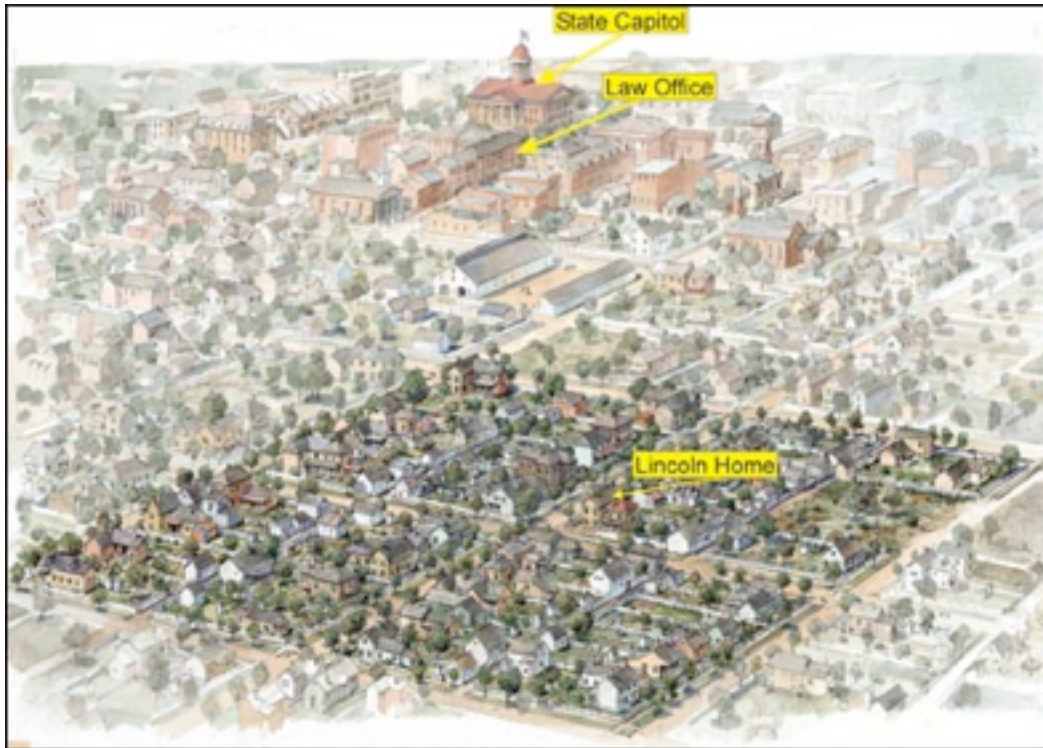
West side of Square, Springfield, 1858. Office of Lincoln and Herndon on second floor in rear of building indicated by X. In Chatterton's jewelry store Lincoln bought, for his bride, a plain gold wedding ring inscribed, "Love is eternal."

*Photograph from Oliver R. Barrett Collection*



NEW STATE HOUSE, SPRINGFIELD





Aerial view of Springfield, 1860, noting the Lincoln Home, Lincoln's office, and the State Capitol building



August 8, 1860 was a memorable day in Springfield, Illinois. The *Springfield Journal* reported that 80,000 people crowded the state capital for a political rally and parade. These people were here to show support for Presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party. At 10:00 am that morning, a massive parade began at the state capitol and wound through the city. Bands, political clubs, and floats were part of the parade. The "Rally Photograph" captured the feeling of excitement and energy that was in the air that day. The photograph was taken by William A. Shaw, a professional photographer from Chicago who came to Springfield to cover the huge Republican rally.



A MEMORABLE SCENE.—FUNERAL OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

Clockwise from top left: Nancy Hanks Lincoln; Thomas Lincoln; Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln;  
the funeral of Nancy Hanks Lincoln; an oil painting of Nancy Hanks by Lloyd Ostendorf.  
Taken from the Abraham Lincoln Research site, [www.rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln2.html](http://www.rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln2.html).

**NEXT MONTH - MAY 15**  
**NOTE NEW DATE**

**LINCOLN**

**HAROLD HOLZER**

