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Hinsdale, Illinois

Echoes

A Publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society

From the President

Dear Society Members,

Immanuel Hall is open and in use! Thank you to each and every one of you that made this most amazing story of local historic preservation become a reality! A marketing effort will soon take place to bring in more users, but, in the meantime, please tell your friends about its charming ambience, availability and resources. The hall has a beautiful catering kitchen, an elevator, two wonderful bathrooms, a piano and, of course, some fine acoustics. The hall is also the home of the Society's Anderson Architecture Center. The center is available by appointment (call 630.789.2600) for anyone who is interested in researching local building histories, as well as the broader topic of architecture. Come on by; the center is absolutely beautiful.

I also want to announce that our Museum Manager, Anne Swenson, has completed her first year at our Hinsdale History Museum and has received rave reviews from all who meet and work with her. She diligently has organized and supervised some wonderful programs at the museum for adults and children. Her pleasant personality is appreciated by all. Drop by and meet her. She is at the museum Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Sandy Walton

President
Hinsdale Historical Society

Annual Appeal

Thank you to all of you that joined together to support the efforts of the Hinsdale Historical Society. This year, the Society's Annual Appeal, the one major fundraiser for the Society, brought in over \$11,000. The money raised through the Annual Appeal help to support the day-to-day operations of the Society.

Also received through the Annual Appeal this year were various restricted monetary donations to help support the Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center and Immanuel Hall. As these two entities of the Society are now up and running, the funds received are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Although the Society does its Annual Appeal each December, monetary donations are always welcome and very much needed. With two buildings to maintain and one in the process of restoration/rehabilitation, financial support will always be welcomed at any time of the year. A general gift to the Society or a specific restricted gift to one (or more) of the four entities of the Society can be given at anytime. If you missed out on the Annual Appeal and would like to show your support, please give the Society a call at 630-789-2600.

Fifth Annual Kitchen Walk

The Society's fifth annual kitchen walk, *Hinsdale Cooks!*, benefitting Historic Immanuel Hall, will take place on Friday, May 8th. The houses featured on this year's walk are:

716 S. Oak, Hinsdale

927 Cleveland, Hinsdale

743 McKinley, Hinsdale

714 S. Washington, Hinsdale

24 N. Grant, Hinsdale

427 Hudson, Clarendon Hills

Lunch will be available the day of the walk at Immanuel Hall (corner of 3rd and Grant). A preview party, "A Cook's Night Out," is planned for Friday, May 1st, at the Hinsdale Golf Club. For more information about any of the kitchen walk events, or to volunteer, please call kitchen walk co-chairs Cindy Klima at 630-269-5337, or Danielle Tuck at 630-789-2343.

Hinsdale Historical Society

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www.hinsdalehistory.org

The mission of the Hinsdale Historical Society is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Hinsdale, Illinois, and to foster an awareness and appreciation of its history and architecture through education, programs, exhibits and the maintenance of historical resources and properties in the Village.

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From the Museum Manager' Desk

A Fresh New Look



Over the past few months, the Hinsdale History Museum building has undergone a few transformations. These aren't visible from the outside or even noticeable in the museum itself, but in the lower level, which holds our meeting space, collections area, and archives room.

With the help of two Eagle Scout candidates from Hinsdale, the museum's lower level is getting a face-lift. This past fall, Kevin Mohl of Scout Troop 10 replaced the carpet and stripped wallpaper and painted the walls of the lower level. The results are excellent, and the space has transformed from dark and dull to bright and cozy, making the meeting space more welcoming. Kevin fulfilled his Eagle Scout project by completing the main room of the lower level, but that left the archives room to be re-vamped.

Luckily, we were approached by another Eagle Scout candidate, Woody Heilder, also of Scout Troop 10, to help him fulfill his requirements. This winter, Woody will be replacing the carpet in the archives room and also building new, sturdy shelving for the collections area. This will ensure top notch safety for the museum's stored collection pieces.

Due to the inspiration from these rehab projects, the museum has also decided to do a little updating on its own. We have reframed many of the photos and descriptions in the Hinsdale Timeline, which is located in the lower level of the museum, and are currently working on updating the timeline with a bit more of Hinsdale's history. The finished product will look clean and modern—to go along with our new décor.

Please feel free to stop by the museum to check out the rehabilitation projects!

Anne Swenson

Museum Manager, Hinsdale Historical Society

On a Special Note . . .

The Society would like to send out a big *thank you* to our wonderful high school snow shoveler, Joey Cesare. As we are sure you are aware, he has been quite busy shoveling snow in the past month! Joey is a hard and diligent worker. Thank you!

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Volunteer Spotlight



Laurel Haarlow is making Hinsdale history as the first President of the Society's Women's Board. This newly formed board is made up of an energetic and driven group of women who are dedicated to sharing Hinsdale's past with Hinsdale's present. Laurel is grateful to be so involved and puts it best when she says, "The Women's Board is a dynamic group with tremendous potential. It is an honor to have been asked to lead the effort to establish such a group in our community, and I look forward to what we will be able to

accomplish." Laurel started giving her time to the Society when she joined the Immanuel Hall Auxiliary and has been a dedicated volunteer ever since.

Laurel grew up in Hinsdale and has many fond memories from her childhood. Some of her favorites include the 4th of July Parade, testing pens at Schweidler & Mewherter, and skiing into town to buy milk during the blizzard of '79. Since Laurel loved the town as a child, it was easy for her and her husband, Bill, to make the decision to raise their family here. Laurel and Bill have three children: Bill, Ellie, and Ann who are all busy making their own childhood memories of Hinsdale. "The town has changed in many ways, yet remains a beautiful, gracious place to live and raise a family. The characteristics that make Hinsdale a great place to live don't 'just happen;' it takes involvement and attention to civic affairs to preserve the high quality of our Village." Laurel is certainly doing her part to make Hinsdale the best it can be.

Thank you for your dedication to the Hinsdale Historical Society!

Women's Board News

First Annual Luncheon Scheduled

The Society's new Women's Board will host its first annual "Ladies Bistro Luncheon" on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009. The luncheon will take place at the Hinsdale Golf Club, with a reception starting at 11:30 am, and luncheon/lecture at 12:00.

The featured speaker will be Sally Kalmbach, presenting *Women in the White City*. The presentation explores the Columbian Exposition of 1893, which marked an extraordinary turning point in the national recognition of women. Come learn about the female architects, sculptors, and volunteers who helped create perhaps the most influential World's Fair in modern history.

For more information, or to purchase a ticket, please call the Hinsdale Historical Society at 630-789-2600.

Hinsdale Historical Society

Members' Corner

Welcome New Members

The Society would like to welcome all of the members of the Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board as new members to the Hinsdale Historical Society!

Attention All Members

Dear Members of the Hinsdale Historical Society,

My name is Woody Heidler, and I am a member of Scout Troop 10 of Hinsdale. I am currently working on my Eagle Scout Project at the Hinsdale Historical Society. In the archives room in the lower level, I am installing new carpeting. I will also be removing the shelving units in the collections closet located in the lower level and replacing them with new, more efficient shelving units. I am asking for donations from anyone that would like to help make this project happen. Any amount of donations will gladly be accepted. Please make any checks out to Woody Heidler and send them to the Society's mailing address at: PO Box 336, Hinsdale, IL 60522. Please contact me with any question at (630)-655-2548; otherwise you may also contact Anne Swenson at 630-789-2600.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,
Woody Heidler

Abraham Lincoln - Reader, Thinker, Writer, Speaker, Leader

To mark the 200th anniversary this year of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12th, the Society asked the Hinsdale Public Library, the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc., in Chicago, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, in Springfield, for their recommendations on the endlessly fascinating 16th President of the United States. We received a treasure of information, which is listed below.

We are very grateful for the libraries' and the book shop's eager and generous response to our request. Please visit their respective web sites for more information, including information on programs, events and activities throughout the year to commemorate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth.

To receive a copy of the complete recommendations from the libraries and the book shop, contact the Society with your name and mailing address.

Hinsdale Public Library (<http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info/>)

Adult Books and Other Media (with catalog information)

A. Lincoln: A Biography by Ronald C. White, Jr., 2009, 921/LINCOLN

Abe Lincoln in Illinois: A Play in Twelve Scenes by Robert Emmet Sherwood, 1939, 812/SHE

Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided, 2001, DVD/973.7/ABR 001, 002, and 003 (3 DVDs)

Abraham Lincoln by Thomas Keneally, 2003, 921/LINCOLN, A

Abraham Lincoln and the Forge of National Memory by Barry Schwartz, 2000, 973.7092/SCH

Abraham Lincoln and the New Birth of Freedom: the Union and Slavery in the Diplomacy of the Civil War by Howard Jones, 1999, 973.72/JON

The Age of Lincoln by Orville Vernon Burton, 2007, 973.5/BUR

The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln through His Words by Ronald C. White, Jr., 2005, 973.7092/WHI

The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech the Nobody Knows by Gabor Boritt, 2006, 973-7349/BOR

Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln by John Stauffer, 2008, 920/STA

The Last Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America by Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1993, 921/LINCOLN, A

Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power by Richard Carwardine, 2006, 921/LINCOLN, A (Also available on audiocassette.)

Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography by Philip B. Kunhardt III, 1992, 921/LINCOLN, A

Lincoln as I Knew Him: Gossips, Tributes, and Revelations from His Best Friends and Worst Enemies edited by Harold Holzer, 1999, 973.7092/LIN

The Lincoln Forum: Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg and the Civil War by John Y. Simon, 1999, 973.7349/LIN

Lincoln in The Times: The Life of Abraham Lincoln as Originally Reported in the New York Times edited by David Herbert Donald and Harold Holzer, 2005, 973.7/LIN

Lincoln the Lawyer by Brian Dirck, 2007, 921/LINCOLN, A

Lincoln Revisited: New Insights from the Lincoln Forum edited by John Y. Simon, Harold Holzer and Dawn Vogel, 2007, 973.7092/LIN

Lincoln's War: The Untold Story of America's Greatest President as Commander in Chief by Geoffrey Perret, 2004, 973.092/PER

Looking for Lincoln: The Making of an American Icon by Philip B. Kunhardt III, 2008, 921/ LINCOLN

Mr. Lincoln Goes to War by William Marvel, 2006, 973.71/MAR

Mr. Lincoln: The Life of Abraham Lincoln by Allen C. Guelzo, 2005, GREAT COURSES BOOKS ON CD/921/LINCOLN, A

One Man Great Enough: Abraham Lincoln's Road to the Civil War by John C. Waugh, 2007, 973.7/WAU

Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World edited by Eric Foner, 2008, 973.7/OUR

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin, 2005, 973.7092/GOO

The Young Eagle: The Rise of Abraham Lincoln by Kenneth J. Winkle, 2001, 921/LINCOLN, A

Young Mr. Lincoln, (Starring Henry Fonda, movie was originally released in 1939), DVD/YOUNG

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Youth Books and Other Media (with catalog information)

A. Lincoln and Me by Louise Borden, 1999, JE/BORDEN
Abe Lincoln and the Muddy Pig by Stephen Krensky, 2002, JR/KRENSKY
Abraham Lincoln by Lucia Raatma, 2000, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Abraham Lincoln for Kids: His Life and Times with 21 Activities by Janis Herbert, 2007, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Abraham Lincoln: Great American President by Brenda Haugen, 2006, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Abraham Lincoln: A Man for All the People: A Ballad by Myra Cohn Livingston, 1993, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Abraham Lincoln: Preserving the Union by Greystone Productions, Inc., 1996, J/DVD/921/LINCOLN, A
Abraham Lincoln: Sixteenth President 1861-1865 by Mike Venezia, 2005, J/921/LINCOLN, A
The Abraham Lincoln You Never Knew by James Lincoln Collier, 2003, J/921/LINCOLN, A
The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln by Michael Burgan, 2005, J/973.7092/BUR
Commander in Chief Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War by Albert Marrin. 1997, J/973.7092/LINCOLN
Grace's Letter to Lincoln by Connie and Peter Roop, 1998, J/ROOP
L is for Lincoln: An Illinois Alphabet by Kathy-Jo Wargin, 2000, JE/WARGIN
Lincoln, in His Own Words by Milton Meltzer, 1993, J/921/LINCOLN, A
The Lincoln Memorial by Terri DeGezelle, 2004, J/975.31/LINCOLN MEMORIAL
Lincoln Shot!: A President's Life Remembered by Barry Denenberg, 2008, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Our Abe Lincoln by Jim Aylesworth, 2009, On Order—New Book
A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln by David A. Adler, 1989, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln by Judith St. George, 2008, J/921/LINCOLN, A
Where Lincoln Walked by Raymond Bial, 1997, J/921/LINCOLN, A

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc. (<http://www.alincolnbookshop.com/>)

From the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop's "The Essential Lincoln Bookshelf – The 160 Basic Books for an Abraham Lincoln Library," online at <http://www.alincolnbookshop.com/html/bibliographies.htm#EssentialLincoln>

Comments are provided by Book Shop researcher Thomas Trescott, who grew up in Hinsdale.

Twenty Days by Dorothy and Philip Kunhardt, Harper and Row, 1965, "... still the best illustrated history of the assassination and aftermath."

Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief by James M. McPherson, New York 2008

The Lincoln Family Album by Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely, Doubleday 1990

Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years by Carl Sandburg (one volume edition), Harcourt Brace & Company 1982

Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War by Tom Wheeler, New York, 2006

Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America by Garry Wills, Simon & Schuster, 1992

Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words by Douglas L. Wilson, Random House, 2006, "... an amazing study of Lincoln's writing and speech-making style."

Abraham Lincoln - Reader, Thinker, Writer, Speaker, Leader

In addition, Mr. Trescott says, "Below are some of the important and/or interesting books that came out late last year Of particular importance is Burlingame's biography, which will be the standard Lincoln biography for at least this generation, and probably beyond. And an important one-volume life coming out in time for Lincoln's 200th birthday is Ronald White's *A. Lincoln: A Biography*, New York: 2009 (Editor's Note: this book is now available in the Hinsdale Public Library).

"The titles ... are all important, standard, and scholarly works"

Abraham Lincoln: A Life by Michael Burlingame (two volumes), Baltimore 2008

The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage by Daniel Mark Epstein, New York 2008

President Lincoln: The Duty of a Statesman by William Lee Miller, New York 2008

Summers with Lincoln: Looking for the Man in the Monuments by James A. Percoco, New York 2008

Did Lincoln Own Slaves?, and Other Frequently Asked Questions About Abraham Lincoln by Dr. Gerald Prokopowicz, New York 2008

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (<http://www.alplm.org/library/library.html>)

The following selections are from "Select Readings on Abraham Lincoln," a comprehensive brochure published by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, revised 2006, by Thomas Schwartz, Ph.D., Illinois State Historian. The selections are among several books organized by categories in the brochure. The books selected generally are newer works. Many of the books in the brochure are among the recommendations received from the Hinsdale Public Library (HPL) and the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop (ALBS). Where this occurs in the listing below, it is noted. "Select Readings on Abraham Lincoln" is not online but can be obtained by contacting the Lincoln Presidential Library.

Visual Arts

From Railsplitter to Icon by Gary Bunker, Kent State University Press 2002

The Lincoln Family Album, ALBS

The Face of Lincoln by James Mellon, Viking Press 1979

Abraham Lincoln on Screen: A Filmography, 1903-1998 by Mark S. Reinhart, McFarland 1999

Historiography

The Historian's Lincoln: Pseudohistory, Psychohistory and History by Gabor S. Boritt, editor, University of Illinois Press 1988

Lincoln in American Memory by Merrill O. Peterson, Oxford University Press 1994

Abraham Lincoln and the Forge of National Memory, HPL

Medical/Psychohistory/Sexuality

The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln by Michal Burlingame, University of Illinois Press 1994

Lincoln's Melancholy by Joshua Wolf Shenk, Houghton Mifflin 2005

The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln by C. A. Tripp, Free Press 2000

Abraham Lincoln - Reader, Thinker, Writer, Speaker, Leader

Anthologies

Lincoln: Speeches and Writings by Don E. Fehrenbacher, editor (two volumes), Library of America 1989

Biographies

Lincoln by David Herbert Donald, Simon & Schuster 1995

Lincoln: A Life of Power and Purpose, HPL

Abraham Lincoln and Civil War in America by William E. Gienapp, Oxford 2002

Genealogy

History of the Lincoln Family by Waldo Lincoln, Goodspeed's Book Shop reprint 1981

Youth and Early Adulthood

The Sangamo Frontier: History and Archaeology in the Shadow of Lincoln by Robert Mazrim, University of Chicago Press 2006

Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln by Douglas L. Wilson, Knopf 1998

Lincoln's Life to 1860

Here I have Lived: A History of Lincoln's Springfield, by Paul M. Angle, Abraham Lincoln Book Shop reprint 1971

Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850s by Don E. Fehrenbacher, Stanford University Press 1962

Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography by William Lee Miller, Knopf 2002

Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness by Paul Simon, University of Illinois Press, reprint 1971

The Young Eagle: The Rise of Abraham Lincoln by Kenneth Winkle, Taylor Trade 2001

Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate by David Zarefsky, University of Chicago Press 1990

Election & Presidency

We Are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends by David Herbert Donald, Simon & Schuster 2003

Lincoln's Constitution by Daniel Farber, University of Chicago Press 2003

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America by Allen C. Guelzo, Simon & Schuster 2004

Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Simon & Schuster 2005

Lincoln as Writer/Orator

The Gettysburg Gospel, HPL

Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Him President by John A. Corry, Xlibris 2003

Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President by Harold Holzer, Simon & Schuster 2004

Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural by Ronald C. White, Jr., Random House 2005

Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America, ALBS

Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words, ALBS

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Civil War & Reconstruction

Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877 by Eric Foner, Harper and Row 1988

"*With Charity for All:*" *Lincoln and the Reconstruction of the Union* by William C. Harris, University of Kentucky Press 1997

Lincoln's Last Months, by William C. Harris, Belknap Press 2004

The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac by Jeffrey Wert, Simon & Schuster 2005

Lincoln and His Generals by T. Harry Williams, Knopf 1948

Assassination & Funeral

American Brutus by Michael Kaufman, Random House 2005

Twenty Days, ALBS

Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln by Edward Steers, Jr., University of Kentucky Press 2001

The Lincoln Funeral Train by Scott D. Trostel, Cam-Tech Publishing 2002

The Lincoln Family

Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography by Jean H. Baker, Norton 1987

The Insanity File: The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln by Mark E. Neely, Jr., and R. Gerald McMurtry, Southern Illinois University Press 1986

Lincoln's Sons by Ruth Painter Randall, Little Brown and Company 1955

Juvenile & Young Adult Literature

Abe Lincoln's Hat by Martha Brenner, Random House 1994

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman, Clarion Books 1999

Mr. Lincoln's Wiskers by Karen B. Winnick, Boyd Mills Press reprint 1999

Lincoln by William Jacobs, Charles Scribner's Sons 1991

Young Abraham Lincoln: Log Cabin President by Andrew Woods, Troll Associates 1992

Select Links from the Web site of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (<http://www.alplm.org/links.html>)

The Abraham Lincoln Association - <http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org/>

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln - <http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/>

The Lincoln Institute - <http://www.abrahamlincoln.org/>

The Library of Congress - <http://www.loc.gov/> and <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/alhome.html>

Mr. Lincoln's White House - <http://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org/>

The Internet Public Library, Presidents of the United States series - <http://www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS/alincoln.html>

A PROPER EPITAPH-Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809 - April 15, 1865

A national Lincoln memorial had been urged since 1867, but it wasn't until February of 1911 that Congress passed legislation authorizing the construction of such a monument. On February 12, 1914, Lincoln's birthday, a small group gathered at the chosen site for groundbreaking. During the following eight years, the massive structure rose to become one of our nation's most beautiful, revered and awe-inspiring memorials.

The first task of the newly established Lincoln Memorial Commission was to select an architect. After some deliberation, the commission invited the country's two leading classicist architects, John Russell Pope and Henry Bacon, to submit plans for a formal monument. Pope's design was of a large circular colonnade on a platform, enclosing a statue of Lincoln in the open air. Bacon proposed a Grecian temple whose every aspect was laden with careful symbolism and understated decoration. The commission chose the plan of Illinois native, Henry Bacon.

The memorial, basically a rectangular Greek temple, called for 36 fluted Doric columns, one for each of the states at the time of Lincoln's death, around the exterior walls. Inside, Bacon divided the space into three separate but complementary parts, with the central portion containing a great seated statue of Lincoln by Daniel Chester French. To the south was a small screen of columns facing the Gettysburg Address inscribed in the marble wall -- above which the painter, Jules Guerin, placed a mural 12 feet high and 60 feet long. A similar arrangement with the Second Inaugural Address occupied the north wall. Bacon's plan was to focus attention on the statue of Lincoln, seated in an attitude of contemplation in a large open area against a white marble wall.

As the building took shape, Bacon began to think the wall itself needed something. An inscription placed above the statue's head began to seem increasingly appropriate. Also, the incised shadows and angles of an inscription would be a welcome break in the large expanse of marble. Sometime in the winter of 1919, Bacon turned to his friend Royal Cortissoz for advice on the wording of the inscription.

Probably the most widely known art critic in the country, Cortissoz had been employed as such by the *New York Tribune* since 1891. A traditionalist in the broadest sense, he was noted above all for his elegant and unpretentious writing style. Cortissoz undertook his friend's request to compose an appropriate inscription, knowing that it must be exactly right for the monument and its site, must somehow speak to generations far into the future and must not compete with Lincoln's own words on the two adjacent walls.

Cortissoz puzzled over the problem, until one night, while tossing and turning with a heavy cold which "swept over me ... with the force of an earthquake," he arose from his bed and penned a single sentence, the words of which fell naturally into five lines: IN THIS TEMPLE AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS ENSHRINED FOREVER.

Cortissoz believed the words were exactly right. Bacon responded with "I think your inscription for the Lincoln Memorial is a masterpiece!" French and Guerin were both enthusiastic; Taft also said he liked it; the commission promptly approved it, and the matter was ended. Or was it?

In the spring of '22, an important member of the Commission of Fine Arts, Charles Moore, strongly believed that only Lincoln's words should appear on the memorial. Unsure of what to do, and with great anxiety, Cortissoz turned to his one link to Taft, a mutual friend, Mable Boardman, a prominent philanthropist. In an impassioned letter to her, he explained why he thought the inscription was important.

Boardman forwarded the letter to Taft, now Chief Justice. Taft initially did not recall approving or desiring any such inscription, but later acknowledged that he'd simply forgotten that he had. The inscription would remain and the matter seemed closed.

It was not. Taft, to be safe, would discuss it with President Harding when the two of them finalized the dedication program set for May 30, 1922. When Taft came to the question of the inscription, Harding took out his pencil and rewrote the third line to read "OF THE UNION WHICH HE SAVED." Cortissoz was extremely distressed at the revision. Once again he wrote a long and ardent letter, this time to Bacon with the suggestion that it be passed along to Taft. "He saved the Union for the people. The people were forever in his mind ... I want the everyday American who stands before that statue to look up and murmur to himself, 'For whom? For us. For me.'" He added that he had worked over his words much as French had labored over his statue, Guerin his murals or Bacon the building. Bacon sent the letter to Taft, with tracings of the sculpted words, and a letter of his own, all of which Taft forwarded to President Harding.

Battle won! Harding replied, "I have no desire to argue the matter with the architect and artist. Probably they know much more about it than either you or I." Thus the memorial, complete with the "exactly right" inscription, was dedicated under clear skies on Memorial Day, 1922, and in the decades that followed has become one of the most visited sites in the United States.

Source: American Heritage, February/March, 1987: This piece was written by Jackie Jefferson and was originally printed in a 2000 issue of *Echoes*.

From the Archives: Hinsdale's Championship Basketball Team-1909



The 1909 Hinsdale Central Basketball Team

Standing: Frank Dana, guard; Arthur Collins, manager

Middle row: Fred Cortis, forward; Gil Keith, center and captain; Preston Davidson, forward

Front: Fred Bahlmann, guard; Woodbury Melcher, forward

It's hard to believe that one hundred years have passed since Hinsdale Central has won a state basketball championship. Basketball was a relatively new sport in 1909, having been invented in 1891. The team played for the high school, but was not financed by the school. Their uniforms were paid for with money gathered by door-to-door solicitation. Traveling expenses were paid for by contributions and by the gate receipts of \$45.

The first state championship was an invitational tournament held in March of 1908 at the Oak Park YMCA. Hinsdale made the finals, but finished fourth. The state high school basketball association was formed for the following season. Thus, the high school elimination tournament as is played today began in 1909.

Going into the tournament, the Hinsdale team was confident, having scored a total of 838 points against 498 for their opponents with a win-loss record of 22-3. The team swept through the regional tournament with scores of 48-20 against Wheaton, 53-15 against Elgin, and then 50-14 against University High for the northeastern regional title.

The finals were held in Bloomington. The first match-up was no contest. Hinsdale swamped Mt. Carroll 56-7. The team played the hometown favorites, Bloomington in the semi-finals. The half-time score was 11-10, Hinsdale. The second half was closely contested, but Hinsdale finally eked out a 21-14 victory. All Hinsdale's points were scored by three players, Gil Keith, Hinsdale's All-State center and captain, and forwards Preston Davidson and Fred Cortis.

The final was played against Washington, which is a small town near Peoria. It was estimated that Washington had a rooting section of approximately 1000 fans and a marching band. Hinsdale's crowd added up to 5 souls. At half time the score stood at 6-5, with Washington leading. In the second half, while Washington tried to play a control game, Hinsdale loosened up playing quickly to their strengths. The final score: 18-13 in Hinsdale's favor.

The Founding of The Woman's Club of Hinsdale-1895

As the Hinsdale Historical Society opens up a new chapter in its history by founding the Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board this year, it is interesting to share the history of another women's club: *The Woman's Club of Hinsdale*.

Founded in 1895, the Woman's Club began as "a desire for an association where there would be united and systematic action of 'intellectual improvement, social enjoyment and the welfare of our community.'" On April 15, 1895, at the home of Mrs. W. J. Pollock, thirty women gathered together to organize the beginnings of a club that would still be in existence over one hundred years later. At that founding meeting, Mrs. Davidson, the President of the Woman's Club of La Grange, was invited to assist in the organization. "A committee consisting of Mrs. Childs, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Pollock, Mrs. Ridgway, and Mrs. Hough was appointed to draft a constitution and By-Laws." These were presented, voted on and approved.

On April 19, 1895, at the home of Mrs. W. G. Gordon, the first board of the Woman's Club was presented and elected, with Mrs. John Burton serving as the first President. It was decided that one general class in Art and Literature would meet "once a fortnight" until the club adjourned for that first summer. These programs, updated through time, have continued to meet for the past one hundred years and are still meeting today. To think of the Society's Women's Board one hundred years from today... Wow, we *are* making history!

Source: *Year Book of The Woman's Club of Hinsdale 1895-1896* pamphlet; found in Mrs. Ridgway's private collection

Life in the Past Lane: Hinsdale 1934

☞ In an analysis of 1933, *The Doings* reported police arrests were down to 199 from 264 in 1932, while burglaries were up to 7 in '33 as contrasted to just 3 in '32. Then there was this rather unusual and sad statistic: The number of tramps given shelter in 1932 was 1,007 compared to 1,371 for 1933. So the depression continues. And from the editorial page came this: "Unbridled rapacity must henceforth be held in check. Greed cannot longer be allowed full play in our economic life. There were few traffic laws when oxcarts plied the roads, but the automobile had to be regulated. Likewise untrammelled individualism was tolerable in a simpler day. But, given the modern industrial machine and the modern bank-money system to drive, it is intolerable. The wrecks are too many, too costly, too lethal." Déjà vu in '09 too?

☞ Residents living near the CB&Q tracks may soon get to see the road's new "two miles a minute" motorized, streamlined train here for trial runs between Chicago and Aurora. The new train, to be known as the "Zephyr," is powered by a 600 horse power Diesel engine.

☞ According to local records, \$25,000 has been spent on local CWA projects since early last November, including the cutting and trimming of trees in the parkways, painting and decorating the Memorial building, work at the power plant, laying cable for the street lighting system, painting fire hydrants and street signs, etc. Another important part of these projects concerns Flagg Creek, which is being covered and sent underground between Washington and Garfield in preparation for the new public park in the area now known as Burlington Park. The creek, which in the spring and fall is flooded with water, dries up during the other months and really has lost its beauty on that account. Old timers remember when the Burlington railroad laid the rock bed for the tracks, and workmen are now uncovering old railroad ties upon which were placed tracks from the main right-of-way to the creek to carry down the limestone in railroad cars. One old timer, John Bohlander, recalls a time when a tunnel existed under the railroad tracks up to the business district. When the creek is covered up, it will continue to run underground through a concrete tunnel.

☞ Unless a vote is taken in April to declare otherwise, the Village of Hinsdale will become "wet." The names of 900 voters are needed on petitions for a ballot by referendum on the "liquor question."

☞ A local Annie Oakley, handy with her pistol, managed to aim at the dark shadow sprinting from within her barn and get off three shots at a trespasser. And that trespasser turned out to be a man from the CCC camp at Fullersburg seeking shelter in a barn at York and Spring roads on his return walk from La Grange to Hinsdale. When he opened the door to the barn a buzzer aroused the owners, the John Gartners, and

while Mr. Gartner set off with a shotgun behind the barn, Mrs. G. remained on the back porch of the house. When Mr. Gartner fired a shot in the air, the trespasser came tearing out of the barn door and that's when Mrs. G, handling a gun for the first time, took aim. Next morning, the incident was reported to the Chief of Police whose investigation led him to the CCC camp where he found that a Mr. Green Cameron had been treated by the camp doctor. Putting two and two together, he deduced that the trespasser/patient were one and the same since a bullet in the individual's leg matched the caliber of the gun used by Mrs. Gartner ~ indicating that one of her first-time shots had found its mark!

☞ While "It Happened One Night," featured the fresh new faces of actors Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, it seems the new "it" man of Hollywood was boxer Max Baer, starring in "The Prize Fighter and the Lady" at the Hinsdale Theatre. Baer, challenger for the heavyweight championship, is "as excellent an actor as he is a fighter. His love scenes with Myrna Loy and the fight scenes with Carnera, whom he is to battle soon in real life, are little less than superb." Who would've guessed?

☞ The Jewel ad offered three pounds of coffee for 49 cents and oranges at 25 cents a dozen ~ while at Stebens, a pot roast could be had for 13 cents a pound, or leg of lamb at 22 cents per pound. Almost makes your mouth water...

☞ The Village of Hinsdale, in conjunction with the federal government, having gone to considerable expense to provide new trees in the Village parkways, now seeks the cooperation of all Hinsdaleans in saving these trees from destruction. Parents are especially requested to prevent their children from pulling over or uprooting the new trees.

☞ Last spring the Board of Education announced that instead of cutting departments from the overcrowded high school, approximately \$8,000 of the sum set aside for teachers' salaries would have to be paid in teachers' orders rather than cash. The time has arrived when those orders must be issued in part for salary payment. Merchants have agreed to accept the teachers' orders in trade and "are to be commended for their spirit."

☞ Nationally, FDR announced an extension to the life of the RFC (Reconstruction Finance Corporation), adding \$850 million to the budget. The President also issued a proclamation devaluing the dollar to 59.6 cents, gold was set at \$35 an ounce, and the CCC continued to provide food, shelter and \$30 per month to its vast work force.





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Upcoming Programs and Events

Hinsdale Historical Society's

A Cook's Night Out!
A Preview Party for the
Kitchen Walk
May 1st, 2009

Hinsdale Cooks!
Kitchen Walk
May 8th, 2009

For more information call: 630-789-2600

Victorian Valentines

Saturday, February 14th
10:00 - 11:00 am
Hinsdale History Museum
All ages
\$5 per family (members)
\$7 per family (non-members)

Join the Hinsdale Historical Society in learning about Victorian Valentine traditions. Original Valentines from the 1880's will be available to view.



Please register by calling 630-789-2600

Hinsdale Historical Society's

Hinsdale History Museum
15 South Clay Street
Hinsdale, Illinois
630-789-2600

The Museum is open
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Fridays
&
Saturdays
or by appointment