



# Lincoln Society of Virginia

402 East College Street  
Bridgewater, Virginia 22812  
www.lincolnva.org



*Abraham Lincoln*

September, 2008

## Virginia Honors Abraham Lincoln on 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

In its 2007 Session, the General Assembly of Virginia approved the establishment of an Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee as part of the previously-established Martin Luther King Commission. Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III, President of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, was appointed chair of the committee. Members include: The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III; The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan; The Honorable William C. Cleveland; Bishop Gerald O. Glenn; Dr. Phillip C. Stone; Mr. Charles Withers; The Honorable Mark Earley; Dr. Betsy S. Barton; Dr. Beverly Thurston; Dr. William C. Davis; Mr. James A. Percoco; and The Honorable Brian Moore.

The Virginia Bicentennial Committee designated the 2008 Lincoln Family Cemetery Event as the kick-off for a year of celebration of Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy. The annual cemetery event is sponsored by the Lincoln Society of Virginia.

The Virginia Bicentennial Committee will sponsor a series of events during the coming year. The 2009 Lincoln Family Cemetery Event will be a major part of that celebration.

## 2009 Lincoln Symposium Set

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Symposium sponsored by the Lincoln Society of Virginia is set for Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 7:30 PM on the campus of Bridgewater College (VA). Dr. James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr. will speak on "Lincoln, the Man," emphasizing Lincoln's extraordinary human qualities. Robertson, a native of Danville, VA, is Alumni Distinguished Professor of History, and Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech. The great-grandson of a Confederate soldier, Robertson has a profound interest in the Civil War and has received every major award given in the field of Civil War History. His last book, *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend*, has won eight national awards, and movie rights for the book have been sold.

## Lincoln Homestead Project

The Society has engaged a real estate appraiser specializing in historic properties to complete an appraisal of the Lincoln Homestead property. Once part of a much larger farm, the Homestead now rests on about 50 acres bordering Rt. 42, on Linville Creek in Rockingham County, Virginia. A once-elegant brick house, the Homestead is not in good repair at this time. The Society has been in communication with the current owners to determine whether it might be acquired by the Society. The 50-acre tract includes the Lincoln Cemetery in which the Society sponsors an annual event on Lincoln's birthday. Five generations of Lincolns are buried in the cemetery. In addition, markers honor two Lincoln slaves.

The Society hopes that it might be able to acquire the Homestead property. If so, it will turn to its members and friends, as well as foundations and governmental agencies, to solicit resources for the acquisition and preservation.

2009  
*Lincoln Cemetery Event*

*Thursday, Feb. 12*  
*2:00 PM*

*Lincoln Homestead*  
*6 miles north of*  
*Harrisonburg, VA*  
*on Rt. 42*

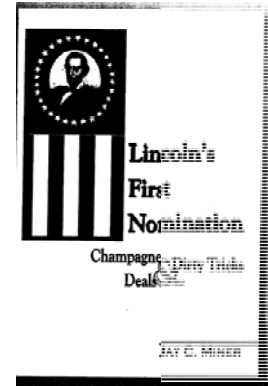
*Speaker:*  
*Dr. Phillip Stone*

*540-828-5620 for info*

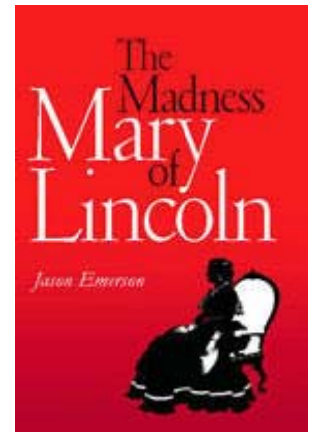
*"Whatever you are, be a good one." - Abraham Lincoln*

## Former Lincoln Society Members Publish Books

Jay Miner, a Harrisonburg (VA) attorney, has authored a recently-published book entitled *Lincoln's First Nomination: Champagne, Deals & Dirty Tricks*. Several years ago, Miner became intrigued with an article he had seen about the 1860 convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Digging further into the matter, he concluded that there did not appear to be a good source for information about that historical event. Committing himself to developing such a resource, he spent the last several years researching, writing and editing a book about the convention. Society President Phil Stone described the book: "A full picture about one of the most important developments in Lincoln's life: the successful effort to acquire the Republican presidential nomination in Chicago in 1860. Jay Miner's handling of the material, astute analysis of the activities of the 'Lincoln men' at the convention, and good understanding of the significance of the work going on behind the scenes will make this book an invaluable contribution toward understanding how Lincoln became president." Miner's book can be purchased from amazon.com.



Another former LSOV member, Jason Emerson of Fredericksburg, VA, has, for the past year, enjoyed the success of his first book, *The Madness of Mary Lincoln*. Released in September 2007, the book reviews Mary Todd Lincoln's insanity case, as well as the motives son Robert had for committing her to a sanitarium in 1875. Emerson discovered a trunk, formerly owned by Robert Todd Lincoln's lawyer, which contained 25 letters pertaining to Mary Todd Lincoln's life. Twenty of the letters were written by Mary herself, many while she was in the asylum. Based on psychiatric consultations, Emerson is the first to propose that Mary Lincoln suffered a bipolar disorder. The book was named 2007 Book of the Year by the Illinois State Historical Society. Having been rated Top Forum Lecturer of 2007 by attendees of Lincoln Forum XII, Emerson has another book, *Lincoln the Inventor*, due for release in January 2009 and is working on a biography of Robert Todd Lincoln. He has several talks/book signings scheduled in the near future. For more information on these, check his Web site ([www.JasonEmerson.com](http://www.JasonEmerson.com)) or email him ([jsnemerson@gmail.com](mailto:jsnemerson@gmail.com)).



## Society President Speaks on Lincoln

In addition to the frequent speeches given in the immediate area, Society President Phillip C. Stone recently spoke at the Civil War Institute hosted by Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. A presentation will be made to the Botetourt County Historical Society in September. In November, he will speak on Lincoln at Juniata College in PA, and in January to the Orlando (FL) Historical Society. Interest in Abraham Lincoln continues unabated. Many Americans are intrigued with the fact that Lincoln's roots extended so deeply in Virginia, the heart of the Confederacy, and are interested in how Virginians today interpret Lincoln.

## Lincoln Society Supports Boys and Girls Clubs Application

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County recently applied for a Motorola Grant established to honor Abraham Lincoln. If awarded, the grant would permit the Boys and Girls Clubs to carry out public service activities in the community. Because of the local Lincoln connections, it is particularly appropriate for the Lincoln Society to endorse the grant application.

## Symposium DVDs Now Available

DVDs of the 2008 Lincoln Symposium are now available, cost \$6.00. Speaker Brian Steel Wills talked on General George Thomas. If interested, contact Elaine Dellinger, LSOV Secretary/Treasurer, at 540-828-5620 or by email ([edelling@bridgewater.edu](mailto:edelling@bridgewater.edu)). DVDs of the other Lincoln Symposiums are also available from Elaine.

## Unique Lincoln Facts

- Lincoln's favorite author was Edgar Allan Poe; his favorite sport was wrestling.
- A week before his death, Lincoln dreamed that he had died.