



ABOUT the ALCWRT

- *The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table is the oldest Civil War Round Table in Michigan, founded in 1952. Our JUBILEE (65th) anniversary was September, 2017.*
- *Meetings are each 3rd Thursday, September through May (except December), 7:30 pm, at the Charter Township of Plymouth City Offices, 9955 N. Haggerty, in the Chamber Council Room.*
- *For more information, contact ALCWRT President Liz Stringer at stringerL@aol.com*
- *Our web site is ALCWRT.org*
- *Like us on FACEBOOK...!
"Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table"*

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PAM DAWSON will be the featured speaker on **FEBRUARY 20.**

Pam Dawson is a storyteller from Milford, Michigan who has traveled throughout Michigan and once in Florida to give a portrayal of Mrs. President Abraham Lincoln. Her "White House Years" portrayal is given through the eyes, knowledge and opinions of Mrs. President Lincoln as she traveled to Washington D.C., lived in the White House during the Civil War and left Washington D.C. without her husband.

Mrs. Lincoln was one of the most controversial "First Ladies" who did so many wrong things in her society, so well. Pam hopes to inspire individuals to research, on their own, more about the Lincoln family and the Civil War as she believes that history teaches us a lesson for today.

Pam is a member of the Milford Historical Society, White Lake Historical Society, Wixom Historical Society and previous member of Detroit Story League and North Oakland County Storytellers.

Thanks to JACK DEMPSEY for his intriguing presentation in January on one of Michigan's great heroes and one of the Civil War's most unsung generals, **ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS.**

Equally inspiring was Jack's description of the efforts underway by the **Michigan Civil War Association** to get a **Michigan monument** erected at Antietam. It's a heavy lift, and they could use your help..!

Proceeds from Jack's most recent book, "*Michigan's Civil War Citizen-General – Alpheus S. Williams*" benefit the MCWA, and can be purchased from <http://jackdempseybooks.com/>.

To learn more about the MCWA's work, check out their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/michigancivilwarassociation> or contact them at this address:

350 South Main Street – Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-8814

* MCWA is a 501(c) (3)

THE BUNN BROTHERS, FRIENDS of ABE

*Next time you're at the diner sipping your cup of coffee, ask your ~~waiter~~ waitress wait-person if the restaurant's coffee maker is a **Bunn-O-Matic**. What's the connection to Lincoln?*

*The Bunn brothers who started the predecessor company in Springfield were **Friends of Abe**.*

WHO WERE the BUNN BROTHERS?

Jacob Bunn (1814 – 1897) moved from New Jersey to Springfield, IL and opened a grocery. By 1847, he had bought out his other partners and his younger brother John (1831 – 1920) had moved from New Jersey to work with him in the Springfield store. In 1858 the name of the firm was changed to "J. and J.W. Bunn Company" when John became a full partner in the endeavor with his older brother.

The Bunn brothers became prominent citizens in Springfield and influencers in the Illinois Republican party. Over the years, their business interests expanded to banking, railroads, and more. Here is a short list of some of the businesses, in addition to that grocery store, they had a hand in starting or operating:

Illinois Watch Co.; Sangamo Electric; Springfield Marine Bank; American Standard Life Insurance; Chicago Secure Depository Company; close to a dozen short-line regional railroads; Springfield Iron Company; Springfield Gas & Electric; the Chicago Republican newspaper; and Selz, Schwab & Company of Chicago.

Civic involvement by the Bunnns, particularly John, was also extensive over the years. The University of Illinois, the U.S. Centennial International Exposition at Philadelphia, the Columbia Exposition in Chicago, Chicago Historical Society, and other endeavors at the state and city level, benefitted from Bunn family participation.

And what was the connection to Lincoln? Jacob Bunn had employed Abraham Lincoln as his lawyer, and over the years Lincoln and the Bunn brothers became close friends. Jacob was one of the pall bearers when Lincoln's body returned to Springfield for burial there in 1865.

Something to think about as you sip your coffee brewed in that Bunn-O-Matic -

With all the business interests of the Bunnns over the years,

Mr. Lincoln could have made a mighty fine living if he'd stayed in Springfield as their lawyer.

That would have been their gain, but the nation's loss.

The BUNNS and LINCOLN's POLITICAL RISE

"I am proud to say that I was one of his junior political agents.... Like very many others, I was always glad to do for him anything that I could do. I was often present at political gatherings, held for the purpose of consultation..."

John Bunn wrote those words to describe his participation in Lincoln's rise in politics in the 1850s.

Bunn also wrote in his recollections of the Lincoln-Douglas debate of October 1854. After Douglas spoke, Lincoln announced that he would answer him *"one evening very soon."* The next day, Lincoln asked Bunn what he thought of Douglas' speech. Bunn noted that it was *"a very able speech, and you will have a good deal of trouble to answer it"*. Lincoln responded to Bunn that he would have no trouble because Douglas had built his argument on two misstatements of fact that Lincoln would refute.

In 1857 John Bunn was running for City Treasurer and made his campaign pitch to Lincoln. Lincoln pledged Bunn his vote, telling him that you had to think enough of your own success to ask people to vote for you, otherwise it was likely they would not.

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In 1861, Lincoln was in Springfield and meeting with potential Cabinet members. John Bunn was heading up the stairs in the State House and saw Salmon P. Chase of Ohio (future Treasury Secretary) leaving Lincoln's office there. Bunn entered and abruptly said to Lincoln *"You don't want to put that man in your cabinet"*. When asked why, Bunn explained his reasoning: *"...he thinks he is a great deal bigger than you are."* Lincoln's reply: *"Well, do you know of any other men who think they are bigger than I am?... Because I want to put them all in my cabinet."* Bunn wrote that this showed to him that Lincoln was not afraid to match himself against others, no matter how prominent they were.

John Bunn had worked hard on Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign and it came to Lincoln's attention that Bunn has spent about \$1,000 or more of his own money on the effort. When Lincoln asked Bunn if he was able to lose that kind of money, Bunn replied *"Yes, Mr. Lincoln, I am able to lose it, because when you go to Washington you are going to give me an office."* This statement reportedly startled Lincoln, and he noted that he had made no such promise. Bunn responded *"No, Mr. Lincoln, you have not promised me anything, but you are going to give me an office just the same."* Bunn asked for the office of pension agent in Illinois, noting that he had done all the work under the prior agent, in order to get the pension deposits into his brother's bank. Lincoln did not answer Bunn, but in March, 1861, John Bunn was appointed to the office of pension agent of Illinois. The salary was \$1,000 per year.

In 1863, older brother Jacob Bunn was one of several Illinois Republicans who complained to President Lincoln about the behavior of two patronage appointees in Springfield, namely Lincoln's brother-in-law Ninian Edwards, and William H. Bailhache. Lincoln removed both from office.

The ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

John Bunn was a founding member of this organization founded in 1908 to commemorate Lincoln's 100th birthday. The organization had a shaky start, though, as most of its founding members were then quite elderly. They were successful in recruiting younger members, and so the organization continues its educational efforts to this day. Past presidents include two Bunn, and Frank J. Williams, the featured speaker several years ago at the ALCWRT's Dearborn Inn banquet. For more info, go to www.AbrahamLincolnAssociation.org.

The CONTINUING BUNN LEGACY

The fifth generation of the Bunn's continues to thrive in Springfield.

The Bunn Company (the maker of those restaurant coffee machines) remains privately-held and family-owned, with a Bunn at the helm. One of the newer Bunn family endeavors is the horse breeding operation Quarter-B-Farms on Bunn Road in Pleasant Plains near Springfield.

And the Burkharts can vouch for the
Prairie Land Nine-Bean soup mix from Bunn Gourmet --
 with a special thanks to Quint's sister for this delicious
 stocking stuffer this past Christmas !



The Civil War History Forum – the who, what, when, and where:

Thanks to Fred Priebe for passing this info along from Doug Dammann <ddammann@kenosha.org>

The Civil War Museum is hosting its annual Social History Forum entitled *Beyond the Battlefield* on Saturday, April 25. The day features four programs, speakers and topics listed below, as well as a catered lunch.

Registrations can be made by calling the museum at 262-653-4140 or by clicking on the following link: <https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Beyond-the-Battlefield-The-Civil-War-Social-History-Forum>

Beyond the Battlefield: The Civil War Social History Forum

Saturday, April 25 * Registration 8:30-9:30am * Programs Begin at 9:30am
\$50/\$40 FOM includes catered lunch

The Home Front Seminar highlights topics and talks pertaining to the social history aspects of the Civil War Period.

From Band Stand to Battlefield and Back : The Epic Journey of the American Band - Ed Pierce

Mr. Pierce's program is a look at how the small town brass band carried the hopes and dreams of home to the carnage of war and back.. The band was USO, morale booster and elegant entertainment all rolled into one. It was portable: it could play in doors as well as out of doors. It was loud and could be easily heard by all: AND IT WAS FUN! When the boys on both sides came home they remembered what they heard and took decisive action to bring the beauty and grace of music back to their home towns. As the town parks grew, so did the number of music gazebos and band stands. One Kansas newspaper said that ".....a town without a band is like a church without a choir! It is something to be pitied!". Many municipalities put a tax on their communities to fund a public municipal band! Clearly this was one of the few positives brought home from military service. It was a grass roots movement that changed the cultural face of America!

Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War - Jo Ann Daly Carr

From the first days of the Civil War, letters of Wisconsin soldiers written to loved ones at home have been shared in newspapers and books. But the voices of Wisconsin women at the home front have remained largely hidden in libraries and archives. Speaker Jo Ann Daly Carr will reveal the voices of eight Wisconsin women whose letters and diaries provide a narrative of the war from the fall of Fort Sumter to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. These writings not only reflect the everyday lives but also unmask the ways they changed and were changed by the Civil War.

New Philadelphia - Gerald McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter

This program, by the authors of the book *New Philadelphia*, details the life of "Free Frank" McWorter, an ex-slave from Kentucky who created the Illinois town of New Philadelphia in 1839 near Hannibal, Missouri. New Philadelphia was an integrated community that became a key stop on the Underground Railroad. The book sets the stage by placing New Philadelphia in the context of the Blackhawk Wars and the Potawatomi Trail of Death, Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain and the travels of European visitors. It also tells the story of the McWorters, the integrated community they built in Pike County and the ongoing work to find out more of its history.

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Growing Up Abolitionist: How the Children of Boston's Most Prominent Abolitionists Grew Up to Change the World - Claire Herhold

In the early nineteenth century, Boston was home to many prominent activists who worked tirelessly for abolition and other causes. The children of these activists, including the Shaws, Garrisons, and Douglasses, faced difficult challenges as they grew older - whether to join with their parents' causes, whether to embrace the same tactics, whether to start their own movements - made even more challenging by the great war which shaped their adulthood. This talk will examine the major reform movements these children grew up in and how they became activists in their own right - or didn't.

A QUICK QUIZ

based on Jack Dempsey's January presentation on Alpheus S. Williams

The ALCWRT kicked off 2020 with an engaging presentation by author Jack Dempsey on Michigan's own Alpheus S. Williams. Here's the Quick Quiz about what we learned from Jack...

(1) What is Alpheus S. Williams' connection to early Detroit leader Charles Larned?

- A. Williams married Larned's daughter Jane in 1839.
They had 6 children, 3 of whom survived to adulthood.
Jane died in 1848 at age 30. The Williams family plot is in Elmwood Cemetery.

(2) How did Williams come to be in Detroit?

- A. Born in Connecticut in 1810, by 1831 Williams was a Yale graduate and had moved to NYC to study law. Before moving "out west" to Detroit in 1836, he had traveled to Washington, D.C., Mexico, Charleston, and in Europe (Paris, Turin, Edinburgh, Rome, and more).
Once in Detroit, he set up shop as a lawyer. He also served as Detroit's postmaster, and was a member of the Brady Guards where he gained his first military experience.

(3) What is ASW's connection to Special Orders No. 191?

- A. Williams was in command of the XXII Corps near Frederick when the "cigar wrapping" that was Special Orders No. 191, discovered by two soldiers of the 27th Indiana Volunteers, made its way to his HQ. Adjutant General Samuel Pittman authenticated the Order as authentic, as Pittman recognized the handwriting of the Order's signer.

(4) When was the statue of A.S. Williams erected on Belle Isle?

- A. The equestrian statue of Williams was unveiled in 1921, a year before completion of the Lincoln Memorial on the Mall in D.C. The sculptor was Henry Merwin Shrady, whose other works include the George Washington equestrian statue at the Brooklyn entrance of the Williamsburg Bridge in NYC, the U.S. Grant Memorial at Union Square in the Capitol, and the statue of R.E. Lee in Charlottesville.

(5) BONUS QUESTION:

What was Williams' role in the controversial presidential election of 1876?

- A. To find out, you'll have to read Jack Dempsey's latest book, "Michigan's Civil War Citizen-General – Alpheus S. Williams".
And why should you buy it? Because proceeds go to support the efforts by the Michigan Civil War Association to get a Michigan monument erected at Antietam.

LIST of SPEAKERS for 2020

* If you have suggestions for a future speaker, please contact Brian Mayer: bwmayer@umich.edu *

<u>date</u>	<u>speaker</u>	<u>topic</u>
JAN 16	Jack Dempsey	"Alpheus S. Williams"
FEB 20	Pam Dawson	"Mary Todd Lincoln: the White House Years"
MAR 19	Roy Finkenbine	"Much Apu about Nothing: What Caused the Civil War?"
APR 16	Bob Allen	"The Lincoln Assassination & J.W. Booth's Escape and Killing: Sifting the Facts from the Myths"
MAY 21	Mark Hoffman	"Michigan Civil War Soldiers & Their Communities"
SEPT 17	Jerry Eising	"Untold Stories of the Civil War"
OCT 15	Jillian Drapala	"Women in the Civil War"
NOV 19	Liz Stringer	"Elmira Hancock's Diary"

THIS and THAT

MEETING ROOM for our January & March meetings --

The ALCWRT meetings in January & March will be in the Multi-Function room instead of in the Council Room.

DINNER before the MEETINGS at STELLA's TRACKSIDE in PLYMOUTH --

At 5:30pm on meeting nights, the group hosts the speaker for dinner at Stella's Trackside in Plymouth.
All are welcome – No need to call ahead.

ANNUAL DUES --

Worley is always happy to collect your dues: ~ \$20/single ~ \$30/couple ~ Payable by calendar year.