

Part One: Establishing a Baseline for the LFL Working Group

Section A: Community Information

Name of LFL Working Group: Atlanta Historic Commission

Name of contact for LFL Community Self-Assessment: Rachel Neisler

Email: rthomas8706@gmail.com

Phone: (217)-979-3171

Address: P.O. Box 372, Atlanta, IL 61723

List the name(s) of the county or community(s) that were evaluated. Atlanta, IL

Provide a community profile of the LFL Community or Emerging LFL Community.

Atlanta, IL

High winds of optimism were blowing through Central Illinois in the early months of 1853 as hundreds of men worked on steamy, malaria-infested stretches of the new Chicago and Mississippi Railroad. Iron Horses would soon be steaming and belching their way at 10 to 15 miles an hour between Chicago and Alton, connecting Illinois' heartland with St. Louis, gateway to the West. It was during this time that the bustling, railroad town of Atlanta came to be. Between the spring of 1853 and the summer of 1857, these early optimistic winds would turn into tornado-like funnels, sweeping up individuals and families from states as far away as New England and the Carolinas, and dropping them in clusters along this great new Chicago and Mississippi Railroad. Among these early settlers were a few individuals who recognized the glorious opportunity which the railroad now afforded, from that opportunity, Atlanta was founded in March 1853.

Since then, Atlanta has been welcoming newcomers and visitors alike. In its early days, Atlanta was a bustling farming community, spurred by the convenience of not one, but two railroad lines. The trains brought people from all over, whether they were coming to spend a day at the infamous Atlanta Fair, bringing goods to be bought and traded in town, or attending a lecture or performance at Illinois' first Murphy Hall building. Atlanta was located on the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court and had several visits from a young lawyer by the name of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln maintained friendships with several prominent citizens in town, including Atlanta's founder, Richard T. Gill.

Today, Atlanta continues to maintain strong ties to the farming community, with much of the land around the town being used for that purpose. However, instead of relying on railways to bring visitors to town, Route 66 now ushers in travelers from around the state, the country and the world. Though the Atlanta Fair is no longer put on, the Palm's Grill Café, Atlanta Public Library and Museum, Paul Bunyon statue, the J.H. Hawes Historical Grain Elevator, and other attractions provide year-round entertainment to thousands of visitors each year. Each one receives a special, small-town welcome and given a glimpse into what makes Atlanta so unique.

Section B: Telling & Preserving the Community's Unique Lincoln Story¹

1. Identify the community's unique Lincoln story(s).

See Attached.

Please attach a summary of the community's unique Lincoln story(s) with a list of source material to the LFL Community Self Assessment. The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the Lincoln's connection to the community which will form the foundation for telling the community's unique Lincoln story(s). See example detailed summary in Appendix B.

¹The phrase "unique Lincoln story" refers to a story about the "life and times" of Abraham Lincoln as identified in the ALNHA Interpretive themes.

2. **Identify which ALNHA interpretive theme(s) the community's unique Lincoln story(s) fits within. Please select the themes from the list below.**
- **Lincoln the Man**
 - a) Lincoln's Rough Hewn Illinois Start
 - b) Lincoln the Politician**
 - c) Lincoln the Lawyer
 - d) Lincoln the President
 - **Illinois Influence on Lincoln**
 - a) The Land of Opportunity
 - b) Lincoln and Springfield
 - c) The People
 - d) Social and Political Landscape of Illinois and the Nation
 - e) Underground Railroad in Illinois
 - **Lincolns Legacy**
 - a) Lincoln's Imprint on America
 - b) Myth & Memory, Lincoln Remembered**
 - c) Lincoln & America's continuing struggle with Equality, Race Relations, National Unity and the Capacity for Democratic Government

3. **Identify how the community's unique Lincoln story(s) is currently being told by the community.**

Examples: LFL Waysides, historic site, events, walking/driving tour. Only include LFL waysides, historic sites, or events that pertain to the "life and times" of Abraham Lincoln. Please include the following information

- a. **Number and titles of LFL Waysides²**
- b. **Name, address, and hours of operation of historic site(s)**
- c. **Name, location, frequency, average attendance of events (Example: Civil War Cemetery Walk)**

Atlanta currently has one LFL Wayside titled "Wide Awakes".

The Atlanta Museum has permanent exhibits dedicated to telling the stories of Atlanta and Abraham Lincoln. It is located at 112 SW Arch Street, Atlanta, IL and is open 9am to 4:30pm Mondays and Fridays and 9am to 12:30pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Atlanta Landmark Tour highlights spots in and around Atlanta of historical interest and value.

4. **Does the community have an event that ties to the ALNHA interpretive themes that could potentially become a LFL signature event? No**

If yes, please provide a brief description of the event including:

- a. Name
- b. Description
- c. Frequency
- d. Attendance

² A complete list of Looking for Lincoln waysides by community can be found on the Abraham Lincoln NHA website www.lflhc.org.

Signature Event Defined: A signature event is Lincoln Centric³ and designated by the ALNHA Steering Council. The event must fit within the ALNHA interpretive themes and provide excellent visitor services. It is a marketable event that embodies the Looking for Lincoln brand and occurs on an annual basis, unless commemorative.

Section C: Preserving the Community's Sense of Place

Information about National Historic Landmarks and the National Register of Historic Places can be found on the National Park Service website www.nps.gov. All sites listed below should pertain to the "life and times" of Abraham Lincoln.

For Questions 1-3, and 6 of Section C please see attached.

- 1. Identify any Lincoln-era National Historic Landmarks and any historic districts or properties on the National Register of Historic places within the county or ten miles radius of the community. Please provide a list below.**
- 2. Identify any Lincoln era locally designated landmarks within the county or a ten mile radius of the community. Please provide a list below.**
- 3. Identify any Lincoln era historic sites, or structures, within the county or a ten mile radius of the community not already listed above. Please provide list below.**
- 4. Is the community part of the Illinois Main Street Program No
If yes, is the Illinois Main Street community coordinator part of you LFL Working Group?
Yes/No.
If no, why not?**
- 5. Does the community have a historic preservation committee? Yes
If yes, is a representative from the historic preservation committee part of the LFL working group? Yes
If no, why not?**
- 6. Please provide the following information for each structure or site listed above.**
 - a. Name of structure or site**
 - b. Address of structure or site**
 - c. Date of construction or significant event**
 - d. Owner: private, public, n/a**
 - e. Condition of structure or site: good, fair, poor, other (please explain)**
 - f. Public accessibility: open to the public, open by appointment, not open to the public, other (please explain)**
 - g. Does the structure or site interpret the "life and times" of Abraham Lincoln? If yes, please explain how the structure or site is interpreted. Example: driving tour or signage**

Section D: Preparing for the Visitor

- 1. Does the community have a visitor center that is open to the public? Yes
If yes, what are its hours of operation? Monday – Saturday 9am to 4pm
Does it have public restrooms? Yes**

³ A Lincoln Centric Event is an event that pertains to or is centered on Abraham Lincoln's life.

- 2. Identify visitor services and amenities within the county or a ten mile radius of the community.**
- a. Number of gas stations in the community?** 1 in Atlanta, 13 within a 10-mile radius
 - b. Number of restaurants in the community?** 3 in Atlanta, 25 within a 10-mile radius
 - c. Identify the types of lodging available within the community? (Check all that apply.)**
 - **Hotel** – 0 in Atlanta, 3 within a 10-mile radius
 - **Motel** – 1 in Atlanta, 4 within a 10-mile radius
 - **Bed & Breakfast** – 1 in Atlanta
 - **Lodge**
 - **Campground** – 1 in Atlanta, 1 within a 10-mile radius
 - d. How many individuals can the community accommodate with overnight lodging?**

Atlanta can accommodate approximately 700 – 1000 individuals with overnight lodging utilizing hotels and motels within a 10-mile radius.

- 3. Identify any non-Lincoln visitor attractions that are within the county or a ten mile radius of the community.**
Please provide the name, address, website (if applicable) and a one sentence description.

See following page.

Non-Lincoln Visitor Attractions with a 10-mile radius of Atlanta

Atlanta Clocktower	100 Race Street Atlanta, IL	www.apldinfo.org	clocktower houses an original 1908 Seth Thomas clockwork and is available for tours.
Paul Bunyon Statue	105 SW Arch Street, Atlanta, IL		Don't miss out on this terrific photo opportunity, a staple stop for any Illinois roadtrip!
Arch Street Artisans	103 SW Arch Street, Atlanta, IL		Browse the wares and creations of over 20 local craftsmen and women
Gunnar Mast Trading Post	107 SW Arch Street, Atlanta, IL		An eclectic, Route 66-themed souvenir shop on historic Route
Palm's Grill Café	110 SW Arch Street Atlanta, IL	www.facebook.com/thePalmsGrillCafe	Enjoy a classic meal at the 1940s themed diner.
Route 66 Arcade Museum	114 SW Arch Street Atlanta, IL		Misspend your youth one quarter at a time at this museum filled with vintage arcade games.
J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum	301 SW Second Street Atlanta, IL		Discover your connection to Illinois' rich grain producing,
Route 66 Park	Corner of Arch and Race Streets Atlanta, IL		Relax and learn a little bit about Atlanta's Route 66 history in this quaint downtown greenspace.
Colaw Rooming House	204 SW Vine Street Atlanta, IL	www.thecolawhouse.com	Located just two blocks from Rt. 66 in quaint Atlanta, Illinois, The Colaw Rooming House offers three bedrooms, two full baths, a charming living room with fireplace, dining room, curved front
Rt 66 Memories Museum	106 SW Arch Street Atlanta, IL		Explore this personal collection of vintage Route 66 memorabilia; everything from a 1940 Rolls Royce
Dixie Truck Stop	598 Main Street McLean, IL	www.roadrangerusa.com/travelcenters/dixietruckershome.aspx	Named one of the oldest continuous truck stops in America, the Dixie continues to provide travelers with good food and gas
Arcadia Games	107 S Hamilton Street McLean, IL		Harken back to your childhood afternoons wasted away in this recreated 1980s arcade filled with
Old Route 66	Funk's Grove, IL to Lincoln IL		Skip the highway and experience America the way it should be along an original stretch of Rt 66; the
Funk's Grove Nature Preserve	Funk's Grove, IL	www.funksgrove.org	As a National Natural Landmark, the Nature preserve is home to the largest remaining intact prairie
Funk's Grove Church and Chapel in the Trees	East 535 North Road Funks Grove, IL	www.funksgrove.org	Built in 1864, this historic church offers a quaint place of meditation.
Sugar Grove Nature Center	N 725 East Road Funks Grove, IL	www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org	A place where individuals can experience, study and enjoy the environment and history of Funks
Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup	5257 Old Route 66 Shirley, IL	www.funkspuremaplecirop.com	Learn how authentic maple sirup is made right now Route 66.

Section E: Community Planning

1. What is the purpose of the LFL working group?

The purpose of the Atlanta working group is to tell and interpret the story of early Atlanta through the lens of Abraham Lincoln's life and interactions there.

2. What are the LFL working group goals for the LFL Community or Emerging LFL Community? Do they align with the goals of the ALNHA? If not, why?

Strengthen ties to surrounding and existing LFL communities through shared events and promotions

Promote historical and cultural tourism in ways that will facilitate economic growth in and around Atlanta

Help visitors learn the story of Abraham Lincoln and his relationship to Atlanta through meaningful and engaging experiences

Raise local awareness about the historical significance of early Atlanta and its connections to the life and time of Abraham Lincoln

3. Briefly describe the greatest needs or challenges facing your community from the perspective of the LFL working group. (250 words max)

Atlanta primarily benefits from the qualities befitting a small town. Organizations are easily connected and work together well. It is very easy to find positive support among our leadership and our citizens. However, our strengths can also be our weaknesses. It can be difficult to find funding for expansion projects and start-ups funds for holding large-scale events. Grant money is always a possibility but it can be a struggle to find grants that support our projects or are worth the time and effort needed to complete applications. Our small size definitely comes with its advantages, but can be a challenge as well. It is easy for tourists and others to "skip over" Atlanta in favor of larger cities like Lincoln and Bloomington-Normal. Our small population also means that we have a limited pool to draw from when recruiting representatives and volunteers to help achieve our goals.

4. Does the LFL working group include representatives for the community's local government, business, historic preservation, education, history and tourism organizations and other segments of its population? Please list all the groups or organizations involved in the LFL working group?

Atlanta Museum

Atlanta Historic Commission

Atlanta Public Library

Business Owners

City Council

Atlanta Betterment Fund

Atlanta A-Team

Private Citizens

Atlanta Economic Development Commission

Lincoln-Logan County Economic Development Partnership

Heartland Community College

Explain why you feel the right people are at the table to make the LFL working group successful and a community/county project?

Though currently a small group of six, the Atlanta Historic Commission brings a lot of viewpoints to the table. Our members sit on numerous other organizational boards, run their own businesses in Atlanta, and live lives as private citizens of town. We are fortunate that our members can think in multi-faceted ways. The AHC is a group of strategic thinkers who will be able to set attainable goals and implement the action steps necessary to accomplish them. This group will be able to draw upon connections, not only within the city, but throughout the county and the state, needed to move forward with our plans. Most importantly, our members believe in doing what is best for Atlanta and its future, so regardless of the undertaking, every decision we make is approached from that aspect. We have a well-developed understanding of what successful heritage tourism looks like. Atlanta has been able to capitalize on its development of Route 66 attractions, now it is time to turn our attentions to the ALNHA and the Looking for Lincoln program.

- 5. Please submit a copy to the LFL Working Group's Action Plan with your LFL Self-Assessment. Appendix D provides information on creating an LFL Working Group Action Plan.**

See Attached.

Section B – LFL Community Self-Assessment

Overview of Atlanta, IL's Lincoln Story

From his humble start as a country lawyer, his presidential campaign, his sudden death, and lasting legacy, Abraham Lincoln has had a profound effect on both the past and present citizens of Atlanta. He had friends and colleagues in town and often came to visit, both on business and for pleasure. During his presidential campaign of 1859-60, one need only talk to his neighbor to find an avid Lincoln supporter among the citizens of Atlanta. As such, his death had a profound effect on town, and his legacy was, and continues to be, recognized in many ways.

While circuit riding during his time on the Eighth Judicial, Abraham Lincoln often stopped in or near Atlanta. There are numerous accounts of Lincoln staying with the Hoblit family and sharing fellowship over fried potatoes. Between 1858 and 1859, Lincoln was often in or around Atlanta. Lincoln was asked to speak at the July 4th celebration in 1859, but declined and suggested General J. H. Matheny instead and agreed to accompany the General to Atlanta. After the General's speech, Lincoln was presented a cane engraved with his name by a local citizen and close friend of Lincoln's, Sylvester Strong. Later that day, Lincoln was also presented with cake at an ice cream social hosted by the Ladies of the newly-built Congregational Church in town. Lincoln accepted the cake, and then turned and presented it right back to the ladies of the church so that they may have auctioned it off to raise money for new pews. Besides the impromptu speeches made by Lincoln that July 4th day in 1859, Lincoln also scheduled visits to Atlanta to help campaign for John Fremont in 1856. In September and October, Lincoln gave rally speeches to large and enthusiastic crowds.

As one story goes, Lincoln actually spent time in Atlanta at some point in the duration of the famous Lincoln-Douglas Debates, in which Abraham Lincoln was challenged by Stephen Douglas to meet 7 times in the race for the Illinois Senate seat. As the story goes, told by Dr. George Angell, an acquaintance and contemporary of Lincoln, Lincoln was passing through Atlanta and stopped to spend some time with a local, Richard Gill. Dr. Angell states that later that afternoon, he and Gill overheard Lincoln practicing for one of his upcoming debates with Douglas. Dr. Angell also stated that this was one of the last times Lincoln visited through Atlanta alive.

Lincoln's humble nature and well-known political success made him very popular with the citizens of Atlanta and Logan County. As such, it is not surprising to learn that one of the first chapters of Wide Awakes in the state of Illinois was formed in Atlanta. Male citizens of voting age were eager and willing to support Lincoln and other Republican candidates during the elections of 1860. There are many stories of the Wide Awakes escorting delegates around the city and urging citizens to utilize their voting rights. As such, they were always campaigning for presidential candidate, Abraham Lincoln. It is reported that the Atlanta Wide Awake chapter actually led a parade during an immense rally in 1860 that marched right past the Lincoln Home, and that Lincoln viewed from his doorway. The banner that the group carried is currently on display at the Lincoln Heritage Museum in Lincoln, IL.

Atlanta citizens followed and supported Lincoln throughout his presidency. When news of his assassination reached town, citizens took to the streets in shock. Atlanta was on the route that Lincoln's Funeral train took to his final resting place in Springfield, IL. In the early morning hours of May 3, 1865, the train carrying the beloved president's body arrived in Atlanta. There are conflicting reports as to

whether or not the train actually briefly stopped or merely slowed its speed to pass through town. Regardless, the entire town, and members from the surrounding communities lined the tracks that morning to pay their respects.

Abraham Lincoln was not easily forgotten amongst Atlanta citizens. In 1875, the black population of Atlanta and the surrounding area held a grand barbeque in celebration of Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. People came from all over Central Illinois to both participate and spectate. Future governor, Judge Shelby M. McCullough was the keynote speaker that day, accompanied by local Rev. E.J. Thomas, Civil War veteran Col. Jonathan Merriam, and abolitionist Rev. G.W. Minier.

To this day, Lincoln's legacy holds strong amongst the area's population.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Atlanta Argus 15 February 1901. Print.

Atlanta Argus 16 August 1901. Print.

Atlanta Argus 23 August 1901. Print.

Atlanta Argus 24 April 1903. Print.

Atlanta Argus 24 February 1899. Print.

Atlanta Argus 27 January 1905. Print.

Atlanta Argus 3 February 1905. Print.

Bloomington *Pantagraph* 5 November 1856. Print.

Bloomington *Pantagraph* 6 July 1859. Print.

Chicago Tribune 4 February 1903. Print.

Easier, Roy P., ed. *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. 8 vols. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1955. Print.

Hoblit, Frank. Letter to Secretary of Springfield Wide A Awakers. 31 July 1860. Letter.

Illinois State Journal 5 September 1856. Print.

Illinois State Journal 9 July 1859. Print.

Lincoln *Herald* 6 July 1859. Print.

Logan County Forum 19 June 1856. Print.

Secondary Sources

Adams, Paul and Norma Adams Price. *Twelve Momentous Years in the Other Atlanta 1853-165: With Post Civil War Glimpses of Central Illinois*. Tempe, Arizona: Beverly-Merriam, 2000. Print.

Adams, Paul and Norma Adams Price. *More Momentous Happenings in Atlanta, Illinois 1876-2003*. Atlanta, Illinois: Beverly-Merriam, 2003. Print.

- Angle, Paul M. *Lincoln in the Year 1858: Being the Day to Day Activities of the Abraham Lincoln during that Year*. Springfield, Illinois: The Lincoln Centennial Association, 1926.
- Atlanta Argus* 24 October 1924. Print
- Atlanta Argus* 21 February 1941. Print.
- Baringer, William E. *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology*. Vol 2 1849-1865. Washington, D.C.: Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, 1960.
- Grinspan, Jon. " 'Young Men for War:' The Wide Awakes and Lincoln's 1860 Presidential Campaign," *Journal of American History* Vol 96.2 (2009). Web.
- Hertz, Emmanuel. *The Hidden Lincoln: From the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon*. New York: Viking Press. 1938
- Morris. B.F. *Memorial Record of the Nation's Tribute to Abraham Lincoln*. Washington, D.C.: W.H. & H.O. Morrison, 1866.
- Searcher, Victor. *The Farewell to Lincoln*. Abingdon Press, 1965. Print.
- Stringer, Lawrence B. *History of Logan County, Illinois 1911*. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing, 1911.
- Tarbell, Ida M. *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*. 4 vols. New York: Lincoln Historical Society, 1924. Print.
- Trostle, Scott D. *The Lincoln Funeral Train: The Final Journey and National Funeral for Abraham Lincoln*. Fletcher, Ohio: Cam-Tech Publishing. 2002

Section C: Preserving a Sense of Community – List of Sites Pertaining to Abraham Lincoln in Atlanta or within 10 miles.

Name	Address	Date of Construction or Event	Owner	Condition	Public Accessibility	Is the site interpreted?	Driving Distance from Atlanta	Category
"Wide Awakes" March in Atlanta	SW Arch Street	June 12, 1860	public	good	open to public	Yes. Wayside exhibit in the LFL Story Trail	0	
Atlanta and Abraham Lincoln Collection at Atlanta Museum	112 SW Arch Street	c. 1867	public	good	open to public during Museum hours or by appointment	Yes. Atlanta's "Lincoln Story" is told over the course of multiple exhibits from his days as a country lawyer to his assassination and funeral.	0	National Register of Historic Places
James L. Hoblit House	803 W. North Street	c. 1840	private	good	not open to public	No	0	Lincoln-era locally designated landmark
8th Judicial Circuit Marker	Boundary of Logan and McLean counties, south side of 2500 N Rd, 1/2 mile east of 2200 E Rd	c. 1916-1919	private	restored	open to public	Yes. Markers were erected by the Lincoln Circuit Marking Association under the auspices of the DAR of Illinois	2	Lincoln-era historic site
Hoblit Carriage House	2100 E Road	c. 1850	private	good	not open to public	No	1	Lincoln-era historic site
Richard Gill's Building	106 SW Vine Street	August 1858	n/a	no longer exists		No	0	Lincoln-era historic site
Turner's Grove	2500 1975th Avenue	July 4, 1859	n/a	no longer exists		No	1	Lincoln-era historic site
Congregational Church	205 NE Fifth Street	July 4, 1859	n/a	no longer exists		No	0	Lincoln-era historic site
Chicago and Alton Railroad Depot	110 SW First Street	May 2, 1865	n/a	no longer exists		No	0	Lincoln-era historic site
Atlanta Fairgrounds	200 Sharon Street	September 24, 1875	n/a	no longer exists		No	1	Lincoln-era historic site
Armington Hall	103 SW Vine Street	Sept 4 and Oct 23, 1856	n/a	no longer exists		No	0	Lincoln-era historic site

Section E: LFL Community Self-Assessment

Atlanta Historic Commission Action Plan

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the Atlanta working group is to tell and interpret the story of early Atlanta through the lens of Abraham Lincoln's life and interactions there.

Goals:

Strengthen ties to surrounding and existing LFL communities through shared events and promotions

Promote historical and cultural tourism in ways that will facilitate economic growth in and around Atlanta

Help visitors learn the story of Abraham Lincoln and Atlanta through meaningful and engaging experiences

Raise local awareness about the historical significance of early Atlanta and its connections to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln

Vision Statement:

We envision a multi-faceted and engaging experience for those seeking to learn about Atlanta's relationship with Abraham Lincoln

Objectives:

Development of a self-guided tour designed to highlight the points of interest in and around Atlanta that relate to its Lincoln story by April 30, 2017

Action Steps:

- 1) Completed detailed rough draft mock-up of the experience presented by the tour in September 2015. Should include two available versions; a guide that highlights ALL locations associated with Abraham Lincoln and an abbreviated tour that pulls together the most significant spots still in existence in and around Atlanta. (Travel time and distance between sites should be taken into account)
- 2) Funding sources should be researched and identified in conjunction with development of tour experience. Grant opportunities are the most viable option

and should be considered the primary means of funding. Initial research should include IHPA CLG grants and the Woods Foundation.

- 3) Final draft of tour experience completed by July 2016.
- 4) Hire graphic design firm to fine tune tour materials and send to printer.
- 5) Tour should go live April 2017.

A signature event focused on recreating the Grand Ol' Style Barbeque held in celebration of the 12th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Action Steps:

- 1) Identify members of the working group and additional members of the community to sit on an ad hoc committee designated to oversee the signature event. Members should be chosen based on connections within Atlanta and surrounding areas that would benefit the overall planning of the event. The committee should include representatives from neighboring communities, with special consideration given to those with LFL designations.
- 2) Funding sources should be researched and identified. Cooperation from participating communities should be considered, as well as sponsorships from area businesses and organizations.
- 3) Planning of event should commence based on funds available and should mirror historical documentation of event as best possible. Should include living history presentations and other authentic experiences offered at the time of the original event.
- 4) First event scheduled for summer of 2019.

Creation of a living history presentation to tell Atlanta's experience during the days following Lincoln's assassination, including the community's reaction to Lincoln's Funeral Train coming through town.

Action Steps:

- 1) Identify members of the working group and additional members of the community to sit on an ad hoc committee designated to oversee the organization of the event. Members should be chosen based on connections within Atlanta and the surrounding areas that could contribute to the overall success of the event. Local educators and educational staff, as well as those with living history experience should be included on the committee.
- 2) Connect with groups who specialize in living history events and foster a relationship that will help ensure the success of the event.
- 3) Reach out to state and national groups who are also working to recreate and commemorate Lincoln's death and funeral.
- 4) Coordinate with local grade school (possibly middle school and high school) to secure participation of local school children.
- 5) Coordinate with Illinois Wesleyan Theatre Dept to help with character and script development
- 6) If possible, this event should be done in May of 2015, should planning and coordination not coincide with that date, the presentation must be held in May 2016.