

National Civil War Museum Advisory Council Member

<u>Member Contact</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
<p>Thomas F. Schwartz, Illinois State Historian</p> <p>Thomas F. Schwartz is a native of Illinois, having spent his youth in Downers Grove. He attended the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he received the A.B., A.M. and Ph.D. in history and international relations. He became curator of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library in 1985 and is an acknowledged authority on the Sixteenth President and his times. Schwartz is author of more than one hundred articles, reviews, chapters, and electronic reference entries and editor of “<i>For a Vast Future Also</i>”: <i>Essays From the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association</i> (Fordham University Press, 1999). On November 19, 1993, Governor Jim Edgar named Schwartz to fill the post of State Historian, making him, at 38, the youngest person to serve in that position. With John Rhodehamel of the Henry Huntington Library, Schwartz co-curated the nationally acclaimed exhibition, “<i>The Last Best Hope of Earth</i>”: <i>Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America</i> featuring materials from the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection, the Huntington, and the Louise and Barry Taper Collection. This exhibition attracted over 600,000 visitors in a two-city tour of Los Angeles and Chicago.</p> <p>He served as a historical consultant for numerous documentaries and has appeared on the <i>Today Show</i>, <i>Good Morning America</i>, <i>CBS Sunday Morning</i>, the History Channel, the Voice of America, and C-SPAN. He is senior editor of the prestigious <i>Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association</i>, historical advisor for the <i>Journal of Illinois History</i> and serves on a number of boards and commissions dealing with history, education, and culture. He is the Chief Historian for exhibits and content in the <u>Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum</u> and <u>Director of Research and Lincoln Collection</u> in the <u>Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois</u>. Schwartz has served as interim director for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, as well as interim director for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. He has assumed his former duties as State Historian overseeing Research and the Lincoln Collection including the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Schwartz is also on the Advisory Board for the state and federal Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commissions.</p> <p>On April 19, 2005, America’s newest presidential museum, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opened its doors in Springfield, Illinois. The dedication marked the culmination of a 25-year effort to create a museum and scholarly research center in honor of Illinois’ former legislator and the 16th President of the United States.</p> <p>The library portion of the complex includes the 47,000-item Abraham Lincoln Collection – the largest assemblage of pre-presidential Lincoln materials in the world.</p> <p>The multi-level museum, which includes 35,000 square feet of exhibit space and a 17,000-square-foot Grand Plaza, contains exhibits larger than those at any other presidential library or museum. But what sets the museum apart from other historical museums is the scope, creativity and visitor engagement of its displays. Using state-of-the-art technologies often associated with the entertainment industry, yet maintaining rigorous standards of scholarship, the museum provides a captivating experience, enabling 21st-century visitors to be witness to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Being both emotionally and intellectually engaged, visitors of all ages leave knowing more than they did when they arrived, and anxious to learn even more about Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. For more information, visit www.alplm.org.</p>	<p>Abraham Lincoln’s Presidential Library & Museum</p>	<p>Springfield, IL</p>