



Historic Elsay Foundation

P.O. Box 117, Elsay, Illinois 62028

May 12, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local historian and scholar Timothy Tomlinson will be the featured speaker in the popular *Hosmer-Williams Lecture Series* at Farley's Music Hall, Elsay, Illinois, Friday, May 22, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The Series is sponsored by Historic Elsay Foundation and underwritten by Liberty Bank of Godfrey, Illinois.

Tomlinson's topic will be *Bringing Mr. Lincoln Home*, the incredible story of Abraham Lincoln's assassination and the long journey of his body as it was returned to Springfield, Illinois from Washington City in the spring of 1865.

Tomlinson is Chair of the Great Rivers Lincoln Coffin Project, the group that created the replica coffin that was used for the Lincoln Funeral Reenactment Ceremonies in Springfield on May 2-3, 2015. "We built a museum quality replica that is well authenticated," says Tomlinson. "In doing so, we learned a lot about our 16th President and the national grief that was part of the America of 150 years ago. In sharing photos and stories of the Lincoln funeral I believe we can all learn a little more about this great man."

In his first experience speaking as a reenactor, Tomlinson will appear as Benjamin St. James Fry, Methodist minister, scholar, college president, newspaper reporter, and Chaplain of the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry to tell the story of the Lincoln funeral. "Fry was the founder of the Chautauqua on the Great River Road, and a great admirer of Lincoln," Tomlinson notes, "and it is possible he would have attended the viewing of Lincoln's body in Indianapolis and even Springfield. I think he can tell this story well."

The lecture is free and open to the public. Tomlinson's book, *The Western Chautauqua* will be available for purchase and to be autographed by the author. Refreshments will be served following the lecture. Reservations are not required. Parking is available.

For additional information and a digital copy of an informational poster, contact Tim Tomlinson, Historic Elsay Foundation, 618-374-1518, text a request to 618-513-7119, or email a request to trt1933@aol.com