

Lincoln Lore

The Bulletin of THE LINCOLN MUSEUM



Number 1883 / Winter 2006

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Lincoln Lore
Since 1929

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Lincoln Lore

is the quarterly bulletin of
THE LINCOLN MUSEUM

The mission of The Lincoln Museum is to interpret and preserve the history and legacy of Abraham Lincoln through research, conservation, exhibitry, and education.

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THE
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The Life and Legacy of Abraham Lincoln



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 ISSN 0162-8615

My Own Dear Ellen, 1862

By Sara Gabbard, editor

Tucked safely away in the vault of The Lincoln Museum are the letters which George W. Squier, of the 44th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, wrote to his wife Ellen. This repository is particularly appropriate since Squier lived close to Fort Wayne when he first enlisted. From the first letter (**January 4, 1862**) to the last (**July 1865**) Squier provides an amazing insight into the thoughts, activities, and feelings of a soldier. He ranges in subject matter from camp medical conditions.. to camp life in general.. to slavery/emancipation.. to battlefields...and to attitudes about the war. On some topics his thoughts and feelings remain constant throughout his service. On others he experiences a change in attitude. It is reasonable to assume that he reflects the views of his fellow soldiers and that his letters to Ellen provide a unique glance into the heart and mind of an extremely articulate man, a man who was doing his duty as he understood that duty...even as he ached to return to home and his loved ones. (Editor's Note: *Spelling, punctuation, and some obvious omissions have been printed as written.*)

January 4, 1862, was written near Murfreesboro on a small scrap of paper in which Squier simply writes to express his gratitude to "all merciful providence I am still alive." He apologizes that he has to write on a "scrap of paper," but he articulates his constant concern that Ellen will fear for the worst if she does not hear from him regularly. He also refers to General Rosencrans as "the greatest man in our government."

January 12, 1862, near Calhoun, Kentucky. Once again Corporal Squier expresses his concern that Ellen will be anxious if she doesn't hear from him, but he estimates that she has received only three of the last six or seven letters he has written. He mentions the travails of a long march when he "kinder give out" and quotes Romans 7:23. "In our trials it is a comfort to know that there is a strong hand to uphold us, a kind Father to care for us, an Almighty power to protect us in time of peril. I feel that I would not give my hope of Heaven for all the world and all it holds. I know very well I do many things which I ought not to... But I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Squier also gives an example of camp life. "It is now nine o'clock and Orderly Moffet passes dow[n] the broad street and cries out 'inspection of armies at 10 o'clock.' So we have to clean our muskets, brush our pants and jackets and caps, be ready at the roll of drums to appear in line in apple pie order."

January 16, 1862, Carrollton, Kentucky. Squier arrived at this campsite after a two hour hike from Calhoun. Once again, he complains about the mail service and says that he only writes because the letters "may reach you." Childhood diseases plagued many Civil War units, especially those from the frontier, the men not having been exposed to them when young. "The health of the regiment is decidedly better as the measles have had its run."



George W. Squier. Courtesy of Allen County — Fort Wayne Historical Society.

"The Battle of Shiloh. The Hornet's Nest" Chromolithograph by Louis Prang and Company (1888) after Thulstrup (TLM # 4474).

A P.S. is added to this letter: "I am not sorry I enlisted in the service of my company and most assuredly I am not sorry I enlisted in the service of my God. I find Great comfort and consolation therein."

February 5, 1862, Calhoon [sic], Kentucky. Our soldier's first affliction with a disease that would haunt him the rest of his life. "The day after I mailed my last letter, I was taken sick. Stayed in my tent for two days. Was taken to Hospital. Our regimental surgeon (which the boys call 'Instant Death') looked at me and said 'Typhoid fever.'" Squier reported that his brother Platt "stuck right by me...I shall always consider myself under obligations for the kindness and constant attention he has given me. He went nearly two miles and paid twenty cents for a chicken for me."

Some advice and comments for carrying on in his absence; as Ellen, like so many other women, had to assume responsibilities normally handled by their husbands: "Am glad you have got rid of part of the hogs. Had you not better have the rest of them butchered?" "Better have a well dug." "Don't know when we shall be paid off."

April 10, 1862 at Pittsburgh, Tennessee. Squier uses the phrase commonly designated to indicate one's first real baptism of fire (at Shiloh). "I have seen the 'Elephant'---was in the great battle that came off last Sunday and Monday." At Shiloh his brother Platt was wounded. "I came through safe, but our Dear poor brother was wounded very badly. A musket ball struck on the right side of the bowels and passed through the point of the hip bone." George anticipates that, "He with the rest of the Indiana boys will prob-

ably be sent to Evansville or some other point in their own state as Gov. Morton is here for that purpose." Interesting to note that the Governor was this closely involved with the welfare of his troops, especially in promoting the timely evacuation of the wounded from his state.

April 13, 1862, at Pittsburgh Landing, Tenn. This letter goes into great detail regarding the battle at Shiloh. He speculated that Ellen would read reports of the battle: "written by men who are accustomed to write and picture things in their true light, for let me say the scene cannot be over drawn in this case. I think you will be safe in believing the largest account as the nearest correct."

Our pickets were driven in, and in 15 minutes the enemy were within our lines. The regiments along our lines held them in check, retreating slowly; the enemy stopping to pillage our camps...the long roll sounded throughout our camp and in five min. we were in line of battle on our parade ground. As we stood there, the thought passed through my mind: of thousands so full of life now how many will return?

And strange music too for that beautiful Sabbath morning was the officers passing with lightning speed and in loud voices giving commands, the rattle of Sabers and carbines, clattering of hoofs, jarring of artillery as they hurried over the rough road, the booming of a hundred cannon, and the discharge of thousands of muskets.

The command was given "right face" and we moved off to the



"Call in for Soup" Engraving of sketch by Edwin Forbes (TLM #412).

scene of action. We soon met wounded men, citizens, and women fleeing to the boats for security. We met some with the loss of fingers, some without a hand, some with a broken leg or arm; in fact, wounded in every conceivable place. I mention this because at that time it rather daunted my fervor and for the first time I doubted my courage.

Shortly thereafter, Squier and his comrades were engaged in a fierce battle, eventually forcing the Confederates to retreat. "Right here you may wish to know how I 'stood fire'. I will tell you while laying on the ground and just before we reced. orders to fire I simply breathed faith: 'Ever kind Father preserve me.'" Once having "seen the elephant," George reports that, "I was as cool and composed as if sitting down for a chat or shooting squirrels." The enemy attacked again, "but this time they could not stand our fire more than about 40 minutes when they again fled. Col. rode up & down our lines, his face fairly shining, said 'boys can you give that a cheer', and we did give three rousing cheers."

Once again the battle was joined, and Squier was eventually ordered to escort a wounded soldier to the rear so that his wound could be treated, after which George returned to action: "The first and only time during the day that I felt like dodging was in going back to our Co. through the perfect shower of bullets, grape & canister shot, shell and ball. Every few minutes I would catch myself dodging or winking to screen myself from the messengers of death that flew so quickly all around, above and in front."

Later in the battle, "There were few trees and no underbrush either in front or rear. As a result of this lack of natural cover, Squier and his comrades, "were in full view of the enemy, exposed to the most deadly fire from infantry and artillery. Here is where fell many, very many of the brave sons of Indiana... When we were subject to a most deadly crossfire besids the fire in front, this was rather more than even Indiana valor could withstand, and we were ordered to retreat."

In spite of the dreadful casualty count at Shiloh, Squier re-iterates his commitment to the cause as he closes this letter. "Give my love to mother and Father. Tell them they need not look for me home until this rebellion is crushed out and our beloved Country once more free."

April 25, 1862, near Pittsburgh Landing. "We are now encamped in a very pretty oak grove with a small clear stream running in front. The water is not as good as at our old 'home,' but the woods and flowers make amends for that. You know I am quite fond of flowers. Is it not very kind in our Father to furnish us with so many sources of enjoyment? Though deprived of the society of Dear friends and separated from all I hold most Dear on Earth, yet I find great comfort in roving through the woods among strang plants and flowers. I can see a beauty in nature now that I never saw before, can trace the hand of an allwise Providence who is ever kind and indulgent."

May 8, 1862, 8 miles from Corrint (Corinth). Squier receives the heart-breaking news that his brother Platt died as a result of wounds received at Shiloh. He attempts to assure Ellen that death is but a temporary separation. "Should I fall in the coming battle I trust we shal meet...haven of sweet repose where parting is no moore....But all I can do is commit you all to that Being who is

ever kind to his children."

July 30, 1862, Near Battle Creek, Tennessee. There is finally enough time in his schedule to finish his description of the Sunday battle at Shiloh: "...night finaly put an end to the deadly strif, to that awful Sabbath's day's work. We lay on our armes without blankets or food while the rain poured down in torrents for nearly half the night. An awful night was that one. Could amid the roar of the thunder hear the groans of the wounded and dying...Walking in the dark one would perhaps stumble over some poor victim of the deadly bullet who lay cold and stiff in death, or some wounded and dying fellow who thus roused from his death stupor would call for help, perhaps for water."

November 6, 1862, Indianapolis. In this letter Squier begins to show some skepticism about the war effort. "But money is the order of the day. Little difference how it is made, whethe it be defrauding the Government or the private soldier who leaves his family and friends, sunders tender ties, sacrifices his little means for the good of his country. I tell you I see the deception, the low disposable cunning used to gain position and profit. I have to clench my hands to prevent my patriotism coming out at the ends of my fingers. I can hardly feell like cursing this government, but the way the affairs of this nation is conducted - merit is not respected; a man's rights is not recogniscid; men are dogs. Shoulder straps and money are Deities - they rule this nation. And O how! I have but little hopes of closing this awful war until the day comes that there is no money to be made - when the credit of the country is lost."

Squier then goes into a lengthy accounting of money he has spent on his own supplies and seems to apologize for buying such items as gloves, a toothbrush, and a knife. There is no doubt that family finances have been seriously affected by his absence from home. In fact, he tells Ellen not to use all the money he sends to pay off debts because he probably won't be paid again for "several months."

November 27, 1862, Near Nashville, Tennessee. A confederate attempt to ambush a train was successfully repelled, but at one point it was a close call. Squier admits, "At a distance a man dreds the idea of putting himself up for a mark, but come to the test there is something rather exciting in shooting, and perticularly at one's fellow beings."

December 8, 1862, Still in the vicinity of Nashville, the letter was written while Squier was on picket duty. "The boys find some fault with having so much duty to do, hardly having time to wash their clothes. Yesterdy I washed all of my underclothes, also that shirt for the first time. And though I had worn it over a month it did not apper much dirty. I followed your instructions and did not use the washboard. Think it will not be necessary to wash them oftener than once a month."

He comments on the issue of supplies. He was able to get his boots "half soled" in Nashville at a cost of \$1.50. "The army here is not well provided for, being very short of underclothes and blankets. In our Camps, there are but few who have either drawers or undershirts, and some have no socks, while we have but one tent besides Headquarters, so in stormy weather the boys suffer very much." Later in the week, some supplies were received by the unit, but it appears that the coordination of such efforts left much to be desired.



"Christmas Dinner" Engraving of sketch by Edwin Forbes (TLM #4064).

December 15 and 16, 1862, 4 miles S. E. from Nashville. Perhaps this letter reflects Squier's feelings of loneliness and frustration regarding the mail deliveries to troops more profoundly than any others to date. He said that he was, "*feeling rather desolate amid the Supreme noise and bustle of camp....It is very lonely to write day after day and even weeks pass and hear nothing from home, from loved ones. Those who have never been long absent know not the full meaning of those three little words, 'home and loved ones.' They know not the anxiety with which the arrival of the mail is awaited, nor the disappointment felt when one knows that he must wait at least another day and perhaps many days more before he can hear from those who are more dear than all things beside on Earth*"... "*But then I know you all have your various home duties to attend to and perhaps have little time for writing.*"

The self pity immediately dissipates the following day as he continues, "*Thank fortune I did not have time to finish this scrawl yesterday, and I feel much better now as I received your very kind letter last night.*" Squier believes that a battle is about to take place because, "*We have reveille at 4 o'clock in the morning in order to be ready for a attack at any moment.*"

There follows an account of the moral character of fellow soldiers. "*You may want to know how I like Soldiering by this time! Very well, was not the society so awful. Gambling is the common practice of nearly all and swearing is the common dialect of the Soldier.*" He reports that there are "*but few men in our company consisting of Forty Five men who do not habitually swear.*" Squier includes himself and adds the names of three others who do not swear. He even mentions that Sammy Shanower, "*one of my old favorites who for-*

merly used no bad language is now as bad as any of his associates."

December 24, 1862, Near Nashville, Tennessee. This letter reflects the initial feelings of Squier and his comrades about the Emancipation Proclamation. "*There is nothing exciting going on and prospects generally are rather dark. Tomorrow is Christmas. One year ago we were on the border of the slave states in sight of Indiana soil. One year has passed with its variations, one year of hardships, privations and fatigue, and the prospects of peace is not as fair today as then.*"

"*There is now no room to doubt that the President's proclamation of emancipation, though in itself right and intende for good, has come fer short of his and many others' wishes and expectations. That proclamation will without the shadow of a doubt add one hundred thousand men to the rebbels' army and take nearly as many from our army.*" He estimates that, of the current number of 40,000 soldiers from Kentucky in the field, opposition to emancipation will reduce that number to 10,000 because most will not be willing "*to peril their lives*" in order to free the slaves. Squier also predicts that soldiers "*from the free states are very little better. Many in our regt. And in Company D say that if the Proclamation be put in force they will no longer carry a musket. And I know that there is a strong opposing party north. The facts together with our late reverses Virginia cast a gloom over our whole army.*"

(Editor's note: Additional reports of the letters of George Squier will be carried in future issues of Lincoln Lore. George Squier's letters were published under the title *This Wilderness of War* by The University of Tennessee Press.)

Lincolniana in 2005

By Frank J. Williams

Introduction

USA Today recently commented that 140 years after his death, Abraham Lincoln is "hot." The public, at least those who think about it, is fascinated by Lincoln's contradictions — wise but self-deprecating; humble but also ambitious.

Here are some recent events proving *USA Today* is right.

Lincoln appeared on the cover of *US News & World Report* in February and on the cover of *Time* in July for Independence Day.

Actor Liam Neeson signed to play Abraham Lincoln in a Steven Spielberg movie to be adapted from historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's new biography, *Team of Rivals*.

And, as with many celebrities, Lincoln continues to be subjected to rumors that he was gay with one newly published book saying he was.

A \$56 million state-of-the-art Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opened in April with President George W. Bush dedicating the high-technology tourist attraction.

The Lincoln frenzy will become even more intense as the Lincoln Bicentennial approaches in 2009. Recommendations of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission are now being implemented, including the formation of a Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in each of our states.

One Lincoln impersonator believes the reason for all of this interest is that "People are infatuated with the Civil War era in difficult times and they relate that to what is happening today."

This Lincoln year started with a presidential election. The importance of the 2004 election reminded us of the 1864 canvas between Abraham Lincoln and General George B. McClellan. It was noted in many op-ed pieces that if General McClellan had been victorious, he would have settled for a North American continent divided with slavery intact. Many used the 2004

election to point out that our country was at a similar crossroads in 1864. Now as then, we were presented with two radically different candidates with profound disagreements about how to conduct a new kind of war.

With another presidential inauguration, comparisons to past inauguration speeches were bound to be made, especially second inaugurals. The one to beat is still Abraham Lincoln's profound, "With Malice Toward None" sermon. It remains incomparable.

The year saw the authors of a definitive book on the Emancipation Proclamation and Abraham Lincoln's Cooper Union speech share The Lincoln Prize from the Lincoln and Soldiers Institute at Gettysburg College. A conference on the effect of the presidency on presidential children was held at Robert Todd Lincoln's "Hildene" in Manchester, Vermont, and the 140th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination was duly observed by conferences at Ford's Theatre, The Surratt Society, and The Lincoln Forum.

Collectors were excited when a newly discovered portrait and letter gave valuable evidence about how Lincoln looked and thought.

A poll commissioned by Washington College for President's Day rated Abraham Lincoln as the greatest president, in contrast to a hype-driven call-in survey conducted by the Discovery Channel for "the greatest American" in which Lincoln came in second to Ronald Reagan.

There were new studies on Lincoln and religion, with some arguing that the man who belonged to no church was, in fact, the nation's greatest theologian. His reputation as a theological thinker rests, in part, on his Second Inaugural Address. In Lincoln's view, neither North nor South owned the moral high ground.

Even the U.S. Supreme Court cited a case involving President Abraham Lincoln

when it denied relief to one of America's spies. The Supreme Court relied on a post-Civil War spy case, *Totten v. United States*, decided in 1876, denying damages to a spy who had entered into a contract with President Abraham Lincoln to infiltrate the Confederate lines for \$200 a month. The Supreme Court at that time ordered the suit dismissed. In denying relief to today's espionage agent, Chief Justice Rehnquist said that the Civil War precedent should apply today.

Such developments reinforce our understanding that Abraham Lincoln believed in the classic virtue of prudence which aims at incremental progress and making sure that politics does not degenerate, in Lincoln's words "into a violent and remorseless revolutionary struggle."

Lincoln's International Legacy

Richard A. Katula delivered the keynote speech, "Was Abraham Lincoln Really Greek: America's Embrace of Greece in the 19th Century" at the **Society for Greek Alumni of American Universities** in May 2004. His remarks were published in the *International Tribune*.

The International Lincoln Association published the 13th volume of its newsletter (2004), *Abraham Lincoln Abroad*, featuring an article on "Abraham Lincoln and the Third World in the 21st Century" by **A.B. Assensoh** and **Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh**.

Sanford J. Mock's "Abraham Lincoln and the Second Portuguese Church" appeared in the Summer 2004 *Manuscripts*.

Dr. China Pradhan at **Sri Jaqannath College** in Naugan Hat, Jaqatsinghpur, India, wrote "The Brave Lincoln," which appeared in the *Praqatibadi* on September 8, 2004.

Frederick F. Chien's "Abraham Lincoln and Sun Yat-sen" appeared in the Autumn-Winter 2004 *Sino-America's Relations*.

William D. Pederson of the **International Lincoln Center at LSU in Shreveport** presented a paper, "Abraham Lincoln's Influence on Nelson Mandela," at the annual meeting of the **Association of Third World States (ATWS)** held in Macon, GA, October 7-9, 2004. **Philip Aka (Chicago State University)** delivered a paper on "Lincoln and the Pan-Africa Movement," and **A.B. Assensoh (Indiana University)** presented a paper on "Abraham Lincoln and the Third World in the 21st Century."

In addition to a street in Paris, France named for America's 16th president, the city has opened the new **Musee des Lettres (Museum of Letters and Manuscripts)** at 8, Rue de Nesle in the 6th arrondissement near the St. Michel and Odeon metro. Among the many items on display is a short note Lincoln sent to a friend in June 1860, as reported by **Seth Sherwood**, "In Paris, the Scrawl of Fame," in the November 14, 2004, *Washington Post*.

India Abroad on December 21, 2004, contained an article, "It is Beard Versus Bedfellow," which retold the story behind Lincoln's beard within the context of a report that author **Salman Rushdie** recently shaved his 16-year-old beard at the request of his wife.

"Lincoln In Indonesia" was the title of an editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* on January 4. It dealt with the mission of mercy for the victims of the Tsunami by the **USS Abraham Lincoln**, noting that it "is part of one of the largest military operations in history."

The April 23 London *Economist* ran "Rebuilding the Party of Lincoln," featuring an illustration of Abraham Lincoln.

David Driver's, "Lincoln Warriors Have Roots in Hungary" ran in the April 30 *Washington Times*. It mentions that, proportionately, Hungarians provided the most top Union military officers among immigrant groups.

William D. Pederson, presenter of the 2005 R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture at The Lincoln Museum, was the author of "Abraham Lincoln's Identity as a Model for Modernity," published in Santos Gupta, ed.,



Ben Sargent, 2/2005 *The Austin American Statesman*, Universal Press Syndicate. Reprinted by permission.

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Rethinking Modernity (Delhi: Pencroft International).

Arts

In 2003, the **Lincoln Pilgrimage Patch** presented to **Boy Scouts** who participated in Lincoln Day celebrations in the **Anthony Wayne (Detroit) Area Council, B.S.A.**, featured the Victor Brenner-engraved - Lincoln profile found on the penny. In 2004, the design of the patch was the reverse of the Lincoln penny featuring **The Lincoln Memorial**.

Willabee & Ward, 677 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06860-0217, is offering U.S. presidential patches mounted on collected panels at \$4.95 each.

Artist **Wendy Allen** has produced a 15-minute DVD, *Lincoln Into Art*, which premiered at **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, on August 8, 2004. A sampling of her work was featured in the Spring 2005 *Lincoln Lore*.

Sculptor **John McClarey's** *The Creation* was unveiled and dedicated in Decatur, IL on September 4, 2004. The statue, "Vision For A

Greater Illinois," honors Lincoln the dreamer and doer for the years 1838-39, when he practiced law in Decatur and was a member of the Illinois General Assembly. The sculpture symbolizes an emerging dream of Lincoln and others for Decatur's emergence as a transportation hub that would make the city the granary for the world.

Linda Hales, in "Lincoln Bedroom's Sleepy Look to Get a Wake-Up Call," appearing in the September 25, 2004 *Washington Post*, reported that First Lady **Laura Bush**, has transformed the **Lincoln Bedroom** in the White House by changing the lemon-colored walls to light Victorian colors. The room retains the celebrated rosewood bed purchased by Mary Lincoln in 1861, a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation that was signed in the room in 1863, and the White House's copy of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's own hand.

Lincoln and the Black Hawk War is a new documentary using Lincoln's participation in the Black Hawk War as a way to discuss Native American and settler conflicts in 19th-Century Illinois. It was shown on December 13, 2004 at the **Film and History League Conference** in Dallas,

TX, and on November 2, 2004, at the **25th Annual Illinois History Symposium** in Springfield, IL. The film was shown at The Lincoln Museum November 19, 2005.

C-SPAN 2/Book TV aired, on December 25, 2004, "What's New In Lincoln Books – the historians' panel that appeared at the **2004 Lincoln Forum Symposium.**" "In Depth" with **Harold Holzer** was aired on the same day. Presentations from the **9th Lincoln Forum** held in Gettysburg November 16-18, 2004, appeared on **C-SPAN** on December 27. **Harold Holzer** delivered "Lincoln at Cooper Union", and **David Long** presented "The Election of 1860;" on Tuesday, December 28, **FJW** presented "Lincoln and the Soldiers' Vote in 1864", and **Joseph Glatthaar** presented "Civil War Commanders and the Election of 1864;" and on December 29, **Richard Norton Smith** delivered "A Personal Look at Lincoln: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum," **Daniel Mark Epstein** delivered "Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman," and **John Y. Simon** presented "The Unpopular Mrs. Lincoln."

Helena Eilenberg presented her one-woman show, *Interview with Mary Todd Lincoln*, at a meeting of the **Senior Adult Mitzvah Society** in Massapequa, NY, *Newsday* reported on January 5.

Lincoln sculptor **John McClarey** and his work *The Last Stop*, depicting Lincoln and a pig, was described by **Karen Brandon** in "Lincoln v. Courthouse Pigs: A Town's Proud Moment" for the January 16 *Chicago Tribune Magazine*. **Monte Siegrist**, a 71-year old businessman, decided to commemorate an incident in Taylorville at which Lincoln struggled to be heard in the Christian County Courthouse above the racket of squealing pigs. The entrepreneurs spent \$250,000 for a statue featuring Lincoln with a pig.

The History Channel presented an eight-part presentation of *The Presidents* January 18-21. Based on the book *To the Best of My Ability* edited by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **James M. McPherson**, each episode covered a distinct era of the presidency. In addition to McPherson, other authors, journalists, and historians featured included: **Hugh Sidey, Walter Isaacson, Walter**

Cronkite, Robert Dallek, Eric Foner, and Harold Holzer. *Taylor to Lincoln: 1849-1865* covered the near-treacherous James Buchanan administration and the beleaguered term of Abraham Lincoln.

Mark W. Sorensen describes the statues of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois in the January-February *Illinois Heritage: A Publication of The Illinois State Historical Society.*

Bill Rodriguez reviewed the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Top Dog/Under Dog for The (Westerly) Sun* on January 21. The production was staged at **Providence's Trinity Repertory Company** and starred **Kes Khemnu** and **Joe Wilson, Jr.** alternating in the roles of "Abraham Lincoln" and "John Wilkes Booth." African-American brothers, the characters were named by a runaway father with a bitter sense of humor. The two-person play takes place in a run-down room in New York City, where their hand-to-mouth existence is only tolerable because one of them has a job – dressing up to play his presidential namesake in an arcade where people pay to shoot at him.

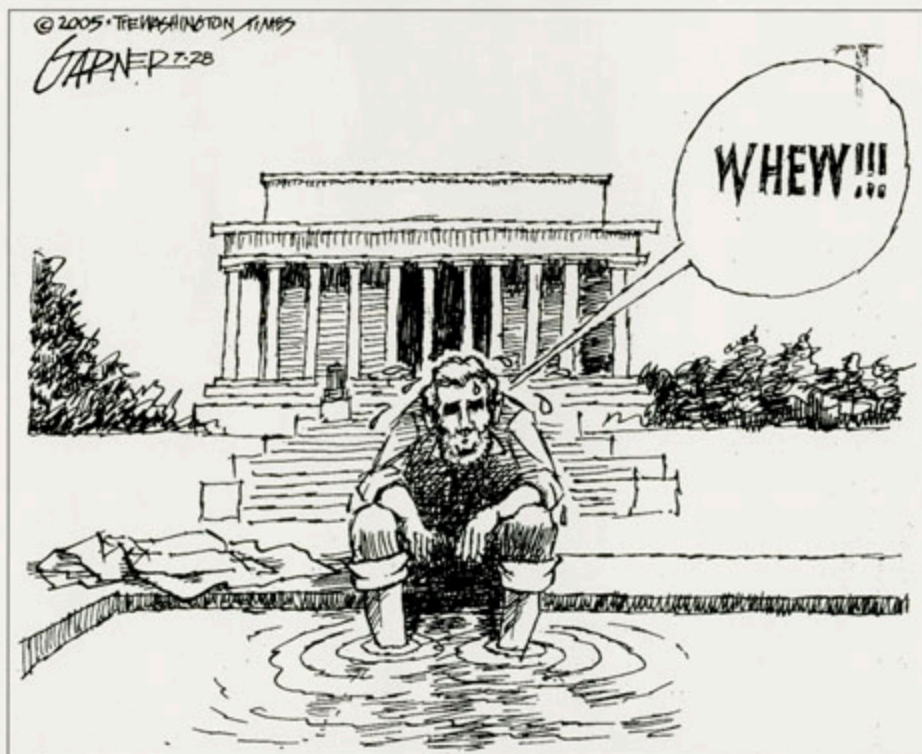
The Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield has produced a new film about Lincoln's national legacy. The 10-minute movie will be shown in con-

junction with the visitors center's older main movie.

Mark Brown wrote "Replacing General's Statue With Reagan Riles Irish" for the February 10 *Chicago Sun-Times*. Illinois State Representative Robert Pritchard introduced a resolution to replace the statue of **General James Shields**, who was often at odds with Abraham Lincoln (and is one of the two allotted statues for Illinois in the **U.S. Capitol**) with a new one honoring former **President Ronald Reagan**. Shields challenged Lincoln to a duel in 1842, which fortunately never took place. While Lincoln blocked Shield's re-election to the Senate in 1855, Lincoln was quick to appoint the Mexican War hero to a generalship during the Civil War notwithstanding past differences. Brown indicates that many Irish Americans were upset to learn of Pritchard's proposal.

The February 11 *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine* reprinted **Brother Leo V. Ryan's** "Abraham Lincoln, Postmaster."

Gene Griessman performed *Lincoln Live* four times at the **Jimmy Carter Library and Museum** in Atlanta, GA. Griessman's training film, *Lincoln on Communication*, is now available on DVD at www.presidentlincoln.com as well as www.amazon.com.



Garner 7-28-2005 *The Washington Times*. Reprinted by permission.

Picture of the Week in the February 18 *Life* featured a photograph of the mannequins of Abraham and Mary Lincoln being groomed for the opening of **The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** on April 19 in Springfield. "The President" was undergoing a haircut.

The bust **Lincoln in Meditation 1809-1865**, originally located in front of the **Burbank, CA, Public Library**, was moved to a newly created **Abraham Lincoln Park** in that city.

The Teaching Company has produced *Mr. Lincoln: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* with **Professor Allen C. Guelzo**. It is available in DVD, videotape, audio CD and audiotape (Course No. 8561).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has acquired **The Gilman Paper Company Collection of Photographs**, which includes some of the earliest experimental photographic works by **William Fox Talbot**. Among the works from the Civil War era is a portrait of 51-year-old Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, IL, soon after he received his nomination for the presidency.

Artist Ron Sanders has reproduced his oil painting, *To Preserve the Union*, as a note card. (www.sanders-studies.com). In this portrait, Lincoln clutches the Emancipation Proclamation in his right hand while bathed in sunlight from the doors behind him. Sanders drapes Lincoln in the American flag, placing the stars representing the states firmly in his grasp.

The House of Representatives has approved a plan for the **United States Mint** to begin sales in 2006 of a 24-karat \$1 coin bearing the faces of American presidents and first ladies. The **U.S. House of Representatives** also approved legislation creating four commemorative Lincoln pennies to mark the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009 (H.R. 902).

Brown University Professor **Augusta Rohrbach** and her class used the **McLellan Lincoln Collection** at the university's **John Hay Library** to study the legacy of Civil War images and legends that shape our understanding of the past. A colloquium was held on May

10, *Imagining the Civil War*, to discuss the research.

Sculptor Richard Masloski has been commissioned to make a life-sized sculpture depicting President-elect Lincoln when he made a brief stop at Peekskill, NY, en route to Washington for his first inauguration.

Exhibits

Jayette Bolinski reported in "Time To Start Looking For Lincoln," in the September 29, 2004 *State Journal Register*, Springfield, IL, that the first two of 23 interpretive exhibits that will dot downtown Springfield were unveiled on September 28, 2004, as part of the "Here I Have Lived" program. The exhibits feature text, photos, and illustrations about places and events from the 24 years Lincoln resided in Springfield.

From October 1-23, 2004, the **Indiana Historical Society** rode the rails through Central and Southern Indiana and Louisville, KY, with the inaugural run of the **Indiana History Train**. The train, consisting of three 65-foot renovated Amtrak freight cars, featured the traveling exhibition, *The Faces of Lincoln*, a new documentary video about Lincoln's life in Indiana, information from The Lincoln Museum, and other related activities. At temporary "depots" set up at each venue, visitors were able to browse sponsor booths, purchase Lincoln-related items, and enjoy hands-on activities. *The Faces of Lincoln* was a preview of the materials acquired by the **Indiana Historical Society** in January 2003. **Darryl E. Bigham** wrote about "The New Lincoln Collections of the Indiana Historical Society" in the March *Indiana Magazine of History*, and a book-length catalogue is in production.

Gettysburg College hosted *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation* from January 3 to February 18, 2005, at the **Musselman Library**. In addition to the exhibit, events included films and discussion of *Young Mr. Lincoln* and *Glory*. Conductor **Lewes Peddell** and Lincoln interpreter **James Getty** presented "A Musical Reflection of Lincoln's Era," **Allen C. Guelzo** discussed "Lincoln's

Emancipation Proclamation," and **James Delle** talked about the "Secrets of the Underground Railroad."

The official copy of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was on public view at the **National Archives** in Washington on February 18 as part of **Black History Month**. The so-called engrossed copy, already badly faded, is rarely displayed. It was last seen January 19, 2004, to mark Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Abraham Lincoln's signature at the end of his Second Annual Message to Congress on December 1, 1862, was on view at the **National Archives** in Washington on February 2 along with pages of original State of the Union addresses from Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, IN, re-created and exhibited *Abraham Lincoln: The Image* from February to August 2005. Former museum director **Mark E. Neely, Jr.** developed the original display in 1981 in Washington, DC. **Harold Holzer** updated the show and served as guest curator for 2005. He spoke at the opening of the temporary exhibit. **Carolyn Texley, Director of Collections at The Lincoln Museum**, served as co-curator.

Edward Rothstein's review of the new military history exhibition at the **Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History**, *The Price of Freedom*, states that, "By the end [of the exhibit] it is unclear just what price is being paid and what is being fought for until one hears, in a closing video, the final words of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Then, one almost wants to start again, from the beginning."

In the Shadow of the Pinnacle: Actions at the Cumberland Gap is a traveling exhibit presented by the **Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum of Lincoln Memorial University**, Harrogate, TN, and sponsored by the **National Park Service** and the **Tennessee National Civil War Heritage** area. Lincoln's interest in the strategic importance of the historic pathway through the Cumberland Gap is illustrated in the exhibit.

The Merchant's House Museum in New York City featured a special exhibit,

through April 18, commemorating the 140th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, "*We Bear Thee to an Honored Grave: New York City Grieves for President Lincoln.*" The display highlights the outpouring of grief that the city demonstrated as the funeral cortege passed through in 1865.

Lincoln: The Constitution and The Civil War, a traveling exhibition created by the **National Constitution Center**, Philadelphia, PA, with major support from **The Lincoln Financial Group** opened at the Center on June 10. The exhibit takes visitors along an exciting reconstruction of how Lincoln confronted constitutional crises during the Civil War – including the rebellion itself. The exhibition will travel to The Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, IN, for display beginning February 12, 2006.

The Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, IL, unveiled plans for Lincoln's 196th birthday with several new exhibits. **Susan Haake**, Curator at the home, indicated that the exhibits will be installed during the Summer of 2005 and will focus on everyday life in Springfield.

Collections

Chancellor Vincent J. Marsala's 2004 Chancellor's Report for **Louisiana State University in Shreveport** included a section on the newly opened **International Lincoln Center**, directed by **Professor William D. Pederson**.

Ron Keller reported about the 1969 fire that almost destroyed the **Lincoln Collection** at **Lincoln College** in the Fall 2004 *Lincoln Newsletter*.

Opening ceremonies for the library wing of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** were held on October 14, 2004, with remarks by **Director Richard Norton Smith**, **Senator Richard Durbin**, **Representative Ray LaHood**, board member **Julie Cellini**, former **Governor Jim Edgar**, and **Governor Rod Blagojevich**. **Pete Sherman** reported the opening in the October 15, 2004 *State Journal-Register* (Springfield, IL).

As the new **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** neared its public opening on April 19, local interests in Springfield, IL, again made public statements criticizing the project and its widely recognized and respected Executive Director, historian **Richard Norton Smith**. Appearing at **Lincoln Forum IX** on November 18, a few days after a November 15 *New York Times* article, but before hometown (Springfield) *State Journal Register's* issue of November 26, 2004, Smith insisted the ambitious project would successfully engage students, scholars, families, and tourists. Smith, criticized by one Springfield contrarian as "imperious," issued a warm open invitation to Lincoln aficionados to visit the site soon and experience its offerings. He specifically defended his decision to name the Library's main reading room for the late Chicago journalist, **Steve Neal**. Neal, while a vociferous critic of former Illinois **Governor George Ryan's** early plans to staff the complex, was a great supporter of the library.

Stephen Kinzer wrote about the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** in "Fitting or Not, a Lincoln Tribute Moves Forward – Critics Say Museum Is Too Commercial" in the November 15, 2004, *New York Times*. The museum features "Lincoln wax" figures at each stop amidst much technology. **The History Channel** is planning an hour-long documentary on the Museum. The museum's cutting-edge technology is the focus of the film, which is titled *High Tech Lincoln*. **Scott Richardson** is co-producer working with **Bill Kurtis Productions** for the History Channel.

Pete Sherman described the exhibit of Abraham Lincoln's actual deathbed highlighting the first temporary exhibit at **The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**, in the March 2 *State Journal-Register*. Four other collections including the unrivaled Louise Taper assassination collection lent items to be shown in the Museum's 3,000-square-foot gallery space. The bed was sent by the **Chicago Historical Society**.

Pete Sherman wrote "Scholars of Lincoln Once a House Divided" for the April 17 *Illinois State Journal-Register*. Sherman discussed the conference, *Lincoln in the 21st Century*, that was held in conjunction with the dedication of the **Presidential**

Library & Museum. Sherman recalled the rift within the Springfield-based **Abraham Lincoln Association** in 1995, when many "acclaimed historians abandoned the . . . Association" to form **The Lincoln Forum**. The author inquires whether this conference bringing the return of many of these scholars to Springfield may act as a rapprochement of a "House Divided."

David E. Sanger wrote about **President Bush's** dedication speech at the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**, recounting the President's admiration for his predecessor. Bush has placed busts and portraits of Lincoln throughout the White House and has often described Lincoln as the President he most admires. In the dedication speech, Bush also suggested an ideological link. "His very election as president was regarded as a cause of war," said Bush, recalling the threats against Lincoln as he left the Springfield train station. "And as he sent legions of men to death and sacrifice, Lincoln's own burden began to show in a lined and tired face." **Andrew Ferguson** profiled the Museum in "Dedicated to the Proposition . . . That Not All Museums Are Created Equal" for the *May 2 Weekly Standard*.

Pete Sherman profiled **Patrick Russell** in the May 16 *State Journal-Register*. Russell performs in "Ghosts of the Library" at the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**. On May 18 the *State Journal-Register* reported that the 50,000th visitor to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum would appear that day. **Richard Norton Smith**, Executive Director of the Museum, predicted that 400,000 people will visit the Museum during 2005. The museum was also one of "6 new museums you must see" described by **Kimberly Lisagor** in the May 27-29 *USA Weekend*.

A Carbondale, IL-based architectural firm has been selected to redesign **Union Square Park** across from **The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**. **Borgogononi Architects** is completing a plan that includes a lawn, outdoor amphitheater, a "Mary Todd Lincoln Memorial Garden," and a place for a bronze Abraham Lincoln statue that **Illinois Historic Preservation Agency** officials say will be created by sculptor **John McClarey**.

Deborah Fitts reported on a recent celebration at **The Lincoln Cottage**, President Lincoln's summer retreat in Washington, in the July *Civil War News*. The event, commemorating the \$2 million dollar restoration of the cottage's exterior on April 28, brought 400 guests to the site. **National Trust for Historic Preservation President Richard Moe** announced that the Trust had raised more than \$6 million dollars toward the \$12 million project. The Trust hopes to open the site to the public in 2007 or 2008. The staff of **The Lincoln Cottage**, at the **President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument** in Washington, appeared on the cover of the May 8 *Parade*. **Gerri Hirshey** wrote about this and other cultural landmarks being preserved by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** in "History Happened Here."

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln is now offering three booklets for donors who make a minimum contribution of \$100 to the project. Previously published booklets are *From Log Cabins to Temples of Justice: Courthouses in Lincoln's Illinois*; *Judging Lincoln: The Bench and Lincoln's Illinois* and *Stovepipe Hat and Quill Pen: The Artifacts of Abraham Lincoln's Law Practice*. Those who contribute \$200 or more, will receive a gift of *Now They Belong to the Ages: Abraham Lincoln and His Contemporaries in Oak Ridge Cemetery*, written by **Susan Kruse, Kelley Boston, and Daniel W. Stowell**. The new 200-page booklet contains biographies and photographs of Lincoln contemporaries who are buried at the Springfield cemetery.

Dr. Earl J. Hunt has donated his extensive Lincoln Collection to the **Stapleton Library** at the **Indiana University of Pennsylvania**. **Lincoln Group of New York** co-founder **Hal Gross** is donating his Lincoln library to **Queens College** for his 87th birthday.

There is a new museum in Shreveport, LA, **The Karpeles Manuscript Library**. Original documents include Abraham Lincoln's death certificate.

Betsa Marsh discussed **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, IN, in the *Miami Herald* on January 30. **Patrick T. Reardon** wrote "Museum Lands

Lincoln's Pride, Joy" for the March 19 *Chicago Tribune*, reporting that **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, IN, acquired one of the 13 surviving copies of the Congressional Resolution seeking the abolishment of slavery, signed by Abraham Lincoln. He affixed his signature to what would become the 13th Amendment even though not required to do so. While not disclosing the price, the dealer who brokered the sale said the previous record for a Lincoln-signed document was just under \$1 million for a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. The record for a signed copy of the 13th Amendment was \$720,000 at an auction in March 2002. **The Lincoln Museum** is displaying the document until May, when it will become part of the traveling exhibit, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, organized in conjunction with the **National Constitution Center**, Philadelphia.

Patrick T. Reardon discussed the Lincoln collections in the **Chicago Historical Society** and **The Lincoln Museum** in Fort Wayne, IN, in "Keepsakes of Lincoln" for the February 10 *Chicago Tribune*.

The *Petersburg (IL) Observer* reported on March 10 on the re-dedication of the **Long Nine Museum** marker in Athens, IL. **Former Congressman Paul Findley** and **John Eden**, owner and curator of the **Long Nine Museum**, unveiled the site marker during the **Dedication Ceremony** on March 2. **Wayne Temple** gave short summaries of each of the nine men who were instrumental in moving the State Capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

On April 15, U.S. **Senator Dick Durbin** (D-IL) introduced legislation to create a commemorative \$1 coin featuring President Abraham Lincoln. His bill authorizes the **U.S. Treasury** to mint 500,000 one-dollar coins, which will be 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper. The design for the coins will represent the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln and will be selected by the **Secretary of Treasury** after consultation with the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission** and **Commission of Fine Arts**, with the expected price to be around \$37. Senator Durbin serves as co-chair of the Bicentennial Commission.

The groundbreaking for the **American Civil War Center** at historic **Tredegar Gun Foundry** in Richmond, VA, was held on April 22, preceded by a breakfast seminar on emancipation with historians **David Blight, Gabor Boritt, William Cooper, Gary Gallagher, Allen Guelzo, Harold Holzer, Edna Greene Medford** and **Emory Thomas**.

The May 8 *New York Times* ran an **Associated Press** story, "Gettysburg Casino Foes Say Plan Will Sully Historic Site," indicating that a group of 10 investors had made public plans to seek a casino license from the State of Pennsylvania as part of a proposed **Gettysburg Gaming Resort and Spa** about a mile and a half from **Gettysburg National Military Park**. At least one of the investors, **David LeVan**, is known for his support of preservation efforts, but a conflict exists between investors and preservation groups. "If anything, we at this hour of the country's history need to make sure that these places are maintained as hallowed grounds," said **Kent Masterson Brown**, who headed the park's **Advisory Commission**.

Awards and Prizes

United States Senator James Jeffords of Vermont was honored with the first **Hildene Award** at **Robert Todd Lincoln's home** in Manchester, VT, on August 1, 2004. The award is given to a Vermonter who is instrumental in the area of conservation, restoration, or preservation. Jeffords was selected for his efforts to preserve Civil War battlefields.

The Lincoln Group of New York awarded a Special Citation of Achievement to the **Lincoln College Museum** in the Fall of 2004 for its writing, consulting, and producing the video documentary *From Surveyor to President: A Lincoln in Logan County*.

David Hullinger received the **2004 Abraham Lincoln Association Student Award** for his essay that appeared in the September-October *Illinois Heritage*, "The Lincoln-Douglas Debates and Their Effect on the 1860 Presidential Election."

John Y. Simon, Executive Director of **The Ulysses S. Grant Association**

and Dean of Documentary Historians with his 26 volumes of the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, is the recipient of the **2004 Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement of The Lincoln Forum**.

William D. Pederson was named the recipient of the **2004 Association of Third World Studies Presidential Award**.

Professor James Tackach, who organized the symposium commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Kansas-Nebraska Act at **Roger Williams University**, received the 2004 Carter G. Woodson Book Award from the **National Council for the Social Sciences** for his *Early Black Reformers*.

On October 31, 2004, the *Washington Times* published **Rachael Shafer's** essay, winner of the \$5,000 Grand Prize of the **2004 Idea of American Essay Contest** sponsored by the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. Ms. Shafer, age 16, discussed how the Gettysburg Address was considered a failure at the time it was delivered on November 19, 1863; the lasting effects of Abraham Lincoln's speech, and the succession of ideas portrayed by the President.

Harold Holzer received the **2004 Lincoln Group of New York Award of Achievement** for his *Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President*. The award was presented on November 4, 2004, when a special citation was conferred upon actor **Sam Waterston** for re-creating the Cooper Union speech at the **Cooper Union** on May 5, the book's official publication date. Waterston addressed the 100 guests by phone hook-up from the set of his NBC series, "Law and Order."

Harold Holzer and **Allen Guelzo** shared the \$50,000 **Lincoln Prize of The Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College** – Holzer for his *Lincoln at Cooper Union . . .* and Guelzo for *The Emancipation Proclamation . . .*. Holzer's book was also honored February 9 with the **Annual Baroness/Lincoln Award of The Civil War Round Table of New York**. **Mario M. Cuomo** – former New York governor and Harold's former boss – was the surprise award presenter, offering a 15-minute impromptu tribute.

Harold Holzer also was the recipient of **The Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia Annual Lincoln Award** for 2005.

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the **Papers of Abraham Lincoln** a three-year grant for \$170,000 in the Fall of 2004.

Patrick Dahlen, a senior at Carbondale Community High School in Illinois, was the 2004 winner of the annual **Verna Ross Orndorff Scholarship** with his essay, "Lincoln the Lawyer: Skilled Intellect, Great Orator, or Both?" His essay was published in the January-February *Illinois Heritage: A Publication of The Illinois State Historical Society*.

Historian **Edwin C. Bearss** received an **Honorary Degree** from **Lincoln College** on its **Charter Day**, February 13. **The Civil War Round Table of Chicago** also honored **Edwin C. Bearss** with its **Fourth Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award**.

Historian **David Herbert Donald** was the first recipient of the award named for him by the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation**. The **Lifetime Achievement Award** in the field of Lincoln scholarship was presented to Professor Donald on April 18 in Springfield, IL – one day before the official opening of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**.

C-SPAN, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, and the **Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition**, collaborated to sponsor an essay contest for middle and high school students on Lincoln and The Gettysburg Address to commemorate the opening of the **Lincoln Museum** in Springfield, IL on April 19. Students were invited to write and submit an essay not to exceed 272 words – the same number of words in the Gettysburg Address – with their own thoughts about *A New Birth of Freedom* in the 21st Century. A Potomac, MD, 11th grader, **Mihan Lee**, was the grand prize winner with her 269-word entry based on her Korean-American heritage. Her essay was broadcast to a national audience on April 19 at the dedication of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and**

Museum in Springfield, IL. As author of "A New Country, A New Century, A New Freedom," Lee received \$1,500 and an all-expense paid trip to Springfield for the museum opening. **Sara Antonacci** reported this in the March 12 *State Journal-Register* (Springfield, IL).

Lincoln Lore, official publication of **The Lincoln Museum** in Fort Wayne, IN, was named by the *Chicago Tribune* on June 23 as one of the nation's top 50 magazines.

Richard McMurry received the **Nevins-Freeman Award** from the **Civil War Round Table of Chicago** on September 9.

George Gilbert, a student at Duke University, wrote the 2004 winning essay, "War Presidents: Examining the Challenges of the 1864, 1944 and 1968 Elections" of the **Lincoln Forum Platt Family Scholarship Essay Contest**. Copies of the essay were mailed with the Lincoln Forum *May Bulletin*.

Books and Pamphlets

Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* was published by Simon and Schuster October 25, 2005.

H. Donald Winkler's *Lincoln's Ladies: The Women in the Life of the Sixteenth President* which revises and expands *The Women in Lincoln's Life* has been published by **Cumberland House**. **Frank J. Williams** wrote the Introduction.

America's Lawyer-Presidents: From Law Office to Oval Office edited by **Norman Gross** (**Northwestern University Press** and the **American Bar Association Museum of Law**) is a collection of essays about twenty five of America's forty-three presidents who were lawyers.

James Stevenson, Publisher, has republished *A. Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress* by former Congressman **Paul Findley**. Mr. Findley served in Congress for twenty-two years, representing Mr. Lincoln's district in Illinois.

C. A. Tripp is the author of *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* (Free Press).

John Marszalek's biography of Henry Halleck, *Commander of All Lincoln's Armies: A Life of General Henry W. Halleck* was published by **Harvard University Press**.

Lincoln on Democracy: His Own Words, With Essays by America's Foremost Civil War Historians, edited, introduced, and with a new Preface by **Mario M. Cuomo** and **Harold Holzer**, is now available in a recent edition from **Fordham University Press**.

Geoffrey R. Stone in *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism* (**W.W. Norton**), includes a discussion on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War including an examination of President Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus and his declaring martial law. Even though Lincoln was a staunch defender of free speech, his commitment to civil liberties was tested by war and inspired the most vituperative attacks ever made against a President of the United States.

Michael W. Kauffman's *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies* was the editor's January choice for the **History Book Club**. **William C. Davis**, **Richard Norton Smith**, and **Gerald C. Posner** commented in the **History Book Club** bulletin.

The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words by **Ronald C. White, Jr.** has been published by **Random House** and is the **History Book Club** selection for March as well as an alternate for **The Book of the Month Club**.

Kenneth Deutsch and **Joseph R. Fornieri** are the editors of *Lincoln's American Dream: Clashing Political Perspectives*, which was published by **Potomac Books** (formerly Brassey's).

The Military Trial of the Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: A Possible Lesson For the Bush Administration that was delivered as the Seventy-second Annual Lincoln Day address in Redlands, CA, by **Thomas R. Turner**, has been published by **The Lincoln Memorial Shrine**, Redlands.

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has published the **43rd Annual**

Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture delivered by **Harold Holzer** on November 19, 2004, *Standing Tall: The Heroic Image of Abraham Lincoln*.

Larry Mansch has written *Abraham Lincoln, President-Elect* (**McFarland**). It is an account of the turbulent months between Lincoln's first election in November 1860 and his Inauguration in March 1861.

The American Political Biography Press has published an edition of **Stephen B. Oates's** *With Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* (39 Boggs Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470).

James M. McPherson wrote the section on Abraham Lincoln for *To the Best of My Ability: The American Presidents*, which he also edited (**DK Publishing**).

Sean Wilentz wrote *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln* published by **W. W. Norton & Co., Inc.**

The University of Nebraska Press has published *The Trials of Mrs. Lincoln* by **Samuel A. Schreiner, Jr.**

Hans Trefousse is the author of *First Among Equals: Abraham Lincoln's Reputation During His Administration* (**Fordham University Press**).

Michael Lind has authored *What Lincoln Believed: The Values and Convictions of America's Greatest President* (**Doubleday**).

John Briggs has authored *Lincoln's Speeches Reconsidered* (**Johns Hopkins University Press**).

Mark E. Neely, Jr. is the author of *The Boundaries of American Political Culture in the Civil War Era* (**The University of North Carolina**).

Harold Holzer's award-winning *Lincoln and Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President* has been published in paperback, with a new introduction by the author, by **Simon & Schuster**.

Sentinel has published *A Patriot's History of The United States* by **Larry Schweikart** and **Michael Allen**, which gives a por-

trait of Abraham Lincoln to demonstrate how the American character itself seems to produce principled leaders when the nation most needs them.

St. Martin's has published **Jerrold Packard's** *The Lincolns in the White House*.

Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene (PO Box 377, Manchester, VT 05254) has reprinted **John S. Goff's** *Robert Todd Lincoln: A Man in His Own Right* with a new introduction by **Frank J. Williams**.

Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene has also published **C.J. King's** *Four Marys and a Jesse: The Story of the Lincoln Women* with an introduction by **Harold Holzer**.

Joshua Wolf Shenk's *Lincoln's Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness* has been published by **Houghton Mifflin**.

The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print by **Harold Holzer**, **Gabor S. Boritt**, and **Mark E. Neely, Jr.** is now available in paperback from the **University of Illinois Press**.

The University of Illinois Press has also reprinted **William E. Barton's** *The Soul of Abraham Lincoln* with an introduction by **Michael Nelson**.

Joseph R. Fornieri's *Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith* is now available in paperback from **Northern Illinois University Press**.

Hugh McCulloch: Father of Modern Banking by **Susan Lee Guckenberger** was published by **The Allen County - Fort Wayne Historical Society**.

Periodicals

Charles A. Jones wrote "Civility With Pen Survives Even In Battle" for the August 21, 2004 *Washington Times*.

Eric Ormsby discussed **Walt Whitman's** "Memories of President Lincoln" in the September 8, 2004, *New York Sun*.

Stephen Kinzer's report on the new **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

and Museum in Springfield, "A Lincoln Tribute, With a Touch of Disney" appeared in the November 22-28, 2004, *New York Times Large Type Weekly*. The Jacksonville, IL *Journal-Courier* featured an article by **John O. Connor** about the April opening of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** in Springfield on December 28, 2004 ("All about Abe"). Tim O'Neil described the library and museum in "The Abe Experience" that appeared in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on November 28, 2004. The *Illinois State Journal-Register* published inserts about the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum** on April 14. There were sections on the Grand Opening on April 19, "The Process," "The Exhibits," "The Gift Shop," and "The Impact."

David Herbert Donald wrote "1860: The Road Not Taken" for the October 2004 *Smithsonian*. He opines on what would have happened if Lincoln's pro-slavery Democratic opponent had carried the day in 1860.

Doug Ireland wrote, "Was Abe Lincoln Gay?" in the October 29-November 4, 2004 *LA Weekly*.

The November 2004 *Civil War News* discussed **Harold Holzer's** Cooper Union book, "Launching Lincoln with Media & Celebrity Events."

The Wide Awake Bulletin of The Lincoln Group of New York has a new look under editor **Steven R. Koppelman** and graphic designer-photographer **Henry F. Ballone**. Included with the publication of the Fall 2004 issue were articles about **David Herbert Donald**, the recipient of the **2003 Lincoln Award of Achievement** by the Group, briefings about speakers **Joseph R. Fornieri** and **Richard Sloan**, a profile of **Harold Holzer** and his Cooper Union book and a memorial to the group's late co-founder **George M. Craig**.

The Fall 2004 *Lincoln Lore* contained "Lincoln's Resonant Eclecticism in His 'My Childhood Home I See Again'" by **Sarah Joan Ankeney**, and "Devout Believer or Skeptic Politician? An Overview of Historians' Analyses of Abraham Lincoln's Religion: 1959-2001" by **Bernard von Bothmer**. **Sara**

Gabbard wrote "His Truth is Marching On: God and the Union" for the Summer 2005 issue. Her first article in the series, "For the Bible Tells Me So: The Use of Scripture to Justify Slavery" appeared in *Lincoln Lore* (Winter 2005).

The Winter 2004 *Lincoln Herald* contained "Historiographical Trends and Interpretations of President Abraham Lincoln's Reputation and the Morality on the Slavery Question - Part 1, No. 1" by **Kevin Fields**; **FJW's** "Lincolniana" and "Publication/Playback Review" by **Edward Steers, Jr.** Part 2 of Kevin Fields's "Historical Trends and Interpretations" was in the Spring Issue, along with the "Dedication Day Address" delivered by **FJW** at the **Gettysburg National Military Cemetery** on November 19, 2004. "Publication/Playback Review" edited by **Edward Steers, Jr.** and "Lincolniana" by **FJW** also appeared in this issue.

Wayne C. Temple wrote "Mariah (Bartlett) Vance" for the Winter issue of *For the People: A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association*. **Roger Waite's** "Civil War Censorship and the Suppression of the *Chicago Times*" was also in this issue. The Spring issue concluded Temple's article on Mariah Vance.

The December 2004 issue of *Civil War History* included "Was the Civil War a Total War?" by **Mark E. Neely, Jr.**, and "'We Should Grow Too Fond of It': Why We Love The Civil War" by **Drew Gilpin Faust**.

An excerpt of **Harold Holzer's** *Heroes of History* lecture, presented at **Ford's Theatre** on October 18, 2004, appeared in the December 4 *Washington Times*.

John Lockwood spoke about Lincoln paying for a "representative recruit" to serve for him in the Civil War in *The Washington Times* on December 18, 2004. John Staples was paid \$800 by Lincoln, not as a "substitute" as Lincoln was not eligible for the draft, but as a "representative recruit," which citizens could provide by paying the recruit money.

John F. Marszalek wrote "Henry W. Halleck: The Early Seeds of Failure" for the January 2005 *North & South*.

Ernest B. Furgurson wrote, "Freedom Rising: Washington in the Civil War" for the January *Maryland Line*.

Kaleel Sakaeeny wrote about Hildene, the summer, then permanent, home of Robert Todd Lincoln in Manchester, VT, for the January 16 *Providence Sunday Journal* ("Blue Staters Can Find some GOP Color in the Green Mountains.")

The Winter *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* included **Barry Schwartz's** "Ann Rutledge in American Memory: Social Change and the Erosion of a Romantic Drama" and **Lewis Gannett's** "'Overwhelming Evidence' of a Lincoln-Ann Rutledge Romance?: Reexamining Rutledge Family Reminiscences."

Robert E. Hartley wrote "Paul Simon, Crusading Editor from Troy, Illinois" for the Spring *Journal of Illinois History*.

John E. Carey wrote about newsman Henry Villard, who covered the Civil War for several papers, including the *New York Herald* and *New York Tribune*, in the April 16 *Washington Times*. Villard, who met Lincoln during the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates, became a friend by volunteering to be one of the first traveling campaign reporters accompanying the future president.

On April 18, **Associated Press** writer **Christopher Wills** wrote "Historians Defend Book on Abraham Lincoln" for the *Sun-Sentinel*. It is another discussion of **C.A. Tripp's** controversial 2004 book, *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*, which argues that Lincoln was gay.

The May **Lincoln Forum Bulletin** included **Michael F. Bishop's** "Was Lincoln Gay?" and **John F. Marszalek's** "Lincoln's Hope for Victory: Henry W. Halleck."

Mark A. Plummer's "A Tomb for all Time: Governor Richard J. Oglesby and the Battle over the Lincoln Gravesite" appeared in the May-June *Illinois Heritage*.

"Lincoln's Illinois Heritage," written by **Harold Holzer**, appeared as a special supplement to *American Heritage* in June 2005.

The July 4 *Time Magazine* featured Abraham Lincoln on the cover and in several features

inside. *Time* says, "He was underestimated as President, then turned into an icon at his death. Only now are historians discovering the personal and political depth of the leader who saved the nation." The Lincoln issue included articles by **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, **Joshua Wolf Shenk** (author of a forthcoming book on Lincoln's melancholia), **Douglas Wilson** (concerning Lincoln's oratory), and **John Stauffer** (on Lincoln's relationship with Frederick Douglass). Senator **Barack Obama** (D-IL) wrote a personal essay on the Great Emancipator.

People

The October 2004 *Washingtonian* contained a profile of *New York Times* Columnist **Maureen Dowd**, who indicated that **The Lincoln Memorial** is the best place for a date. "I once brought Frank Rich there, and he wrote a scene about it in a play." Dowd also wants to meet Abraham Lincoln. "He was a remarkable person. That is one reason why I like to go to the Lincoln Memorial and read his Second Inaugural Address. After listening to so many windy politicians over the years, I love the economy of his words."

Richard Norton Smith, Director of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum**, was profiled by **Pete Sherman** in the October 3, 2004, *Journal-Register* (Springfield, IL). Smith was also profiled by **Patrick Reardon** in the January 16 *Chicago Tribune Magazine* ("The Presidents' Pitchman").

Lawrence P. Taylor has been elected President of the **Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania**.

Because of his beneficence, which includes the largest donation in the history of **Oklahoma State University**, its **College of Business Administration** has been renamed the **William S. Spears School of Business**. **Bill Spears** is a longtime Lincoln and Civil War aficionado and member of the Advisory Board of **The Lincoln Forum**.

Geoffrey Ritter discussed **John Y. Simon** and his acceptance of the **Richard Nelson Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement** in

the December 9, 2004, *Daily Egyptian of Southern Illinois* (Carbondale, IL).

Lincoln student and Special Assistant to President Bush, **Tim Goeglein**, was profiled in the December 24, 2004, *Washington Post*.

Lincoln Forum Vice-Chairman and Co-Chair of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, **Harold Holzer**, has been named **Senior Vice President for External Affairs of The Metropolitan Museum of Art** effective January 18. In his new post, Holzer will be responsible for the management of Communications, Marketing, Advertising, Government Affairs, Visitor Services, Tourism, and the Museum's Multicultural Audience Development Initiative.

Lincoln Group of New York President **Joseph Garrera** rode with actor **Mickey Rooney** in the **Inaugural Parade** on January 20. Mr. Rooney described his thoughts on Abraham Lincoln and freedom for Mr. Garrera.

After 14 years of service to **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln** project, **Dennis E. Suttles** resigned to become **Genealogical Librarian** at the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** in Springfield, IL.

The New York Historical Society has named **James Oliver Horton** as Chief Historian of its forthcoming exhibit, *Slavery and the Making of New York*, that opened in October. Dr. Horton's book, *Slavery and the Making of America*, inspired the PBS documentary of the same title. Horton is also a member of the **U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**.

Kelsea Gurski wrote about **Sunderine "Sandy" Temple**, who has spent 35 years working as an interpreter at Springfield's historic sites, in the *State Journal-Register*, Springfield, IL, February 7. She is married to Lincoln Scholar **Wayne C. Temple**.

James L. Swanson and **The Heritage Foundation** conducted a book event for **Ronald C. White, Jr.** and his latest book, *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words* on February 10 at **The Heritage Foundation's Van Andel Center**.

The Almagest of Louisiana State University in **Shreveport** reported on **LSUS Professor William D. Pederson's** visit to the White House on February 11 for the performance of *Lincoln Seen and Heard* by **Sam Waterston** and **Harold Holzer**.

Pulitzer-Prize winning author **James M. McPherson** was interviewed for the February 15 *USA Today* about his new book, *To the Best of My Ability: The American Presidents*. McPherson's favorite presidential biography is **David McCullough's Truman**, "because of its vivid writing, narrative flow and empathetic portrayal of Truman."

Lincoln interpreter **Jim Getty** was profiled in "Act 2: Lincoln's Image Lives On" for the February 20 *Washington Times* by the **Associated Press**.

Harold Holzer's performance, *Lincoln Seen and Heard*, which he did with actor **Sam Waterston** in the **East Room** of the **White House** on February 11, was discussed in the February 23 *Rye (NY) Sound Shore Review*.

John Hutchinson, who served as President of **Thomas University** in Thomasville, GA, was named the new President of **Lincoln College**, Lincoln, IL. Hutchinson succeeded **Ronald Schilling** who was appointed to succeed the then-ailing **Jack Nutt**, who recently died after 20 years as the head of the school.

John David Smith has been named **Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History** at the **University of North Carolina** in Charlotte.

The Civil War Round Table of Montgomery County, Maryland, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. **Vicki Heilig** is the long-time editor of this group's publication, *The Maryland Line*.

Allen C. Guelzo was profiled in the April 22 *Richmond Times Dispatch* by **Janet Caggiano** on the occasion of his **Lincoln Prize**.

Phillip Stone, **President of Bridgewater College** in Harrisonburg, VA, was profiled in the May 2 *Roanoke Times* by **Calvin R. Trice**. Stone obtained

a charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia for creation of the **Lincoln Society of Virginia**, which has held its first conference. **Joseph E. Garrera** profiled **Phillip Stone** in the Summer 2005 issue of *Lincoln Lore*.

Frank Coburn, who for many years served the **Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum** at **Lincoln Memorial University**, Harrogate, TN, has returned to Lincoln Memorial University on a part-time basis.

Richard Lusardi retired as Superintendent of the **Lincoln National Home Historic Site** in Springfield on June 3, after 37 years with the **National Park Service**. Site historian **Tim Townsend** served as Acting Superintendent until June 20, when **Jim Sanders** from the **Harry S. Truman Home** in Independence, MO became the new Superintendent.

Lincoln in Popular Culture

John McCaslin's "Inside the Beltway" for the August 18, 2004 *Washington Times* indicates his belief that "Incivility of political discourse in American politics has reached unprecedented heights – or depths", according to the *Global Language Monitor's* August political-sensitivity quotient Index. "Not since the Civil War era, when President Lincoln was frequently depicted by advocacies as a gangly, gaping, baboon, has the discourse sunken to such a profane level," says *Monitor* president **Paul J. J. Payack**.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. indicates in his *War and the American Presidency* (**W.W. Norton & Company**) that John Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and other presidents allowed dissent during wartime and that such dissent has a long and honorable history in America.

"The Presidential Debates" was the feature for the September 19, 2004 *Mini Page* that appeared in the *Washington Post*. Featured is a section on the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates with colored portraits of Abraham Lincoln and Senator Stephen A. Douglas from the collection of **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, IN.

David Horsey, cartoonist for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, offered the following frames on September 26, 2004: "His chronic depression was never properly treated," "A failure in business, he got rich as an opportunistic trial lawyer," "His only political experience was one solitary term in Congress," "While our troops were fighting to liberate California, he opposed the war," "If he'd been in charge, Los Angeles, Phoenix and San Francisco would belong to Mexico." The cartoon features a portrait of Abraham Lincoln and the question: "Is this the man we want as commander in chief?" A credit line states: "Paid for by Mexican War Veterans for Truth."

Max Boot, in his *Providence Journal* commentary on September 28, 2004, "Expect 'Colossal Failures' in War," pointed out how in war all presidents are accused of what John Kerry said of President Bush: "colossal failures of judgment." Boot says that, "We tend to forget that along the way he [Lincoln] lost more battles than any other president: First and Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Chickamauga . . ." And *Harper's Magazine* called him a "despot, liar, thief, braggart, buffoon, usurper, monster, ignoramus." Most of these Union failures were as a result of poor generalship and it was President Lincoln who appointed the generals.

Harold Holzer's essay, "Our Soldiers Count," appeared in the September 28, 2004, *New York Sun*. Holzer indicates that in the 1864 election, the military votes were 116,887 for Lincoln and 33,748 for George B. McClellan. He says that political analysts have likened the 2004 election to the 1864 election in which a civilian Republican commander-in-chief is pitted against a Democratic challenger who had military accomplishments.

Delia M. Rios wrote "In Contentious Times, the American Flag is an Ever-Potent Symbol" for *Newhouse News Service*. In her piece, **Harold Holzer** is quoted as saying that after the flag at Fort Sumter was shot down and damaged, President Lincoln was "livid." "Damaged flags seem the most emotionally potent icons of all," stated Holzer.

"The Talk of the Town" in the October 25, 2004, *New Yorker* recalls how, in 1997,

William Kristol and **David Brooks** stated in the *Wall Street Journal*: "What is Missing From Today's Conservatism" is an appeal to American greatness. "The forefathers the authors claimed for what they termed 'national-greatness' conservatism" were Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt . . ." The article indicated that President Bush's "most resonant moments" during the last presidential debate "came when he was able to talk about things other than domestic and economic policy."

Christopher Hitchens, in his review of **Geoffrey R. Stone's** "Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime, From the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism," discusses Lincoln's imprisonment of newspaper editors, "but with scant relish for the business." To Hitchens, "wartime censorship was so easily evaded as to be no censorship at all." The real problem during the Lincoln administration was the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and its import was demonstrated by Secretary of State William Seward, who famously boasted to the British minister: "I can touch a bell on my right hand and order the arrest of a citizen in Ohio. I can touch the bell again and order the imprisonment of a citizen of New York, and no power on earth but that of the President can release them. Can the Queen of England, and her dominions, say as much?"

The 50th Anniversary issue of *American Heritage* (November/December) 2004 had as its theme, "America Unabridged: The Definitive Guide to the Greatest Books About Our Past." **Max Byrd's** section on "Historical Novels" cited **Michael Shaara's** *The Killer Angels*; **Pauline Maier** listed **Harold Holzer's** edition of *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete Unexpurgated Text* in her section on "The Young Republic 1787-1860"; **Stephen W. Sears's** section on "The Civil War 1861-1865" included **David Herbert Donald's** *Lincoln* and **Bruce Catton's** *Grant Moves South* and *Grant Takes Command*; "Indispensable Photographs" by **Gail Buckland** featured **Timothy O. Sullivan's** "A Harvest of Death, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania" (one of the greatest war photographs, depicting the bodies of those who fell in battle) and **Alexander Gardner's** portrait of Lewis Payne, who attempted to assassinate President

Lincoln's Secretary of State, William H. Seward. The Gardner photograph features Payne onboard the Monitor on which he was held after his capture.

Bret Stephens in "What is a Cabinet For?" for the November 29, 2004, *Wall Street Journal*, suggests that "Had Abraham Lincoln allowed his cabinet to govern with him (or for him) the Union would probably have gone to war against Great Britain, per the suggestion of his Secretary of State William Seward, instead of the Confederacy."

"Disneyland for Washington and Lincoln History Buffs," by **Francis X. Clines** for the December 12, 2004, *New York Times*, discusses the controversy surrounding the "cutting-edge verisimilitude" in the new **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**, Springfield, IL, and the three-dimensional George Washington planned for **Mount Vernon**. Clines suggests that, "Once history buffs master the brave new world of museums, they'll feel entitled to manipulations of their own. Why not inspire unbookish youngsters by having the revived Lincoln happily stretch out on the couch in replica of his law office, reading, ever reading, as he preferred?"

Cal Thomas, in "How Can a Loving God Let Tsunamis Happen to Good People?" (*Shreveport Times*, January 10) cites Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Seeking to understand the Civil War catastrophe, Lincoln wrote, "The Almighty has His own purposes."

John Tierney wrote "For Inauguration in Wartime, A Lingering Question of Tone" for the January 16 *New York Times*. He argues that inaugurations need balance between the "celebration of democracy" and sensitivity during times of war. He mentions how, "In 1865, after Lincoln gave his famous address promising to bind the nation's ruins and care for Civil War soldiers' orphans and widows, he shook hands with 6,000 people at a White House reception that turned so rowdy the police were summoned to stop people from carrying off silverware, china, and pieces of the curtains." Alexander Gardner's photograph of Lincoln delivering his Second Inaugural Address was published with the article.

Los Angeles Times journalist **Peter Wallsten** wrote "Recasting Republicans as the Party of Civil Rights," reporting on January 29 about the swearing-in of **Condoleezza Rice** as the first black woman to be Secretary of State. Her acceptance remarks invoked the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Wallsten indicated that her words were only the latest by President Bush and his top aides, who cite the Republican Party's often-forgotten 19th-Century anti-slavery roots – a strategy GOP leaders believe will help them make inroads among black voters in the 21st century.

On February 2, religion reporter **Peter Steinfelds** wrote "Unchurched Lincoln, the Theologian? Words of 1865 Still Ring Loud and Clear in Religious Circles" for *The New York Times*. Steinfelds believes that Abraham Lincoln is not only the nation's greatest president but also the nation's greatest theologian. As he belonged to no church, read little theology, and the nature of his religious beliefs remain a matter of debate, Lincoln seems "an unlikely candidate for the Theological Hall of Fame." But his reputation as a theological thinker rests with his Second Inaugural Address, especially the closing lines about binding up the nation's wounds. To Steinfelds, "Lincoln and the theologians of his day shared an idiom of God's providential rule over the world's events. That belief has not disappeared, but it is no longer the shared framework of public discussion. Today, the talk is of freedom, rights, and opportunity, security, prosperity, pluralism, and non-discrimination. Contending within that framework are outlooks, both religious and secular, liberal and conservative, red and blue, no less certain of their own correctness and privileged place in the course of history than were Lincoln's theological contemporaries."

The Rye (NY) Record on February 10 contained **Peter Jovanovich's** "Mystic Chords of Memory," in which he laments that presidential addresses today have diminished "in sophistication." He believes that when President Reagan became president, our chief magistrates were orating at about a ninth-grade reading level. To him, President Bush's Second Inaugural Address offered flat language, leaden sentences without rhythm, and unmemorable phrases. The standard is

Abraham Lincoln and any comparison to him is unfair as, "he is our greatest literary president – but it is revealing to re-read him to discover how diminished our public rhetoric has become."

Steve Novick wrote "Spending Foes Ought to Listen to Lincoln" for the February 11 *Register-Guard*, Eugene, OR. To Novick, modern Republicans' views on taxation are out of sync with Lincoln, who believed that wealthy members of society should pay most of the cost of government. A young Lincoln said, "I believe it can be sustained, as it does not increase the tax upon the 'many poor' but upon the 'wealthy few.'" The author observes that, "One problem with our politics today is that many voters don't really know what exactly state government does. In an effort to address that problem, our leaders might consider using the simple, direct, and eloquent language of Abraham Lincoln."

FJW's "Reinventing Lincoln – on his 196th Birthday Today" appeared in the February 12 (*Westerly, RI*) *Sun*. The thrust of the op-ed is that each generation reinvents Lincoln in its own image and he has been variously described as a shrewd political operator and a life-long enemy of slavery. One example of his assertiveness is how he responded to Civil War in 1861. There are resemblances between his policies and those of the Bush administration since September 11. Arguably, both presidents assumed powers that went well beyond what the Constitution seems to allow. What Lincoln had was political courage and the coming years will test and determine who has the same courage.

Michael D'Innocenzo wrote "America's Greatest President" for the February 15 *Oyster Bay Enterprise-Pilot*. To the author, "Lincoln's ability to function effectively as a politician. . .while simultaneously calling the nation to fulfill its noblest principles and aspirations, continue to make him a beacon for all aspiring candidates and officers."

DeWayne Wickham presented "Debunking Myths of Black History" in the February 15 *USA Today*. He continues the counter-historical argument that Abraham Lincoln did not free the slaves because the Emancipation Proclamation, effective on January 1, 1863, exempted those states and parts of states already under

control by the federal government. This is historical distortion as the Emancipation Proclamation was a military order intended to help speed the end of the war, and, in fact, freed millions of slaves as the Union troops advanced into Confederate territory. It also encouraged blacks to leave servitude. The author indicates that slavery was not in fact ended until December 18, 1865, when the 13th Amendment was ratified. But it was Abraham Lincoln who insisted on the amendment in his party's 1864 platform and worked assiduously for the votes in the House and Senate to approve the resolution so that the proposed amendment would be sent to the states for ratification.

Will Lester of *The Washington Post* reported the results of two recent polls on February 20. The first, commissioned by **Washington College** for President's Day, rated Abraham Lincoln as the greatest president. But a *CNN-USA Today* – Gallup poll put Ronald Reagan on top. The college's poll indicated that 20 percent chose Lincoln, Reagan was picked by 15 percent, FDR by 12 percent, and JFK by 11 percent. Bill Clinton was at 10 percent and George W. Bush 8 percent. The *CNN-USA Today* – Gallup poll had Reagan at 20 percent, followed by Clinton and Lincoln in the mid-teens. Unfortunately, the Washington College poll only had six percent for President Washington.

On February 20, the *Los Angeles Times* discussed how the 16th President's image is used to sell food, appliances, and all kinds of trinkets. **Ted Anthony** wrote the story for the *Associated Press*, "Lincoln Belongs to the Ages – And the Marketplace." The article discussed Lincoln interpreter **Jim Getty** of Gettysburg, a "... gentle soul and wise man – wise enough to know that the portrayal of an American demigod is more than just good fun. It's a living." Anthony included the **McDonald's** ad on Super Bowl Sunday portraying a couple who find a Lincoln-shaped French fry in their drive-thru order and put it up for auction on the Internet. *GoldenPalace.com* paid \$75,100 for the fry in order to place it on a national tour to raise money for charity. His article also appeared in the February 20 *Columbus Dispatch*.

Bruce Hight of the *Austin American Statesman* wrote "It is Past Time for Texas

to Pay Tribute to Lincoln" in the February 21 issue. While Abraham Lincoln might be the least revered of the great presidents in Texas, it may be time to include Lincoln along with the portraits and busts of Jefferson Davis and Presidents George Washington, James Polk, FDR, Harry Truman, LBJ, and George H. W. Bush at the State Capitol in Austin. "While there is an absence of Lincoln monuments in the South, with a Republican majority in both Houses of the Texas Legislature and Republicans holding every Texas statewide office, it may be time for Texas to acknowledge that however bravely its sons fought for the Confederacy, Lincoln was right to hold the Union together. There ought to be a suitable monument or portrait of the 16th president for keeping Texas in the United States."

Laurie Queirolo keeps a worn, 34-star American flag in a shirt box, believing it once covered the casket of Abraham Lincoln in Philadelphia. She has asked the **Smithsonian Institution** to determine whether the flag did indeed drape Lincoln's casket. **Matt Cooper** wrote "Family Flag's Link to Lincoln Studied" for the Eugene, OR *Register-Guard* on February 21.

Essayist **Paul Greenberg** wrote "The Unfinished Portrait" for the February 21 *Washington Times*. To Greenberg, "We feel the need . . . for the distinctive, the singular, the indispensable, the individual," and that is why we should honor George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other presidents with their own holiday rather than "the murky combo we have dubbed Presidents' Day, which seems to celebrate no president in particular."

David D. Kirkpatrick's "The Faith Factor: Putting God Back into American History" in the February 27 *New York Times* "Week In Review," discusses how the Christian right has reclaimed Washington and Lincoln, although Jefferson is more elusive. Young Abraham Lincoln was "pilloried" as . . . he was known to have devoured the works of skeptics like [Thomas] Paine and he was never baptized, never joined a church, and never really mentioned Jesus . . . but Lincoln knew his Bible. His speeches overflowed with Bible verses, including some like 'A house divided against itself cannot stand' that are now better known as Lincoln verses than Bible verses. He had 'the cadences of the The King James

Bible in his lungs,' as Mr. [Richard] Brookhiser put it."

Linda Greenhouse reported in the March 3 *New York Times* that the **Supreme Court of the United States** found that a contractual agreement between the government and one of its spies is unenforceable in federal court because of the "absolute secrecy" the government needs for its espionage activities. The government successfully argued that the case, *Tenent v. Doe*, No. 03-1395, was governed by a rule of the Supreme Court established in a post-civil war spy case called *Totten v. United States*, decided in 1876. In that case, the heirs of a spy who had entered into a contract with President Abraham Lincoln to infiltrate the Confederate lines for \$200 a month filed a lawsuit contending that he had not received full payment. The Supreme Court ordered that suit dismissed.

Lewis Lehrman, whose beneficence helps fund the annual **\$50,000 Lincoln Prize** was Guest Columnist on April 17 for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. The purpose of the prize, he wrote, is to "tell the world the American tale – unblinkered and full bodied – knowing that, as Mr. Lincoln believed, the American story is the 'last best hope of earth.'"

David Brooks's column in the May 5 *New York Times* called Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation an antidote to "militant secularists who argue that faith should be kept out of politics." To Brooks, "Lincoln seemed to understand that epochal decisions are really made in a secular frame of mind." Brooks recalls the time when Lincoln told his cabinet that, "he had made a solemn vow to the Almighty that if God gave him victory at Antietam, Lincoln would issue the decree."

Connecticut Republican **Congressman Christopher Shays** was interviewed in the May 8 *New York Times Magazine*. He was asked: "How did a longtime Republican Congressman from Connecticut wind up being such a vocal critic of his own party? You seem to relish your new role as a G.O.P. contrarian." Shays answered: "The Republican Party does seem lost. The party of Abraham Lincoln is in danger of becoming the party of the church."

Stanley Crouch wrote "A Grateful Nation: Lincoln's Message to Honor War Heroes Must be Heeded Today" for the New York *Daily News* on Memorial Day, May 30. To Crouch, Abraham Lincoln "grew into a President of unchallenged greatness. He came to know what the deal was and did not bite his tongue about it. His Second Inaugural made that clear. Standing tall in comparison to the average man of his time, Lincoln let forth the speech that must have deepened John Wilkes Booth's resolve to assassinate him. . . . We should humbly give thanks to our fallen military personnel and to those others who stood and stand in harm's way, ready to die for the people of the United States."

Michael Ignatieff wrote "Who Are Americans To Think That Freedom Is Theirs To Spread?" for the June 26 *New York Times Magazine*. The author points out that around the world America's desire to export liberty and democracy is called "hubristic, messianic, imperialistic and worse. But try imagining a world without it." "If Jefferson's vision were only an ideology of self-congratulation, it would never have inspired Americans to do the hard work of reducing the gap between dream and reality. Think about the explosive force of Jefferson's self-evident truth. First, white working men, then women, then blacks, then the disabled, then gay Americans – all have used his words to demand that the withheld promise be delivered to them. Without Jefferson, no Lincoln, no Emancipation Proclamation. Without the slave owning Jefferson, no Martin Luther King, Jr. and the dream of white and black citizens together reaching the Promised Land."

The July 3 *New York Times* noted the death of historian **Shelby Foote** on June 27 at the age of 88, by presenting highlights from Foote's three-volume, 3,000-page *Civil War: A Narrative*, calling it a Homeric epic. Of President-elect Abraham Lincoln's arrival in Washington, Foote wrote:

People hardly knew what to make of this tall, thin-chested, rawboned man who spoke with the frontier in his voice, wore a stove-pipe hat as if to emphasize his six-foot, four-inch height, and walked with a shambling Western slouch, the big feet planted flat at every step, the big hands dangling from wrists that

hung down out of the sleeves of his rusty tailcoat. . . . The seamed, leathery face was becoming familiar: the mole on the right cheek, the high narrow forehead with the unruly, coarse black shock of hair above it, barely grizzled: the pale gray eyes set deep in bruised sockets, the broad mouth somewhat quizzical with a protruding lower lip, the pointed chin behind its recent growth of scraggly beard, the wry neck – a clown face; a sad face, some observed on closer inspection, perhaps the saddest they had ever seen.

Jeff Zeleny profiled **U.S. Senator Barack Obama** for the *Chicago Tribune*, "Obama and the issue of race: Senator strives to be defined by more than color." This syndicated column also appeared in the July 3 *Providence Sunday Journal*. Zeleny describes how, the night before the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum on April 16 in Springfield, IL, Obama was, "agonizing over a speech he would deliver about a man he calls his political hero." While his thoughts turned to race, the Senator "scribbled his thoughts onto a yellow legal pad and refined them on a laptop computer. He praised Lincoln's character and his courage. Interestingly, by the time he finished, he barely had touched upon race at all, at least not in an obvious way." Obama told the crowd the next day, "Lincoln was not a perfect man, nor a perfect president. . . . By modern standards, his condemnation of slavery might be considered tentative." Not intended to be critical, the words were designed to show his admiration for a man who hesitated and equivocated before finding his ultimate course. "And that's where Obama offered a modern-day political lesson to an audience that included President George W. Bush: At a time when image all too often trumps substance, when our politics all too often feeds rather than bridges division, when the prospects of a poor youth rising out of poverty seem of no consequence to the powerful and when we evoke our common God to condemn those who do not think as we do, rather than to seek God's mercy for our own lack of understanding – at such a time it is helpful to remember this man who was the real thing."

Necrology

David M. Silver, author of the 1956 study,

Lincoln's Supreme Court (**University of Illinois Press**), died on November 23, 2003.

James D. Barber, an expert on analyzing presidential character, died on September 12, 2004 at the age of 74. Dr. Barber developed two criteria in calculating a president's character: whether a president was active or passive, and whether he viewed his job in positive or negative terms. The criteria formed four distinct personality types: active-positive presidents, who brought energy and enjoyment to their work which included Abraham Lincoln and FDR; passive-positives, like William Howard Taft, who were compliant and superficially cheerful; passive-negatives, like Dwight D. Eisenhower, who were sullen and withdrawn, viewing the office as a burden; and the most dangerous type, the active-negative. Although energetic, such men were joyless, inflexible, compulsive, and domineering, like Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon.

Lincoln College President Emeritus **Jack D. Nutt** died on October 19, 2004, at the age of 66. He served 20 years and was named President Emeritus in 2004.

Longtime **Ulysses S. Grant Association** board Member **Merlin Sumner** died in Las Vegas, NV December 16, 2004.

Thomas L. W. Johnson, who for many years was chairman of the **Lincoln Death Day Commemoration** exercises at Springfield, died on January 1 in Madison, WI.

Military historian **Frank E. Vandiver** died at his home in College Station, TX on January 7. He was 79. Vandiver wrote and edited more than 20 books, including *Mighty Stonewall Their Tattered Flags: The Epic of the Confederacy* and *Black Jack: The Life and Times of John J. Pershing*, which was a finalist for **The National Book Award**. He delivered the **R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture** at **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne in 1986. The published lecture is titled *The Long Loom of Lincoln*.

C. Allyn Russell, a Baptist minister who taught at Boston University for more than two decades, died on January 25. He and his late wife Betty were gra-

cious hosts for many meetings of the **Lincoln Group of Boston** at their home in Concord, Massachusetts.

Historian **LaWanda Cox** died on February 2 in New York City at the age of 95. Her books and articles on Abraham Lincoln, emancipation, and Reconstruction had a profound impact on scholarship and remain classics. She is the author of *Politics, Principle, and Prejudice, 1865-1866: Dilemma of Reconstruction of America* and *Lincoln and Black Freedom*.

Dan Bassuk, founder of the **Association of Abraham Lincoln Presenters** and a Lincoln interpreter himself, died of cancer on May 10. A memorial service was held on June 11 at the **Friends Meeting House** on the campus of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA.

Jim Weeks, Editor of *Civil War Times* was fatally injured in a traffic accident while jogging on May 7.

Shelby Foote, author of the classic, three-volume *The Civil War: A Narrative*, died on June 27 at 88. He became known to millions through his appearances on **Ken Burns's** PBS Civil War documentary. He believed that Abraham Lincoln was one of the great geniuses to emerge from the Civil War.

Works in Progress

James Percoco's book *My Summer with Lincoln* will be published by **The University of Illinois Press**.

Len Travers is editing a book for **Greenwood Press** on American Holidays. **Michael Bishop** has agreed to write the chapter for Lincoln's birthday.

Kenneth Zanca has completed his manuscript, *The Catholics and Mrs. Surratt*.

Edward Steers, Jr. is completing his manuscript, *Lincoln Slept Here: Lincoln Family Sites in America* which covers all seven generations of the Lincoln family in America. **Kieran McAuliffe** is assisting with the layout.

James L. Swanson is the author of *Manhunt: The 12 Day Chase for Lincoln's Killers* forthcoming from **William Morrow**.

Douglas L. Wilson and **Rodney Davis** are at work on a new edition of the Lincoln-Douglas debates to be published in 2008 by the **University of Illinois Press**. The edition will compare the differing accounts of the debates in order to propose a text that is as close as possible to what was actually said by the participants.

Matthew Pinsker is completing *Race of Ambition*, about Abraham Lincoln as politician.

Harold Holzer is at work on Abraham Lincoln and the period between his election in November 1860 and his inauguration the following March – *Lincoln's Secession Winter*.

Lincoln Prize winner **Richard J. Carwardine** has authorized a new hard-cover edition of his prize-winning *Lincoln*.

Catherine Clinton is working on a biography of Mary Todd Lincoln for **HarperCollins**.

Andrew Ferguson is writing a book on Lincoln's influence today.

Ronald C. White, Jr. is under contract with **Random House** for a biography of Abraham Lincoln to be published in 2009.

Lincoln's Wrath, which discusses the suppression of newspapers during the Civil War has been authored by **Neil Dahlstrom** and will be available in early 2006.

Jason Emerson is at work on a book-length biography of Robert Todd Lincoln. He has also completed his book of essays about Robert Todd Lincoln, *Abraham, Robert and Abraham II: Significant Episodes in the Lives of the Lincoln Men* which will be published in 2006.

Allen C. Guelzo is writing a 150th anniversary book on the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Author's Note

Because of the press deadline, the events described here, begin in Fall 2004 and continue through Fall 2005.

I want to thank **Harold Holzer, Tom Lapsley, William D. Pederson, John Y. Simon, Dennis E. Stark, Joseph**

Fornieri, Wayne C. Temple, Steve Carson, Richard Sloan, Kieran McAuliffe, Myra A. Miller, Virginia Williams, Ron White, Robert F. Henderson, Gene Griessman, David Warren, Doug Wilson, Rodney Davis, Richard Gutman, Jason Emerson, and Edward Steers, Jr., for providing information for this column. I welcome news concerning Abraham Lincoln. Please contact me at 300 Switch Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832; fax (401) 539-7272; e-mail: alincoln@courts.ri.gov



About the Author

Frank J. Williams is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island and founding Chair of The Lincoln Forum. His book, *Judging Lincoln*, is available from Southern Illinois University Press; while his latest book, *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*, with Harold Holzer and Edna Greene Medford, will be published by Louisiana State University Press in April 2006.