

Lincoln Lore

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Table of Contents

Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to End Slavery
Reviewed by John F. Marszalek . . . 2

Four Perspectives on Abolishing Slavery
An essay review
by Myron A. Marty 4

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln
Reviewed by David Long 6

Lincolnia 2005–2006
By Frank J. Williams 9

Lincoln Lore

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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 Life and Legacy of Abraham Lincoln



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Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to End Slavery

By Richard Striner. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Reviewed by: John F. Marszalek

The books on Abraham Lincoln continue rolling off the presses, and there is little doubt that the sixteenth president of the United States will retain his long-held position as one of the most written-about persons in the history of humankind. No one can hope to read all these monographs and essays, hear all the papers, or view every exhibit about the greatest of American presidents. Selectivity is a must; those interested in Lincoln must decide what to read and what to avoid in order to receive maximum benefit from the time expended.

Rare is a publication in the flood of Lincoln literature of value to both professionals and neophytes. This book by Washington College of Maryland historian Richard Striner is one such monograph. It presents an excellent outline of the facts of Lincoln's political life and presidency which newcomers to Lincoln studies will find illuminating. Similarly, professionals will want to read the unflinching "relentless" argument for the persistence of Lincoln's desire to deliver a death blow to slavery within the precepts of the Constitution.

Unlike the historians of conventional wisdom who view Lincoln as a moderate — as a president who put Union ahead of emancipation — Striner argues that Lincoln pushed for a Union without slavery, a preserved constitutional nation where slavery did not exist. "By itself," Striner argues, "preservation of the Union was an empty concept to Lincoln unless the Union remained dedicated — or could forcibly be rededicated — to its founding principle that all men are created equal. If America could be rededicated to this fundamental principle, as Lincoln so fervently hoped, then there was justification for defending the Union's permanence." Otherwise, "the Union would become a monstrosity." (7)

This attitude was seen clearly, Striner argues, the month after Lincoln's November 1860 election in his rejection of the Crittenden Compromise, the proposed constitutional amendment which promised to preserve the Union by allowing the further expansion of slavery. This Lincoln rejected emphatically because it portended a continued existence of slavery which he abhorred, not its ultimate demise which he wanted.

Lincoln was no moderate, Striner argues repeatedly. He was, in fact, "that rarest of all great men, a political ethicist who was also an extraordinary natural genius in the Machiavellian orchestration of power. Lincoln forged a brilliant plan to propel abolitionism forward into gradual and incremental victory." (10) To put it another way, Lincoln was, according to Striner, "a master politician" who "use[d] the necessity of saving the Union as justification for saving the Union his way," (11) a Union that would exist with slavery gone.

Because he recognized the nation's white supremacy proclivities, however, Lincoln realized that he would have to move white society along gradually toward black freedom within a constitutional framework. So, he proceeded carefully and slowly, providing the public only with that information that he had to, and cunningly shaping the issue so as to promote progress against slavery while limiting opposition. Over the four years of war, he first guided the nation to accept no expansion of slavery in the territories. Next, he established emancipation for purposes of the war effort, then total emancipation, and finally the beginning of the concept of black voting rights. It was not easy. Lincoln artfully camouflaged his

"Lincoln Visiting the Wounded," a sentimentalized oil painting by Carter Pruett (1937). It is on display at The Lincoln Museum and will be used in the 2007 temporary exhibit on Civil War Medicine.



Abolitionist Sojourner Truth. TLM #4324

purposes and activities, but he pushed on incessantly. His actions were clearly radical rather than moderate, Striner insists. Lincoln was a man who hardly used anti-slavery only to save the Union. He was anti-slavery consistently and firmly and saw that goal as an essential part of any Union worthy of preservation.

This interpretation is not new. Others have presented elements of it in a variety of forms. Significantly, it will hardly convince those who hold the “Lincoln was a moderate” position, or the “Lincoln was a racist” view. It will give added fuel to the libertarian view of Lincoln, the alleged “big government conspirator.” Unfortunately Striner does not deal with all such positions head-on, concentrating instead only on the “Lincoln was a moderate” school. One wishes he had been more inclusive in his opening chapter and placed his interpretation within the framework of a broader view of Lincoln historiography. For example, Striner mentions Lerone Bennett only briefly in a footnote. He does not indicate how he believes his own interpretation demolishes that author’s insistence that Lincoln was a racist or how he believes he puts to lie Bennett’s denigration of Lincoln’s obvious racial sensitivity and determination to include blacks in the framework of American democracy.

Striner makes his argument over and over again in an analytical fashion within a chronological framework. After stating the issue in a brief introduction and a more extended first chapter, Striner

organizes his book into six other chapters, each one covering a portion of Lincoln’s political life. Two chapters cover the 1850s through Lincoln’s election to the presidency, while the final four discuss the four years of his time in the White House. Throughout, Striner takes information familiar to Lincoln scholars and attempts to demonstrate how these facts support his thesis that Lincoln was always a radical on slavery, not the moderate regularly assumed.

Striner first presents facts of the nation’s political life regarding slavery and places Lincoln within this context during his formative years. As early as January 1849, for example, Lincoln talked about introducing a bill in Congress to abolish slavery in Washington, D. C., but he demurred when it became clear that no such legislation would pass. When the Kansas-Nebraska bill became law in 1854 and repealed the Missouri Compromise, Lincoln saw this action, in Striner’s words, as “nothing short of an obscenity.” (35) Lincoln’s “House Divided” speech (June 1858) and his arguments during the Lincoln-Douglas debates were hardly statements of a moderate. They were, instead, statements of a man thoroughly opposed to slavery, but wily in his presentation of his position in the face of a white supremacy that could scuttle his political hopes and his anti-slavery desires. When Lincoln debated Douglas, some of the statements he made on race that upset modern readers were not reflections of his personal prejudices but actually attempts to counter his opponent’s real overt racism. Early on, Lincoln practiced a gradual exposition of his deeply held anti-slavery views, doing so in a way that brought his listeners along to his point of view.

Such was also his practice during his presidency. In his inaugural address, he supported a constitutional amendment to insure no interference with slavery in the southern states and supported no expansion of slavery into the territories. Striner argues that he did this, not because he was a moderate, but because he believed that this was the best way to eliminate slavery — that with slavery contained in the South, people there would themselves eventually decide to eliminate it. His plan was a “long term phase out.” (137) To encourage such action, he backed colonization of emancipated slaves, once again not because he was a racist but because this would blunt a white supremacy backlash to freeing the slaves in the first place. Similarly, his compensated emancipation drive was designed to end slavery through a voluntary, and thus constitutional, way.

When these ideas received no audience, he promulgated the Emancipation Proclamation — a limited freedom for slaves, not for their own sake, he insisted, but for the sake of the Union. Constitutionally he believed that, as commander-in-chief, he had the power to end slavery only as part of the war effort. Thus he attacked slavery where he believed he constitutionally could, in those areas in rebellion against the nation. He realized, however, that such emancipation could only have validity while the war was on, so, at the same time, he supported a thirteenth amendment to the Constitution to end slavery permanently everywhere. Despite Republican political losses in the 1862 congressional elections due to the Emancipation Proclamation, and despite Lincoln’s later fear that he would lose the presidential election in 1864, he successfully pushed the Republican National

Convention to include, in its platform, a call for an emancipation thirteenth amendment.

On and on he pushed and prodded, inexorably extending his anti-slaveryism until it had indeed grown from no slavery in the territories to black voting in the post-war reconstructed states. Masterfully he implemented his personal animosity to slavery into the nation's creed of equality for all men, stated in the Declaration of Independence. He included blacks within the previously white-only American democracy, and he did it gradually, constitutionally, publically, and successfully. Within four years, he radicalized American society, saving not just the old Union, but establishing a new Union with slavery eliminated and the promise of black-white equality included.

This is a well argued, well written, convincing book which professionals and neophytes alike can read with profit. It tells us little

that is factually new, but it further demolishes many modern myths. It is a welcome addition to the ever-expanding shelf of Lincoln books, and it deserves to be widely read. There remains much yet to be said about the incredibly complicated Abraham Lincoln, and Striner has set a good example for those future works in his bluntly argued synthesis of Lincoln and his anti-slavery position.

About the Author

John F. Marszalek is Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Mississippi State University. His latest books are *Sherman's March to the Sea* (McWhiney Foundation Press, 2005) and *A Black Congressman in the Age of Jim Crow, South Carolina's George Washington Murray*, University Press of Florida.

Four Perspectives on Abolishing Slavery

An essay review by Myron A. Marty

Enactment of the Missouri Compromise in 1820 meant that the question of slavery could no longer be suppressed or avoided. That, Thomas Jefferson acknowledged in a letter to a friend, had awakened him "like a firebell in the night and filled him with terror." Hushed though the question may have been, he continued, the nation and its people had "the wolf by his ears, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go."

In fact, our founding forebears had grasped that wolf by the ears in 1787, and, without naming it, had given it a place in the Constitution of the United States. Even though the wolf — slavery, that is — was largely contained in a regional enclosure, its intrinsic evils meant that it could not exist anywhere in the land if our ideals as a nation meant anything. But when, and by whom, and how would it be abolished? Those were questions awaiting Abraham Lincoln when he assumed the presidency.

Four recent books show the aptness of Jefferson's metaphor. Andrew Levy, in *The First Emancipator: The Forgotten Story of Robert Carter — the Founding Father Who Freed His Slaves* (Random House, 2005), describes the radical approach attempted in 1791 and subsequent years by Robert Carter, who showed that emancipation could occur when the will to free slaves was powerful, even though neighbors did not have that will.

Half a century later the mystical John Brown, with a tiny rag-tag army, sought to start a movement intended to inspire slaves to free themselves, violently if necessary. David S. Reynolds, author of *John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2005), shows that Brown's raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry in 1859 freed no slaves; led to the loss of lives, including his own; created hysterical fear among slaveowners; and revealed that removing slavery's shameful

blight on America would require monumental struggles.

In the 1860s came a time for another approach, namely, abolishing slavery by amending the Constitution of the United States. Michael Vorenberg's *Final Freedom: The Civil War, the Abolition of Slavery, and the Thirteenth Amendment* (Cambridge University Press, 2001 and 2004) explicates the struggles encountered by those seeking to align the Constitution with the ideals expressed by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence and Lincoln in the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address.

Slavery's tentacles were powerful, however, and loosening its grip required efforts that were in some ways as challenging as waging the Civil War and enacting the Thirteenth Amendment. Eric Foner, in *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2005) recounts the circumstances that made the slaves "forever free" and shows in distressing detail that freedom was a long time in coming. Visual essays by Joshua Brown support the recounting.

Robert Carter III, labeled the First Emancipator by Andrew Levy, was born into an illustrious Virginia family in 1728. Considered a rogue in his youth and an eccentric in later years, he failed in his bids to be elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses, a sure sign that he was not a favorite son, despite the power and prominence of his father. He did not seem to fit into the rough-and-tumble social life of the times, with gambling making sexual license merely the "second sin." (17) Accompanying the social lives of elites lay "a kind of racial chaos that stunned visitors." (20)

Perhaps, then, it was no mystery that Carter traveled a peculiar path, even as he read the same great books as his neighbors, but alone, and worshiped in the same churches. Not being a man of words, Levy writes, to understand Carter one must look at his actions. Those actions were embodied in his Deed of Gift, "a dry

document, lists for the most part, little more than a census." Yet, Levy continues, "it was among the most incendiary songs of liberty to emerge from that freedom-loving period." (xi)

Levy walks his readers through the complexities of Robert Carter's life, including his leaving the Episcopal Church and consorting with Baptists, giving them land and money, and "making the most profound commitment possible to turn his old self inside out." (93) He interacted freely with slaves, fathered thirteen daughters and four sons (only a few survived childhood), managed his crops and lands, lived oddly, died in obscurity, and was buried in an unmarked grave.

Levy tells a dramatic story about a character who, he contends, deserves more attention than he has received, although he consciously avoided attention in life and in death. But the drama depends at times on broad conclusions drawn from slim evidence. Readers are likely to find that the story line would be easier to follow if maps and a genealogical chart accompanied it.

The life story of the charismatic John Brown, his anti-slavery passions, and his violent actions has been told and retold, but David Reynolds' fresh retelling is a worthy contribution to Lincoln studies. Most interesting are the accounts of the rancorous debates over slavery waged in the 1850s that provide the context for understanding Abraham Lincoln's rise to prominence. In the 1860 campaign for the presidency, for example, Stephen Douglas tried to scare his audience by linking Lincoln with Brown: "Can any man say to us that although this outrage has been perpetrated at Harper's Ferry, there is no danger of its recurrence? Sir, is not the Republican party still embodied, organized, confident of success, and defiant in its pretensions?" (425)

Such attacks notwithstanding, Lincoln won the North, Reynolds asserts, "by running an *anti*-John Brown campaign." While praising Brown's courage and unselfishness, he insisted that "no man, North or South, can approve of violence or crime." (427) That his chief rival, William Henry Seward, was seen as not being distant enough from Brown no doubt helped Lincoln.

For all his fanaticism, John Brown was prescient: On his way to be hanged, he handed a scribbled note to a guard. It read: "Charlestown, Va. 2nd. December, 1859. I, John Brown am now quite *certain* that the crimes of this *guilty, land*: will never be purged *away*; but with *Blood*. I had *as I now think*: vainly flattered myself that without *very much* bloodshed; it might be done." (395)

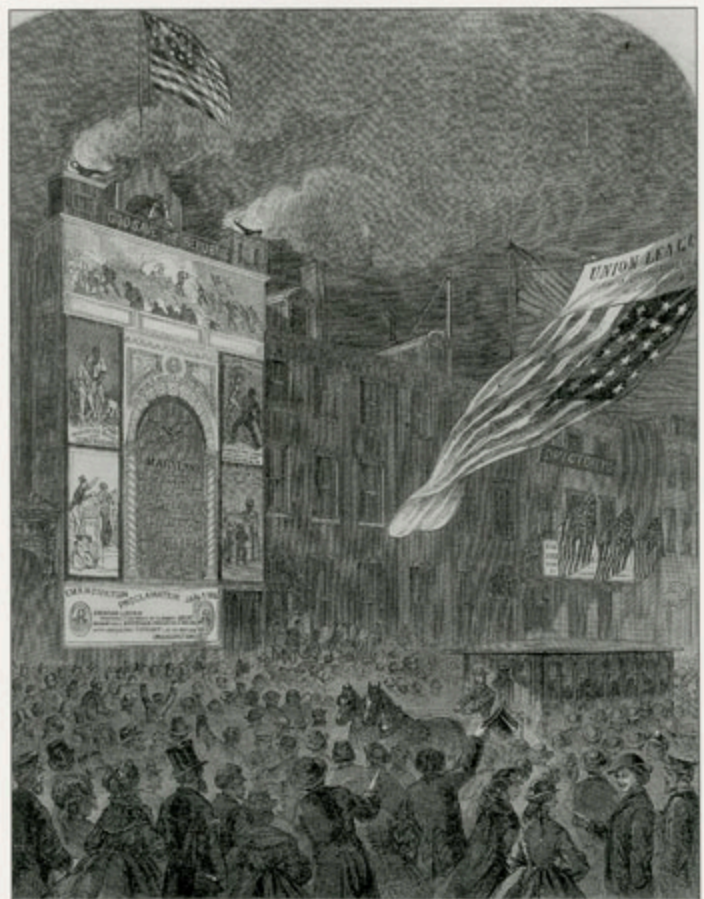
Almost every chapter in this 500-page book has compelling features, particularly those including sketches revealing the contradictions embodied in its principal figure. John Brown was, among other things, a deeply religious Calvinist capable of extreme violence, a devoted husband who spent long periods away from home, a devoted father who dealt harshly with his children when they were out of line, and a hardworking farmer and businessman eluded by good fortune.

Part of the book's appeal lies in questions Reynolds poses. For example: "Would the Civil War have occurred had John Brown not been in the picture? Was war necessary, as Brown thought

it was? Would the North have won the war if it did not have John Brown's example to follow? What would have happened to long-term relations between blacks and whites had Brown not existed? In short, how would America have been different had this homegrown terrorist never been born?" (17) In answering these questions and more, the author draws readers into intriguing debates.

The Civil War made the abolition of slavery possible, but it did not abolish it. That required legal action, and laws toward that end had little to stand on, for slavery was embedded in the Constitution of the United States. A straightforward constitutional amendment did the trick: "Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

That amendment, however, was not enacted in straightforward fashion, as Michael Vorenberg explains in *Final Freedom*. Debates over the amendment's purpose, contents, and timing were waged vigorously, and party strategists maneuvered craftily to turn the results to their advantage. A number of knotty issues made the debates heated and protracted: Was the Civil War being fought to end slavery? Was it not dangerous to alter the Constitution, a sacred document that had not been changed



"Celebration of the Abolition of Slavery" Leslie's Illustrated, November 19, 1864. TLM #4468

substantively since the 1790s? Should the seceded states play a part in the amendment's adoption and ratification? Should the amendment be expanded to guarantee suffrage and civil equality to freedmen?

Vorenberg's brilliant account of the amendment's torturous path to enactment fills a major gap in constitutional history, and his interpretation of Lincoln's behind-the-scenes role adds another dimension to our understanding of Lincoln and his presidency. Moreover, having clearly established that "surprising subtlety" lies beneath the amendment's plain language, he offers this provocative conclusion: "The struggle over the meaning of the amendment is far from over. Just as unforeseen circumstances during Reconstruction forced lawmakers to sharpen the definition of constitutional freedom, so will changing conditions in the future require a reconsideration of the Thirteenth Amendment's scope and meaning." (250)

The truth of Vorenberg's assertion is affirmed in Eric Foner's engaging and persuasive reconstruction of post-Civil War Reconstruction. For more than two decades Foner has been on a mission to contradict the racially biased and misguided interpretations by earlier historians, showing that the accomplishments and capabilities of the freedmen were far more substantial than had been granted. Yet today, he says, Reconstruction "is shrouded as much in ignorance as in myth."

Foner's *Forever Free*, an abbreviated and updated version of his *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (Harper & Row, 1988), is designed to set the record straight by recounting episodes revealing the challenges freedmen faced and describing how they coped with them, while also demonstrating how hatred by racist whites made the coping so difficult. Perhaps his account, embellished and enhanced by genuinely touching visual essays, will lead more Americans to look back, in shame and sorrow, on the horrors inflicted on Americans of color and, at the same time, in pride over the ways in which the victims persisted in their efforts to be truly free.

One reason, Foner speculates, why Reconstruction "was for so long shunted to an obscure backwater of national memory is that Americans, like other people, prefer historical narratives with happy endings." While Reconstruction was in many ways a failure, "it was also an era of noble dreams, of inspiring efforts by ordinary men and women to create a more just society for themselves and their countrymen." The "facts of Reconstruction," Foner believes, "can serve as an inspiration for the unfinished task of forging from the ashes of slavery a society of interracial democracy and social justice." (237-238)

About the Author

Myron Marty is History Professor Emeritus, Drake University.

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln

By Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Simon & Schuster: New York, 2005*
Reviewed by David Long, East Carolina University

Doris Kearns Goodwin knows how to write about a president and his family. She has previously won the Pulitzer Prize in history for *No Ordinary Time* detailing Franklin Roosevelt's occupancy of the White House during the Second World War; produced *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, recounting the merger of two families that culminated in the election of John Kennedy; and she was the hand-picked *wunderkind* whose literary career got a jump start when she was granted *carte blanche* access to the inner sanctum of the Great Society, literally while it was unfolding, resulting in *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*. Along the way she found time to pen *Wait Till Next Year*, the unlikely tale of a teenager in the 1950s growing up in Boston as a Brooklyn Dodgers fan.

Her latest literary effort, *Team of Rivals*, should prove the crown jewel of her literary career to date. The much-anticipated account of the most famous of all American political success stories, the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, was an ambitious undertaking. Considering the thousands of monographs that have been produced about this president, it is almost difficult to imagine there is something still *unsaid* about the Lincoln years. Not only does Goodwin bring unique insights and interpretations to the most

written-about person and presidency in American history, she does so while addressing controversial themes and myths that have gained popular followings over the years or have made recent inroads in the guise of serious scholarship based on highly questionable propositions. Two themes in particular have gained recent buoyancy: Lincoln's supposed depression (some have used two incidents from Lincoln's early years to offer up a diagnosis that he suffered from clinical depression or bipolar disorder) and his alleged homosexuality as revealed by so-called romantic involvements that a few have purported he had with longtime friend Joshua Speed and wartime bodyguard Captain David Derickson of the Pennsylvania Bucktail regiment. Since there has never been any actual evidence to support either claim, they have been floated as trial balloons based on written professions of love and devotion between Lincoln and Speed, or third person accounts of a shared bed by Lincoln and Derickson. In our highly homophobic and sex-obsessed society, the kneejerk reaction to both revelations is that they reveal amorous love and physical interaction.

Goodwin, who did extensive research in producing *Team of Rivals*, addresses both issues with an absence of shrillness or agenda

that are refreshing given the tone in which the modern debate has been conducted. In the Introduction she writes, "Before I began this book...I had assumed that Lincoln suffered from chronic depression. Yet...there is no evidence he was immobilized by depression. On the contrary, even during the worst days of the war, he retained his ability to function at a very high level." (p.xvii) Dismissing the claim that Lincoln had a sexual relationship with Speed, Goodwin writes that "Their intimacy...is more an index to an era when close male friendships, accompanied by open expressions of affection and passion, were familiar and socially acceptable" (p.58). And quoting the historian David Yacavone writing of the same era, Goodwin points out that "the preoccupation with elemental sex reveals more about later centuries than about the nineteenth." (p.58) Hooray that somebody has finally been willing to address the nonsensical preoccupation that popular culture has shown in Lincoln's sexuality, and the inclination to pander to that preoccupation by some writers. The man who ended American slavery and saved the nation during its greatest crisis deserves better.

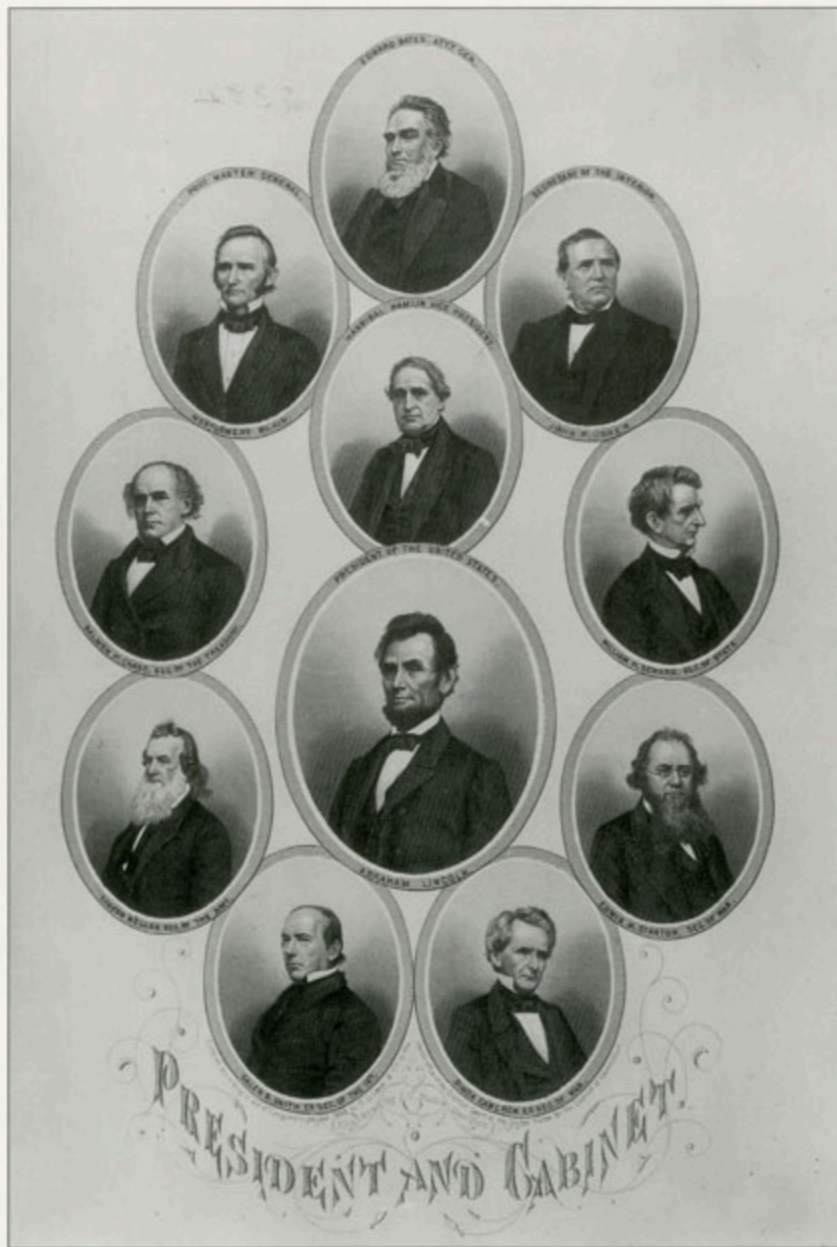
Team of Rivals posits a number of theses, the central one being that Abraham Lincoln selected the leading contenders for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination, to serve as his chief cabinet secretaries, and then demonstrated his political acumen to overcome the contentiousness and jealousy among these political rivals to shepherd the enormous human talent they possessed into a nation-saving performance. Like other theses she argues so effectively, this one has a small fly in the ointment. One of the "team" who is central to the story, Edwin M. Stanton, was not only not a contender for the Republican Party nomination in 1860...he wasn't even a Republican. Stanton was a War Democrat and a good friend of George B. McClellan when the war began. He did not subscribe to the fiercely antislavery ideals and Whiggish principles of the Republican Party in 1860. In fact, cloud-

ing the theme of Republican leadership and presidential politics even more, is the fact that Stanton joined the team nearly a year into Lincoln's presidency, replacing the First Secretary of War, Simon Cameron. Cameron was a Republican, and he had been a leading contender for the nomination at the convention. He actually garnered more votes on the first ballot than either Bates or Chase, most of them from his home state of Pennsylvania. In fact it was the wholesale change of the Keystone State delegation

from Cameron to Lincoln on the second ballot that gave the eventual nominee the momentum that would carry him to victory on the third ballot. Cameron may not have possessed many of the virtues that characterized Seward, Bates, and Chase. In fact he had a substantial reputation for political corruption and dishonest service. Witness the fact that less than a year into Lincoln's first term, Cameron was dispatched to the nether regions of czarist Russia amidst claims of widespread fraud and corruption in War Department spending. However, for Goodwin's primary thesis to stand squarely on all fours, Simon Cameron, not Edwin Stanton, would have had to be the fourth member of the team.

And there is another question in her central theme. Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 was the seminal event leading to secession and Civil War. But it did not have anything having to do with Lincoln — except that he was a Republican. The fact is that he was prob-

ably lesser known in the South than any of the contenders for the nomination. The election of any Republican would have precipitated the crisis that followed. The truly important event of 1860, because it was the one variable where history most certainly could have followed a different course, was the Republican Nominating Convention in Chicago. The eventual candidate was certainly not the Republican most likely to be nominated. A number of circumstances intervened: the convention was held in his home state; he did have a group of remarkably capable and loyal supporters among the Illinois



"President and Cabinet," engraving by J. C. Buttre, 1864. TLM #2382.

delegation; and Lincoln had seemingly done all the right things in the several years immediately prior to this election season. The quick exit from the convention hall of many delegates the afternoon previous to the official "nomination morning" was critical. If the chairman had allowed the delegates to move on to the nomination process because it was still too early in the day to adjourn, many believe that the nominee would have been William Seward. Also, the timely admittance of many leather-throated Lincoln supporters bearing bogus passes printed up by the home state delegation (barring many Seward supporters when available seats had already filled) worked to Lincoln's benefit and Seward's detriment.

Goodwin says these things were not simply accidents and gives much credit to Lincoln for his equable and magnanimous nature resulting in there not being an established opposition "against" him; whereas Seward had many people firmly determined to see that he *not* get the nomination. That may be taking historical revision a bit past the point justified by the evidence. Good fortune and just plain luck did play some part in Lincoln's sudden rise at the convention. He simply wasn't well enough known by enough of the people to explain why his kind nature and savvy political compass played some significant part in the remarkably visionary decision by this convention to nominate just the right man at just the right moment in history. The fact is that Lincoln might not have been the nominee of the Republicans, a genuine possibility in May 1860. And if he hadn't been, Seward almost certainly would have been. What would that have meant? Possibly a great deal.

William H. Seward had long been the most visible and outspoken proponent of laws more favorable and generous to the millions of Irish and German Catholics who had immigrated to the United States in the 1840s and 1850s. Those laws would have included state support for Catholic schools, a significantly shortened naturalization period, and much earlier access to the right to vote. These were all positions anathematic to many Americans who had been involved with the Know Nothing movement. In 1860 the majority of those in the North who had previously voted Know-Nothing, voted Republican. Many of those voters would *not* have voted Republican if Seward had been the candidate. There would very possibly have been enough of them to change the outcome in close states such as Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, California, and even Pennsylvania. In every instance but Pennsylvania, a loss by the Republicans would have been a win for Stephen Douglas.

The election could have been thrown into the House of Representatives, where each state would have only one vote, and the field would have been limited to the top three finishers in the electoral vote. The intransigence of the politics of 1860 would likely have meant nobody would be chosen before March 4, 1861, and at noon on that day the president-elect as chosen by the Senate of the United States (since we've never reached this level of strain on our Constitution, most people don't even know it exists) would be sworn in as the sixteenth president of the United States. That man would probably have been Joseph Lane, North Carolina born proslavery senator

from Oregon. Goodwin briefly touches on this subject on page 260 when she writes that "A Lincoln victory would require at least 152 electoral votes. Anything short of a majority would throw the election into the turbulent House of Representatives, which might well prove unable to elect anyone. The choice of vice president would be left to the Southern-dominated Senate, which might well elect Joseph Lane, Breckenridge's running mate, to occupy the vacant presidential chair." Though providing an accurate analysis of the possibilities that existed in the event of a Seward nomination, Goodwin fails to elaborate on why such a scenario would likely have ensued. It was an important enough possibility to have justified much more attention than was given.

Of particular interest to this reviewer is Goodwin's treatment of the very difficult and largely unprecedented issues Lincoln had to cope with in August 1864. With his impending defeat at the polls increasingly likely, the president had to grapple with how he might save his presidency, the nation, and emancipation, all at the same time. It would be difficult because many of those representing the wartime coalition of Republicans and War Democrats were not on the same page regarding the purposes of the war, and there was reason for concern as to whether the coalition could be maintained if it appeared at anytime that the war could be ended on terms that embraced reunion but not emancipation. Goodwin exquisitely navigates the various activities that Lincoln undertook, including a genuine pursuit of advice and direction from Frederick Douglass, to weave a tapestry of the thoughts and emotions that would determine the future of the nation in this perhaps most vulnerable moment in its history. Her analysis is intelligent, thoughtful, and probative, and represents the best account yet recorded of just what went on at these critical moments in the Lincoln presidency. It is very compelling reading.

One must look long and hard to find shortcomings in this highly readable monograph. If Goodwin's account is not the best account of the Lincoln presidency ever composed (and that should be read as a question, not a statement), it is certainly the finest treatment of the four Cabinet members, their families, and their roles during the war, that we have seen since Nicolay and Hay. Goodwin develops character and personality as well as any writer of this generation, and her depiction of not only the men who composed the team of rivals, but of the women in their lives, of the tragedies both antebellum and during the war that so profoundly affected each of them, and the strength of will and character that attended them through this most catastrophic of all American periods, is the work of a wordmaster who employs language with an elegance that speaks to the *better angels of our nature*. Like her hero Abraham Lincoln, the person who is the centerpiece of *Team of Rivals*, just as he is at the center of American history, Goodwin demonstrates a skill in the use of words that transcends the literature about this most-written-about of all Americans, and helps us to better understand why it is that Americans are so fascinated with this president and this presidency.

Doris Kearns Goodwin has given us an account of those events, and the presidency they spawned, "for the ages."

Lincolniana 2005–2006

By Frank J. Williams

Introduction

He is on the cover of magazines, the subject of TV programs and best-selling books. No, he is not some hot new celebrity — he was our nation's 16th president.

In *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, Doris Kearns Goodwin describes the 1908 exchange between Leo Tolstoy and tribal people living in a remote mountain village of Eurasia. At the tribal chief's request, the Russian literary legend regaled his isolated audience with stories of the world's great leaders, from Alexander to Caesar to Napoleon. But it was another leader the chief and his tribe most wanted to hear about, Goodwin writes (pp 747–748): the man from the West who “spoke with a voice of thunder; he laughed like the sunrise and his deeds were as strong as a rock... his name was Lincoln.” So Tolstoy obliged them with stories of Lincoln's modest childhood, physical strength, and ultimate influence, amazed that the Lincoln myth flourished even there. The writer later predicted that it would only grow with passing years. The author of *War and Peace* had it right. Today, three years shy of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, the 16th president remains firmly planted at the heart of the American imagination.

Just this year, Lincoln adorned the cover of *U.S. News and World Report* and was the subject of a three-hour documentary on the *History Channel*. Of the thousands of books written about him over the years, one recent volume studied his melancholy; another the search to find his killer. The Gettysburg Address is still memorized in elementary schools, and Steven Spielberg has optioned the Goodwin book and cast Liam Neeson in the title role.

Of course, attempts are made to critique Lincoln. Some argue that he was as much white supremacist as emancipator, a dictator who suspended the writ of habeas corpus, a poor planner who appointed politicians as generals, and a procrastinator who took too much time to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

His sexuality, too, is the subject of conjecture and speculation.

Such contemporary judgments ignore the times in which he lived. Lincoln was familiar with criticism, writing in 1863: “I have endured a great deal of ridicule without much malice; and have received a great deal of kindness, not quite free from ridicule. I am used to it.”

International Legacy

The International Lincoln Association (LSU in Shreveport) released its 2005 issue of *Abraham Lincoln Abroad* featuring: **Matthew L. Perdoni**, “Lincoln's Legacy and Haiti;” **Charles Evans**, “Lincoln's Influence in Russia and the Soviet Union;” and **William D. Pederson**, “Jules Verne, The Mysterious Island (1874).”

Kenneth J. Zanca, “Pope Pius IX and the Fate of the Lincoln Conspirators” was published in the Fall 2005 *Lincoln Herald*.

The International Lincoln Center at LSU in Shreveport launched its first in a series of symposia abroad on Lincoln's legacy in different regions of the world. It was held in the **Dominican Republic** on November 21–23, 2005, focusing on Lincoln's legacy in Central America. **Professor Patricia Moral** (Lincoln, Argentina) chaired the symposium. **Ronald J. Byrd** presented a paper on “Rivera, Kahol and Trotsky: The Lincoln Connection;” **William D. Pederson** and **Skanda T. Shivashankara**, “Jose Marti, Fulgencio Batista, and Fidel Castro: Three Cuban Lincolnators;” **Dana Foster** and **Sashi Shiva**, “The Lincoln Legacy in the Dominican Republic;” **Matthew Perdoni** (Virginia Commonwealth University), on “Lincoln's Legacy in Haiti.” **Ava Sedo** (University of Wisconsin), in cooperation with the **International Lincoln Association**, led a trip from Santo Domingo to La Romania to visit the **Abraham Lincoln School**.

The Presidential Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program is supporting American undergraduate study abroad. On December 1, 2005, it announced a goal to increase the number of undergraduates to one million annually within a decade. It called on the government in 2006 to appropriate an annual budget of \$50 million, rising each year to \$125 million in ten years. The commission's work grows out of the legacy of the late **Senator Paul Simon**.

On December 5, 2005, **Jim Percoco** delivered opening remarks at the **International Chinese-American History Educator's Conference** at Beijing Normal University, China.

Lincoln stamps from **Honduras** and **St. Kitts** were featured in the **Mystic Stamp Company's 2006 Stamp Showcase**.

Daniel Ikenson described his recent visit to China on “Friday Night Lights: Cornering Freedom in China” for the January 4 *National Review*. He recalled a visit to a school where students, from memory, recited the Gettysburg Address.

The Mayor of **Lincoln City, Argentina**, **Jorge Abel Fernandez**, has presented the only duplicate bronze plaque (from the Abraham Lincoln bust that is located in front of the mayor's office) to the **International Lincoln Center at LSU in Shreveport**. It is on permanent display in its collection.

Ana Husarska, “A Man Named Lincoln, Who Wants to be an American,” (*Washington Post*, April 22) reported the plight of an 84-year-old ethnic from Burma forced to flee to Thailand in February 1997. His parents admired America's 16th president so much they named their first child after him. Ms. Husarska was one of the translators for the 1990 Polish-language edition of **Lincoln on Democracy, Lincoln O Demokracji**, edited by Mario Cuomo and Harold Holzer.

The Churchill Centre of Washington, DC held its annual conference on September

28–30 in Chicago, IL. The program emphasized connections between Winston Churchill and Lincoln. **FJW** presented “Lincoln and His Generals” and **Harold Holzer** presented “Lincoln’s Oratory.”

Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, visited the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** on May 17 and later sent the institution a \$1 million contribution (*Chicago Times*, May 25).

British historian **Richard J. Carwardine’s** *Lincoln* has been translated into Spanish. The **University of Reading, UK**, has released his *Abraham Lincoln and the Fourth Estate: The White House and The Press during the American Civil War*.

Arts

Copland and His World was the 2005 theme of the **Bard Music Festival** held at **Bard College**, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, August 12–14, and August 19 through August 21, 2005. “As American As Copland, Who Forged Our New Sound” by **Allan Kozin** appeared in the July 29, 2005 *New York Times*. Kozin wrote: “When his ‘Lincoln Portrait’ was scheduled to be heard in a **National Symphony** concert celebrating **President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s** inauguration, in 1953, **Fred E. Busbey**, a Congressman from Illinois, argued from the floor of the House of Representatives that ‘there are many patriotic composers available without the long record of questionable affiliations of Copland.’ The piece was quickly dropped: suddenly Copland, the quintessential American composer, was being declared un-American, and one of his most overtly patriotic works was deemed unfit for a presidential occasion.” The author notes that Copland was summoned to testify before **Senator Joseph R. McCarthy’s** permanent subcommittee on investigations in May 1953. He refused to name participants at the 1949 Peace Conference that he attended, telling the subcommittee that he didn’t remember seeing anyone who wasn’t already named in newspaper reports.

On November 19, 2005, the **Friends of the Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, IN, hosted the first *Lincoln Film Festival*.

Films included *Wounded Warrior* by **Yervand Kocher** with **Harold Holzer** drawing parallels between the Civil War and war in our time. Twelve-year-old **Zach Rooker’s** *Lincoln in the Civil War* was also shown along with **Dr. Jeffery Chown’s** *Lincoln and Black Hawk*.

Walden Media will film the adaptation of **James Swanson’s** *Manhunt*, with **Harrison Ford** playing the lead role of Colonel Everton Conger, who led a New York cavalry unit in the search for Abraham Lincoln’s assassin.

Artist and author **Thomas J. Trimbora** has produced *Encounters with Lincoln: Images and Words* (**Truman State University Press**).

John McClarey’s “Larger-than-life Lincoln,” depicting the President-elect departing his home town for the presidency, will be placed in a park facing the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**. The 13-foot statue was commissioned by the **Capital Development Board**. McClarey won the 2005 Richard N. Current Award of Achievement of **The Lincoln Forum**.

Greg Cherone has produced a CD, *A Man Named Abraham Lincoln*. All profits from sales go to the **Foundation for the Advancement of Malden Education**, 599 Highland Avenue, Malden, MA 02148.

C-SPAN broadcast portions of the **2005 Lincoln Forum X, The 140th Anniversary of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln**. Included in the January 14, 2006 broadcast were: **Michael Kauffman** (“Process vs. Truth in the History of Booth’s Conspiracy”); **James Swanson** (“Manhunt: The Twelve-Day Chase for Lincoln’s Killers”); **Edward Steers Jr.** (“*Inter Arma Silent Leges*: The Military Trial of the Lincoln Conspirators”); and a panel discussion with **James Swanson, Michael Kauffman, Edward Steers, Jr., Thomas Turner, Louise Taper**, and **FJW**. It was moderated by **Harold Holzer**. **FJW** and **Edward Steers, Jr.** took viewer calls on a live broadcast. **C-SPAN** broadcast the lecture by **Thomas and Debbie Goodrich**, “Hemp and Hell — America’s Reaction to Lincoln’s Assassination” which they

delivered at the **Forum** and then at the **Montgomery County, MD, Civil War Round Table** on December 14.

The History Channel broadcast the three-hour special, *Lincoln*, on January 16, 2006. On January 14, the network presented a Lincoln-related tour of New York with guest **Harold Holzer**.

Fred Zilian has written and performed a one-man play, *Honest Abe*, at **Portsmouth Abbey School**, RI, on January 17, 2006.

Wendy Allen’s work, “Paintings of Lincoln” appeared in the February-March *New England Watershed* magazine.

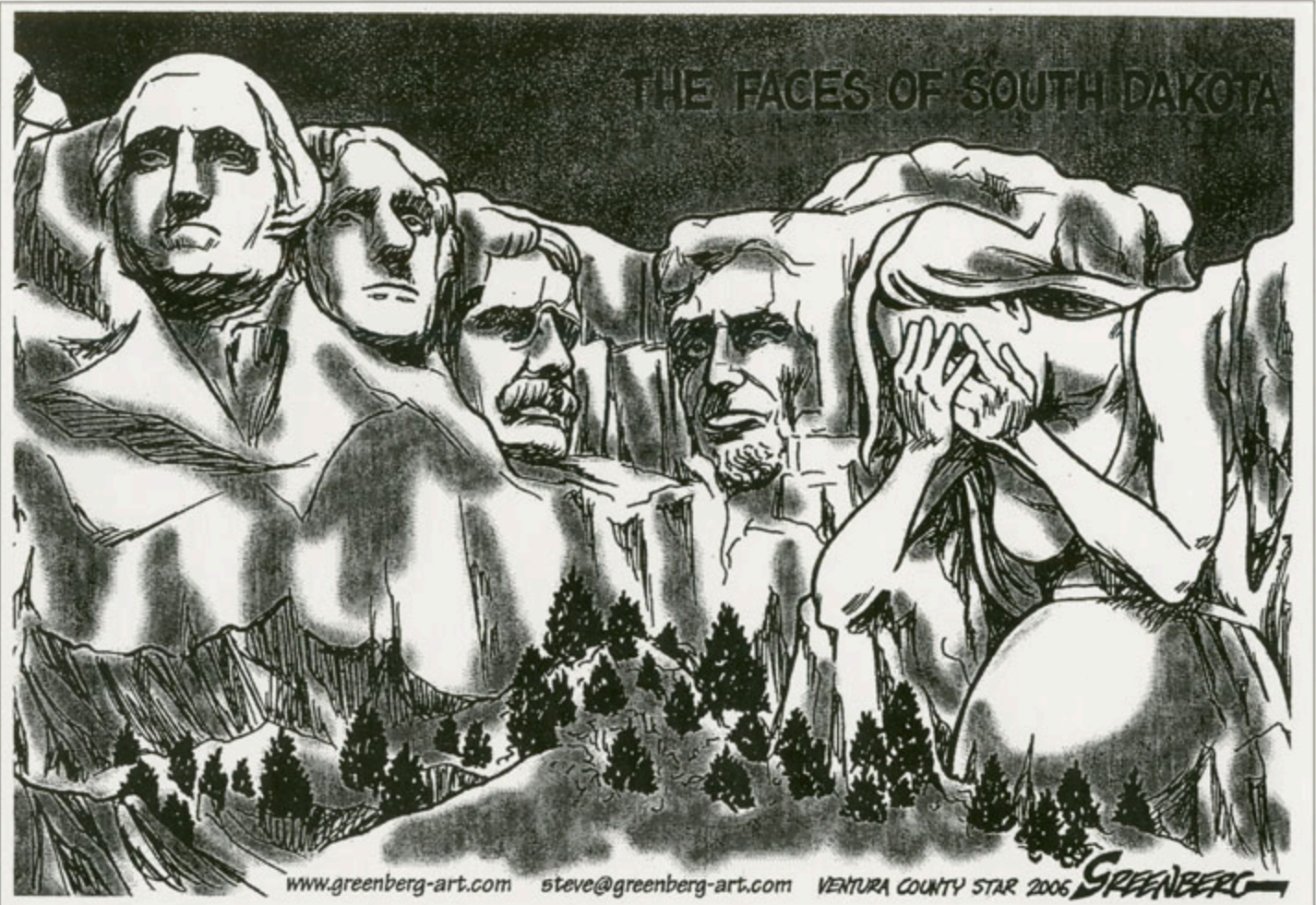
A performance of *The Lincoln Family Album* written by **Harold Holzer** occurred on February 13 at the **Library of Congress**. Actor **Liam Neeson** portrayed Abraham Lincoln and **Holly Hunter** portrayed Mary Lincoln. It aired on **C-SPAN** on Presidents’ Day, February 20. *The Lincoln Family Album* is a picture-and-words account of the life and times of Abraham and Mary Lincoln.

The Criterion Collection has re-released **John Ford’s** 1939 *Young Mr. Lincoln*, which imagines the early career of the future president. One reviewer, **Dave Kehr**, in the February 14 *New York Times*, considered this “one of the highest accomplishments of American film, if not one of the best known [and] is a bit of a poisoned present. Ford’s Lincoln, played by a 34-year-old **Henry Fonda** with a long, prosthetic nose and an unruly forelock, is not a saintly figure out of a children’s civics lesson — or at least, he is that and something else, something quite darker and more difficult, at the same time.”

The play, *Dearly Beloved: The Vows of a Lincoln Legacy*, was performed on June 3 at **Lincoln Homestead State Park** in Springfield, KY. The kickoff event of the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in Kentucky** was a re-creation of the 200th wedding anniversary of Lincoln’s parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

Lincoln’s July 18, 1856 speech in Sterling, IL, was commemorated by a **Don Morris** bronze statue dedicated on the 150th anniversary of the speech. The **Sterling-Rock**

The editorial contents of the cartoons, reprinted with permission in this issue, do not necessarily reflect the views of the author or The Lincoln Museum.



Steve Greenberg, Ventura County Star, Calif. Reprinted with permission.

Falls Historical Society sponsored the dedication ceremony.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society, Freeport, IL, has announced an expansion of the town's debate site at a cost of \$274,000. It was dedicated in August. www.lincoln-douglas.org

Craig Lindvahl narrated, composed the music, and produced *Lincoln's Last Stop*, about Abraham Lincoln and Christian County, IL (15768 Seven Oaks Circle, Effingham, IL 62401).

The American Singers Theater completed the opera *Our American Cousin* composed by **Eric Sawyer** with libretto by **John Shoptaw**. The opera will premiere at the **Academy of Music**, North Hampton, MA, in April 2007. www.eunice-williams.com.

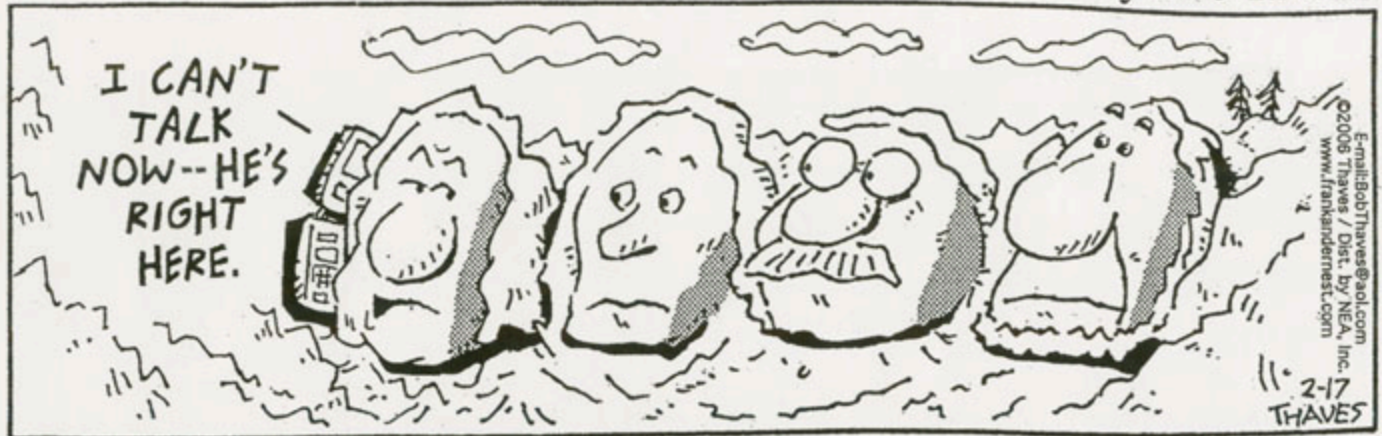
Exhibits

The National Traveling Exhibition, *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation*, arrived at the **Tisch Library, Tufts University** for display October 12–December 2, 2005. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Library held many events, including "Principle and Prudence in Lincoln's Statecraft and Statesmanship, Politics and Persuasion" with **David Bromwich** and **Steven Smith**; "Did Lincoln Really Believe 'all men are created equal'?" with **V. Phillip Munoz**; "Spiritual Development: Lessons from Lincoln" with **W. George Scarlett**; "Wrists of Activism: Stowe, Lincoln and the Twenty-First Century" with **Liz C. Ammons**; and a special *Grand Finale Lecture* by **David Herbert Donald** on December 2, 2005. **Fred Laffert, Jr.** led a study

group on *Abraham Lincoln: His Life and Times* on Monday, September 19. This exhibit opened at the **Providence (RI) Public Library** on December 14, running through February 10. **FJW** made opening remarks on December 15, presenting "Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation: An Act of Political Courage" on January 12.

The bronze art of sculptor **Richard Masloski** was the subject of an exhibition, *Lincoln: Personal and Public Moments in Bronze*, at **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, from January 16 to August 1.

A traveling exhibit from the **National Constitution Center**, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, opened at **The Lincoln Museum**, Fort Wayne, IN, on February 11, 2006.



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The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum hosted an exhibit, *Mr. Lincoln's Attic*, through April 2, 2006.

Lincoln Hall — the ballroom where Lincoln's Second Inaugural was celebrated on March 4, 1865 — reopened to the public July 1 in the restored and reinstalled **National Portrait Gallery/Smithsonian Museum of American Art**. The former **Patent Office** display hall was also used as a military hospital during the Civil War. A new Lincoln Gallery has been opened on the third floor.

A photographic exhibit commemorating the 140th anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln, *140 Years Ago . . . The Crime of the Century*, went on display at the **Surratt House**, Clinton, MD.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, exhibited its newly acquired Lincoln assassination reward poster, one of the gems of the recently purchased **Gilman Collection** in October 2000.

The exhibition *The Lincoln Family Album*, featuring photographs from the Lincoln family's collection, opened at **The Lincoln Museum** on September 29 and will close on February 19, 2007.

Lincoln artist **Wendy Allen** had a major exhibit of her new art work, *Portraits of Abraham Lincoln — The Freedom Series*. The exhibit began on September 29 in the **Upper Concourse** of the **Connecticut Legislative Office Building**, Hartford.

Collections

Hildene, the Lincoln family home in Manchester, VT, held its inaugural meeting of the **Hildene History Book Club** on January 9, 2005, with a discussion of **Joshua Wolf Shenk's** *Lincoln's Melancholy*. **Hildene** is undertaking a capital campaign to raise funds to construct an archive building adjacent to the existing visitors' center.

Reverend David Ogletree has donated his Lincolniana Collection to **Young Harris College**, Young Harris, GA.

The Indiana Historical Society has published a four-page leaflet, *The Lincoln Times*, June 11–October 2, 2005, to commemorate its acquisition of the **Jack Smith Lincoln Graphics Collection** containing more than 800 images, as well as the **Daniel L. Weinberg Lincoln Conspirators Collection**, consisting of over 100 photographs, lithographs, and printed materials.

Longtime **Lincoln College** trustee **John Gehlbach**, donated his collection of Civil War items to **The Lincoln College Museum**, Lincoln, IL.

Longtime **Lincoln Group of New York** Executive Committee member **Hal Gross**, donated his 500 Lincoln volumes to the **Rosenthal Library, Queens College**, on September 22, 2005 — a day after Hal's 88th birthday.

Coming in 2007

The **Lincoln Memorial Shrine**, Redlands, CA, will, as part of its 75th Anniversary for the Lincoln Memorial Shrine, host a conference on February 8 and 9, 2007. Speakers will include **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, **Allen Guelzo**, and others who have delivered addresses at the annual **Watchorn Lincoln Dinner** held each February 12th.

Craig L. Symonds will present "Sixteen Feet Tall: Abraham Lincoln and History" as the **2007 Frank and Virginia Williams Lincoln Lecture** at the **International Lincoln Center for American Studies, LSU in Shreveport** on March 15, 2007.

The University of Southern Indiana will hold the **Fourth Annual Lincoln Institute for Teachers** in June 2007. www.usi.edu/his.

The **22nd Annual Lincoln Colloquium** will be held in October 2007 in Springfield, IL.

The **11th Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium** will be held November 16-18, 2007 in Gettysburg, PA.

Pete Sherman wrote in the December 10, 2005 *State-Journal Register* (Springfield, IL) about the **Kincaid** family of Athens, IL who presented a survey done for John Kennedy Kincaid in 1835 by Abraham Lincoln to the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum**.

Sherman also reported in the January 20 *State Journal-Register* that an Iowa woman became the 500,000th visitor to the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**.

The January 27 *State Journal-Register* reported that the **Illinois Midland Railroad**, formerly the **Chicago, Illinois Midland Railroad Co.**, donated to the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** original paintings of Abraham Lincoln printed by the Chicago, Illinois Midland Railroad Company from the early 1930s to the mid-1950s.

President Lincoln's summer home, **The Anderson Cottage** at the **Armed Forces Retirement Home** in Washington, is now closed to tours for approximately 18 months while the interior is renovated. **The National Trust for Historic Preservation** has announced that it will dedicate the restored **Soldier's Home** on September 22, 2007 — the 145th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The National Trust is also considering creating a **Center for the Lincoln Presidency** to preserve Lincoln's ideas and legacy.

Jonathan Mann, publisher of *The Railsplitter*, discussed the sale of a signed souvenir copy of the resolution for adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution in the winter issue. With an estimate of \$750,000 to \$1 million, the piece sold for \$1.645 million, plus a 15% buyer's premium.

Sylvia Larson has prepared a new history of the **Lincoln Group of Boston**, Special Collections, Maxwell Library, **Bridgewater State College**, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

Richard Sheaff wrote about Charles Woodbury McLellan (1836–1918), one of the "Big Five" 19th-Century collec-

tors of Abraham Lincoln material, in the June *American Philatelist*. McLellan's collection was purchased by **John D. Rockefeller, Jr.** for **Brown University** in 1923.

Historian **Jason Emerson** found copies of letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln while at the **Bellevue Place Sanitarium**, along with a 111-page manuscript about Mrs. Lincoln's insanity case written by the granddaughter of Mary's legal advisors. Emerson published an article about the find in the July **American Heritage Magazine**.

The International Lincoln Center at Louisiana State University – Shreveport is now on the web. www.lsus.edu/lincoln.

Lincoln Bicentennial

James A. Percoco, with **Tamara D. Ogden** and **Howard Seretan**, prepared *Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Lesson Plans* for the **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** and the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**. The lesson plans went online this Spring.

On February 11, members of the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**, its **Advisory Committee**, and members of the **ALBC Governors' Council**, convened at the **Library of Congress** for a series of consultations on the ongoing preparations for the bicentennial celebration in 2009.

The **Congress** passed and **President Bush** signed the **Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act** requiring the **U.S. Treasury** to issue a \$1 commemorative coin in 2009 to mark Lincoln's 200th birthday.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has published its first "Newsletter" online. Volume 1 can be found at www.lincoln200.gov — its new web address.

Awards and Prizes

Richard M. McMurry received the 2005

Nevins-Freeman Award from the **Civil War Round Table of Chicago**.

Frank J. Williams received the **Distinguished Service Award** from **Louisiana State University** — Shreveport on September 16, 2005.

The first **Founder's Day Award** of the **Coles County Historical Society** was presented to **B. F. and Dorothy McClerren** for their historic portrayals of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

For the second year in a row, the *Chicago Tribune* named *Lincoln Lore*, published by The Lincoln Museum, one of the top 50 magazines in the nation.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum received the **National Award of Achievement** from **The Lincoln Group of New York** as well as a **2005 Thea Award** for achievement in the creation of compelling experiences.

Historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin** was awarded the 2006 Lincoln Prize for *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* (Simon & Schuster), her biography of the president and his cabinet. The prize, \$50,000, is given by the **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History**. **The New York Historical Society** also named her the winner of its inaugural \$50,000 book prize for her book.

Truman State University (MO) announced the *Schwengel-Lincoln Contest* for essay, oratory, and art. It is named for the late **U.S. Representative Fred Schwengel**, who donated the **Schwengel Lincoln Collection** to **Pickler Memorial Library** at **Truman State University**. Winners in each division will receive a \$300 cash prize or a trip to Washington, DC.

On May 16, **Senator Dick Durbin** and **Congressman Ray LaHood**, two of the three co-chairs of the **U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission** received the **Lincoln Award of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia**. **Harold Holzer**, the third co-chair, belatedly received his 2005 award at the same dinner.

Frank J. Williams was named one of the nation's best 500 judges, out of 30,000 sitting jurists, by the review group **Lawdragon** (www.lawdragon.com).

Books and Pamphlets

The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views: Social, Legal, and Pictorial by **Harold Holzer**, **Edna Greene Medford**, and **Frank J. Williams** with a foreword by **John Hope Franklin** has been published by **Louisiana State University Press**.

Kenneth Deutsch and **Joseph Fornieri** have edited *Lincoln's American Dream: Clashing Political Perspectives* (**Potomac Books**).

John Wiley & Sons, Inc. published *Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency* by **Elizabeth Smith Brownstein**.

St. Martin's Press published *The Lincolns in the White House: Four Years that Shattered a Family* by **Jerrold M. Packard**.

Johns Hopkins University Press issued *Lincoln's Speeches Reconsidered* by **John Channing Briggs**.

James Swanson's *Manhunt: The Twelve-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*, was published by **William Morrow**.

St. Martin's Press published *Lincoln in the Times: The Life of Abraham Lincoln as Originally Reported in the New York Times*, edited by **David Herbert Donald** and **Harold Holzer**.

Samuel A. Schreiner, Jr. is the author of *The Trials of Mrs. Lincoln* (**University of Nebraska Press**).

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

Lincoln's Defense of Politics: The Public Man and His Opponents in the Crisis over Slavery by **Thomas E. Schneider** has been published by **University of Missouri Press**.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Legacy of Lincoln by **Pamela Oldham** has been published by **Penguin Group**.

Oxford University Press published **Richard Striner's** *Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to End Slavery*.

Barbara Hambly has written the novel, *The Emancipator's Wife: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln*, which has been published by the **Bantam Publishing Group**.

Abraham Lincoln, President-Elect: The Four Critical Months from Election to Inauguration by **Larry D. Mansch** has been published by **McFarland & Company**.

Hank H. Cox has written *Lincoln and the Sioux Uprising of 1862* (**Cumberland House Publishing**).

Dear Mr. Lincoln: Letters to the President and The Lincoln Mailbag: America Writes to the President, 1861-1865, edited by **Harold Holzer** have been re-published in paper by **Southern Illinois University Press**.

Random House has re-published **Richard Carwardine's** *Lincoln, A Life of Purpose and Power*. His 2004 **Stenton Lecture**, *Abraham Lincoln and the Fourth Estate: The White House and the Press during the American Civil War*, has been published by the **University of Reading, United Kingdom**.

Eric Foner and **Joshua Brown** have written *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction* (**Knopf**).

Douglas L. Wilson and **Rodney O. Davis** have edited and re-published *Herndon's Lincoln* (**University of Illinois Press**).

The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin has published its **60th Annual Meeting Bulletin**, *Lincoln in Janesville and Beloit* by **Maurice Montgomery**.

Southern Illinois University Press has published a new edition of *The Lincoln Family Album* edited by **Mark E. Neely, Jr.** and **Harold Holzer**.

Michael William Pfau has written *The Political Style of Conspiracy: Chase, Sumner, and Lincoln* (**Michigan State**

University Press).

The Easton Press (677 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857) has re-published, in leather, *Twenty Days: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*.

Sunderine Temple and **Wayne C. Temple** have written *Abraham Lincoln and Illinois' Fifth Capitol* (**Mayhaven Publishing**).

Gabor Boritt's *The Gettysburg Gospel: The Speech that Nobody Knows* has been published by **Simon & Schuster**.

Linda Giberson Black's *Gettysburg Remembers President Lincoln: Eyewitness Accounts of November* has been published by **Thomas Publications**.

Ward M. McAfee's *Citizen Lincoln* has been published by **Nova History Publications**.

Northern Illinois University Press has published **Mark E. Steiner's** *An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln*.

Colleen J. Shogan has written *The Moral Rhetoric of American Presidents* (**Texas A & M University Press**).

William Marvel has authored *Mr. Lincoln Goes to War* (**Houghton Mifflin**).

Edward Steers, Jr. has edited *The Trial: The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators* (**University Press of Kentucky**).

Charles Higham has authored *Murdering Mr. Lincoln: A New Detection of the 19th Century's Most Famous Crime* (**New Millennium Press**).

Periodicals

Wayne C. Temple's "Herndon on Lincoln: An Unknown Interview with a list of books in the Lincoln & Herndon Law Office," appeared in the Spring/Summer 2005 *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*.

Paul Gleason's "Isaac Diller, Willie and Tad Lincoln's Playmate" was in the Summer 2005 *Lincoln News Letter*.

The Summer 2005 *Claremont Review of Books* included a "Symposium" on **C.A. Tripp's *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*** with commentary by **Allen C. Guelzo, John Y. Simon, Edward Steers, Jr., Daniel W. Stowell, Joan L. Flinspach, and Lucas E. Morel**. Professor Guelzo edited the section.

"A. Lincoln, Debtor-Creditor Lawyer" by **Roger D. Billings, Jr.** appeared in the Summer 2005 *Journal of Illinois History*.

The *History Channel Magazine* for May/June 2005 included "Lincoln Financial Group Celebrates 100 years."

The Summer 2005 *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* included: "Was Stephen A. Douglas Anti-Slavery?" by **Graham A. Peck**; "The Howard Family Legacy at the Knob Creek Farm" by **Keith A. Sculle**; and "The Lincoln Landscape: Sculptural

Commemorations of Abraham Lincoln by Avard T. Fairbanks" by **Eugene Fairbanks**. The Winter 2006 contained "Completing the Work of the Framers: Lincoln's Constitutional Legacy" by **Daniel A. Farber**; "Lincoln's Construction of the Executive Power in the Secession Crisis" by **Herman Belz**; and "The Lincoln Landscape: The Transformation of the Lincoln Tomb" by **Nancy Hill**.

Bill Bleyer wrote the cover story about the new **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**, "Lincoln Land" for the July 10, 2005 (New York) *Newsday*.

The **Lincoln Society of Virginia** (402 East College, Bridgewater, VA 22812) published its first newsletter on July 11, 2005, in which it described the Society's initial symposium.

James Ross's "Bush, Torture and Lincoln's Legacy" appeared in the August 15-22, 2005 *America*.

William D. Pederson wrote "Constitution Day — America's Unique Historical Day" for the August 18, 2005 *Madison Journal*, Tallulah, LA. It also was reprinted in the Lake Providence, LA *Banner-Democrat* on September 8.

Robert Dodge wrote for *The Dallas Morning News* about the **National Museum of Health and Medicine** in Washington, D.C. Its collection contains sections of bullet-pierced vertebrae from both President James Garfield and Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth. A recent Civil War exhibit includes a lock of hair and skull fragments from Abraham Lincoln. Located on the campus of **Walter Reed Army Medical Center**, the facility was established in 1862 by Surgeon General William Hammond. Dodge's story also appeared in the August 21, 2005 *Providence Sunday Journal*.



Chris Britt, *State Journal Register*. Reprinted with permission.

"Abraham Lincoln, American Hero" by **Harold Holzer** appeared in the September 2005 *North & South*. It was adapted from his 2004 NEH Lecture at Ford's Theatre.

The 2005 *Lincolnator* of the **Louisiana Lincoln Group** contained **Matthew L. Perdoni's** "'Higher Law: The Basis of Abraham Lincoln's Jurisprudence.'"

The September 12, 2005 *Chicago Tribune* editorial, "A Lincoln for our Time," called the new **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library** in Springfield, IL "a great achievement that is bound to enhance the public's understanding of Lincoln and the divided nation that he did so much to preserve."

David Herbert Donald wrote "1860: The Road Not Taken" for the October 2005 *Smithsonian* section, *Four Fateful Elections*.

Phillip C. Stone's "Abraham Lincoln: A Trial Lawyer in the White House" appeared

in the Fall 2005 *Delaware Lawyer*.

Frank J. Williams' "Toward a More Perfect Union" was in the Fall 2005 *Lincoln Lore*.

Harold Holzer's "Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and The Hero Factor" was in the Fall 2005 *National Constitution Center News*.

The 2005 *Newsletter of The Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania* included **FJW's** remarks at the **Soldiers' National Cemetery** in Gettysburg on November 19, 2004.

"Lincoln's Religion and His Bible" by **Norm Schmidt** appeared in the Fall 2005 *Lincoln Newsletter of Lincoln College*.

"Lincoln, Meade & The Lost Opportunity of Gettysburg" by **Glenn W. LaFantasie** appeared in the December 2005 *Civil War Times*.

John Lockwood wrote "Journey of

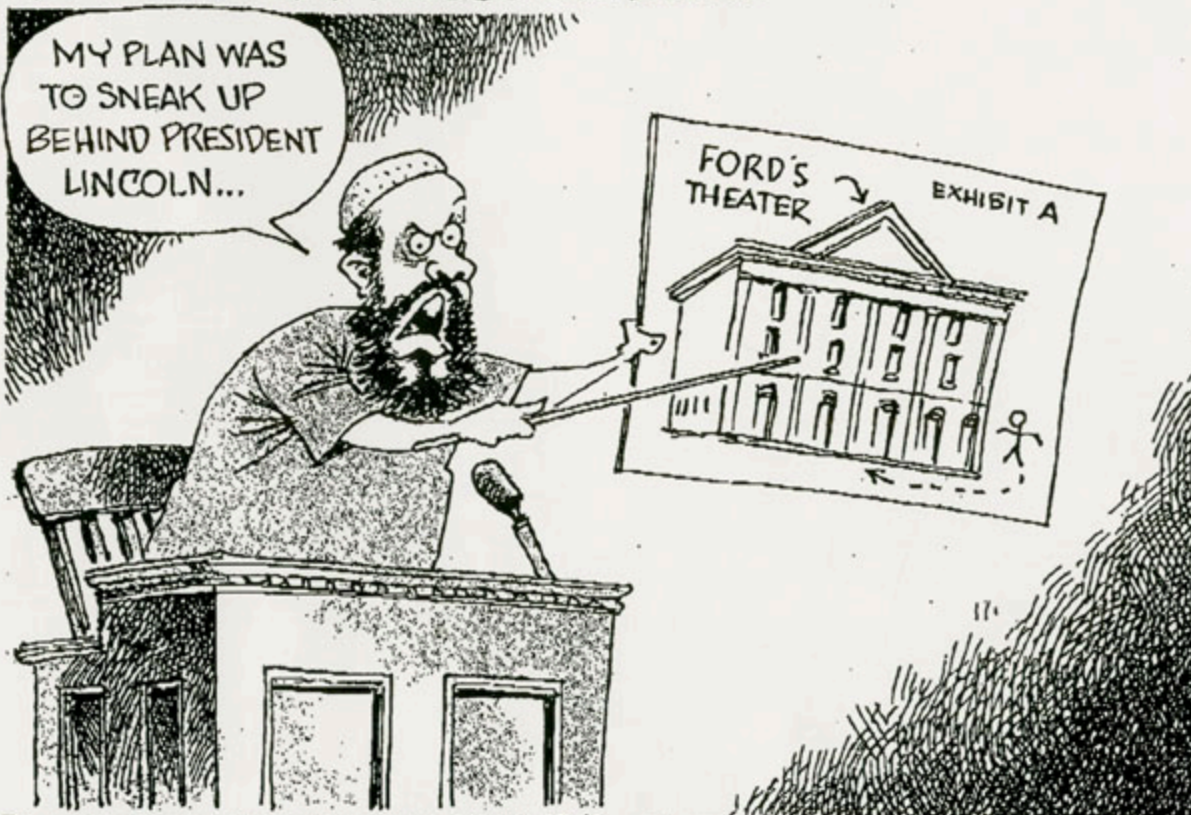
Loyalty to Booth Ends at the Gallows" about David E. Herold for the December 24, 2005 *Washington Times*.

The Winter *Four Score and Seven* (a publication of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation**) featured a message from **Richard Norton Smith**, Executive Director of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library** and an interview with **Joshua Wolf Shenk**, author of *Lincoln's Melancholy*. The Spring issue included a description of the forthcoming electronic image edition of every document written by or to Abraham Lincoln, being assembled by *The Lincoln Legal Papers*, "The Scholarship of Democracy — The Democratization of Scholarship." **Doris Kearns Goodwin** was also interviewed in this issue and there were staff profiles of **Sam Cooper**, **Nathan Knappenburger**, and **Jeff Nevens**.

Bruce Rushton, in the *Illinois Times* on February 9, wrote about **Richard Norton Smith's** departure as **Director**

MOUSSAOUI'S latest claim...

MY PLAN WAS
TO SNEAK UP
BEHIND PRESIDENT
LINCOLN...



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Dave Granlund, *Metrowest Daily News*, April 2, 2006. Reprinted with permission.

of **The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** — “Mr. Smith Goes To Washington: Is He Getting Out While the Getting is Good?”

The Civil War Times, published a 140th anniversary assassination special edition, *Lincoln: Assassination and Aftermath* featuring “Web of Deception” by **Michael W. Kauffman**; “The Simple Conspiracy” by **William Hanchett**; “The Confederate Connection” by **Edward Steers, Jr.**; “Repercussions of the Richmond Raid” by **Stephen W. Sears**; “A Silent Gloom Fell Upon Us Like a Pall” by **Jeffrey D. Wert**; “Travel: Chasing Booth” by **Stuart Lutz**; “The Rubber Room” by **Harold Holzer** and **Frank Williams**; and “A Fitful Night’s Sleep” by **Candace Fleming**.

Mark Grimsley discussed “The ‘Dump Lincoln’ Movements of 1864” in the January 2006 *North & South*.

Doris Kearns Goodwin’s article about the Emancipation Proclamation, “My Whole Soul Is in It,” appeared in the January *Smithsonian*.

Scott Galupo discussed Lincoln in popular culture in “Getting in Touch with the Inner Abe” for the January 13, *Washington Times*.

Richard Wightman Fox wrote “Lincoln’s Religious Quest” for the January 18 *Newsweek*.

Richard Gonzales wrote “Learning from Lincoln about Depression” for the January 29 Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*.

Daniel Mark Epstein wrote “Lincoln and Whitman Greet the New Year” for the February 2006 *Civil War Times*.

“Obadiah Jackson Downing: One of Five Who Carried Lincoln’s Dying Body?” by **Robert Downing Cecil** was in the February *Surratt Courier*.

Corrine Frisch wrote “A Few Good Men: Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin Takes a Close Look at Lincoln and His Inner Circle” for the February 9–13 *Illinois Times*.

Maura Possley discussed a cemetery in western Illinois containing the graves of at least 12 members of President Abraham Lincoln’s extended family in “History

Grows on Farmland” for the February 13 *Chicago Tribune*.

The February 16 *History Now* included “Lincoln and Abolition” by **Douglas Wilson**, “Lincoln at Cooper Union” by **Harold Holzer**, and “Lincoln’s Civil Religion” by **George C. Rable**.

Jason Emerson convincingly argues that Abraham Lincoln indeed authored the letter to the widow Lydia Bixby in “America’s Most Famous Letter” for the February/March *American Heritage*. **Harold Holzer** provided sidebars on Mrs. Bixby and Robert Lincoln’s summer home, **Hildene**.

Robert Sterling wrote “Stepping Stone to the Presidency: The Great Debate of ‘58” in the Winter *Railsplitter*.

William D. Pederson’s “Abraham Lincoln’s Philosophy of the Law” was in the 2006 (Volume 12) *Lincolnator*, a publication of the **Louisiana Lincoln Group**.

Ronald D. Rietveld’s “The Religion of Abraham Lincoln” appeared in the March/April *Sacred History*.

Richard Carwardine’s “Abraham Lincoln and the Fourth Estate: The White House and the Press during the American Civil War” appeared in the March *American 19th Century History*.

David S. Reynolds wrote, “John Brown, The Election of Lincoln, and the Civil War” for the March 2006 *North & South*.

Courtland Milloy wrote about **Loretta Carter Hanes**, an early champion of **Emancipation Day** in the **District of Columbia**, which marks April 16, 1862, when Lincoln ended slavery in the Capital (*Washington Post*, April 16).

Jennifer Bach wrote “Was Mary Todd Lincoln Bipolar?” for the Winter *Journal of Illinois History*.

Pamela H. Sacks wrote “Enduring Abe” for the April 18 *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*.

The *Albany Times Union*, in an April 24 article by **Paul Grondahl**, described the arrival of the remains of Abraham Lincoln in Albany, NY on April 25, 1865.

People

Thomas A. Horrocks, the Associate Librarian for Collections at the **Houghton Library, Harvard University**, is working with the Lincoln Collection that came to the library from the widow of **Alonzo Rothschild** in 1916 and by a bequest of **William W. Nolan** in 1924.

Harold Holzer has been named a contributing editor of *American Heritage Magazine*.

Frank Milligan, who most recently served as Executive Director of the **Nantucket Historical Association** and **Nantucket Whaling Museum**, has been named director for the **Lincoln Cottage at the United States Armed Forces Home** by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**.

Steven Krause has been elected President of the **Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin**, succeeding **Daniel E. Pearson**, who served 12 years.

James A. Sanders, who served as superintendent of the **Harry S. Truman National Historic Site in Independence, MO**, for six years, has been appointed superintendent of **The Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, IL**.

Lincoln sculptor **John McClarey** was profiled by **Dan Guillory** in the July–August 2005 *Illinois Heritage*.

David Herbert Donald was profiled by **Hillel Italie** for the August 24, 2005 *canada.com News*. Professor Donald is now at work on a biography of **President John Quincy Adams**.

In the September 8 and October 13, 2005 issues of the *Washington Post*, **Linda Wheeler** wrote about the 11-year effort by **Budge** and **Russ Weidman** to organize Civil War files at the **National Archives**.

Doris Kearns Goodwin was profiled in the October 20, 2005 *USA Today* in **Bob Minzesheimer’s** “Getting Intimate With Lincoln.”

The late **C.A. Tripp**, who wrote the controversial book *The Intimate World of*

Abraham Lincoln, left a \$1 million bequest to support Lincoln research at the **Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**. At least half of the donation will be directed to **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln** project, an effort to collect everything written to and by Lincoln.

Gabor Boritt was profiled in the October/November 2005 *Gettysburg Companion*.

Richard Norton Smith resigned as the **Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** on January 24, 2006. He left his position in March to become a scholar in residence at **George Mason University** in Virginia. Smith will also complete his biography of Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Charles Hubbard has stepped down as **Director of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN**, to write and teach. **Thomas D. Mackie** succeeded him.

Mark A. Fields has been elected **President of the Abraham Lincoln Association of Indiana**, succeeding **Angela Gilmer**.

James Swanson was profiled in the February 10, 2006 *USA Today* ("Lincoln memorabilia fills author's home to the rafters" by **Craig Wilson**). He was also profiled by **Lorrie Lynch** in the February 24–26 *USA Weekend*. **Lynette Clemetson** discussed him in the Arts section of the March 15 *New York Times*, and he appeared on *The Today Show* and *CBS Sunday Morning*.

Michael Bishop has departed as Executive Director of the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**. **Eileen Mackevich**, founder of **The Chicago Humanities Festival**, is his successor.

Glenn W. LaFantasie has been appointed the **Frocht Family Professor of Civil War History** at **Western Kentucky University** in **Bowling Green**. He will also create and direct a center for the Civil War in the West at WKU.

John Lupton has become **Associate Director** and **Associate Editor** of **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln**.

Us Magazine on May 9 indicated that the actor **Tom Hanks** is a direct descendent of **Nancy Hanks**, the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln and Popular Culture

The May 2005 *Washingtonian* included "Lose the Beard, Abe, If You Want to Run for Reelection" — a spoof from the "*Washington Post* of January 5, 1863" by **Vic Gold**:

Faced with sinking poll numbers, the Lincoln White House announced yesterday that the President himself will be making the talk-show circuit to encourage support for administration programs.

Petula Dvorak discussed the new security measures around the **Lincoln Memorial** in "A Balance of Security, Symbolism" in the July 19, 2005 *Washington Post*. An editorial, *Fort Lincoln Memorial?* appeared in the *Post* four days later, opining that, "Terrorism — or, more precisely, fear of terrorist acts — has driven the capital of the world's most powerful nation and most open society to this new day of concrete and steel fortifications. The Lincoln Memorial is not immune from the security plan mandated by Congress after the September 11, 2001 attacks, but the memorial is a symbol of our democratic society and must remain open and accessible to the public as a hallmark of freedom."

Arlen Specter, chairman of the **Senate Judiciary Committee**, wrote an op-ed for the July 24, 2005 *New York Times* in which he recognized the impropriety of asking federal court nominees how they would rule on specific cases. "Abraham Lincoln is reputed to have said pretty much the same thing: 'We cannot ask a man what he will do, and if we should, and he should answer us, we would despise him. Therefore, we must take a man whose opinions are known.'"

James Taranto, in the September 12, 2005 *Wall Street Journal*, reported a new survey of scholars ranking George Washington first in the "Greatest Presidents" category followed by Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Sophia A. Nelson wrote "I'm Hoping Bush Can Finish What Lincoln Started" for the October 23, 2005 *Washington Post*. The author believes that when Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation he set in motion a process that **President Bush** could complete by following up on his recent remarks about racial inequality.

On November 18, 2005, **Joshua Zeitz**, a contributing editor of *American Heritage*, wrote "The Radicalism of the Gettysburg Address" suggesting that "Lincoln's speech is not only the easiest to memorize but also the most important to grasp. It has been 142 years since the President delivered his remarks at Gettysburg, but his ideas continue to resonate."

On November 28, 2005, **David Gelernter** wrote "Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving: Of Puritans, Prayer, and the Capitol Dome" for *The Weekly Standard*. The author discussed the four themes that inspired Lincoln to proclaim a national day of thanksgiving on April 11, 1865 — two days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox and four days before the President was murdered. Thanksgiving itself is theme number one. It was President Lincoln who declared a national Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November 1864 and it has always been so since. The author's second theme is the Capitol dome, unfinished when the Civil War began in 1861, but in 1864 with the statue *Liberty* placed on top — many Americans seeing the work as a symbol of the North's resolve to win the Civil War. The third theme focused on the day Lincoln appeared on the White House balcony on April 11, 1865 with the City of Washington brightly lit. His last speech was, itself, the fourth theme. Louisiana ratified the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery and the question remained whether it should be allowed back into the Union immediately. Lincoln said yes as, "He, from Whom all blessings flow, must not be forgotten. A call for a national Thanksgiving is being prepared, and will be duly promulgated."

John D. McKinnon discussed "Lawmakers Consider Extent of President's Authority in Fight Against Terrorism" for the January 6, 2006 *Wall Street Journal*. To McKinnon, the argument over presidential war powers goes back to the time of Lincoln when the president believed

that he had the power, under the law of war, to take steps to protect the nation. He was criticized for suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* and taking other extra-constitutional acts. McKinnon believes that war on terror may be different, because there is no defining end to such a conflict "unlike the Civil War and World War II."

Scott Galupo wrote "Getting In Touch With the Inner Abe" for the January 13, 2006 *Washington Times*. Galupo discussed the continuing fascination with Lincoln, quoting the late Hollywood director **Preston Sturges**, who wrote: "Of all things in nature, great men alone reverse the law of perspective and grow smaller as one approaches them." In the case of Lincoln, Galupo points out, "It would seem Mr. Sturges was wrong."

Amy Forliti's Associated Press article, "Clumsiness in his genes? Researchers find another potential affliction for Lincoln," appeared in the January 28 *Springfield State Journal-Register*. She reported that there was a 25% chance that Lincoln inherited a mutation that caused a degenerative neurological disorder affecting coordination, including walking, writing, speaking, and swallowing. This joins the unproven thesis that Lincoln suffered from Marfan's Syndrome.

"How Would His Leadership be Reviewed if he were President Today?" was the op-ed by **FJW** in the February 12 *Westerly Sun*. The author wondered which presidents might join Lincoln in the ranks of Monday holidays. **FJW's** "Lincoln Fascinates as Much as Ever" appeared February 20 in *The Newport Daily News*. The writer quoted **Richard Carwardine**: "Lincoln is a bipartisan figure. He belongs to everyone." And in times of crisis, Carwardine said, citizens may want to ask, "Abraham Lincoln, where are you when your country needs you?"

Andrew Ferguson wrote "Lincoln's Adaptability" for the February 16 *New York Sun*. Ferguson discussed Lincoln's leadership and the adaptability of the Lincoln story as a measure of his greatness.

Samuel A. Schreiner, Jr. wrote "Truly, Madly, Deeply" for the *New York Times* on February 20 (President's Day), arguing that Mary Todd Lincoln has been

unfairly maligned over the years. To him, "Lincoln's patience with his wife was apparently reciprocated by her patience with him when he slipped away from her into one of his periods of melancholy or preoccupation with affairs of state." While Mary Lincoln may have been difficult to live with, she was not insane, opines the writer.

A *National Geographic* survey of 273 children revealed that Abraham Lincoln, with 33 percent, was the favorite commander-in-chief and the most popular among kids. George Washington followed with 15 percent, Franklin D. Roosevelt with 9 percent, and George W. Bush with 8 percent.

The editorial "What Would Abe Do? — Lincoln's Presidency is a Lesson for Today" appeared in the February 20 *Sacramento Bee*. The editorial tries to answer its own question by suggesting that the post-9/11 "emergency" is over and the President and Congress should partner as Lincoln did. Lincoln took actions he thought Congress would approve when it was not in session and then asked for that approval when it convened. "Lincoln also understood that emergency wartime actions would be temporary. No man, he said in a homey example would 'contract so strong an appetite for emetics during temporary illness as to persist in feeding upon them during the remainder of his health for life.'" The editorial advocates sunset provisions on such laws as the Patriot Act so voters can register a protest against undue executive power by changing the hands of power in Congress.

"Wars' Repressive Toll" was the editorial in the February 20 *Boston Globe*. "On this [President's Day] it is worth remembering a lesson repeated in American history: repression by war presidents has not contributed to victory." Obviously the paper takes issue with the war powers claimed by President George W. Bush and cites Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as examples of presidents who more appropriately seized extra constitutional powers. Lincoln is blamed for suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, and imprisoning war opponent Clement Laird Vallandigham for his "disloyal sentiments." The editor opines that, "It's doubtful that Lincoln's arbitrary mea-

sures made the Capital any safer," but he cites no examples or evidence.

David Brooks's column, "Lincoln's Winning Strategy for 2008," in the March 26 *New York Times*, cites Lincoln as the standard to follow in the 2008 election, praising the 16th president's prudent idealism. Brooks argues for true multiculturalism consistent with Lincoln's belief that immigration represented a "replenishing stream."

The April 2 *Parade* in "At What Price?" listed actions by presidents considered to be extra-constitutional. Abraham Lincoln is included for suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*.

The April 6 *Wall Street Journal* discussed how retired ophthalmologist **David Fleishman** discerned that the spectacles attributed to the 16th president that have been in the **Chicago History Museum** collection since 1952 could not have been Abraham Lincoln's. Lincoln, who was born in 1809, was still a baby when such frames were popular. In addition, the Coke-bottle lenses are too thick for a man who was only mildly farsighted. **The Library of Congress** furnished Dr. Fleishman a copy of the prescription for the spectacles the president was carrying on the night he was assassinated. It did not match the glasses about to be exhibited. As a result, the **Chicago Historical Society** scrapped plans to display them.

Richard Wightman Fox wrote "The President Who Died for Us" for the April 14 — Good Friday — *New York Times*. Fox writes that Christians compared Lincoln to Jesus after his assassination. In an effort to explain why a rational God would permit Lincoln to die, they decided that the savior of the nation had proved himself too Christ-like, "too soft hearted, too 'womanly,' for the necessarily punitive job of 'reconstructing' the post war South." To the author, "Lincoln has always remained his own man. In his final years, he had set his own course by balancing a pressing sense of the rule of Providence with a persistent belief in the power of reason. Still, he can — and should — stand as historic demonstration that a republican hero's sacrifice for the people comes very close to Christ's ideals of self-denial and self-giving."

On April 23, **Patrick M. Reynolds'** "Flashbacks," *The Washington Post*, portrayed "Tall Target," the day President Lincoln visited Fort Stevens and was told by a young captain, Oliver Wendell Holmes, to "get down, you fool," as he stood above the parapet exposed to enemy sharpshooters. This was the first time a president came under fire during a battle.

Necrology

Philip Kunhardt, Jr., writer, producer, and scion of the Meserve family, which owned many Civil War and Lincoln photographic images, died on March 21. He was 78. With two of his sons, **Peter** and **Philip B. III**, Mr. Kunhardt produced documentaries for **Kunhardt Productions**. He also co-authored *Twenty Days* and *A New Birth of Freedom*, about the Gettysburg Address.

John R. Chapin, a Springfield attorney for 50 years, died in March. He was 87. Chapin was the former **Chairman of the Lincoln Papers Advisory Board** and a longtime board member of the **Abraham Lincoln Association**.

Grady McWhiney, a member of the editorial board of *The Ulysses S. Grant Papers*, an historian who called his fellow Southerners "crackers," died on April 18 in Abilene, TX. He was 77.

Works in Progress

Frank J. Williams & Harold Holzer will edit a new book of papers presented at the **Lincoln Forum**, *The Life and Death of Abraham Lincoln: The Lincoln Forum Collection*.

Norman F. Boas has nearly completed his **Lincoln Biographical Dictionary**. It is chock-full of information about Lincoln and his contemporaries prior to the 1860 presidential election.

John C. Waugh is at work on a new book, *Lincoln on the Road to Disunion*, to be published by **Harcourt**. The book tracks the Union's road to disunion using Abraham Lincoln as the author's central figure.

Andrew Ferguson, is at work on *Land of Lincoln*, about Lincoln today (collectors,

controversies, the Lincoln and Tad statue in Richmond, VA).

Michael Burkheimer has completed a manuscript on *Lincoln's Christianity*.

Dave Wiegiers is at work on public and selected private statues of Abraham Lincoln with the intention of updating the standard but long-outdated works by **Donald Charles Durman** (*He Belongs to the Ages: the Statues of Abraham Lincoln*) and **F. Lauristan Bullard** (*Lincoln in Marble and Bronze*) both of which date from the early 1950s. To date, Wiegiers has identified over 160 Lincoln statues that he will include in his book.

Jim Percoco's *My Summer With Lincoln* will be published by **Fordham University Press** in 2008.

Fordham University Press will also publish in 2006 the latest edition of essays from papers delivered at the **Lincoln Forum**, *Lincoln Revisited: New Insights From the Lincoln Forum*, edited by **John Y. Simon, Harold Holzer, and Dawn Vogel**.

Southern Illinois University Press has contracted with **Jason Emerson** to publish his book on Mary Todd Lincoln's insanity case. The book is scheduled to be published in Fall of 2007. He is also working on a biography of Robert Todd Lincoln to be titled *Giant in The Shadows*.

Jeff Gordon is creating a recording project called *Abraham Lincoln: In His Words*, a three-CD box set including spoken-word documentation and reading of various letters, speeches, and writings by Lincoln.

Author's Note

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Turnbaugh, Mike Gross, Genevieve Courbois, William P. Robinson, III, Herschel L. Stroud, Jacqueline L. Stroud, Brooks Davis, and Virginia Williams 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 Williams is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island and author of *Judging Lincoln*. He is also one of the authors of the newly published *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*.