



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

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Don E. Fehrenbacher, 1920-1997
Ralph G. Newman, 1911 - 1998

AWARD ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN: AN HISTORIC LIFE

John Hope Franklin, winner of the third annual Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement, has not only written and taught history, but as the Chairman of the President's Initiative on Race, has *made* history as well.

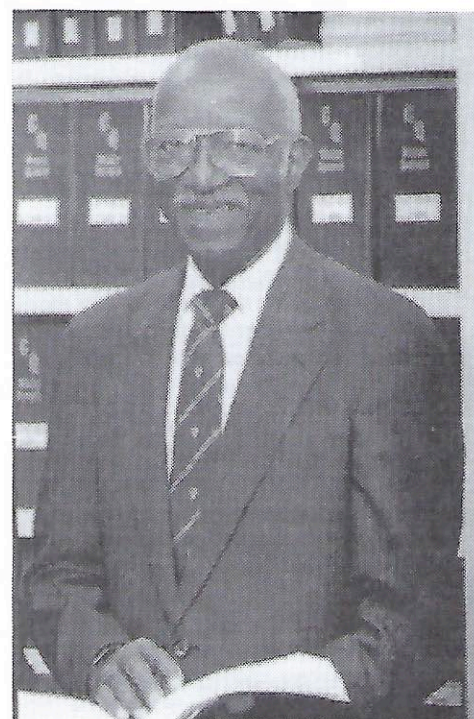
Dr. Franklin was born on January 15, 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, and earned his B.A. at Fisk University in 1935, and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1941.

He began his long and distinguished teaching career at Fisk, then served as a history professor at St. Augustine's College, North Carolina College at Durham, and Howard University -- all by 1956. That year, he became chairman of the history department at Brooklyn College, moving on to the University of Chicago in 1964, where he taught until 1982. He has since been associated with Duke University, and has taught as a visiting professor at Harvard, Cambridge, Cornell, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of California, among other schools.

Professor Franklin's many books include *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (7th ed., 1994), *Reconstruction After the Civil War* (1961), *The Emancipation Proclamation* (still the only full-length book written on the subject) (1963), *Racial Equality in America* (1976), *A Southern Odyssey* (1976), *Race and History* (1990), and *The Color Line: Legacy for the 21st Century* (1993). He has also edited numerous volumes, and contributed countless articles for scholarly journals.

Among his many awards are the 1990 Gold Medal of the Encyclopedia Britannica, the 1994 Bruce Catton Award from the Society of American Historians, the 1995 NAACP Springarn Medal, and a 1995 Presidential Medal of Freedom. And Dr. Franklin has received more than 100 honorary degrees from colleges and universities around the nation and the world.

The Lincoln Forum is honored to honor John Hope Franklin in 1998.



JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

RENEWAL REMINDER: THE 1998-99 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Forum has undertaken a membership renewal drive to re-enroll our hundreds of annual members for a second tour of duty. We will also be mounting another recruitment campaign in search of new members. The rolls are growing -- and we hope to announce a member milestone at the November symposium. You will receive a renewal notice in the mail. Please do not hesitate to renew.

VISIT THE LINCOLN FORUM
ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
<http://web.mountain.net/~niddk/Forum>

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

When I became Chairman of the Lincoln Forum nearly three years ago, I found myself at a crucial professional crossroads at the very same time we were undertaking the enormous challenge of creating our new national membership organization devoted to the study of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.

Life is full of such challenges -- what can one do? I both forged ahead with my new career as a Superior Court Judge and worked as hard as I could concurrently to help create a membership base and program of activities for the Forum.

The reason I chose this moment to recall this personal turning point is that, three years later, I am in a sense beginning my judicial career anew -- and not for the first time -- in my new courthouse in Newport, RI. It is my third venue -- so far -- and I've come to the conclusion that I've already ridden the judicial circuit more peripatetically than Lincoln!

But through all that packing and un-packing -- who could have predicted it? -- the constant, bedrock of my energy and commitment has been with the Lincoln Forum. Courtrooms, clerks, trials, convictions, and acquittals have all come and gone, but the Forum and its members sustain me -- solid, loyal, deeply committed, wonderfully enthusiastic, and thanks to your support, permanent. Besides, few of the members ever raise an objection! I certainly never have to hold anyone in contempt.

Please do not think for a minute that I have less than reverence or energy for my professional career. I simply thought this a wonderful time, as we prepare for our third national symposium, as we collate our ever-growing membership lists, and as we continue to receive your encouraging comments about the Forum and its work, to thank you for your support and promise you that we will continue to build the organization as energetically and creatively as possible.

Judicial robes may be a gratifying part of my life these days. But so, very much, is the opportunity to shed them and call to order the next Lincoln Forum. I hope you head for Lincoln Forum III at Gettysburg filled with the same kind of gratitude I have that one can still take time to appreciate the past even as one works hard to build the future.

I look forward to seeing you in Gettysburg, and I thank you again for making the Lincoln Forum the fastest-growing and most stimulating national Lincoln organization in the nation.

Signed,



Frank J. Williams
CHAIRMAN



CALL FOR NEWS

If you have news to share — on your Lincoln or Civil War organization, activities, or studies — send it for inclusion in the next Bulletin to:
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MEMBER PROFILE:

GOLDEN-ANNIVERSARY COLLECTOR JEAN HOEFER

Founding member Jean Hoefer may be the only woman in history who can claim that Abraham Lincoln celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary by re-reciting the Gettysburg Address at her party.

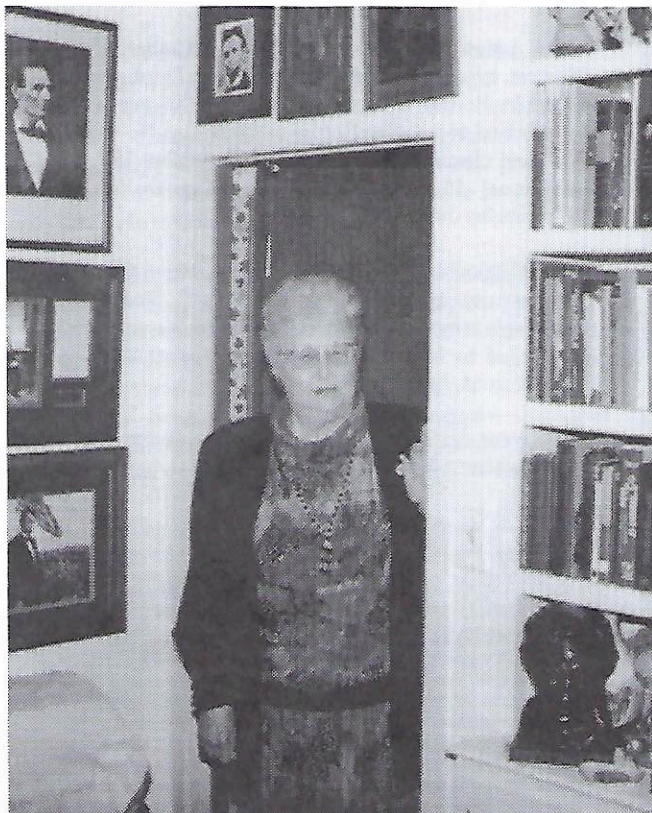
The performance took place in Merrill and Jean Hoefer's hometown of Freeport, Illinois (site of the second Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858). And "Lincoln," not surprisingly, was Freeport's resident presidential re-enactor, George Buss (another founding member of the Forum). Nearby was partner Rich Sokup (yes, a founding Forum member as well), who by now has played the role of Stephen Douglas longer than did Douglas himself.

Not your typical anniversary party, but then again, Jean Hoefer is no ordinary Lincoln enthusiast. She is one of the country's most dedicated and engaging collectors. She has traveled widely to symposia and conferences (most recently to the "Lincoln Women" Symposium at Hildene in Vermont). She has appeared on C-SPAN, conducted patient and extensive research, and attracted friends throughout the Lincoln community with her energy and dedication. Who could believe that this youthful woman has been married for 50 years?

And who could believe that she launched her collection only 10 years ago? At first, Jean was actually cool to the idea. "My sister is in the antiques business," she explained recently. "We spent a lot of time with her, and she was always encouraging me to collect -- *something*. I resisted at first. We'd just gotten my mother-in-law's possessions. The house seemed full. Then I thought more about it."

What she thought about specifically was her own family tree. "My great-great-grandfather was Colonel Alexander Sympson," Jean notes "He saw Lincoln at Carthage, Illinois on October 22, 1858. And when Lincoln lost that year's Senate race to Douglas, it was to Sympson he wrote his famous "I am neither dead nor dying" letter, in which he noted: "I have an abiding faith that we shall beat them in the long run."

Armed with such a strong connection to Lincoln, it was only natural that when the collecting bug finally bit Jean Hoefer it would infect her with a special interest in the 16th president.



And in a single decade she has gathered 650 relics and 700 books. Some of it, she says modestly, is "souvenir stuff." But she also owns an autographed military commission, photographs, plaques, prints, shelves, spoons, and first-day covers. She's exhausted shelf-space and wall-space, and admits that her loyal husband, Merrill, is "almost Lincoln-ed out."

But Jean and Merrill both remain fixtures at the annual re-creation of the Freeport Debate. They attend Lincoln Forums, McMurtry Lectures in Fort Wayne, and Lincoln colloquia at Springfield, where Jean invariably shares snapshots of her latest acquisitions. And Jean intends to continue collecting, "as long as it remains a joy and not a hindrance." Which should be for a long time to come.



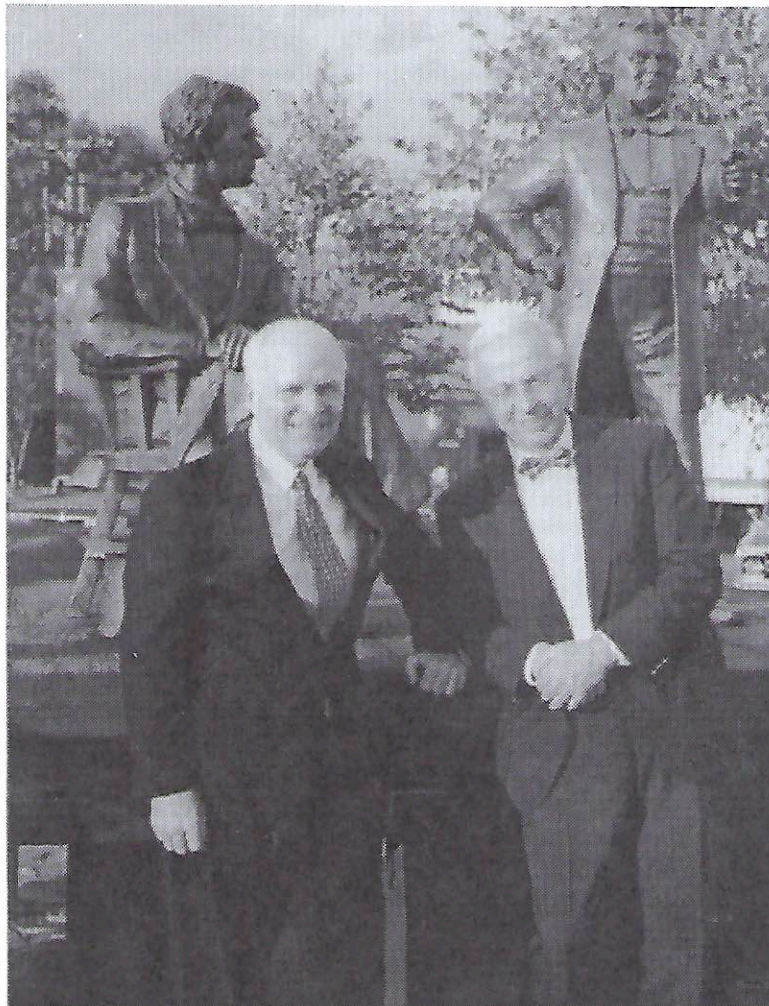
POLS AT PLAY

George Magazine, the glossy, all-politics monthly edited by John Kennedy, Jr., named history's "funniest public servants" in an article published in August. Lincoln, frontiersman and Alamo martyr Davy Crockett, and frequently tearful ex-Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, all made the list -- and were portrayed in a caricature sharing a hearty laugh.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO LINCOLN

Does every city in the world boast an avenue named for America's 16th President? Harold Holzer photographed "Avraham Lincoln Street" in August in Jerusalem. And New York political-ephemera collector Stanley King encountered the intersection of Lincoln Street and Jeff Davis Street in Ketchikan, Alaska a few months earlier. Readers are invited to send in their own street-corner photos for use in future editions.



REGISTRATION FOR THE FORUM'S ANNUAL EVENT REACHES MAXIMUM

The Lincoln Forum Coordinator, Catherine A. Boyers, reports that enrollment for the Third Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium reached the maximum number of 160. The Forum event begins November 16th and closes on the evening of November 18th. An additional 55 people will join the group for the Wednesday evening activities.

The additional 55 come from *History America Tours*, a company based in Dallas, Texas. Wednesday evening's program includes a buffet dinner, an award presented to John Hope Franklin and a presentation by James M. McPherson.

Next year the Forum plans to meet in facilities that will accommodate a larger group.



FREEPORT WELCOMES LAMB

C-SPAN Chairman Brian Lamb (left), and the network's resident historian John Splaine, pose before Lily Topol's statue of Lincoln and Douglas in debate at the annual celebration of the Freeport Debate anniversary in August. Lamb, this year's guest speaker, was welcomed by Freeport residents (and Lincoln-Douglas re-enactors) George Buss and Rich Sokup. "This monument is the best symbol of the debate," Lamb said at the 140th anniversary of the famous meeting. "What you've done here is out of sight and you should be proud of it for a long time."

IS THIS LINCOLN? DAGUERRETYPE AUCTIONED IN NEW YORK

Whether or not the big, sunburned, ill-dressed man in the 3-1/2-inch-tall daguerreotype is Abraham Lincoln may never be decided to the satisfaction of everyone in the Lincoln world.

But the sale at Christie's New York on October 6 of this "portrait of a gentleman believed to be Abraham Lincoln" has unquestionably riveted the field -- and earned enormous publicity in newspapers throughout the country. At press time, coverage included *The Today Show*, *People Magazine*, the *New York Times*, and countless other outlets. The Associated Press reported "Experts in Tizzy," adding that "whoever the man is, he bears a striking resemblance to Lincoln -- with a thin smile and sharp eyes."

But what has intrigued Lincoln enthusiasts since its discovery was first reported in *American Heritage Magazine* is not so much resemblance, but provenance. Collectors Robert and Joan Hoffman of Pittsford, New York, bought the picture in 1992 for an undisclosed sum from a dealer who obtained it from the descendants of Lincoln's private secretary, John M. Hay. In the late 1960s, scholars found a previously unknown Lincoln photograph among the family's effects, raising the hope that Hay might have closeted other images and documents, among them, perhaps, pictures that the family did not much like.

"We only think we know what Lincoln looked like in the last 15 years of his life," commented Rick Wester, director of photography at Christie's. "But this could change all that." Others disagreed. Reigning Lincoln photographs expert Lloyd Ostendorf, a speaker at last year's Forum, commented: "Anyone who buys it will pay a lot of money for a fake." He estimated its worth at \$50.

Some scientists, however, concluded otherwise. Using his own specially designed computer program, for example, Lewis Sadler of the University of Illinois at Chicago compared the pose with 300 portraits of contemporaries, including three universally accepted Lincoln portraits. The computer, using the same kind of program employed to recreate the portraits of missing children, matched the controversial daguerreotype only with the Lincoln images.

The picture failed to sell at auction October 6. With a minimum bid of \$200,000, it attracted no higher offer than \$140,000. Owner Bob Hoffman told the *New York Times* he was not totally disappointed because he thought there was much more research, particularly of the high-tech kind, yet to be done.



The controversial Lincoln daguerreotype. Photo: Christie's

LINCOLN ON PRESS: NEW WORKS, WORKS IN PROGRESS

- William C. Davis is the author of a new book about Lincoln's relationship to his troops, *Lincoln's Men: How President Lincoln Became Father to an Army and a Nation*.
- John Y. Simon has edited two new volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*.
- Harold Holzer's new book is *The Lincoln Mailbag: America Writes to the President, 1860-1865*, a sequel to the 1993 book, *Dear Mr. Lincoln*.
- Doris Kearns Goodwin continues her research for a forthcoming book about the Lincoln White House, to be accompanied by a PBS television series.
- David Herbert Donald is writing a study of Lincoln's inner circle.
- Mark E. Neely's next book will be a study of politics during the Civil War era. He has also co-authored *The Union Image* with Harold Holzer, due in fall 1999.
- Steven K. Rogstad has published a monograph on the Abraham and Mary Lincoln statue in Racine, WI., *Companionship in Granite*.
- Gabor S. Boritt is editing a volume of Civil War Institute lectures devoted to Jefferson Davis and the Confederate war effort.
- David E. Long continues work on his eagerly awaited study of the 1860 election.

LAUGHING MATTER? NEW TV SERIES PUSHES THE LINCOLN ENVELOPE

Protests over the new UPN-TV sitcom, *The Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer*, began even before the first episode aired nationally on October 5.

The NAACP objected. So did the Brotherhood Crusade. And at the Lincoln Family Symposium at Hildene in August, a noted Mary Lincoln impersonator made an impassioned speech attacking the show and urged attendees to sign a petition asking that it be cancelled before it even aired.

The reason for the hulabaloo? The show takes a satirical, off-beat look at the Lincoln White House as seen through the eyes of the ex-slave who serves as the First Family's butler. Ulysses S. Grant is seen as a drunk, Mary Lincoln as a scheming harridan, and Lincoln himself as, in the words of the *Washington Post*, "a sex-crazed bumbler who has a young bimbo assistant and a frustrated wife." One scene even has Lincoln pining away lasciviously for young Union soldiers with washboard abs.

UPN CEO Dean Valentine continued to maintain that there was nothing "offensive about the show." The publicity will not hurt, but critics have been negative and viewers are not tuning in.

"Political correctness is the bane of society's existence," the show's creator maintained as production on the first episode concluded. He said nothing about historical correctness. The Lincoln image, one observer pointed out, has survived satire before. It is satire that usually has trouble surviving.



On the Eve of Gettysburg

Alexander Gardner took this photograph of Lincoln - looking relaxed and supremely confident - in Washington on November 8, 1863. Only 10 days later, he would depart for Gettysburg to deliver "a few appropriate remarks" at the new soldier's cemetery. Historians have long speculated about the sheaf of papers resting on the table at Lincoln's right hand. Could they be an advance copy of Edward Everett's Gettysburg oration? If so, the President probably took the text along to study during the long waits between photographic exposures at Gardner's. Everett never consulted his printed text on November 19; he recited it entirely from memory! Photo: The Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

A LINCOLN FORUM "BONUS CONFERENCE" IN JUNE: ORGANIZATION TO CO-SPONSOR ALBANY SYMPOSIUM ON NEW YORK AND THE CIVIL WAR: *THE UNION PRESERVED*

The Lincoln Forum will co-sponsor a Lincoln and Civil War symposium scheduled for Albany, New York, on the first weekend of June, 1999 -- featuring, along with Forum Chair Frank J. Williams and Vice Chair Harold Holzer, historians James M. McPherson, Hans L. Trefousse, Iver Bernstein, Lonnie R. Speer, and New York State archives specialist Daniel Lorello.

The conference, entitled *The Union Preserved*, will mark the publication of a book with the same title, that will serve as the first illustrated guide and checklist to the records preserved in the New York State Archives documenting the role of New York troops, both white and black, in the Rebellion.

The book and conference, to take place at the New York State Museum at the State Educational Center in downtown Albany, will include an exhibition of original artifacts from the State collection, and offer attendees a dinner on Friday night (with Prof. McPherson as keynote speaker), a full day of speakers and panel discussions on Saturday).

Registration costs will be announced shortly.



MIXED REVIEWS FOR “THE DAY LINCOLN WAS SHOT”

The April 12 premiere of the Turner Network Television film, *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, won a mixed reception from TV critics and historians.

Based loosely on the famous book by Jim Bishop, the drama chronicled the days and hours leading up to the assassination, through the perspective of both Lincoln and his murderer, John Wilkes Booth.

“We tried to give this picture a very cold, blue, dirty look,” commented director John Gray. “I hope it will give people insight into what really happened and the events surrounding that day.”

Lance Henriksen, who starred in the series *Millennium* and had parts in such films as *Dog Day Afternoon* and *Alien*, portrayed the president, and Rob Morrow, who most recently played the maladjusted younger brother in the movie *Mother*, acted the role of Booth.

Observers praised the period look to the film and admired Morrow’s feisty performance as the assassin, but had less kind words for Henriksen’s dour, baritone-voiced President. “My aim with the film was to make the definitive movie about the assassination of Lincoln,” Gray declared before the airing. The jury is still out on whether he succeeded.

PROGRESS ON THE ANDERSON COTTAGE RESTORATION

Progress continues toward the restoration of the Anderson Cottage, summer residence of President Lincoln and his family at the Soldiers’ Home in Washington.

At a meeting on August 3 at Ford’s Theatre, Lincoln Forum members David Long, Michael Maione, Paul Pascal, and Harold Holzer met with Richard Moe and Dan Costello of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Moe reported that the Trust is closely involved with the White House-sponsored “Save America’s Treasures” program, initiated by First Lady Hillary Clinton. The project will seek \$50 million in federal funds to designate selected historic sites that have been neglected or ignored, and need long-range preservation and restoration. Moe noted that the Anderson Cottage was one of the “half dozen highest-priority” projects identified by Mrs. Clinton.

Moe added that the Trust will also seek corporate sponsors to supplement government funding. He is searching for a sponsor willing to underwrite a site report on the Soldiers’ Home residence, the first step in any restoration. He is optimistic about locating a private-sector supporter.

Moe suggests the Lincoln Forum as a potential vehicle to coordinate the historical research that will be needed for any site report. Scholars would be asked to recall the historic activities that took place here during the Civil War, and identify the rooms where events took place -- such as the writing of the second draft of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Professor Long, who chairs the Forum’s Board of Advisors’ committee on the Anderson Cottage, agreed to enlist authors and historians to compile a historical record of the site.

Meanwhile, the full Forum board will be asked this November to explore further participation, including working with Lincoln groups around the country to coordinate national fundraising.

NEW CO-EDITOR FOR BULLETIN

With this issue, David E. Long joins Harold Holzer as co-editor of *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin*. Professor Long is the author of the acclaimed study of the 1864 presidential campaign, *The Jewel of Liberty*, and is working on a “prequel” that will examine the 1860 canvas. He teaches at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

DEATH OF A LINCOLN LEGEND: RALPH G. NEWMAN

Ralph Geoffrey Newman of Chicago, one of the most influential and prolific Lincoln experts of the century, died in July at the age of 86 after a long illness.

The Newman story has become almost as familiar to Lincoln aficionados as the Lincoln story itself: he bought a second-hand bookstore during the Depression, cut prices to re-pay his original loan, and made it a success. Then in 1940 he converted it into the now-legendary Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, whose customers came to include Carl Sandburg, Adlai Stevenson, and nearly everyone who has ever written or read about the 16th president. After selling the landmark company in 1984, he went on to found Ralph Newman & Co., dealing in Lincoln artifacts and memorabilia to a global clientele.

Over the years Newman also wrote or edited more than 20 books on Lincoln and the Civil War, the best-known of which were *Lincoln for the Ages* and *The American Iliad*.

He was as well a founder of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, whose creation spawned the national Civil War Round Table movement, and is widely credited with stimulating the continuing American fascination with the Civil War era. Newman went on to serve as chairman of the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission, president of the Chicago Public Library Board, and chairman of the Illinois Commission for the 1964 World's Fair.

Newman lectured throughout the country, and sat on the boards of a number of Lincoln-related organizations, including the Lincoln Forum.

He is survived by his wife, Pat, whose son, Scott Simon, the National Public Radio personality, paid eloquent tribute to his stepfather: "I think he felt that Abraham Lincoln embodied all the great things about America. He thought that Lincoln had learned each and every step of his life. Therefore you didn't study Lincoln like you were studying the life of a saint. You could learn from his mistakes. You could learn from his triumphs. You could learn from his sadness."

Ralph Newman learned much -- and went on to teach several generations of Lincoln students more than they could possibly have known without him. One of the last links to the golden era of Lincoln scholarship, Ralph Newman's death ends an era, and robs the field of one of its most colorful and learned giants.

LINCOLN RETURNS TO THE CAPITOL

When he was a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, Lincoln's U. S. Capitol desk was located in what is now Statuary Hall (the House having moved long ago into more spacious quarters). Here he debated the Mexican War, voted on government budgets, and watched old John Quincy Adams carried off after suffering a fatal stroke. Lincoln did not fare much better than Adams. He was not even nominated for re-election.

Until recently, there was little to mark the spot where Lincoln served his single term in Congress save for a small plaque on the floor in the northwest corner of the Hall where the freshman Whig sat during his two years of sessions in Washington.

But on July 30, the Capitol opened a special exhibition in observance of the 150th anniversary of his one term in the House. A replica of his old desk, number 191, was placed where the original stood from 1847 to 1849. The first known photograph of Lincoln (the priceless Nicholas H. Shepherd daguerreotype taken around the time of his Congressional service), together with the earliest known photographic image of the Capitol itself, were placed on public display.

Also shown to the public was a copy of Lincoln's controversial "Spot Resolution," in which he demanded to know "the particular spot of soil on which the blood of our citizens was...shed," precipitating the Mexican War. (Lincoln's anti-war stance was vigorously attacked at home.) And here, too, was a handwritten memo by Lincoln, "What General Taylor Ought to Say," containing his political advice to the Whig candidate for President in 1848.

The opening of the exhibition attracted a number of Congressional VIPs, including Speaker Newt Gingrich, Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., and Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde. "Lincoln continues to fascinate and inspire," Hyde told the *Washington Post*. "It is good to be reminded that American democracy is an ongoing moral adventure testing a people's capacity to be self-governing."

The exhibition was the idea of Robin H. Carle, Clerk of the House, and was co-organized by the House, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress. It was the only major national recognition of the sesquicentennial of Lincoln's Congressional Service. Observers pointed out, too, that this timely show was also likely to re-inspire public confidence in a Capitol Building still haunted by the recent murders of two guards at the height of tourist season. Some 23,000 people visit the building daily.