



THE LINCOLN FORUM

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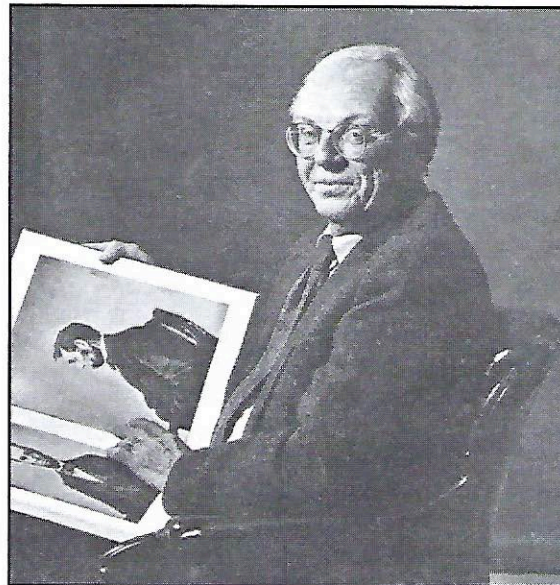
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Don E. Fehrenbacher, 1920-1997
Ralph G. Newman, 1911-1998

DAVID HERBERT DONALD WINS ANNUAL RICHARD N. CURRENT AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

David Herbert Donald, one of the greatest Civil War historians of the 20th century, is the winner of the 2000 Richard N. Current Award of Achievement of The Lincoln Forum. Presentation of the award will be made at the closing banquet of The Lincoln Forum's annual symposium, only a few hundred yards from the spot where Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.



David Herbert Donald ponders the face of Lincoln.

Photo: Clive Russ

Dr. Donald, who is Charles Warren Professor of American History and American Civilization Emeritus at Harvard University, was cited for "a half century of milestone contributions to the field of Lincoln and Civil War studies — for lucid scholarship and vigorous writing that has dazzled professional historians and general readers alike — and for inspiring generations to grasp and use the valuable lessons of the American past."

Professor Donald, who has won two Pulitzer Prizes and the prestigious Lincoln Prize, along with a Christopher Award, a Jefferson Davis Award from the Museum of the Confederacy, and an Abraham Lincoln Literary Award, along with countless other richly deserved honors and tributes, is perhaps best known to Lincoln enthusiasts for his masterful one-volume biography, *Lincoln* (1995). Historian Mark E. Neely called it

"the best biography of Abraham Lincoln I have ever read," and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., praised it as "the Lincoln biography for this generation." The book received many awards and was a national best-seller.

David Donald's lifetime of contributions to the literature of the Civil War era would fill a bookshelf. Among the highlights: *Lincoln's Herndon* (1948), *Divided We Fought: A Pictorial History of the War, 1861-1865* (1952), *Inside Lincoln's Cabinet: The Civil War Diaries of Salmon P. Chase* (1954), *Lincoln Reconsidered: Essays on the Civil War Era* (1956), *Charles Sumner and the Coming of the Civil War* (1960), *Why the North Won the Civil War* (1960), *The Civil War and Reconstruction* (1961), *The Divided Union* (1961), *The Politics of Reconstruction* (1965), *The Nation in Crisis* (1969), *Charles Sumner and the Rights of Man* (1970), *The Great Republic* (1977), and *Liberty and Union* (1978). His first book of the new century is *Lincoln at Home: Two Glimpses of Abraham Lincoln's Family Life* (2000), adapted from Professor Donald's inaugural Presidential Lecture at the White House in 1990.

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WREATH or WRATH ?



MESSAGE
from the
CHAIRMAN

Earlier this year, a group of white and black citizens of Washington gathered together at Lincoln Park for a joyous wreath-laying ceremony at the Emancipation Group statue sculpted by Thomas Ball in 1876. This annual event commemorates enactment of the District of Columbia Emancipation Act, which Abraham Lincoln signed into law on April 16, 1862. The Forum took special pride in this year's celebration because our organization helped fund the ceremony.

The program that April morning included the singing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," proclamations by the Mayor and the President, and the performance of a dramatized Lincoln press conference by seniors at the Benjamin Banneker High School. Speaker after speaker lauded Lincoln for moving against slavery, and recalled that the campaign to fund the famous Ball statue had been initiated by freed slaves. Above all, Lincoln was remembered for what he did in 1862, not for how his 19th century philosophy might be greeted had he lived in the year 2000 with his old ideas unchanged.

Yet around the very same time, Lerone Bennett, Jr., the editor of *Ebony Magazine*, was publishing his scathing new book, *Forced into Glory: Abraham Lincoln's White Dream* (Chicago: Johnson Publishing, 2000), in which he contended: "If Lincoln had had his way, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oprah Winfrey, Jesse Jackson and even Clarence Thomas would have been born into slavery...and millions of twentieth-century Whites would have been in *Gone with the Wind* instead of watching it." Bennett not only contended that the Emancipation Proclamation had been ineffective and un-enforceable, but that its author tried for the rest of his life to reverse it. "Lincoln," he charged, "went to glory kicking and protesting."

Which is the real Lincoln? The Great Emancipator who was celebrated in a bronze statue funded, in part, by former slaves? Or a racist who, according to Bennett, created a plot "not to free African Americans but to keep them in slavery" — a man "so clever that we ought to stop calling him honest Abe"?

Most Forum members would not find the choice difficult. But we dare not dismiss the Bennett book, or its potential influence, too quickly. He is a skilled writer with a vast audience, and he has done prodigious — if highly selective — research in order to cast Lincoln in the worst possible light. His book will be debated for years, and likely accepted as indisputable truth by many readers eager to see heroes deflated. Tragically, Lincoln's standing among African Americans, already perilous, may decline further.

In other words, we have a real fight on our hands if we wish to advance historical truth and make certain that Lincoln's well-deserved reputation is not tarnished indelibly by such assaults. The battle will not be easy. New myths (remember "Lincoln would have died in a few months had he not been shot," and "Lincoln was gay"?) die hard. And this new myth cuts directly to the core of Lincoln's greatest claim to fame.

We should remember what James M. McPherson said in his brilliant review of the Bennett book in the *New York Times*: "There is, of course, no doubt that Lincoln shared many of the racist convictions of his time. But while he was not a radical abolitionist, he did consider slavery morally wrong, and seized the opportunity presented by the war and moved against it. Bennett fails to appreciate the acuity and empathy that enabled Lincoln to transcend his prejudices and to preside over the greatest social revolution in American history, the liberation of four million slaves."

And we should keep in mind, too, what no less informed an observer than Frederick Douglass himself said: that Lincoln possessed "entire freedom from popular prejudice against the colored race."

Does Lincoln deserve wrath — or wreaths? Students of American history must not only make choices, but advocate for their decisions.

CELEBRATING D.C. EMANCIPATION

Thomas Ball's 1876 sculpture, *Emancipation*, funded by the emancipated citizens of the United States, graces Lincoln Park in Washington, where Frederick Douglass delivered the principal oration at its unveiling. Declared Douglass: "We came to the conclusion that the hour and the man of our redemption had somehow met in the person of Abraham Lincoln." Although many modern observers express discomfort about the bronze group because it shows the slave in such a subservient position, sculptor Ball in fact modified it from his original model, in which the slave was far more passive. Here he participates in emancipation by straining to break the chains that bind him. The symbolic device of showing a kneeling slave dates to classical antiquity. Chairman Frank J. Williams discusses the statue in his Message from the Chairman on page 2.



LINCOLN NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Forum Advisor **Gerald Prokopowicz** hosted the annual Lincoln Colloquium and 21st anniversary R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne on September 23. **Frank J. Williams** delivered the McMurtry lecture. **Allen Guelzo**, **Thomas Schwartz**, and **Harold Holzer** spoke at the Colloquium...**The Lincoln Museum** will host a major exhibit, *Now He Belongs to the Ages: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, from April 21, 2001 through January 2002. The show will feature original artifacts, documents, photographs, and prints, along with funeral and mourning memorabilia...**Lerone Bennett**, editor of *Ebony Magazine* and author of the highly controversial new book on Emancipation, *Forced into Glory*, appeared in debate with other historians on the History Channel on September 10, and that evening was the featured guest on C-SPAN's *Booknotes* with **Brian Lamb**...**The Schomburg Library** in New York placed on display on September 21 the handwritten copy of Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation — the first time the document has been displayed in Harlem. New York Governor **George Pataki** facilitated the loan...**Virginia Fehrenbacher**, widow of the great Lincoln scholar **Don E. Fehrenbacher**, is putting the final touches on her late husband's last book, a study of the institution of slavery...**David Eltis** is the winner of the \$25,000 **Frederick Douglass Prize** for the best book on slavery or emancipation for his work, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas*. The prize is administered by the **Gilder-Lehrman Center** for the Study of Slavery at Yale...*The Wall Street Journal* reported (September 8) that the number of people who witnessed all seven Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858 totaled 76,400...Christie's auction gallery in New York sold a trove of Lincoln assassination material on September 12...Casts of Lincoln's hands by **Leonard Wells Volk** will be among the 900 relics to be exhibited in the new show, *The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden*, opening at the National Museum of American History on November 15.



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THE LINCOLN FORUM WELL-REPRESENTED ON NEW FEDERAL BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The new U. S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will include three members of the Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors among its 16 members, more than from any other Lincoln organization or association in the country.

The Commission was created by legislation earlier this year to plan national observances for the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009. Its activities are expected to include such tasks as the minting of an Abraham Lincoln bicentennial penny, the issuance of a Lincoln Bicentennial postage stamps, possible re-designation of the Lincoln memorial, and the planning of other commemorative and educational activities.

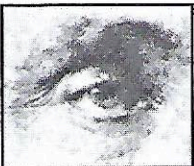
Chairman Frank J. Williams has been appointed by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. Vice Chairman Harold Holzer was appointed by President Clinton. And Advisor Louise Taper was appointed by House Minority Leader Dick Gephart.

Other members of the commission will include Joan Flinspach, the President and CEO of The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, named by House Speaker Hastert; Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, named by Senate Minority Leader Daeschle; former Illinois Governor Jim Thompson; Congressman Ray LaHood of Springfield, also named by Speaker Hastert; and Dr. Jean T. D. Bandler, daughter of the late Paul Douglas, the legendary Illinois Senator, appointed by Senator Daeschle. Dr. Bandler is also the granddaughter of Lorado Taft, a sculptor who crafted a well-known bust of Lincoln. "He has meant a great deal to my entire family for so long because of his courage, his humanity, and his leadership," she said.

Senator Durbin commented: "I can think of fewer higher honors than to work to celebrate the life and accomplishments of one of the nation's — and the world's — greatest leaders. In this age of fast food and instant information, Lincoln's legacy has an enduring quality that should be communicated and shared with all."

Said Judge Williams: "Lincoln deserves a truly national commemoration because he saved the Union and preserved the democratic form of government for posterity. I am looking forward eagerly to bringing the spirit and commitment of The Lincoln Forum to this new and exciting task. The Forum is truly honored to be so well-represented on the Bicentennial Commission."

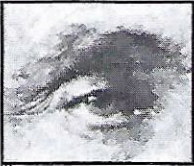
Harold Holzer commented: "I know first-hand how much the Lincoln legacy means to President Clinton, which makes me feel all the more honored by his appointment. I view it as a major opportunity. I hope to work for a Bicentennial that not only celebrates, but educates — because unless we begin again to teach Lincoln in our schools, in our history books, and through all the new media at our disposal, he may well be lost to history forever."



DONALD ON LINCOLN: A David Donald Sampler

The carnival of death in Springfield was paralleled by countless similar funeral celebrations all over the land. At the news of the assassination the country — or at least the North — swathed itself in mourning. The nation grieved over its fallen captain. Sadness and despair did not abate in the days that followed Lincoln's death but mounted into a veritable orgy of grief as his corpse began its slow procession from the White House to its Springfield tomb. The trappings of death intensified grief. The black-draped catafalque, the silent funeral train that moved by a circuitous route over the land, the white-robed choirs that wailed a never-ending dirge, the silent throngs of stony-faced mourners, the tolling bells — all combined to make Lincoln's passing seem even more calamitous."

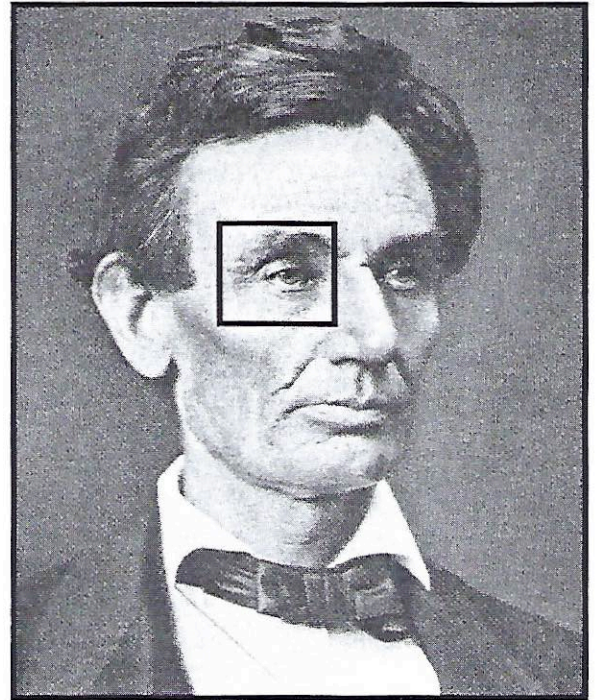
— from *Lincoln's Herndon* (1948)



DONALD ON LINCOLN:
A David Donald Sampler

The statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln is so widely recognized as to require no defense. But it is not always realized that Lincoln's opportunities for statesmanship were made possible by his accomplishments as a politician. Perhaps it is too cynical to say that a statesman is a politician who succeeded in getting himself elected President. Still, but for his election in 1860, Lincoln's name would appear in our history books as that of a minor Illinois politician who unsuccessfully debated with Stephen A. Douglas.

— from *Lincoln Reconsidered* (1956)



Meditative Eye

Abraham Lincoln — his eyes fixed on a troubled national future — posed for this photograph by Alexander Hesler in Springfield on June 3, 1860. He later said of the portrait: "That looks better and expresses me better than any I have ever seen." As Charles Francis Adams noted, Lincoln's "was neither the quick sharp eye of a man of sudden and penetrating nature, nor the slow firm eye of one of decided will; but it is a mild, dreamy, meditative eye."

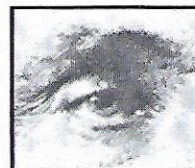
**THE LINCOLN FORUM IS NOW A
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

The Lincoln Forum is pleased to announce that we have been designated as a non-profit corporation under section 501(c)3 of the IRS code. This means that we will be able to reduce postage expense considerably and will not be required to pay sales tax on services and commodities that we purchase. Most significantly, any contributions (excluding membership fees) made to The Lincoln Forum are now fully deductible when filing your federal income tax. For more information contact our Treasurer, Chuck Platt.

Find The Lincoln Forum on the web at:

WWW.THELINCOLNFORUM.ORG

- Membership information.
- Purchase books from the Amazon link.
- See the links page to find other websites.



DONALD ON LINCOLN:
A David Donald Sampler

Today badly frightened if well-intentioned citizens are calling upon historians and teachers to draw up a rigid credo for Americanism, to teach "American values." To do so is to forget Lincoln's nonideological approach. In our age of anxiety it is pertinent to remember that our most enduring political symbolism derives from Lincoln, whose one dogma was an absence of dogma.

— from *Lincoln Reconsidered* (1956)

A FORUM of LINCOLNS

By Donald Pieper

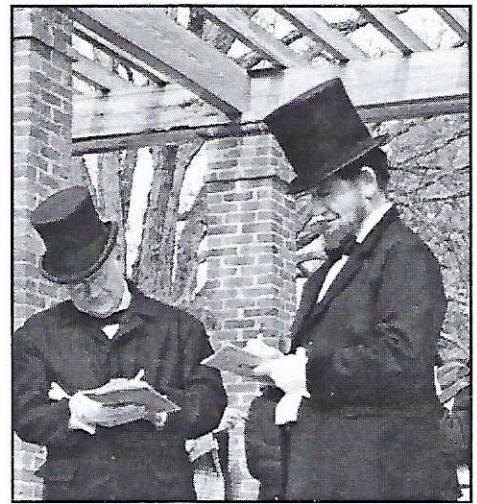
It was a crisis of sorts when Jim Getty made a routine last check in the rear view mirror of his car and discovered that his fake mole had come unglued and was missing.

But, in the spirit of the character he was about to impersonate before a distinguished audience at Johns Hopkins, Getty did not panic.

As he searched for the mole on the car floormat, he found a small pebble. Getty coolly placed the pebble on the adhesive he had applied to hold the putty wad that was to have played the role of the Lincoln mole.

"I'd feel undressed without a 'mole,'" Getty says.

The pebble made a passable understudy for the putty and Getty's Abraham Lincoln program was a success, as usual.



Above: Dorothy and B. F. McClerren in costume as Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

Above right: James Getty (right) in character at the Gettysburg National Cemetery last November 19. (Photo: David Walker)

Looking like Mr. Lincoln obviously is useful, Getty and fellow Lincoln presenters say, but remembering what Lincoln wrote and said and understanding the context make their presentations educational as well as entertaining.

They have immersed themselves in Lincoln and Civil War facts — from the trivial to the profound.

Each of the presenters interviewed has read shelves of books on their subject and committed to memory speeches, letters and other quotations. Each says he never will know all he wants to about Lincoln's life and times.

"You read and read and read, and there's always more to learn," Fred Priebe says. William Ciampa says he has 1,200 Lincoln books in his personal library, of an estimated 17,000 that have been published.

Despite all the research, they don't claim to be Lincoln scholars. "At The Lincoln Forum," B.F. McClerren says, "I feel like a sparrow flying with eagles."

The Forum, the presenters say, offers an opportunity to enrich their knowledge, consider fresh interpretations and interact informally with the scholars.

"Man, oh, man," Priebe says, "what I know could be put on the head of a pin, compared with what those guys know."

But even the scholars enjoy a good Lincoln impersonation. "When I rolled up on my toes and started squeaking," George Buss says of a Forum presentation, "I got large grins from the audience."

The presenters say they have consulted so many sources that it is hard to pick out which books have helped them most. But for someone looking for a good introduction to Mr. Lincoln, works by Gore Vidal, David Donald and Carl Sandberg were suggested.

Presenter Charles Brame recommends his own book, "Honestly Abe: A Cartoon Biography of Abraham Lincoln." Even though Edgar B. Soller illustrated it with cartoons, Brame says, the book is serious and thoroughly researched.

The presenters all said they seek to educate as well as entertain. Their costumes and beards help win audience confidence.

Moles aren't critical for all presenters. Priebe doesn't use one, and McClerren has a natural mole, albeit on the wrong cheek.

Thanks to the Lincoln presenters who granted interviews for this article:

- *George Buss, Freeport, Illinois*
- *Charles Brame, Alta Loma, California*
- *William Ciampa, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*
- *James Getty, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*
- *B.F. McClerren, Charleston, Illinois*
- *Fred Priebe, Belleville, Michigan*

Heights vary. George Buss, at 6-5, 168 pounds, is pretty close to Mr. Lincoln's stature. Beards usually are natural and most receive some coloring (Getty says Lincoln was getting some gray hairs, but most people don't remember him that way). Buss uses a stage beard ("It lets me have a whole other life when I'm not presenting," he says).

Commonly among the presenters, they started getting comments about their Lincolnesque looks after growing a beard. Brame let his whiskers grow during an Easter break from his teaching job more than 40 years ago. Faculty beards were frowned upon then, and he was told to shave — but the remarks about his resemblance to Mr. Lincoln led to a long career as a presenter and even roles in movie and television productions.

The presenters say they usually were interested in — just not yet captivated by — Mr. Lincoln before they began impersonating him in programs. Most have backgrounds in education.

Each is fastidious about the authenticity of his costume. Priebe had his waist coat altered after he found his had five buttons, and Lincoln's usually had six. His nine-inch-tall stovepipe hat was custom made in Canada by John McMecking. Getty had to search for pull-on boots without zippers. McClerren wore an 1863 vintage frock coat until it fell apart and he had to spend \$800 to have a duplicate made.

The aim, each presenter emphasizes, is to show insofar as possible "the real Lincoln." They want to dispel myths and expand what they agree is a lamentable lack of knowledge among Americans about their 16th president.

Their presentations stress Lincoln's character, devotion to the Union, leadership ability, wit and religious faith.

McClerren's wife, Dorothy, and Priebe's wife, Bonnie, join their husbands on stage with sympathetic portrayals of Mary Todd Lincoln. They say she is widely misunderstood and under-appreciated.



DONALD ON LINCOLN:
A David Donald Sampler

I have, I think, produced a portrait rather different from that in other biographies. It is perhaps a bit more grainy than most, with more attention to his unquenchable ambition, to his brain-numbing labor in his law practice, to his tempestuous married life, and to his repeated defeats. It suggests how often chance, or accident, played a determining role in shaping his life. And it emphasizes his enormous capacity for growth, which enabled one of the least experienced and most poorly prepared men ever elected to high office to become the greatest American President.

— from *Lincoln* (1995)



Posing at last year's Symposium were five dead ringers (left to right): Charles Brame, William Ciampa, B. F. McClerren, Fred Priebe, and George Buss. Author Jan Morris wrote in her new book, *Lincoln: A Foreigner's Quest*: "When I once stepped into Abe's Antiques to buy a video of D. W. Griffith's *Abraham Lincoln* I was not in the least surprised to find myself served by an extremely convincing Lincoln look-alike." That "look-alike" was Gettysburg's own William Ciampa.

NEW LINCOLN DOCUMENTARY SET FOR PBS IN FEBRUARY

The acclaimed PBS documentary series, *The American Experience*, has scheduled filmmaker David Grubin's new three-part dual biography of Abraham and Mary Lincoln, *A House Divided*, for February 19, 20, and 21, 2001.

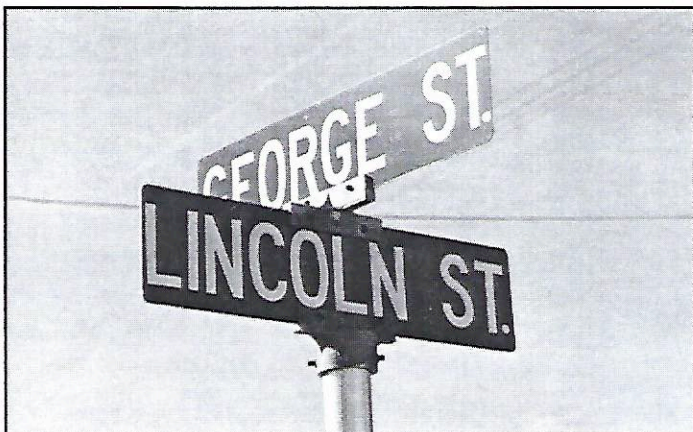
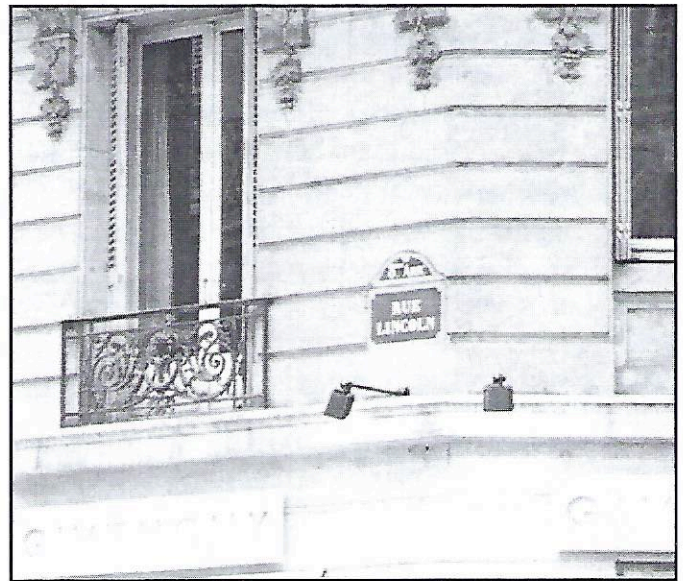
"Lincoln led a confused and frightened people through the most terrible war in their history," the advance publicity material declared. "At the same time, his own household mirrored the fissures that rent the nation: the great emancipator was married to the daughter of a slave owner from Kentucky... although she remained fiercely loyal to her husband and the Union cause, two of her brothers fought for the South. Their marriage was long and turbulent, and knew many trials, including the loss of two children. This mini-series weaves together the lives of the two Lincolns, drawing us into their long-vanished world."

The programs also examine Lincoln's public life: his political rise, his development as a writer, and in particular the crucial elections of 1860 and 1864. "Lincoln loved politics," said Grubin, who previously produced televised biographies of Lyndon Johnson, Harry Truman, Franklin Roosevelt, and Theodore Roosevelt. "but he knew that not everything could be bargained away. Lincoln had bedrock convictions. He so loved America that he was determined to fight a civil war to preserve it. He was a conservative man who revolutionized American life."

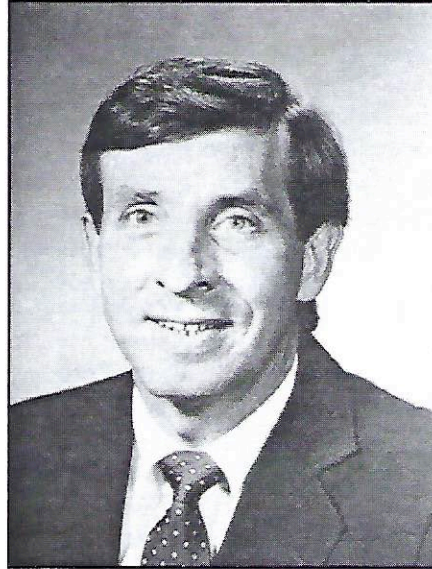
Historian David McCullough is the narrator of the six-hour documentary, which combines archival photographs and evocative new film. Grubin and Geoffrey C. Ward are the writers. Actors David Morse and Holly Hunter are heard as the voices of Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Several Lincoln scholars appear on camera, including David Herbert Donald, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Mark E. Neely, Jr., John Hope Franklin, James M. McPherson, David Long, Linda Levitt Turner, Charles B. Strozier, and Frank J. Williams.

STREET SCENES

Yet another foreign street named for Lincoln has been located (right) — this in the swank 8th arrondissement of Paris, not far from the Arch of Triumph. The man born in a log cabin might have been surprised to find this street sign above the headquarters of one of the most expensive couturiers in the city: Givenchy. Harold Holzer snapped this photo on French Independence Day, July 14, 2000. And Forum member David Walker took a photo in a more domestic setting (below), on the corner of Lincoln and George in Van Wert, Ohio.

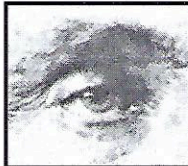
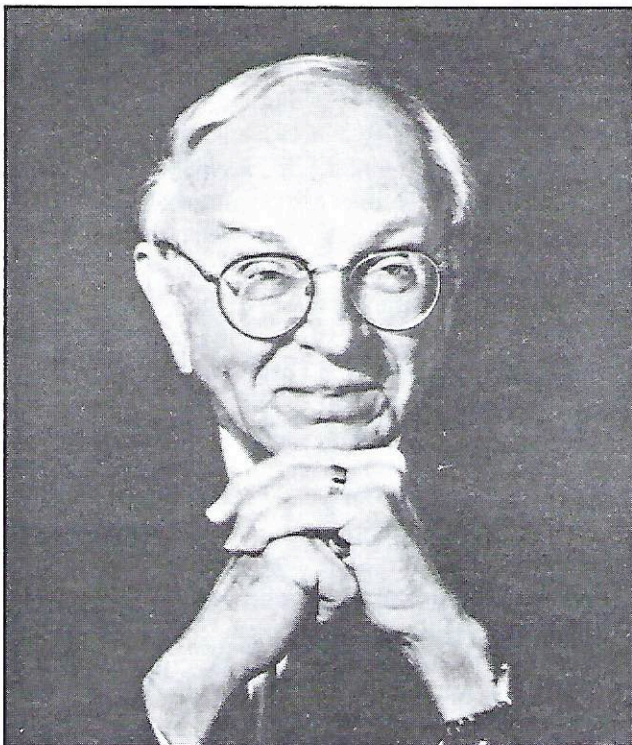
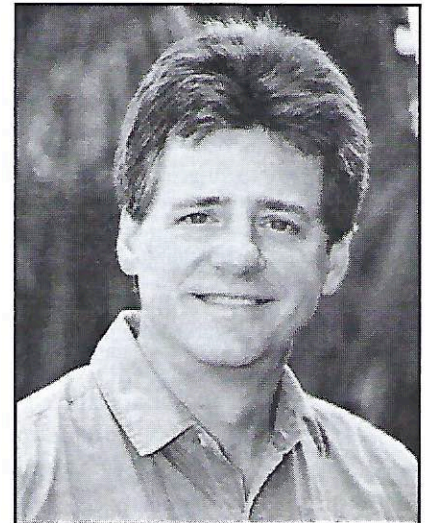


*Send us your Lincoln Street signs.
Either color or black and white; we would
love to put your Lincoln street picture in
the next Bulletin.*



ALL STAR ROSTER

Heading to Gettysburg to make Lincoln Forum V one of the most dazzling assemblies of nationally renowned historians ever to gather here, were, clockwise from top left: Michael Beschloss (photo by Leslie Cashen); Gary Gallagher (photo courtesy University of Virginia); Doris Kearns Goodwin (photo by Richard Goodwin); Jeff Shaara (photo by Jack Elka); and David Herbert Donald (below).



DONALD ON LINCOLN: A David Donald Sampler

From Lincoln's fatalism derived some of his most lovable traits: his compassion, his tolerance, his willingness to overlook mistakes. That belief did not, of course, lead him to lethargy or dissipation like thousands of Calvinists who believed in predestination. He worked indefatigably for a better world — for himself, for his family and for his nation. But it helped to buffer the many reverses that he experienced and enabled him to continue a strenuous life of aspiration.

— from *Lincoln* (1995)

Anderson Cottage is Named National Historic Site

By David E. Long

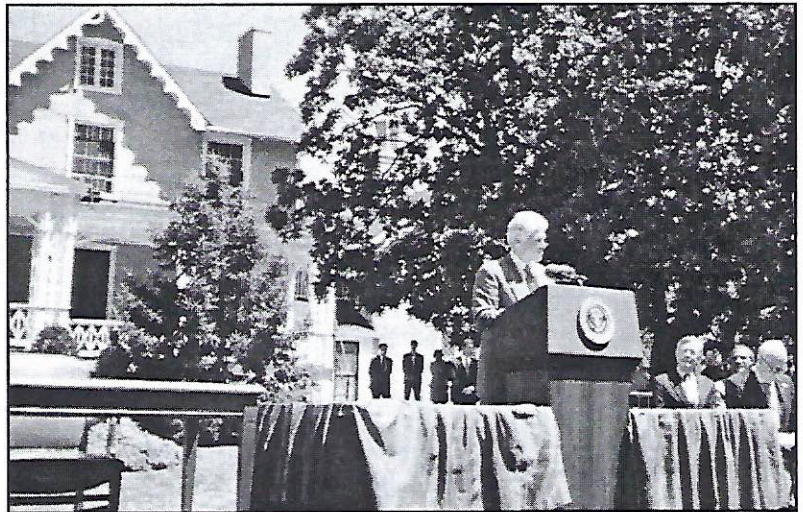
It was a proud day for the Lincoln Forum. On Friday, July 7, one of the first projects undertaken by this organization at its initial meeting of the Board of Advisers blossomed before the national press and hundreds of dignitaries and guests, as President Clinton declared that Abraham Lincoln's summer White House, known to most as the Anderson Cottage, is now the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument. It will now receive not only the full protection and benefits accorded national historic treasures, but \$750,000 of the next fiscal year's budget will go toward its restoration.

On a sun-drenched day that could hardly have been more perfect, with the building serving as a backdrop for his presentation, President Clinton spoke of a historic treasure that "has almost been forgotten for more than a century." He said, "There is fragile, vital history in this house. Today we come to reclaim it, to preserve it, and to make it live again." He pointed out that "last year more than 1 million people visited Fords Theater alone. But barely 100 made it here to Anderson Cottage, where Lincoln lived and worked; where his son played and his wife found solace."

Sitting front row center in the crowd assembled before the speakers' stand, and specifically mentioned by the president for the critical role he has played in bringing the Anderson Cottage to national attention, was Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Several weeks earlier Moe had announced at a press conference that this building had been designated the number one endangered historic site in the country. His tireless efforts over the past several years had brought this building from virtual anonymity (even most Lincoln historians had been unaware of its existence) into the light of day.

As most Forum members know, the effort that resulted in this building achieving national monument status, began with the Lincoln Forum and individuals who have been involved with this organization since its inception. On a 1995 historic tour of Civil War Washington, sponsored by Advisory Board member Pete Brown's HistoryAmerica, Advisory Board member David Long took the group to the Anderson Cottage. In the room where Lincoln drafted the second version of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, the tour leader talked about the importance of this site in American history and the need to do something to preserve it as a national landmark. Present in the group that day was Lincoln Forum Treasurer Chuck Platt, who had known Richard Moe and worked with him in the past, wrote a letter to Moe describing the building and its historical significance. He also suggested that if Moe were interested, he should contact Long to learn more about the history of the structure and its association with Lincoln's presidency. That is exactly what Moe did, and he asked Long to come to Washington and make a presentation before the assembled Directors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Civil War Trust. After the presentation, at a meeting that also included Lincoln Forum members Paul Pascal (present as the President of the Lincoln group of the District of Columbia), Edna Greene Medford, (Professor of History at Howard University who is active in symposia and events relating to Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation), and Michael Maione, Ford's Theatre historian, the various Directors and other officials present agreed unanimously that it was a historic preservation project that should be vigorously pursued.

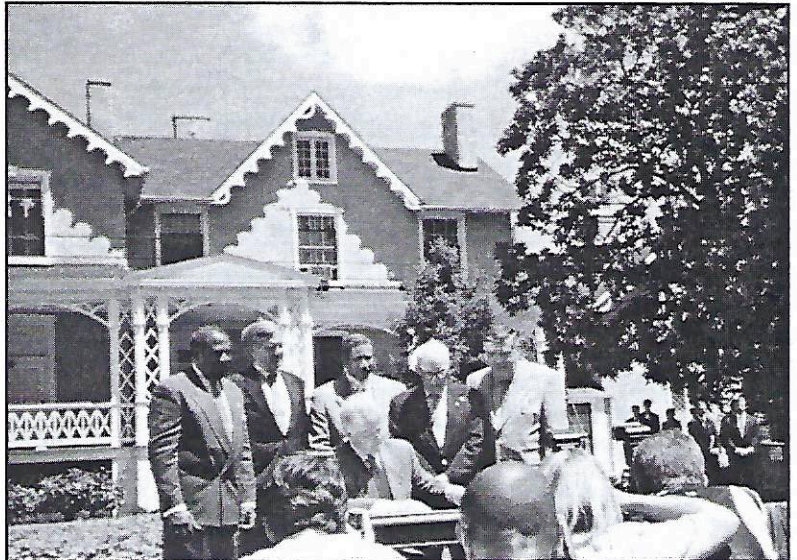
That November, at the First Annual Symposium of the Lincoln Forum, Chairman Frank Williams asked Long to make a presentation to the Board of Advisors about this site. Both Chairman Williams and Vice Chairman Harold Holzer spoke in strong support of the Lincoln Forum taking an active role in promoting and supporting any effort to preserve and protect this site and its history relative to the Lincoln presidency. Williams appointed an Anderson Cottage Committee with Long as Chair (see previous issues of *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin*), and members including Edna Greene Medford, Pete Brown, Chuck Platt, Dan Weinberg, Paul Pascal, Laurie Verge, and Michael Maione. Frank Williams and Harold Holzer both have participated as ex officio members of the committee as well, and have been present for meetings held with representatives of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



President Clinton announces federal funding for the Lincoln & Soldiers' Home National Monument on a sun-drenched Washington morning. Photo: David Long

From that meeting to the present, Moe's efforts have been unceasing. It took him some time to locate private funding to pay for the feasibility study, but eventually it was another Lincoln Forum member, Louise Taper, who brought this project and its need for funding before the Taper Foundation, which financed the feasibility study. At that point things began moving very quickly. Meetings last December and February sponsored by the Trust, resulted in decisions that led directly to the hiring of a fulltime project manager and the announcement by Moe in June that the Trust had listed the cottage as the most endangered historic site in the United States. Also the Trust has announced a Board of Advisers to oversee the research on the history of the Lincolns' residence at Anderson Cottage, plus whatever can be uncovered about the three or four other presidents who also lived at some time during their terms of office at this site. Lincoln Forum members comprise a significant portion of that Board of Advisers, including Vice Chairman Harold Holzer, Professor Gabor Boritt of Gettysburg College and the Civil War Institute, Professor Philip Paludan, Professor David Long of East Carolina University, and Professor David Herbert Donald.

This article, and the congratulations it conveys, would not be complete without the mention of one more person. Until recently, when she took a position with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Kerri Childress had spent the past ten years working as the Public Affairs Officer at the United States Soldiers and Airmens Home (USSAH, or as it is often called, the Old Soldiers' Home). During that time Kerri came to realize the historical significance of the building, and unlike many previous administrators who had feared that publicizing the building would bring droves of people onto the grounds who would exploit or disturb the peace of the residents of USSAH, she welcomed the prospect that at some point in time, something would be done to bring this hidden treasure to light, and convert it into a historical monument/shrine/museum. Kerri was the living link between this building's rich undiscovered history, and a generation of historians and preservationists who, once they learned about it, would finally bring it into the full light of day and announce its existence to the world. We are grateful to Kerri for this.



As government and Soldiers' Home officials looked on, the President signed legislation making Lincoln's old summer residence a national historic site. Photo: David Long.

It remains a source of amazement to everybody who has become involved in this project along the way, that this incredibly important historic site, remained so long unknown and undiscovered to people who spend their entire careers writing, interpreting, and teaching history.

Never again will the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument be unknown. Never again will it be relegated to the dust bins of history, an artifact covered in a veil of anonymity, hidden away from view of a public too busy with the hustle and bustle of the workaday world to stop and pay homage to one of the nation's most important historic structures. Now it will be groomed and made structurally sound, restored to its 1862 appearance so that visitors can come learn the rich story of its youth.

We are particularly proud, while humbled, as members of the Lincoln Forum, that this project, one of the first initiatives undertaken by this organization while still in its infancy, has been so spectacularly successful. This building and the grounds immediately surrounding it, can become the single most important Lincoln site in the nation, and the only one related just to his presidency. Here he worked, slept, ate, romped with Tad, was fired at by an assassin, and wrote the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that was issued on September 22, 1862. Here, more than anywhere in Washington, you can genuinely feel Lincoln's presence, commune with the man who is the inspiration for our organization's existence, celebrate, and meditate on the man poet Walt Whitman called, "My Captain." We all deserve to feel proud about what has been accomplished.

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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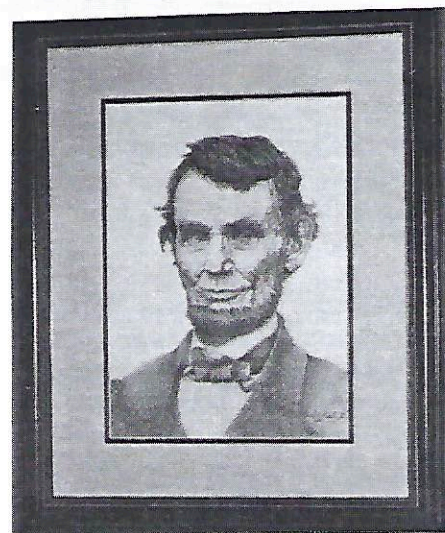
Born in Mississippi, Professor Donald was educated at two local schools — Holmes Junior College in Goodman and Millsaps College in Jackson — and later earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1946. He went on to teach at Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, Princeton University, and Harvard, and served as a visiting professor at both Amherst and Oxford. He has lectured throughout the nation and the world, earned major fellowships, and served as president of the Southern Historical Association. Professor Donald has also appeared frequently on television — on PBS' *Charlie Rose Show* and on C-SPAN, among other venues. He is visible daily as well as the on-screen historian guiding visitors through the Lincoln story at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

“David Donald’s works have been so influential and so illuminating for so long that it is difficult to remember a time when he has not ranked among the preeminent Lincoln scholars of our age,” commented Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams in announcing the award. “And it is equally difficult to imagine Civil War history without his major contributions. His brilliant and insightful writing has earned him the admiration, affection, and respect of generations of readers. The Forum is delighted to present Professor Donald with the first award of his second century as a leading historian. To paraphrase Lincoln, in honoring him we do honor to ourselves.”

The Forum’s award is named for Richard Nelson Current, the dean of Lincoln scholars who, like Professor Donald, was a president of the Southern Historical Association and a Harmsworth Professor of American history at Oxford University. His many books include *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* (1958), *Lincoln and the First Shot* (1962), *Speaking of Abraham Lincoln* (1983), and *Lincoln’s Loyalists* (1992). He is a past winner of the prestigious Logan Hay Medal.

The Richard N. Current Award of Achievement of the Lincoln Forum is in the form of a statuette, *Freedom River*, donated for the third consecutive year by its sculptor, John McClarey of Decatur, Illinois. The expressionistic piece represents Lincoln as both a “prime mover” and one “controlled by events,” according to McClarey. He adds: “Lincoln’s upraised hands, reaching for the waters above him, are meant to suggest the President’s mature view that emancipation was the work of Providence and that he was a servant in this endeavor.”

Previous winners of the Forum’s achievement award have been: Gabor S. Boritt of Gettysburg College (1996); Brian Lamb, chief executive officer and on-air host of C-SPAN (1997); historian John Hope Franklin (1998); and former U. S. Senator, and Lincoln scholar, Paul Simon (1999).



ON EXHIBIT

An exhibition of Paul R. Martin III’s landscape drawings of Gettysburg, “The Vision Place of Souls,” will be on view at the Gettysburg Cyclorama Center gallery through November 19. Among the works on view is this evocative portrait of Lincoln, *Now He Belongs to the Ages*. The artist says, “I wanted to present Lincoln as he looked at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address. I tried to focus on the exacting toll that the stress of the war had taken upon his facial features.” Artist Martin can be visited on the worldwide web at www.skyboom.com/pmartin.



DONALD ON LINCOLN: A David Donald Sampler

Remarkably, during Lincoln’s first year in office, the president’s systematic lack of system seemed to work. Stories of his patience, his humanity, his accessibility to even the humblest petitioner spread throughout the North. Millions referred to him as Father Abraham — though, in fact, he was one of the youngest men elected President. For the first time in American history, citizens began to feel that the occupant of the White House was their representative, and they showered him with gifts... .

—from *Lincoln at Home* (2000).