



THE LINCOLN FORUM

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James M. McPherson Wins the Richard N. Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement

James M. McPherson—whose signal gifts for exhaustive research, fresh and bold analysis, and lucid and accessible writing have made him the most respected and popular Civil War historian of our generation—is the winner of the 7th annual Richard N. Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement.

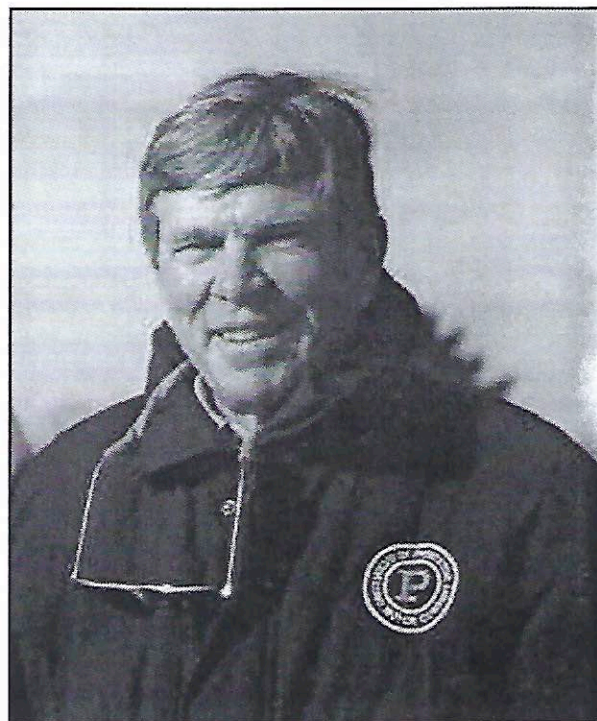
McPherson was given the award at the 2002 Lincoln Forum symposium banquet on November 16, where he delivered the keynote address on “The Problem of Peace in the Midst of War.” In typical, tireless fashion, McPherson was poised to begin his next morning by leading a HistoryAmerica tour through the Gettysburg battlefield, then returning later in the week to his duties as the George Henry Davis ‘86 Professor of History at Princeton University, where he has taught for 40 years.

“Jim McPherson is the voice and heart and soul of American Civil War scholarship,” commented Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams in announcing this year’s award. “No historian of the past 30 years has done more to attract readers and enthusiasts to the Civil War and Lincoln fields, and none has crafted a more distinguished record of scholarly achievement. Jim McPherson has more than earned our respect and admiration. And he continues to set the standard by which all other Civil War writers are judged. In honoring him, to paraphrase Lincoln, we do honor to ourselves.”

Professor McPherson has already earned most of the nation’s highest honors for scholarly achievement in the field of American history. His landmark 1988 book, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, not only won the Pulitzer Prize for history, but became an enormous best-seller that re-ignited the Civil War publishing field and launched the heartiest revival in scholarship and public interest since the 1961 centennial. For his 1997 volume, *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*, Professor McPherson went on to win the coveted Lincoln Prize.

Among his other books are *The Negro’s Civil War* (1965); *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution* (1991), and *Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War* (1996). McPherson also edited the 1995 collection, “*We Cannot Escape History: Lincoln and the Last Best Hope of Earth*,” and co-edited *Writing the Civil War: The Quest to Understand* (1998).

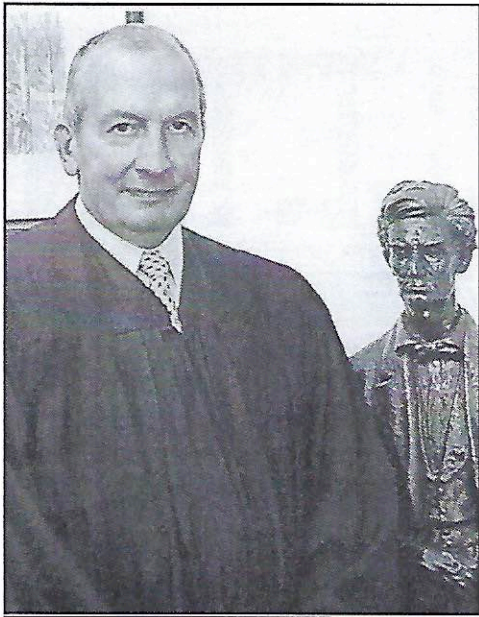
He is a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and *The New York Times Book Review*, among other publications, appears frequently on television, and remains the most enduringly popular speaker wherever Civil War and Lincoln conferences are held.



Jim McPherson as tour guide.
(Photo courtesy HistoryAmerica)

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The Emancipation Legacy



MESSAGE from the CHAIRMAN

This year we mark the 140th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's greatest act: the Emancipation Proclamation.

On September 22, 1862, Lincoln announced his preliminary Proclamation, telling his Cabinet that he had made a pact with his Maker that if the Union won a battlefield victory he would move quickly to free the slaves. That victory came at Antietam on September 17. Five days later, Lincoln kept his promise.

A hundred and forty years later, I was privileged to be invited to speak at the Holy Cross Church of God in Christ in Providence, Rhode Island—an all-black congregation where Emancipation Day is still enthusiastically celebrated. Sadly, all too few Americans, black or white, still pause to mark this historic anniversary.

Moreover, those of us who heard Lerone Bennett Jr. speak at last year's Lincoln Forum—or who have read his book, or heard other African-American historians speak disparagingly about Lincoln and the Proclamation in recent years—know all too well that among the descendants of the very slaves it affected, the reputation of this epoch-making document is at an all-time low. Too many modern Americans, looking at history from a more enlightened 21st-century perspective, now view Lincoln as retrograde on matters of equality, backward on race, and sluggish and reluctant on freedom.

Too many of us have forgotten how truly revolutionary, and how politically daring, Lincoln's order appeared to his fellow countrymen in 1862.

Most Democratic newspapers, North as well as South, attacked Lincoln viciously for his heroic move. The European press was equally critical.

And after six days, Lincoln sadly confessed in a "strictly private" letter to his Vice President, that "the stocks have declined, and troops come forward more slowly than ever. This, looked soberly in the face, is not very satisfactory."

The worst was yet to come. In the Congressional elections that followed seven weeks later, Lincoln's Republicans lost considerable numbers in both the House and the Senate. Emancipation was not an easy choice for Lincoln; in fact, it was a risky and dangerous choice—and a heroic one.

Yet Lincoln persevered. "I can only trust in God I have made no mistake," he told a throng of serenaders at the White House, still clearly worried. "...It is now for the country and the world to pass judgment."

How ironic that the judgment that finally followed—elevating Lincoln to the status of Great Emancipator—has lately been challenged by revisionists who insist on looking at the 1860s through the prism of the 2000s.

We must never forget the risks that Lincoln took to issue his extraordinary order in the midst of a Civil War that was being waged, ostensibly, only to preserve the Union, not free the slaves. We must never forget that Lincoln himself did not know whether his order, his government, or his party would survive such a revolutionary move. And we must never forget that he risked all for a cause that the preponderant majority of his fellow countrymen did not wish to embrace, until Lincoln provided leadership and daring.

By the time Lincoln sent his 1862 annual message to Congress that December—notwithstanding massive military desertions, political defections, and economic woes—he was fully convinced he had done the right thing, and posterity would endorse him.

"We can not escape history," he said. "...the fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation..... in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free--honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth... . The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which, if followed, the world will forever **applaud**, and God must forever bless."

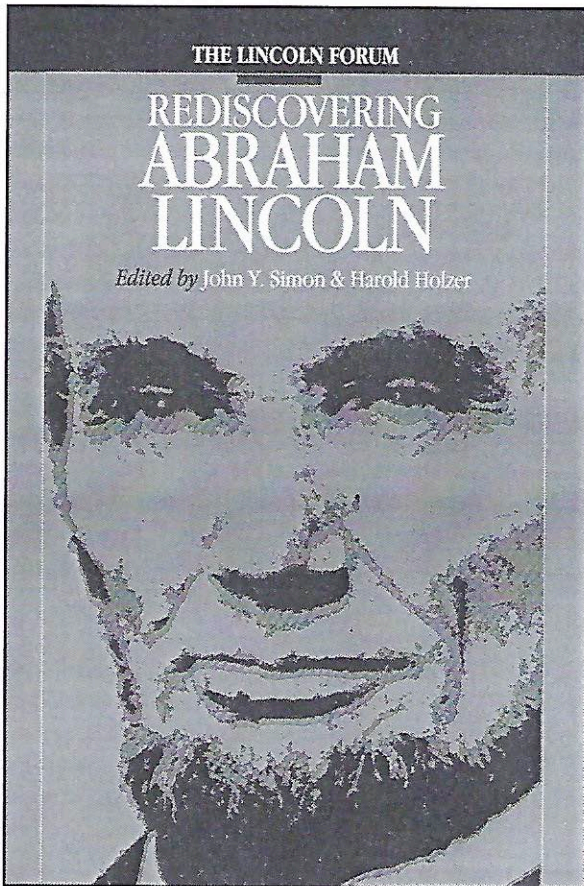
We must make certain that the world continues to applaud. The Holy Cross Church of God in Christ in Providence must not be alone in remembering historical truth, and celebrating giant milestones that transformed America.

We can not escape history. That is why we embrace and celebrate our past and participate so enthusiastically in the Lincoln Forum.

To those joining our annual symposium, a hearty welcome. To the hundreds of members who support the Lincoln Forum throughout the nation: happy 140th emancipation anniversary!

THE LINCOLN FORUM: REDISCOVERING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A New Volume of Lectures from Forum Symposia



Fordham University Press has just issued *Rediscovering Abraham Lincoln: The Lincoln Forum*, the second book-length collection of papers from recent Lincoln Forum symposia.

Edited by John Y. Simon and Harold Holzer, with textual editing by Dawn Ruark, the book offers insightful examinations of Lincoln as military leader, communicator, family man, and icon.

Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams called it “the best Lincoln Forum collection yet—a long, rich, beautifully produced permanent record of the outstanding scholarship that is traditionally offered at our annual symposium. It is both a keepsake and a contribution to the field, and will be treasured by all our members—and more.”

Contributors include James M. McPherson, Gary Gallagher, Craig L. Symonds, John Marszalek, Jean H. Baker, Hans L. Trefousse, John C. Waugh, Gerald Prokopowicz, J. Tracy Power, and Frank J. Williams, along with essays by Simon and Holzer. The book is dedicated to the Forum’s founding Treasurer, Charles D. Platt.

Mario M. Cuomo, former Governor of New York, calls the collection “a volume of carefully selected works,” and historian William C. Davis took special note of “new visions and new ways of looking at what we thought we already knew.” Illustrated with 31 photographs and a distinctive red, white, and blue cover, the volume concludes with a 9-page listing of Forum members.

The book is available at discounted prices at the Lincoln Forum symposium, and from all book dealers and web book services.

Rediscovering Abraham Lincoln offers a foreword by Chairman Williams; an introduction by editors Simon and Holzer; and 13 essays:

- “Lincoln and Commander in Chief,” by James M. McPherson.
- “Commander in Chief Lincoln and General Grant,” by John Y. Simon.
- “‘You Must Either Attack Richmond or Give up the Job and Come to the Defence of Washington:’ Abraham Lincoln and the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign,” by Gary W. Gallagher.
- “Men, Machines, and Old Abe: Lincoln and the Civil War Navy,” by Craig L. Symonds.
- “Abraham Lincoln and William T. Sherman: The Cause was Union,” by John F. Marszalek.
- “‘If I Had Gone Up There I Could Have Whipped Them Myself:’ Lincoln’s Military Fantasies,” by Gerald J. Prokopowicz.
- “‘In For Four Years More:’ The Army of Northern Virginia and the United States Presidential Election of 1864,” by J. Tracy Power.
- “‘A Matter of Profound Wonder:’ The Women in Lincoln’s Life,” by Frank J. Williams.
- “Mary Lincoln: Symbol, Historical Target, and Human Being,” by Jean H. Baker.
- “Abraham Lincoln’s Body and Body Politic: Two Puzzles in Mid-Nineteenth-Century American Political Language and Culture,” by Iver Bernstein.
- “The New Gettysburg Address: A Study in Illusion,” by Barry Schwartz.
- “Abraham Lincoln’s Reputation During his Administration,” by Hans L. Trefousse.
- “The Lincoln Grail: The Great Collectors and Their Great Collections,” by Harold Holzer.

The Tree Too Young To Be Famous

By Donald Pieper

Under the watchful eyes of several Lincoln Forum members, a proposal is working its way through bureaucratic machinery to establish at Abraham Lincoln's summer retreat in Washington the first in-depth interpretation of his presidential years.

It is the sort of deliberate administrative and political process that President Lincoln would have found familiar, but everything seems to be moving forward without controversy.

Everything, that is, except for that famous old tree — the copper beech that, as it turned out, wasn't old enough to deserve its fame.

The tree, now deceased and reduced to virtual stump-hood, once stood 50 feet high and spread its branches over the lawn of the Soldiers' Home where the Lincoln family lived during the summers of 1862, 1863 and 1864.

For decades, historians were convinced the Lincolns relaxed in the shade of that very tree. The president, they were certain, romped there with Tad after commuting three miles by horseback or carriage from a day's work at the White House.

When the tree died last year and botanists examined it, they concluded, however, that while it was an old tree, possibly even as old as 140 years, it definitely was not old enough to have provided shade for the Lincolns. It was hard to tell the age exactly, the experts said, because they couldn't examine the rings at the base. About 15 feet of the trunk was left standing to support branches that drooped to the ground and formed their own root system, so imprecise calculations were made from evidence farther up.

Before the "autopsy," historians had figured the tree to be something like 250 years old. No way, they were told by arborists.

Lura Lynn Ryan, wife of the Illinois governor, had accepted sprouts from the tree before its "youth" was discovered. She issued a statement expressing her disappointment about the findings. "There are so many wonderful stories surrounding the tree and I for one would have liked to have believed in the legend of the 'old soldier,'" she said.

The Forum's vice chairman, Harold Holzer, who had spoken at the tree's eulogy in February, was reluctant to accept a botanist's reckoning. "I don't think we should dismiss it too quickly," Holzer said of the oral tradition. Other Forum members at the "funeral" were Chairman Frank J. Williams and Gabor S. Boritt.

Scholars may have been stumped by the tree, but they continue to look forward to the restoration of the Lincoln quarters in what is

known as the Anderson Cottage and the establishment of a facility to help Americans better understand the Civil War presidency.

A Special Resources Study affirming the national significance of the property — formally known as the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument — was discussed at a public meeting in mid-September.

The study, conducted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the National Park Service, provides Congress with a professional analysis of the significance of the monument and its suitability and feasibility as a unit of the Park Service.

"Despite its extraordinary significance," the Study says, "the site was largely unknown" until the combined efforts of the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the National Trust for Historic Preservation led to its designation in 2000 as a national monument. Lincoln Forum members, especially David E. Long, also were active in that effort.

The site now is under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH).

"The interior and exterior of the building remain largely unchanged from the Lincoln period," the Study says, "but severe budget shortfalls since military downsizing in the early 1990s limit the AFRH's ability to carry out anything more than routine maintenance on the cottage.

"Structural damage has occurred over time and unless there is some infusion of funds, the site will continue to deteriorate." AFRH officials have welcomed partners to help them preserve and restore the place

where President Lincoln formulated the ideas for the Emancipation Proclamation, but they say development must not interfere with "the safety and serenity" of the nearly 1,000 retired or disabled veterans living there.

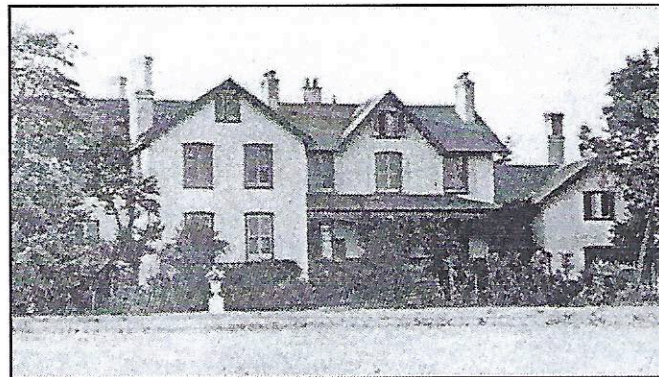
Under consideration by federal officials are proposals to manage the facility as a unit of the National Park Service, to operate it as an affiliated area under "co-stewardship" of the park service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, or to leave things as they are with the park service acting only in a consulting role.

The last alternative, according to the Study, "might make it more difficult ... to develop interpretive links between the monument and various Lincoln and Civil War sites." The co-stewardship idea, the Study says, would allow the service to develop those links, but without assuming financial and management responsibility. ■



Above: modern photograph of the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument, fall 2000.

(Photo: Robert C. Lautman) Below: image of the cottage from Mary Lincoln's family album. (Photo: Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, IN)



LINCOLN REMEMBERED AT OTTAWA

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas have returned (in bronze) to Ottawa, Illinois—scene of the first of their famous senatorial debates on August 21, 1858. One hundred and forty-two years later to the day, former U. S. Senator Paul Simon returned to the site to help dedicate this heroic-sized pair of statues by Rebecca Childers Caleel. It is the latest in a series of Lincoln-Douglas sculptures erected in recent years in such debate towns as Freeport, Charleston, and Alton. Among the onlookers at Ottawa were 26 Lincoln re-enactors (below) dressed in their best frock coats and stovepipe hats for a pageant and look-alike competition. Standing mutely a few blocks away was the G & R taxi shack, which today stands on the site of the long-gone Glover home, where Lincoln was carried in triumph for a post-debate banquet on that August day in 1858. (Photos: Harold Holzer)





WHEN LINCOLN CAME TO GETTYSBURG

The crowd pressed forward. The military band played music. Dignitaries crowded onto the wooden platform. A lone American flag stood limp in the calm sun. And soldiers in dress uniforms stood watchful guard. It was November 19, 1863, and President Abraham Lincoln had just arrived at the Gettysburg soldiers' cemetery, a few hours from his most famous three minutes as an orator. But before he would rise to deliver his greatest speech, Edward Everett would deliver a two-hour, classical oration, and prayers and odes would be recited. By the time Lincoln was introduced, the official photographer on the scene was no doubt exhausted from the long wait. Probably, he dawdled with his focus and glass plate as the President finally began speaking. And then, suddenly, before he could take his picture, Lincoln was finished and back in his seat. The unknown camera operator had missed the opportunity of a lifetime: to capture Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg.

Fortunately, one photo of the occasion did survive. In the 1950s, National Archives specialist Josephine Cobb found a battered old picture of a throng of people gathered at an unidentified spot. Here was surely a major event, but what? Enlarging the print several times, Cobb found this extraordinary scene: a bareheaded Lincoln (center) taking his seat on the platform at Gettysburg, sitting next to his private secretary, John G. Nicolay. Above him, to the right, were the somewhat blurred figures of Edward Everett and Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin.

Cobb enlarged the picture again—and then again. Finally, she produced this blurred but poignant close-up that eluded the cameraman two hours later. An historic moment: head bowed, lips clenched, perhaps even reading his remarks one final time. Here was Lincoln at his zenith. Rehearsing? Pondering the hallowed ground he was visiting for the first time? Or lost in thought, awed, humbled, overcome?

We can never know. We know only that here is the only photograph of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, just a few hours from immortality. (Photos: Library of Congress)



“Cobb found this extraordinary scene: a bareheaded Lincoln (center) taking his seat on the platform at Gettysburg, sitting next to his private secretary,”

“So obscure was Lincoln in certain circles before his nomination that some pundits had not included his name on their lists of seven or a dozen or even twenty-one potential candidates. Several newspapers spelled his first name Abram. But not for long... . Few could know that they had also chosen the best man for the grim task that lay ahead.”

James M. McPherson
Battle Cry of Freedom, 1988

RE-ENACTING IS FUN — BUT WATCH WHERE YOU 'DIE'

By Donald Pieper

Re-enacting is fun — but watch where you 'die'.

Life as a Civil War re-enactor provides moments of soaring emotion and pride, the hearty companionship of shared hardships, and an enriched appreciation of history and the people who made it.

And then, of course, there's the "horse poop," to use David Walker's delicate term.

Walker was playing the role of a Union private in the re-enactment of the first day's fighting during the 125th anniversary of the battles at Gettysburg when he went kerplow into the poop. He was a "casualty," so he couldn't move to a sweeter-smelling spot. It didn't help at all that the temperature was about 100 degrees that July day in 1988.

A re-enactment official, Walker recalls, had said he needed soldiers to "die" here and here and here. "Here" didn't really mean in the "horse poop;" that was just bad luck.

Walker had better luck the next two days: He didn't "die" again.

An occasional unscripted encounter with manure notwithstanding, Walker and fellow Lincoln Forum member Tim Branscum, both Buckeye State residents, enjoy portraying soldiers of the 8th Ohio. They say Lincoln Forum symposia, where they can chat with those who share their interest in Civil War soldiery, has given them valuable insights into their hobby.

For each of them, a highlight of their re-enacting hobby was participation in that 1988 observance of the 125th anniversary of the epic Gettysburg engagements.

In recent years, the Gettysburg Remembrance Day parade, in which Walker and Branscum have marched, has been a feature - and popular - attraction on the Forum's schedule. But this will be the last November for a few years that the symposium dates coincide with Gettysburg's big weekend event.

While that will ease the local lodging crush, the pageantry of the parade and other Remembrance weekend events will be missed by Forum members unable to extend their stay.

The parade is a highlight for Walker and Branscum. Branscum says he is "enthralled by the event." It evokes "lots of emotion," he says, with the crowds cheering and "ladies tossing flowers to the troops."

Another special Gettysburg event, Branscum says, is the "very powerful and moving" ceremony the re-enactors conduct at the portion of the Gettysburg cemetery where the dead of the 8th Ohio are buried.

Walker, 49, is a school teacher in Van Wert, Ohio, near the Indiana border, and Branscum, a 41-year-old Federal Aviation



**Left: Tim Branscum on the set of "Gods and Generals"
Right: David Walker marching in a Gettysburg Remembrance
Day Parade. (Photos: Tim Branscum & Virginia Williams)**

Administration employee, lives in Amherst, halfway across Ohio near the shores of Lake Erie. So they aren't neighbors, but they do share an interest in the lives and trials of the common soldiers of the mid-19th century.

Part of it, as Walker says, is a chance to "go hang out with the guys." But it's not necessary, just to hang out with buddies, to invest in authentic uniforms, right down to the buttons and boots, ("It's not cheap," Branscum says) or to clean camp crockery in a stream using a handful of straw for a dish rag.

"It helps to be the outdoorsy type," Branscum says. It also helps to be willing to do research and to be willing to share the findings.

Branscum has prepared a monologue based on primary source material from a variety of 8th Ohio infantrymen, mostly Irish fellows from the Cuyahoga Falls area. He presents programs to historical societies and other groups about the conditions his composite soldier faced.

Walker, whose great-great-grandfather died at Andersonville and thus has a personal motive to understand about the soldiers of the 1860s, puts on programs for school children, but also for audiences of all ages.

Walker says his program emphasizes the reasons young Ohioans were willing to fight. "Was it to protect the homeland or to free the slaves? No, it was to preserve the Union," he says.

Books he has found useful include "Life of Billy Yank" and "Life of Johnny Reb" by Bell Irvin Wiley, "Civil War Infantryman: In Camp, on the March, in Battle" by Gregory A. Coco and Reid Mitchell's "Civil War Soldiers: Their Expectations and Experiences." **I**

AGAIN AND ALWAYS: THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS SETS THE STANDARD

Not since November 1863 has the Gettysburg Address been so widely discussed, debated, repeated, reprinted, and re-appreciated.

On the first anniversary of the 2001 World Trade Center attacks, when New York Governor George E. Pataki rose on the spot where the Twin Towers once stood, there to recite Lincoln's most famous speech, tens of millions of television viewers worldwide heard those stirring words spoken live—many for the first time.

As one on-air pundit noted, more people heard the speech during those few modern minutes than have read, memorized, or spoken it in all the 139 years since Lincoln first delivered it. And to think that Lincoln himself said that the world would “little note nor long remember” what he said that day in 1863.

Still, the decision to use Lincoln's speech on 9/11/02 was not greeted with unanimous approval. Some critics, including Garry Wills, rued the fact that modern politicians proved unable or unwilling to attempt to match the modern occasion with their own modern masterpieces. Others wondered whether a 19th-century speech, however great, about military casualties at a military battle, was “altogether fitting and proper” on the site of a terrorist attack that killed thousands of unsuspecting civilians. Of course, many observers thought the use of the Gettysburg Address both prudent and inspiring, and a superb tribute to Abraham Lincoln. The debate will no doubt continue for years to come.

All but forgotten amidst the controversy was another recent use of the Gettysburg Address. Scripps-Howard News Service columnist Dale McFeatters wrote his own marvelously original take on the timeless speech, after learning that the New York State Board of Regents proposed gutting and cleansing its history curriculum to make certain that it was politically correct.

Many historians howled, but McFeatters said it best—and funniest—in a column published on June 8, 2002. He generously agreed to its republication in the Lincoln Forum Bulletin—as further proof that the Gettysburg Address still sets the standard.

The N.Y. Regents' Improved History By Dale McFeatters

News item: Literary passages used on a standard New York state high school exam were edited to meet strict “sensitivity review guidelines.” Censored were references to religion, race, sex, ethnicity, alcohol, violence, nudity, profanity, and potential conflict. The idea is to remove any reference that might make a student feel ill at ease.

President Lincoln
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are planning to use your Gettysburg Address in our English and history examinations for graduating seniors. We have edited the speech in accordance with our sensitivity guidelines and made the following changes with explanations.

The title: We don't need to tell you that Gettysburg was a huge battle with 45,000 dead, but the name is too reminiscent of gratuitous violence and bloodshed. The title would be less offensive if instead of Gettysburg it incorporated the name of a more suitable nearby town.

“*Four score and seven years ago...*” We don't like to use the word “score” because it implies the existence of winners and losers. We like to think that each of our students is a winner, and while we have our share of losers, we try not to remind them of it.

“*...our fathers brought forth...*” Gender-specific and sexist to boot.

“*...conceived in liberty...*” Could be taken as a reference to sex and birth.

“*...dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*” Sexist, sexist. Moreover, rather than equality we prefer to dwell on diversity.

The second paragraph is unnecessarily militaristic with its references to “*a great civil war*” and “*a great battle field of that war.*” In no way do we want to give our students the impression that wars and battles are “great.” Also, “*a final resting place for those who here gave their lives*” is too funereal.

“*...we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground.*” The religious references will have to go, and we don't like to disempower the students by saying there are things they “cannot” do. Everybody is able, but some are differently abled than others, a point you have regrettably omitted.

“*The brave men...*” You really have it in for the female students, don't you? And the whole “living and dead” business is a downer; it sounds almost as if you're dedicating a cemetery or something.

“*...far above our poor power to add or detract.*” There you go again, undermining the students' self-esteem. “Poor” is another unfortunate word; we like to say “differently incomeed.”

“*The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.*” Frankly, the teaching of American history is not what it should be, and some of our students probably believe that Gettysburg is where George Washington forced the Nazis to surrender. Best not to dwell on it.

The last sentence—“*It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us*”—is fine, even with all the “devotion” stuff. until you get to “*this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom...*” Religion and sex; again, both no-no's under our guidelines.

“*...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*” This is a noble thought, but we have a real problem with it. A lot of our students immigrated here from Third World dictatorships, failed Stalinist states and fanatical theocracies. We do not want them to be devalued by suggesting that American democracy is somehow better than the culture they left behind. The fact that this battle was fought at all suggests there were a few imperfections in our own system, doesn't it?

Here for your approval is our revised, sensitive version: *The Biglerville Address, By Abraham Lincoln*

We have a really cool country, and we should keep it that way.

Sincerely,

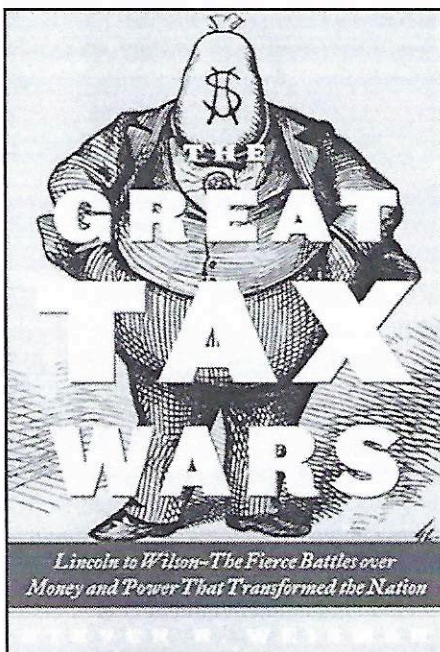
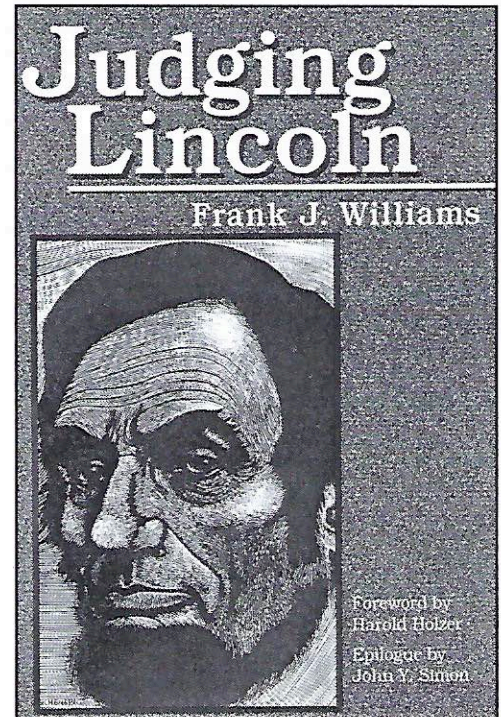
N.Y. Board of Regents

Now available at the Lincoln Forum symposium book shop (and on the worldwide web, at sites linked to our own www.thelincolnforum.org) are a number of important new titles on Lincoln and the Civil War.

First and foremost among them is Frank Williams' first book of collected essays and lectures—to be featured further in the May 2003 Bulletin.

New and noteworthy since the spring *Lincoln Forum Bulletin* are:

- *Judging Lincoln* by Frank J. Williams (Southern Illinois University Press, 2002), is the first volume to bring together the appealing and innovative lectures and papers by the Lincoln Forum's own founding Chairman: nine essays ranging in topics from Lincoln as commander-in-chief to Lincoln as civil libertarian, lavishly illustrated with pictures from Williams' own great collection of Lincolniana (to be featured in the next edition of the Bulletin).
- *American Heritage History of the Battle of Gettysburg* by Craig L. Symonds (HarperCollins, 2001) brings together a compelling narrative and a treasure trove of illustrations in an all-new 300-page illustrated volume that James M. McPherson called "unmatched in drama and richness."
- *November: Lincoln's Elegy at Gettysburg* by Kent Gramm (Indiana University Press, 2001) is a long and original personal narrative on the deeper meanings of America's--and the author's own--November anniversaries. Lincoln Prize winner Russell Weigley noted: "Gramm writes poetically."
- *Look Away: A History of the Confederate States of America* by William C. Davis (The Free Press, 2002) is the latest contribution by the indefatigably prolific author of *Lincoln's Men*, frequent Lincoln Forum speaker, and three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Prize for Confederate History. Historian James I. Robertson hailed this book as "a pathbreaking work in every sense."
- *A. Lincoln, Esquire: A Shrewd, Sophisticated Lawyer in His Time* by Allen D. Spiegel (Mercer University Press, 2002) is the first full-length study of Lincoln's career as an attorney to be based on the new documents uncovered by the Lincoln Legals Project. The author, interestingly, is a professor not of law, but of preventive medicine.



- *The Real Lincoln: A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War* by Thomas J. DiLorenzo (Forum Press, 2002), is the controversial new anti-Lincoln book by an economics professor at Loyola College. Syndicated columnist Joseph Sobrian called this "a devastating critique of America's most famous President."
- *War of Words: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War Press* by Henry J. Maihafer (Brassey's, 2001) examines the complex relationship between politician-president Lincoln and the Democratic and Republican newspapers of the 1850s and 1860s. Historian Curt Anders called this "a very rich book."
- *The Great Tax Wars: Lincoln to Wilson--the Fierce Battles over Money and Power that Transformed the Nation* by Steven R. Weisman (Simon & Schuster, 2002), traces that most reviled of American policies—taxation—beginning with the Civil War era. James M. McPherson called it a "fine book," and noted that the author "has done what I previously thought impossible—he has made the history of taxation interesting, even fascinating."

Illinois' Senior Senator at Gettysburg: An Address to Remember

Some historians believe that Abraham Lincoln wanted, more than anything, to be a United States Senator. He lost two elections for the Senate from Illinois (both times suffering defeat in his state's legislature, which in Lincoln's day was empowered with choosing U. S. Senators). In his second race, in 1858, Lincoln successfully engaged incumbent Senator Stephen A. Douglas in the most famous political debates in American history—but still could not muster the Republican legislative majority necessary to unseat him. Lincoln did go on to defeat Douglas for the Presidency two years later. But many experts maintain that the future national hero would have been thrilled to cap and end his career as Senator Lincoln of Illinois.

The man who today holds that coveted Senate seat is Illinois' senior Senator, Richard J. Durbin, who serves also as co-chairman of the U. S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Last year, after attending the Lincoln Forum, Senator Durbin was keynote speaker at the Gettysburg National Soldiers' Cemetery on the 138th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. By his kind permission, we reprint his remarks—delivered on November 19, 2001, just two months after 9/11, and as timely today as when they were written in the wake of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks:

It is a humbling experience to stand here today so close to this hallowed ground, so close to the place where Abraham Lincoln, in carefully chosen words, gave meaning to a brutal war.

Today, our nation is again at war. The wounds of September have not fully healed, and across America we wait for our enemies to strike again. As in Lincoln's day, our nation is being tested.

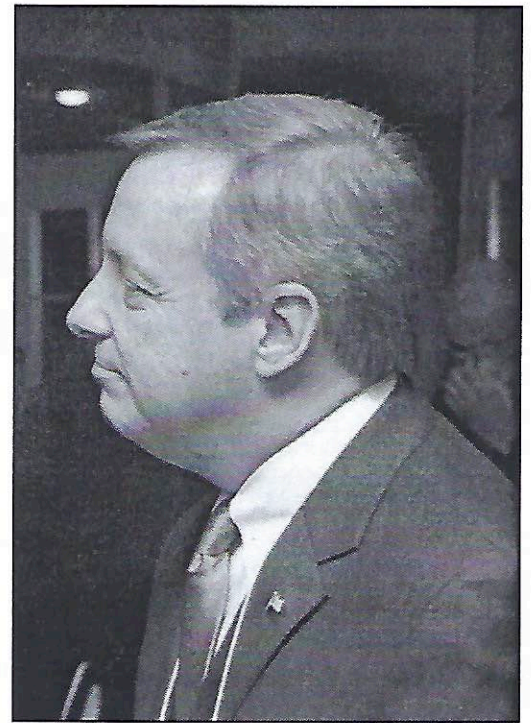
But as Lincoln came to Gettysburg to remind us that the brave men who struggled on this battlefield blessed this ground, we gather today mindful of the courage we have seen since September 11, a courage that has blessed this nation.

Firefighters racing into the inferno of the World Trade Center, giving their lives to lead others to safety. Policemen standing their ground to protect innocent people as the buildings crashed around them. Rescue workers and volunteers reaching out to help others in danger, defying every human instinct to survive. Our sons and daughters in uniform serving our country at home and abroad. And over a grassy field in western Pennsylvania, ordinary Americans who summoned the courage to wrest a deadly missile from the hands of our enemies.

These acts of bravery and love are forever part of the story of America.

In Lincoln's day, his great Civil War was waged over the issue of our Union. Today, our war is waged over the issue of our values. Our enemies attack us for who we are and what we believe. The very freedoms we love inspire their hatred.

When Lincoln spoke here, he did more than summon courage in battle. He summoned a new nation, dedicated to our first values. As we wage our war against the enemy of terrorism, we can do no less.



**U. S. Senator Dick Durbin (IL)
at the 2001 Lincoln Forum
(Photo: Larry Kinneman)**

In defending America, we cannot forget that we are a nation of immigrants, people who came to our shores from faraway lands and in their diversity of culture and creed enriched our common life.

In bringing the terrorists to justice, we cannot ignore our constitution and the civil liberties it protects.

In protecting our people, we cannot destroy a society both open and vulnerable, which makes America truly a free land.

Like Lincoln, our President came to Washington without a clear election mandate. Like Lincoln, he came without great experience, and untested in war. But like Lincoln, he has learned quickly in office. And on Capitol Hill, a fractious Congress has closed ranks behind the President to win this war and to prove that our patriotism is greater than our partisanship.

In the heat of this battle, it is also important to remember that Lincoln sought to temper firmness and righteousness with humility. He called on our nation to look up from the devastation and division of war to a higher purpose, with malice toward none, with charity for all.

Lincoln did not live to see his greatest legacy: a Union that has endured. But as certain as we gather in Lincoln's memory facing our test, waging our war as a nation re-united by adversity, we can pledge to future generations that we, too, will prevail. We, too, will remember those who have fallen. We, too, will dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work of America. ■

"James M. McPherson Wins Award of Achievement"

His most recent book, destined to become another classic, is *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* (2002), which the author argues was "the battle that changed the course of the Civil War." Hailed as "engaging and perceptive" by historian Gary Gallagher, and acclaimed as "graceful and insightful" by Lincoln Prize alumnus David W. Blight, the book was published on the 140th anniversary of the important 1862 Maryland battle. As McPherson persuasively contends in the new volume: "In a war with several crucial turning points, the battle of Antietam was the pivotal moment for the most crucial of them all."

As nearly all Forum members know, the achievement award is named for the beloved dean of Lincoln scholars Richard N. Current, author of *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* (1958), among countless other titles, winner of the Bancroft Prize, and an original member of the Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors.

The Richard N. Current Award of Achievement is a statuette, *Freedom River*, donated annually by its acclaimed sculptor, John McClarey of Decatur, Illinois. **■**

LINCOLN NEWS IN BRIEF

- ◆ The U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission launched its interactive web site (www.lincolnbicentennial.gov) at ceremonies at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, on June 10. The site invites Americans to submit their own ideas for marking Lincoln's 200th birthday in 2009....On August 12, the Bicentennial Commission named Michael F. Bishop of California as executive director. Trained as a historian, and currently a doctoral candidate in political history at Georgetown University with a master's degree in history from the George Washington University, Bishop also has extensive modern political experience as a legislative aide for several Congressmen....President Bush formally welcomed the Bicentennial Commission at a White House ceremony on September 23. Noting that "the nation needs Lincoln," the President told a group of 200—commissioners, advisors, and guests—the President revealed that he keeps a portrait of his 19th-century predecessor in the Oval Office because "Lincoln never forgot where he came from."
- ◆ The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois will formally open on November 18. The \$115 million, 200,000-square-foot complex is not yet set to open fully, but Illinois officials wanted it dedicated near the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Eventually, the museum will showcase the 46,000-piece Henry Horner Lincoln Collection, along with high-tech, non-traditional museum displays like rubber figures of Lincoln, which have aroused the criticism of a number of Lincoln scholars, most notably John Y. Simon.
- ◆ A number of coin collecting organizations have begun lobbying Congress to eliminate the copper penny — arguing, among other things, that a new coin would arouse collector interest.
- ◆ Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams was the guest on a recent edition of C-SPAN's long-running series *Booknotes*. The segment featured not only the Chairman's new book, *Judging Lincoln*, but on the fabulous Frank and Virginia Williams Lincolniana Collection, examples of which are on view at the Chief Justice's chambers in Providence.
- ◆ Harold Holzer has won the 2002 Nevins-Freeman Award of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago.



Lincoln Forum members provided advance notice for a HistoryAmerica offering that is expected to sell out!

HistoryAmerica announces a Lincoln Theme Cruise aboard the legendary river steamer, Delta Queen

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Lincoln Forum activities via email,
please advise administrator
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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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