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JEFF SHAARA WINS 12TH ANNUAL RICHARD N. CURRENT AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Jeff Shaara—who is universally recognized as the nation’s premier novelist of American military history and one of the country’s leading champions of Civil War preservation—has been named the winner of the 12th annual Richard N. Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement. Shaara is the first fiction writer to win the Forum’s most prestigious honor.

At a banquet ceremony tonight at Gettysburg, Shaara was presented with the award—the statuette Freedom River, created by sculptor and Current award laureate John McClarey—and then delivered the keynote address at the annual symposium of the Lincoln Forum before another sold-out audience of 240 attendees.

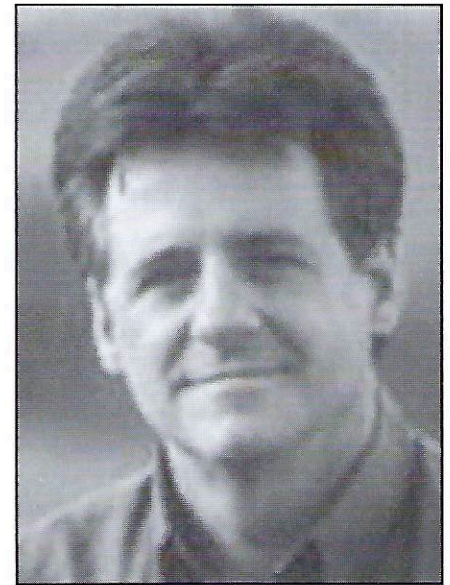
For more than a decade, the popular and critically acclaimed writer Jeff Shaara has explored both character and motivation in wartime, building triumphantly on a family tradition of insightful creativity begun by his late father, author Michael Shaara, whose book The Killer Angels revived the Battle of Gettysburg. Following his father’s death, Jeff, a onetime rare coin dealer who had earned his degree in criminology, launched his own career as a novelist at the age of 44 with a triumphant debut book, a prequel entitled Gods and Generals (1996). The novel became a New York Times best-seller and inspired a major Warner Brothers’ motion picture in 2003.

Shaara later completed the cycle with a sequel, The Last Full Measure (1998), and then wrote a dazzling novel about Civil War heroes in their formative years during the Mexican-American War, Gone For Soldiers (2000). These books, too, became major best-sellers. He had earlier seen to the adaptation of his father’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book into the TV mini-series and film Gettysburg, whose director Ron Maxwell had first suggested that Shaara undertake a prequel to his father’s novel.

“Abraham Lincoln loved good writing and good writers,” said Lincoln Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams in announcing the award, “so it is ’altogether fitting and proper’ that here on the site of his greatest literary achievement—the Gettysburg Address—the Lincoln Forum salutes one of today’s finest literary craftsmen in the Civil War field, Jeff Shaara. We honor him for a body of work that has brought millions of new enthusiasts to a greater love of history, and for his own tireless commitment to preserving the precious, irreplaceable sites where these struggles took place. For his sensitivity, creativity, and generosity, Jeff Shaara is the perfect figure to join the distinguished ranks of the winners of the Richard Nelson Current Award.”

The Forum took particular note of the novelist’s only non-fiction work, Jeff Shaara’s Civil War Battlefields, published in 2006, in which the author offered a unique personal tour across what he called “ten of the country’s most valuable pieces of hallowed ground.” Shaara donated all the royalties from this deeply felt tribute to Civil War preservation. “When it counted, Jeff Shaara put his money where his books were,” commented Chairman Williams. “His generosity is as large as his talent.”

Shaara has also continued to win both accolades and new readers with a series of vest-selling novels exploring America’s other major wars. His highly popular books Rise to Rebellion and The Glorious Cause focused on the heroes of the American Revolution. His 2004 triumph, To the Last Man, a novel of World War I, earned praise from living generals like Wesley Clark and Tommy Franks, and won him his second American Library Association W. Y. Boyd Award for Excellence in Military Fiction (he had won the prize earlier for Gods and Generals).



Continued on page 12



## The Lincoln Nobody Knows



### MESSAGE from the CHAIRMAN

In response to a survey for the *New York Times Book Review* on June 3, 2007, scholar and author Eric Foner writes: “. . . I find myself returning again and again to *The Lincoln Nobody Knows*, by Richard N. Current. Written half a century ago, it remains perhaps the most judicious analysis of everything from Lincoln’s family life and political career to his ever-controversial views on slavery and race.”

In addition to serving as a much-deserved encomium for our dean of Lincoln scholarship, it fairly states what many of us have known in the helter-skelter world of Lincoln scholarship. There are at least 16,000 books and pamphlets on Abraham Lincoln and, in recent years, Lincoln has been subjected to a pseudo-scholarly debunking, in which we have been asked to revise (mostly negatively) our understanding of his marital relations, his sexual preferences, his political skills, his religious beliefs, and, not least, his racial views.

Something is lost in the process and that is why some of the old books remain the best books. The books that treat Lincoln justly — within the context of his troubling times, and not through the codes and expectations of the 21st century — show precisely how deeply he led this country through its worst crisis, and how brilliantly he conceived a future in which the original principles of equality before the law would “long endure.”

The theme of the 2007 Lincoln Forum, *Lincoln, Law and Justice*, is an attempt to reexamine and maintain our earlier sense of the real Lincoln as we look at Lincoln’s legal career and its influence on the President.

I expect we will, once again, discover — or should I say rediscover — that Lincoln was the original great communicator whose sense of fairness and judicious leadership was unsurpassed then and remains unsurpassed now. Wise, eloquent, capable, decisive, patient, and utterly free from hatred — that is the Abraham Lincoln who figures so magisterially in the past, and so inspirationally in the present.

As always, the Forum aspires to offer a Lincoln for our times, examined in the context of his own period. If he was correct that the American experiment is the “last best hope of earth,” then our responsibility remains to constantly remind ourselves of his example and his sacrifice in order to help us to protect our birthright of government of, by, and for the people. What an ongoing pleasure — for twelve years and counting — that the Lincoln Forum and its members continue to share this journey of exploration in a spirit of camaraderie, curiosity, and commitment. ■

*Russell Weidman*



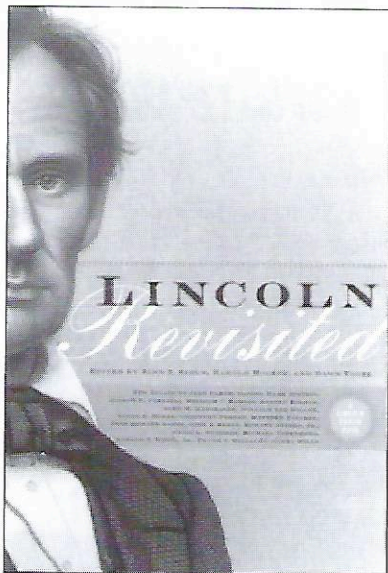
In Memory of Chuck Platt, former treasurer and Richard N. Current award winner (posthumously) a memorial fund has been established to promote the study of Abraham Lincoln.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation send to:

The Lincoln Forum Educational Fund, c/o Russell Weidman, Treasurer, The Lincoln Forum,  
6009 Queenston St., Springfield, VA, 22152.

*The Forum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization; donations to the fund are 100% tax deductible.*





**PRAISE GREET'S PUBLICATION  
OF "LINCOLN REVISITED"  
—THE LATEST, LARGEST  
VOLUME OF LINCOLN FORUM ESSAYS**


*Lincoln Revisited: New Insights from the Lincoln Forum*—the third, latest, and largest of the series of published papers from the archives of the Forum symposiums—has won unanimous advance praise from scholars and critics.

The book, co-edited by John Y. Simon, Harold Holzer, and Dawn Vogel, and published by Fordham University Press in New York, was hailed by historian James M. McPherson, who said: "The essays in this book prove that the well of Lincoln research has not run dry... We are indebted to the Lincoln Forum for making these papers available to a wide reading audience." Professor emeritus Hans Trefousse also praised the "stellar list of contributors who offer their take on various aspects of Abraham Lincoln's life and presidency."

Early press reviews were equally positive. Calling the book "highly recommended for academic and public libraries," *The Library Journal* noted that the volume "brings together a who's who of Lincoln scholars working in several areas of scholarly concern and general public interest... They are uniformly insightful, informed, and interesting, and they reveal the many dimensions of Lincoln as man and myth, the character and functions of Lincoln as war leader, and his enduring significance in word and action. Any student of Lincoln and his era will want this book as a primer on why Lincoln still matters and as a prime means of exploring old themes and discovering new ones. All librarians, in preparing for the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009, would do well to make this book available."

*Lincoln Revisited* was also praised in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Book News*.

The book features 18 essays by scholars Jean Baker, Daniel Mark Epstein, Joseph R. Fornieri, William C. Harris, Harold Holzer, John F. Marszalek, William Lee Miller, Lucas E. Morel, Geoffrey Perret, Matthew Pinsker, Jean Edward Smith, John Y. Simon, Edward Steers Jr., Craig L. Symonds, Michael Vorenberg, Ronald C. White Jr., Frank J. Williams, and Garry Wills.

*Lincoln Revisited* will be available at the Holiday Inn book shop during Symposium XII. In addition to editors Simon and Holzer, a number of contributors will be available during their return engagements to sign the book and their individual chapters, including Harris, Pinsker, Smith, Symonds, and of course Chairman Williams. 

**LINCOLN LADIES:  
THE LINCOLN FORUM QUILT PROJECT**

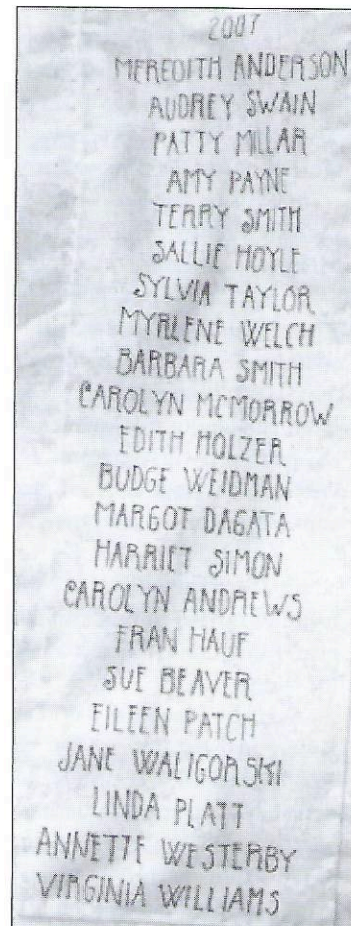
At the 2006 Lincoln Forum, a group of ladies interested in needle arts, decided to create a quilt. Annette Westerby and Linda Platt prepared kits with an "A. Lincoln" signature and each lady stitched it using embroidery thread. After doing some research on quilts, Virginia Williams created a log cabin pattern and sent each lady a quilt square to work on at home. As the squares were completed, and sent back to Virginia in Rhode Island, the dilemma of how to put the blocks together into one piece was solved by a local quilt shop. After the squares were sewn together forming one large top piece, the next step was adding the layers to make the quilt. Just as the quilt shop was to start machine quilting the layers a lady from the Richmond (RI) Senior Center was at the shop and said, "No! All that hand work would be wasted if the final product was quilted by machine! Let us quilt that at our weekly meeting at the senior center and you donate the money you saved to the senior center." The senior center ladies worked on the quilt at their meetings, then one member took it home and worked on it during the week. The following week she returned it to the center where the group worked on it, then another member took it home. The hand quilting work was completed in June and Virginia had a luncheon to thank the ladies. The quilt became famous in Richmond as more and more people learned of it and saw it slowly becoming a reality. The quilt was designed to hang to the right of the speaker podium at the Forum.

Now we need a quilt to hang to the left! To that end, this year we will create another quilt and we need willing workers to make a quilt square. The kits will be ready on the first day of the November symposium so needle workers can complete a square during the conference. You need not be a master quilter to join the Lincoln Ladies Sewing Circle! Instructions are included in each square packet and can be sent for home needle artists to work on, and sent back to Virginia. If you wish to work on a square, email Virginia: [out-house3@cox.net](mailto:out-house3@cox.net). Be sure and put Forum Quilt in the subject line.

Thanks to Virginia Williams for coordinating the Lincoln Ladies Quilt project and providing the article above.

For more illustrations of the Lincoln Ladies' quilt, see Page 10.

**(Right) The names of the talented Richmond (RI) Senior Center and Forum lady stitchers are embroidered on the back of the quilt.**





# FORUM MEMBERS GET SNEAK PREVIEW OF LINCOLN'S RESTORED SUMMER WHITE HOUSE

By Don Pieper

The place was a mess. Paint was peeling. Twentieth century wires and plumbing pipes traced patterns over the 19th century walls. Ceiling plaster dangled and dropped.

The Gothic Revival house where Abraham, Mary and little Tad Lincoln loved to spend summers during the Lincoln presidency was, indeed, a sorry sight. More Addams family than Lincoln family.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, obviously trying to be gentle, says that by the late 1990s, the place, built in 1843-4, was suffering "from the weariness of time and stress."

Dick Moe, president of the National Trust, checked it out and decided an extreme makeover was obligatory.

So, he set out to collect public and private funding. In 2000, President Clinton signed a proclamation designating Anderson Cottage (named for Major Robert Anderson, commander at Fort Sumter, but built by banker George Riggs Jr.) a national monument. Now, \$12.5 million later, it's known as President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home, and it has been fully restored.

Director Frank Milligan says anyone who saw how badly the Cottage had deteriorated will be "simply amazed at the transformation." In some cases, he says, restorers had to remove as many as 23 layers of paint. The bare wood, he says, "is just fabulous."

He says the project has succeeded so well that visitors will have no trouble envisioning Mr. Lincoln shuffling through the rooms in his carpet slippers or romping on the lawn with Tad. "You can really feel the 1860s," Milligan says.

Lincoln Forum members attending this year's November 16-18 symposium in Gettysburg will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the restoration (and a stop at nearby Fort Stevens, where young Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. is alleged to have barked at Lincoln for exposing himself to fire from Jubal Early's troopers).

Cameras are welcome at the Cottage, Milligan says. The Lincoln Forum schedule allows only about an hour's visit, and Milligan guarantees "that hour will just fly by."

The official, public opening of the Lincoln Cottage and the Visitor Education Center will be February 18, President's Day (and a year, less six days, away from the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth).

Milligan says the Education Center's galleries will display items relating to the Emancipation Proclamation (Lincoln developed the policy of emancipation during his first summer at the cottage), wartime Washington, and Lincoln's rise to the presidency. One of the center's objectives is to train teachers in the Lincoln story.

Milligan says the exhibits would be worth the price of admission even without the fully furnished cottage and its evocative location on the grounds of the Armed Services Retirement Home, nearly three miles (about a half-hour by carriage in the 1860s) from the White House.

In Lincoln's day, the facility was known as the Soldiers' Home, and the 150 to 200 retired warriors living there then were mostly veterans of the Mexican War. Active duty troops also were stationed at the institution during the Civil War.

About 1,300 vets of recent conflicts live on the grounds today, Milligan says. They are very much aware of the Lincoln legacy and are "enormously proud" to share it, he says.



The site is atop a hill that continues to offer a splendid view of the nation's capital city and still is fanned by summer breezes. Lincoln was so fond of the place that he would even ride out summer evenings when Mary and Tad were out of town and he could have, as Milligan puts it, "just flopped down at the White House after a busy day."

In addition to his ruminations on how and when to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, Milligan says, Lincoln "grappled with many crucial issues" while living at the Cottage.

There was a war to be managed and a country to run, so there really never was a genuine escape from issues to grapple with.

The official presidential home downtown, of course, was much more than a residence. The White House was the office, and a public building. The Cottage offered the Lincoln family relief not only from the summer heat, but from some of the official visitors who just had to see the president personally. They still came. ("Am I to have no rest?" he snapped one evening, then apologized in the morning.) But the Cottage was as close to a sanctuary as Lincoln would have during the tumult of his tenure. Historian and author Matthew Pinsky titled his book on the place and the presidential family's life there "Lincoln's Sanctuary."

In his book, "The Lincoln Family Album," Harold Holzer quotes Mary Lincoln as saying "how dearly I loved the Soldiers' Home." She said the quiet of the "very charming place" helped her as she tried to cope with sorrow after the illness and death of son Willie (February 20, 1862).

Tad, coping in his own way with the loss of his White House playmate and older brother, became a pal with the active duty troops stationed at the Soldiers' Home. Pinsky says the lively youngster was given the rank of "Third Lieutenant." He would mount his pony and join the soldiers during drills.



Pinsker quotes a contemporary description of the Cottage and setting by Sacramento journalist Noah Brooks. "The grounds are extensive and beautiful, and belong to the Government, which erected a large central building for disabled, homeless soldiers of the regular service," Brooks told his California readers.

As a "suburbanite," Lincoln had to commute daily between the White House and his "sanctuary" north of the city — through what Confederate raider Jubal Early demonstrated was a potential war zone. Eventually, troops were assigned to accompany the president.

One of the strange and scary events of the war occurred on the Soldiers' Home grounds. It was reported years later by John W. Nichols. The former private had been assigned to guard the gate to the institution one night.

Pinsker says Nichols heard a rifle shot, then saw the president, bareheaded, riding swiftly toward the Cottage. Nichols says he asked Lincoln about it and was told the shot spooked Lincoln's horse. As he struggled to bring his mount back under control, Lincoln told the private, his hat fell off.

The hat was found the next day. There was a bullet hole in the crown.

The president blamed "some foolish gunner" and told Nichols to keep quiet about it.

About a third of the restoration and development funding came from Congress, Milligan says, and the rest is being raised from private sources. United Technologies Corporation's \$1 million gift was used to make the Lincoln project the first National Trust for Historic Preservation site to use "green technology" in its restoration.

Because of the gift, Moe says in a press release, the project "will do more than just celebrate the life and ideas of a great American leader. It will also provide an innovative model for restoring our historic places using the latest technology for energy efficiency and environmental sustainability."

*The Lincoln Cottage will be open to the public in February 2008, for more information, see these sites:*

[www.lincolncottage.com](http://www.lincolncottage.com)

[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

[www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)

[www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org)

*I see the President almost every day, as I happen to live where he passes to or from his lodgings out of town. He never sleeps at the White House during the hot season, but has quarters at a healthy location some three miles north of the city, the Soldiers' Home, a United States military establishment. I saw him this morning about 8:30, coming in to business, riding on Vermont Avenue, near L Street. He always has a company of twenty-five or thirty cavalry, with sabers drawn and held upright over their shoulders. They say this guard was against his personal wish, but he lets his counselors have their way. The party makes no great show in uniform or horses. Mr. Lincoln on the saddle generally rides a good-sized, easy-going gray horse, is dressed in plain black, somewhat rusty and dusty, wears a black stiff hat, and looks about as ordinary in attire, etc., as the commonest man. A lieutenant, with yellow straps, rides at his left, and following behind, two by two, come the cavalry men, in their yellow-striped jackets. They are generally going at a slow trot, as that is the pace set them by the one they wait upon. The sabers and accoutrements clank, and the entirely unornamental cortège as it trots toward Lafayette Square arouses no sensation, only some curious stranger stops and gazes.*

Poet Walt Whitman August 12, 1864



## PICTURING FREEDOM

One hundred and forty-five years ago this fall — in September 1862 — Abraham Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. It is fair to say that no act of his presidency inspired so much celebration and commemoration, in words as well as pictures.

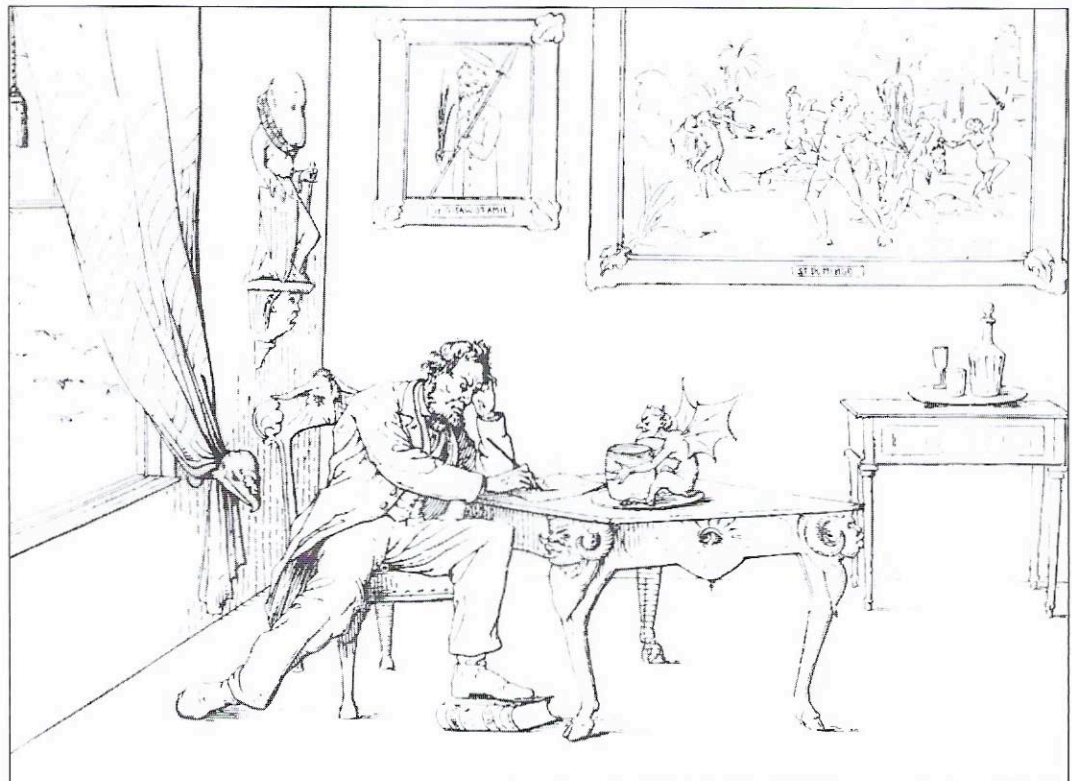
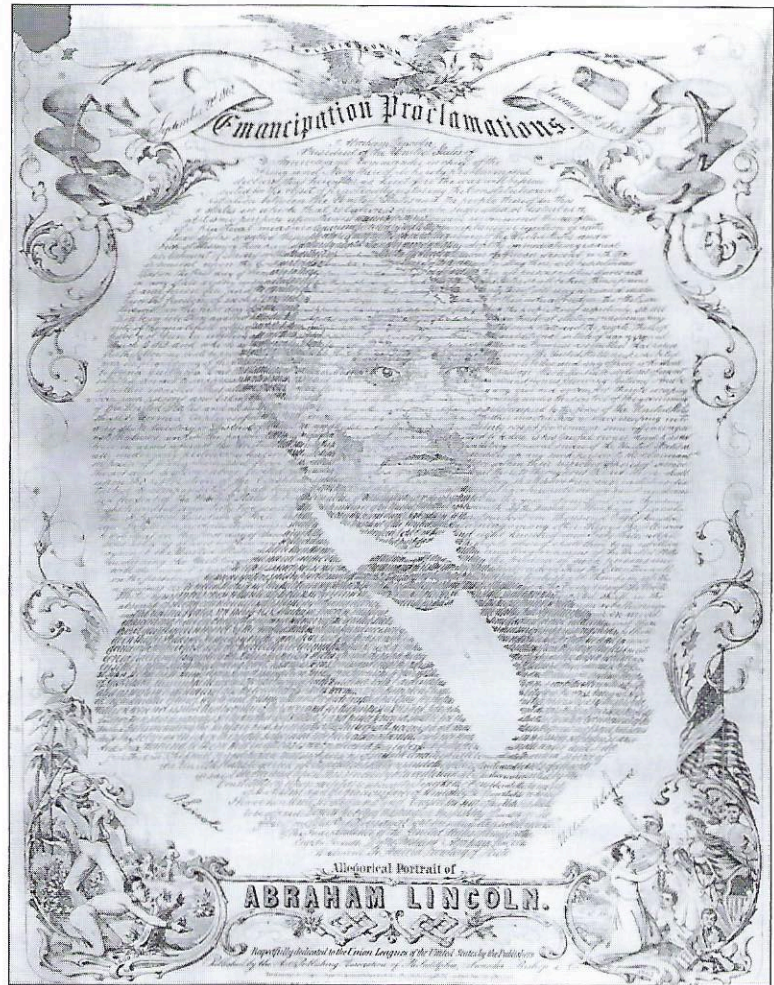
Interestingly, however, image-makers did not heroically portray the document or its author immediately. The dearth of surviving 1862 and 1863 pictorial tributes suggests that picture publishers did not know quite what to make of the Proclamation, its author, or its impact, when it was initially published or officially took effect the following January. Lincoln was subjected to more lampoons than celebratory portraits.

Only the next year, as Lincoln sought re-election to the Presidency, did engravers and lithographers finally produce their first real depictions of the revolutionary order. But even this delayed response reflected national unease about the epochal order: the Proclamation inspired more racist attacks on Lincoln than it did flattering portraits.

Not until after his assassination, when Lincoln metamorphosed practically overnight from living politician to slain martyr, did the nation's image makers rush out a flood of portraits and scenes commemorating the Emancipation and the "Great Emancipator." From 1865 until passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> (voting rights) Amendment to the Constitution five years later in 1870, Lincoln was enshrined in national iconography as the liberator of a race.

Why was the response delayed? Historians speculate that emancipation was not immediately or universally popular among (white) picture-buyers in 1862 and 1863, remained controversial during the next year's election campaigns, and became palatable only once Lincoln had evolved into secular sainthood. Not until Frederick Douglass urged African Americans to buy engravings and lithographs for their own homes in the 1870s did the audience for these icons cross color lines. And for much of the 19th century, print publishers assumed that their white customers would not want to decorate their parlors with images that showed black people. Ironically, the same kind of intractable racism that prolonged slavery itself prevented the visual celebrations of its destruction.

These and other Emancipation-related subjects are explored in two new books: *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*, coauthored by Edna Greene Medford, Frank J. Williams; and Harold Holzer; and *Lincoln and Freedom: Slavery, Emancipation, and the Thirteenth Amendment* (Fordham University Press), co-edited by Harold Holzer and Sarah Vaughn Gabbard (Southern Illinois University Press).





(Left) This Calligraphic print—an outline image formed by the words of the Emancipation Proclamation—was issued in 1865. It boasted decorative scenes contrasting slavery to freedom. Photo: The Lincoln Museum.

(Below left) Copperhead etcher Adalbert Johann Volck created this anti-emancipation image as early as 1862—showing Lincoln writing the document with his foot plunked sacrilegiously on a bible, and with a pen dipped in Satan’s inkwell—but it was issued only secretly to a small pro-Confederate audience in Baltimore. Photo courtesy Harold Holzer.

(Right) Lincoln himself got to see very few prints celebrating emancipation—but as the illustration on this advertising sheet proves, he did receive a presentation copy of L. Franklin Smith’s calligraphic print, *Proclamation of Emancipation*. Lincoln was not impressed by such works. He called them “ingenious nonsense.” Photo: The Lincoln Museum.

(Below) *Freedom to the Slaves*—a now politically-incorrect scene showing Lincoln literally lifting a prototypical slave family to freedom—appeared after the assassination in 1865. In reality, Lincoln posed for no such “emancipation moment” photo opportunities after issuing the proclamation two years earlier. Photo courtesy Harold Holzer.



**PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION.**

THE SECOND  
**DECLARATION** OF INDEPENDENCE!

**BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN.**  
JANUARY 1st, 1863.

Presented by A. Lincoln, March 1, 1863. Printed by L. Franklin Smith.

In presenting to the public, the Liberty loving people of the United States, this elegant historical memorial we feel that no comment is needed upon its great and noble subject, the undying paragon that sealed to Fame the name of our beloved Martyr President that made Abraham Lincoln the great liberator of a race, that made 1863 a great era in the history of the Republic and wiped away the great stain that for eighty years had darkened its glorious annals. It is undying and immortal, beloved and revered, and further comment is unnecessary.

A suitable copy or memento of this great document should be and will be in the house of every lover of his country. One finer or better adapted to the demands of the public than this, we hesitate not to say, has not yet been produced. In beauty of design, artistic finish, and yet within the means of all, it is unsurpassed.

SUN, LIBERTY, EAGLE, NATIONAL BANNERS.

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>GEORGE WASHINGTON,</b><br/>Benjamin Franklin,<br/>Chief Justice Story,<br/>John Wesley,<br/>Lucretia Mott.</p> <p><b>ABRAHAM LINCOLN,</b><br/>William H. Seward,<br/>Salmon P. Chase,<br/>James H. Lane,<br/>John S. C. Abbott.</p> <p><b>JOHN C. FREMONT,</b><br/>Wendell Phillips,<br/>Rev. Nathan Brown,<br/>Benjamin F. Butler.</p> | <p>Thomas Jefferson,<br/>John Quincy Adams,<br/>William Penn.,<br/>L. Maria Child.</p> <p>Horace Greely,<br/>Charles Sumner,<br/>Cassius M. Clay,<br/>Wm. H. Burleigh.</p> <p>Owen Lovejoy,<br/>H. Ward Beecher,<br/>Gerrit Smith.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ten Vignettes,<br/>Representing the Curse of Slavery and<br/>Blessings of Liberty.</b></p> <p>Fury, Satan, Calhoun and Jeff Davis.<br/>Plantation Scene.<br/>Slave Auction, Separation.<br/>Branding Slaves, C. S. on Forehead, Barbarism.<br/>Godless of Liberty, Upas Tree, Slave, Hounds.<br/>Purity, Dove, Olive Branch.<br/>School.<br/>Happy Family, Restoration.<br/>Church, House, Plowing, Civilization.<br/>Justice, Man, Railroad, Steamboat, Ship.</p> |
|---|--|--|

The Proclamation is on fine plate paper 24 by 26 inches, appropriately and beautifully colored, 32 portraits, in all, over 129 figures, with descriptive pamphlets sent to any address by mail, postage paid on receipt of \$2.00.

**The Greatest Novelty of the Age! The Proclamation of Emancipation Illustrated!!**

Card Photograph containing 721 words, 19 vignettes, 38 Portraits and over 129 figures, should adorn every loyal lady's Album. **Price 20 Cents.**

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[www.thelincolnforum.org](http://www.thelincolnforum.org)



**GET READY TO ATTEND HARVARD,  
ROBERT TODD LINCOLN'S ALMA MATER:  
2009 FORUM-SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM  
OPEN TO ALL,  
REGARDLESS OF GRADES**

It is not too early to plan going back to college in the spring of 2009 and attending one of the most unique of the Lincoln Forum co-sponsored events that will mark the Lincoln Bicentennial year. The Forum has announced plans to co-sponsor, along with Harvard's Houghton Library and the Lincoln Group of Boston, a major symposium at the nation's oldest university, April 24-25: *Lincoln at 200: New Perspectives on His Life and Legacy*.

The program will feature sessions on "Race and Slavery," "Politics and Party Leadership," "Communication & Education," "Commander-in-chief and War Leader," and "Lincoln in Murder and Memory," and will also offer receptions, dinners, and viewings of an exhibition of Lincoln at Harvard. Dr. Thomas A. Horrocks ([horrocks@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:horrocks@fas.harvard.edu)), Associate Librarian for Collections at the Houghton, is organizing the event. Updates will appear periodically in upcoming editions off the Lincoln Forum *Bulletin*.

Among the historians already booked to appear are Craig L. Symonds, James McPherson, Edward Steers Jr., Thomas Reed Turner, Edna Greene Medford, Michael Vorenberg, Matthew Pinsker, Frank J. Williams and Harold Holzer.



**Above: Robert T. Lincoln as he looked at the time of his enrollment at Harvard College. Right: His father in 1862, the year the President received two separate warnings about his son's misbehavior at school. Photos: (The Lincoln Museum).**

**HARVARD TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN:  
GET YOUR SON TO SHAPE UP!**

History remembers Robert T. Lincoln—the President's oldest son—as a rather stuffy character, much unlike his famously informal father. But Robert, who attended Harvard College from 1860-1864, was apparently something of a cut-up as a student, as evidenced by surviving disciplinary letters sent to Abraham Lincoln by school authorities.

**On January 20, 1862, Harvard President C. C. Felton sent the following warning letter to the White House about the young man known as "The Prince of Rails."**

Hon. Abraham Lincoln,  
President of the United States, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Your son has received a requisition to make up during the vacation., I take this occasion to say word or two about him and his pursuits. Since he entered College his conduct and studies have been unexceptionable until recently; and I do not think he has even now gone far stray. But, of late, the Professors have been pained to notice that he has seemed to be on intimate terms with some of the idlest persons in his class. His studies generally have suffered detriment; and in the department of Chemistry, his failure has been complete.

I trust this is only a temporary aberration and I write to you, though I have no vote of censure to communicate, but in order that you may know how the case stands with him. He is a good, ingenuous, frank and pleasant young man: with the ability to do well in every department. But he must guard against "good fellowship". I have no doubt a word or two from you will set every thing right; for I feel quite sure that he has no bad habits as yet.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest consideration,

Yours,

C. C. Felton, Pres. H[arvard]. C[ollege].





Apparently, Robert took only a few months to develop “bad habits” after all. One can only imagine the President’s further annoyance, just after the horrific Battle of Fredericksburg, upon receiving a second letter on December 9, 1862. Robert had managed to irk yet another Harvard official:

Hon. Abraham Lincoln  
President of the United States, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The faculty last evening voted that “Lincoln, Junior, be publicly admonished for smoking in Harvard Square after being privately admonished for the same offense.’ The word “publicly” simply makes it my duty to inform you of the admonition, and I trust, sir, that you will impress upon him the necessity not only to matters of decorum, but of giving heed to the private admonitions of his instructors.

Very respectfully yours,  
Thomas Hill  
President of Harvard Coll.

**If Lincoln responded to either of these college presidents—or issued parental warnings his errant son—no record survives. Nor do Felton’s and Hill’s letters exist in the Lincoln Papers. A copy of the Felton letter lives in the Harvard Archives; Hill kept a copy in his own papers. It is highly likely that Robert, who controlled the late president’s archive until his own death in 1926, destroyed both the warning and any fatherly lecture that it inspired.**

## HILDENE TO HOST FORUM-ENDORSED SYMPOSIUM ON THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN ELECTIONS

Robert Todd Lincoln’s Hildene—the exquisite Manchester, Vermont country estate built by the 16th President’s eldest son—will host its sixth major symposium, “The Most Important Elections in American History,” from May 28-30, 2008. The schedule alone guarantees that the conference will be especially timely: it will take place only a few months before the ’08 presidential nominating conventions. Forum attendees are strongly urged to book early for what promises to be the most timely, popular, and stimulating of these highly rated Hildene events.

Both of Lincoln’s presidential campaigns will be addressed at the symposium—by the Forum’s vice chairman and chairman, respectively: Harold Holzer will present on the election of 1860, and Frank J. Williams the election of 1864, each using illustrations.

In addition, Susan Dunn will speak on *Jefferson’s Second Revolution: The Election Crisis of 1800 and the Triumph of Republicanism*, acclaimed political historian Michael F. Holt on the contested election of 1876, and Kathleen Dalton, author of *Theodore Roosevelt: A Strenuous Life* on the 1912 contest, and Mark Stoller of the University of Vermont on the Roosevelt-Hoover election of 1932. Two critical non-presidential campaigns will also be explored: The University of Vermont’s Dona Brown on the 1800 Congressional election of Mathew Lyon—contested while he was in jail for violating the Alien & Sedition Act; and Greg Mitchell (author of *The Campaign of the Century*) on writer Upton Sinclair’s failed bid for the governorship of California in 1934.

On opening night, attendees will be treated to a cocktail reception, dinner, and keynote address at Hildene itself—the country home now totally refurbished and re-opened as a living museum of the Lincoln family, graced by a newly built visitor center. The gala evening will be followed by two full days of presentations at the nearby Equinox Resort & Spa, the gloriously restored 19<sup>th</sup> century classic that was once a personal favorite of Mary Todd Lincoln (visit the bedroom where she stayed in 1864!).

“Every survey we take of our November symposium registrants indicates a strong desire for additional programs at Lincoln sites outside of Gettysburg,” commented Chairman Williams. “There is no more beautiful, or accommodating spot than the mountains of Manchester and the glorious Hildene estate, where enthusiasts can combine learning experiences with leisure activities, all at one of the truly great historic hotels in the country. For all these reasons, and of course to facilitate a warm weather reunion of all our Forum friends, I ask for your support and strongly urge you to attend.”

For further information, Forum members are urged to contact Brian Knight, Curator of Hildene, at 802-362-1788; or [brian@hildene.org](mailto:brian@hildene.org). Information will be posted as well on the Hildene web site, [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).



(Right) Robert Todd Lincoln owned this photograph of his beloved Manchester, Vermont estate, “Hildene.”  
(Photo: The Lincoln Museum)



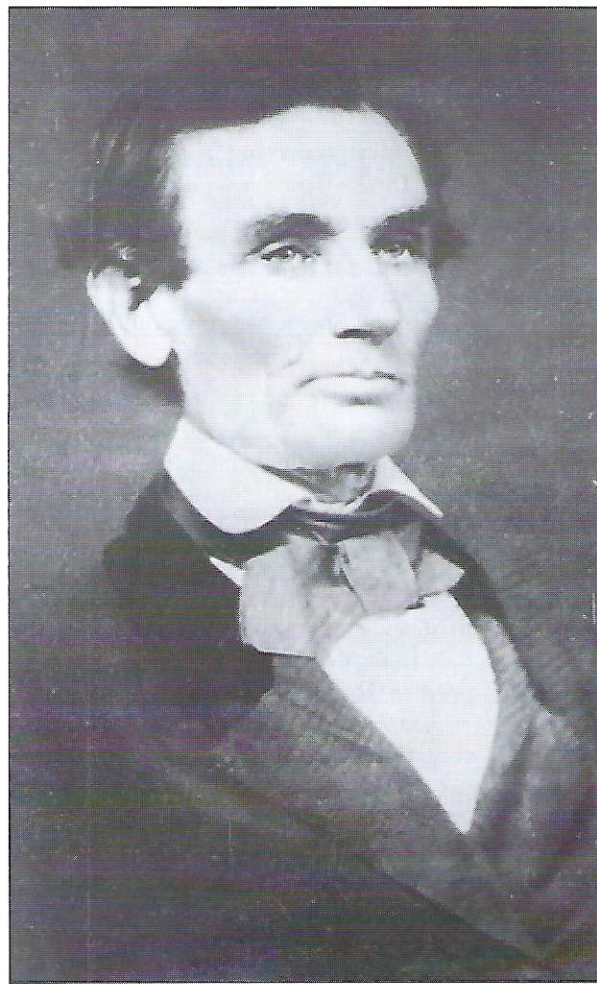
**...AND FOR FORUM MEMBERS  
IN SOUTH FLORIDA,  
A SNOWBIRD BICENTENNIAL EVENT,  
"LINCOLN AND THE JEWS"**

The Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will host a perfect winter getaway event—a panel discussion on “Lincoln and the Jews” at the historic Jewish Museum of Florida, 301 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, on Sunday, January 13 at 3:00 PM. The event, which is free and open to the public, will mark Florida Jewish History Month. Reserve seats by calling 305-672-5044, ext. 3175.

The program will feature Gary Zola, executive director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Ohio; Jean Soman, great-great-granddaughter of both Union Colonel Marcus Spiegel and Lincoln’s Illinois photographer Samuel Alschuler; and Harold Holzer, author of the monograph *Lincoln and the Jews: The Last Best Hope of Earth*, published in 2002 by the Skirball Cultural Center/Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles.

A \$250-per-person fundraising dinner will follow at Ms. Soman’s Miami Beach home, with proceeds going to the ALBC.

(Right) Jewish Urbana, Illinois photographer Samuel Alschuler took this portrait of Lincoln on April 25, 1858. When Alschuler noticed that his subject showed up in his gallery wearing an old linen duster “about a quarter of a yard” too short in the arms, he lent Lincoln this velvet-lapelled jacket. Alschuler’s descendant, Jean Soman, will speak in Miami on January 13, 2008. (Library of Congress)



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***The Forum Quilt in Progress, Stitch by Stitch***



*Thank you to the talented Richmond (RI) Senior Center ladies that hand quilted the Lincoln Forum quilt. See story on page 3.*

*If you wish to make a square for the next Lincoln Forum quilt, email Virginia Williams.*





## DR. JOHN K. LATTIMER, 1914-2007

By Richard Sloan

The Lincoln world lost one of its esteemed colleagues on May 10. Scholar and collector, Dr. John Kingsley Lattimer, died at a hospice near his home in Englewood, New Jersey, at the age of 92. Dr. Lattimer grew up in Jackson Heights, NY, and attended public schools 69 and 89 in nearby Elmont. (Back then he was called "Kingsley.") In his younger days he was quite an athlete—both a decathlon and hurdle champion.

Later, as an Army physician, he treated hundreds of casualties in the field after the invasion of Normandy, was attached to General Patton's Third Army, and participated in Patton's drive across France. He was general medical officer during the Nuremberg trials and treated the Nazi hierarchy. He went on to become the chairman, and later chairman emeritus, at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where he had a distinguished career as a practicing physician, a surgeon, a teacher, a mentor, and a ballistics expert. In 1980 *New York* magazine listed him as one of the nation's top one hundred doctors.

He treated Charles Lindbergh at the hospital in his final illness, as well as Marilyn Monroe, Greta Garbo, Rosalind Russell, Claudette Colbert, Katharine Hepburn, and many other luminaries. At a memorial service at the hospital (which I attended as our representative) a giant-sized color painting of him was projected on a screen beneath which fellow doctors took turns praising him as one of the institution's giants, "a visionary leader," and a "Renaissance man." That's when I first learned that he was also the father of pediatric urology, and is credited with developing a cure for renal tuberculosis, which has saved the lives of thousands of children and adults all over the world.

Lincoln students knew Dr. Lattimer for another facet of his life: as a passionate lover of history and as a collector. His appreciation for history was inspired first by having been descended from Ethan Allen, and then by his service in the Army during World War II. He collected swords, medieval armor, and Nazi memorabilia, but it wasn't until 1960 that he turned his sites to collecting Lincolniana. It began with the dagger with which Booth co-conspirator Lewis Paine stabbed Secretary of State William Seward.

Before purchasing it, he conducted a great deal of research to establish its provenance, and wound up fascinated with the medical aspects of the President's assassination. He was one of the first members of the Lincoln Group of New York, and he brought that same dagger to our first meeting in 1978. A few years later he became a member of the Lincoln Group Executive Committee, a post he retained until his death. As his passion for collecting grew, so grew the challenge of storing his acquisitions. His thirty-room house and garage in Englewood, New Jersey became a virtual museum, overrun by artifacts, a suit of armor, and a beheading axe. (He even had cannon balls and a working cannon on his lawn!)

Dr. Lattimer generously loaned many of his Lincoln artifacts to institutions for special displays, including the 125th anniversary of Lincoln's Cooper Union speech, and one at the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center on the 125th anniversary of the assassination. He lectured about the medical aspects of the assassination (as well as debunking the Marfan's Syndrome claim) before many history groups and Civil War Round Tables, and at Ford's Theatre. For more than twenty-five years he presented lectures to the Lincoln Group of New York, once engaging the subject of Dr. Mudd's guilt in front of Richard Mudd, Dr. Mudd's grandson.) His best remembered debate, however, was with a physician who charged that

Charles Leale, one of the doctors who tried saving Lincoln at Ford's Theatre, had actually killed him by poking his finger into his head, thereby exacerbating his wound. (Dr. Leale's own granddaughter attended that meeting.)

Dr. Lattimer's holdings included Lincoln's bloodstained shirt collar, Dr. Leale's handwritten account of the assassination, pieces of a sheet and towel from Lincoln's last hours, one of the coins placed upon his eyelids after he died, the hypodermic syringe used by Dr. Stone as he lay dying, the black lace veil Mrs. Lincoln wore on that fateful night (with a related note from Mrs. Keckly), passes to Ford's Theatre, blood-spattered "Reserved" seat cards from the Presidential box, the key to the box, swatches of wall paper and curtain from the box, a piece of the fabric from the underside of the assassination rocking chair, a piece of the bandage with which Dr. Mudd wrapped John Wilkes Booth's leg, Dr. Mudd's pardon, strands of Booth's hair, his prompt copy of "Richard III," a signed dictionary and arithmetic books he used in school, an early letter he wrote to boyhood friend Mike O'Laughlen (a future conspirator), two of his stage daggers, his leather vest (with Star of David buttons!) and leather wallet (signed in India ink), the gold head of his walking stick, a piece of lead from the lining of Lincoln's first coffin, the silver handles from that casket, a signed photo of the conspirators' executioner, letters from former conspirator Samuel Arnold, another one from Boston Corbett (Lincoln's avenger), from Thomas Jones, the man who helped get Booth across the Potomac (the note actually mentions the deed), notes from actors in the cast of the ill-fated cast of "Our American Cousin" (including Laura Keane and Harry Hawk), notes from many of the theatre's employees, a beautiful antique commemorative fan decorated with depictions of the assassination and Booth's escape.

No doubt his most controversial (and intriguing) Lincoln relic was a wooden case allegedly owned by War Secretary Edwin Stanton. It contains portions of the purported nooses and scaffold beam used in hanging Mrs. Surratt and Lewis Paine. (A previous owner claimed to have found it with the missing pages of Booth's diary and other intriguing items. The diary's text was later found by researcher James O. Hall to have been a fabrication. Yet the legitimacy of Lattimer's oak case and its contents have never been challenged.




Dr. John K. Lattimer



The novelist is now at work producing a trilogy of World War II novels. His eighth and most recent book, *The Rising Tide* (2006), will be followed next year by a novel that brings his characters through the Normandy invasion.

Commented Lincoln Forum Vice Chairman Harold Holzer, who by tradition made the official award presentation at the ceremony: "Jeff Shaara has accomplished something that every writer and every reader hopes to experience: bringing the past to life. He has done so skillfully and consistently, and has deserved all the praise and popularity his talent has generated. As well, for all his growing fame, for all the book tours and lectures to which he is increasingly committed, Jeff Shaara has also remained a loyal supporter of the Lincoln Forum. He has been a symposium speaker, a guest attendee, and a close friend to the organization, and it is particularly heartwarming to recognize 'one of our one' with the Richard Nelson Current Award. We prize him tonight in no small part because he has prized us from the beginning."

The Forum's annual award, named for the beloved, 95-year-old dean of Lincoln scholars Richard Nelson Current, Bancroft Prize winner and author of *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* and many other important Lincoln books, was won previously by: Gabor Boritt (1996), Brian Lamb (1997), John Hope Franklin (1998), Paul Simon (1999), David Herbert Donald (2000), Garry Wills (2001), James M. McPherson (2002), Sam Waterston (2003), John Y. Simon (2004), John McClarey (2005), and Doris Kearns Goodwin (2007). Special awards also went to Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams on the occasion of our organization's 10th anniversary in 2005, and at one of his final appearances at the symposium, to the legendary Professor Current himself in 2000.

The impressionistic McClarey sculpture, *Freedom River*, which has served from the beginning as the official Current Award, depicts Lincoln, as the artist puts it, as "both a 'prime mover' and as one 'controlled by events,' with the river [above him] representing the movement of a great idea—freedom—and its turbulence testing Lincoln's leadership." McClarey has earned major sculptural commissions over the years, including his new heroic statue of the President-elect departing Springfield for his 1861 inauguration, recently unveiled outside Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. 

## LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL TO LAUNCH TWO-YEAR CELEBRATION IN LOUISVILLE AND HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY, FEBRUARY 11-12, 2008

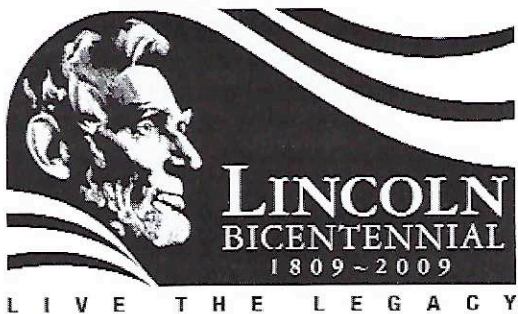
The national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial-long in the planning stage—will officially launch its two-year celebration of Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday a year early with a series of major events in Louisville, Kentucky, and at the Lincoln birthplace log cabin site in nearby Hodgenville in February 2008. The U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission—together with the Kentucky State Bicentennial—have planned a series of celebratory and scholarly programs that will focus more nationwide attention on Lincoln's roots than at any time since the 1909 centennial of his birth.

The 199th birthday festivities will begin with a February 11 public symposium on presidential leadership featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin, the Richard Nelson Current Award-winning author of *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, together with her husband, the onetime John F. Kennedy speechwriter and Lyndon B. Johnson presidential aide Richard Goodwin.

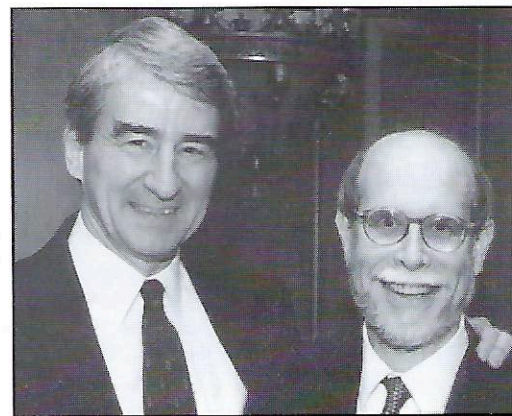
That same evening, the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts will host a champagne reception and major gala featuring acclaimed soprano Angela Brown in concert with the Louisville Symphony Orchestra, and actor Sam Waterston (also a Current Award laureate, not to mention an Oscar nominee) together with Harold Holzer in their acclaimed presentation of *Lincoln Seen and Heard*. Broadcast journalist Bob Edwards will be master of ceremonies.

On the morning of February 12, the official Lincoln's birthday ceremonies will take place outside the marble temple in the woods that houses the traditional Lincoln log cabin at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. President George W. Bush has been invited as the keynote speaker, and Sam Waterston has been scheduled to perform the Gettysburg Address. Performers will include the American Spiritual Ensemble and the Saxton's Cornet Band, and will feature remarks by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Among the other Forum attendees will be Lincoln Bicentennial Commissioners Frank Williams, Louise Taper, and Gabor Boritt.

Forum members who wish to attend these events should watch for upcoming announcements about hotel accommodations and program updates on the ALBC website, [www.Lincoln200.gov](http://www.Lincoln200.gov).



Sam Waterston will re-create his "Lincoln Seen and Heard" reading in Louisville, Kentucky, to open the national Lincoln Bicentennial celebration on February 11, 2008.



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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