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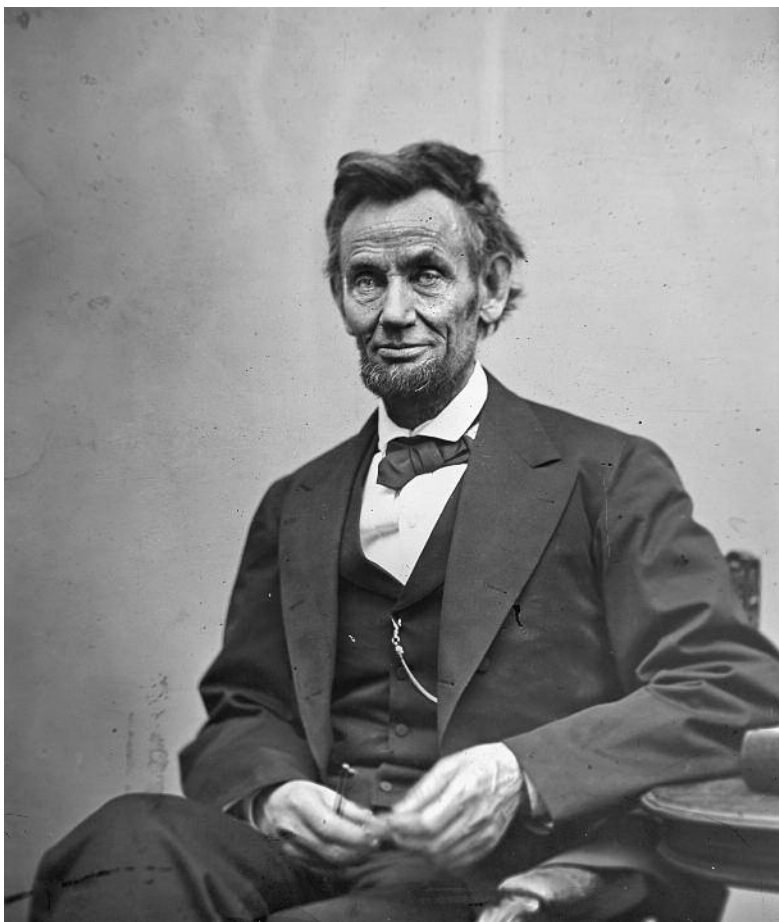
THE LINCOLN FORUM, 2015: TWO DECADES OLD AND GOING STRONG

What began 20 years ago as a modest proposal to bring Lincoln enthusiasts together for a small East Coast-based yearly history conference at Gettysburg has blossomed into one of the leading history organizations in the country, whose regular symposia are attended by scholars and enthusiasts from all over the nation and abroad, attracting as speakers and panelists some of the most revered historians in the Lincoln and Civil War fields.

The Lincoln Forum, gathering this November for its 20th annual symposium, has grown from a fledgling conference of 50 participants to an acclaimed gathering attracting 300; created a coveted award for lifetime achievements in the Lincoln field and another award for excellence by history organizations; bestowed scholarships on both students and teachers in an effort to broaden participation and lifetime learning; has faithfully published this semi-annual *Bulletin* featuring news, features, and new research; hosted an annual essay contest award for college students sponsored by the family of our late founding Treasurer Charles D. Platt; offered battlefield tours, special events, and above all, more than 250 scholarly presentations at the annual symposia; and, culling from their lectures, has published five books of Lincoln Forum essays—the latest, *Exploring Lincoln*, released just this year. The mission has been accomplished—and more—with no shortage of plans and goals for the future.

“This is indeed a great milestone for the Forum,” said its founding and still-serving chairman, retired Rhode Island Chief Justice Frank J. Williams. “We are truly proud to look back this year and recognize those who helped give birth to this organization, and we are excited as always about this year’s symposium as well as the ideas we are currently incubating for many more to come. Above all, we are proud that we have created not only a place of ideas, but one of collegiality—a true ‘family’ that regards our November meetings as a highlight of each calendar year.”

“On this important anniversary,” Williams added, “I particularly want to salute the visionary founders who gathered in West Palm Beach in 1994 to explore what was then only a brainchild in need of generous investors who went on to commit both funds and time to bring this idea into fruition. The late Chuck Platt—our original Treasurer—the late history lover Maynard Schrock, and the late scholar David Long as well as Civil War Education Association founder and leader Bob Maher, all agreed at this informal planning session that a new Forum could and should be created. Then they went on to help Harold Holzer and me turn the dream into an infant experiment that matured in the decades since into a flourishing and vibrant national organization. *continued on page 15*



Lincoln near his 56th birthday: February 5, 1865

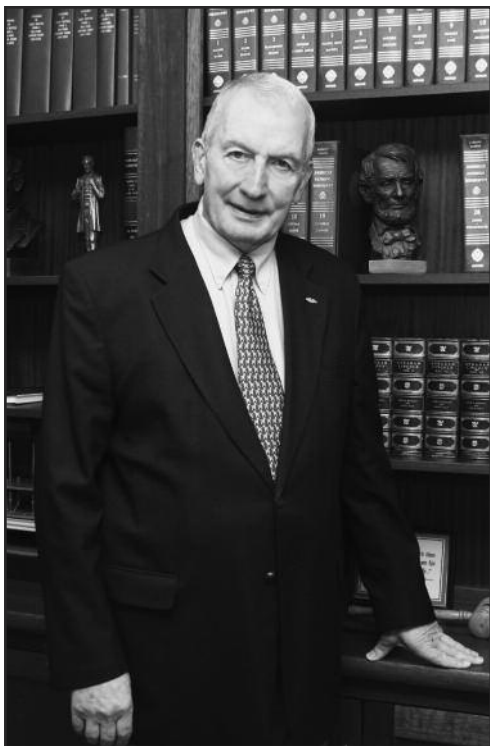
LOOKING BACK - GOING FORWARD

This 20th anniversary—and 40th Chairman’s Message—inspired me to look back at what I wrote for the very first issue of the *Bulletin*. This was not just an exercise in nostalgia. I wanted to see whether I had mentioned our future goals—and I wanted to assess whether, in honest appraisal, I believed we had lived up to our original promise.

This is what I wrote after our initial symposium: “Seldom has a new organization devoted to the field of history launched itself with such distinction and such enthusiasm. Our first gathering featured superb scholarly presentations, exciting battlefield tours, an irresistible book shop, and all the unique pageantry of the annual Gettysburg Address re-creation and commemoration... . One of the great triumphs about the first Forum—an attraction I expect will flourish in the colloquia to come—was the spirit of friendliness that reigned throughout. I have seldom participated in any conference, or any formal organizational activities, where such enthusiasm and excitement prevailed. As session followed session, old friends met anew, and new friendships formed and cemented, and participants basked in the shared glow of camaraderie, good cheer, and good history. All of us held dear a common interest in expanding the opportunities to share such fellowship and scholarship on a regular basis.”

So we have—and so we will. In so doing, we have become a strong family that keeps on growing. We delight in each other’s company as we continue to explore the middle period of our history. Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War are a bottomless treasure, much of it still encrusted in myth or still unexplored. Which is why 20 years later, they still claim our attention.

Frank J. Williams



MESSAGE from the CHAIR

A VIVID DESCRIPTION BY A SURGEON WHO SAW PRESIDENT LINCOLN SHOT AND WATCHED HIM DIE

(On July 3, 1881, the *New York World*—once a virulently anti-Lincoln newspaper—published a long-suppressed, first-hand account of Lincoln’s dying moments by one of the key eyewitnesses: Dr. Charles A. Leale. The account was recently unearthed by—and was submitted to the *Bulletin*—by longtime Forum member and *Bulletin* contributor John T. Elliff. It is reprinted in its entirety below.)



Dr. Charles A. Leale

Dr. Charles A. Leale, a practitioner of this city, attended President Lincoln from the time he was shot by Booth until he died. Dr. Leale was a surgeon in the regular army and was stationed at Washington as the executive officer of the Armory Square Hospital. Dr. Leale gave the following account of these events of the night of April 14, 1865, to a reporter yesterday: “I was at Ford’s Theatre, seated within a few feet of the President’s box, which was draped in flags, the Presidential

party being expected to appear at the theatre as the public desired to see the President after peace had been declared. The play was ‘Our American Cousin[?]’ and Laura Keane was the star. The theatre was crowded. The play had begun and suddenly there was a lull in the performance. Looking around, I saw the President, Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, a daughter of Senator Harris, and Major Rathbone entering. In recognition of their entry the play had ceased for a moment and the President and Mrs. Lincoln bowed. Mrs. Lincoln smiled and seemed particularly cheerful, but I noticed that Mr. Lincoln had a peculiarly sad look as he slowly walked to the box, the door of which was opened by the usher, who remained outside and after the party had entered closed the door firmly. The usher then took a seat, remaining as a sentry by the door. Everything then went on as usual. About 10:20 o’clock I heard whispering outside the President’s box, and looking around I saw Wilkes Booth talking to the usher and trying to force his way to the President. In his hand he held a package of papers that looked like official documents. He was evidently trying to persuade the usher that he had business with the President; but the usher persistently refused to let him enter. At last, by persuasion and force, he gained access to the box, and after entering closed the door, the usher remaining outside. Just then one of the most exciting scenes in the play was being represented and in the midst of it the report of a pistol was heard. Almost instantly I saw Booth holding aloft a dagger as he *continued on page 3*

continued from page 2 leaped from the box to the stage, about ten feet below. He wore riding boots, and in his leap a spur on his heel caught in one of the flags causing him to fall forward to the stage, either breaking his leg just above the ankle or spraining his ankle. He still kept the dagger in his right hand, and using his hands and sound leg he crawled or hopped across the stage, quickly disappearing through a side door.

"I have often been asked," said Dr. Leale, "if Booth cried, 'Sic semper tyrannis,' as he leaped from the Presidential box. I did not hear him say anything; but it is possible he did so. As Booth jumped on to the stage cries of 'Murder' and 'the President has been shot,' were heard in that box. At first the audience was stunned; but when Booth was going across the stage there were cries to stop him. A surgeon was called for and I made my way over the seats to the box. After some difficulty the door was opened from the inside by Major Rathbone. It had been barricaded by Booth on his entry; the day before he had had carpenters fix an iron hasp on each side of the door, and a large beam had been placed in the corner of the box. When Booth entered he slipped the beam into the hasps, thus firmly barricading the door. I suppose he had been in the box thirty seconds before the shot was heard. Major Rathbone, who had received a severe wound in the arm from Booth's dagger, at last removed the beam after a delay that seemed great, though it was really very slight. I was the first person who entered the box. I found the President leaning back in an arm-chair, his head hanging down, apparently dead. Mrs. Lincoln was at his side weeping bitterly. She asked me to take charge of her husband and called out, 'Oh, do what you can for him – do what you can. Is he dead, is he dead?'"

"I lifted the President's head to support it, and while doing so I felt blood on his shoulder, I thought he had been stabbed in one of the large blood vessels under the collar-bone; so with the assistance of those about we removed the President from the chair and placed him on the floor. I asked to have his clothing cut, and immediately someone with a dirk cut through the coat and the other clothing. There was no wound; but by this time the President had ceased to breathe, and I lifted his eyelids to examine his pupils. I found them greatly dilated, an indication of pressure on the brain. I then passed my fingers quickly over his head and found clotted blood on the head an inch and a half behind and above the left ear. I removed the clot with my fingers and also cleared away the clot that had formed around the opening into the skull. The hole was as smooth as if it had been polished. After the removal of the clot the pressure on the brain was relieved, when there was a sudden spasmodic gasp of breath, and at long intervals there was deep sonorous breathing. In a few minutes I procured some brandy, of which I gave the President a small quantity.

"At this time another surgeon, Dr. Taft, was brought into the box from the stage, the crowd about the door being very dense. Dr. A. F. King, of Washington, however, managed to get in by the door. I feared some further demonstration against the President's life, so I requested to have him removed to the nearest house. I was importuned to carry him to the White House, but refused to do so, as he would probably have died before reaching there. I with others raised the president from the floor and walked with him toward the door, where there was such a crowd that it seemed impossible that we would be able to carry the President out of the theatre. The crowd was not noisy or demonstrative, except that all the people in

the theatre had gathered around the door of the box. In the theatre there were many men still wearing the blue uniform, and many of them carried their side arms; in addition to them were soldiers who had not yet been mustered out of the service. I cried out three times, 'Guards, clear the passage,' and immediately there sprang up a barrier of men who, with bayonets, pistols, daggers and side arms opened a passage through the mass of people. These men formed two lines through which we walked, the guards presenting arms to the President as we bore him along. When we reached the street it was as densely packed as the theatre, the news having already spread like wildfire, and a captain of cavalry came to me and asked for instructions. I asked him to clear the street so that the President could be carried to Mr. Patterson's [sic] house across the street. The crowd was quiet and the passage was easily made. We took the President into a room and placed him in bed. As he was very tall, the bed was too short for him and we had to lay him diagonally across it and the obstructing boards at the foot of the bed were broken off. He was covered with warm blankets, bottles of hot water were placed at his extremities, and other restoratives and remedies were used. All this happened twenty minutes from the time of the assassination.

"Mr. Lincoln was now breathing more regularly, but this regularity decreased whenever blood was allowed to coagulate at the wound. I removed the clots when these symptoms occurred, and the President's extremities were constantly rubbed. By this time Dr. Stone, the family physician, arrived; he was followed by Dr. Barnes, the Surgeon-General, and his assistant, Dr. Crane. All that was done for the President during the rest of the night was just what I have described to you.



Lincoln's Deathbed: Engraving by A.H. Ritchie

"I have frequently been asked if the President ever regained consciousness. He was never conscious from the moment he was shot until the last, and he never spoke. During the night the Cabinet arrived, all but Secretary Seward. Charles Sumner came soon after the President was removed from the theatre and remained until after he died. Secretary of War Stanton came early in the evening and immediately established his office in a room adjoining the President's. He kept his orderlies running all night long breaking the news of the President's condition to the people and telegraphing it all over the country. A strong guard was stationed in front of the house and only people having business there were admitted. Mrs. Lincoln was in the room all night long, except when she was forcibly taken away. Two or three times she was taken out in a fainting condition and throughout she suffered terribly. Several times she called for their little son 'Tad' to be brought from the White House to see his father before he died. *continued on page 11*

THE WAR ENDS—AND RECONSTRUCTION

The Return of Peace and Its Impact on African Americans



By Edna Greene Medford

The armed conflict between North and South concluded in an expansion of the freedom that the founding fathers had championed at the nation's formation. The presence of enslaved men and women then and the growth of the institution for three quarters of a century thereafter had exposed the hypocrisy of men who bemoaned their own loss of liberty while denying it to others. Although the

war initially had not been fought to end slavery, a shift in northern sentiment, military necessity and the “friction and abrasion” about which President Lincoln had warned had led to the institution's destruction. The nearly four million human beings who were legally designated as property in 1861 were now either free or would be by December 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment would forever outlaw one person's ownership of another.

The freedmen and women greeted the end of the war with hopeful anticipation. Eager to test the physical limits of their newfound freedom and, understandably, impatient to reunite with family from whom they had been involuntarily separated during slavery, they exercised the right of mobility. Robert Falls, who had been freed in North Carolina, recalled “how the roads were full of folks walking . . . Didn't know where they was going. Just going to see about something else somewhere else.”

The end of the war afforded some the opportunity to legalize marriages that had no lawful standing under slavery. Facilitated by the Freedmen's Bureau, military officers, and civil and religious officials, the certification and performing of marriages had a practical and a psychological impact for black families. Husbands and fathers could now experience the traditional roles heretofore denied to them, and women and children could receive material support and protection from economic exploitation and physical abuse.

Now free laborers, black men and women expected their lives to be dramatically altered. In an effort to break with slavery's practice of supervised labor and of placing black women in the fields, the freed people pursued economic autonomy and sought to keep wives and daughters employed in activities believed to be more appropriate to their gender. The vast majority of rural workers hoped to cultivate their own independent, albeit modest, farms. When unable to acquire their own land, they entered arrangements in which they rented for a share of the harvested crop.

Arguably, one of the most important aspirations of the freedmen and women was literacy. Denied education under bondage, they eagerly embraced it for their children and for themselves. With assistance from the Freedmen's Bureau and northern philanthropic organizations, freedmen's schools were

established all over the South. Older pupils attended Sabbath and night schools when their responsibilities to their families prevented them from attending the day institutions.

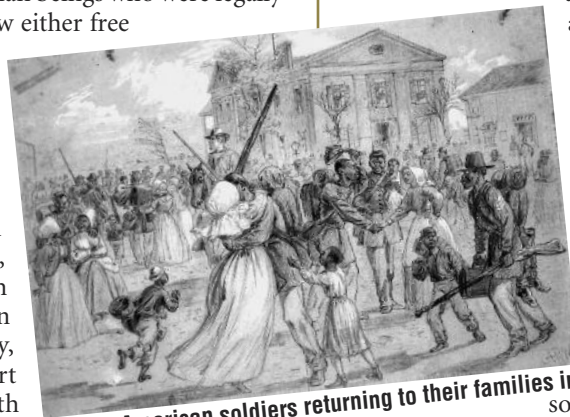
African Americans defined their new status broadly. They understood that their families and the ability to control the terms and conditions of their labor could be protected only through the acquisition of full citizenship. Hence they demanded to be acknowledged as equal before the law, with the right to sit on juries, to vote and hold political office, and to petition for the redress of grievances.

But while the end of the war transformed their legal status, the realities of freedom challenged the ability of the freed people to realize their aspirations. Following the example of Mississippi, most of the southern states quickly enacted black codes that sought to restrict the ability of the former slaves to transition successfully from bondage to freedom. Vagrancy laws imposed harsh punishments for failure to secure employment, while other statutes removed the ability to own land or practice a trade without a license. Curfews limited mobility, and black men were barred from participating in office-holding or serving on juries. The involuntary

apprenticeship of black children challenged the authority and parental rights of the newly emancipated. Violence, intimidation, and corporal punishment for infractions of rules imposed by an employer recalled the days of slavery. The argument that the former slave received “nothing but freedom” is indeed a fair assessment of the immediate postwar period.

The injustices visited upon the freedmen and women at the end of the war helped (in part) to usher in Congressional Reconstruction, as the “Radical” Republicans successfully challenged the Andrew Johnson administration's tacit and sometimes explicit acceptance of the actions of the defeated South. The Reconstruction amendments and the gains of that period would give renewed hope to African Americans, and at least for a while would reward their faith in the American creed.

(Edna Greene Medford, Professor of History at Howard University, is a longtime member of The Lincoln Forum executive committee. Her latest book is *Lincoln and Emancipation*.)



African American soldiers returning to their families in Little Rock, Arkansas (LOC)



THE FIRST COLORED SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES.
In the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States.

BEGINS: TWO APPRAISALS

A Reconstruction Sesquicentennial?



By John F. Marszalek

With the sesquicentennial of the Civil War approaching its end, the question that historians are routinely asking is: what next? The complicated question of Lincoln's assassination is still being discussed (as at the Lincoln Forum), but generally speaking excitement about Civil War questions is ebbing.

Many historians are pondering what too many people still find uncomfortable: how about a sesquicentennial of Reconstruction? While the Civil War Sesquicentennial was strong in some states, enthusiasm for a Reconstruction Sesquicentennial is rarely expressed anywhere. For example, a leading newspaper received funding from a company for a continued series of articles by leading historians on a variety of aspects of the Civil War. When asked to continue support so that historians might be able to study Reconstruction, this company was not interested. Considering such a phenomenon, it is doubtful whether there will be a sesquicentennial of Reconstruction "celebrated" anywhere except in the ivory towers of academe.

Surely, interpretation of the Civil War is not without controversy, but somehow academics and buffs are used to such disagreement and forge ahead anyway. There is no such public disagreement on Reconstruction, however, except among academics. Americans, with rare exceptions, believe the long discredited myths of the voracious carpetbagger, traitorous scalawag, ignorant black, vicious Radical Republicans, and virtuous white southerner. Anyone presenting any other version is involved in revisionist, politically correct history that is obviously untrustworthy.

Why is this? The influence of the early 20th century motion picture *Birth of a Nation* made heroes of the Ku Klux Klan and villains of the former slave now free (so racist that even the actors portraying the African Americans are actually whites in black face). When the president of the United States Woodrow Wilson, wrote a forward for the film and it was shown in the White House, he called it an accurate portrayal of Reconstruction, and when D. W. Griffith the producer used the most modern film techniques ever seen on the screen, the motion picture had a deep imprint that has lasted in the American psyche.

Building on that film was the publication of Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Gone with the Wind* and the motion picture of the same name filmed in the exciting process of Technicolor. Still considered one of the most influential films in history, this motion picture gave further support for the old view of Reconstruction. To this day, the view of Reconstruction that most Americans have is based on this movie — which is regularly replayed on major and cable television channels. Scarlet O'Hara, the heroine of the movie, still epitomizes the ideal southern white woman and presents a face to Reconstruction that seems immovable.

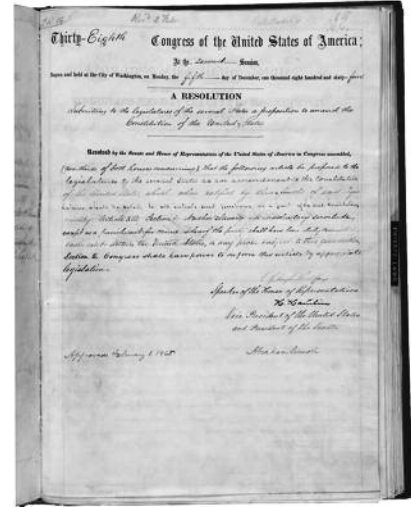
Yet, it was not just popular culture which has given the "traditional" view of Reconstruction its long standing influence. Historians have regularly published books and articles which have presented Reconstruction as most Americans know it. These historians have received the name the "Dunning school" because a Columbia University professor William A. Dunning and his stable of graduate students professionalized the old view of Reconstruction in a number of books. Some historians, like W.E.B. DuBois, protested the inaccurate nature of Reconstruction historiography as early as 1915, but he and other such African American writers were commonly ignored. How could American society, even the professional classes, seriously consider the alleged scholarship of black authors?

It was in fact not until the 1950s when a white historian Kenneth Stampp wrote his ground breaking *The Era of Reconstruction* that professional historians began to question the old or William A. Dunning view of the period.

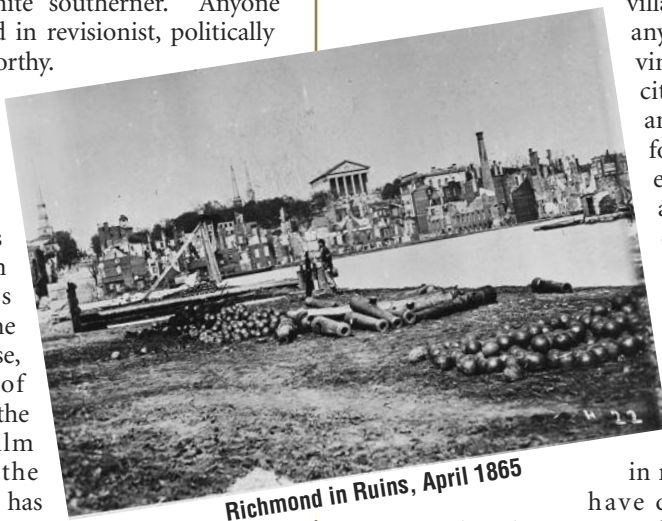
In fact, both the Dunning school and historians, like Stampp, who revised it, were influenced by the age in which they wrote. The old view grew up in a time when racism was engraved in American culture. Of course, blacks and their white allies were the villains of Reconstruction, so how could anyone not believe that they were vindictive when they tried to assert their citizenship rights? Why else would anyone argue that support for a full role for the former slaves now free was essential? One had to be vindictive to argue anything so obviously ridiculous — the equality of blacks and whites.

Similarly, when Stampp and those historians who followed him argued for racial equality, they did so in a period of Civil Rights, when black-white racism was being overthrown by the activities of a wide variety of reformers. Yet, even in more recent times, after historians have demonstrated conclusively that the Dunning view was completely inaccurate, the American public still continues to hang on to that discredited view. Racism is still alive in American society, and the influence of *Gone with the Wind* continues. Too often, schoolchildren are still taught Dunning's conclusions, and the media routinely repeats them.

Thus, it will be surprising should there be a public sesquicentennial of Reconstruction. It should happen, however; the nation needs to know the true historical facts. (John Marszalek, member of the Lincoln Forum, Board of Advisors, is editor of the Grant Papers and director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association). 🏛️



Fourteenth Amendment



Richmond in Ruins, April 1865

THE SOUTH AT THE END OF “THE WAR”

By William C. “Jack” Davis

History has taken it as given that the end of the Civil War left the once-Confederate states devastated, crippled economically, disrupted socially, culturally stunted, and spiritually shell-shocked. All of the old trusted shibboleths that gave their people comfort and confidence in 1861 proved to be moonshine. Cotton failed to be a “King” after all. As it turned out, one Confederate could not whip ten Yankees. Predictions that the North would not fight and that a single handkerchief would suffice to absorb all the blood spilled in a war, evaporated when the conflict proceeded to saturate Southern soil with the blood of 300,000 and more. If the result of the contest was any measure, God chose not to be on their side.

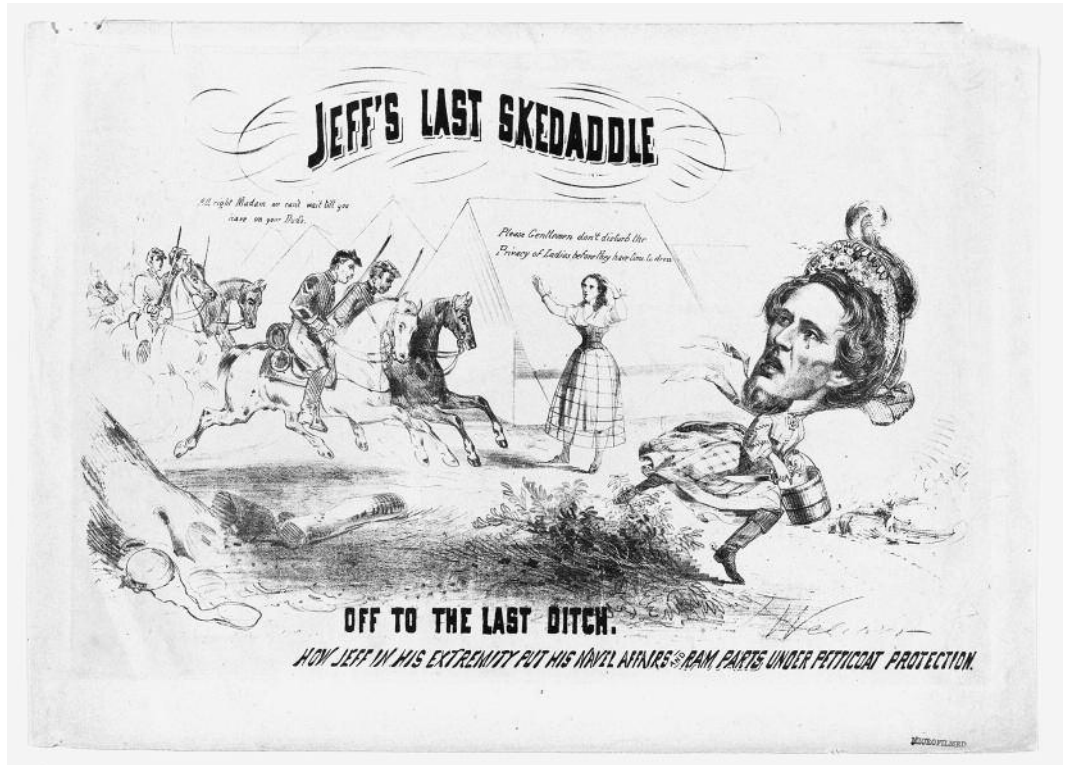
The economic toll was vast, to be sure, the greatest being the loss of slavery. Slaves represented the largest single capital asset in the Confederacy, worth in excess of \$3 billion, more valuable than the land they tilled. Surely the land remained, but the labor that made it productive was gone. The freed slaves remained in place as prospective workers, ripe for exploitation, but unless Southern planters found a new relationship with them as employers rather than owners, cotton and other cash crops like rice and sugar faced an uncertain future, especially with burgeoning competition among other nations for a share of the world market.

The South escaped the mythical fate of ancient Carthage. There was no sowing of fields with salt or plowing over its cities, but the actual damage was still daunting. The seceding states were largely in their industrial infancy in 1861, and grew little during the war, but the passage of Northern armies left much of that in rubble. What rail track and rolling stock the war did not simply wear out, the Yankees destroyed. Transportation on rivers and canals was all but extinct, steamboats were lost by ersatz conversion to war vessels, or burned to prevent capture. Few though Southern factories had been in 1861, most now lay in ruins. It would take years, and millions in capital that ex-Confederates did not have, to rebuild, retool, and reestablish some home industry, let alone give any serious competition with the rapidly expanding North and West. Fortunately, however, there were significant sections of the South that the armies left untouched. Raw materials remained abundant, potential white and black labor was abundant if it could be harnessed, and there was room for hope.

The picture on the cultural landscape looked if anything less promising. War’s upset disrupted education on a wide scale. Most colleges and universities had closed their doors during the war, and even local primary and secondary schools and private academies were defunct for want of the money, teachers, and pupils sucked into the armies. Never a literary powerhouse, the Confederacy had seen scores of its newspapers go out of business, virtually all of its few periodicals and literary journals fold, and its book publishing

virtually cease. Theaters were dark, lyceums silent, coffee houses nearly deserted. Culture would reemerge of course, but it would be one indelibly marked by war and the experience of defeat.

The fabric of society seemed irreparably rent. The aristocracy of wealth had largely disappeared, though the social and political influence of ancient “first family” names remained. Emancipation had irrevocably altered the definition of the lowest class of society without materially improving the slaves’ condition, but their new-found freedom and the imminent Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments posed alarming threats to Southerners’ white supremacy. It could have been far worse. There were no mass retaliations, no trials and executions for treason, no confiscations of



Jeff Davis captured—allegedly in hoopskirts—May 1865

property. In time even Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee’s family recovered their land or received compensation. Overwhelmingly the white people of the defunct Confederacy were left alone to go on with their lives, their laws intact in virtually every respect save statutes relating to slaves and slavery. Ironically, the freedmen themselves suffered the most. Emancipation gave them freedom, but nothing more and very soon Southern legislatures found ways to proscribe their lives, and ultimately get around the new constitutional amendments. In time blacks found themselves something akin to the chattels they had been before the war.

Meanwhile, among white survivors of the Confederacy a cult already began to take shape framed around heroic loss and sacrifice, seeking the moral high ground by redefining secession as a principled stand against unconstitutional Northern intrusion, and consciously leaving slavery out of the equation. Having lost so much, Southern political and cultural opinion makers sought to put the defeat behind them by pretending it never happened, returning their section to an idealized semblance of what it had been in 1860, and leading their white people into an ideological future founded on what would become known as the Lost Cause Myth. 🏰

LINCOLN FORUM MEMORIES: 1995-2015

Over the years, The Lincoln Forum has been faithfully archived—especially in pictures—by our inexhaustible photographer-in-chief Henry F. Ballone (who now serves as well as Forum Treasurer) and his comrades-behind-the-lens, Joe Card, Dave Walker and Tim Branscum. Together, they have recorded our speakers, our audiences, and our memories, publishing their wonderful pictures each year in a special *Bulletin* gatefold. Now, to mark the Forum's 20th birthday, we present an album spanning the best of these annual collections, along with some early photos by Virginia Williams, spanning time and photographic technology, and boasting our most unforgettable moments and most beloved friends—with a tip of the proverbial stovepipe hat to our own “Mathew Brady” and “Alexander Gardners.” *photos continued on the following 3 pages*



Virginia Williams



Jim McPherson, Frank J. Williams, John Hope Franklin & Harold Holzer



Ed Bearss leads a battlefield tour



Members of The Lincoln Group of New York: Paula Hopewell, Stuart Schneider Jim Santagata, Bob Langford, Steven R. Koppelman, Karen & John Bodnar, Harold Holzer, Henry F. Ballone & Paul Ellis-Graham



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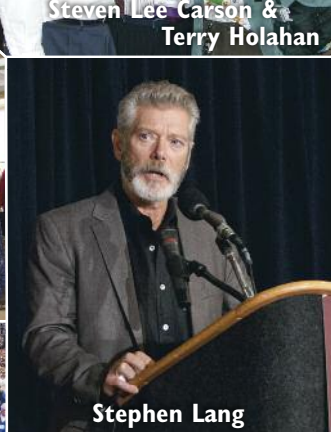
Frank J. Williams & friend



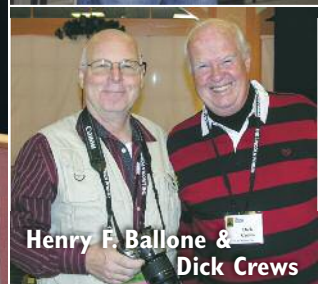
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David Herbert Donald & Dave Walker



Marylou Symonds & Ed Bearss

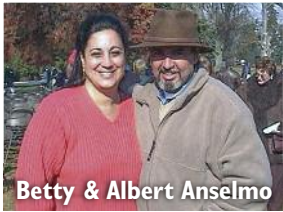


William C. "Jack" Davis



Frank J. Williams, Harold Holzer & Edna Greene Medford

LINCOLN FORUM



Betty & Albert Anselmo



Richard Current & Michael Beschloss



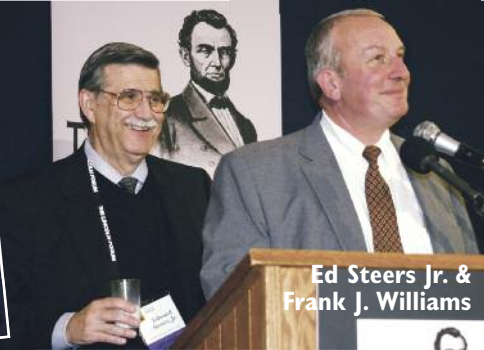
The Dobbin House



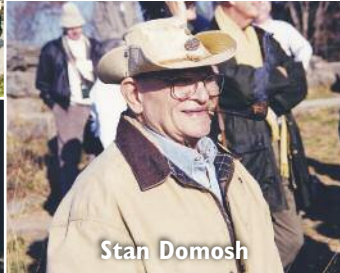
Dave & Darla Moe & Frank J. Williams



Doris Kearns Goodwin



Ed Steers Jr. & Frank J. Williams



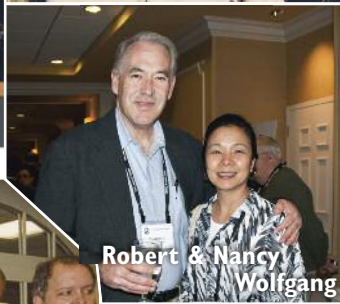
Stan Domosh



James L. Swanson & Daniel Weinberg



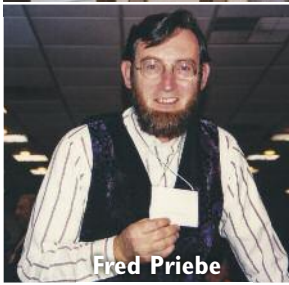
John Simon, Edna Greene Medford, Craig Simonds, John Marszalek & Gerald Prokopowicz



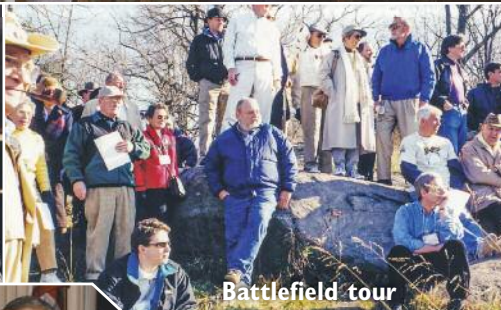
Robert & Nancy Wolfgang



Craig & Marylou Symonds & David Long



Fred Priebe



Battlefield tour



John Hope Franklin



John McClarey & Chuck Hand



Harold Holzer, Brian Lamb & Frank J. Williams



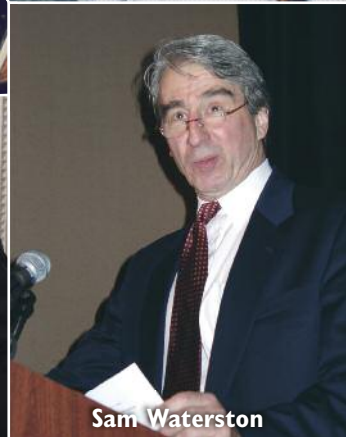
Harriet Simon, Jim Getty & John Simon



Jean H. Baker & Frank J. Williams



Harold Holzer



Sam Waterston

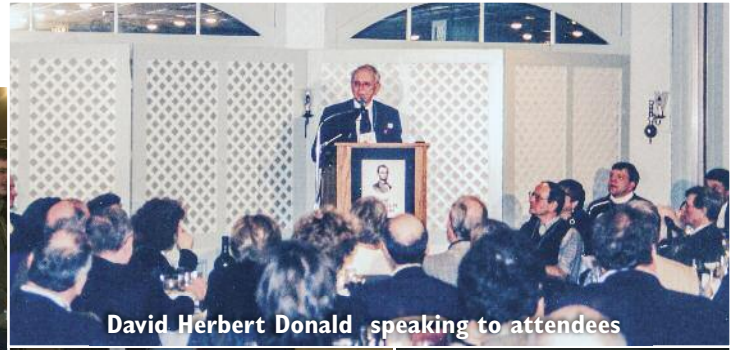
MEMORIES: 1995-2015



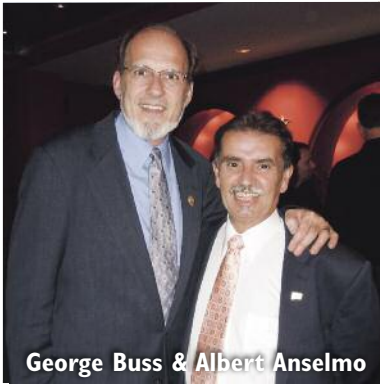
Geoffrey Perret



John Marszalek, Jim McPherson & Jeanne Marszalek



David Herbert Donald speaking to attendees



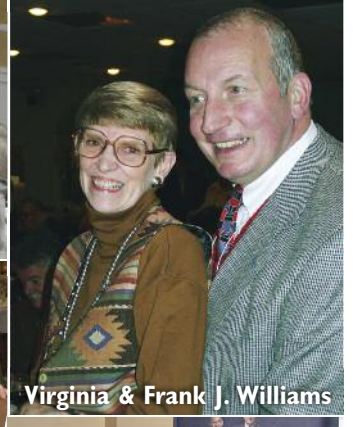
George Buss & Albert Anselmo



Buzz Carnahan, John Elliff, & Roger Billings



Toni Tolbert & Dr. Alice R. Hinsley



Virginia & Frank J. Williams



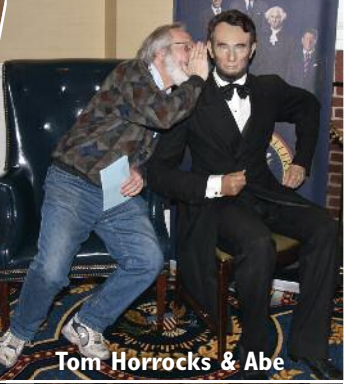
Frank J. Williams & Steven Gilmore



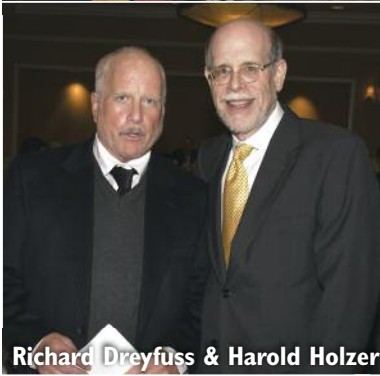
Linda Wheeler, Budge Weidman & Annette Westerby



Edith Holzer, Gabor & Liz Boritt



Tom Horrocks & Abe



Richard Dreyfuss & Harold Holzer



Edna Greene Medford



Elaine Henderson, Joe Fornieri & Wendy Allen



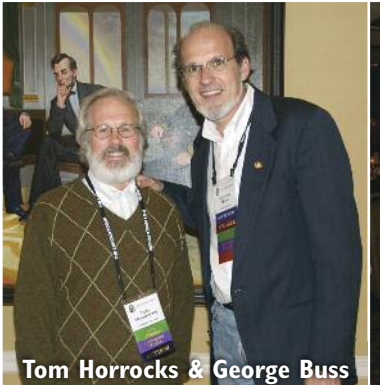
Jean H. Baker



Frank J. Williams & Sgt. Joseph Lim



Ken Burns



Tom Horrocks & George Buss

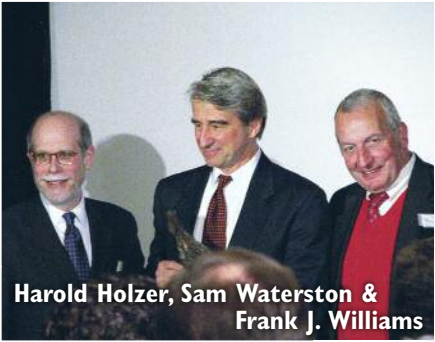


Tim Branscum, Malcolm Garber & Jerry Desko



Joe Card, Henry F. Ballone, Frank J. Williams & Dave Walker

LINCOLN FORUM MEMORIES: 1995-2015



Harold Holzer, Sam Waterston & Frank J. Williams



Russ Weidman & Linda Wheeler



Stan Domosh & Budge Weidman



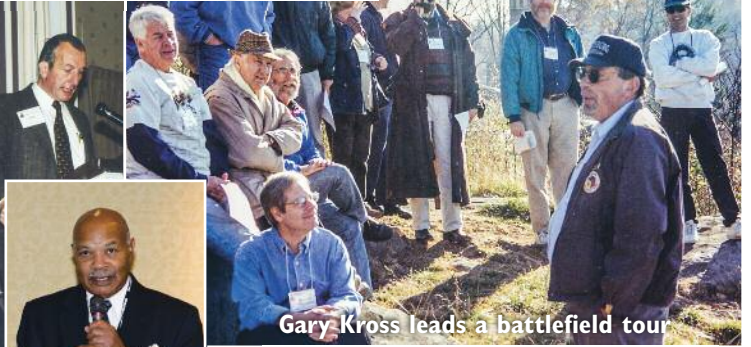
Ken Childs & Toni Hess



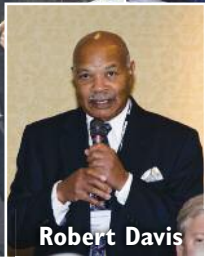
Stephanie Williams & John Eliff



Frank J. Williams & panel



Gary Kross leads a battlefield tour



Robert Davis



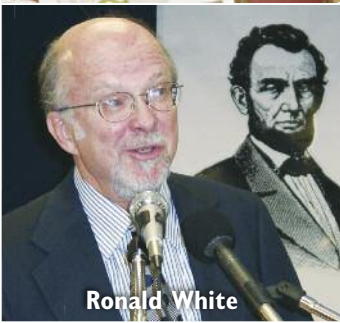
Dave Walker & Tina Grim



Harold Holzer, Frank J. Williams & 5 Lincolns



James L. Swanson, Michael Kauffman, Louise Taper, Edward Steers, Jr., Thomas Turner & Frank J. Williams



Ronald White



Virginia Williams, Betty Anselmo, Elaine Henderson & Catherine Clinton



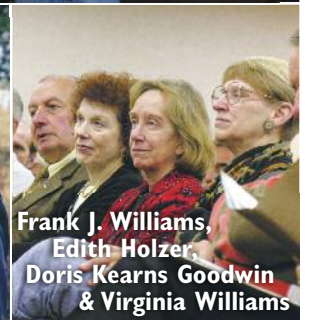
Harold Holzer & Chuck Platt



Marty Waligorski, Budge Weidman, Jane Waligorski, Russ Weidman



Jerry Desko



Frank J. Williams, Edith Holzer, Doris Kearns Goodwin & Virginia Williams



Dan Pritchett & Dick Kelly



The Lincoln Forum Jug Band



Steven Lee Carson, Paul Barker, Tomoko Barker, Dick Kelly, Dan Pritchett, Jerry Desko & Malcolm Garber

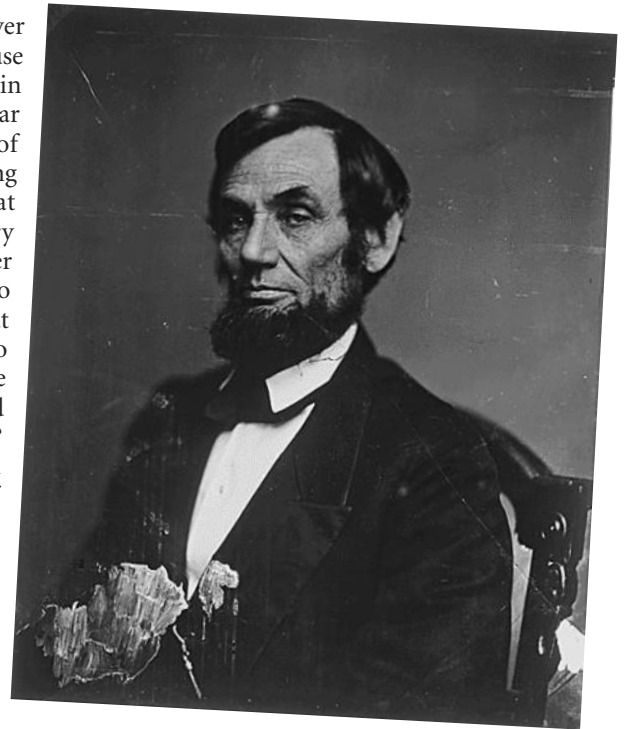


Don McCue & Philip E. Kendall

THE ORIGINAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY: MR. AND MRS. LINCOLN, 1862



Abraham and Mary Lincoln were never photographed together—reputedly because Mary worried that the vast difference in their heights would make them appear comical. Yet many diminutive wives of the period overcame such fears by posing on their feet while their husbands sat below them in chairs. Surely Mary glimpsed such pictures during her lifetime, yet she never consented to pose with her spouse. Or was it that Lincoln, who took his son Tad to photographers' galleries twice during the Civil War, never wanted to be portrayed with his wife? That the public yearned for such images is clear: composites of President and First Lady, pieced together by photography studios without the couple's consent or participation, abounded during the war.



Sadly, Mary posed for the cameras for the very last time in 1872, at the gallery of a

“spirit” photographer who conjured up a ghostly dual

“portrait” purporting to show the long-dead President looming over his sad widow. At last they were photographed together.

The undated 1862 Mary Lincoln portrait above was surely made very early in the year of the Lincolns' 20th wedding anniversary, before Willie Lincoln's death (in February) plunged her into mourning black. No one is sure precisely when the circa 1862 portrait of the President was taken, or by whom. But it certainly shows him in deep grief—whether for his late son or the tens of thousands of Union sons already killed during the Civil War, can only be surmised. 📌

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A VIVID DESCRIPTION BY A SURGEON WHO SAW PRESIDENT LINCOLN SHOT AND WATCHED HIM DIE

continued from page 3 Mrs. Lincoln was kindly cared for by Mrs. Dixon, wife of the Senator from Connecticut. Robert Lincoln, now Secretary of War, came in after his father was removed to Mr. Patterson's [sic] house. He bore up well during the painful night. Very early it became apparent that the President could not recover. As nearly as I remember those who visited the deathbed were Secretary of the Navy Wells, Governor Farwell, Secretary McCulloch, Governor Farnsworth, Vice-President Johnson, Speaker Colfax, Dr. Stone, Postmaster-General Dennison, Private Secretary Major John Hay, Surgeon-General Barnes, Dr. Crane, Secretary Usher, General Halleck, General Augur, Secretary Stanton, General

Meigs and the Rev. Dr. Gurley, the President's pastor. At the time that death seemed to be impending the Rev. Dr. Gurley offered a solemn prayer as the few of us who remained in the room knelt around the bedside. This was only a short time before the last moment. Mrs. Lincoln was carried from the room fainting. I think Robert Lincoln had also left the room. At the moment of death Surgeon-General Barnes was sitting on the bedside, with his finger on the President's carotid artery. I was feeling the pulse at his right wrist. As death was announced I closed the President's eyes, and again we all knelt around the bed while Dr. Gurley offered an impressive prayer for the distracted family and for the bereaved and afflicted country.” 📌

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THE RICHARD NELSON CURRENT AWARD:

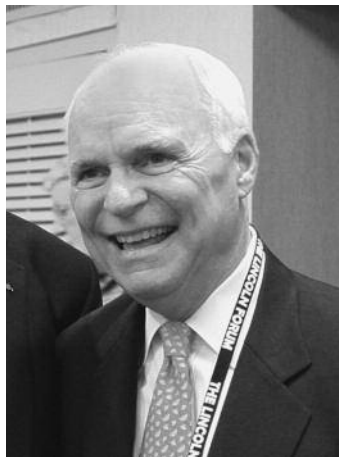


Whether long-planned or designed to be spontaneous, the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement has brought the best and the brightest to the Forum for the praise and tributes they have earned through service to Civil War-era scholarship. Along the way they have brought unforgettable keynote addresses to our symposium attendees. All of them were awarded John McClarey's iconic impressionistic statuette, "Freedom River:" Lincoln rising above the tide—as all our honorees have done themselves. The following is the anniversary honor roll—and excerpts from some of the presentation speeches they inspired:

- 1996 **Gabor Boritt**, author, Professor of History, Gettysburg College
- 1997 **Brian Lamb**, Founder and CEO of C-SPAN
- 1998 **John Hope Franklin**, "Historian of the Century"
- 1999 **Paul Simon**, U. S. Senator from Illinois, author
- 2000 **David Herbert Donald**, distinguished historian & biographer
- 2001 **Garry Wills**, critic, historian, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian
- 2002 **James M. McPherson**, dean of Civil War historians
- 2003 **Sam Waterston**, actor, portrayer & "voice" of Abraham Lincoln
- 2004 **John Y. Simon**, editor, Papers of Ulysses S. Grant
- 2005 **John McClarey**, Lincoln sculptor
- Frank J. Williams** (Honorary 10th anniversary award)
- 2006 **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, presidential historian
- 2007 **Jeff Shaara**, novelist
- Charles D. Platt** (Honorary Award)
- 2008 **Ken Burns**, award-winning documentary filmmaker
- 2009 **Sandra Day O'Connor**, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court
- 2010 **Mark E. Neely, Jr.**, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian
- 2011 **Ed Bearss**, historian, battlefield guide extraordinaire
- 2012 **Eric Foner**, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian
- 2013 **Tony Kushner**, author of Spielberg's *Lincoln* screenplay
- 2014 **James Getty**, pre-eminent Lincoln enactor

Brian Lamb (1997)

The official bios say that Brian Lamb was born in Lafayette, Indiana, educated at Indiana University, where he worked at the college radio station, served in the United States Navy, worked in the White House under several presidents, and then—being the perfect man in the right place at the right time—the dawn of the cable television age—devised the idea, which sounds so deceptively simple and obvious now, but must have seemed complex, un-commercial, and unrealistic 30 years ago—to create an all-public affairs network that brought government directly to the people it represents. And that, with Brian Lamb as its father, was the birth of the institution known as C-SPAN.



Doris Kearns Goodwin (2006)

What a special personal and professional honor it is to pay tribute today to one of the most able, popular, ubiquitous, acclaimed, and generous of historians—Doris Kearns Goodwin.

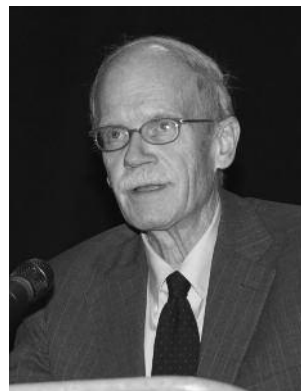
This has been—to put it mildly—Doris Goodwin's century. After turning her great abilities to memorable studies of Lyndon Johnson, the Kennedys, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and even the Brooklyn Dodgers, she spent the better part of the last decade—as she has put it—living with Abraham Lincoln. And what a special joy it is for this group to pay tribute to the riveting result—because we can be forgiven, I hope, recalling that we were, to borrow a phrase, present at the creation.

Doris Kearns Goodwin was last with us here at The Lincoln Forum six long years ago, where she previewed the project, and where two things became crystal clear to all of us:

First, in the remarks she gave us from scant written notes, but deep resources of heart and energy, we learned of her passion for the subject that was then so deeply engrossing her, the challenge that she acknowledged and she faced in finding a new approach to the Lincoln story, and her un-wincing determination to communicate her enthusiasm and scholarship to a vast public. What a compelling preview we got that night—and how unsurprising it is, in a way, that the result not only met but actually exceeded the promise.

Sandra Day O'Connor (2009)

In character, in integrity, in diligence, in strength, and in her cool and reassuring demeanor in crisis after crisis, in test after test, Justice O'Connor has reflected the very best Lincolnian ideals for leadership. She has combined wisdom and scholarship with a deep respect for what she believes is right for the people. And once she made up her mind, just like Lincoln, she never second-guessed herself or the country. It is a true honor to celebrate Her Honor at the 14th annual Lincoln Forum.



Mark E. Neely, Jr. (2010)

We are honored to be honoring a distinguished scholar who has become one of the most influential of all the teachers and writers of our generation. Mark Neely has shed important light on such crucial historical issues as civil liberties, the Civil War and the Constitution, and the power of the presidency North as well as South. His work has completely changed the way we think of wartime politics, human rights,

TWO DECADES OF EXCELLENCE HONORED

and public memory. As a result, it is fair to say that Lincoln and Civil War history have undergone a complete rethinking thanks to Mark Neely's work, and that because of his contributions we know far more about this period now than we ever have before.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we presented him our 15th annual Richard Current award. In fact, the only reason he did not earn the honor sooner is that he is so much in demand that he has been nearly impossible to schedule. We are delighted that this great historian and longtime member of our Board of Advisors is returning to Gettysburg so we can pay to him the tribute he so much deserves.



Eric Foner (2012)

For reminding Americans of the centrality of race and racism in the struggle not only to save America, but as well to rescue it from what Lincoln called the hypocrisy of a Constitution that on the one hand enshrined popular government, but on the other sustained inequality...for maintaining a healthy impatience for mediocrity and setting an enviable bar for, deep research and well-argued analysis...for speaking and writing so brilliantly for so long to both scholars and

students, fellow writers, and appreciative readers, about America's longtime struggle with itself to create a more perfect union...for bringing originality and clarity to history, and for passionately and fearlessly advocating a point of view rooted in a lifelong reverence for public service, the rights of ordinary Americans black and white, and the ever-elusive goals of peace, freedom, and social justice.

David Herbert Donald (2000) (In Memoriam)

One of David Donald's great books was *Look Homeward*, a biography of author Thomas Wolfe—it became one of his Pulitzer Prize winners. Wolfe's great work was, of course, *Look Homeward Angel*. To stretch a bit, remembering David's interest in both Wolfe and Lincoln, as was said of Lincoln, one can say of our late friend: "Now *he* belongs to the ages."



Tony Kushner (2013)

For so unforgettably applying your dazzling talent and relentless appetite for research and interpretation to the challenging task of recreating and interpreting Abraham Lincoln on film; for daring to focus on the vanishing art of politics—the means used by leaders, and not always as heroically, to confront history and muscularly change it; for so fully evoking a character at once familiar to every



American and yet perpetually remote, distant, and unfathomable; for reawakening Lincoln's too-often questioned and by some, prematurely discarded reputation as a genuine liberator; for not only capturing the Lincoln we know—but somehow animating the Lincoln we only thought we knew; for helping again to make Lincoln the center of the continuing global conversation about liberty, opportunity, fairness, and the unfinished work of the American dream; but most of all for mastering words—melding his words and your words ... what Lincoln called the art of communicating thoughts to the mind, through the eye—and for showing yourself to be one of the truly great inventors of this vanishing art...and for living up to Lincoln's own description – "Towering Genius Disdains a beaten path."

James Getty (2014) (In Memoriam)

For rising to the apex of his profession as the dean of all Lincoln enactors...and in so doing, elevating that profession from a curiosity to an art form that reverences historical truth; For so brilliantly, and for so long, communicating Lincoln's compassion, joviality, sadness, and strength to generations of enthralled audiences of all ages, and in countless venues, across the Union Lincoln preserved; For ensuring that Gettysburg, the village that tens of thousands of brave soldiers and one great orator immortalized, would offer modern visitors an unforgettable opportunity to encounter and learn from the modern personification of the man who consecrated this hallowed ground; For gracing our own Lincoln Forum each year of *our* existence with enthralling performances of the prose and poetry of the man he knows so well;

In recognition of his many gifts—his uncanny ability to transcend time and bring the lost back to life—and in so doing to teach us how to be Americans—it is a great honor and a true pleasure to present the 2014 Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement to "Mr. Lincoln" himself: a peerless Jim Getty.



Richard Nelson Current (2002) (on his 99th birthday) (In Memoriam)

Dick Current spent a lifetime studying Lincoln and the Civil War—and educating several generations who did likewise. He taught at the universities of Wisconsin and Oxford. He lectured on American history in Europe, South America, Asia, and even Antarctica. At his retirement he was University Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. He also served as President of the Southern Historical Association. But he did more.



Dick Current produced a shelf of brilliant books, including the final volume of J. G. Randall's magisterial multi-volume *continued on page 16*

JAMES GETTY, DEAN OF LINCOLN ENACTORS, AND CURRENT AWARD LAUREATE, DIES AT AGE 83



After a year of slowly failing health, Gettysburg icon James Getty—a modest but supremely talented performer whose uncanny ability to transom himself into a modern embodiment of America’s greatest president made him the nation’s premier Lincoln enactor—died on September 26 at age 83. His final public appearance, after 35 years in his longtime role channeling the nation’s 16th president, occurred in April.

Born in Lincoln’s Illinois, Jim Getty’s first career was as a music teacher, choral director, and part-time singer with opera companies. But in 1973, as fate would have it, he donned a tuxedo for a special event and guests repeatedly told the bearded music teacher that he resembled Lincoln. Getty worked up a performance piece as Lincoln and debuted it with a local Kiwanis club—thus launching his extraordinary second career.



Four years later, Getty, with his wife Joanne, moved to Gettysburg to become a full-time Lincoln “impersonator,” as his vocation was originally called. For years, he operated a small theater and bookstore in town called “A. Lincoln’s Place,” where Getty performed several Lincoln monologues, vaudeville style, each evening

during tourist season. In the quiet months, he visited schools throughout the country to perform and educate as Lincoln before awed students. And along the way, Getty became one of the most knowledgeable Lincoln men in the country, able to field questions on a range of subjects while still in both character and costume.



Most notably of all, Getty for decades recited the Gettysburg Address at the National Soldiers Cemetery on November 19—the anniversary of its 1863 dedication, and Lincoln’s most famous oration. Getty’s beautiful voice, impeccable diction, and dignified manner graced countless TV broadcasts



of the ceremonies, always following the main speaker but making an indelible impression on audiences on the scene and those watching around the country.



Getty, who inspired generations of admirers to become professional enactors, also regularly performed the Address, and other speeches, at the Forum—in fact did so at 19 consecutive symposia. Last year, the Forum honored Getty with the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement, the group’s highest honor.

The entire Forum mourns the passing of this gentle soul and talented performer, who for so many years made symposium attendees feel they could come to Gettysburg to meet their hero in person. The Forum has lost a favorite son. As the group declared of James Getty in an advertisement published on the day of his funeral: “Now he belongs to the ages.” Photos of James Getty on the web at: lincolnanthecivilwar.us



THE LINCOLN FORUM, 2015: TWO DECADES OLD AND GOING STRONG

continued from page 1 Happily, Bob Maher will join us as an honored guest this year—and we will be proud to salute him and our much-missed fellow founders at Lincoln Forum XX. At this anniversary moment, we dedicate ourselves to building on our success. The Lincoln Forum is rededicated here, in Gettysburg, not only to Lincoln-era history as well as our own history, but to what Lincoln once called “a vast future also.”

Added Vice Chairman Harold Holzer: “I join my dear friend Frank Williams—with whom I have worked side-by-side in promoting the Lincoln field for some 30 years altogether—in paying tribute to both our founders and current leadership. Our recently retired Treasurer Russ Weidman kept us smoothly in the black and our superb administrators Betty Anselmo and Jerry Desko helped the symposia run smoothly and efficiently, a job that is much more complex and demanding than I’m sure it looks. Scholarship and Essay contest managers Don McCue, Tom Horrocks and Ruth Squillace make sure the Forum lifelong learning net is cast wide and well. Our distinguished and hardworking board members, past and present, have advised us brilliantly, and our speakers have enlightened us so memorably.”

“Most of all,” continued Holzer, “I want to pay tribute to our chairman. Frank Williams lives and breathes the Lincoln Forum, not only during our three-day annual meetings, but twelve months a year, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. His devotion is complete, his dedication extraordinary, and his ability to get the best work from our staff and volunteers unsurpassed. Notwithstanding the endless, ongoing barrages of Frank Williams emails that have crowded my own life, I salute Frank for his guiding hand and rousing leadership. I think Lincoln himself would be proud to have had such a passionate and effective advocate for so long, and so well.”

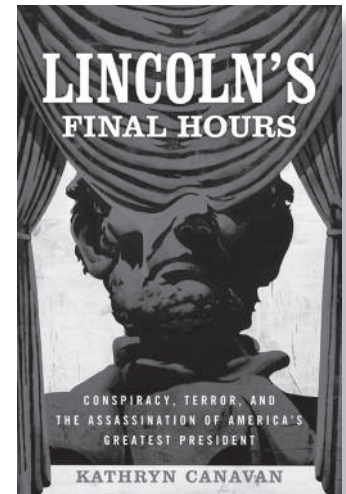
This year, the Forum marks the end of a five-year concentration on the Civil War sesquicentennial, which ends in 2015. In future years, guided by suggestions from symposium attendees, the Forum will not only focus on the 150th anniversary of the gained and lost legacy of Reconstruction, but also present the latest scholarship on all aspects of the public and private Lincoln. “With new books by both new and award-winning writers still popping up on our radar,” said Williams and Holzer, “we will have no shortage of presentations or presenters. Our formula works—and we will continue to bring our attendees the excellence they expect while looking always for improvements and innovations. Our twenty-year anniversary represents not an end but a new beginning.” 📌

The Lincoln Forum Bulletin welcomes contributions from members and historians—articles and photos alike. Send to editor Harold Holzer at: hh433@hunter.cuny.edu. The editor particularly thanks the contributors to the current issue.

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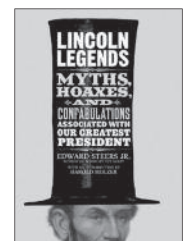
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LINCOLN: INSPIRATION THROUGH THE AGES

Curated by the Pensacola Museum of Art Collections Committee, four paintings by Wendy Allen were selected for the exhibit, Lincoln: Inspiration through the Ages. The exhibit is inspired by the 2014 PMA acquisition of a bronze sculpture by American late 19th century monumental sculptor, Daniel Chester French. A wide variety of media and artistic styles from artists such as Salvador Dali,

Nathan Sawaya, Norman Rockwell, and Bill Mauldin are also in the exhibit. Lincoln: Inspiration through the Ages runs from September 4-November 7, 2015. 📍



THE RICHARD N. CURRENT AWARD: TWO DECADES OF EXCELLENCE HONORED

continued from page 13 life of Lincoln. Their *Lincoln the President: Last Full Measure*, completed after Randall's death in 1953, won them the prestigious Bancroft Prize. Current's other great books include *Lincoln and the First Shot*; *Speaking of Lincoln: The Man and His Meaning for Our Times*; and *Lincoln's Loyalists: Union Soldiers from the Confederacy*. He punctured generations of myth about the Radical Republicans with *Those Terrible Carpetbaggers*. And he took on Gore Vidal and an entire generation of outdated scholarship in *Arguing with Historians*.

How to describe the man's reach? When a subject captured his imagination, Current conquered it and made it his own. Interested in an obscure figure named Philetus Sawyer, he wrote his life story. Fascinated by the development of the typewriter, he produced a book about the men who invented it. Remembering the language of his parents, he translated a dense Norwegian novel into English. His wife developed a fascination for the dancer Loie Fuller, so he joined her to write her definitive biography. A man of infinite skill, passion, and brilliance. 📍

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