



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

March, 1997

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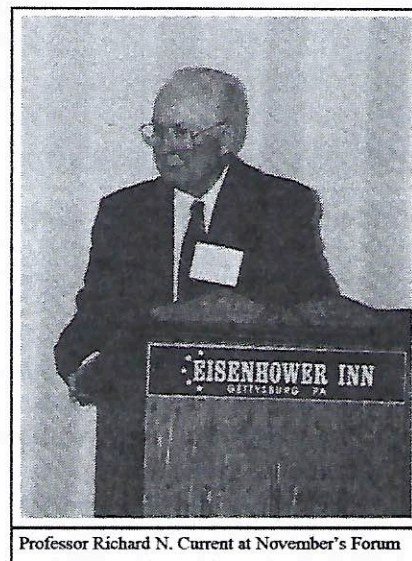
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FIRST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE LINCOLN FORUM CONVENES IN GETTYSBURG, NOVEMBER 17-19

(Gettysburg, PA) -- The first annual symposium of the new Lincoln Forum of the *Civil War Education Association* convened here in mid-November to mark the 133rd anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. More than 115 people attended the three-day conference, which offered participants exclusive attendance at a scholarly symposium and book sale, including two banquets, as well as the opportunity to attend special activities in the village organized by the Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College and The Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania.

Frank J. Williams, founding chairman of the Lincoln Forum, convened the group at the Eisenhower Inn on November 17. Harold Holzer addressed the first dinner meeting on *Lincoln's "Flat Failure?" The Gettysburg Myth Revisited*.



Professor Richard N. Current at November's Forum

On the first full day of the symposium, Professor David E. Long spoke on *Wartime Democracy: Abraham Lincoln and Electoral Politics in the Civil War*; Professor John Y. Simon spoke on *Lincoln, Grant, and Meade: Vicksburg and Gettysburg in Retrospect*; and Frank J. Williams followed with *Abraham Lincoln, Puppet Master: The President and General George Gordon Meade*.

Following a special lunch at Gettysburg's historic Dobbin House Tavern, attendees participated in a tour of the First Day of the Battle of Gettysburg, led by Gary Kross.

At the Forum's second banquet, the dean of Lincoln scholarship, Professor Emeritus Richard Nelson Current, spoke on *He's Still the Lincoln Nobody Knows*.

The conference reconvened on November 19, with a special presentation on the new Lincoln literature, by James Kushlan, editor of *Civil War Times*, and Daniel E. Weinberg, proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

Later in the day, participants heard Lincoln re-enactor James Getty read the Gettysburg Address at the National Cemetery, and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor speak on Lincoln and Civil Liberties. The festivities continued with a luncheon, and then the annual Gettysburg College Fortenbaugh Lecture, delivered this year by Professor George Fredrickson.

This year's annual meeting/symposium will be held November 16-19 in Gettysburg. Full program information will soon be announced.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

To all those fortunate enough to have participated in our first annual Lincoln Forum at Gettysburg -- and to all the friends of the *Civil War Education Association (CWEA)* who may be reading this inaugural *Bulletin* -- I send you my very best wishes for a wonderful 1997.



Chairman Frank J. Williams

Included in that sentiment is the pledge that we will re-convene this coming November for our second annual Forum -- which we believe will be bigger and even better than the first.

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 led by a compelling expert guide, an irresistible bookshop, and all the unique pageantry of the annual Gettysburg Address recreation and commemoration at the very soldier's cemetery Lincoln himself dedicated unforgettably on November 19, 1863.

Our second conference promises to be as memorable as the first, so I urge all the new "veterans" of the Forum to join our membership rolls formally, and to enlist as soon as possible for the events of November 1997. You will be receiving more details about the second Forum at Gettysburg in your next issue of the *Bulletin*, as well as in special mailings directly from *CWEA*.

One of the great things 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.

This opportunity the Lincoln Forum promises to meet and expand in the years to come.

I look forward to welcoming all of you back to Gettysburg and to greeting as many new participants as possible when we reconvene next November.

Sincerely,

FRANK J. WILLIAMS

P.S. Judge Williams welcomes correspondence from members and prospective members. Write to him care of the Superior Court, Washington County, 4800 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879.

THE LINCOLN FORUM: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Lincoln Forum was organized in mid-1996 to provide new and regular East Coast access to Lincoln and Civil War scholarship.

The following is the official statement of purpose of the Lincoln Forum:

The Lincoln Forum is an assembly of men, women, students and organizations who share a deep interest in the life and times of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era. Through a roster of activities and projects including symposia, tours, student essay competitions, a newsletter and an annual award to recognize special contributions to the field of Lincoln studies, the Forum endeavors to enhance the understanding and preserve the memory of Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln Forum supports all Civil War and Lincoln groups that similarly strive to help succeeding generations learn and benefit from the study of Lincoln.

The *Lincoln Forum Bulletin*, the newsletter of the Lincoln Forum, is mailed to all members of the Lincoln Forum of the *Civil War Education Association*. Subscription is included in annual membership dues of \$10.00 - individual; \$15.00 - family. Copyright © by *Civil War Education Association*. All rights reserved.

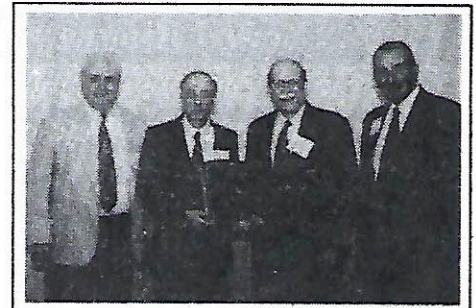
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**FIRST ANNUAL
LINCOLN FORUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
PRESENTED TO HISTORIAN
GABOR S. BORITT**

Gabor S. Boritt, Fluhrer Distinguished Professor of Civil War Studies and Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, was the recipient of the first annual achievement award of the Lincoln Forum on November 18.



(Left to Right) Robert Maher, Gabor S. Boritt, Harold Holzer, Frank J. Williams

Professor Boritt, who also chairs the Lincoln Prize committee, attended the banquet with his wife, Liz, and Daniel Boritt, the youngest of their three sons. Their eldest, Beowulf Boritt, is a much-praised set designer in the New York theater, while middle son Jacob, a student at Johns Hopkins University, recently joined his father in compiling *Of the People, By the People, For the People, and Other Quotations from Abraham Lincoln* (Columbia University Press).

The award to Professor Boritt, which was presented by Forum vice chairman Harold Holzer, cited not only his writing and teaching, but his efforts to reinvigorate the town of Gettysburg as a center not only of tourism but of scholarship.

“For his years of innovative, exemplary, and inspiring scholarship and leadership,” the citation declared, “...for creating enduring institutions here that promote the study of Lincoln and his times -- and in no small measure as well for living a life in pursuit of freedom and opportunity that exemplifies Lincoln’s own life...the Lincoln Forum is proud to present its first annual award of achievement to...Gabor S. Boritt.”

**NATION’S LEADING LINCOLN
MUSEUMS, ORGANIZATIONS,
REPRESENTED IN FORUM
LEADERSHIP**

Unique among the nation’s Lincoln organizations, the Lincoln Forum’s Board of Advisors includes representatives of the country’s leading museums, libraries, and organizations devoted to the sixteenth president.

Included are: Norman Hellmers, superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield; Gerald Prokopowicz, historian of the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne; Donald McCue of the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands, California; Michael Maione, historian of the Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site in Washington; Charles Hubbard and Frank Coburn of the Abraham Lincoln Museum at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee; Laurie Verge of the Suratt Society Museum in Maryland; and Nathaniel E. Boone of Robert Todd Lincoln’s Hildene in Manchester, Vermont.

Beginning with the next issue, each edition of the *Bulletin* will feature an item about one of these participating historic sites.

Also represented on the founding Board of Advisors, representing Lincoln membership groups from across the country: George M. Craig, president of the Lincoln Group of New York; Thomas R. Turner, president of the Lincoln Group of Boston; Paul L. Pascal, president of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia; and Daniel E. Pearson, president of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin.

**FORUM TO LAUNCH ESSAY
COMPETITION**

The Lincoln Forum pledged in November to sponsor a national Lincoln essay competition for students. Advisory Board members Thomas R. Turner, George M. Craig, and Donald McCue were appointed to study the feasibility of such an annual contest, and will report to the chairman in June 1997.

Board Biographies:

Each issue, the Bulletin will present brief biographies of some of the extraordinary members of its Board of Advisors. In this issue, the newsletter features the founding chairman and vice chairman of the Lincoln Forum, as well as the two great deans of the Lincoln field, and finally the Lincoln-minded government leaders who have joined this exclusive group – which CWEA president Robert Maher has called “the most prestigious gathering of Lincoln scholars ever assembled in the history of the field.”

Frank J. Williams, chairman of the Lincoln Forum, also serves as president of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, and was for nine years the acclaimed president of the Abraham Lincoln Association. One of the most popular speakers on the national Lincoln lecture circuit, he has edited two books and holds one of the country's great private collections of Lincolniana. He serves as Associate Judge of the Superior Court of Rhode Island.

Harold Holzer, vice chairman of the Forum, has authored or co-authored 11 books on Lincoln and the Civil War, including *The Lincoln Image* (1984) and *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: The Civil War in Art* (1993). His edition of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates inspired C-SPAN's widely seen television recreation of the seven debates. Holzer is vice president for communications at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Richard Nelson Current has written a shelf of influential books on Lincoln and the Civil War, notably *The Lincoln Nobody Knows*, *Lincoln and the First Shot*, and *Speaking of Abraham Lincoln*. He won the Bancroft Prize for co-authoring the 1955 classic, *Lincoln the President: Last Full Measure*. His next book, co-authored with his wife, Marcia Current, will be a biography of the Art Nouveau-era dance sensation Loie Fuller. Professor Current has lectured on Lincoln throughout the world.

Don E. Fehrenbacher, who shares with Dr. Current the title of “dean of Lincoln scholarship,” won the Pulitzer Prize for his celebrated book, *The Dred Scott Decision*. Among his important Lincoln books is *Prelude to Greatness*. Fehrenbacher, a professor of history at Stanford University, has just published, together with his wife, Virginia, the instantly acclaimed *Recollected Words of Abraham Lincoln*, which won the

Award of Achievement of the Lincoln Group of New York, as well as the Barondess Lincoln Award of New York's Civil War Round Table.

In 1989, **Current** and **Fehrenbacher** shared the prestigious Logan Hay Medal in recognition of their lifetime achievements in the Lincoln field.

Jim Edgar, the Governor of Illinois, has been a leading supporter of Lincoln activities in his home state, and has attended many symposia of the Abraham Lincoln Association in Springfield, on whose board he serves as an ex-officio member.

Mario M. Cuomo, former Governor of New York, co-edited the 1990 collection, *Lincoln on Democracy*, which has now appeared in Polish, Japanese, Hebrew, and Indonesian editions. He delivered keynote speeches at both the Abraham Lincoln Association (1985) and the Gettysburg Address anniversary (1989).

Paul Simon recently retired from the United States Senate, after a long and distinguished career on Capitol Hill. A widely respected scholar who has written several books on Illinois history, he now teaches at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LINCOLN FORUM

Participants in the 1996 inaugural forum -- as well as anyone interested in Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era -- are invited to join the Lincoln Forum in time for the 1997 symposium at Gettysburg.

Membership is: \$10 - individual, \$15 - family

The fee entitles members to first call at all future Lincoln Forum meetings, as well as a free subscription to the twice-yearly *Bulletin*.

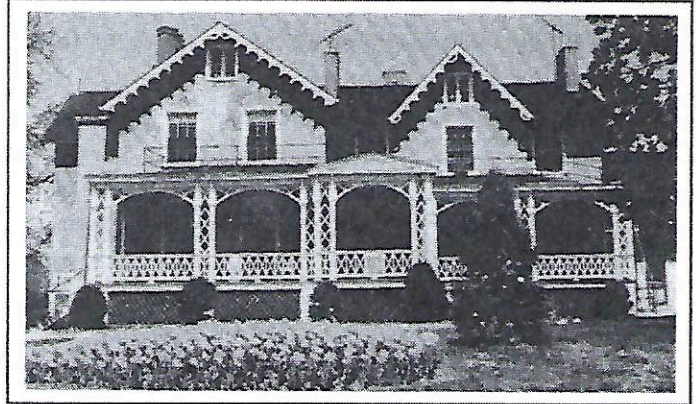
Members will also receive an in-depth calendar of all the activities of the *Civil War Education Association*.

To join as a Charter Member, please make check payable to *CWEA* with the notation, “The Lincoln Forum,” and mail to the *Civil War Education Association*, 21 North Loudoun Street, Winchester, VA 22601.

RESTORATION OF ANDERSON COTTAGE TO BE STUDIED BY THE LINCOLN FORUM

By David E. Long

The Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors has voted to study the restoration of Abraham Lincoln's summer White House, the Anderson Cottage at the United States Soldiers' and Airmens' Home in Washington. This remarkably important, though long-neglected building, is the site where many of Lincoln's most important decisions were reached, meetings with cabinet officers were held, and interesting incidents in the life of the president and his family occurred. It is known that the second draft of the Emancipation Proclamation was written here, probably in the upstairs corner room.



It is likely that the Lincolns first moved into this building some four miles north of the Capitol, in June 1862 to escape the terrible grief they experienced in the months following their son Willie's death in the White House the previous February. They were also attempting to escape the suffocating summer conditions in Washington. They remained there until mid-November when they returned to the White House. Thereafter they followed this routine in 1863 and 1864 and would have done so in 1865 had Lincoln not been assassinated in April. In mid-August 1864 an assassination attempt took place one evening as Lincoln returned unescorted to the Soldiers' Home. As he neared the entrance on the 7th Street Pike, a shot rang out from the darkness causing the president to spur his horse until, breathless and hatless, he arrived at the gate to the grounds. The soldiers standing guard undertook a search of the area where Lincoln claimed the incident had happened, and found his hat on the ground, a bullet hole through the "stovepipe."

Only a month earlier, Confederate General Jubal Early had brought his small army within about two miles of the residence before being turned back by Union troops at Fort Stevens. On that occasion Secretary of War Edwin Stanton insisted that Lincoln vacate the residence at the Soldiers' Home and return to Washington. Stanton also prompted preparations for Lincoln to leave the city by a warship waiting on the Potomac in the event of an emergency. On July 2, 1863, while the battle of Gettysburg raged less than a hundred miles away, Mary Todd Lincoln suffered a fall from her carriage while traveling near the Soldiers' Home. The accident had been caused when the driver's seat broke or came loose (it was suspected at the time that sabotage was involved), throwing the driver and frightening the horses. Mrs. Lincoln struck the back of her head on a sharp rock and was knocked unconscious. After being treated at a nearby hospital she was returned to the Anderson cottage where she lay incoherent and incapacitated. Robert Lincoln was of the opinion that his mother "never quite recovered from the effects of her fall."

The Anderson Cottage (pictured above) was later occupied by three more presidents. Since then it has been all but ignored by historians, even though it represents a living link to the most important act ever performed by an American statesman. Today it houses administrative offices of the United States Soldiers' and Airmens' home (USSAH). Public Affairs and Marketing Officer Kerri Childress is very excited about the prospect that the Lincoln Forum is considering an involvement in the preservation and restoration of this important historic structure. It would be difficult to imagine a more significant historic preservation project than this one.

Judge Frank J. Williams, Chairman of the Lincoln Forum, appointed a committee to follow through on the action proposed at the Board of Advisors meeting in November. Chairman of the committee is David E. Long, and the members include Edna Greene Medford, Pete Brown, Charles D. Platt, Paul Pascal, Laurie Verge, and Daniel Weinberg. Frank J. Williams, Chairman and Harold Holzer, Vice Chairman of the Lincoln Forum, as well as, Robert Maher, President of the *Civil War Education Association* serve as ex officio members of the committee. For further information about this project contact Professor Long at 919-328-6956 or 919-758-5369; by fax at 919-328-6774.

PAPERS OF THE FIRST LINCOLN FORUM TO BE PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM

Papers from the inaugural Lincoln Forum will be collected for publication in book form. Announcement of the publishing plan was made by Frank J. Williams following the first annual meeting of the Forum's Board of Advisors.

John Y. Simon, executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and editor of the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, will be editor. William Pederson of Louisiana State University/Shreveport and Harold Holzer of The Metropolitan Museum of Art will serve as associate editors.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE SEMINAR/TOUR

The Lincoln Forum will present *Lincoln, Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation*, June 5-8, 1997, based in Leesburg Virginia, to study the Emancipation Proclamation and the circumstances surrounding its issuance. The program will feature talks by Edna Greene Medford, David E. Long, Harold Holzer, and Frank J. Williams, a tour of Antietam with an emphasis on Lincoln's visit there following the battle, led by John M. Priest and David C. Hinze, a tour of the Anderson Cottage in Washington by Kerri Childress, a tour of "Mr. Lincoln's Washington" led by Stephen M. Forman, Joan L. Chaconas and David E. Long, and a tour of sites connected with the Assassination led by

Michael Kauffman. For full details contact the *Civil War Education Association* at 800-298-1861 or fax 540-678-8598.

CALL FOR LINCOLN NEWS

Each subsequent edition of the Lincoln Forum *Bulletin* will present news items from the Lincoln field -- meetings, new publications, collecting news, and more. Readers are invited to submit items for publication to: Harold Holzer, Vice President for Communications, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028-0198. Items may be sent to Mr. Holzer by Fax (212) 472-2764; or via e-mail: 75701.1743@compuserve.com.

FROM THE PEN OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Subject: History

We cannot escape history.

-- *Message to Congress, December 1, 1862*

History is philosophy teaching by example...

-- *Speech to the Springfield Scott Club, August 26, 1862*

What has once happened will invariably happen again, when the same circumstances which combined to produce it, shall combine in the same way.

-- *Speech on the Sub-Treasury, December 26, 1839*

But those histories are gone. They can be read no more forever. They were a fortress of strength; but what invading foemen could never do, the silent artillery of time has done; the leveling of its walls. They are gone.

-- *Lyceum Address, January 27, 1838*

(All entries from *Of the People, By The People, For The People, and Other Quotations from Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Gabor S. Boritt, Columbia University Press, 1996.)