



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

ISSUE 25

www.thelincolnforum.org

Spring 2009

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FORUM TO CELEBRATE LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL WITH LARGEST SYMPOSIUM YET

Concluding its year-long commemoration of the Lincoln bicentennial with another major program for its members, the Lincoln Forum plans to host the most ambitious of all its 14 symposia—at an all-new headquarters hotel at Gettysburg that will accommodate the largest crowd in its history (see separate story).

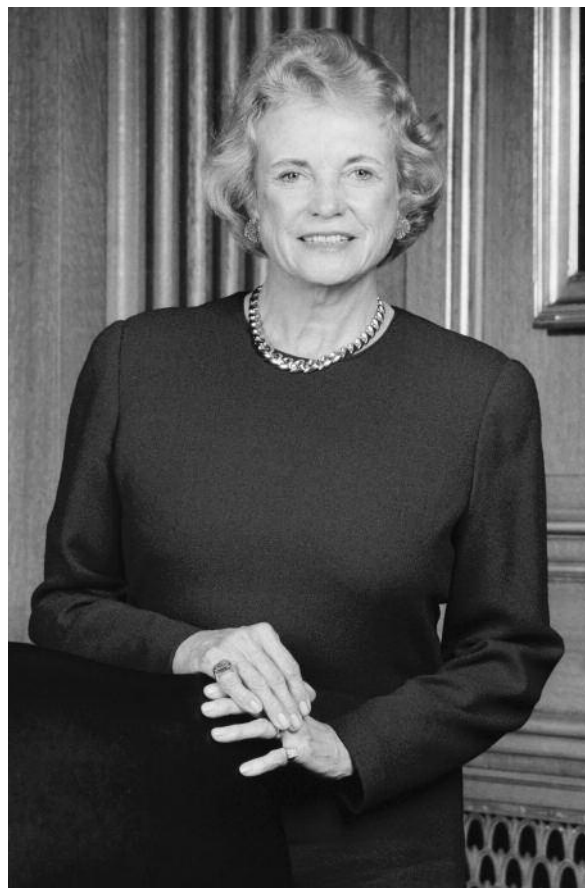
As a special highlight of the three-day event November 16-18, the Forum will welcome as its keynote speaker former U. S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman ever to serve on the nation's highest judicial tribunal. In addition to her many other published writings, Justice O'Connor has penned a number of essays on the nation's 16th President.

Among the other major scholars scheduled to appear at the 14th annual Lincoln Forum symposium are: historians James M. McPherson (*Tried by War*) and Craig L. Symonds (*Lincoln and His Admirals*), co-winners of the 2009 Lincoln Prize (see separate article); Ronald C. White, Jr., author of *A. Lincoln: A Life*, the best-selling Lincoln biography of 2009; award-winning *New Yorker* critic Adam Gopnik, who has just published a major book on the concurrent 200th birthdays of both Lincoln and Charles Darwin (*Angels and Ages*); and such acclaimed scholars as Fred Kaplan (*Abraham Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer*); Catherine Clinton (*Mrs. Lincoln: A Life*); Lewis Lehrman (*Lincoln at Peoria*); Edna Greene Medford (*The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*), and Richard Carwardine (*Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power*).

"We are especially privileged to present Justice O'Connor, an historic figure in her own right, along with a dazzling roster of speakers for this climactic summit of the Lincoln world in this Lincoln year," commented the Lincoln Forum's founding chairman, former Rhode Island Chief Justice Frank J. Williams. "Our members have participated enthusiastically in Lincoln Bicentennial events from sea to shining sea, all year long, and the Forum is delighted to cap this unforgettable roster of thought-provoking convocations with what we trust will be the most memorable and enlightening gathering of all."

In addition to presenting its galaxy of major lecturers, the Forum will stage a panel on the state of Lincoln collecting, featuring Chairman Williams (himself a leading Lincoln collector), along with private collector extraordinaire Louise Taper (recently featured on the PBS mini-series *Looking for Lincoln*), and dealers Daniel Weinberg of Chicago and Norman Boas of Mystic, Connecticut.

Yet another panel session will explore new and evolving views of the Lincoln Family—chaired by Forum Vice Chairman Harold Holzer (co-author of *The Lincoln Family Album*). The panel will feature Mary Lincoln biographer Catherine Clinton, Robert Lincoln biographer Jason Emerson, and the pre-eminent authority on Lincoln's descendants, Charles Lachman (*The Last Lincolns*).



United States Supreme Court Associate Justice (ret.)
Sandra Day O'Connor

continued on page 2

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT 200 - WHY THE LINCOLN FORUM EXISTS



MESSAGE from the CHAIRMAN

The Lincoln Forum is pleased to continue the bicentennial celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birth with presentations at Forum XIV this November 16-18. As our schedule indicates, authors of new books about Abraham and Mary Lincoln will enlighten us with their findings. Publications about Abraham Lincoln and his era continue to be published at the rate of one a week—more than 100 in the last two years.

In 1922, H.L. Mencken was told by a publisher, “there are four kinds of books that never under any circumstances, lose money in the United States—first, detective stories, secondly, novels in which the heroine is forcibly debauched by the hero; thirdly, volumes on spiritualism, occultism, and other such claptrap; and fourthly, books on Lincoln.”

No president has such a hold on our minds as Abraham Lincoln.

One reason is that his personal story—the rise from poverty to power—is quintessentially American, and he as much as anyone embodied the national myth of the self-made man. Another is that the political story—his famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas, his election to the presidency and his leadership during the Civil War—revolves around an issue ever close to the surface of national life:—race.

Add to these the recent election of a president who consciously evokes Lincoln's image and example, and the timing seems auspicious.

On February 12, 2009, with great fanfare—exhibits, educational programs, the release of commemorative coins and stamps—in addition to the books—greeted the bicentennial.

Across the nation—and around the world—people came together on this “day of days” to celebrate the life and legacy of the nation's 16th President. The Lincoln Forum did its part with its endorsements of activities and participation and attendance by many of our members.

In Washington, DC, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission led a series of 200th birthday events. Participants, in addition to President Obama, and the U.S. House and Senate, included the U.S. military, acclaimed poet Nikki Giovanni, Grammy-nominated singer Michael Feinstein, the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the History Channel, military hereditary societies and Civil War re-enactors, and school children from around the nation and from six foreign countries.

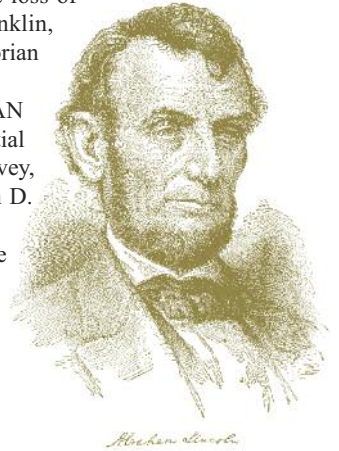
C-SPAN captured the ceremony at The Lincoln Memorial and the stately congressional tribute in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

Yet, the on-going celebration is tempered with sadness over the loss of Advisory Board members, “historian of the century” John Hope Franklin, eminent Lincoln biographer David Herbert Donald, and presidential historian Steven L. Carson.

Lincoln continues to fascinate. On President's Day 2009, C-SPAN released the results of the second historian survey of presidential leadership, for which a cross-selection of 65 presidential historians ranked the 43 former occupants of the White House on ten attributes of leadership. As in C-SPAN's first such survey, released in 2000, Abraham Lincoln received top ranking from the historians followed by George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, and Harry Truman.

According to Lincoln Forum Executive Committee member, Edna Greene Medford, who also serves on the Advisory Board of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and one of the judges in the C-SPAN poll, “Lincoln continues to rank at the top in all categories because he is perceived to embody the nation's avowed core values: integrity, moderation, persistence in the pursuit of honorable goals, respect for human rights, compassion.”

The bicentennial year has ensured that Abraham Lincoln still retains the friendship of millions of people both here at home and abroad. It is the reason The Lincoln Forum was founded and continues to flourish. 📖



Frank J. Williams

Frank J. Williams, Chair

Largest Symposium Yet ▪ continued from page 1

Tour of Wills House Featured

The 2009 meeting of the Lincoln Forum will feature a special, private, behind-the-scenes tour of the recently restored and re-opened Wills House, the Gettysburg residence where Lincoln slept on the night before delivering his famous cemetery address on November 19, 1863. Here, most historians believe, he wrote the final draft of that most famous presidential speech in history.

As always, the Forum will also present its annual Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement for distinguished contributions to the Lincoln field, and will name the winners of its annual \$1,000 Charles D. and Linda Platt Essay college student essay contest. The symposium will also feature book sales and authors' signings; and announcement of the second annual Volk Lincoln Forum Award to a leading institution devoted to Lincoln and the Civil War.

Lincoln Forum XIV will take place for the first time at Gettysburg's commodious Wyndham Hotel, a large, modern facility that will accommodate at least 300 attendees for a conference historically capped at the first 250 enrollees. Those interested are urged to register early at the hotel and Forum, using the website: www.thelincolnforum.org 📖

WE REMEMBER TWO GIANTS OF THE HISTORY PROFESSION

John Hope Franklin (1915-2009)

By Edna Greene Medford



Historian extraordinaire and champion of social justice, John Hope Franklin epitomized the title scholar-activist. Born in Rentiesville, Oklahoma at a time when African Americans had limited opportunities for advancement and little reason to be optimistic about the future, he challenged the obstacles that hindered his personal path to success, eventually earning a Ph.D. from Harvard, and embarked on a career that would be considered stellar by any standard. Along the way, he never lost the sense of obligation to work to ensure equal access by all Americans to the nation's bounty.

Dr. Franklin was notable for the very breadth and distinction of both his scholarship and service to the history profession and for his ability to teach us about ourselves. His career as a historian spanned nearly three quarters of a century and coincided with decades of intense revisionism, especially in the interpretation of slavery, the Civil War, emancipation and Reconstruction. His own work contributed immeasurably to that resulting historiography and broadened our understanding of those critical periods in the nation's history.

Over the years, Dr. Franklin authored more than a dozen monographs, nearly as many edited works, and over sixty articles. His phenomenally popular general history of the African American experience, a work titled *From Slavery to Freedom* (originally published in 1947), educated generations of university students and continues to serve as the standard text in many African American history classrooms.

Although focused primarily on the history of people of African descent, Dr. Franklin was no stranger to Lincoln scholarship. He wrote articles that addressed the evolution of Lincoln's thought in regard to black freedom, the political challenges the president faced as the war progressed and the ways in which Americans have used and misused Lincoln's legacy. In 1963, on the centennial anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, he authored a book-length treatment of the subject, the only one of its kind at that time. The Lincoln Forum acknowledged Dr. Franklin's contribution to Lincoln Studies in 1998 by presenting him the third annual Richard Nelson Current Award.

In many ways, Dr. Franklin's life was dedicated to seeing the Emancipation Proclamation's promise fulfilled. When African Americans pressed for equal rights in the late 1950s and early 1960s, he joined the struggle. When Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund prepared to argue the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, he was one of several scholars whose historical research helped to shape the legal argument. Believing that scholars, especially historians, are uniquely positioned to shape public policy, he accepted President Clinton's invitation to chair the 1997 Initiative on Race. In an essay on the historian's responsibility to the nation, he wrote:

It is the function of the historian to keep before the people...the different lines of action that have been taken, the several reasons for such action, and to point to the conflicts and inconsistencies, the contradictions and illogicalities, and to the defects and deficiencies when they exist...The people shall judge; but they require a sound basis for making judgments. They will have that basis if and when they know what has happened, why it has happened, and, consequently, how the public policies growing out of historical events or shaping those events can serve the common good. If, then, they prefer to ignore their past mistakes and prefer to live in a world of fantasy and make believe, they will deserve to suffer the fate of repeating the grave errors that they could easily have avoided.

It is a message worth remembering from an astute observer of the American experience. ■

David Herbert Donald (1920-2009):

David Herbert Donald died May 17 in his 89th year—just as this issue of the *Bulletin* was about to go to press, making a longer and more personal tribute impossible. The quintessential Southern-born gentleman did nothing less than become the nation's most famous, most quoted, and most honored Lincoln scholar of the last half of the 20th century.

Born in Goodman, Mississippi, he graduated from Millsaps College in nearby Jackson, and then went on to earn his PhD in 1945 under legendary Lincoln historian James G. Randall at the University of Illinois. During a long and wide-ranging academic career, Donald went on to teach at Smith College, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University (where he trained such future giants in the field as Jean H. Baker and Michael Holt), and Harvard University. There, at his final academic posting as the Charles Warren Professor of American History (emeritus after 1991), he nurtured yet another generation of Lincoln scholars, among them Catherine Clinton, Matthew Pinsker, Gerald Prokopowicz, and Michael Vorenberg.

Every generation inspires a definitive one-volume biography of Lincoln—and for the 1990s and since, it was Donald's *Lincoln*, which spent 14 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list and earned the highest honor in the field, The Lincoln Prize. Donald was also a winner of the Lincoln Forum's Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement, which he accepted with typical graciousness—including a tribute to his old friend, Professor Current—at fondly remembered ceremonies at Gettysburg in 2000.

Although at his passing, Professor Donald was at work on a widely anticipated biography of John Quincy Adams, it might be said that his entire career—more than 60 years long—was bracketed by the subject of Abraham Lincoln. His very first book, published in 1948, was *Lincoln's Herndon*, the still-definitive biography of the future president's junior law partner, and a startling re-evaluation of both Lincoln as an attorney and Herndon as a biographer. Donald soon thereafter published another classic, *Lincoln Reconsidered: Essays on the Civil War Era*, another groundbreaking exploration that shattered conventional wisdom about the 16th President. The final books among the 30 he published altogether were, appropriately, *Lincoln at Home: Two Glimpses of Abraham Lincoln's Domestic Life* (1999), and *"We are Lincoln Men:" Abraham Lincoln and His Friends* (2003). Two years later, together with Harold Holzer, Donald edited a final work on his favorite subject, *Lincoln in the Times: The Life of Abraham Lincoln as Originally Reported in the New York Times*.

In between, Donald wrote Pulitzer Prize-winning biographies of Charles Sumner and Thomas Wolfe, along with major works on reconstruction and the Civil War, served as President of the Southern Historical Association, and taught as a visiting professor at Princeton, University College London, and Oxford University. Harvard University mounted a tribute conference in Donald's honor this spring, but he was too ill to attend.

With his usual definitive certainty and narrative verve, Donald summarized his views on Lincoln the leader in his introductory essay for *Lincoln in the Times*. His Lincoln was not alone the great writer and man of conviction, but the hard-working, hard-nosed political genius. Few have ever seen both sides of Lincoln with such clarity. Wrote Donald in 2005: "Astute political management, idealistic public appeals and broad public support were the three essential elements that guaranteed that Lincoln would be the first president to win a second term since Andrew Jackson was re-elected in 1832. Slowly and unobtrusively Lincoln had created a distinctive American pattern of leadership—without once using the word."

Similarly—slowly and unobtrusively, yet with the gentle roar of his distinct genius and the universal acclaim of both scholars and the reading public—this quiet but steely professional looked back at the past and brought it homeward, where it remains alive for the future. ■



A MOST SOLEMN OATH

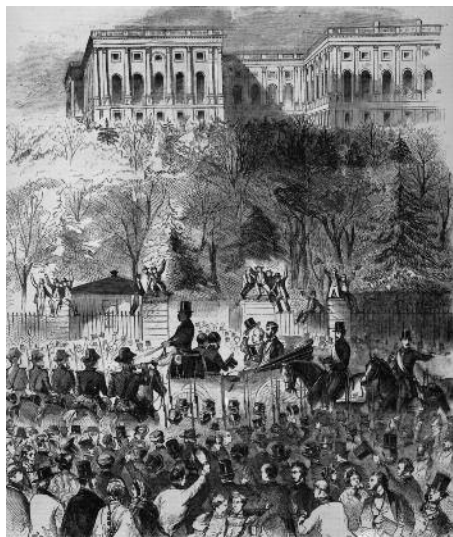
When Barack Obama took the oath of office as President of the United States on January 20, 2009, he placed his left hand on the same diminutive bible on which Abraham Lincoln swore the same presidential oath on March 4, 1861.



President Obama takes his oath on the same bible Lincoln used.

It was the culmination of weeks of conscious and striking efforts on the part of America's newest chief executive to conduct a Lincolnesque inaugural. Then Senator Obama re-created the final leg of Lincoln's train journey to Washington, staged a post-inauguration lunch featuring the same menu as Lincoln's post-ceremony repast 148 years earlier; and in between appeared at a gala concert staged in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

To no one's surprise—in the age of the worldwide web, blogs, email, and 24-hour news coverage, Obama's was the most widely viewed presidential inauguration in American history.



Lincoln and outgoing President Buchanan arrive at the U.S. Capitol—as depicted in *Harper's Weekly*.

another directly in front of the speaker's platform. However, if a close-up shot was ever taken, it has never surfaced. All that has survived are distant shots of the crowd gathered on the Capitol Portico. Lincoln is there—but impossible to identify for certain from such a distance.



The New-York Illustrated News showed Lincoln taking his oath using the bible borrowed from anti-Lincoln Chief Justice Taney's courtroom.

In its day, this was the high-tech equivalent of an instant Flickr photo. But by today's exacting standards, it remains one of photography's greatest disappointments.

The greatest irony of the parallel events, of course, is the historic bible. In truth, it was not Lincoln's own. For reasons that remain unknown, the President-elect did not bring a bible of his own to the ceremony. So a copy was hastily supplied—from the United States Supreme Court, even though the new President had waged a long and often personal campaign against its most controversial recent ruling, the Dred Scott Decision, and its author, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney. It was the very same Taney—ancient, trembling with either infirmity or rage (or both)—who now held the bible before his sworn anti-slavery foe to administer the oath that both must have sensed would now invite the outbreak of civil war. 📖



Alexander Gardner's distant shots represent the best—and only—photographs of the historic inaugural of March 4, 1861.

THE LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL: THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES—WITH ANOTHER PRESIDENT FRONT AND CENTER

President Barack Obama crowned nearly a decade of planning and preparation when he appeared in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol on February 12, 2009 to open the official observation of the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial at a bicameral session of Congress.

Among the other speakers that historic day were historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and Richard Norton Smith; Congressional leaders Harry Reid, Mitch McConnell, John Boehner, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who convened the joint session and served as its official host. Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr., a member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, read the Gettysburg Address, and the Commission's greetings were offered by its co-chairmen, Senator Dick Durbin and Harold Holzer.

Earlier in the day, the Commission co-hosted a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, convened by the Military Order of the Loyal Legions of the United States, where commission member Frank J. Williams joined Washington, D.C. schoolchildren in reciting the Gettysburg Address, and where singer Michael Feinstein performed the National Anthem and other songs.

In the months to come, the Bicentennial Commission will host a series of town hall meetings, prepare its report to Congress, and highlight a number of endorsed activities—including the October 8 opening of the New-York Historical Society exhibition, “Lincoln and New York.” For further information, consult the ALBC website: www.lincoln200.gov.

In his historic address at the U. S. Capitol, President Obama noted that it was fitting and proper that the event take place in a building that is “bound ever so closely to the times of this immortal president,” under a dome whose construction might have been delayed (to save precious iron for munitions) had not Lincoln viewed the project as a symbol that the Union itself would endure.

“The American people needed to be reminded,” said the President, “that even in a time of war, the work would go on; that even when the nation itself was in doubt, its future was being secured; and that on that distant day, when the guns fell silent, a national capitol would stand, with a statue of freedom at its peak, as a symbol of unity in a land still mending its divisions.”

As lawmakers and guests watched, Mr. Obama recalled

Lincoln's words in the closing days of the war, at a Second Inaugural marked for its recommendation of “malice toward none” and “charity for all.”

Lincoln “could have sought revenge,” but insisted that no Confederate troops be punished. “All Lincoln wanted was for Confederate troops to go back home and return to work on their farms and in their shops. That was the only way, Lincoln knew, to repair the rifts that had torn this country apart. It was the only way to begin the healing that our nation so desperately needed.

“We are far less divided than in Lincoln's day,” he concluded to significant applause, but “we are once again debating the critical issues of our time. Let us remember that we are doing so as servants to the same flag, as representatives of the same people, and as

stakeholders in a common future. That is the most fitting tribute we can pay and the most lasting monument we can build to the most remarkable of men, Abraham Lincoln.” 🇺🇸



President Obama addresses the Joint Session of Congress on Lincoln's 200th Birthday.

Following the Capitol ceremonies, which were televised live on the Commission's official broadcast partner station, C-SPAN, the History Channel hosted a live teach-in from the National Archives, featuring historians Holzer, Goodwin, and Matthew Pinsky.

Meanwhile the Library of Congress was opening its extraordinary exhibition, *With Malice Toward None*, featuring some of the most important Lincoln documents and artifacts in its collection.

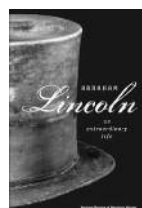
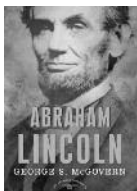
Additional photos at Henry F. Ballone's website:
web.me.com/civilwarnut

Continuing the greatest outpouring of Lincoln literature since the 1909 centennial, both popular and scholarly books, from commercial and



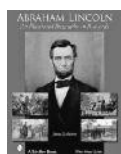
A. Lincoln: A Life by Ronald C. White, Jr. (Random House). This probing, in-depth biography has been hailed by critics and rewarded with a place on the *New York Times* best-seller list. Historian Daniel Walker Howe called this “a beautifully written, deeply personal story of Lincoln’s life and service to his country...particularly strong in its analyses of Lincoln’s rhetoric and the process by which the president reached decisions.” And James McPherson predicted that “amid all the books on Lincoln that will be published during the coming year, this one will stand out as one of the best.”

Abraham Lincoln, by George McGovern (Times Books). One noted American writes about another, in a lucid, arresting portrait of a once-controversial 19th-century leader by a still-controversial leader of the 20th century. McGovern calls Lincoln “an unparalleled national treasure” in this latest entry in the acclaimed “American Presidents” series edited by the late Arthur Schlesinger Jr.



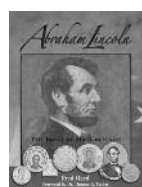
Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life by Harry R. Rubenstein (National Museum of American History) is the concise and handsome official catalogue of the Smithsonian Institution’s bicentennial year exhibition—and features such relics as a suit worn by the 16th President in life, along with the canvas hoods later worn by his assassination conspirators after his death.

Abraham Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography in Postcards by James D. Ristine (Schiffer Books), a well-illustrated account and analysis of more than 250 postcards that depict Lincoln’s life, is a new and definitive resource for collectors.



Abraham Lincoln as a Man of Ideas by Allen C. Guelzo (Southern Illinois University Press) collects for the first time in book form the widely varied and intellectually stimulating essays of the Lincoln Prize winner. Doris Kearns Goodwin says the collection showcases “a unique combination of impeccable scholarship with a wonderfully readable narrative style.”

Abraham Lincoln in the Post-Heroic Era: History and Memory in Late Twentieth-Century America by Barry Schwartz (University of Chicago Press) draws on a wide array of sources to argue that Lincoln’s reputation has suffered a slow but steady decline since the 1920s. Illinois State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz describes this “provocative book” as “an engaging critique of the conventional wisdom.”



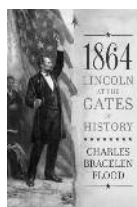
Abraham Lincoln: The Image of His Greatness, by Fred Reed (Whitman Publishing) is a colorful survey of Lincoln iconography from the political graphics of the 1860 election to the newly minted 2009 bicentennial pennies. Historian Thomas R. Turner, who also wrote the foreword, called the book “a unique way to examine the shaping of Lincoln’s image.”

Angels and Ages: A Short Book about Darwin, Lincoln, and Modern Life by Adam Gopnik (Alfred A. Knopf) offers a thought-provoking exploration of two society-altering figures born an ocean apart on the same day: February 12, 2009. Garry Wills believes that the book brought “this odd couple...hauntingly near us.” And writer Louis Menand declared it “a hymn to liberal thinking,” citing “its modesty, its openness, its occasional courage, its honesty....”



Color of Lincoln by Bryan Eaton and Lee Rizio with photographs by Eaton (privately printed), does for 19th-century photographs what Ted Turner-sponsored colorization did for classic movies: adds vivid tinting to the fuzzy black-and-white prints of Lincoln’s own era. What emerges is a startlingly new portrayal of the 16th president, bound to stir emotion and even controversy. Historian James Cornelius called the result “an excellent example of an ‘a-ha!’ moment of invention...why didn’t someone think of this sooner?”

1858: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and the War they Failed to See, by Bruce Chadwick (Sourcebooks, Inc.) explores a defining year in American history and places the future leaders of the Civil War era in the context of antebellum life. Historian Willard Sterne Randall cheered that the author “vividly brings to life a time of turmoil and hope in a book that should endure as a fine example of historical journalism.”



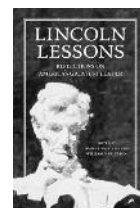
1864: Lincoln at the Gates of History by Charles Bracelen Flood (Simon & Schuster) offers a masterfully balanced and page-turning account of the penultimate year of the Civil War, and the last full calendar year of Lincoln’s presidency. Jon Meacham called it “a terrific book,” and David Herbert Donald praised it as “a moving portrait of the president in his final hours of triumph and tragedy,” a “biography that is also first-rate history.”

In Lincoln’s Hand: His Original Manuscripts, with Commentary by Distinguished Americans, co-edited by Harold Holzer and Joshua Wolf Shenk (Bantam Books), is the official publication of the Library of Congress bicentennial exhibition *With Malice Toward None*. Accompanying high-tech reproductions of Lincoln’s iconic speeches and writings are insightful essays by four American Presidents—Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Carter—and such distinguished authors as John Updike, E. L. Doctorow, Toni Morrison, and Jonathan Alter, plus historians James McPherson, Gabor Boritt, Henry Louis Gates, Frank Williams and many others.



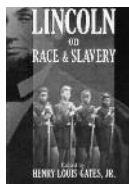
Lincoln: A Very Short Introduction by Allen C. Guelzo (Oxford University Press), presents a brief but penetrating portrait of the cerebral Lincoln, focusing on his ideology, his rise, and his leadership. James M. McPherson touted its “grace and flair,” and Rick Beard, former director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, predicted the volume would “enjoy pride of place as the best short biography of Lincoln available.”

Lincoln Lessons: Reflections on America’s Greatest Leader, edited by Frank J. Williams and William D. Pederson (Southern Illinois University Press). Historians from across the spectrum of the Lincoln field offer a rich variety of recollection on what attracted them to the 16th President. Contributors included Jean Baker, Mario Cuomo, Doris Kearns Goodwin, John Marszalek, James McPherson, Edna Greene Medford, Craig L. Symonds, and Forum leaders Williams and Harold Holzer. Bertram Wyatt-Brown called the result “not only enlightening but a genuine treat to read...filled with intriguing views of Lincoln’s enduring legacy for a troubled, racially divided nation.”



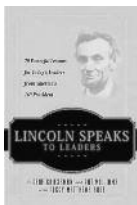
COLN BOOKSHELF

university publishers alike, continue to pour off the nation's presses. Following are synopses of the latest in this breathtaking surge of material.



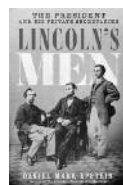
Lincoln on Race and Slavery, edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. (Princeton University Press). There have been many collections of Lincoln's writings, but this is the first to present and assess them through the prism of changing race relations—and Lincoln's own evolving attitudes on race. David Herbert Donald declared this "an important book that belongs in the library of every serious student of the American Civil War."

Lincoln Speaks to Leaders: 20 Powerful Lessons for Today's Leaders from America's 16th President by Gene Greissman and Pat Williams with Peggy Matthews Rose (Elevate) is, in essence, a self-help book for leaders leaning on Lincoln—for inspiration, ideas, and perhaps political cover. Newt Gingrich contends that the authors "captured Lincoln's political principles with such clarity that every American will learn from this book."



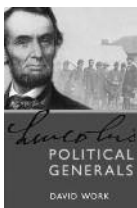
Lincoln the Inventor by Jason Emerson (Southern Illinois University Press) is a small but delectable book about Lincoln's passion for science—as both a lecturer and as the only future president ever to hold a patent. Allen Guelzo predicted that readers would finish this volume "the wiser for understanding how the mind that devised a patent for floating grounded riverboats could also be the same mind that turned out the perfectly balanced phrases of the Gettysburg Address...."

Lincoln's Labels: America's Best Known Brands and the Civil War by James M. Schmidt (Edinburgh Press) tells the story of American businessmen and business ventures who achieved renown supplying Lincoln's army in wartime. Thomas R. Lowry called it a "well-written, highly original, and well-researched study" that "fills a void in Civil War knowledge."



Lincoln's Men: The President and His Private Secretaries by Daniel Mark Epstein (Smithsonian Books/HarperCollins) takes a fresh look at Lincoln's crucial relationships with his clerks and future biographers John Nicolay and John Hay (and his so-called "third secretary," William O. Stoddard). Poet and historian Epstein won wide praise for his 2004 book, *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage*.

Lincoln's Political Generals by David Work (University of Illinois Press) argues against the long-held belief that the Civil War's so-called political generals were military flops. James McPherson was convinced that the new study "demonstrates convincingly that these generals' efforts significantly aided the Union," and Brian Dirck called it "a very valuable contribution to our knowledge of both Lincoln and the Civil War."



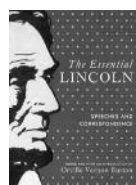
Mr. Lincoln's Book: Publishing the Lincoln-Douglas Debates by David H. Leroy (Abraham Lincoln Book Shop), offers a much-needed, long-overdue account of the only book Abraham Lincoln ever "wrote:" the published version of his 1858 debates with Stephen A. Douglas. This well-researched, well-told story includes a full census of the known signed copies of the debates, which Lincoln personally gave to many callers as late as the Great Secession Winter of 1861.

My Childhood's Home: Growing up with Young Abe Lincoln by Richard Kigel (SynergEbooks) offers a veteran teacher's view of the young Lincoln as the inspiring product of the American frontier who, as a young man, as William H. Herndon attested, was "just as he lived, breathed, ate and laughed in this world."



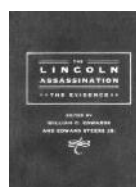
Six Months at the White House: The Story of a Picture by Francis Bicknell Carpenter, edited by Harold Holzer (White House Historical Association). Carpenter's best-selling 1866 original—one of the great original resources in Lincoln literature—appeared in several editions, but this newly edited volume, together with a new introduction by Holzer, is the first to present the story with illustrations of Carpenter's life portraits of Lincoln and his family, the mission that brought him there in the first place.

The Baltimore Plot: The First Conspiracy to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln by Michael J. Kline (Westholme) is an exhaustive account of the plot that might well have ended Lincoln's presidency before it began. Long-simmering controversies—was the plot real or imagined? Was the President-elect wise or cowardly to bypass Baltimore en route to his inaugural?—are addressed in "a thrilling detective story of conspiracy, treachery and assassination," James L. Swanson says, which takes readers on "a perilous and unforgettable journey."



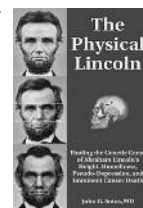
The Essential Lincoln: Speeches and Correspondence, edited with a new introduction by Orville Vernon Burton (Hill and Wang). Every generation brings at least one—usually two or three—new collections of Lincoln's writings. Burton's is the latest—and the author of *The Age of Lincoln* features the expected favorites, well-chosen and expertly introduced.

The Lincoln Anthology: Great Writers on his Life and Legacy from 1860 to Now, edited by Harold Holzer (Library of America). A compendium of Lincoln in American memory, as seen through the observations of distinguished men and women, black and white, over 150 years—from William Cullen Bryant, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Walt Whitman to Allen Ginsberg, Gore Vidal, and Barack Obama. Calling the result "a great chorus of poets and playwrights, novelists and essayists," Daniel Mark Epstein praised it as "a thrilling book," presenting "the living portrait of Lincoln that has eluded photographers and painters for 200 years." Also available in a boxed set with Don E. Fehrenbacher's classic *Writings of Lincoln*.



The Lincoln Assassination: The Evidence, edited by William C. Edwards and Edward Steers Jr. (University of Illinois Press). In 1,400 pages, the editors collect between two covers all the long-scattered original records that have informed, challenged, mystified, and divided assassination experts for generations. Never again will the sources be difficult to access—making this a milestone contribution.

The Physical Lincoln: Finding the Genetic Cause of Abraham Lincoln's Height, Homeliness, Pseudo-Depression, and Imminent Cancer Death by John G. Sotos, MD. (Mt. Vernon Books). One of the most unusual and most discussed Lincoln books of the year, this medical treatise asserts that Lincoln suffered from the rare genetic disorder MEN2b—which meant he was doomed, assassination plot notwithstanding, to soon die of disease.



'They Have Killed Papa Dead!' The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance, by Anthony S. Pitch. Kukul Reviews called this account of the assassination and its aftermath "a study of burning focus and intimate depth." Citing its blend of "impeccable research" and "magical" style, Christopher Buckley hailed it as "a happy and welcome addition" to the Lincoln bookshelf.

Use the Amazon and The Lincoln Bookstore links to buy your books

LINCOLN FORUM MEMORIES:



Presenting the 2008 Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement:
Harold Holzer, Ken Burns, & Frank Williams



Allen Guelzo



Jim Getty performs the Gettysburg Address



John & Jeanne Marszalek



Arriving from White House:
Harold Holzer with his newly received National Humanities Medal



Tina Grim & Frank Williams



Everett & Antigoni Ladd, Philip & Clinton Kunhardt



Pat & Bob Dougal



Virginia Williams & Dave Walker



Valorie Hallenbeck, Cheri Reid, & Tom Craughwell



Frank Williams and the late Steve Carson



Jean Baker



Jean Edward Smith



Mark & Diane Zimmerman present annual Volk Award to Paul Tetrault of Ford's Theatre



Betty & Al Anselmo



Budge Weidman, Jo Dzombak, & Linda Wheeler

PHOTOS BY: HENRY F. BALLONE, TIM BRANSCUM, JOE CARD & DAVE WALKER

THE 13TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Joseph Fornieri



Jake Boritt & Eileen Mackevich



Marty Waligorski, Budge Weidman,
Jane Waligorski & Russ Weidman



Frank Williams



Bob O'Connor gets an autograph
from author Edna Greene Medford



Don & Jan Piper & Linda Platt



Harold Holzer



MaryLou & Craig Symonds



Brian Lamb



Richard Wengenroth shows
one of his Lincoln prints to
Henry F. Ballone



Pledge of Allegiance led by
Frank Williams & Sgt. Joseph Lim



The annual panel: Gerald Prokopowicz,
Ed Steers, Jim Percoco, & Harold Holzer



Don McCue announces
Platt Family Essay
Contest Winner



George Buss & Dick Kelly



Edith Holzer, Gabor & Liz Boritt



Wendy Allen & Elaine Henderson

WELCOME TO THE WYNDHAM: OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS HOTEL AT GETTYSBURG

This past November, the Lincoln Forum executive committee and board of advisors voted to move the Forum's hotel headquarters from our longtime home at the Holiday Inn to the modern and commodious Wyndham, just five minutes from downtown Gettysburg. We are very pleased to have entered into a new three-year contract with this wonderful new facility.



The Wyndham is conveniently located at the intersection of US 15 and US 30 in the "Gateway Gettysburg" complex, providing easy access from the highway. It boasts 248 spacious rooms and 11 deluxe suites for guests. All rooms feature a 27 inch, flat-screen television with cable and internet access, an in-room safe, coffee maker, and a large work desk. Handicap accessible rooms and a heated indoor pool are also available.

Our move to a new, larger hotel will alleviate a long waiting list of disappointed members who cannot attend, and frustrated attendees who have to register at other hotels. Finally, we can accommodate all symposium participants under one roof.



The hotel boasts three on-site, first-class restaurants. Guests may dine at the Old Eagle Grill, the 1863 Restaurant or enjoy Italian cuisine at Garibaldi's Ristorante. Breakfast will be available at the 1863 Restaurant.



One of the hotel's added features is its several large, open social spaces. The enormous lobby has several sitting areas that include fireplaces, couches, and comfortable wing-back chairs in addition to several smaller areas and a piano. The lobby also includes a lovely lounge that is open until late in the evening for after-session socializing and snacks.

The Gateway Theatres 8 located on the grounds of the Gateway Complex is the exclusive home of *Fields of Freedom*, an epic Hollywood film about the Battle of Gettysburg. Eight theatres feature wall-to-wall, high definition digital projection and state of the art sound systems. Hollywood's latest releases can be viewed in the evenings.



The meeting and banquet rooms are large and equipped with superb audio/visual capabilities and contain over 65,000 square feet of meeting space. Attendees will dine in comfort while enjoying fine banquet food and will now have the ability to move easily around the room and socialize more comfortably.

There is ample room for our booksellers and displayers. It will be much easier to browse the displays and get books signed by our authors at our annual author book signing. Guests will also enjoy a full-service business center with access to computers, printers and copiers.

We trust you will enjoy our move to the Wyndham and look forward to welcoming all of you—more registrants than we've ever been able to accommodate before—to our new Lincoln Forum headquarters in November. Please register early.

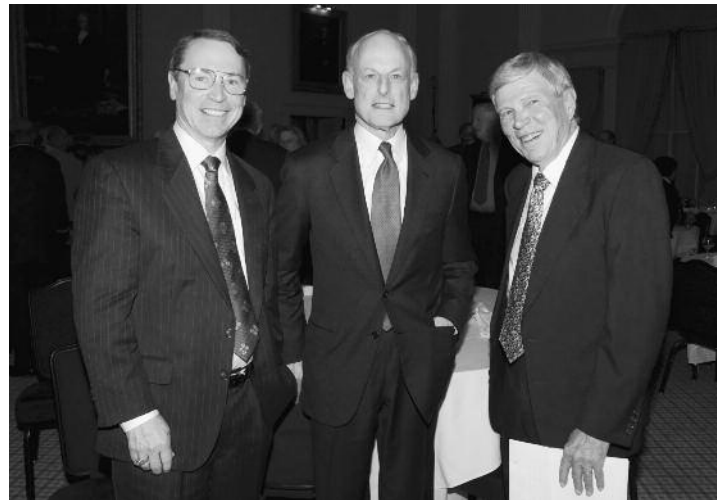
LINCOLN FORUM VETERANS SHARE 2009 LINCOLN PRIZE

Two of the nation's most prominent Civil War military historians—James M. McPherson and Craig L. Symonds—shared the 2009 Lincoln Prize for the best books of the year for their acclaimed volumes on Lincoln as commander in chief of both the war on land and the war at sea. The prestigious awards, each with a \$25,000 cash prize and a replica of the life-sized bust by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, were presented at the Union League Club of New York on April 7.

Dr. Symonds, who won for his acclaimed *Lincoln and His Admirals* (Oxford University Press), is a member of The Lincoln Forum executive committee, and a frequent speaker at Forum symposia. Symonds is a professor of history emeritus at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Dr. McPherson, cited for *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief*, has served since the founding of The Lincoln Forum as a member of the board of advisors. He is professor of history emeritus at Princeton University.

The Lincoln Forum family joins in congratulating these distinguished scholars and longtime friends.



James M. McPherson and Craig L. Symonds flank philanthropist Lewis Lehrman, co-founder of the Lincoln Prize at the 2009 ceremonies. (Photo: Henry F. Ballone)

LINCOLN ON BOOKS

"A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems."—Abraham Lincoln, speech before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, Milwaukee, September 30, 1859.

(Photo: Henry F. Ballone Collection)



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LINCOLN'S RENOWNED REBEL EXTERMINATOR

By James M. Schmidt

The use of patent, proprietary, or “quack” medicines and nostrums began in colonial America, continued through the early 1800s, accelerated during the Civil War, and declined after the 1930s. As the leading figure of the mid-nineteenth century, it is no surprise that Abraham Lincoln had his own association with patent medicines, from his days in Springfield, to his inauguration and presidency, and even many years after his assassination.

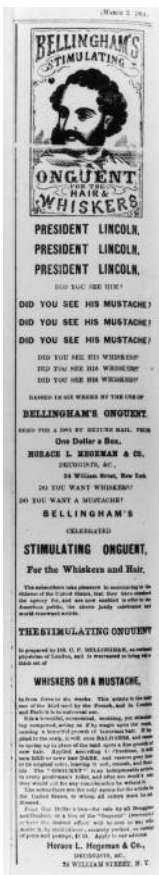
When medical historian Dr. James Harvey Young acquired the papers of the Birchall & Owen drugstore in Springfield, he found Lincoln listed among their many customers, although he seems to have bought more ledgers for his law practice than many drugs. James Hickey—longtime curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Illinois Historical Society—published a detailed account of the Lincoln family’s ledger at Springfield’s Corneau & Diller Drug Store. He found that they purchased a wide variety of patent medicines, including Wright’s Indian Vegetable Pills, Wistar’s Balsam of Wild Cherry, cordials, sarsaparilla, hair restoratives, and “Brown Mixture” —Corneau & Diller’s own concoction for colds and coughs.

Once Lincoln was elected, one patent medicine maker jumped at the chance to take advantage of the President-elect’s popularity. In early 1861, the proprietors of “Bellingham’s Stimulating Ointment for the Hair and Whiskers” published advertisements in the New York Times, New York Herald, and Vanity Fair, implying that Lincoln’s beard could be attributed to their nostrum. One of the advertisements stated (using the timeless marketing gimmick of repetition):

PRESIDENT LINCOLN (three times)
 DID YOU SEE HIM? (four times)
 DID YOU SEE HIS WHISKERS? (three times)
 RAISED IN SIX WEEKS BY THE USE OF
 BELLINGHAM'S ONGUENT (six times)

There is no evidence that Lincoln ever used Bellingham’s whisker potion, but, as Dr. Young wrote in his history of patent medicines, *The Toadstool Millionaires*, “It was nothing new, of course, for an American nostrum maker to stretch the truth, nor was there any novelty in an advertisement that linked a patent medicine with the news of the hour.”

Likewise, a manufacturer of Civil War “patriotic covers”—envelopes featuring various sentiments of patriotism or caricatures of the enemy—took advantage of the combined popularity of patent medicines and Lincoln by featuring him as a chemist/chemist in a laboratory dressed in a red-white-and-blue laboratory frock. The artist made clever use of the patent medicine craze with names such as “Preserved Grape in Canisters,” “National Elixir of Liberty,” and “Lincoln’s Renowned Rebel Exterminator” (“Warranted Not to Spoil in Southern Climates”).



Once Lincoln took office, he was bombarded with correspondence of all types: people seeking favors and positions in office; advice on strategy for the war; ideas for war-winning inventions; and, not surprisingly, gifts, including patent medicines or formulas for certain cures. For example, in June 1861, Peter Miller of Chautauqua Co., New York, wrote President Lincoln:

“Having been engaged the last three years in the sale of medicines from Pierpont & Co...and having witnessed the instant relief, and permanent cure of many of the various ailments for which Dr. E. Cooper's Universal Magnetic Balm is recommended...I have thought it might be well to send ‘Our President’ a small supply...Please accept the same and do not fear to trust it as you would a true friend -- administer to your own family and friends, (especially to Gen. Scott) note its effects and write to me giving the result.”

As if Lincoln didn’t suffer enough second-guessing of his handling of military affairs, he was also bothered by correspondence from his Cabinet regarding the use of quack medicines in the Army hospitals. In September 1862, Salmon Chase—Secretary of the Treasury—wrote Lincoln in distress upon “hearing that a poor fellow from Ohio [Chase’s home state] was suffering severely from a wound in the hand...” and asked Lincoln to press the Surgeon General to give his consent to allow a “Dr. Forsha” to “try his Balm on the wound.” Chase added, “I really think it a duty to our wounded & suffering soldiers that...trial be made of a remedy which seems likely to do so much good.” Lincoln acquiesced by endorsing the note, “Will the Surgeon General please allow Dr. Forsha to try the case named within?”

Three months later, perhaps impatient with the lack of cooperation from Hammond, Dr. Forsha wrote directly to Lincoln, declaring, “If the President will give me the charge of a hospital...to use my owne Medisen in and up on the wounded Soldiers for three months I will insure ninety percent of all the flesh wounds to be well and the Soldiers to be in a healthy condition and fit for duty within thirty days from the time I take them.”

Attorney General Edward Bates intercepted the note and forwarded it to Lincoln with his own message, acknowledging, “It is evident that Dr Forsha is not much of a Scholar. But he certainly has great curative powers; and really works wonders in relieving pain and healing wounds. I do really wish that some of our poor, suffering soldiers could have the benefit of his successful practice.”

Finally, in February 1863, Surgeon General William Hammond wrote President Lincoln, “I have met with Dr. Forsha before, and am satisfied that he is an ignorant quack. The fact that he keeps his preparation a secret is sufficient proof...of his charlatanism.” Hammond thanked Lincoln “for referring the matter to me, and thus saving the Medical Corps the disgrace, and the sick the injury which would result from placing this man in charge of a Hospital.”

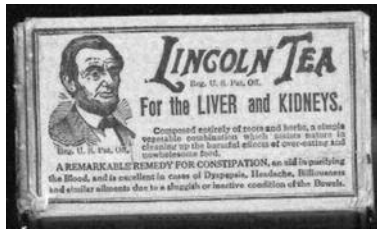
As additional evidence, Hammond included a letter from Dr. Meredith Clymer, who declared that the previous summer he saw, “several officers...who had been severely wounded...& whose wounds had been dressed...by a Dr Forsha. A very irritating & pungent preparation had been poured into the wound...In every case it had done harm.”

Just as the owners of “Bellingham’s Ointment” took advantage of Lincoln’s popularity before he took office, another company took advantage of Lincoln’s enduring popularity many years later. In the late 1890’s, the Fort Wayne Drug Company introduced “Lincoln Tea for the Liver and Kidneys,” which the firm billed as a “Remarkable remedy for constipation, an aid in purifying the blood, and is excellent in cases of dyspepsia, headache, biliousness, and similar ailments due to a sluggish or inactive condition of the bowels.”

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Lincoln's Renowned Rebel Exterminator
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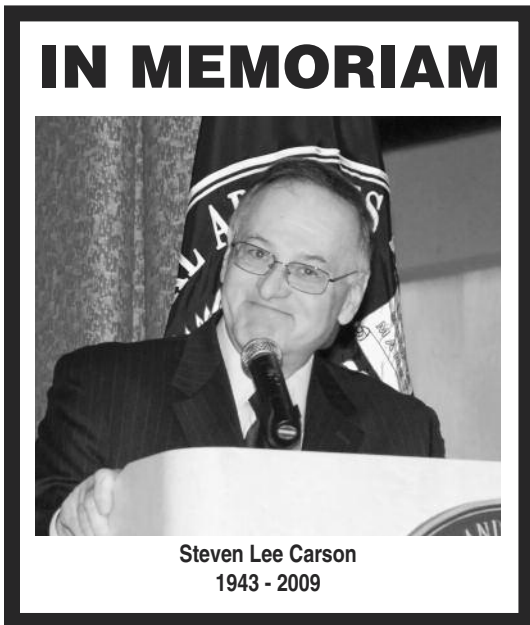
Of the portrait of the martyred president featured on the front of each box, one writer—in a 1901 issue of the Medical Sentinel—



found the engraving “grand, gloomy and peculiar,” adding, “Beneath it was the statement that Lincoln Tea moves the bowels. It seemed that the great countenance took on a pitiful expression to think that it was used as an appeal to the constipated world.”

While the “Great Emancipator” might have resigned himself to being the “Great Un-Constipator,” he may have been more insulted when the same company introduced “Lincoln Sexual Pills”! One advertisement from the early 1900’s stated that “Thousands of young and middle-aged men growing prematurely old because of the practice of vices or excesses have been restored to perfect strength and glorious manhood...and if you use LINCOLN SEXUAL PILLS you will surprise yourself and your friends by becoming a strong, manly man.!” Another ad declared that the pills “...give the proper functional actions to all the vital organs. Be the kind of man you ought to be—yes, be a man!”

Portions of this article originally appeared in The Civil War News (April 2009). James Schmidt, a biotech R&D scientist near Houston, TX, is the author of more than fifty articles on American history as well as the recent book, *Lincoln's Labels: America's Best Known Brands and the Civil War* (Edinburgh Press, 2008). 📖



Happy 200th Birthday President Lincoln

Darla and David Moe, two long-time and devoted members of the Lincoln Forum, generously donated a birthday cake for our members to enjoy at our November symposium.



Darla and David Moe and Frank Williams

The cake, designed personally by Darla Moe, was a 3D replica of President Lincoln’s Summer Home featuring gumpaste figures of Lincoln, his family, the family dog, and newly elected President Barack Obama. The display included a banner with both a current flag and one with 33 stars and 13 stripes. On the lawn, in front of the house, a gumpaste table was created with a top hat birthday cake inscribed with “Happy 200th Birthday President Lincoln”.

The Moe's commissioned the nationally acclaimed Chef Duff Goldman and his team of extraordinary bakers and decorators at Charm City Cakes in Baltimore, Maryland to bake and decorate this cake. Chef Goldman and his creations are featured on the Food Network program, “Ace of Cakes”. The flavor of the cake, was of course, Lincoln’s favorite – vanilla almond.

LINCOLN FORUM XIV
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