



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

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15th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM TO LAUNCH FORUM'S FIVE-YEAR FOCUS ON CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL "Enter Lincoln, Exit the South" November 16-18 at Gettysburg



Abraham Lincoln, Republican Candidate for President, a campaign lithograph from 1860 (Library of Congress)

Launching a planned five-year-long focus on the American Civil War—timed to coincide with its 150th anniversary—the Lincoln Forum will devote its 15th annual symposium to: “The Coming of the Civil War: Enter Lincoln, Exit South.” The event will take place November 16-18 at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg.

Chairman Frank J. Williams announced a roster of major historians for the event, noting that in its new headquarters, now for the second year, the Forum could accommodate up to 350 registrants. “As we launch our long-planned commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial,” Williams said, “the Forum is prepared to expand its reach to a broader audience than ever—while keeping its ‘family’ tradition intact—as we respond to the huge interest that has built during the Lincoln bicentennial, and continues unabated as we begin marking the conflict that he so ably managed and still symbolizes.”

This year, historian Mark E. Neely will present the keynote address—marking his long-awaited return to the Forum after nearly a decade. In evaluations over the years, Forum attendees have consistently rated Professor Neely their top choice as a future speaker. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author (for *The Fate of Liberty*) is also co-author of *The Lincoln Image*, *The Confederate Image*, *The Lincoln Family Album*, and *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: The Civil War in Art*. His other books include *The Last Best Hope of Earth*, *The Union Divided*, *The Insanity File*, and an eagerly awaited new volume on Civil War nationalism.



Mark E. Neely, Jr. (Photo: Henry F. Ballone)

Other speakers this year—all focusing on the election of Lincoln 150 years ago, and the secession crisis and outbreak of hostilities that followed—will include both returning popular favorites and new guests making their Forum debuts: Professor Edna Greene Medford of Howard University (“Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Road to Freedom”); Gary Ecelbarger (“Lincoln’s Great Comeback”); Craig L. Symonds (“The Sumter Crisis: Learning on the Job”); John Marszalek (“The Old Army on the Eve of War”); and William W. Freehling (“Lincoln’s Forgotten Republicans”).

Forum chairman Frank Williams will speak on “Lincoln’s Education,” and vice chairman Harold Holzer, who served nine years as co-chairman of the U. S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will address the topic: “The New York Times and the Silent President-elect.” (Holzer and Symonds are co-editors of a new book featuring the *New York Times’* complete coverage of the Civil War.)

The 2010 symposium will also feature the debut of Professor Peter Carmichael (“Southern Perceptions of Lincoln in the Wake of the 1860 Election”). Carmichael has just been named to succeed longtime Forum friend and honoree Gabor Boritt as the new Director of Gettysburg College’s Civil War Institute. CWI Administrator Tina Grim will again offer the traditional welcome to the city. And this year’s session moderators will be Harvard University’s Thomas Horrocks and Lincoln College’s Ron Keller.

continued on page 5

FROM BICENTENNIAL TO SESQUICENTENNIAL LINCOLN REMAINS CENTER STAGE DURING CIVIL WAR



MESSAGE from the CHAIRMAN

Its northern and southern wings nominated rival candidates, allowing Lincoln, who won less than 40% of the popular vote in a four-way race, to capture a majority of the electoral votes for the presidency. The South would not accept the Lincoln victory. And, as Lincoln would later put it, “the war came.” Only then did the nation-at-large witness, and benefit from, the wisdom and magnanimity of the man. Lincoln and his country, as the Forum will fully explore over the next five years, truly passed through—and emerged from—a “fiery trial.”

Frank J. Williams, Chair

Our program this Forum XV demonstrates the evolution of our mission as we move from commemorating the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

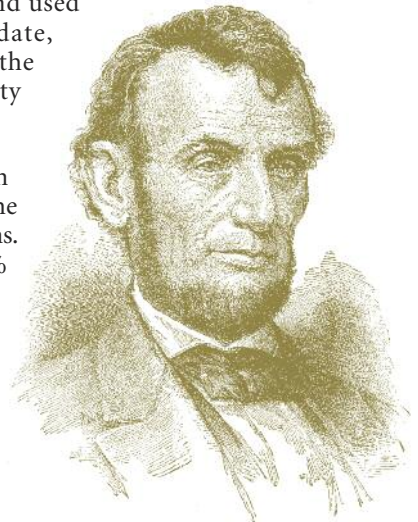
Before that nation-changing war began, Lincoln came of age in a period of almost continuous, rough-and-tumble electioneering, an era when, as historian Richard Carwardine has pointed out, “Men turned out to vote in proportions rarely matched by Americans before or since.” Early on, Lincoln proved himself a political master of this roiling milieu.

By all accounts, Lincoln should have been washed up after his one term in Congress. But the tough-minded Springfield lawyer had a way of defying the political laws of gravity. Lincoln wrote in 1859, “I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again.”

Like most of our greatest leaders – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, both Roosevelts – Lincoln both consciously sought after power and possessed a rare sense of timing. In an era of extremes, he was able to position himself as an unyielding moderate, outmaneuvering many men who thought themselves more clever simply by standing on principle. And that is why a review of Lincoln’s life in the 1850’s is so important for understanding his goal of preserving the Union and how the war became inextricably interwoven with the end of slavery.

Lincoln’s story, as will be told at this year’s symposium, is the best example on how power can and should be won and used in a free society. Lincoln the presidential candidate, president-elect, and president expertly employed both the machinery of his new Republican Party and the authority of his office.

The Republican nominee possessed real advantages in the 1860 general election. Like the now-dissolved Whigs, the Democratic Party was crippled by its own sectional divisions.



Abraham Lincoln

LINCOLN FORUM COOKBOOK

Virginia Williams and Betty Anselmo are editing a Forum cookbook containing members’ favorite recipes. A request for recipes was sent with membership renewal forms. Please send your favorite piece de resistance to Virginia Williams, 300 Switch Road, Hope Valley, RI, 02832 with complete instructions and ingredients as well as your contact information. There is no limit to the number that may be submitted.

RONALD WHITE EARNS HIGHEST RANKING FROM LINCOLN FORUM XIV ATTENDEES; Cheers for New HQ at Wyndham Hotel



Historian Ronald C. White, Jr.—who spoke last November on his award-winning 2009 biography, *A. Lincoln*—won the highest audience rankings among attendees of Lincoln Forum XIV, surveys show, earning a 9.7 rating out of a possible 10. Historian James M. McPherson won an extremely strong 9.6 rating from audiences who filled out annual evaluation sheets. In an unusual year in which nearly all speakers were awarded ratings around or above 9.0, participants Lewis Lehrman, Richard Carwardine, and Fred Kaplan all received extremely strong praise as well.



Ronald C. White

Actor Richard Dreyfuss, whose unscheduled recitation of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address was added to the program too late to be listed on evaluation forms, won special praise for a "great performance," in the words of one evaluator. Others ranked the surprise reading as "riveting" and "unforgettable."

The annual Lincoln Forum panels—last year focusing on the Lincoln family, and on collectors and collecting—earned rankings of 9.20 and 7.5 respectively. Participants were pleased as well with the final-day bus tour to the Wills House in downtown Gettysburg, and the shuttle bus service that brought registrants to and from the visit.

The most frequently voiced request among Forum XIV attendees was for small, informal



James M. McPherson

breakout sessions which would feature more interaction and questions. In immediate response to this request, organizers have scheduled such sessions for the first time at Forum XV this coming November.

Forum officers were especially interested in participant reaction to the 2009 move to the Wyndham Hotel. General response proved extremely positive, with the headquarters earning a 9.0 ranking—and concerns voiced only about mealtime noise, outdoor signage on Route 30, and the unavoidable increased distances between elevators and conference rooms. "Spacious," "beautifully decorated," "excellent staff," "major upgrade," and "big improvement," were typical of the recorded comments. Those who regretted the switch out of nostalgia for the organization's longtime downtown hotel headquarters conceded that the organization has grown so large it definitely required the change.



Lewis Lehrman

Among the comments added to this year's evaluations: "Thanks so much! We appreciate all of the fine people who as a team make this such an enjoyable and magnificent event." "The people who lead the Forum are both inspiring and exciting. Although the meeting is both focused and diverse, the lack of time where one can share ideas is a problem. More direct participation is important." And "Betty [Anselmo] and the committee have given us a wondrous meeting in the new location. No small task. I miss the smaller meetings, but if grow we must, it was great."

Said others: "This was a great experience having exposure to Lincoln scholars and collectors." "My background has been in education and I have attended many national conferences. The Lincoln Forum is the best I have attended." "It is a joy to attend." "First meeting—great lineup, great speeches. Meeting well-organized and everyone extremely friendly." "This is my 4th Lincoln Forum and each one is better than the prior one. I appreciate the work of the officers, staff, and volunteers who have created a wonderful experience for the members." "This was my first Forum and it was wonderful—great speakers."



Fred Kaplan

And more: "The Forum is my intellectual 'fix' each year." "The Lincoln Forum was very well-paced. The speakers were terrific." "The symposium has been one of the finest of my lifetime. I can't wait until November 2010 to attend the next one. Thank you!" And, "another great Lincoln Forum—enjoyed every minute of it. You all did keep the 'Forum family feeling' as well as humorous atmosphere. The speakers/panels were top-notch in preparation, delivery, and knowledge."

Perfectly expressing the feeling among Forum organizers already hard at work on Forum XV, one participant summed up his feelings beautifully: "What a joy to know that we will have an informative and wonderful 3 days in Gettysburg each year. Thank you for all the effort people put in to make this a very special forum."

The leadership of the Lincoln Forum thanks *you*—its loyal members and attendees—in short, its Lincoln family—for your loyalty, interest, and wise advise. On to Forum XV. 🙏



Richard Carwardine



Richard Dreyfuss

BEYOND THE LINCOLN MUSEUM: NEW LIFE FOR AN INCOMPARABLE COLLECTION

By Jane Gastineau

When Lincoln Financial Group announced in March 2008 that The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, would close on June 30, there was widespread surprise, concern, and outright dismay among Lincoln scholars and enthusiasts. What would happen to the museum's collection of Lincoln art and artifacts—the paintings, prints, and sculpture, Lincoln's legal wallet and pen



Fine Books Anteroom: This space provides work space for researchers using the Lincoln collection. Laptop computers are welcome, and free wifi is available throughout the building.

knife, Mary Lincoln's cordial set, the Lincoln boys' toys and books, objects related to Lincoln's presidency and assassination, and signed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment? And what would become of the extensive research collection—tens of thousands of 19th- and 20th-century books and pamphlets and thousands of 19th-century photographs, the Lincoln autograph documents and other manuscripts from the Lincoln era, and the vertical files of clippings and correspondence amassed over 80 years?

Those questions have been answered. The Lincoln collection that had been built in Indiana under the guidance of Lincoln scholars Louis A. Warren, R. Gerald McMurtry, and Mark E. Neely, Jr., and museum director Joan Flinspach stayed in Indiana. The collection is now owned by the State of Indiana and is housed in two places. The 3-D objects, the art and sculpture, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Thirteenth Amendment are at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, which has outstanding, modern facilities best suited to preserving and exhibiting those items to a large and diverse audience. The research collection of books, pamphlets, photographs, maps, newspapers, manuscript collections, documents, and vertical files are housed at the Allen County Public Library, which provides state-of-the-art storage, accessible research facilities, and knowledgeable staff.


At both locations, the Lincoln Financial Collection is being made accessible to the public and to researchers. At the State Museum, the exhibit "And Charity for All," debuting items from the Lincoln collection in its new venue, opened February 12 as a companion to the Library of Congress traveling exhibit, "With Malice Toward None." For more information, visit the Indiana State Museum website at <http://www.indianamuseum.org>.

At the Allen County Public Library, two Lincoln librarians welcome Lincoln scholars and enthusiasts doing research in the collection and provide reference services via telephone, email, and surface mail. The Allen County Public Library's Lincoln Library is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. For more information, contact Jane Gastineau (jgastineau@acpl.info) or Cindy VanHorn (cvanhorn@acpl.info).

And from the Allen County Public Library, the Lincoln collection is going digital. When the library took responsibility for housing, preserving, and making accessible the Lincoln research collection, the library pledged to "digitize everything." Since "everything" includes more than 20,000 books and pamphlets, several thousand photographs, more than 10,000 pages of 19th-century newspapers, and extensive manuscript collections and vertical files, that digitization project is substantial. And it is well underway. Selected photographs from the collection can be viewed on the Allen County Public Library website. Most of the currently available images are from the Lincoln Family Album Collection and are photographs owned by four generations of the Abraham Lincoln family. More photographs are being added regularly. In addition, hundreds of books and pamphlets are accessible online, with more being digitized every day at the Internet Archive facility located on the library's lower level. The books currently online include editions of books known to have been read by Lincoln, political campaign materials published during the 1860 and 1864 presidential campaigns, and selected Lincolniana from the collection. Current digitization is funded by an LSTA grant, a grant from the Indiana State Library, and the Friends of the Lincoln Collection in Indiana. To access the growing online Lincoln collection, go to <http://gotobig.com/acpl/lincolncollection/>.



The Lincolniana and Association collections of books and pamphlets are stored in the Allen County Public Library's Fine Book Room, a secure, environmentally controlled area.

As the national celebration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial draws to a close, the Lincoln collection begun by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in 1928 and carefully expanded and preserved by the Fort Wayne Lincoln Museum is undergoing a transformation to ensure that this incomparable collection remains protected, vital, and accessible for generations to come. 

Latest Lincoln Forum Book Published: Order Now

“Here is an informative and provocative collection of essays about Lincoln’s assassination and the place it occupies in American history and culture. The authors are not only in full command of their special approaches to the subject, but they fully command our interest and respect, as well. This is a must.”

WILLIAM HANCHETT, author of *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies* and the documentary *Black Easter*

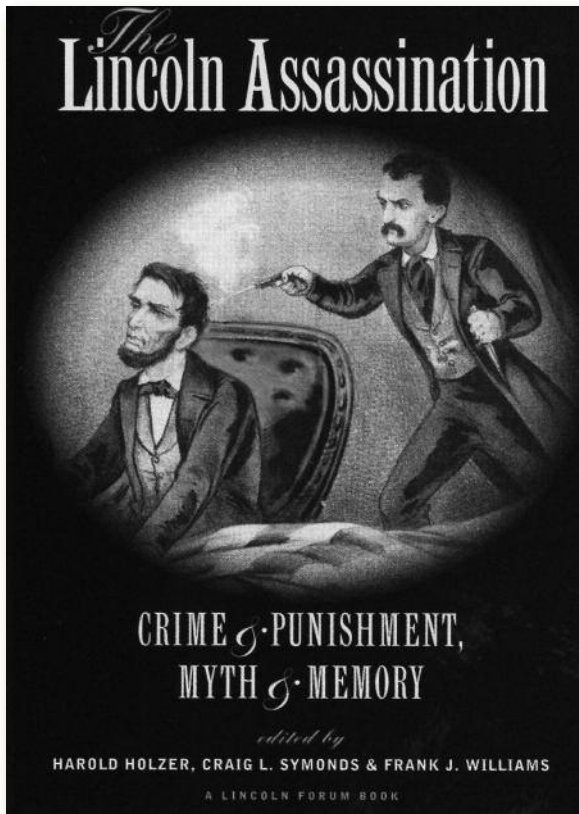
THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN remains one of the most prominent events in U.S. history. It continues to attract enormous and intense interest from scholars, writers, and armchair historians alike, ranging from painstaking new research to wild-eyed speculation. At the end of the Lincoln bicentennial year, and the onset of the Civil War sesquicentennial, the leading scholars of Lincoln and his murder offer in one volume their latest studies and arguments about the assassination, its aftermath, the extraordinary public reaction (which was more complex than has been previously believed), and the iconography that Lincoln’s murder and deification inspired. Contributors also offer the most up-to-date accounts of the parallel legal event of the summer of 1865—the relentless pursuit, prosecution, and punishment of the conspirators. Everything from graphic tributes to religious sermons, to spontaneous outbursts on the streets of the nation’s cities, to emotional mass-mourning at carefully organized funerals, as well as the imposition of military jurisprudence to try the conspirators, is examined in the light of fresh evidence and insightful analysis.

The contributors are among the finest scholars who are studying Lincoln’s assassination. All have earned well-deserved reputations for the quality of their research, their thoroughness, their originality, and their writing. In addition to the editors, contributors include Thomas R. Turner, Edward Steers Jr., Michael W. Kauffman, Thomas P. Lowry, Richard E. Sloan, Elizabeth D. Leonard, and Richard Nelson Current.

HAROLD HOLZER, Senior Vice President for External Affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, is one of the nation’s leading authorities on Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. He serves as co-chairman of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He has written, co-written, or edited 35 books.

CRAIG L. SYMONDS is a leading Civil War historian who was Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy for three decades. He is the author of more than ten books, including *Lincoln and His Admirals*, which won the 2009 Lincoln Prize.

FRANK J. WILLIAMS, a renowned Lincoln scholar, is a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, a member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and author or editor of many books, including *Judging Lincoln*.



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15th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM • *continued from page 1*

By tradition, Lincoln re-enactors Jim Getty and George Buss will perform, Getty from Lincoln’s First Inaugural, Buss from his Cooper Union Address. A panel of participating historians will examine the question: “Could the Civil War Have Been Avoided?” The symposium will offer three dinners and two lunches, and also a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield led by historian/guide Gary Kross.

In a brand-new innovation, the Forum will offer, as an alternative to the battlefield bus tour, the opportunity to participate in small, intimate breakout sessions with participating historians, to examine any and all Lincoln-related subjects. Forum members will introduce the scholars, who will tackle “Topics of Your Choice—No Holds Barred.” To round out the group of “group captains,” historians Orville Vernon Burton and Michael Lind will also lead scheduled sessions.

Finally, the Forum will present its two coveted annual awards: the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement to a distinguished individual honoree; and the Leonard Wells Volk Life Mask Award to a major institution—both prizes for contributions to the field of Lincoln studies.

For reservations, members are encouraged to book rooms at special rates early at the Wyndham (866-845-8885 toll free), and to register for the symposium by writing Russell Weidman, Lincoln Forum Treasurer, 6009 Queenston Street, West Springfield, VA 22152. Or visit www.thelincolnforum.org 

LINCOLN FORUM MEMORIES: AN



Dan Weinberg, Lewis Lehrman, Norman Boas, Don McCue & Frank Williams



Richard Carwardine & Joe Fornieri



Lewis Lehrman



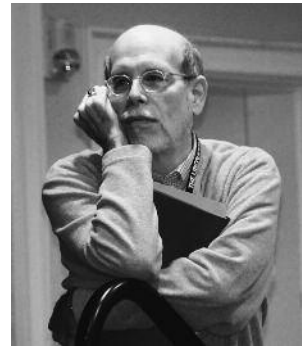
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ALBUM OF THE 14TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



John Marszalek, James McPherson & Jeanne Marszalek



Ronald C. White & John Marszalek



Tom Horrocks & Guy C. Fraker



Frank Williams & Sgt. Joseph Lim



Catherine Clinton, Charles Lachman & Jason Emerson



Joe Card, Dave Walker & Henry F. Ballone



Vernon & Georgeanne Burton



Harold & Edith Holzer, Liz & Gabor Boritt



Peggy & Bob Owen & Bob Marlow



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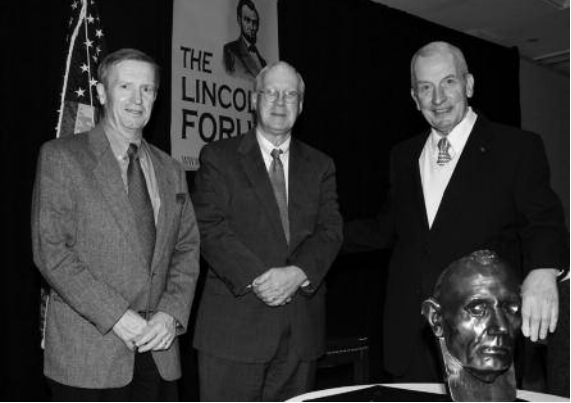
Fred Kaplan



Betty Anselmo & Richard Dreyfuss



Frank J. Williams



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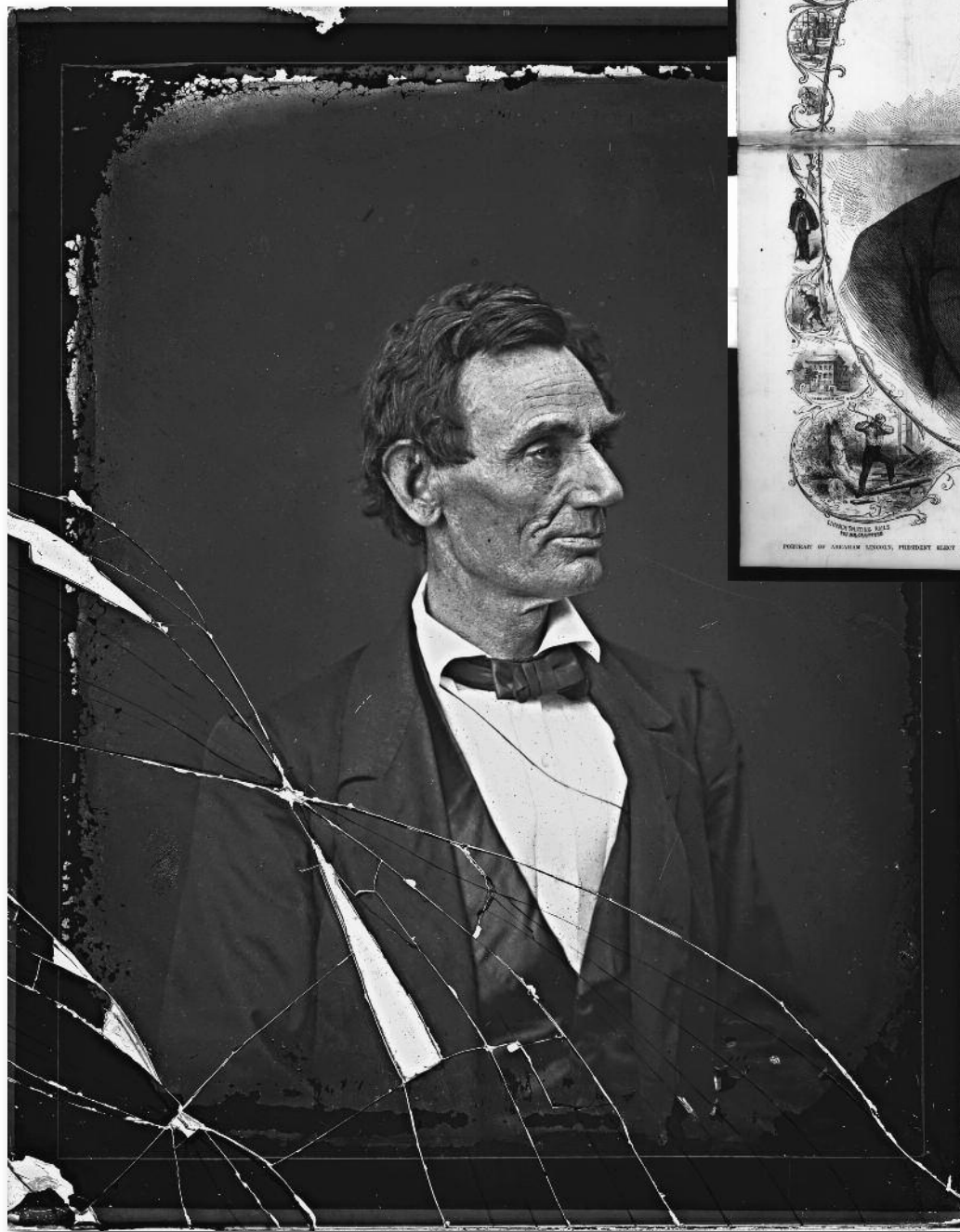
THE MAKING OF A PRESID

Lincoln posed for a particularly flattering likeness on June 3, 1860. Alexander Hesler of Chicago took the photograph, and its crisp beauty is all the more remarkable because he made the picture not inside his studio with its carefully controlled professional lighting, but alongside a large window on the second floor of the Illinois State Capitol building in Springfield. Not surprisingly, the picture was widely distributed 150 years ago, during Lincoln's campaign for President of the United States.

As it turned out, other image-makers liked the portrait, so much so that they were reluctant to abandon it as a model for their engravings and lithographs—even after Lincoln grew whiskers and rendered all his clean-shaven pictures obsolete, including this one.

In late November 1860, for example, while the real Lincoln was beginning to show stubble on his chin and cheeks, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* blithely published this full-page portrait of President-elect Abraham Lincoln, surrounded by alleged scenes from

his life. The production was not without errors: the marginal pictures supposedly illustrating his biography included a ridiculous portrait of "Captain Lincoln in the Black Hawk War," suggesting he was a cavalry officer wearing a plumed hat in battle. Another image showed "Lincoln's Father Killed by the Indians" when it had been



his grandfather, also named Abraham, who suffered such a fate. But chief among the miscalculations was the obvious one: the central portrait of Lincoln based entirely on the now-outdated Hesler profile.

Leslie's was still reluctant to let the model go without a fight. Late in 1861, the newspaper advertised a new "Portrait Pictorial" that featured images of Ulysses S. Grant (also outdated—or, many scholars believe, of someone other than Grant) along with such early heroes of the war as George B. McClellan, Louis Blenker and W. S. Rosecranz [sic]. Smack in the middle, yet again, was the old Hesler photo of Lincoln...but now with a difference. A *Leslie's* artist had at last superimposed his conception of the President's now-familiar beard—a small concession to Abraham Lincoln's new image. 📌

FRANK LESLIE'S PORTRAIT PICTORIAL

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Frank Leslie, Publisher, No. 19 City Hall Square, New York.



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KECKLY GRAVE SITE MARKED; FORUM CO-SPONSORS COMMEMORATION

The Lincoln Forum co-sponsored a May 26 ceremony to mark the gravesite of Elizabeth Keckly, the African-American seamstress who worked in the Civil War White House for Mary Lincoln, became one of her closest friends, and later wrote a memoir of her experiences.

The event at the National Harmony Memorial Ceremony in Landover, Maryland, was conceived and organized by the Surratt Society, whose leader, Joan Chaconas, serves on the Lincoln Forum

Board of Advisors. Other sponsors included the Black Women United for Action of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Mrs. Keckly was a unique eyewitness to Lincoln family history during its White House years, even though some historians have called into question the authorship of her 1868 book, *Behind the Scenes*. Or, *Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House*. 

KECKLY ON LINCOLN: VIEWS FROM THE FAMILY QUARTERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE

The following first-hand memories are excerpted from Elizabeth Keckly's important memoir of her life in the Lincoln White House:

He reached forth one of his long arms, and took a small Bible from a stand near the head of the sofa, opened the pages of the holy book, and soon was absorbed in reading them. A quarter of an hour passed, and on glancing at the sofa the face of the President seemed more cheerful. The dejected look was gone, and the countenance was lighted up with new resolution and hope. The change was so marked that I could not wonder at it, and wonder led to the desire what book of the Bible afforded so much comfort to the reader. Making the search for a missing article an excuse, I walked gently around the sofa and looking into the open book, I discovered that Mr. Lincoln was reading that divine comforter, Job.

Mr. Lincoln came in, threw himself on the sofa, laughed with Willie and little Tad, and then commenced pulling on his gloves, quoting poetry all the while.

"You seem to be in a poetical mood to-night," said his wife.

"Yes, mother, these are poetical times," was his pleasant reply. "I declare, you look charming in that dress. Mrs. Keckley [sic] has met with great success."

I arranged Mrs. Lincoln's hair, then assisted her to dress. Her dress was white satin, trimmed with black lace. The trail was very long, and as she swept through the room, Mr. Lincoln was standing with his back to the door, his hands behind him, and his eyes on the carpet. His face wore a thoughtful, solemn look. The rustling of the satin dress attracted his attention. He looked at it a few moments; then, in his quaint, quiet way remarked—

"Whew! Our cat has a long tail to-night."

Mrs. Lincoln did not reply. The President added:

"Mother, it is my opinion, if some of that tail were nearer the head, it would be in better style;" and he glanced at her bare arms and neck.

I was worn out with watching, and was not in the room when Willie died, but was immediately sent for. I assisted in washing him and dressing him, and then laid him on the bed, when Mr. Lincoln came in. I never saw a man so bowed down with grief. He

came to the bed, lifted the cover from the face of his child, gazed at it long and earnestly, murmuring, "My poor boy, he was too good for this earth. God has called him home. I know that he is much better off in heaven, but then we loved him so. It is hard, Hard to have him die!"

Great sobs choked his utterance. He buried his head in his hands, and his tall frame was convulsed with emotion."

One morning I went to the White House earlier than usual. Mr. Lincoln was sitting in a chair, reading a paper, stroking with one hand the head of little Tad. I was basting a dress for Mrs. Lincoln, a servant entered, and handed the President a letter just brought by a messenger. He broke the seal, and when he had read the contents his wife asked:

"Who is the letter from, father?"

"Seward; I must go over and see him to-day."

"Seward! I wish you had nothing to do with that man. He cannot be trusted."

"You say the same of Chase. If I listened to you, I should soon be without a Cabinet."

"Better be without it than to confide in some of the men that you do. Seward is worse than Chase. He has no principle."

"Mother, you are mistaken; your prejudices are so violent that you do not stop to reason. Seward is an able man, and the country as well as myself can trust him."

"Father, you are too honest for this world! You should have been born a saint. You will generally find it a safe rule to distrust a disappointed, ambitious politician. It makes me mad to see you sit still and let that hypocrite, Seward, twine you around his finger as if you were a skein of thread."

"It is useless to argue the question, mother. You cannot change my opinion."

While arranging Mrs. L.'s hair, the President came in. It was the first time I had seen him since the inauguration, and I went up to him, proffering my hand with words of congratulation.

He grasped by outstretched hand warmly, and held it while he spoke: "Thank you. Well, Madam Elizabeth"—he always called me Madam Elizabeth—"I don't know whether I should feel thankful or not. The position brings with it many trials. We do not know what we are destined to pass through. But God will be with us all. I put my trust in God." He dropped my hand, and with solemn face walked across the room and took his seat on the sofa."



SUNSET FOR THE LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL

After nine years of work, and 18 months of intense national commemorative activity, the U. S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial held its sunset meeting on April 19, 2010, and formally closed its offices at the Library of Congress in Washington on April 30—five months ahead of schedule, and with a savings to taxpayers of up to \$600,000. At the final public meeting at the U. S. Department of Agriculture, historian Matthew Pinsker addressed the future of Lincoln scholarship, and historian James Oliver Horton conducted a lively question-and-answer session for the 150 attendees gathered in the atrium.


The Commission offered guests a premiere viewing of an ALBC video summarizing its efforts in education, public outreach, town halls, public programs, scholarly conferences, national endorsements, and Congressional mandates like new postage stamps and pennies. The film can be seen on the surviving ALBC website, www.abrahamlincoln200.org.

“Early on,” stated co-chairs Sen. Richard Durbin and Harold Holzer in an introduction to the commission’s final report to Congress (also accessible on the website), “the ALBC adopted as

its motto ‘unfinished work,’ the memorable phrase from Lincoln’s sublime Gettysburg Address. We believe those simple but evocative words, electric in their own time, still serve to remind all Americans that the fulfillment of Lincoln’s profound legacy remains a challenge if we are to sustain and improve the democracy for which he gave his energetic leadership and, ultimately, his life.”

“We hope,” they added, “this vital discussion continues. Through programs captured for its web site, the ALBC and its thousands of supporters will continue this dialogue for many years to come. Thus Lincoln, his message, and his unique ability to inspire the best in all of us will endure, as he himself put it, into ‘a vast future also.’”

In addition to Holzer, Forum chairman Frank J. Williams served as a Commissioner, while officers Craig L. Symonds and Budge Weidman served on the Board of Advisors.

Thanks to expected income from the minting of a special commemorative coin, the Lincoln Bicentennial’s efforts at education and public engagement will continue under the management of a newly formed Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. 

LINCOLN IN PARIS



By Stuart Schneider

The city of Paris is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the World and I was lucky enough to take my August vacation in France, including Paris. One of its hidden gems of Paris is the oldest garden cemetery in the World—Père Lachaise. The cemetery was established by Napoleon I in 1804. Even though located in the city, the cemetery was considered to be too far out of the way to attract customers. A plan was devised to have famous people moved from other cemeteries to Père Lachaise and then to advertise that as a reason to be buried there. One of the famous to be reburied there was Molière, the French dramatist-playwright,

who died in 1673. After his interment, Père Lachaise became the "in" place to be buried. The cemetery is composed of cobblestone lanes with trees, plantings, and wonderful mortuary sculpture. Thousands of visitors walk the paths of the cemetery looking for the graves of Edith Piaf, Maria Callas, Frédéric Chopin, Honoré Daumier, Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, Max Ernst, Marcel Marceau, Sarah Bernhardt, Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison, and Judah P. Benjamin, to name just a few. In my wandering through the cemetery, I found some wonderful tombs to photograph and one mystery. Near Chopin's monument, was a large sculptural gravestone with what appears to be Abraham Lincoln's image. Composer Luigi Cherubini is buried near his friend Chopin. His tomb was designed by the architect Achille Leclère and includes a figure representing "Music" crowning a bust of the composer with a wreath. I did manage to capture what I intended to photograph for my upcoming book, tentatively called "Farther Afield - More Cemeteries and Ghosts" and include one of the images with the "Lincoln" image. 📖



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If you have news to share — on your Lincoln or Civil War organization, activities, or studies — send it for consideration in the next Bulletin to:

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