



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

ISSUE 37

www.thelincolnforum.org

Spring 2015

Chairman

Frank J. Williams
300 Switch Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832
alincoln@courts.ri.gov

Vice Chairman

Harold Holzer
Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028-0198
harold.holzer@metmuseum.org

Treasurer

Henry F. Ballone
23 Rochelle Pkwy.
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663
treasurer@thelincolnforum.org

Co-Administrators

admin@thelincolnforum.org

Betty Anselmo

59 Hurst Lane
Tiverton, RI 02878
Phone: 401-624-3722

Jerry Desko

390 Sunset Road
Orrtanna, PA 17353
Phone: 717-334-4865

Board of Advisors

Betty Anselmo, Secretary
George Buss, Exec. Comm.
Edna Greene Medford, Exec. Comm.
Craig L. Symonds, Exec. Comm.

Wendy Allen
Roger D. Billings, Jr.
Seth Bongartz
Roger D. Bridges
Peter G. Brown
Orville Vernon Burton
Peter S. Carmichael
Burrus Carnahan
Joan L. Chaconas
Kenneth Childs
Thomas J. Craughwell
Dennis J. Curran
William C. Davis
Paul Ellis-Graham
Eric Foner
Joseph R. Fornieri
Joseph E. Garrera
James Getty
Tina Grim
Elaine Henderson
Thomas A. Horrocks
Dale Jirik
Ron Keller
Steven R. Koppelman
Michelle Krowl
Antigoni Ladd
Everett Ladd
Robert J. Lenz
James Lighthizer
David E. Long
Thomas Mackie
John Marszalek
Don McCue
James M. McPherson
Michael P. Musick
Stephen B. Oates
Paul L. Pascal
Daniel E. Pearson
Jared Peatman
William D. Pederson
Linda Platt
Gerald J. Prokopowicz
Ron Robinson
Stuart Schneider
William S. Spears
Ruth Squillace
Edward Steers, Jr.
Phillip Stone
Tim Townsend
Laurie Verge
Russell H. Weidman
Daniel R. Weinberg
Linda Wheeler
Bob Willard

Honorary Members

Jean H. Baker
Michael R. Beschloss
Gabor S. Boritt
Ken Burns
Jim Edgar
Gary W. Gallagher
Doris Kearns Goodwin
Brian Lamb
Lewis Lehrman
Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Richard Norton Smith
Louise Taper
Wayne C. Temple
Thomas R. Turner
Jay Winik

FORUM XX TO MARK SESQUICENTENNIAL OF WAR'S END, DEATH AND MARTYRDOM OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Six consecutive years of intense focus on the ongoing Civil War sesquicentennial—which started back in 2010 with the 150th anniversary of the election of Abraham Lincoln—will reach their culmination this November 16-18, when the Lincoln Forum hosts a special anniversary symposium dedicated to “1865: Triumph and Tragedy,” at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel.

The symposium, again to feature leading scholars and historians, lunches and dinners, along with panels, small discussion groups, music, special events, and a battlefield tour, will also mark the 20th anniversary of The Lincoln Forum itself, a milestone that will be marked by its own set of commemorative reflections and celebrations, highlighted by a November 18 gala performance by the U. S. Army Chorus.

Lincoln Forum XX will focus primarily on the three major events of the final months of the American Civil War: passage of the Congressional authorization of the 13th amendment to the U. S. Constitution ending slavery; the conclusion of the four years of brutal fighting between Union and Confederate armed forces; and the so-called “story of the century”—the assassination and martyrdom of Abraham Lincoln, and the pursuit and capture of his murderer, John Wilkes Booth.

Among the scholars who will deliver major evening lectures at the Forum will be the prolific and popular historian William C. Davis, author of *Crucible of Command*, an acclaimed new joint biography of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee (speaking on “Grant and Lee: The Generals Nobody Knows”); and best-selling author James L. Swanson (*Manhunt*), who will deliver a dinner lecture on “The Lincoln and Kennedy Assassinations Compared.”

Joining them on the roster this year will be Terry Alford, author of the new *Fortune's Fool*, the first-ever full-scale biography of John Wilkes Booth; Richard Wightman Fox (*Lincoln's Body: A Cultural History*) on the 16th president's April 4, 1865 visit to Richmond; Edna Greene Medford of Howard University (“Emancipation after Appomattox”); Michael Vorenberg of Brown University (“The Last Surrender: Looking for the End of the Civil War”); James B. Conroy (whose *Our One Common Country: Abraham Lincoln and the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of 1865* was a 2015 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize finalist); and Elizabeth R. Varon (*Appomattox: Victory, Defeat, and Freedom at the End of the Civil War*).

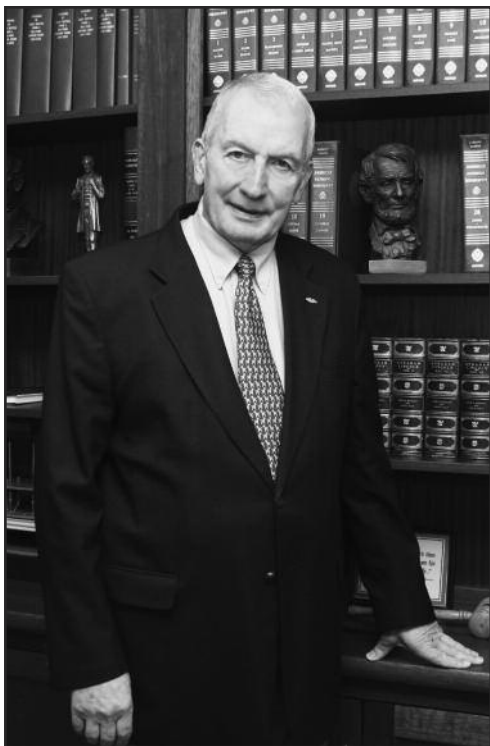
“This will be a highly focused but particularly dazzling symposium,” commented Hon. Frank J. Williams, founding chairman of The Lincoln Forum. “As Lincoln acknowledged in his second inaugural address, no one at the beginning of the Civil War expected ‘the magnitude, or the duration’ of the Civil War. We might say that no one expected the magnitude—or the rewarding symposia that it inspired—of its sesquicentennial. Now it is time to recall the extraordinary, tragic, and inspiring final days of the conflict. It is altogether fitting and proper that we reach the summit together with sessions devoted to peace, freedom, and martyrdom.”

Chief Justice Williams will host one of the symposium's two major panels, “Why Was Lincoln Murdered,” which will feature Terry Alford, John McKee Barr (*Loathing Lincoln: An American Tradition from the Civil War to the Present*), Martha Hodes (author of the highly praised new *Mourning Lincoln*, Joan Chaconas of the Surratt Society, and the dean of Lincoln assassination scholars, Edward Steers Jr. (*Blood on the Moon*)). **continued on page 2**



IN MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
THE EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN

THE END OF THE BEGINNING: THE CIVIL WAR AT 150 AND THE LINCOLN FORUM AT 20



MESSAGE from the CHAIR

Few events in American history have had a greater impact on Americans than the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. This tragedy precipitated an outpouring of grief and commemoration, much of which was commemorated and replicated this April and May to mark their 150th anniversary. The Lincoln assassination followed hard on the collapse of the Confederate cause and accounts, in part, for the overwhelming mourning it inspired. Shot on April 14, Good Friday, and dead by the morning of April 15, Lincoln's funeral lasted for 20 days, ending with his internment at Springfield, Illinois on May 4, 1865. It was a period of deep mourning, dirges, muffled drums, torchlight vigils, and processions. Tens of thousands lined the tracks of the funeral train's 1600 mile journey to Lincoln's hometown.

Your Lincoln Forum will add, immeasurably, to the observances and memory of these sad and mournful days as we continue our series covering the Civil War's sesquicentennial. Presentations on the assassination and the meaning of Appomattox will predominate during this year's Forum. Papers will compare Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee as well as the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations. Panels will focus on the 13th Amendment and the murder of the president.

I can assure you this year's Forum, our twentieth, will be nearly as exciting as the 1865 events they commemorate.

Lincoln has become ubiquitous and synonymous with democratic government at home and abroad. His words, his deeds, his life, and even his assassination contribute to this international phenomenon. We hope you will join us November 16-18 to build on this extraordinary tradition. 📌

Frank J. Williams
Chairman

FORUM XX TO MARK SESQUICENTENNIAL OF WAR'S END, DEATH AND MARTYRDOM OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

continued from page 1 Harold Holzer, founding vice chairman of the Forum, will moderate this year's other Forum panel, "A King's Cure' in Film and Fact: Lincoln, Spielberg, and the 13th Amendment," a panel on memory to include speakers Michael Vorenberg, Richard Wightman Fox, and Edna Greene Medford (Lincoln once referred to the amendment as a "king's cure" for the evils of slavery).



James Swanson
(Henry F. Ballone)

Once again, the Forum will present its two major awards: the annual Richard Nelson Current Award for achievement by individuals in the Lincoln and Civil War fields; and the Wendy Allen Award for institutions that contribute and encourage public interest in Civil War and Lincoln studies.

In addition, two of the premier Lincoln enactors of the day, James Getty (winner of the Forum's 2014 Current Award), who will deliver the second inaugural; and George Buss, who will present highlights from

Lincoln's last speech—the oration John Wilkes Booth heard from the White House lawn on April 11, 1865, vowing

angrily that it would be "the last speech he will ever make."

The final afternoon of Lincoln Forum XX will again be devoted to small sessions—a new edition of "Cooking with the Chief and the Chef" with Frank Williams and Wyndham executive chef Claude Rodier; the debut of Civil War-era dancing with the Victorian Dance ensemble; and breakout sessions featuring one-on-one discussions among historians and small audiences: Harold Holzer together with Martha Hodes; Terry Alford, John Barr, and Edward Steers Jr.; Edna Greene Medford and Richard Wightman Fox; and an unusual discussion between a major Lincoln dealer and a major Lincoln collector: Daniel Weinberg and Stuart Schneider, respectively.

Registration forms for our November symposium have been sent to all lifetime members and those who are current with their dues. Please call the Wyndham Hotel to make your room reservations. Be sure to mention that you are a Lincoln Forum member in order to get our special room rate. If you have any questions, you may contact Jerry Desko or Betty Anselmo at admin@thelincolnforum.org. 📌



William C. (Jack) Davis
(Henry F. Ballone)

THE LINCOLN FORUM AWARDS TWO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2014

By Tom Horrocks

Gabe Fleisher, in seventh grade at the John Burroughs School in University City, Missouri, and Lindsay Legault-Knowles, a senior at Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax, Vermont (and an early college student at Johnson State College) were awarded scholarships




Student Scholar Gabe Fleischer poses with his father Randy and Tom Horrocks. (Henry F. Ballone)

by The Lincoln Forum to attend its annual symposium, which was held in Gettysburg on November 16-18, 2014. Mr. Fleisher, whose love of politics and history led him to publish his own political newsletter and his own daily blog, “Wake up to Politics,” has written *Hear Us Roar*, a history of his elementary school. “There is no way to truly explain my experiences at the Lincoln Forum,” Gabe declared: “It was incredible how people were so accepting of having a middle school student participate in such a scholarly conference. To me personally, it was such an honor.” Attending The Lincoln

Forum symposium with his father, Mr. Fleisher was highly impressed with the friendliness of Lincoln Forum members and by the quality of the presentations: “The Forum itself definitely brought some new ideas into my mind as well as connected me with some incredible books on Lincoln.”

Planning to attend college next year, Lindsay Legault-Knowles is an aspiring Lincoln scholar. A volunteer at her local historical museum, Ms. Legault-Knowles readily admits to being “ABEessed,” so much so, that her entire room at home is an exhibit on various aspects of Lincoln’s life, family, and presidency. Like Gabe Fleisher, she found The Lincoln Forum symposium exciting as well as edifying: “At the Forum, I learned so much about so many topics I had never even considered, such as the 1864 soldiers’ vote, Jefferson Davis’ conflict with General Johnston, the women’s perspective on Civil War politics, and Lincoln’s ‘blind memorandum.’” Ms. Legault-Knowles, who attended the symposium with her mother, departed Gettysburg thirsting for more knowledge about Lincoln. “I am excited to take what I have learned at the Forum about all these topics” she asserted, “and learn even *more* about them.” Both she and Mr. Fleisher hope to return to Lincoln Forum conferences in the future.

This is the third year of The Lincoln Forum’s Student Scholarship program. The program recognizes outstanding elementary and high school students who have demonstrated academic excellence as well as an avid interest in the life and career of Abraham Lincoln and in the Civil War. The scholarships enable the winners to attend Lincoln Forum meetings by covering registration, travel, and accommodation expenses. Two student scholarships were awarded for each of the first three years of the program. The Lincoln Forum would like to increase this number on an annual basis so that deserving students like Gabe Fleisher and Lindsay Legault-Knowles can take part in The Lincoln Forum experience. Lincoln Forum members can help make this happen. Please consider making a financial gift to The Lincoln Forum to strengthen this worthy program. 

JFK AT THE LINCOLN TOMB

Submitted by Shawn Thomas

It was the Fall of 1962—not only the middle of the Civil War Centennial, but the beginning of the Cuban missile crisis—and President John F. Kennedy insisted on keeping to his long-planned schedule so Americans would not be alarmed about the impending crisis. Of course, the alarms and the crisis would come within days, but not before JFK (destined for assassination and veneration himself) visited the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois, to pay tribute to the man who had been elected to the presidency 100 years before his own election.

ATTENTION BOOK LOVERS

Make your purchases at The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop through our website at www.thelincolnforum.org.



THE 2014 TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Ruth Squillace

Now in its sixth year, the Lincoln Forum Teacher Scholarship Initiative continues to recognize excellence in education by awarding its recipients with the rare opportunity to attend the annual symposium in Gettysburg and interface with preeminent Civil War authorities. As a result of a revitalized advertising campaign in recent years, the Forum received applications from a diverse and impressive teaching population from Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wyoming.

With the assistance of fellow Forum board members Joseph R. Fornieri (author and professor of political science at Rochester Institute of Technology) and Ron Keller, (associate professor of history and political science and Lincoln Heritage Museum Director at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois), our selection committee again offered three scholarships, expanding the parameters of our selection criteria to include educators outside of social studies. The Lincoln Forum XIX participants were David Carroll, Mary Beth Donnelly, and Theresa Prince.

now book entitled *Abraham Lincoln's Funeral in Chicago: A Sesquicentennial Album*. Students researched archival photographs to coordinate with modern-day locations. Biographical information for each photographer is included, along with a walking tour map. Of his experience at Forum XIX, Carroll said: "The Lincoln Forum made me feel a part of something very important and much larger than myself. I was welcomed and made to feel very comfortable among Lincoln scholars of the highest order." Carroll has become a lifetime member and looks forward to future involvement with the organization.

"Intellectually-stimulating, professionally-fulfilling, and personally rewarding" are just a few sentiments **Mary Beth Donnelly** shared regarding her scholarship. She teaches U. S. history, civics and economics to 1865 to sixth graders at Swanson Middle School in Arlington, Virginia. Donnelly worked for a decade in educational policy, first for the Council of Chief State School Officers in the Office of Federal-State Relations and then, for SRI International's Center for Education Policy, where she helped generate several studies related to history education and education reform before going on to pursue her own career in secondary social studies education.

Donnelly is currently taking graduate course work on the Civil War through the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and is working towards the eventual completion of an M. A. in American History. "There was something intangible about the Lincoln Forum," Donnelly said. "I felt like I was part of a community of scholars, and as if I was valued for having something to contribute." As a new member to the Forum family, Donnelly hopes to attend future symposia.

Theresa Pierce is a World and American History teacher from Salisbury, North Carolina. "Traveling to Gettysburg was a lifelong dream for me. It was incredible standing on the battlefield, listening to speakers who are experts in the study of Lincoln, and to interact with people from all over the country." She plans on using knowledge acquired about the sacrifices of the North Carolinians to enhance her historical presentations as a docent at the Rowan Museum, where she serves as a volunteer.

An educator for more than 25 years, Pierce currently teaches at Rowan County Early College as part of North Carolina's New Schools Initiative, in which public school students attend high school on a community college campus. In four years, enrollees have the potential to achieve dual certification, which includes a high school diploma and Associate of Arts degree. An encounter, which impacted her deeply on the final evening of the symposium, was a conversation with an attendee from Germany whose ancestor was a slave. "Each new friend had a different and equally fascinating story to tell;" she reported, a sentiment that encapsulates what many kindred spirits at the Forum have long felt.

The Lincoln Forum looks forward to deepening its work with educators in the year ahead and plans to increase the number of scholarships available to teachers for Forum XX.

Members are encouraged to make a tax-deductible financial gift to show support for this Forum initiative.

If you or a friend/colleague is interested in applying for a Lincoln Forum Teacher Scholarship, please refer to the website, which will provide updated application information. Please direct applications to Ruth Squillace, Coordinator - 52 Hancock Commons - Yaphank, NY 11980. (Deadline is June 30). 📌



Ruth Squillace (left) and Harold Holzer (right) celebrate Lincoln Forum teacher scholars David Carroll, Mary Beth Donnelly, and Theresa Pierce. (Joe Card)

David Carroll is an author and educator who has taught photography at Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park, Illinois, for 19 years. He has also appeared as a guest on NBC's *Today* show discussing Jesse James in photography and has worked as a photographic consultant for the PBS *American Experience* series, and for both the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Library of Congress. During the summer of 2011, Carroll taught daguerrean photography at the Victorian Photographic Studio at Gettysburg. Since 1995, his passion for 19th-century photography has led him to assemble a collection containing at least one example from every photographer working in Illinois from 1842-1900. At last count, this archive contains over 30,000 images. Most recently, he collaborated with Richard E. Hart on the book *Preston Butler: Photographer in Lincoln's Springfield*. David Carroll's next book will be *Photographing Abraham Lincoln in Illinois: Myths, Legends, and Visual Truth*.

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's funeral, Carroll and his high school students assembled a then-and-

LINCOLN'S DOG: THE SAD FATE OF FIDO

By Matthew Algeo

Charles Planck would otherwise be lost to history—and rightfully so—if not for an event that occurred in Springfield the year after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Planck was a ne'er do well; today we would call him a loser. He was 24 years old in 1866, but he had not accomplished much in life. According to the Springfield city directory, he was working as a clerk at his brother's confectionary. Before the war he had worked for J. B. Fosselman, who ran a drug store that sold liquor for medicinal purposes. That job may not have ended well: according to one Springfield resident, Planck was "somewhat given to intoxicating beverage." Charlie Planck was also prone to fits of anger, and clearly unhappy with his station in life.

So there he was one day in 1866, sitting on a curb, quite drunk. Some accounts say he was whittling a stick. In any event, he was holding a "sharp, long bladed knife." A friendly yellow dog came up to him, the way he often approached strangers. And he put his muddy forepaws on Charlie Planck. In a blind drunken rage, Planck drew the knife and plunged it deep into the dog's chest.



Fido - Abraham Lincoln's Dog (Henry Horner Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum)

The dog, a mutt named Fido, was famous around Springfield—and throughout the country, for that matter—as the "Lincoln dog." Fido had been adopted by the Lincoln family around 1855 and was the constant companion of the two youngest Lincoln boys, Willie and Tad. But after he was elected president in 1860, Lincoln decided Fido should stay behind in Springfield. The dog was skittish, and Lincoln feared the long trip to Washington would be too traumatizing. So Fido was left in the care of the Roll family, whose two youngest boys, Frank and John, were Willie and Tad's playmates and adored the playful pooch. After Lincoln's assassination, Fido became a living relic of the fallen president. Visitors to Springfield sought him out, and copies of his photograph became a popular collectible.

Mortally wounded by Charlie Planck, Fido struggled to make his way back home, back to the Roll house, hobbling, while blood poured from his chest. But it was too far. He could only make it as far as the Universalist Church on the corner of Fifth and Cook, just three blocks from the Roll mansion.

His coat matted with blood, Fido labored to the back side of the church.

He curled up tight against the chimney, as if to keep warm. And there he died.

Planck was never charged with a crime; after all, killing a dog, even a famous one, was hardly a capital offense at the time. Two years after stabbing Fido, he would be arrested for shooting and wounding another man during an argument. After this, Charlie Planck slithered back into the obscurity he so richly deserves.

It was several days before Fido's body was discovered behind the church.

The two Roll boys buried Abraham Lincoln's faithful canine companion in their backyard.

In 1964, a Springfield resident named Lenora Smith published a small pamphlet called *The Legend of Fido*. It was based on her father's conversations with an unnamed "fine old gentleman" who had taken care of Fido as a little boy—presumably John Roll. "Then one fine morning old yaller dog wandered away," Roll supposedly told Smith's father, "in search of adventure, I guess—or a tasty meal, maybe. That was the last time we saw him alive." Roll said he and his brother found Fido behind the church, "where he had laid down to die. We carried him home and buried him. We covered his grave with flowers. He was just a common cur. Just an old yaller dog."

John Roll also recalled Fido's demise in a letter to the writer and historian Dorothy Kunhardt. Roll composed the letter in a shaky hand shortly before his own death at age 89 in 1943: "We possessed the dog for a number of years when one day the dog, in a playful manner put his dirty paws upon a drunken man sitting on the street curbing [who] in his drunken rage, thrust a knife into the body of poor old Fido. He was buried by loving hands. So, Fido, just a poor yellow dog, met the fate of his illustrious master—Assassination."

(Adapted from *Abe & Fido: Lincoln's Love of Animals and the Touching Story of His Favorite Canine Companion* by Matthew Algeo. The author spoke about the book at the New York Public Library Mid-Manhattan Branch on April 23). 📌



Lincoln and his sons Willie and Tad (who squirmed too much and blurred their images) pose inside their front gate in Springfield, Illinois, during the 1860 presidential campaign—around the time their pet Fido lived in this house, reportedly making their horsehair sofa his favorite lounging spot. (LOC)

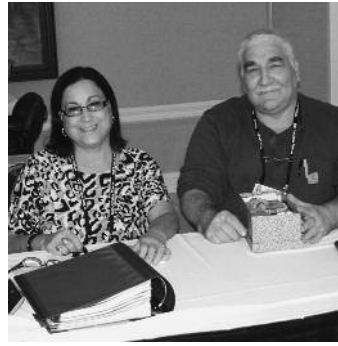
LINCOLN FORUM



Wendy Weigers & Virginia Williams



Jeanne & John F. Marszalek



Betty Anselmo & Jerry Desko



Edith Holzer, Virginia & Frank J. Williams & Harold Holzer



Alan M. Rosen, George S. Campbell & Thomas DeStefano



Marylou Symonds, Patricia & James McPherson & Edith Holzer



Jonathan W. White & Henry Cohen



Ron Keller & Joseph R. Fornieri



The Chief & The Chef



Henry F. Ballone & Russ Weidman



Panel- Atlanta & the Wilderness- Lincoln & the Battles of 1864



Malcolm Garber & Melissa Williams



Harold Holzer, Paul Ellis-Graham, Robert Langford & Steven R. Koppelman



Gabe & Randy Fleisher & Thomas A. Horrocks



Harold Holzer, James Getty & Frank J. Williams



George Buss & David Walker



Harold Holzer & Joseph Lim



Russ Weidman & Carol Becker



Henry F. Ballone & James Getty

XIX MEMORIES



Frank J. Williams & Harold Holzer



John Marszalek, Jack Davis & Craig Symonds



Thavolia Glymph



Eileen & David Patch



Harold Holzer, James M. McPherson & Edith Holzer



Patricia R. McPherson, Marylou Symonds, & Jeanne Marszalek



Thomas A. Horrocks, Dana B. Shoaf & George Buss



Catherine Clinton & Henry F. Ballone



Jared Peatman



Edna Greene Medford



Harold Holzer, Wendy Allen, Lewis E. Lehrman & Frank J. Williams



Tim Branscum, Jim Gillespie & Malcolm Garber



Joe Card, Wally Heimbach & Stan Domosh



Panel - The Campaign of 1864 in Politics & Print



Dale Jirik



Bobby Horton



Russ Weidman & Frank J. Williams



George Buss & James Getty

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PHILLIPS BROOKS, AND THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE

By Lawrence Weber

On the night of April 14, 1865, Good Friday, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. Mortally wounded by a single gunshot to the back of the head, Lincoln lingered unconscious overnight. At approximately 7:22 a.m. on the morning of April 15, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States died.



The Death of Lincoln, painted and engraved by A.H. Ritchie, N.V. in 1875. (LOC)

The period following the death of Abraham Lincoln was marked by a great amount of emotion and uncertainty from the American public both North and South. People from all across the nation remembered the president through stories, letters and eulogies. In fact the first eulogy for the slain president came from Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton when he proclaimed moments after Lincoln died; "Now he belongs to the Ages." That simple yet profound sentiment captured the emotion of the moment and succinctly established Lincoln's immortality.

Newspapers and telegraph operators began to spread the news about President Lincoln's death fairly rapidly, so that by Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865, most Americans were aware of the monumental tragedy. Nevertheless, large groups of people first heard about Lincoln's death on Sunday while attending church services. Pastor O. E. Daggett of the First Congregational Church in Canandaigua, New York gave his Easter homily entitled *A Sermon on the Death of Abraham Lincoln, April 15, 1865* to a congregation of stunned parishioners on the morning of April 16, 1865. "Abraham Lincoln rose to his high position from the utmost obscurity, by virtue of native intellectual power, and indomitable moral energy. He was an eminently wise and good man, strong in his integrity, faithful to his high obligations, devoted to his country's good, patient in his toils, true to his friends, lenient to his enemies, hopeful and firm in the face of disaster, magnanimous in the hour of triumph."¹

Between Lincoln's assassination and his interment at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois on May 4, 1865, Americans witnessed arguably the greatest outpouring of tribute and eulogizing that the country had seen up until that point in its young history. Much of what has been said and written down during this period helped to create and shape the collective memory and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

One of the most memorable discourses on the death of Abraham Lincoln was delivered by the Reverend Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal minister whose sermon in Philadelphia remains one of the greatest orations and tributes to Lincoln ever given. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Brooks spoke out in favor of the Union cause and gave passionate speeches against the institution of slavery. In discussing what he referred to as the two characters of America—slavery and freedom, he said "The one was ready to state broad principles of the brotherhood of man, the universal fatherhood and justice of God,

however imperfectly it might realize them in practice; the other denied even the principles, and so dug deep and laid below its special sins the broad foundation of a consistent, acknowledged sinfulness. In a word, one nature was full of the influence of freedom; the other was full of the influence of slavery."²

Upon the death of President Lincoln, Brooks began to craft a sermon that would capture the essence of the slain president, the emotions of the American people, and at the same time help to shape the legacy of Lincoln. The result was an almost 6,000 word masterpiece that has long been overlooked by history: *The Character, Life and Death of Abraham Lincoln*. On Sunday morning, April 23, 1865 Phillips Brooks delivered his sermon in Philadelphia while Lincoln's body was lying in the city. One of his many notable lines about Lincoln was "In him was vindicated the greatness of real goodness, and the goodness of real greatness."³ In speaking about Lincoln the emancipator Brooks said, "It was to the American nature, long kept by God in his own intentions till his time should come, at last emerging into sight and power, and bound up and embodied in this best and most American of all Americans, to whom we and those poor frightened slaves at last might look up together and love to call him, with one voice, our Father."⁴

In concluding his sermon to the fallen president Brooks stated, "So let him lie here in our midst to-day, and let our people go and bend with solemn thoughtfulness and look upon his face and read the lessons of his burial. As he paused here on his journey from the Western home and told us what by the help of God he meant to do, so let him pause upon his way back to his Western grave and tell us with a silence more eloquent than words how bravely, how truly, by the strength of God, he did it. God brought him up as he brought David up from the sheepfolds to feed Jacob, his people, and Israel, his inheritance. He came up in earnestness and faith, and he goes back in triumph. As he pauses here to-day, and from his cold lips bids us bear witness how he has met the duty that was laid on him, what can we say out of our full hearts but this—"He fed them with a faithful and true heart, and ruled them prudently with all his power."⁵ Brooks concluded his sermon by quoting from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and by asking God to make his people worthy of the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

History teaches us that Lincoln's legacy was in saving the Union and freeing the slaves. This is true. But, perhaps we can find more to this legacy that can be applied to our lives today on a day-to-day basis. Lincoln was determined to leave the world a better place to live for his fellow man, and he actively worked at this on a day-to-day basis. In his First Inaugural Address he stated, "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." Influenced by the Second Great Awakening, Lincoln believed in the better angels of our human nature, and ultimately, he knew they would triumph. Although not an especially religious man, Lincoln was extremely moral; his awareness of society's social ills motivated him to action. He lived his life reflecting on the great issues of the day, and he was certainly active in working to correct what he considered social and moral wrongs; most notably the peculiar institution of slavery. At the time of his death, most religious leaders recognized in Lincoln many of the characteristics that they themselves held so dear: honesty, fidelity, moral fortitude, humor, strength of character, perseverance, belief in truth, and love.

continued on page 9

LINCOLN IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

By Henry F. Ballone

On April 21, 1865, Abraham Lincoln's presidential funeral train arrived in Harrisburg, PA. Exactly 150 years later, Lincoln Forum member Joseph Garrera was the keynote speaker at the Pennsylvania State Legislature in Harrisburg, PA. Joe kindly invited me to be his guest on this momentous occasion where he received a standing ovation for his talk on the Lincoln Funeral as it took place in Harrisburg, PA 150 years ago.

Following the Legislature's activities we were invited to lunch by Kelly Fedeli, Director of Special Events to the Office of the Speaker.

On our way to lunch while wandering the corridors of this great capitol we passed this larger than life, seven foot two inch, statue of Abraham Lincoln guarding the even larger state-commissioned painting of "The Battle of Gettysburg"

Jason L. Wilson, Historian of the Capitol Preservation Committee said "The statue is a combination of two different Lincolns and was produced by P.R. Caprone in 1932. The body of Lincoln is modeled off of Saint-Gaudens "Chicago Lincoln" while the head is by Max Bachman. The statue was originally created to stand in front of the original Rothermel canvas on the second floor of the old state museum. It moved over to the new/current state museum in 1964 and was taken out for conservation by our committee in 1999 before being reinstalled in its original location in front of a reproduction of the Rothermel painting. The statue is entirely plaster save for the bronze tablet on front of the wooden pedestal."

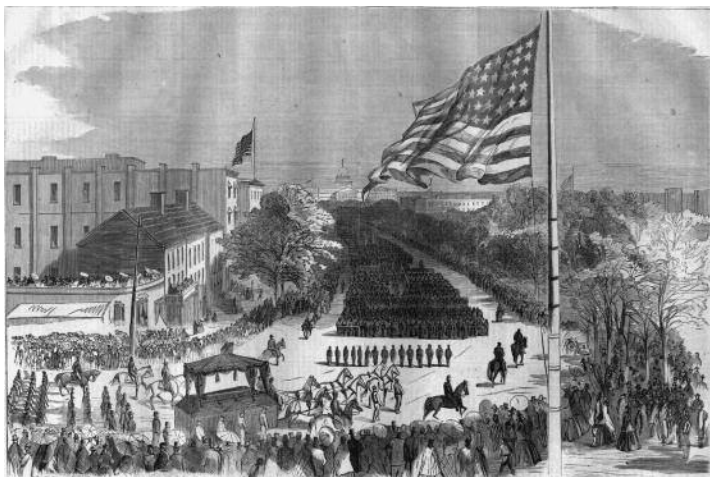
The following day, 150 years earlier, on April 22, 1865, at 11:15 am, Lincoln's body departed for Philadelphia. 📌



The Pennsylvania State Capitol Statue and (insert) Henry F. Ballone

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PHILLIPS BROOKS AND THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE

continued from page 8 By emulating the best in Lincoln we may come to find the best in ourselves. Perhaps we too can be active participants in our world, striving to bring about positive change that



Abraham Lincoln Funeral Procession (Harper's Weekly)

leaves our world a better place. These simple lessons are often overshadowed when we delve into the past in search of its grand teachings. So often we focus on the great achievements of the past, and neglect the greatness of triumph in the day-to-day battles of life. As Phillips Brooks once said, "Character may be manifested in the great

moments, but it is made in the small ones."⁶ Men like Abraham Lincoln and Phillips Brooks serve history well when they remind us of this.

Phillips Brooks said it best when he said, "Do not pray for easier lives, but pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, but pray for powers equal to your task. Then the accomplishment of your works shall be no miracle, but *you* shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the Grace of God."⁷ As we reflect on these lessons, may we all find the courage to be worthy of the memory of these great men.

¹O.E. Daggett, *A sermon on the Death of Abraham Lincoln* (New York, 1865)

<http://beck.library.emory.edu/lincoln/sermon.php?id=dagget.001>

²The Project Gutenberg E-Book of Addresses, by Phillips Brooks, April 1865

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14497/14497.txt>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶Phillips Brooks,

http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Phillips_Brooks

⁷ Ibid.

Lincoln Forum member Lawrence Weber is a teacher and published writer. His research interests include the Civil War Era, 19th Century Religious History, and the Revolutionary/Early Republic Era.. 📌

LINCOLN IN CUBA

Abraham Lincoln will be on view for all Americans who travel to Cuba in the coming years—and has in fact been handsomely displayed in downtown Havana throughout the 50 years during which our country had no relations with its Caribbean neighbor—head bowed, a symbolic eagle-emblazoned chair of state behind him. During a recent special tour, the Metropolitan Museum’s American sculpture specialist, Thayer Tolles, was astounded to discover this extraordinarily well-preserved bronze outside the *Escuela de Idiomas Abraham Lincoln*—The Abraham Lincoln School of Foreign Languages—on the Avenue of the Presidents. It is one of the limited-edition reductions that sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens created in around 1910 to replicate in a smaller edition his famous standing Lincoln for Lincoln Park in Chicago—*Abraham Lincoln: The Man*. Just a few years ago, to great fanfare, the Met purchased its own copy of the work—and here it has been residing outdoors, and hopefully inspiring Cuban viewers, just 90 miles from American shores. Ms. Tolles also discovered a Gutzon Borglum Lincoln head on view in the city. 🇺🇸

(Photos: Thayer Tolles)



THE LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK COMMEMORATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY AND NEW YORK FUNERAL

By **Steven R. Koppelman**

More than two years in planning, on March 28, 2015, The Lincoln Group of New York held a half-day symposium at historic Cooper Union, commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy and his New York funeral. With generous funding support from The Lincoln Forum as well as The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, this major event was successfully staged before an enthusiastic audience that came to New York City from 10 different states!

150 years earlier, New Yorkers perhaps picked up Henry Raymond's *New York Times* and read of the assassination as, "A sensation of horror and of agony which no other event in our history has ever excited." These same people likely reacted and expressed sentiments such as being "thunderstruck," or feeling as if they received "a dagger to the heart," or that the news struck them like "a thunderclap from a clear blue sky." Now, 150 years later, this symposium was developed in part to convey and remind us of how and why people reacted as they did.



The Lincoln Conspirators moderated by Richard Sloan with panelists Michael Kauffman, Kate Clifford Larson & Dave Taylor. (Henry F. Ballone)

2015 Lincoln Prize winner Harold Holzer opened the sessions by leading a tour of The Great Hall at Cooper Union, and speaking on Lincoln's unique history there, a subject he's certainly most qualified to discuss given his highly acclaimed 2004 book, *Lincoln at Cooper Union*. Lincoln not only enjoyed a physical history in The Great Hall, but a spiritual one as well as Frederick Douglass eulogized him in this very same room, calling Lincoln, "emphatically, the black man's President." Attendees enjoyed seeing (and taking photographs of) the historic room as well as the actual lectern before which Lincoln delivered his famous Cooper Union Address.

Frank J. Williams, Chairman of The Lincoln Forum and Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court (Ret.), then presented on a topic that he's uniquely qualified to discuss, The Lincoln Assassination & Military Tribunals. A fascinating and stimulating presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session.

Next up was New York historian, Barnet Schecter, author of *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*, who spoke on the African American Experience at Lincoln's New York funeral. Juxtaposing the treatment they received on that day versus the horrific experience of the draft riots, this was a subject that likely has not been discussed anywhere else!

Richard E. Sloan, one of the founders of The Lincoln Group of New York and an expert on Lincoln's New York funeral, moderated a panel on the Lincoln assassination conspirators,

discussing their roles and motivations. The panel consisted of Michael Kauffman, author of *American Brutus* (2004), Kate Larson, author of *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* (2008), and Dave Taylor, creator of the popular blog, Boothiebarn.com. An in-depth discussion not only of John Wilkes Booth but each one of the conspirators included their level of participation and knowledge of Booth's plans, and their various degrees of guilt. Multiple aspects of the conspirators were debated and dissected; a great level of knowledge was clearly on display.

At this point in the program, it was time for a change of pace as "Walt Whitman" made a special guest appearance. Whitman reenactor Darrel Blaine Ford took the stage to recite some of Whitman's Lincoln-related writings and most poignant poetry including of course, *O Captain! My Captain!* The crowd was riveted, as if watching Whitman himself, as the resemblance was uncanny.

Finally, it was time for the keynote speech as Distinguished Professor of American History, James Oakes, spoke on Lincoln's Legacy. While the majority of the prior sessions essentially focused

on Lincoln's death, The Lincoln Group of New York wanted to end the day with something that shows, in effect, that Lincoln really still lives. With that in mind, Professor Oakes provided his most unique and fascinating view of why Lincoln was our greatest President. An exceptional culmination to a successful day!

But, The Lincoln Group of New York's commemoration was not over yet. Four weeks later, on April 25, the actual 150th anniversary date of Lincoln's New York funeral, Richard E. Sloan led a walking tour along much of the same route the procession actually took.

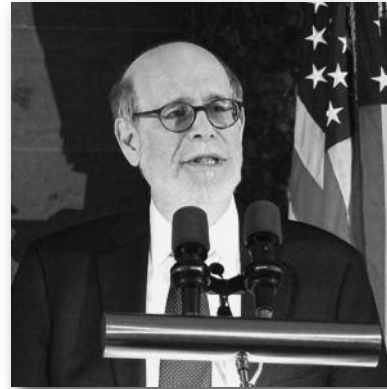
Beginning at City Hall, participants were able to view the spot where Lincoln's casket lay in state (and the site of the only known photograph of Lincoln in death). Then proceeding up Broadway, walkers viewed sites that have fascinating connections not only to Lincoln, but to Mrs. Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth. Among these were two of Mathew Brady's photo galleries, the St. Nicholas and Metropolitan Hotels, Brooks Brothers (where Lincoln's Second Inaugural coat was made), the store where Mrs. Lincoln purchased the White House china, Stewart's and Lord & Taylor's department stores (where she often shopped), and the old Winter Garden Theatre (where on November 25, 1864, three Booth brothers, Edwin, Junius, and John Wilkes appeared together in the play, *Julius Caesar*).

These were special events that commemorated a most singular occasion. They succeeded in allowing The Lincoln Group of New York to accomplish its mission—advancing the existing body of knowledge about and appreciation for Abraham Lincoln, promoting fellowship as well as scholarship. 📌

SECOND INAUGURAL SESQUICENTENNIAL: LINCOLN'S GREAT SPEECH CELEBRATED, RE-ENACTED



Frank J. Williams



Harold Holzer

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and the Illinois State Society co-sponsored the March 3 commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address. The event took place in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol, the former House of Representatives chamber where Abraham Lincoln served his one and only term as a back-bench Whig member from Illinois. Among the speakers for the sesquicentennial were (top to bottom): Actor Stephen Lang, who delivered the inaugural address; Forum vice chairman and ALBF Chairman Harold Holzer, who offered the welcome and served as master of ceremonies; Forum chairman Frank J. Williams, who gave the keynote on the meaning of the "malice toward none" speech, and Advisory Board member Edna Greene Medford, who addressed Lincoln's relationship with African Americans. 📌



Stephen Lang

(Photos: Bruce Guthrie)



Edna Greene Medford

The Lincoln Forum Bulletin welcomes contributions from members and historians—articles and photos alike. Send to editor Harold Holzer at harold.holzer@metmuseum.org. The editor particularly thanks the contributors to the current issue.

To receive e-mail updates about The Lincoln Forum and other Lincoln news, enter your email address to our automated email system on our home page at: www.thelincolnforum.org

Co-Administrator • Betty Anselmo • 59 Hurst Lane • Tiverton, RI 02878 • Phone: 401-624-3722 • admin@thelincolnforum.org • bettyanselmo@cox.net
Co-Administrator • Jerry Desko • 390 Sunset Road • Orrtanna, PA 17353 • Phone: 717-334-4865 • admin@thelincolnforum.org

The Lincoln Forum

Harold Holzer - Editor
harold.holzer@metmuseum.org



Henry F. Ballone - Designer
civilwarnut@hotmail.com