

THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

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PRIZE-WINNING AUTHORS SAUNDERS, BLIGHT, AND AYERS TO HIGHLIGHT LINCOLN FORUM XXIII IN GETTYSBURG

Two popular and distinguished Lincoln Prize laureates, 2002 awardee David W. Blight and this year's winner, historian Edward L. Ayers—plus the much-discussed Man Booker Prize-winning novelist George Saunders—head the list of faculty at the 23rd annual Lincoln Forum Symposium November 16-18 at Gettysburg.



Edward Ayers

Saunders is the author of the critically acclaimed #1 *New York Times* best seller *Lincoln in the Bardo*, the first Lincoln novel to win the prestigious \$100,000 Man Booker literary prize in its nearly 50-year history. *Lincoln in the Bardo* is Saunders' first novel, and his appearance in Gettysburg this November will mark the writer's debut at an Abraham Lincoln symposium.



David W. Blight

Ayers, president emeritus of the University of Richmond, was previously co-winner of the first and only "e-Lincoln Prize" in 2002 for the CD-ROM *Valley of the Shadow: The Eve of War*.

In addition, he won the Bancroft and Beveridge prizes for his 2004 study, *In the Presence of Mine Enemies: Civil War in the Heart of America*. In 2012, President Obama awarded Ayers the National Humanities Medal. His Lincoln Prize came this year for his latest book, the acclaimed study *The Thin Light of Freedom: Emancipation in the Heart of America*.



Kate Masur

Yale historian Blight earned the Lincoln Prize (along with the Frederick Douglass Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and several other major awards) 17 years ago for *Race and Reunion*, a landmark study of how the North and South interpreted the meanings of the Civil War. Professor Blight, director of Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Institute for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, is the author of an eagerly anticipated new biography of Frederick Douglass. He will discuss the Douglass book as this year's Forum keynote—marking the 200th anniversary of the 19th-century leader's birth.

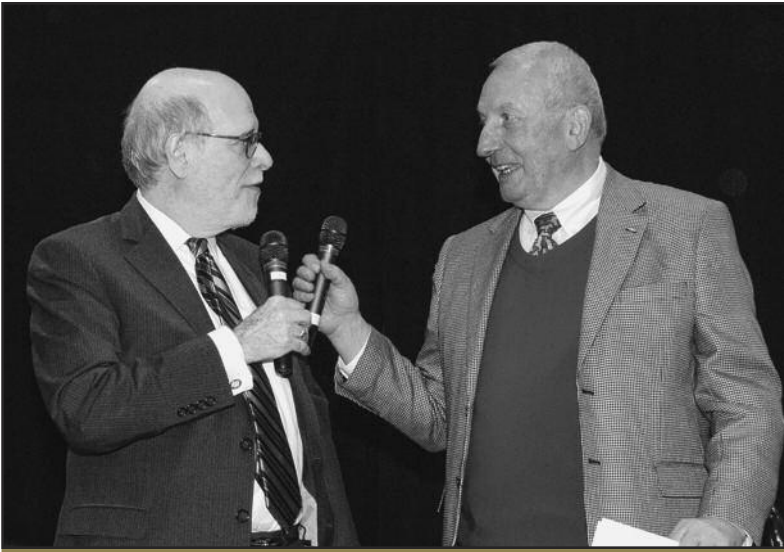


George Saunders

Among the other scholars who will appear at Forum XXIII are University of Michigan historian Kate Masur, editor of a new edition of William D. Washington's rare and neglected book of Lincoln recollections by African-American contemporaries; and Nicholas Pistor, author of a new study exploring the artistic and commercial rivalry between Civil War photographers Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner.

In addition, four Forum leaders (and veteran symposium speakers) will return to the podium: co-chairman Frank J. Williams will discuss post-Civil War justice North and South; co-chairman Harold Holzer will debut his brand-new biography of Lincoln Memorial sculptor Daniel Chester French; and John F. Marszalek, co-editor of the recently published, annotated edition of the *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* will discuss the new book in conversation with Craig L. Symonds, the award-winning Civil War and World War II naval historian.

continued on page 9



MESSAGE from the CO-CHAIRS

with a seamless leadership transition. With both of us co-founders of our 24-year-old organization, one has served as chairman for all of these years, while the other has served as vice chairman. From the beginning, we have worked in tandem on finances, administration, symposium planning, awards, and speaker rosters.

Now we plan to work as a team, more closely than ever. While your chairman plans to make 2018 his final year in the leadership role, your vice chair is pleased to begin serving, with your approval, as chairman beginning at the 2018 symposium in November.

Until then, we pledge to continue our work side-by-side, now as co-chairs, in this transitional year. You will hear more about the transition at Forum XXIII, and in subsequent issues of the *Bulletin*. But be assured: we will make sure nothing changes at all in how you experience Forum membership and symposium participation. We aim to remain not just an organization, but a family. Separately and together, we will work to make the best even better—not only for 2018, but to paraphrase Lincoln, for “a vast future also.” 📌

Frank J. Williams, Co-Chairman

Harold Holzer, Co-Chairman

CHERNOW VOTED FAVORITE SPEAKER AT LINCOLN FORUM XXII

Biographer Ron Chernow—who was the keynoter at Lincoln Forum XXII as well as the winner of the 2017 Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement—was also voted the highest-rated speaker at last year’s symposium.

Chernow earned a 9.58 ranking from the hundreds of attendees who assessed the Forum in their annual evaluation sheets. Annette Gordon-Reed finished just behind Chernow, earning a 9.36 rating, while Caroline Janney received a 9.26. All three 9+ speakers (out of a maximum rating of 10) were first-time Forum speakers.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author spoke on his latest book, *Grant*.

Among the comments received from attendees: “This was one of the best forums in many years.” This year’s 300 attendees came from as far away as Germany, and as near as the town of Gettysburg. 📌



Ron Chernow

FORUM LEADERSHIP TO CHANGE AFTER 24 YEARS, AS FRANK WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM CHAIRMANSHIP

Forum's Teacher and Student Scholarship Programs Re-Named in Honor of Frank and Virginia Williams

After nearly a quarter century of unbroken leadership at The Lincoln Forum—with Hon. Frank J. Williams serving for 24 years as founding chairman and Harold Holzer as founding vice chairman—the management structure at the national organization will shift in the fall.



Harold Holzer and Frank Williams at the second Lincoln Forum in 1997, honoring C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb. (Photo: David Walker)

Chief Justice Williams announced to the 300 attendees at the 22nd annual symposium on November 18, 2017, that he intends to stand down from the chairmanship next November after a final year in the role he originated. During the coming transition year, Holzer will serve alongside Williams as co-chairman, and if elected by the Board of Advisors at its 2018 meeting, will succeed Williams and assume the full chairmanship during the 23rd annual symposium next November 16-18 at Gettysburg.

"It's time," Judge Williams told the Board of Advisors at its annual meeting. "I am 77 years old, and have been collecting and studying Abraham Lincoln for more than 65 of them. I've loved every minute of my work in Lincoln organizations, but have concluded that the time has come to transition to a new generation of leaders who will continue the work that Harold Holzer and I began so long ago and have worked so hard to sustain and build. I'm enormously grateful to the Executive Committee, our loyal membership, the enthusiasts who attend and enjoy the annual symposia each year, and the historians who have made the Forum such a prime destination for scholarship and engagement."

"Our aim from the beginning was to make the Lincoln Forum more than a membership group—but a family. I think we have achieved that goal, which is why so many repeat attendees return each November as if they are heading not just to another conference, but to a reunion. I am confident that this unique spirit will continue under my friend, Harold, and am hopeful that new

leaders will step up and join him to carry the torch into the future. Meanwhile I know that Harold, who has been so capably functioning almost as a co-chair from the beginning, will move our agenda forward starting next fall."

Judge Williams previously led the Lincoln Group of Boston and the Abraham Lincoln Association. A respected scholar, he has written or edited more than 20 books, lectured throughout the nation, and served with distinction on the U. S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and its successor organization, the Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. Williams and his wife, Virginia, also built one of the nation's great private collections of Lincolniana. Late last year, the Williamses donated the entire holding—including manuscripts, relics, paintings, prints, and an enormous Lincoln library—to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University, along with a \$500,000 endowment to curate and maintain the collection. Williams has long served as President of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, which he will continue to lead. He and his wife, Virginia, added that they will continue their collecting pursuits as well as their involvement with the Forum.

Commented Harold Holzer: "It has been a unique honor and tremendous pleasure to work with Frank over the better part of three different decades to bring our vision for the Forum into reality. Frank has been both a friend and an inspiration, a visionary and a practical manager, a man who knows how to get things done, attract the best cohorts, and maintain focus and direction. I look forward to carrying his legacy forward, and I know he will continue to serve the Forum—and the entire Lincoln and Civil War community—with sustained distinction in whatever areas he chooses to pursue in the years ahead. The Lincoln Forum—and Lincoln studies themselves—would not be in a renaissance if it was not for Frank Williams. His legacy will continue to light our way to the future."

Holzer, 69, was co-chair of the Bicentennial Commission, chairman of the Foundation, and is a former president of the Lincoln Group of New York. He served as a member of the Board of the Abraham Lincoln Association during Judge Williams' presidency. The author, coauthor, or editor of 52 books on Lincoln and the Civil War, Holzer has won many awards for his work, including the Lincoln Prize and the National Humanities Medal.

Holzer announced that in honor of the chairman's retirement, the Forum's two scholarship programs would be renamed in honor of Frank Williams and his wife, Virginia. The Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship Program and the Virginia Williams Teacher Scholarship Program will continue to offer free conference registration, lodging, and travel subsidies to educators and students who compete each year for this designation. "This rebranding celebrates 'the Chief' for his consistent enthusiasm for reaching younger students and scholars, and gratefully acknowledges Virginia, a longtime schoolteacher in her own right, for her decades of hard work and fundraising for The Lincoln Forum, where she has been an important and beloved presence from the start." 📌

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

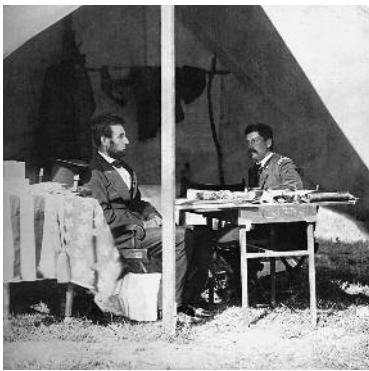
TWO VIEWS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

By Hon. Henry S. Cohn

David Donald, a Lincoln scholar and twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize, used to entertain his students at his classes at Johns Hopkins and Harvard by lecturing for an hour on Abraham Lincoln's negative personality and abilities and then rehabilitating Lincoln in the next hour as our finest statesman. He went from describing Lincoln as a "first rate, second rate politician" to a politician with whom every other person seeking political office must "get right." One may have a "David Donald experience" today by reading two recent books. The first is Elizabeth Brown Pryor's *Six Encounters with Lincoln: A President Confronts Democracy and its Demons*; the second, *The Annotated Lincoln*, is edited by Harold Holzer and Thomas A. Horrocks.

Elizabeth Pryor, an officer in the American Foreign Service and recipient of the Lincoln Prize for a book on Robert E. Lee, died in an automobile accident in 2015. Her *Six Encounters*, accepted for publication just before her death, was published posthumously by Viking in 2017 with the editing help of her sister. Pryor follows a tradition of anti-Lincoln literature that began even before he became a candidate for office, but, unlike some of this literature, Pryor's book is effectively researched and well-written. She certainly forces the reader to reconsider whether Lincoln was truly brilliant.

Her "first encounter" discusses Lincoln's sketchy abilities as commander-in-chief. She praises Lincoln's promotion of Montgomery Meigs as Quartermaster, over the regular Army's favorite, William T. Sherman. After the Civil War, numerous officials praised Meigs for his war successes. Meigs is mostly remembered today as the official that took steps to remove Robert E. Lee and family from their home, the Custis-Lee mansion, and there establish Arlington National Cemetery.



Commander-in-chief: Lincoln meets McClellan on the battlefield, photo by Gardner, 1862

On the other hand, Pryor finds that, as a general rule, Lincoln chose less than capable military commanders, such as Benjamin Butler and John McClernand, who led Union troops into battle defeats. McClernand was known for his insubordination and incompetence, but he was retained by Lincoln in the face of this reputation. Lincoln's secretary, John Nicolay, remarked that "Military genius is not as plenty as blackberries in our army." Contrary to the standard history, in which Lincoln purposely stalled relieving Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston, SC, Pryor takes Lincoln to task for not acting at once after assuming the presidency on March 4, 1861 to rescue the fort.

In her "second encounter," Pryor takes on one of Lincoln's well-known traits—his repeated storytelling, a habit he learned as a child from his father, Thomas. Pryor denigrates Lincoln for his stories, which she finds filled with off-color jokes, animal humor, and occasional use of the "N" word. She details Lincoln's arrival in Washington in March, 1861, as further proof of his lack of dignity. Contemporary news stories and cartoons related that Lincoln surreptitiously entered town dressed in Scottish costume. She mocks this outfit, even though Lincoln disguised himself because Alan Pinkerton had told him of an assassination threat against him.

Pryor's "third encounter" discusses her complaint that Lincoln stalled in issuing the Emancipation Proclamation until January

1, 1863, instead of issuing the document much sooner. Lincoln actually issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation as a warning to the South on September 22, 1862, after Union forces barely prevailed at Antietam, the bloodiest battle of the war. He acted on the advice of Secretary of State William Henry Seward to wait to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation until the Union Army had won a major battle. Pryor also highlights Lincoln's letter to Horace Greeley, written in August 1862, in which Lincoln declared that his priority was to save the Union, not to abolish slavery.

Pryor's "fourth encounter" has much validity. She details Lincoln's experiences with Native Americans, including his grandfather's death in a raid, and Lincoln's short military career in the 1832 Black Hawk War between the Fox tribe and settlers in Northern Illinois. Lincoln convened a meeting of Native American chiefs at the White House on March 27, 1863, to listen to the chiefs' grievances, but as Pryor states: "For Lincoln, there was no reason Native Americans should not flourish, so long as they did so on white men's terms." As with most white persons of that time, Lincoln was biased against the Native American population. A small exception to Lincoln's neglect of Native American rights was the military appointment of Ely S. Parker, who became a lieutenant colonel serving as adjutant to General Ulysses S. Grant. Initially, the Native American Parker had been rejected for army service, but with Grant's assistance, Parker was accepted. In 1867, Parker even reached brigadier general status.



Meeting the chiefs: Lincoln Recevant Les Indiens Comanches, published in Paris, 1862.

Pryor's "fifth encounter" has less support than any of her others. Here, Pryor theorizes that Lincoln had difficulties with women, including Mary Owens, a girlfriend from his youth in New Salem, and his wife Mary, at least according to his former law partner William Herndon. As president, he refused to meet women activists, such as Jane Grey Cannon Swisshelm, a prohibitionist and abolitionist.

Pryor raises Clara Barton as another example of Lincoln's problem with women, writing that Lincoln was unsupportive of Barton's efforts to create the Sanitary Commission, the predecessor to the American Red Cross. Her facts on Barton are questionable; she does not mention that Frederick Law Olmstead was the executive director of the Sanitary Commission and that Lincoln's opposition was based on whether the commission would find a role as a private entity in the already-established military healthcare system, and not on gender.

Pryor describes Harriet Beecher Stowe's bitter meeting with Lincoln in November 1862, where Stowe tried to pressure Lincoln to abolish slavery. But Pryor ignores the fact that in February 1863, Stowe wrote that Lincoln was "the best abused man of our nation" and called on the Almighty for his protection as he fought to save the Union.

Pryor's "last, sixth, encounter" is that Lincoln consistently insulted the South and made inadequate efforts to reconcile the North and South. In one of her examples, she relies on a trip Lincoln took to Richmond on April 4, 1865, just as the Civil War was ending. Some historians have written that Lincoln entered Jefferson Davis' office, the "oval office" of the Confederacy, after Davis had fled. Lincoln, according to these historians, sat in Davis' chair at his desk. Other historians have downplayed this event as lacking in proof; there are scant references to the incident in contemporary sources, such as

THE NEGATIVE AND THE POSITIVE

Richmond newspapers. A *New York Times* report states that Lincoln sat down on an easy chair and, rather than gloating, asked for a glass of water. But for Pryor, this story is evidence of Lincoln's callous views on reconciliation. She is also critical of the First Inaugural Address; Pryor claims that Lincoln failed to make a major effort to convince Virginia and other soon-to-be Confederate states not to secede.

Now we may proceed to the positive Lincoln. Harold Holzer and Thomas Horrocks, two leading authorities on Lincoln, edited and annotated a fine collection of Lincoln's speeches and other writings. Holzer has written numerous books on Lincoln, including the prize-winning *Lincoln and the Power of the Press* and my personal favorites, *Lincoln at Cooper Union* and *The Civil War in 50 Objects*. Horrocks, who wrote the charming and well-illustrated *Lincoln's Campaign Biographies*.

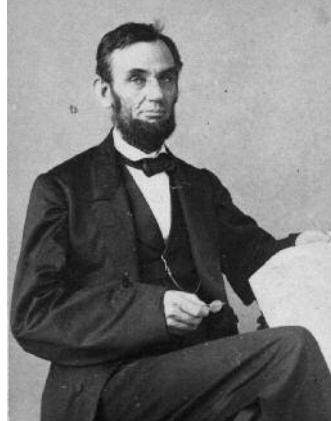
Lincoln's legal career is represented in this anthology by notes that he prepared, and probably delivered, to young lawyers in Springfield, IL in 1850. According to Mark Steiner in *An Honest Calling*, this lecture is a classic statement of Whig legal philosophy. Among Lincoln's observations are three that are often quoted: (1) "The leading rule for the lawyer . . . is diligence," (2) "Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbor to compromise whenever you can," and (3) "[I]f in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer."

The Annotated Lincoln also includes Lincoln's highly regarded jury summation on behalf of the bridge owner in the Rock Island Bridge case, as it was reported in the Chicago Press. This was a suit brought by the owners of the steamboat *Effie Afton*, which had crashed into the bridge. It is the subject of a recent book, *Lincoln's Greatest Case*, by Brian McGinty.

When Lincoln returned to politics in 1854, he attacked Stephen A. Douglas' "popular sovereignty" doctrine at Peoria, IL. At Kalamazoo, MI in 1856, he spoke against the expansion of slavery, and, at Springfield, Ill., in 1857, he gave a strong reply to Chief Justice Roger B. Taney's Dred Scott opinion. The book reprints edited transcripts of the first, second, and fourth of the 1858 Senate campaign debates between Lincoln and Douglas. Lincoln emphasized that the Declaration of Independence's statement that "all men are created equal" would lose its meaning if it were not applied to black people.

At Cooper Union in Manhattan, he rejected a claim that the Republican Party was to blame for John Brown's raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry. He ended his speech in a rousing fashion: The country's duty was to end the spread of slavery and "[n]either let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the Government."

The editors set forth Lincoln's speech on November 19, 1863 at Gettysburg, calling it his most cherished speech. Later, Justice Thurgood Marshall called the Gettysburg Address, and the constitutional amendments that followed it, our country's second



Lincoln in 1863, photo by Gardner

constitution. Among the other famous speeches that Holzer and Horrocks include are Lincoln's two inaugural addresses, the second of which Frederick Douglass called "a sacred effort." In the second inaugural, Lincoln called the removal of slavery from this country a responsibility that has been imposed by God on both North and South.

The book includes Lincoln's thrilling annual message to Congress of December 1, 1863. Although much of this annual message sets out Lincoln's later-abandoned brief in favor of compensated emancipation, it concludes dramatically: "The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. . . . As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth."

The book ends with three touching notes. The first is Lincoln's letter to General Grant on January 19, 1865, asking that, as a personal favor, he name Lincoln's son Robert to his staff with a nominal rank and with Lincoln paying his expenses. This incident was portrayed in Steven Spielberg's Academy Award winning movie, *Lincoln*.

The second event was the series of several addresses, including Lincoln's speech on April 11, 1865, in which he called for limited black suffrage. On hearing his remarks, John Wilkes Booth declared, as it turned out correctly, that "that is the last speech he will ever make."

Finally, a letter to Kentucky newspaper editor Albert G. Hodges on April 14, 1864 shows Lincoln at his rhetorical finest, writing of the wrong of slavery and his efforts to preserve the Union. He concludes: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me." In her "encounters," Pryor used similar statements, not as an example of a humble, triumphant leader, but as an admission of incompetence.

Lincoln's writings and speeches have been used by academics as one justification for consistently judging him the finest president of the United States. Of course, it would be a mistake to turn Lincoln into a saint, as was done in the years immediately following his assassination. Brian Dirck in his study of Lincoln's legal career concluded that, rather than ordinary debt collection, not major litigation, characterized much of his law practice. Now Pryor has set forth six weaknesses of Lincoln as president. Yet even with these alleged flaws, there is no doubt that Lincoln achieved so much for his country, often with great difficulty.

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PAUL PASCAL DIES IN MARYLAND

As this issue of the Bulletin went to press, news reached the Forum of the death of longtime Advisory Board member Paul L. Pascal in Bethesda, Maryland. Pascal lost a long and heroic battle with cancer.

A veteran leader of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, and a generous friend and supporter of many Lincoln

organizations and activities nationwide, Paul is survived by his wife Brenda, who attended many Forum symposia with her husband, and by three sons and five grandchildren. The Forum leadership, together with Paul's colleagues on the advisory board who for so many years benefitted from his creative ideas and sound advice, express their sincere condolences to the entire Pascal family. ■

LINCOLN FORUM



Frank J. Williams



Harold Holzer



George Buss



The United States Army Chorus



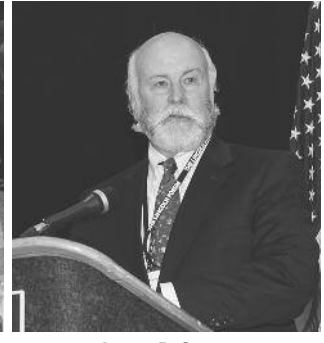
Sarah Thomas, Cathryn Harris, & Bob Lenz



**Frank J. Williams, Ron Chernow, & Harold Holzer
Richard N. Current Award of Achievement**



Carole Popchock & Virginia Cook



James B. Conroy



Mel Maurer



Jim Santagata, Michelle Krowl, & Jane E. Gastineau



**Harold Holzer, Roger Cosbey, Wendy Allen, & Frank J. Williams
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Russ Weidman & Tom Horrocks



Jon Willen, Henry Cohen, Marty & Jane Waligorski



Annette Gordon-Reed & George Buss



James M. Cornelius & Daniel R. Weinberg



Panel: Lincoln's Friends



Stephen Gilroy



Dave Walker, Tim Branscum, Joe Card, & Henry F. Ballone



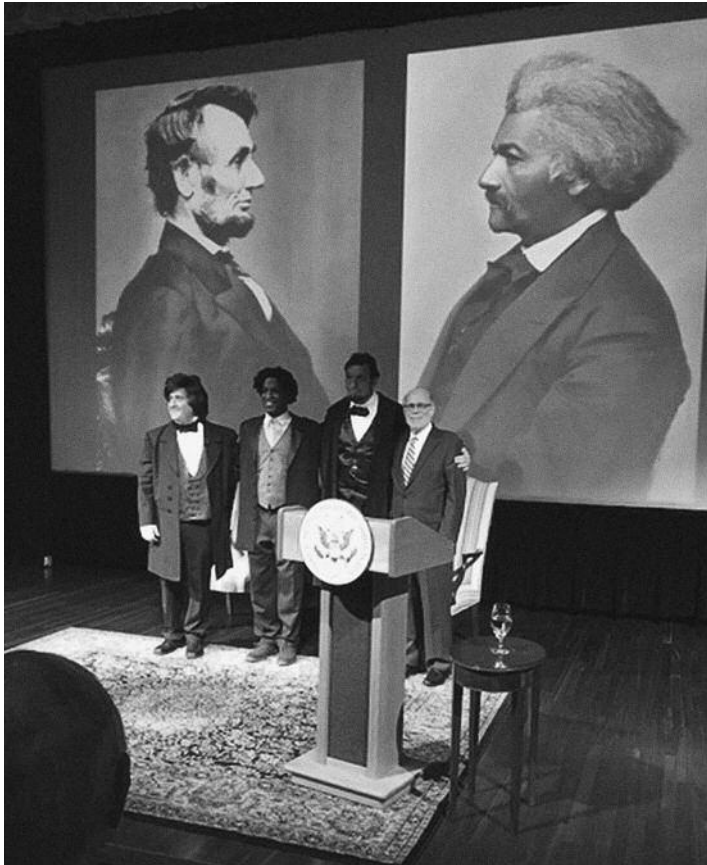
Frank J. Williams & Executive Chef Andrew Ernst



Paula Hopewell & Dennis Curran

“LINCOLN,” “DOUGLAS,” AND “DOUGLASS” DEBATE AGAIN AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON

Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, and Frederick Douglass—in performances by the Forum’s own George Buss, along with Tim Connors and Phil Darius Wallace, respectively—graced the stage of the William G. McGowan Theater at the National Archives on February 22 to debate anew—just as the originals had debated and conversed a century and a half earlier.



Tim Connors, Phil Darius Wallace, George Buss, & Harold Holzer
(Photo: Larry West)

To mark both Presidents’ Day and Black History Month, the Archives organized the special public program (accompanying an exhibit of the official Emancipation Proclamation), which attracted more than 250 attendees. Part One featured “Lincoln” and “Douglas” in an imagined conversation about their storied 1858 senatorial debates in Illinois, highlighted by a passage from Lincoln’s closing speech

at Alton. The encounter ends with a long excerpt from the heroic pro-Union speech Douglas gave at the Illinois State Capitol at Springfield, in an effort to thwart secession, not long before his 1861 death. The program was written by Buss and introduced by Forum co-chair Harold Holzer, who acted as narrator.

In Part Two, Holzer narrated a new adaptation of a words-and-images program he hosted in 2015 and 2016 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art entitled “The Real Lincoln-Douglass Debate.” The script, illustrated with period images, uses Frederick Douglass’ recollections of his encounters with President Lincoln at the White House to re-create an ongoing wartime dialogue between the two great leaders. The script also allows Lincoln to recite some of his greatest speeches, including the Gettysburg Address and the two inaugurals.

Following the performance, the *Lincoln Forum Bulletin* asked each participant what particular element—historic or inspirational—he tries to bring to such re-creations. Following are their answers:

George Buss: I want the audience to feel the burdens Lincoln carried—in his voice, his expression, his body, and his words. From his 1832 desire to do something in order to be esteemed by his fellow men, to his April 11, 1865 call for black suffrage, the burden never lifted.

Tim Connors: A compassion for his nation is the quality that I try to bring to the audience during every performance. The transformation of the “Little Giant” into Senator Douglas gives the crowd a chance to share in the many different layers of this proud man.

Phil Darius Wallace: I try to bring the emotional and passionate side to Douglass; not just the orator and abolitionist but the father and husband and son.

Harold Holzer: I enjoy focusing on the links between words and images—allowing audiences to see what historical characters looked like when they wrote or spoke the very words being performed. What makes this not only illuminating but relevant, is that Lincoln and Douglass, among others, almost always made sure they were photographed whenever they made important public appearances. They were not only illustrating their own accomplishments, but recognizing that their images could be as powerful as their words. Douglass, in fact, sold such photos as souvenirs to help fund his lecture tours.

The program is available for viewing on the National Archives’ YouTube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77E11tjZgjc> 📺

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and other Lincoln news, enter your email
address into our automated email system on our home page at:

www.thelincolnforum.org

FORUM AWARDS TWO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2017

By **Thomas A. Horrocks**

Lauren Schroeder, a junior at Rivermont Collegiate in Bettendorf, Iowa, and Jacqueline Kincaid, a junior at The Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, Missouri, were awarded student scholarships by The Lincoln Forum to attend its annual symposium at Gettysburg last November.

Lauren Schroeder has a strong interest in history and intends to pursue a career as a historical archivist, focusing on the Civil War and World Wars I and II. She is very active in many school activities, including the National Honor Society, Political Discussion Group, sports, and music. Ms. Schroeder is a member of the Quad City Youth Symphony. She was highly impressed with the friendliness of Lincoln Forum members and by the quality of the presentations: "I really enjoyed the whole forum. The experience was unbelievable. I really hoped the forum would never end, but it did. And so, thank you for letting me be a part of the experience."

Planning to pursue a diplomatic career after college, **Jacqueline Kincaid** is a recipient of the Ronald Reagan Student Leader Award at her school. Passionate about public service and politics, she is involved in Model United Nations, Youth in Government, and the Women's Foundation of Kansas City. In addition, Ms. Kincaid runs her own non-profit, A Future with Racquets, which teaches deaf and hard of hearing students how to play tennis. Like Lauren Schroeder, Ms. Kincaid found the 2017 meeting of The Lincoln a truly memorable experience. "Learning about the person Lincoln was alongside so many impressive people gave me insight into what kind of person I want to become. Being around 400 of my role models discussing a common role model for us all was an experience I will never be able to replicate. The conversations we had and the takeaways I was able to make were life changing....I am forever grateful to The Lincoln Forum for providing this opportunity for me. It is one I will not soon forget."

The Lincoln Forum's renamed Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship program began six years ago and has provided support to 13 young men and women to attend Lincoln Forum meetings. The program recognizes outstanding elementary and high school



Frank J. Williams, & Tom Horrocks with student scholars Jacqueline Kincaid and Lauren Schroeder

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. The Lincoln Forum would like to continue and enhance this program so that deserving students like Lauren Schroeder and Jacqueline Kincaid can participate 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. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Henry Ballone, Treasurer, 22 Rochelle Parkway, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663.

The Forum will be accepting applications for the student scholarship program for 2018. Elementary and high school students who are interested in the program can apply by sending a letter (2-3 pages) outlining the student's interest in Abraham Lincoln and why he or she would like to attend the Lincoln Forum meeting, as well as a letter of recommendation from an applicant's teacher, via email to Thomas A. Horrocks at thomasahorrocks@gmail.com by July 31, 2018. 📌

continued from page 1 Historian Catherine Clinton, author of the reigning biography of Mary Lincoln, will lead a panel on "Women and the Civil War" featuring Edna Greene Medford, professor of history at Howard University (who has written about enslaved women and women of color after emancipation); Candace Shy Hooper, author of the recent *Lincoln's General's Wives*; and Kate Masur, whose special areas of expertise and research include gender and sexual history before 1900. 📌



Catherine Clinton



Edna Greene Medford



Candace Shy Hooper

FORUM AWARDS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Ruth Squillace

Over the past eight years, the Forum has demonstrated a strong commitment to the growth and professional development of educators through the creation and expansion of the recently renamed Virginia Williams Teacher Scholarship Initiative. Diversification of outreach through various online scholarship discussion boards and pages, as well as through word-of-mouth from past recipients and Forum members, has accelerated interest in the all-expense-paid scholarships to attend the annual symposium.

Comprised of Lincoln Forum Advisory Board members Ken Childs, Esq., of Columbia, SC; Ron Keller, associate professor of history and political science at Lincoln College in Lincoln, IL., and Ruth Squillace, Lincoln Forum Teacher Scholarship Initiative Coordinator and high school social studies teacher in Long Island, NY, the committee received 37 applications in 2017 from 20 states—the largest and most competitive application pool, to date.



Matt Lakemacher, Heather Riganti, Nancie Lindblom, Kimberly Kirstein, Frank J. Williams, & Ruth Squillace - Teacher Scholars

Based on the applications received last year, educators now grapple with how to create curriculum in an unbiased, focused, and skill-based manner. Contemporary issues, such as the Confederate monument debate and how media spin impacts the younger social-media savvy generation, have become important topics in today's classrooms. In addition, applicants exhibited commitment to craft, as well as a quest to provide students with skills to approach this ever-changing political, economic, social and educational landscape.

The 2017 recipients of the Teacher Scholarship exemplified excellence, passion, and a firm resolve to attend prestigious conferences. The scholarship winners showed a strong desire to arm themselves with content knowledge from historians who can speak to such compelling questions in these unique times. From first-year educator to 20-year veteran, the 2017 teacher scholarship recipients reflected excellence as well as a wide range and depth of experience at all levels of education.

Kimberly Kirstein, from Parsippany, NJ, teaches at George Washington Middle School. Her work in foreign policy and political science education commenced upon her graduation from Cornell University in 1994. As part of the editorial staff for the political science list at St. Martin's Press, she assisted in the production of foreign policy texts for college-level students. After earning a Masters, she shifted her focus to teaching Humanities (with a focus on American history) to the New York City school system's ESL Chinatown population. Often serving as the first link to U. S. history, government, and civics for the majority of her students, this 20-year teaching veteran has striven to develop a hands-on, primary resource, and artifact-based curriculum that is both rigorous and engaging for our nation's newest residents. Her current students are

recent arrivals from nations roiled by military conflict, such as Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. In her view, their personal struggles with revolution and unrest have fostered their interest in learning about how conflicts began and have been resolved in United States history. Her work in making history accessible to all levels of learners, including ESL students, earned her the NJ Department of Education Exemplary Secondary Educator Award.

Ms. Kirstein has participated in many professional development opportunities in order to help enrich her classes and make history relevant to her students. Of her time at the Lincoln Forum, she commented: "The very fact that I, a middle school American History teacher, had the honor to sit next to Walter Stahr at dinner discussing his research, and to then hear him address the entire Forum just a few moments later, was an incredible experience! The sheer scope and variety of topics covered was also impressive. With over ten lectures and an additional break-out session, the learning was both non-stop and richly engaging." She has been selected to present at a statewide conference in June, at which she will be including the Lincoln Forum in her presentation. Recently, she was a guest on Hudson River Radio's program, *Let's Talk History*, which featured a segment on professional development for history teachers. When asked to speak to the varied programs she has attended throughout her career, she said: "It was very important to me that The Lincoln Forum was included. It is an amazing experience for teachers. The tone of the entire event was so positive, it made the learning experience that much more meaningful." The *Let's Talk History* radio program is now available on podcast.

Woodland Middle School history teacher **Matt Lakemacher**, from Gurnee, IL, echoed those sentiments when he shared: "Being a teacher scholarship attendee at the Forum was a fantastic experience. The lineup of prestigious historians and speakers was exceptional, the schedule jam-packed with opportunities for personal and professional enrichment, and the accommodations and food were second to none." A self-proclaimed "Lincoln lover" and "Civil War buff," he strives on a daily basis to transfer those passions to the next generation by supplementing his personal educational pursuits with frequent visits to battlefields and historic sites. A recent focus in his own area of study and teaching has been an increased emphasis on the Reconstruction era. Reflecting on Professor Annette Gordon-Reed's 2017 Forum talk on Andrew Johnson, he said: "She provided much more 'grist for my mill' in that area, especially in a year of Confederate monuments coming down and the events in Charlottesville. Her talk was both timely and necessary."

A graduate of Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL, Mr. Lakemacher also holds a Masters in educational leadership from Aurora University and is currently working on a Masters of the humanities with an emphasis in American history at Adams State University. In 2008, he was named a Horace Mann Lincoln Fellow at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield and in 2014 attended the Gilder Lehrman "Age of Lincoln" teacher seminar at Oxford University. In 2010, he was nominated for the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award and has been a repeat nominee for that honor for the past three years.

The third scholarship recipient, 2014 Arizona American History Teacher of the Year **Nancie Lindblom** remarked: "I have had the opportunity to attend many amazing history-related professional development institutes and can honestly say that the Lincoln Forum is one of the best. The professionalism was above and beyond all others and the **continued on page 11**

FORUM LOSES TWO OF ITS LEADING LADIES: FAREWELL TO LORRAINE DAVIS AND JO DZOMBAK

Two indefatigable elder stateswomen of the Lincoln Forum—both of whom enjoyed and enlivened many a Gettysburg symposium dating back two decades—passed away two days apart in January, a huge loss to the organization and the hundreds of friends who admired them for so long. The Forum bids farewell to both of these amazing women: Lorraine Davis and Jo Dzombak.



Lorraine Davis, 98, died in Fort Wayne, IN on January 24. She grew up in New Castle, PA, and graduated with honors from Muskingum College in New Concord, OH. In 1943, after several years working at GE in East Cleveland, she joined the U. S. Coast Guard SPARS. Following early service in Washington and Boston, she was transferred to Pearl Harbor, where she took charge of a military communications encryption center. Following the war, Lorraine earned her Masters Degree in English and

Education at Purdue, married Miles J. Davis (who died in 1990), and taught in both Huntington and Fort Wayne. Later, she became active in both civic affairs and historical pursuits, serving as a founding member of the Fort Wayne International Affairs Forum, advocating for citizen involvement in government, and in 1972 standing for office as a Democrat for Indiana state senate. She also served on the Fort Wayne Community Schools Board. In addition to her annual participation in the Forum, Lorraine was a volunteer at the Lincoln Museum and Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Modest and dedicated to lifelong learning, Lorraine seldom discussed her once-secret wartime service, in which hardworking, dedicated women helped save tens of

thousands of American lives by intercepting and interpreting enemy codes. Lorraine not only loved history—she helped make history.



Agnes (Jo) Dzombak, 86, a longtime resident of Latrobe, PA, died on January 26. Born in Chicago on February 17, 1931, Jo grew up on the city's South Side, and had a Catholic education before attending Mundelein College on full scholarship, graduating in 1952 with a BA in English. In 1953 she married Dr. William Dzombak, a chemistry instructor, and they began their lives together at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe—a city Jo literally encountered for the first time in the days leading up to

her wedding. While raising five children, Jo began her own career teaching middle school language arts, retiring in 1996 after 20 years in the schools. According to her family, she had a “lifelong interest” in “the achievements of Abraham Lincoln. She was a longtime member of The Lincoln Forum, participated enthusiastically in the annual meeting of the Forum in Gettysburg each November, and valued her friendships made through the Forum with people from across the country.” In turn, Forum leadership highly valued Jo—who, well into her 80s, volunteered each year to join other members in the arduous work of stuffing symposium packages on the eve of each registration day. Jo—her enthusiasm, her infectious smile, and her appreciation of Lincoln—will be sorely missed. Contributions in her memory may be made to Brother’s Brother Foundation (1200 Galveston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15233) or Saint Vincent Basilica Parish (300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, PA 15650).

FORUM AWARDS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page 10 speakers were astounding. I have never attended any institute that provided the amount of expertise that was found at this symposium.” This Skyline High School teacher from Mesa, AZ, holds a BA in social studies education from Northern Arizona University and a Masters in American history and government from Ashland University. She fosters her education by attending professional development institutes held at museums and historical sites across the country; most recently working with Ford’s Theatre, the World War II Museum, and “Street Law and the Supreme Court.” She has presented lessons at both state and national history conferences and further assists in providing professional development for other educators as a board member of the Arizona Council for History Education. She was honored in 2010 as the Gilder Lehrman Arizona History Teacher of the Year and was granted a Madison Fellowship in 2011. In 2013, she was named the Arizona State Teacher of the Year and for a year represented teachers across the state speaking to both community and education groups as well as education policy makers and was delighted to meet President Obama in the Oval Office. Additionally, she has received honors from the National Education Association Foundation and the Lowell Milken Foundation, and was granted an honorary doctorate degree from Northern Arizona University.

An aspect of the symposium that resonated most with Lindblom was the “variety of scholarship and different opinions.” She is in the process of developing a unit of instruction that will examine how Lincoln regarded the presidency in relation to the people. Utilizing source material and notes from lectures acquired at the symposium, she endeavors to compare and contrast Lincoln with the two presidents who followed him and the roles they played during Reconstruction.

Heather Riganti, from Fort Benning, GA, is a first-year teacher of American government and U.S. History at Kendrick High School in Muscogee County, as well as a veteran of the U.S. Army (active duty 2011-2013), and a military spouse. She was one of 15 selected as a Gilder Lehrman History Scholar in New York in the summer of 2017, just months after graduating from Colorado State University with a BA in history (secondary education) and psychology with a minor in sociology. She was also the 2017 recipient of the Threlkeld Prize for Excellence upon her graduation from CSU-Pueblo—the highest honor the university awards to a graduating senior. She is currently pursuing her MA in American History and Government through Ashland University.

Of her involvement at the Lincoln Forum, Riganti remarked: “My experience was eye-opening. *continued on page 12*

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS: A READER REPLIES

I am writing in response to Harold Holzer's article, "On or Off Their Pedestals" (*Lincoln Forum Bulletin*, Fall 2017).

While I agree with much that Mr. Holzer wrote, I do not concur with his suggestion that Confederate monuments should be stigmatized as unfit for viewing in the public square. I also disagree with Mr. Holzer with respect to the reason the monuments were originally erected.

Over 133,000 soldiers died in the Confederate service. Nothing was more natural than that their loved ones and surviving comrades should have sought to preserve their memory and honor their devotion to their cause.

It matters not that, with the wisdom of hindsight, we today reject that cause. We should reflect upon the fact many of our own beliefs may likewise fail the test of time; and none of us can know whether or not, had we lived in that time and place, we too would have thought and acted as they did.

What matters is that we respect the feelings of those who erected the monuments, and remember the virtues they sought to honor. To derive the benefits from knowing our history, we must find inspiration from those who have gone before. To relegate the monuments to the dustbin of history would only advance the narrative that America's heritage should best be forgotten.

Indeed, it is the belief that the United States was, from the outset, a nation based on hypocrisy and oppression that inspires the recent attacks on Confederate monuments. Those who reject our founding principles are not really concerned about the Confederacy; they view it as merely a soft target, due to its association with the evils of slavery. But if every Confederate monument across the land were destroyed, that would not be the end, but only the beginning. As Mr. Holzer acknowledges, there have already been verbal attacks on the Jefferson Memorial. Do not be surprised if next we hear demands to remove the statue of Andrew Jackson that stands across the street from the White House. In time the targets would be more recent leaders, like Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt, who held opinions not now in fashion. By browbeating Americans into rejecting their heritage, such critics think it would become easy then to persuade them to accept ideas about the role of government untethered to America's founding principles.

The Confederate monuments derive from an era when the country—despite four years of incredible carnage—miraculously reunited. That miracle could not have happened but for the actions and examples of Lincoln and Lee. Without that miracle, America could not have emerged as the world leader in the battles against tyranny waged in the 20th and 21st centuries. That miracle only occurred because people of both sections learned to respect the other. Until recently, nearly all Americans, regardless of where they lived, admired both Lincoln and Lee. To treat the cause of either side as purely evil, a blot to be expunged, would only exacerbate the division and disunity that increasingly besets our nation.

Those who built the monuments were honoring not only individuals but ideals, personal qualities of character we all can admire and emulate. In the end, it is such qualities that matter most. We should never forget that the greatest satisfaction one can have, as Lee wrote in his farewell to his army, is that which "proceeds from consciousness of duty faithfully performed."

Charles W. Snyder, Savannah, GA

Harold Holzer Responds

I welcome these thoughtful comments but do wish to remind readers that I never proposed removing all monuments from "the public square," but, rather, where appropriate, contextualizing them so modern viewers can understand the full stories behind the people they portray and the admirers who sought to pay tribute to them. Speaking of which, Mr. Snyder asks us to believe in the good intentions of all the groups who sponsored Confederate statuary. I'm afraid, however, that the record shows that many statues were raised long after reunification took place, and specifically to remind black Southerners that white supremacist ideology still reigned supreme in the former Confederacy. This harsh reality is part of the contextualization process too, and I still strongly believe that patronage and provenance should be weighed hand in hand with art itself. Who commissioned these works? Who paid? What did their organizations advocate? And what did they say at the time about the statues they erected? I trust an honest audit would not contribute to further national divisions but, rather, promote good history while providing long-postponed reckonings and honest appraisals. 📌

FORUM AWARDS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page 11 As a first-year teacher, I not only had the opportunity to sit in on lectures from historians I studied in college, but I left with access to current and profound literature on Lincoln, his administration, and the Civil War. Being selected to attend was truly an honor that I will never forget!" Energized and encouraged by the Lincoln Forum "family" and her time in Gettysburg this past November, she has committed to donating a hand-made quilt to next year's auction to assist in raising money for the scholarship.

To apply for a 2018 teacher scholarship, please refer to The Lincoln Forum website at www.thelincolnforum.org. Applications should be directed to Ruth Squillace, Coordinator, by June 30, 2018.

In addition, please consider making a tax-deductible financial gift to support the various scholarship opportunities available through The Lincoln Forum. All donations may be sent to:

Henry Ballone, Treasurer,
23 Rochelle Parkway, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663 📌

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