

FALL -2008

LINCOLNIANA

BY

FRANK J. WILLIAMS

The Spoken Word and Group Activities

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, held an all-day professional development workshop for K-12 educators on June 13 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Co-sponsored by the **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** and the **Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy**.

Harold Holzer presented a talk on “Lincoln: Candidate, Campaigner, and President-Elect” on July 9, 2008 at **Cornell University**. He also spoke at the opening reception for the exhibit, *A Portrait of Stephen Douglas*, at the **Freeport Art Center** on August 28, 2008, and at the re-dedication of **Freeport’s Debate Square** on August 30.

Walter E. Dellinger, III, presented “America’s Greatest Lawyer: Abraham Lincoln in Private Practice and Public Life” at the 40th anniversary of the **Federal Judicial Center Conference** on September 19 at **Lewis & Clark Law School**, Portland, OR.

The **National Archives** hosted *Lincoln and American Values* on September 20, 2008, in Washington, D.C. **Allen Weinstein, Harold Holzer and Lonnie Bunch** presented welcoming remarks. The morning session, “Lincoln and the Constitution,” was moderated by **Harold Holzer** with **Frank J. Williams and Michael Vorenberg** as panelists. The afternoon session, “Lincoln and Emancipation,” was moderated by **Michael Vorenberg** with **Edna Greene Medford, Frank J. Williams and James Horton** as panelists. **Tom Wheeler** moderated the session, “Lincoln’s Legacy as Commander in Chief,” with **Craig Symonds and David Work** as panelists.

James Buchanan’s Wheatland and the **Lancaster (PA) County Historical Society** presented a two-day symposium September 19-20, 2008, using a panel format to examine the political crisis of the 1850s and the presidency of James Buchanan. The keynote, “The Political Crisis of the 1850s: A Conversation With William W. Freehling and Michael F. Holt” was moderated by **John Quist**. Panel #1 – “1857: A Turning Point in American History,” was moderated by **Matthew Pinsker**, with panelists **Paul Finkelman** (“The Dred Scott Case”), **Nicole Etcheson** (“The Kansas Issue”), and **John M. Belohlavek** (“Buchanan’s Foreign Policy”); Panel #2 – “Before Secession: James Buchanan as a Crisis Manager,” was moderated by **Randall Miller**, with panelists **Michael Morrison** (“Buchanan as Party Leader”), **Maury Klein** (“Buchanan and his Cabinet”), and **William P. MacKinnon** (“Buchanan and the Crisis in Utah”); and Panel #3—“James Buchanan and Secession: A Panel Discussion,” was moderated by **Michael Birkner**, with panelists **Jean Baker** (“Buchanan’s Management of Secession Crisis”), **Daniel Crofts** (“Southern States and Secession”), and **William G. Shade** (“Northern States and Secession”).

The **23rd Annual Lincoln Colloquium Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates** was held on October 11, 2008, at **Knox College**, Galesburg, IL, site

of the fifth debate. **Douglas L. Wilson** presented “New Perspectives on the Debates,” **David H. Zarefsky** presented “Turning Points in the Galesburg Debate,” **Rodney O. Davis** (“The Debates Remembered: The Case of Galesburg”), **Allen C. Guelzo** (“The Little Men Behind the Curtain: The Committees, Connectors, and Carpenters Who Made the Lincoln-Douglas Debates Happen”), **Douglas L. Wilson** (“The Debates in American History and Politics”), **James M. McPherson** (“America in the 1850s”), and **Garry Wills** (“Electioneering by Debate”).

Filmmaker **Ken Burns** delivered the keynote address at the **13th Annual Symposium of The Lincoln Forum**, November 16-18. Other speakers included **Harold Holzer**, author of *Abraham Lincoln: President-Elect*; **Allen C. Guelzo**, author of a new study of the Lincoln-Douglas debates; **William Lee Miller** on his new ethical biography, *President Lincoln: The Duty of a Statesman*; and **Craig L. Symonds** discussing his new book, *Lincoln and His Admirals*.

The **Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond** (VA), hosted *Abraham Lincoln’s Legacy of Leadership* with **Richard Carwardine** on September 12, 2008 (“Wonderful Self-Reliance: Abraham Lincoln’s Leadership”), **Edward L. Ayers** on October 7, 2008 (“What Lincoln Was Up Against: The Context of Leadership”), **Douglas L. Wilson** on November 5, 2008 (“Abraham Lincoln and The Shaping of Public Opinion”), **William Lee Miller** on February 12, 2009 (“The Magnanimity of President Lincoln”), **Christy S. Coleman and Linda Powell Pruitt** on February 26, 2009 (“The Promise of the New South: A Community Conversation on Race, Reconciliation and Richmond”), and **James M. McPherson** on March 12, 2009 (“Tried by War: Lincoln as Commander in Chief”). The **Richmond Symphony** will present *Music in Times of Civil Unrest* on January 30, 2009.

The 2008-09 season of the **Lincoln Group of Boston** included a presentation by **Kate Clifford Larson**, author of *The Assassin’s Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* on September 20, 2008. **Russell McClintock**, author of *Lincoln and the Decision for War*, will present on April 18, 2009.

International Legacy

The **American University of Paris** has called for papers for a conference, “European Readings of Abraham Lincoln, His Time and Legacy,” to be held October 17-18, 2009 in Paris. Paper proposals of 300 words, in English, should be sent by December 31, 2008, with a one-page resume to Naomi Wulf (Naomi.Wulf@wanadoo.fr or Naomi.wulf@univ-paris3.fr).

Arts

Parker County Fine Arts Association (Weatherford, TX) **Theatre Off The Square** presented a historical drama, written by **Catherine Filloux**, *Mary & Myra*, on June 13-29, 2008.

James A. Percoco’s “Public Sculptures of Abraham Lincoln” was accompanied by **David Wieggers’** colored photographs of Lincoln statues in the August 2008 *American Art Review*.

Claudia La Rocco, on July 14, 2008 in the *New York Times*, reviewed the **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company** premier *Serenade/The Proposition* as a prelude to the choreographer’s commission to create a bicentennial work about Abraham Lincoln for the **Ravinia Festival**. Writings, including Lincoln’s second inaugural address, a Frederick Douglass essay, and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, are included in the score.

Lincoln statue photographer, **Dave Wieggers**, has identified new Lincoln statues that are either erected or soon to be erected in the bicentennial year in:

Louisville, KY	Hodgenville, KY
Springfield, KY	Jonesboro, IL
Mt. Vernon, IL	Shelbyville, IL
Metamora, IL	Decatur, IL
Elwood, IL (Lincoln National Cemetery)	
Joliet, IL	Hartford, CT
Lockport, IL	Hilldale, MI
Dayton, OH	Washington, DC
Bloomington, IL	Lincoln City, IN

The **U.S. Army Concert Band** presented a musical tribute to Abraham Lincoln at the **Lincoln Memorial** on August 6, 2008.

The **Lincoln-Douglas Society** of Freeport, IL, re-dedicated **Debate Square**, the site of the second joint appearance in 1858 of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas on August 30, 2008.

Exhibits

American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell featuring “Lincoln for the Defense” where lawyer Lincoln is defending Duff Armstrong in the Almanac murder trial was on display at the **Orlando Museum of Art** thru May 26.

The **Illinois State Historical Society** has for sale an unframed print of *Abraham Lincoln in Prayer* by **Dorothy “Dodie” McKain**. The cost is \$100 and may be ordered from the society at 210 ½ South Sixth Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701-1503.

The **Lincoln-Douglas Society**, Freeport, IL, held a **150th Anniversary Exhibit** at the **Stephenson County Historical Society**, Freeport, IL, beginning August 27, 2008.

The **Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum** of **Lincoln Memorial University**, in Harrogate, TN, will open a new temporary exhibit “**Lincoln in Memory—The 16th President in Personal and Cultural Recollections.**” Scores of artifacts from the museum’s substantial collection will be on view, including movie posters, calendars, advertisements, political and patriotic memorabilia, and popular and fine art. Select quotes from Lincoln admirers, friends, and contemporaries will be used to describe Lincoln as perceived by those who knew him. Opening October 2008, the exhibit will be on view until September 2009.

Collections

James Cornelius, Curator of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum** in Springfield, picked his top ten Lincoln artifacts for the July 1, 2008 issue of *The State Journal-Register*. No. 1 is Lincoln’s stovepipe hat; no. 2 are Lincoln’s bloodstained gloves from Ford’s Theatre; no. 3 is the Edward Everett Copy of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln’s hand; no. 4 is one of the two dozen known signed presentation copies of the 48 original printings of the Emancipation Proclamation; and no. 5 is the House of Representatives resolution dated February 1, 1865 to adopt the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution ending slavery, signed by Lincoln and Vice President Hannibal Hamlin.

Lisanne Renner, in the July 7, 2008 *New York Times*, reported the details of the restoration of the **Gettysburg Cyclorama** that reopened on September 26, 2008 at the new **Gettysburg Visitors Center**. The cost for restoration was \$15 million.

Carl Hulse (The July 13, 2008 *New York Times*) wrote about the opening of the \$621 million **Capitol Visitor Center**, Washington, scheduled for December 2, 2008, the 145th anniversary of the placement of the final sections of the *Statue of Freedom* atop the Capitol dome in 1863. Completion of the Capitol dome was very important to President Abraham Lincoln, who viewed it as a symbol of an enduring union.

Noted philanthropist **Kathryn W. Davis**, the wife of a great nephew of Lincoln contemporary, Senator and Governor **Shelby M. Cullom**, gave \$1.4 million to the **Papers of Abraham Lincoln** to complete the search for what will be the most comprehensive audit of Lincoln documents ever undertaken.

The **Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History** reopened to the public on November 21. It marks the completion of a two-year, \$85 million renovation. Displays will feature more than 400 of the 3 million objects in the museum’s collection.

Michael E. Ruane wrote “The History Will Linger At Remade Ford’s Theatre” for the August 15, 2008 *Washington Post*.

Two campaign banners and two American flags related to Abraham Lincoln's 1858 run for the Illinois senate, and his funeral procession, respectively, have been sent to conservators for restoration work according to **Steven M. Wilson**, curator of the **Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum of Lincoln Memorial University**, Harrogate, TN. The campaign banners "An Honest Vote for Honest Abe," and "Honest Abe, Friend and Brother," and the 33-star Beardstown Flag, represent Lincoln's campaign against Douglas. The future president actually raised the flag at the Rich house, in Beardstown. The 1865 flag (36 stars) was made by three women in Harlem, NY, and flown as Lincoln's funeral train passed on its way west.

Lincoln Bicentennial

Pete Sherman in the June 19, 2008 *State Journal-Register* (Springfield, IL), reported that Illinois radio listeners will hear **Hobart "Hobie" Woolen** as the voice of Abraham Lincoln. Woolen, a native of Mattoon, IL, was the winner of the **Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's** "Voice of Lincoln" contest. He will record dozens of public service announcements for Illinois radio stations promoting Lincoln's bicentennial in 2009.

The Indiana Historical Society and **Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission** presented **Indiana's Lincoln** at the **Indiana History Center**, Indianapolis on August 8 & 9 with keynote addresses by **Harold Holzer** discussing his forthcoming *Lincoln: President-Elect* and **Edna Greene Medford** presenting "Lincoln, The War and Black Freedom." Breakout sessions, one featuring the longtime director of the Lincoln Museum, Joan Flinspach, convened to review ways of teaching Lincoln in the classroom and Abraham Lincoln as portrayed in the collections of the **Indiana Historical Society**.

The Secretary of the Treasury has approved the final **2009 Lincoln bicentennial penny** designs. Kentucky is represented by a log cabin; Indiana depicts Lincoln reading on a log; The Illinois coin shows him standing in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, and Washington, D.C. is represented by the unfinished Capitol representing the incomplete Union at the time of Lincoln's presidency.

The **Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk** at Riverfront in Hartford and East Hartford, CT, has been created with more than \$500,000 in donations from the **Lincoln Financial Corp.** and features the work of ten artists from across the country. The effort is to revitalize the waterfront between East Hartford and Hartford with Abraham Lincoln as the theme. Eleven of the statues are abstract interpretations of highlights from Lincoln's life, including the creation of a transcontinental railway and the emancipation of slaves. There are two actual depictions of the 16th President. **Anne VanderMey** wrote about it in "Tribute to Lincoln Graces Riverfront" for the June 10, 2008 *Hartford Courant*. One of the sculptures of Abraham Lincoln includes him sitting on a boulder on which visitors, too, may sit for a visit.

The **Topeka Symphony Orchestra** will perform Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait* on January 15 and 17, 2009 (Topeka, KS). The **Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra** will also perform *A Lincoln Portrait* on February 28, 2009 with Frank J. Williams as narrator.

The **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** will host an exhibition, *Lincoln's Legacy at VA* in the lobby of the **Veteran Administration's** Washington Office in February 2009.

The **American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar**, Richmond, VA, with the **University of Richmond** and the **Jepson School of Leadership Studies**, will host *Lincoln and the South* March 12-14, 2009 at the **Jepson Alumni Center**, Richmond.

The **Massachusetts Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission** announced plans on August 21, 2008 to commemorate Lincoln's 1848 campaign stops in Dedham, Worcester, Lowell, Boston, Cambridge, Taunton, Chelsea, Dorchester, and New Bedford. During his 10-day campaign trip for Whig presidential candidate Zachary Taylor, Lincoln made a speech to the local Whig Party when he visited Dedham on September 20, 1848.

Awards and Prizes

Lincoln and Freedom: Slavery, Emancipation and the Thirteenth Amendments, edited by **Sara Gabbard** and **Harold Holzer**, received a **Superior Achievement Award** from the **Illinois State Historical Society** as did *Lincoln's White House Secretary: The Adventurous Life of William O. Stoddard*, edited by **Harold Holzer**.

James M. McPherson received the **Fifth Annual Foundation for the National Archives Records of Achievement Award** on September 16, 2008, at the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.

Auctions

Heritage Auction Galleries held an auction of American political items on August 5, 2008, in Las Vegas. Included was a 27" by 16" 1864 campaign flag featuring Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. Estimated at between \$18,000-\$25,000, it sold for \$45,708.75.

Over the course of seven decades, **Dr. John Lattimer**, who died in May 2007 at the age of 92, amassed more than 3,000 objects that included a collapsible dagger that once belonged to John Wilkes Booth and glasses worn by Abraham Lincoln. **Kassie Bracken** and **Erik Olsen** wrote about his collection "In a Father's Clutter, Historic Oddities" for the August 21, 2008 *New York Times*. Dr. Lattimer's daughter, **Evan Lattimer**, has been cataloguing the artifacts for auction. In November, some of the Lincoln-related objects will be put on the block in Gettysburg by **Heritage Auction Galleries** of Dallas.

Books and Pamphlets

Harold Holzer's *Lincoln President-Elect: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter 1860-1861* has been published by **Simon & Schuster**.

Rodney O. Davis and **Douglas L. Wilson** have edited *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* for the **Knox College Lincoln Studies Center (University of Illinois Press)**.

James M. McPherson is the author of *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief* published by **The Penguin Press**.

Eric Foner is the editor of *Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World* (**W.W. Norton & Company**).

Mr. Lincoln's Book: Publishing the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, With a Survey of Known Signed Copies by **David H. Leroy** with a foreword by **Frank J. Williams** has been published by **Oak-Knoll Press** and the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop (Chicago)**. It describes the story of the publication of the *Political Debates Between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas In the Celebrated Campaign of 1858*.

Lewis E. Lehrman is the author of the new *Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point* (**Stackpole**).

Mr. Lincoln's Boys by **Staton Rabin** and illustrated by **Bagram Ibatoulline** has been published by **Viking**.

The **University of North Carolina** has published *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867; Series 3, Volume 1: Land and Labor, 1865*, edited by **Steven Hahn, Steven F. Miller, Susan E. O'Donovan, John C. Rodrigue, and Leslie S. Rowland**.

Craig L. Symonds' *Lincoln and His Admirals*, has been published by **Oxford University Press**.

Lincoln's America: 1809-1865, edited by **Joseph R. Fornieri** and **Sara Vaughn Gabbard**, has been published by **Southern Illinois University Press**, along with *Abraham Lincoln and Robert Burns: Connected Lives and Legends* by **Ferenc Morton Szasz**.

Books of Related Interests

Jeffrey A. Hogge is the author of *Norton Parker Chipman: A Biography of the Andersonville War Crimes Prosecutor* (**McFarland & Company, Inc.**).

John F. Marszalek has written *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion* (**Southern Illinois University Press**).

Louisiana State University Press has published an updated third edition of **C. Vann Woodward's** *The Burden of Southern History* with a Foreword by **William E. Leuchtenburg**.

Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein has written *The Encyclopedia of Civil War Medicine* (**M.E. Sharpe Inc.**).

Periodicals

The March **Library of Congress Information Bulletin** included **Erin Allen's** "Rediscovering Lincoln: 'New' Images of Gettysburg, Second Inaugural, Identified in Library Collections."

The June 5 *Berkshire Eagle* included **Telly Halkias's** story of **Hildene** – Robert Todd Lincoln's home in Manchester, VT.

John David Smith's "Keeping Your Promises? African Americans, Contingency, and Lincoln's America" appeared in the Summer 2008 *Lincoln Lore: The Bulletin of The Lincoln Museum* – the next to last issue to be published by **The Lincoln Museum**. Interviews with **Jason Emerson** and **Robert May** also appeared in this issue.

The Associated Press reported in the July 6 *New York Times* the planned closing of historic **Fort Monroe** in Hampton, VA, in 2011 when the U.S. Army pulls out and the Commonwealth of Virginia gains control of this military installation. It was here in 1861 that contraband slaves kept arriving in great numbers and General Benjamin Butler allowed them to remain "free." Abraham Lincoln visited the fort to confer with military commanders during the Civil War and Jefferson Davis was incarcerated in one of its casemates after his capture with Georgia.

The "Lincoln vs. Darwin: Who Matters More?" by **Malcolm Jones** was the *Newsweek* cover story for the July 7-July 14 issue.

Part III of **Guy Fraker's** "The Rail-splitter—Abraham Lincoln in Macon County" appeared in the July-August *Illinois Heritage*. Also in this issue were **Carl Volkmann's** stories and photos about Lincoln sculptures in Illinois including *Lincoln at Leisure* by **Rick Harney** at the Livingston County Courthouse, Pontiac, IL, and *Lincoln in Sterling* by **Don Morris**, located in Propheter Park, Sterling, IL.

Evelyn Haught in "Baileys Crossroads review helps build Army" surveyed Abraham Lincoln's grand review of General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac on November 20, 1861 in the July 24, 2008 *Washington Times*.

Fergus M. Bordewich discussed the debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas for the U.S. Senate in 1858 in "Face the Nation" that appeared in the September 2008 *Smithsonian*.

Reviews

Gabor Boritt, *The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech that Nobody Knows*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

Brian Dirck, *Lincoln the Lawyer*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008), rev. by **William Pannill**, *The Journal of Southern History* (August 2008).

Brian Dirck, editor, *Lincoln Emancipated: The President and the Politics of Race*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

Brian Dirck, *An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln*, rev. by **Myron A. Marty**, *Lincoln Lore* (Summer 2008).

Daniel Mark Epstein, *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage*, rev. by **Julia Keller**, *Chicago Tribune* (May 25, 2008); rev. by **Janet Maslin**, *The New York Times* (July 3, 2008); rev. by **Catherine Allgor**, *Washington Post* (July 6, 2008).

William C. Harris, *Lincoln's Rise to the Presidency*, rev. by **Allen C. Guelzo**, *The Journal of Southern History* (August 2008).

Lewis E. Lehrman, *Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point*, rev. by **Christopher Levenick**, *The Wall Street Journal* (July 26-27, 2008), rev. by **Harold Holzer**, *The New York Sun* (August 20, 2008).

James M. McPherson, *The Mighty Scourge: Perspectives on the Civil War*, rev. by the late **John Y. Simon**, *The Journal of Southern History* (August 2008).

Mark E. Neely, Jr., *The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction*, rev. by **Ethan F. Rafuse**, *Civil War News* (July 2008).

Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years—The Illustrated Edition*, edited by **Edward C. Goodman**, Introduction by **Alan Axelrod**, rev. by **James A. Percoco**, *Civil War News* (August 2008).

Mark E. Steiner, *An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

Christopher Thomas, *The Lincoln Memorial and American Life*, rev. by **Paul Teed**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

Ronald C. White, Jr., *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through his Words*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

Frank J. Williams, *Judging Lincoln*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

Douglas L. Wilson, *Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words*, rev. by **James Oakes**, *Civil War History* (June 2008).

People

Chief Deputy Director of the **Illinois State Archives**, **Wayne C. Temple**, was profiled in the June 2008 **Cook-Witter Report**.

Former Governor **Jim Edgar** stepped down as President of the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation** after four years. He was succeeded by **T. Tolbert Chisum**.

Lincoln in Popular Culture

Mike Gross sent me an unredeemed Texas lottery "Giant Jumbo Bucks" with a top prize of \$50,000 featuring the \$5.00 bill portrait of Lincoln and a note, "If I had won, you wouldn't have seen this!"

A Harris poll in February 2008 asked Americans to name the nation's best presidents. **Abraham Lincoln** ranked first, followed by **Ronald Reagan**, **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, **John F.**

Kennedy, George Washington, Bill Clinton, Thomas Jefferson, Harry Truman, Theodore Roosevelt, and George W. Bush.

Matt Ehlers wrote “Could ‘Honest Abe’ be a Tar Heel?” for the April 20, 2008 *News & Observer* (Charlotte, NC), reporting that Bostic, a small town in Western North Carolina, not only claims Lincoln was born there but opened a local Lincoln Center to make the case. Creators of the Lincoln Center admit that evidence is not clear as they are working to prove the story. Various versions name three different fathers of Abraham Lincoln – Abraham Enloe, John C. Calhoun, and a local man named Richard Martin.

Marc D. Charney discussed how **Senator Barack Obama** “echoed” presidents in his speech delivered in **Berlin** on July 24, 2008 before 200,000 people. Included was Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863: “The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.” Obama: “Now the world will watch and remember what we do here—what we do at this moment.” (“In Berlin, Oratory With Echoes,” *The New York Times*, July 27, 2008.)

In **Mark Leibovich’s** “Hail to The Twitterer” for the August 3, 2008 *New York Times* “Week in Review,” the author discusses the computer habits or non-habits of Republican presidential nominee **John McCain**, who describes himself as a “Neanderthal” for not being technologically inclined. A sidebar features a quote from Abraham Lincoln’s lecture in 1859 on “Discoveries and Inventions,” praising technology. **Tom Wheeler**, author of *Mr. Lincoln’s T-mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War* and an Obama supporter, believes that Lincoln was “the model of a president who embraced technology.” As for **John McCain**, **Ed Kutler**, a Republican lobbyist, stated that, “If **John McCain** needs to rely on a young staffer to set up his Facebook page, then so be it. I can live with that.”

Doris Kearns Goodwin’s masterful *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* praised President Lincoln for bringing his three main political rivals into his cabinet. But in her op-ed, “Defeat your opponents. Then hire them,” for the August 3, 2008 *New York Times*, Goodwin, while praising the idea of having political opponents close by, argues that it may be more difficult to do so and be as effective as Abraham Lincoln in today’s political environment. She bases this conclusion on the lengthy campaigns that now pit rivals against each other for so long a time, thus hardening feelings between candidates and staff. She also points out that the 24-hour news cycle lessens the confidentiality of dissenting opinions within the president’s cabinet. Following the Lincoln cabinet meetings, however contentious, differences seldom appeared in newspapers. Third, party lines are so rigid today that if a member of the opposite party were to join a president’s cabinet, he would be viewed, “with grave suspicion by members of both parties.” Yet today’s challenges make a diverse administration all the more necessary – despite the difficulties in assembling them.

The July 23, 2008 *Washington Times* reported that a group of politically conservative and centrist Hollywood figures organized by actor **Gary Sinise** and others has been meeting quietly to counter the entertainment industry’s liberalism and Democratic political leanings. The group, whose members call themselves *Friends of Abe* after Abraham Lincoln, was organized as an underground movement because of fears that prominent industry officials, with outspoken liberal views, would retaliate.

Christina S.N. Lewis in the July 27, 2008 *Wall Street Journal*, wrote about the art work “Picturing Obama” including a massive multipanel billboard titled *Abraham* by **Ron English**, which depicts **Obama** as Abraham Lincoln.

Passings

Lincoln interpreter **Macon Ray**, former **President of the Association of Lincoln Presenters** died on June 3. He was eighty-one. His friend, **Robert F. Henderson, Jr.**, called him “Indiana’s Lincoln.”

Attorney, historian and author **Alan T. Nolan** died in Indianapolis on July 27, 2008 at the age of 85. Nolan served as scholar-in-residence for the **Civil War Institute** for many years.

Assassination

Jason Emerson discussed the “lost” letters pertaining to Mary Todd Lincoln’s life and insanity at the annual fall banquet of **The Surratt Society** on September 26.

Works in Progress

Southern Illinois University Press has announced a new book series, *The Concise Lincoln Library*, to be edited by **Richard W. Etulain, Sara Vaughn Gabbard, and Sylvia Frank Rodrigue**. SIU plans to publish two to four books in the series each year. The books will either be abbreviated summaries or overviews that treat important Lincoln topics or monographs that bring to light new Lincoln subjects or topics. Anyone interested in writing for the series should contact one of the editors: **Richard Etulain** at baldbasq@unm.edu; **Sara Gabbard** at saragabbard@aol.com; and **Sylvia Rodrigue** at Sylvia@sylverlining.com.

The **University of North Carolina** has undertaken *The Littlefield History of the Civil War Era*. Its inaugural volume, *Disunion! The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859*, by **Elizabeth R. Varon**, is now available.

In Lincoln’s Hand: His Original Manuscripts, edited by **Harold Holzer** and **Joshua Wolf Shenk**, will be published in Spring 2009 in conjunction with the **Library of Congress**, bicentennial exhibition. **Bantam Dell** will publish this book, featuring images of Lincoln’s handwritten letters, speeches and childhood notebooks, commentaries by prominent Americans, including **John Hope Franklin, Presidents George W. Bush, former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, plus James M. McPherson, Toni Morrison, Liam Neeson, Sandra Day O’Connor, Sam Waterston, John Updike and Steven Spielberg**.

Harold Holzer will edit *The Lincoln Anthology*, a prose and poetry collection of great writers on Lincoln, 1860-2007, for **Library of America**.

Author’s Note

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