

WINTER-2010/2011

LINCOLNIANA

BY

FRANK J. WILLIAMS

The Spoken Word and Group Activities

The **Edwards Place Historic Home and Springfield Art Association** (Springfield, IL) hosted a **Lincoln-Douglas Reunion Tour '08** on August 16, 2008.

Doris Kearns Goodwin delivered “The Art and Craft of Storytelling: From JFK, LBJ and FDR to Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt” on October 14 to open the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum** *Team of Rivals* exhibit.

On October 28, the **Arkansas Studies Institute**, Little Rock, AR, kicked off the **National Constitution Center and American Library Association** exhibit, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, with the “Lincoln Cabinet Meeting,” a re-enactment of the July 1862 meeting at which Lincoln presented his proposal for the Emancipation Proclamation.

A discussion of “The 1860 Election, 150 Years Ago” led by **Dale Vaughn** and **Bill Stumpff**, was held by the **Lincoln Club of Topeka** on November 4.

The **Maryland Emancipation Day Celebration** occurred November 5-7, commemorating November 1, 1864, when the new Maryland Constitution freed enslaved persons living in the state. The **Montgomery County Department of Parks**, part of the **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**, hosted the events.

Frank J. Williams presented “Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties” at the **Lincoln Memorial University School of Law** in Knoxville on November 12. He also delivered “The Educated Mr. Lincoln” at the **Lincoln Forum XV** on November 17.

Other presentations at **Lincoln Forum XV** included: “The New York Times and the Silent President-Elect” by **Harold Holzer**; “Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Road to Freedom” by **Edna Greene Medford**; “Lincoln’s Great Comeback” by **Gary Ecelbarger**; “The Sumter Crises: Learning on the Job” by **Craig L. Symonds**; “The Old Army on the Eve of War” by **John F. Marszalek**; “Lincoln’s Forgotten Southern Republicans” by **William W. Freehling**; “Selections from Lincoln’s Cooper Union Address” by **George Buss**; “Southern Perceptions of Lincoln in the Wake of the 1860 Election” by **Peter S. Carmichael**; and a panel discussion on “Could the Civil War Been Avoided?” moderated by **Frank J. Williams** with panelists **Harold Holzer, John F. Marszalek, Craig L. Symonds, Michael Lind, Peter S. Carmichael, and William W. Freehling.**

Sam Donaldson was the keynote speaker at the **Gettysburg Dedication and Remembrance Days**, November 19 and 20, which once again included a naturalization ceremony. On November 19, **James Getty** presented “My Life as Abraham Lincoln” at the **Gettysburg Presbyterian Church** and **Edward L. Ayers, President of the University of Richmond**, spoke on “Loyalty and America’s Civil War,” as the **49th Annual Robert Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecturer.**

Tom Craughwell, author of *Stealing Lincoln’s Body*, was the luncheon speaker for the **Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania** on November 19.

Lincoln interpreter **James Getty** discussed “Life as Lincoln” on November 19 at the **Gettysburg Presbyterian Church.**

James A. Percoco discussed “Summers With Lincoln” at the **Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia** in December. The group is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Allen C. Guelzo was the banquet speaker for the February 12 **Abraham Lincoln Association** banquet, which hosted the symposium *Lincoln Becomes President: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War* the day before in the **Old State Capitol**, with **Jonathan Earle** (“The Election of 1860”), **Jonathan White** (“Lincoln, Civil Liberties, and Dissent”), **Russell McClintock** (“Lincoln and the Coming of the War”), and a round table, “Lincoln Becomes President,” with **Jonathan Earle**, **Michael Holt**, **Russell McClintock**, and **Jonathan White**. **Brooks D. Simpson** moderated. **Michael Holt** presented “Lincoln’s Mistakes as President-Elect” at the **University of Illinois, Springfield**, on February 11.

International Legacy

The January 11th issue of the *Wall Street Journal* featured a large color photo of **French President Sarkozy** and **President Obama** at the White House with the bust of Abraham Lincoln in the background between them. They were discussing the world economy.

Jyoti Tripathy and **William Pederson** have edited a collection of new essays by Asian and American scholars, *Abraham Lincoln Without Borders: Lincoln’s Legacy Outside the United States*, published by **Pencraft International**. The 220-page hardcover volume (ISBN 978-81-909416-6-2) sells for \$18.00 and may be ordered through **Flipkart.com**. It covers the Great Emancipator’s legacy in Asia (India, China, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines), Australia, and Latin America.

Liberia has issued two new souvenir sheets of Lincoln (A683, A684), Scott No. 2651 and No. 2652; **Gambia** has issued two as well (Scott No. 3242 a-d, 3243 a-d), as has **St. Kitts-Nevis** (Scott No. 751). **St. Vincent** has issued four stamps showing different portraits of

Lincoln, the **Lincoln Memorial**, and a painting of the Emancipation Proclamation by **Francis B. Carpenter** (Scott No. 1282).

Grenada has issued two panes of six \$2 stamps each with photos of Lincoln and one with his son Tad.

Tuvalu has issued several Lincoln stamps including one for \$1.30.

The **National Archives** featured a panel on “A Global War: International Implications” as part of its Symposium, “The Civil War: Fresh Perspectives,” on November 20. Panelists included **Edward Ayers (University of Richmond)**, **Richard J.M. Blackeff (Vanderbilt University)**, **Howard Jones (University of Alabama)**, **Phillip E. Myers (Western Kentucky University Research Foundation)**, and **Brian Schoen (Ohio University)**.

The **National Archives** featured a panel on December 2nd on *Lincoln and Haiti: Colonization and Haitian Recognition during the Civil War*. The panelists were **Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie (Howard University)**; **James D. Lockett (Stillman College)**; **Phillip Magness (American University)** and **Debra Newman Ham (Morgan State University)**. The program was presented in partnership with **NARA’s Office of Regional Records Services** and the **Johns Hopkins Center for Africana Studies**.

Arts

Woodmere China (www.woodmerechina.com) has reproductions of the buff border china ordered by Mary Todd Lincoln from the Philadelphia firm of J.K. Kerr in 1864. This set, called “Abraham Lincoln’s second term China service,” is in **Woodmere’s** *The American Treasures Collection*.

The **Galesburg (IL) Veterans Committee** brought an 82-inch granite statue of Abraham Lincoln for Galesburg. It was unveiled on

Labor Day 2010. The statue is based on the one that stands in the Capitol in Washington.

The late **David M. Silver**, author of *Lincoln's Supreme Court*, was honored at the presentation of the painting *Abraham Lincoln 200 Years* by **James Wille Faust** at **Butler University** on September 23.

With **Liam Neeson's** departure from **Steven Spielberg's** biopic on Abraham Lincoln, it was announced on November 19 that **Daniel Day-Lewis** will portray Abraham Lincoln in playwright **Tony Kushner's** script.

Pomegranate is publishing a 2011 Abraham Lincoln calendar for the **Library of Congress**.

Photographer **David Wieggers** has prepared, yet again, a sculptural biography of Abraham Lincoln calendar for 2011 in two versions, desktop and wall.

Civil War artist **Mort Künstler's** exhibit *For Us The Living: The Civil War in Paintings* was hosted by the **Nassau (NY) County Museum of Art** through January 9, 2011, when it will then travel to the **Booth Western Art Museum**, Cartersville, GA (March 29-September 4, 2011).

On April 23, **Lincoln College**, Lincoln, IL, unveiled a new Abraham Lincoln statue at its **Lincoln Center**. This standing Abraham Lincoln was sculpted by **Andrew Jumonville** of Bloomington, IL.

The **United States Mint** has issued the **Mary Todd Lincoln First Spouse Gold Coin**. In addition to the portrait of Mary Lincoln, the reverse features Mrs. Lincoln bringing wounded Union soldiers flowers and books.

John Doyle reported for the November 26 *New York Post* that the 10-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln, *The Great Emancipator*, in Prospect

Park, Brooklyn, NY, will return to its original prominent location at **Brooklyn's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch**.

Anthony Gallo has written a drama, *Lincoln and God*, that was commissioned by the **New York Avenue Presbyterian Church**, Washington. With excellent reviews, several formed staged readings have occurred, including at the **National Press Club** and the **Armed Forces Retirement Home** in Washington. *Lincoln and God* was staged at the **Dramatists Guild of America** in New York City on January 7.

Jazz pianist **Ramsey Lewis** who composed *Proclamation of Hope* to honor the life of Abraham Lincoln was featured in the November 7, 2010 *Washington Post*.

Exhibits

The **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library** hosted *Team of Rivals: Lincoln's Cabinet at the Crossroads of War*, a Civil War sesquicentennial exhibition from October 14, 2010 to August 15, 2011.

The **National Archives** opened *Discovering the Civil War, Part Two: Consequences* on November 10 in observance of the Civil War sesquicentennial. The original Emancipation Proclamation was on display from November 11-14. In connection with the exhibit, the **National Archives** hosted a symposium, *The Civil War: Fresh Perspectives*, on November 20. A special exhibition catalog has been published for *Part One: Beginnings* which was hosted from April 30 to September 6, 2010.

Dr. Frank H. Goodyear, Associate Curator of Photographs at the **National Portrait Gallery**, Washington, will be curating an exhibition about Lincoln and Civil War photographer, Alexander Gardner, that will open in October 2014.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

Marisa Kendall wrote “Civil War Anniversary Plans Face Challenges” for the November 12 *USA Today*, in which she indicates that many communities wishing to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War are suffering from a lack of funding.

Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. has introduced **The Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act** which was referred to the **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform** where it is awaiting consideration.

Katharine Q. Seelye’s “Celebrating Secession Without the Slaves” in the November 29 *New York Times*, points out that the 150th anniversary of the four-year conflict has inspired a number of groups in the former Confederate States to plan a celebration of the “glory days of secession.” These include a re-enactment of the swearing-in of Jefferson Davis as President of a Confederacy, a secession ball in Charleston, SC -- the first state to secede -- and a parade in Montgomery, AL. The **Sons of Confederate Veterans** are honoring secession without any mention of slavery, the cause of the war. **Michael Givens, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans**, stated: “We in the South, who have been kicked around for an awfully long time and are accused of being racist. We would just like the truth to be known.”

Ms. Seelye also wrote “One State Takes a New Look at Causes of War” in the same issue of the *Times*. The **Georgia Historical Society** on January 9, 2011 – the date this state seceded -- will dedicate a historical marker at the **Old State House in Milledgeville** which will say that the state seceded in response to the election of Abraham Lincoln, who was “anti-slavery.” **Seelye** points out that, “This may be one of the first official recognitions in the state..., that slavery was the overarching reason for secession.”

Awards and Prizes

The **Lincoln Home National Historic Site** received the **2010 Mark and Diane Zimmerman Leonard Volk Award** at **Lincoln Forum XV** in Gettysburg on November 17.

Mark E. Neely, Jr., Pulitzer Prize-winning author, was the recipient of the **2010 Richard Nelson Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement** on November 18, when he delivered the keynote address.

Auctions

The Heritage Historical Manuscripts and Autographs sale in Dallas on June 8 featured a note by Abraham Lincoln which reads, “Tad wants the Company here to go to the Soldiers Home with him; but he insists they must have order. June 22, 1863, A. Lincoln.” It sold for \$19,120.

The only known example of a 76-millimeter 1862 Abraham Lincoln Indian Peace Medal struck in gold was auctioned on October 1 by **Stack’s**. The auction was held in conjunction with the **Whitman Coin & Collectibles Philadelphia Expo** at the **Pennsylvania Convention Center**. It sold for \$43,125.

The December 10 auction at **Sotheby’s** was expected to bring between \$1 million to \$1.5 million for a souvenir copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln and purchased at an estate sale for \$9,500 by then-U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. It sold for \$3.8 million.

Collections

Heritage Strategies of Sugar Loaf, PA, was selected from among eight bids to conduct a two-year study on ways to preserve and promote Lincoln history in the 42-county **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area** in central Illinois.

Civilian re-enactors, along with **Lincoln Home National Historic Site** volunteers in Springfield, IL, posed for a photograph in front of the **Lincoln Home** to re-create the photograph taken on August 8, 1860 during a political rally in Lincoln's neighborhood.

Norman Boas' *Catalog No. 119 for Seaport Autographs* has been published.

The **Allen County Public Library** has opened the **Lincoln Research Collection** in Fort Wayne, formerly Lincolniana and related materials donated in 2008 to the State of Indiana by the **Lincoln Financial Foundation** that reposed at the **Lincoln Museum** there.

The November issue of *COINage Magazine* featured "Lincoln and Numismatics," "The Old Familiar Lincoln Cent," and "Presidential Dollars: Abraham Lincoln."

Louisiana State University Press has published *Patriotic Envelopes of the Civil War: The Iconography of Union and Confederate Covers* by **Steven R. Boyd**.

The Raab Collection has issued **Catalog 66**, including the official report of the capture of Jefferson Davis at the end of the Civil War (\$12,000), and an 1860 letter from William T. Sherman resigning his Louisiana College presidency to go North (\$17,000).

"John Kelly's Washington" (*The Washington Post*, November 28, 2010) featured the chair occupied by Abraham Lincoln when he was fatally shot on April 14, 1865 and its history that is now ensconced in the **Henry Ford Museum**, Dearborn, Michigan.

Collectibles and Ephemera

Historical Fragrances of Hawthorne, NJ, has available a line of men's fragrances named after historical figures including Abraham

Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee
(www.historicalfragrances.com).

Books and Pamphlets

The papers of the *Legacies of Lincoln Symposium*, held at **Marquette University Law School**, October 1-2, 2009, have been published by *Marquette Law Review* in its summer 2010 issue. Included are: “Foreword: Laying the Foundation” by Law School **Dean Joseph P. Kearney**; “Colonel Utley’s Emancipation—Or, How Lincoln Offered to Buy a Slave” by **Jerrica A. Giles** and **Allen C. Guelzo**; “Abraham Lincoln and the Rule of Law Books” by **Mark E. Steiner**; “In Praise of Whig Lawyering: A Commentary on Abraham Lincoln as Lawyer-and Politician” by **Joseph A. Ranney**; “Lincoln and Constitutional Politics” by **Michael Les Benedict**; “The Other Thirteenth Amendment: Free African Americans and the Constitution That Wasn’t” by **Stephen Kantrowitz**; “Abraham Lincoln, German-Born Republicans, and American Citizenship” by **Alison Clark Efford**; “Abraham Lincoln and the Politics of Principle” by **Heather Cox Richardson**; “Civil, Political, and Social Equality After Lincoln: A Paradigm and a Problematic” by **Kate Masur**; and “Those Who Have Borne the Battle: Civil War Veterans, Pension Advocacy, and Politics” by **James Marten**.

The **American Bar Association** has published **Arthur T. Downey’s** *The Civil War Lawyers: Constitutional Questions, Courtroom Dramas, and the Men Behind Them*.

Eva Brann is the author of *Homage to Americans (Paul Dry Books)*. Her essays and meditations include “A Reading of Lincoln’s ‘Gettysburg Address.’”

Brian R. Dirck is the author of *The Executive Branch of Federal Government: People, Process, and Politics (ABC-CLIO)* which includes inaugural addresses and a section, “Abraham Lincoln, the Joint Committee, and the Limits of Necessity.”

The remarks of actor **Richard Dreyfuss** at the **Dedication Day Ceremony, Gettysburg**, on November 19, 2009, were printed in the *2010 Newsletter* of the **Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania**.

Megan L. Hardgrave has written a historical novel focusing on the Lincoln assassination from a teenage witness perspective with Mark, a boy who unwittingly helped John Wilkes Booth escape from Ford's Theatre -- *Ride With the Assassin* (1846 E. Rose Meade Parkway, #297, Carrollton, TX 75007).

Harold Holzer and **Craig L. Symonds** have edited and provided commentary for *The New York Times Complete Civil War 1861-1865* published by **Black Dog and Leventhal**. This massive book covers every campaign and battle with 104,960 eyewitness accounts and articles either in the volume or on a companion DVD-ROM.

Bobbi Ireland is the author of *Abraham Lincoln and His Era: Using the American Memory Project to Teach With Primary Sources* (**ABC-CLIO**).

Northern Illinois University Press has published **Jason R. Jividen's** *Claiming Lincoln: Progressivism, Equality, and the Battle for Lincoln's Legacy in Presidential Rhetoric*.

Oxford University Press published a 150th anniversary paperback edition of *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858*, edited by **Robert W. Johannsen** with a new foreword by **James L. Huston**.

Bob O'Connor, editor of *The Life of Abraham Lincoln as President: A Personal Account by Lincoln's Bodyguard Ward Hill Lamon*, has been published by **Mont Clair Press** (1094 New Dehaven Street, Suite 100, West Conshohocken, PA 19428).

Jan Shupert-Arick, for the **Indiana Lincoln Highway Association**, wrote *The Lincoln Highway Across Indiana* in the *Images of America* series (**Arcadia Publishing**).

Hans L. Trefousse's *“First Among Equals”*: Abraham Lincoln's Reputation During His Administration has been published in paperback by **Fordham University Press**.

Daniel Wolff is the author of *How Lincoln Learned to Read: Twelve Great Americans and the Educations That Made Them* (**Bloomsbury**).

The **Old State Capitol State Historic Site** and the **Lincoln National Historic Site** in Springfield published *“We've Been Elected!": 150th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Presidential Election*.

Children's Books

President Lincoln, Willie Kettles, and the Telegraph Machine by **Marty Rhodes Figley** and illustrated by **David Riley** has been published by **Millbrook Press**.

Harold Holzer's *Father Abraham: Lincoln and His Sons* has been published by **Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills**.

President Barack Obama's *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* (**Random House**) contained profiles of Abraham Lincoln, Jackie Robinson, Sitting Bull, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., among others.

Selected Related Interests

America on the Eve of the Civil War: A Virginia Sesquicentennial Signature Conference has been edited by **Edward L. Ayers** and **Carolyn R. Martin** for the **University of Virginia Press**.

Daniel L. Fountain is the author of *Slavery, Civil War and Salvation: African American Slaves and Christianity, 1830-1870* (**LSU Press**).

Joe B. Fulton's *The Reconstruction of Mark Twain: How a Confederate Bushwhacker Became the Lincoln of our Literature* has been published by **LSU Press**.

Steven Lubert is the author of *Fugitive Justice: Runaways, Rescuers, and Slavery on Trial* (**Belknap Harvard**).

God's Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil War by **George C. Rable** has been published by the **University of North Carolina Press**.

Donald Stoker has written *The Grand Design: Strategy and the U.S. Civil War* for **Oxford**.

Periodicals

John T. Elliff wrote "How New York Won the 1860 Election for Lincoln" in the Fall 2010 *Lincoln Forum Bulletin*. **Jason Emerson's** "Lincoln's Son Loved the Links: Robert Todd Lincoln and the Game of Golf" appeared in the same issue, along with "Abraham Lincoln in the Collections of the Ulysses S. Grant Association" by **John F. Marszalek** and **Ryan P. Semmes**.

Michael E. Ruane wrote about the D.C. boarding house where Civil War nurse Clara Barton once lived and worked in "A Home for Civil War History" for the November 4 *Washington Post*.

The Washington Post published *Civil War 150* as a supplement to its November 7 edition. "The Election of Abraham Lincoln: Prelude to War" included "A Less-Than-Monumental City" by **Brady Dennis**, "Painful Lessons the Civil War Taught Us" by **Philip Kennecott**, "The Speech That Sold Candidate Lincoln" by **Sally Jenkins**, "The

Photographer Who Went to War – Mathew Brady Was Famous for His Portraiture. Then the Fighting Started” by **Jacqueline Trescott**, “Out of Virginia’s Attics, Voices From the Past” by **Tara Bahranpour**, “Emancipating the Narrative—Ed Ayers Wants the Country to Remember that the War was About More than Battlefields” by **Frederick Kunkle** and the panel “If Lincoln Had Lost the Election, Would There Have Been a War?” featuring **Harold Holzer, Mike Musick, Joan Waugh, Chandra Manning, Waite Rawls, and Gary Gallagher**.

“The Man Who Came in Second” about the Election of 1860 and John C. Breckinridge by **Meredith Hindley** appeared in the November-December *Humanities*.

Harold Holzer’s tribute to the late **Budge Weidman** appeared in the January 2011 *America’s Civil War*.

Lincoln Lore is being published again by the **Allen County Public Library** and the **Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana**. The fall 2010 issue (No. 1895) was edited by **Sara Gabbard** and includes “Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address” by **Roger B. Cosbey**, an interview with **Harold Holzer**, and a suggested reading list. For those interested in subscribing, please write to **Michael Westfall, President of the Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana**, P.O. Box 11083, Fort Wayne, IN 46855.

Allen C. Guelzo wrote “Lincoln and the Leadership Follies” for the Winter *For the People: A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association*.

Reviews

Roger Billings and **Frank J. Williams**, editors, *Abraham Lincoln, Esq.: The Legal Career of America’s Greatest President*, rev. by **Randall M. Miller**, *Library Journal* (November 1, 2010); rev. by the

Lone Star Book Review (2010); rev. by *The Chronicle Review* (November 26, 2010).

William C. Edwards, Edward Steers, Jr., editors, *The Lincoln Assassination: The Evidence*, rev. by **Carol Bundy**, *H-Net Reviews*, www.h-net.org/reviews (September 2010).

Douglas R. Egerton, *Year of Meteors: Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, and the Election That Brought on the Civil War*, rev. by **Theresa McDevitt**, *Library Journal* (September 15, 2010); rev. by **Arthur Herman**, *The Wall Street Journal* (September 28, 2010).

Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, rev. by **James M. McPherson**, *The New York Review of Books* (November 25, 2010); rev. by **Fred Kaplan**, *The Washington Post* (November 28, 2010).

Harold Holzer, Craig L. Symonds and Frank J. Williams, editors, *The Lincoln Assassination: Crime & Punishment, Myth & Memory*, rev. by **J. Matthew Gallman**, *The History Teacher* (November 2010); rev. by **George Skoch**, *Civil War Times* (February 2011).

Andrew C.A. Jampoler, *The Last Lincoln Conspirator: John Surratt's Flight From the Gallows*, rev. by **Carol Bundy**, *H-Net Reviews*, www.h-net.org/reviews (September 2010).

Kate Clifford Larson, *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln*, rev. by **Carol Bundy**, *H-Net Reviews*, www.h-net.org/reviews (September 2010).

Anthony S. Pitch, *"They Have Killed Papa Dead!" The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance*, rev. by **Carol Bundy**, *H-Net Reviews*, www.h-net.org/reviews (September 2010).

Edward Steers, Jr., Harold Holzer, *The Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: Their Confinement and Execution, As Recorded in the Letterbook of John Frederick Hartranft*, rev. by **Carol Bundy**, *H-Net Reviews*, www.h-net.org/reviews (September 2010).

James L. Swanson, *Bloody Crimes: The Chase for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln's Corpse*, rev. by **John C. Waugh**, *The Washington Post* (October 3, 2010); rev. by **Dennis Moore**, *USA Today* (December 21, 2010).

People

James L. Swanson's *Bloody Crimes: The Chase for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln's Corpse*, appeared on the October 24 *New York Times Best Sellers* list as number 15. It was profiled in the November 28 *Washington Post* by **Michael E. Ruane**, "Writing in Lincoln's Footsteps."

The *New York Times* hosted a reception on November 8 to celebrate *The New York Times Complete Civil War 1861-1865* edited by **Harold Holzer** and **Craig L. Symonds**. Actor **André de Shields** read from an 1863 *Times* report on the Battle of Gettysburg.

A breakaway group from the **Civil War Round Table of New York** has formed: the **Civil War Forum of Metropolitan New York** with **David Kinard** as President.

Lincoln in Popular Culture

Eric Foner and his recent book, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, were profiled by **Shaun Brady** in the November 30 *mymetro*. According to **Foner**, "He [Lincoln] was a human being; he had great qualities, he had certain faults, but the key is change over time. That's what the study of history is, and too often that gets lost in the portraits of Lincoln as either a consummate hero or as some kind of villain."

Harold Holzer wrote “The Sound of Lincoln’s Silence” for the online commentary of the *New York Times*, “Opinionator,” on November 23. **Holzer** pointed out that between Abraham Lincoln’s election on November 6, 1860 and his inauguration on March 5, 1861, “Lincoln withdrew into intractable official silence, even as the union crumbled during a period that Henry Adams memorably dubbed America’s ‘Great Secession Winter.’” This was, in the words of Lincoln’s supporters, “masterful inactivity” because it offended neither abolitionists nor secessionists.

Harold Holzer authored “The Sound of Lincoln’s Silence” for the December 7 *Glorybound* website, pointing out that during his period as President-elect, Abraham Lincoln rarely discussed national affairs with anyone. “Masterly inactivity did not prevent secession or a war over slavery. But that was never Lincoln’s point – and any alternative would probably have sped things up. Instead, it bought him (his silence) the time to prepare for the coming conflict, a fact that too few acknowledged at the time – or have given him credit for since.”

As the 150th anniversary of the wartime execution of 38 **Dakota Sioux Indians** approaches, **Mankato, MN** where the Native Americans were executed will host commemorative events including symposia, exhibits, monument re-dedications, book publications and a symphony. Three hundred and three men had initially been condemned to death by military tribunals, Abraham Lincoln commuted all but 37, but **Robert K. Elder** points out in “Execution of Dakota Indian Nearly 150 Years Ago Spurs Calls for Pardon” in the December 14 *New York Times*, a captured Dakota named Chaska was executed by mistake though his sentence had been commuted by President Lincoln days earlier. Now some Minnesotans, including **Senator Al Franken**, are considering a pardon as a case of wrongful execution. The condemned and executed had committed terrible atrocities, killing approximately 490 settlers along the Minnesota frontier as supplies promised the Indians had not reached them.

Jamie Stiehm posted “Obama Lost Democrats With Tax Cut Deal” on December 14 for *U.S. News and World Report*. Using Abraham Lincoln as a counter-point, **Stiehm** used a Civil War analogy to describe **President Obama**, arguing that **Obama’s** adopting **President George W. Bush’s** tax cuts “has no shades of Lincoln’s political sagacity.” This is ironic as **Obama** has used Lincoln as his muse. The author contended that **Obama** has no heart for a good fight and should have challenged the Republicans and **Senator Mitch McConnell**.

Assassination

The Surratt Society’s conference March 8-20, 2011, *Lincoln’s Assassination: New Perspectives*, featured “The Penalty of Greatness: Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, Actors in Antebellum America” with **Nora Titone**; “The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln” with **John Fazio**; “CSI: The Lincoln Assassination” with **Blaine Houmes, MD**; “Inside The Walls: Facts and Stories from the Arsenal Penitentiary” with **Barry Cauchon** and **John Elliott**; “How Booth Saved Lincoln’s Life. Or, The Evolution of a Great American Myth” with **Jason Emerson**; and “Oh, Brave New World: A Primer on Digital Research” with **Steven G. Miller**.

Dave Taylor wrote about “Emerick Hansell: The Forgotten Casualty” for the November *Surratt Courier*. Hansell was the State Department messenger who happened to be present at the William H. Seward home in Washington when Lewis Powell stabbed Hansell in the back.

Works in Progress

Coming in May: *The Living Lincoln*, edited by **Thomas A. Horrocks, Harold Holzer, and Frank J. Williams**, with contributions by the co-editors, **Matthew Pinsker, Craig L. Symonds, John Stauffer, Edna Greene Medford, Michael Vorenberg, Richard**

Wightman Fox, Gerald J. Prokopowicz, Barry Schwartz and Orville Vernon Burton, from Southern Illinois University Press.

HarperCollins will publish new editions of **Stephen B. Oates'** *With Malice Toward None: A Biography of Abraham Lincoln* and *Abraham Lincoln: The Man Behind the Myths* to honor the sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War.

Nova will publish **Thomas Horrocks's** *James Buchanan and the Crisis of National Leadership*.

The Mary Lincoln Enigma, edited by **Frank J. Williams** and **Michael Burkholder**, will be published by **Southern Illinois University Press** in March, 2011.

Necrology

Film director **Lamont Johnson**, who won an Emmy for his 1989 mini-series *Gore Vidal's LINCOLN*, died on October 24.

Author's Note

I want to thank **The Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum of Lincoln Memorial University** for permission to re-publish this on the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation** website. **Harold Holzer, Richard Sloan, Tom Lapsley, William D. Pederson, Dennis E. Stark, Jason Emerson, Joseph Fornieri, Blaine Houmes, Wayne C. Temple, Edward Steers, Jr., Gene Griessman, David Warren, Kieran McAuliffe, Norman F. Boas, Mike Gross, Brooks Davis, Jo Dzombak, Guy Fraker, Dale Corliss, Malcolm Garber, Dale Jirik, David J. Stiller, and Virginia Williams** for providing information for this column. I welcome news concerning Abraham Lincoln. Please contact me at 300 Switch Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832; fax (401) 364-3642; e-mail FrankJWilliams33@gmail.com.