



THE LITTLE GIANT

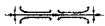
A NEWSLETTER of the STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

Volume V, Number 2, April 1993



Friday, April 23, 1993

Commemoration of the
180th Anniversary of the Birth of
Senator Stephen A. Douglas



5:00-7:00 p.m.

"Readers Theatre"
"Douglas and Lincoln in Chicago"
Followed by Comments, Reception,
and Exhibit of Douglas Artifacts

Harold Washington Library
400 South State Street
Auditorium, Lower Level

Immediately following Reception:

Dinner

7:15 p.m.

Prairie Restaurant
in the Hyatt on Printers Row
Burnham Room
500 South Dearborn Street

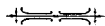


Address by
Harold Holzer

"The Lincoln-Douglas Debates:
What They Really Said"



Cost for the entire program,
including dinner:
\$27.50 per person



Public Parking is available across the
street from the restaurant.

**Please return the enclosed
reservation form, with remittance,
by April 19**



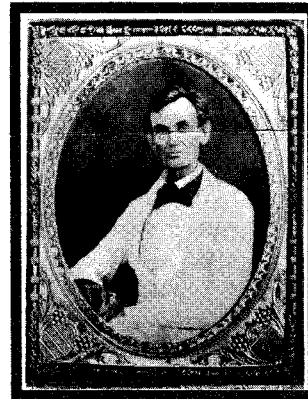
Please Note: If you arrive at the Harold
Washington Library after 5:00 p.m. for the
April 23 program, enter on the west (Ply-
mouth Court) side of the building.

THE 180TH BIRTHDAY OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS TO BE COMMEMORATED ON APRIL 23 WITH DRAMATIZATION OF "CHICAGO DEBATE," DINNER, AND ADDRESS BY HAROLD HOLZER

by Barbara Hughett

"I T ALL began," Harold Holzer notes in his recent book on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, "with a challenge from the challenger." When Senator Stephen A. Douglas gave a campaign speech from the balcony of Chicago's Tremont House on July 9, 1858, his opponent in that year's senatorial election was in the audience. On the following night, Abraham Lincoln answered Douglas in a speech from that same spot at the city's premiere hotel. When Douglas spoke in Springfield a week later, Lincoln responded with a reply to his opponent that same day.

As a result of these exchanges, the *Chicago Daily Press and Tribune*, in its July 22 issue, suggested that "Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lincoln agree to canvass the state together, in the old western style." Several days later, Lincoln issued a formal challenge to Douglas "for you and myself to divide time, and address the same audiences." The details were worked out by the candidates, and the result was the seven formal Lincoln-Douglas Debates.



Photographs courtesy of Lloyd Ostendorf

Since they had already spoken—not jointly, but consecutively—in cities in two of Illinois' nine congressional districts, those cities—Chicago and Springfield—were not included in the formal debate schedule. Thus, one might not be stretching the truth too far to say that the first "debate" was held in Chicago.

The remarks made in Chicago by Douglas and Lincoln will form the basis for a dramatization to take place on Friday, April 23, at the Harold Washington Library, cosponsored by the Douglas Association and the Chicago Public Library. Douglas and Lincoln will be portrayed by Rich Sokup and George Buss.

The "Readers Theatre" presentation will be followed by a brief commentary and reception at the library. Those in attendance will also have the opportunity at this time to view an exhibit of Douglas artifacts and docu-

ments from the library's archives, which will be on display in the reception hall. The evening's events will then shift to the Prairie Restaurant in the Hyatt on Printers Row for dinner and an address by author and Civil War scholar Harold Holzer.

THE LITTLE GIANT



THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

175 East Delaware Place
Suite 5112
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312 / 787-1860

Officers

Ralph G. Newman
Chairman of the Board
Brooks Davis
President
Ernest A. Griffin
Vice President
Faye Schwimmer
Secretary
C. Robert Douglas
Treasurer

Directors

Ellsworth H. Brown
John B. Duff
Barbara Hughett
Jerry Slechta

Honorary Directors

Corneal A. Davis
Robert W. Johannsen
Madeline Nash
Damon Wells

.....

Barbara Hughett
Newsletter Editor
Muriel Underwood
Designer / Typographer



"[W]hatever issue I may have with him [Abraham Lincoln] will be one of principle, and not involving personalities."

Chicago, Illinois, July 9, 1858

RICH SOKUP AND GEORGE BUSS TO BASE PORTRAYALS ON TWO CHICAGO SPEECHES

ACTORS Rich Sokup and George Buss will base their April 23 "Readers Theatre" presentation on the two Chicago speeches made by Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln on July 9 and 10, 1858. They will focus on two points that Douglas employed to attack Lincoln: (1) that his "house-divided" rhetoric and anti-slavery stance—as opposed to Douglas's "popular sovereignty" proposal—would split the country and could incite a war; (2) that Lincoln was defying the rulings of the Supreme Court by his opposition to the Dred Scott decision.

Rich Sokup and George Buss have been portraying the "Little Giant" and the "Great Emancipator" for a number of years for civic and historical groups throughout the Midwest. Sokup has been appearing as Senator Stephen A. Douglas since the events celebrating the centennial of the Great Debates in 1958, when he portrayed the senator in festivities at Freeport and Galesburg. The two men have been working together as a team for the past five years.



George Buss and Rich Sokup portraying Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.

Sokup is a native of Freeport and a graduate of Knox College in Galesburg. He has acted in summer stock productions and has played numerous roles in community and college theatres. He is a partner in a Freeport insurance agency, a director of the Lincoln-Douglas Society of Freeport, and a director of the Stephenson County Humane Society.

George Buss, also a native of Freeport, has been portraying Abraham Lincoln throughout northwestern Illinois since 1986. Buss's research and preparation has dealt with the writings of Lincoln's contemporaries, but they are balanced with the most recent contributions to the subject.

A graduate of Ball State University, Buss has taught at the high school and college level, and has worked in human resources management in the private sector. He currently serves on the faculty of Freeport Junior High School. A director of the Lincoln-Douglas Society of Freeport, he also serves as chairman of the Human Relations Commission of Freeport.

Saturday, April 24, 11:00 a.m.

CEREMONIES AT DOUGLAS TOMB

636 EAST 35TH STREET

FEATURING THE PARTICIPATION OF COMPANY K,

REACTIVATED 58TH NEW YORK INFANTRY

HONOREES: HAROLD HOLZER, RICH SOKUP, GEORGE BUSS

HAROLD HOLZER TO DELIVER ADDRESS ON "THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES: WHAT THEY REALLY SAID"

THE Prairies Are On Fire," ran the headlines of a New York newspaper in 1858, referring to the most heated election contest in the nation. The summer of 1858 marked a time of trouble and despair for America—the prospects of disunion lurked everywhere and the issue of slavery caused further tension between the North and South.

In this perilous time, two Illinois politicians running for the U.S. Senate seized center stage and remained in the spotlight for over two months, focusing on the issues that threatened to tear the country apart. The eyes and ears of the nation turned to Illinois as the war of words intensified. It was the season of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

Harold Holzer, editor of *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete Unexpurgated Text* (HarperCollins, 1993), will address the Stephen A. Douglas Association dinner on April 23. His topic will be "The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: What They Really Said." As Holzer points out in the Introduction of his book, previously-published compilations of the famous debates have relied on partisan publications of the day as their primary sources. However, the

various newspapers often presented a slanted translation of each debate, improving "their" candidate's remarks while printing the words of his rival, warts and all. Holzer worked with a team of colleagues to reconstruct the debates from long-ignored transcriptions, assembled for the first time since 1858.



Harold Holzer

Holzer explains that these documents always existed, but for some reason, other scholars chose to use text that came from the print media of the time. These transcripts seem to shed some new light on Lincoln's reputation as a public speaker, while compelling us to use this fresh evidence to reassess Douglas's performance as well.

Holzer, chief communications officer of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, is one of the world's leading authorities on Lincoln and Civil War iconography. He is the coauthor, with Mark E. Neely, Jr., of *The Lincoln Family Album: Photographs from the Personal Collection of a Historic American Family* (1990); and the co-author, with Neely

and Gabor S. Boritt, of *The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print* (1984) and *The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause* (1987).

A native of New York City, Holzer is a graduate of Queens College. He served on the staff of New York Governor Mario Cuomo until assuming his position at the Metropolitan Museum in 1992. He was director of the New York State Lincoln on Democracy Project from 1989 to 1992, and served as coeditor, with Governor Cuomo, of *Lincoln on Democracy* (1990), an anthology of Abraham Lincoln's writings on the subjects of freedom, equality, and self-determination. The collection, published in both English and Polish, was assembled at the request of the Solidarity Union of Poland.

Holzer has written over two hundred articles for national and international publications, and lectures widely throughout the country. Awards he has received include the George Washington Medal from the Freedom Foundation and the 1988 Award of Achievement from the Lincoln Group of New York. Last May he received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lincoln College.

CEREMONIES TO BE HELD AT DOUGLAS TOMB ON SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 24

A PROGRAM at the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 24. The tomb of Stephen A. Douglas is located at 636 East 35th Street in a beautiful little park, meticulously-maintained by caretaker Patrick Williams. The grounds are graced by many plants and flowers. The centerpiece of the site, of course, is the Douglas Monument, designed by noted nineteenth-century sculptor Leonard Volk.

The ceremonies on April 24 will include the participation of Company K, Reactivated 58th New York Infantry, with Captain Kenneth Pacanowski presiding. Company K has been participating in programs at the Douglas Tomb since 1986. The reenactors will appear in period costume and will fire three volleys from Civil War-era muskets.

Some brief remarks will be made by officers of the Douglas Association. Honorees for this occasion will be Harold Holzer, Rich Sokup, and George Buss.



"O.K. Now, if he comes at you with 'A house divided against itself cannot stand,' what's your reply?"

This cartoon by Ed Fisher first appeared in the October 26, 1992, issue of *The New Yorker* magazine. It is used here with the permission of *The New Yorker*.



DOUGLAS'S TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO CHICAGO— JULY 1858

by Lloyd Ostendorf and R. Bruce Duncan

DOUGLAS arrived in Chicago in the early evening of July 9, 1858, and was met by throngs of people. Chicago newspapers described the scene. There were rocket barrages, fist fights, panicked horses, cannonades, and a gigantic fireworks display proclaiming "Popular Sovereignty." At the corner of Lake and Dearborn Streets, the Tremont House was decorated with thousands of hanging lights. (Douglas usually stayed at the Tremont when he was in Chicago.) The photograph [accompanying this article] was found in the files of the Chicago Historical Society and was identified, in a handwriting that appears to be contemporary, as Douglas's triumphal return to Chicago.

Although the face is indistinct, the early identification is undoubtedly correct, for the scene matches the description in the July 10, 1858, issue of the *Chicago Daily Press and Tribune*. Douglas is the man in the middle foreground riding on the back of the carriage top. His folded hands and large stovepipe hat are visible.

The parade is headed east on Lake Street, and the photograph appears to have been made either from the Tremont House balcony or from a window in the next building west. Most of the photo-

graphic galleries in Chicago were located in this area; indeed, Charles B. Brigham's gallery was on Lake Street about in the position where the cameraman stood.

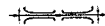
The studio of Alexander Hesler was in the middle of the block on the south side of the street; Hesler's sign is just visible above the carriage and slightly to the left. Samuel M. Fassett's gallery was also on Lake, in the next block west of Clark Street, and on the south side of the street, behind the large white five-story building. (Douglas posed in both studios.)

The photographer is not known but could have been Hesler, for he was always a promoter and it would have been typical of him to photograph the view so that Douglas would be seen in front of his studio. If the photograph was taken from the Tremont balcony, Lincoln could have been standing near the photographer. In a speech on July 10, Lincoln indicated that he was on hand for the reception "with a seat very convenient for hearing him [Douglas]."

Douglas opened his reelection campaign that evening with a speech from the same balcony, and Lincoln answered from the balcony the following night. Lincoln also answered a Douglas speech

in Springfield on July 17; Douglas spoke during the day and Lincoln in the evening. Shortly thereafter, Lincoln proposed to Douglas that they debate from the same platform.

Douglas acceded to the request and the first of the actual debates was held in Ottawa on August 21, 1858.



(This article first appeared in The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. LXVII, No. 1, February 1974. It is reprinted here with the permission of Lloyd Ostendorf.)

Douglas is greeted by supporters in Chicago, July 9, 1858. This is the only known outdoor photograph from the time of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Copy of an albumen print held by the Chicago Historical Society. Photographer unknown.

Photo: Chicago Historical Society

Photo: Michael Marienthal



NEW STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION PIN AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

A Stephen A. Douglas Association pin, pictured above, has been designed and produced. The gold and blue pins are available in both lapel-pin and jewelry-clasp styles, and may be purchased for \$10 each. To order one, send a check to The Stephen A. Douglas Association, 175 East Delaware Place, Suite 5112, Chicago, Illinois 60611.