



Saturday, June 1, 1991

Commemoration of the 130th Anniversary of the death of Senator Stephen A. Douglas



11:00 a.m.

Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb 636 East 35th Street

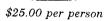


12:30 p.m.

Annual Luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association Prairie Restaurant of the Morton Hotel Burnham Room 500 South Dearborn Street



Address by James R. Thompson, on "Stephen A. Douglas: Advocate of America First"





Public parking across the street from the restaurant. Valet parking is also available.

Please return enclosed reservation form, with remittance, by May 17.



Former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson to Address Annual Luncheon

by Barbara Hughett

tephen A. Douglas wrote a letter to Virgil Hickox, state chairman of the Democratic party, less than a month before his death. In this letter, he said: "I know of no mode by which a loyal citizen may so well demon-

strate his devotion to his country as by sustaining the Flag, The Constitution, and the Union, under all circumstances and under every administration regardless of party politics against all assailants at home and abroad."

After losing the 1860 presidential election to Abraham Lincoln, Douglas—in failing health—toured the country in an effort to quell fears in the South and

to preserve the Union. Loyalty to the Union in the southern part of Illinois was probably largely due to his efforts.

In a speech before a joint session of the Illinois Legislature on April 25, 1861, Douglas reminded his listeners of a higher duty they owed, not only to themselves but to generations to come and to their country and the cause of self-government. He spoke for two hours. At the close of his speech, the heavily-Republican legislature gave him a standing ovation. Reporting on the speech, the *Illinois State Journal* said: "By his noble support of his

country, Mr. Douglas has endeared himself to every loyal citizen in our our broad land."

Former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson will address the annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association on Saturday, June 1. The topic of his address will be "Stephen A. Douglas: Advocate of America First."

Governor of Illinois from 1977 until 1991, Thompson is currently a partner in the Chicago



James R. Thompson

law firm, Winston & Strawn, and serves as chairman of the firm's executive committee. He was first elected governor in 1976 by a record 1.39 million votes, with 65 percent of the vote. He was re-elected in 1978 by 596,550 votes—a record for an incum-

(continued on page 2)



THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

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Saturday, June 1, 1991

11:00 a.m.: Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb, 636 East 35th Street.
The honoree will be former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson.
12:30 p.m.: Annual Luncheon, Prairie Restaurant.



Summer Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb: the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

July 7: Honoree to be announced.
 August 4: The honoree will be Father George Clements, pastor of Holy Angels Church and prominent civic and community leader.
 September 1: Honoree to be an-

nounced.

Thompson Address

(continued from page 1)

bent, and he won unprecedented consecutive third and fourth terms to office in 1982 and 1986.

A native Chicagoan, Thompson did his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois and Washington University. He then entered Northwestern University Law School, where he was awarded his law degree in 1959. From 1959 to 1964, he served as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. In 1964, he joined the faculty of Northwestern University Law School as an Associate Professor.

Thompson was chief of the Department of Law Enforcement and Public Protection of the Illinois Attorney General's Office from 1969 to 1970. From 1970 to 1971, he served as First Assistant U.S. Attorney. He was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District in November of 1971, and served in that position until June of 1975.

The former governor has been the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and many national and local civic awards. He was chairman of the Midwestern Governors' Conference in 1981 and chairman of the Republican Governors' Association in 1982.

Governor Thompson is a member of the Working Group on International Economic changes: Perestroika and East-West Security, Institute for East-West Security Studies. In 1990, he was appointed chairman of the President's Intelligence Oversight Board.

In addition to serving on the board of directors of FMC Corporation, Governor Thompson has recently accepted invitations to join the boards of Chicago United (and Executive Committee); the Chicago Historical Society; the Shedd Aquarium; and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago. He also serves as chairman of the Illinois Academy of Fine Arts, and as president of the Illinois Math and Science Foundation. Throughout the years, he has maintained an active interest in the study of American history.

Ceremonies at Douglas Tomb to be held on June 1

on Saturday, June 1, will feature the participation of Company K, Reactivated 58th New York Infantry, with Captain Kenneth Pecanowski commanding. The reenactment group will appear in period costume and will fire three volleys from Civil War muskets.

C. Robert Douglas, secretary of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, will offer a few brief remarks about Senator Douglas and the history of the tomb. The honoree on this occasion will be James R. Thompson, governor of Illinois for four consecutive terms and the speaker at the annual luncheon which will follow the program at the Douglas Tomb. The ceremonies, commemorating the 130th anniversary of the death of Stephen A. Douglas, will begin at 11:00 a.m.



Ernest A. Griffin Honored

rnest A. Griffin, member of the board of directors of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, was honored by Camp 1507 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in a ceremony at the Confederate Mound in Oak Woods Cemetery on April 27. Griffin was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his efforts to honor the Confederate solders who died at Camp Douglas.

In 1990, Griffin constructed the Heritage Memorial Wall on the grounds of his funeral home on Martin Luther King Drive, to honor both Union and Confederate soldiers. The funeral home is located on a portion of the land that was once the site of Camp Douglas, a United States Army recruiting camp during the Civil War and a prison for captured Confederate soldiers. It was at this site that Griffin's grandfather, Charles H. Griffin, enlisted in the Union Army on January 5, 1864. Private Griffin served in Company B, 29th Infantry Regiment of the United States Colored Troops.

by Jerry Warshaw

tephen A. Douglas was five feet, five inches tall; the height of his statue, sculpted by Leonard Wells Volk and placed above Douglas' tomb, is nine feet, nine inches. It stands atop a Romanesque pillar, one hundred feet above land that was once part of Douglas' beloved estate, Oakenwald. This is the image we get of "The Little Giant" when we visit the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site on the south side of Chicago.

How to immortalize Stephen A. Douglas—one of the nation's most influential men and one of the finest legislators in Illinois history—was the task facing Leonard Wells Volk, sculptor and civic leader, in 1866 when he was commissioned by the Douglas Monument Association to build this memorial. A gifted sculptor and a friend of the Senator, Volk was singularly qualified for the job entrusted to him.

A cousin by marriage to Douglas, the sculptor was beholden to him for his support and encouragement at the beginning of his career. Born on No-



Leonard Wells Volk: A Biographical Sketch



vember 7, 1828 in Wells, New York, Leonard Volk was one of a family of thirteen children. The son of a master stone-cutter, he started out as an apprentice stone-cutter in his father's marble factory.

Volk's talent and ambition soon led him to seek work elsewhere. While working as a journeyman stone-cutter in Bethany, New York, he met Clarissa Barlow, daughter of a prominent local physician. Seven years later she became his wife.

When the Barlow family moved to St. Louis in 1848, Volk followed—encouraged by a job offer from a St. Louis firm at the princely salary of \$50.00 per month. Spurred on by his love of Miss Barlow and his desire to become something more than a "skillful carver," he plunged into vigorous activity.

Sculptor Leonard Volk posed for this photograph while working on his famed bust of Lincoln. A bust of Douglas is behind him. (Photo courtesy of Lloyd Ostendorf)

In 1849, he began a strenuous year of self-study in drawing and modeling. Volk's ambition by this time was "to enjoy the success and reputation of a sculptor in the fullest and broadest sense of that word."

With an artist's sense of the romantic, he chose as one of his first projects a bust of Dr. J.K. Barlow, the father of his fiancee, "in the fond hope that Miss Barlow might see it and admire it." It must have worked; on April 22, 1852, he and Clarissa were wed.

Developing a reputation for conscientious study and good artistic taste, he began to produce a number of impressive works, such as a copy of Joel T. Hart's famous bust of Henry Clay in marble—the first of its kind west of the Mississippi. However, he was not satisfied with the progress of his career and returned for awhile to his old trade of stone-cutting, hoping to lay aside money with the intention of going to Italy to study the Old Masters and "seek inspiration from them."

He and Clarissa settled in Galena, Illinois, where a daughter was born and where he began his lifelong friendship with Stephen A. Douglas. Believing in the young sculptor's talent, Douglas became a devoted mentor to Volk. He was generous in using his personal influence to obtain commissions for Volk.

In 1855, Douglas made him an "offer he couldn't refuse"-the financial means to fulfill his dream of going to Italy to study. Before departing, he set up residence in Chicago. Leaving his wife and child in the care of his brother in Pittsfield, Massachusetts for the duration of his stay abroad, the twenty-seven-year-old Volk sailed to the "Eternal City" where, for eighteen months he studied his art and enjoyed the stimulating cultural atmosphere in the company of a number of young American sculptors, including John Rogers. These young talents would be major influences on modern American sculpture for the rest of the century and beyond.

The many Romanesque columns on American monuments attest to the influence of the "Roman students." The Douglas tomb is a prime example of this style.

While in Rome, Volk was informed of the death of his daughter. In 1857, he returned to Chicago with \$5.00 in

(continued on page 4)

Leonard Wells Volk

(continued from page 3) his pockets. With generous assistance from Douglas, he soon established himself as a major sculptor. He did a bust and life-size statue of Douglas and, in 1860, produced a statuette of the Senator for his upcoming run for the presidency. In 1859, he organized the first fine arts exhibition in the American Northwest.

Holding the Republican presidential candidate to a previous promise, Volk persuaded Abraham Lincoln to sit for him in his studio in Chicago. From this sitting came the famous casts of Lincoln's face and hands, which would be models for countless paintings, sculptures, and monuments all over the world. Lincoln's comment on Volk's bust of him was, "There's the animal himself."

After Fort Sumter was fired upon, Volk enlisted in a local Chicago regiment, but his company was never called to action and was soon disbanded. He then continued his successful career.

After the war, Volk became secre-

tary of the Douglas Monument Association. Despite many setbacks, including fund-raising problems and the loss of the original design in the Chicago fire, the monument was finally completed on May 5, 1881.

Volk became a "mover and shaker" in the cultural life of Chicago. He founded the Chicago Academy of Design and became its first president. The Academy would later become the Art Institute of Chicago.

He enjoyed a very productive career, designing monuments for military memorials, parks, and cemeteries. He designed his own marble-front art building on Washington Street, between Wells and Franklin Streets, in downtown Chicago.

Leonard Volk died on August 19, 1895 at his summer home in Oseola, Wisconsin, only months after the death of his beloved Clarissa. He is buried in Rosehill Cemetery on the north side of Chicago. He sculpted his own monument, which shows him resting a moment while walking in the countryside—one of his favorite pastimes.

Herman Williams (1913-1990)

erman Williams, caretaker for
the Stephen A. Douglas Tomb
State Historic Site, died in Los Angeles, California on December 23, 1990.
Mr. Williams was appointed to his
position by former Illinois Governor
William G. Stratton, a charter member of the Stephen A. Douglas Association. For over thirty-seven years
Mr. Williams cared for the two-andone-half acre property surrounding
the monument to Senator Douglas.

Mr. Williams and his wife raised a family of seven children in the small bungalow on the property. Throughout the years, he paid meticulous attention to the grooming of the lawns and the care of the many plants and flowers in the beautiful little park. He has been credited with "breathing new life into the all-but-forgotten land." On several occasions, Herman Williams was the subject of a feature newspaper article.

Brooks Davis, president of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, said: "All of us always looked forward to the spring flowers that Herman planted each year. Betsey and I especially looked forward to the blooming of the violets (the state flower of Illinois) that we had given Herman several years ago. He was very particular about what was planted and how it was planted."

"A favorite photo in my collection," Davis recalled, "is one of Herman Williams berating Paul Angle, then director of the Chicago Historical Society, and me because we had not done more to publicize the existence of the tomb. Herman Williams was the greatest booster for the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site." He will be sorely missed by all who visit the Douglas Tomb.

Herman Williams' work is being carried on by his son Patrick. Patrick Williams, in his work at the site, is continuing the tradition of excellence begun by his father.

OUR MOTTO: "ONWARD AND UPWARD."



OUR EMBLEMS: The American Eagle and The Stars and Stripes.

"We will join ourself to no Party
That will not follow the Flag and keep step
To the Music of the Union."

This illustration appeared, after the election of Abraham Lincoln, in the November 17, 1860 Campaign Plain Dealer, a newspaper issued during the 1860 campaign to further the candidacy of Stephen A. Douglas for the presidency of the United States.