



THE LITTLE GIANT

A NEWSLETTER of the STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

Volume XI, Number 1, May 1999

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1999

Commemoration of the 138th anniversary of the death of Senator Stephen Arnold Douglas, on June 3, 1861



11:00 a.m.

Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb,
Stephen A. Douglas
State Historic Site
636 East 35th Street.

*Comments by Brooks Davis,
Chairman of the Board,
Stephen A. Douglas Association*



12:30 P.M.

COCKTAILS AND LUNCHEON
Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
Beaubian Room, 16th Floor



ADDRESS BY

CHRISTOPHER SCHNELL

Research Associate, The Lincoln Legal Papers

**"AT THE BAR AND ON THE STUMP:
THE LEGAL RELATIONSHIP OF
DOUGLAS AND LINCOLN"**



Cost: \$30 per person. Cash bar.

Your Guests are welcome!

Parking: \$7 with validated ticket



**To make reservations, please contact
David Richert, 312-558-6900, x 119,
or drichert@ajs.org
by Wednesday, June 2**

CHRISTOPHER SCHNELL TO ADDRESS ANNUAL LUNCHEON ON "AT THE BAR AND ON THE STUMP: DOUGLAS AND LINCOLN'S LEGAL RELATIONSHIP"

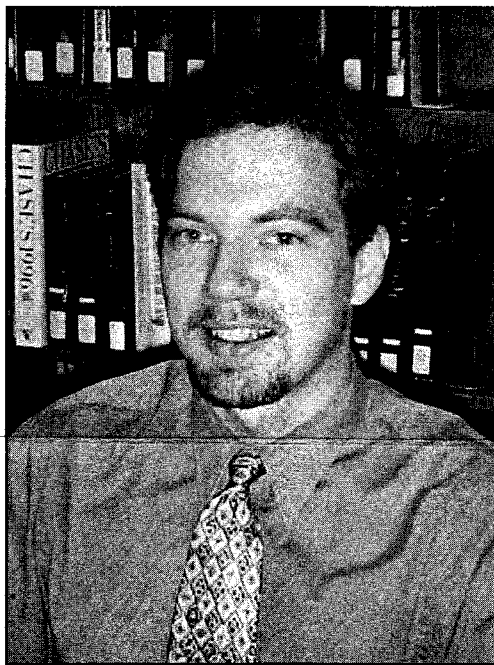
by Barbara Hughett
STEPHEN A. Douglas began his career inauspiciously as a struggling young lawyer in western Illinois Justice of the Peace courts, "pettifogging" for minimal fees and scrambling to maintain a full caseload. By the end of his legal career, Douglas had established himself as one of the leading jurists in the state of Illinois. His considerable success in the field of law notwithstanding, Douglas's true ambitions were political; his law career became a means to perpetuate those ambitions.

Douglas's career in law—from his education through his term on the Illinois Supreme Court—complemented and encouraged his early political ambitions and brought him into confrontation with political rivals. His practice touched both the everyday application of law, as well as the more politically-charged issues which crowded Illinois courtrooms during the 1830s and 1840s. It was in the courtroom, during both mundane and noteworthy cases,

that Douglas first came to know his chief adversary on the political stump, Abraham Lincoln.

Christopher Schnell will address the annual luncheon meeting of the Stephen

A. Douglas Association on the topic of "At the Bar and on the Stump: Douglas and Lincoln's Legal Relationship." Schnell, research associate for *The Lincoln Legal Papers*, holds a B.A. degree from Northern Illinois University and an M.A. degree from Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield). Before coming to his current position, he was an intern at the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents and a graduate intern at the Lincoln Home Na-

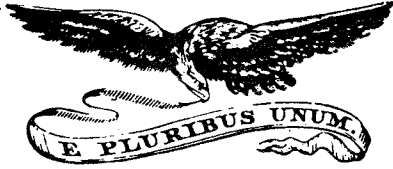


Christopher Schnell

tional Historic Site.

He has been with *The Lincoln Legal Papers* since 1993, first as a graduate assistant and then as a research assistant, before becoming a research associate in 1996. A popular speaker on the lecture circuit, Schnell has written numerous articles for historical publications and professional journals.

THE LITTLE GIANT



THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

c/o David Richert, Treasurer
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Chicago, Illinois 60645

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

S. A. Douglas

Chicago, Illinois, July 9, 1858

RALPH GEOFFREY NEWMAN (NOVEMBER 3, 1911 – JULY 23, 1998)

SINCE its last annual meeting, the Stephen A. Douglas Association has suffered a great loss. Douglas Association founder Ralph Geoffrey Newman died on July 23, 1998, after a long illness. A memorial service was held for Mr. Newman on August 2 in Dr. Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center.

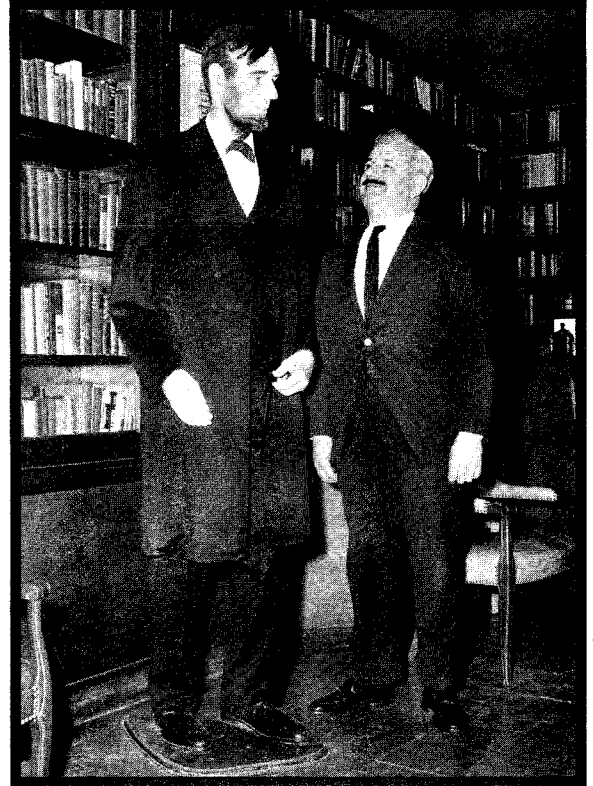
Mr. Newman founded the Stephen A. Douglas Association in 1975, at the urging of the late Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley. Newman served for fourteen years as president of the board of directors of the Chicago Public Library and worked closely with the mayor on the city's cultural and literary agendas. Both men were interested in history and were admirers of "The Little Giant," whose memorial and burial site the mayor often passed enroute home from City Hall.

Ralph Newman had a long and notable career as a bookseller, appraiser of historical documents, writer, speaker, and leader in historic and cultural organizations. In 1940, he was a founder of The Civil War Round Table, the first of over 300 American Civil War Round Tables now meeting regularly around the world. He was a founder and served for 28 years as president of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, and served as a trustee of Lincoln College and Lincoln Memorial University. His list of accomplishments goes on and on.

Historian Frank Vandiver once said, "I'm not sure the Civil War would be the popular subject it is today were it not for Ralph. He gave it, through the Round Table and his wide network of friends, a kind of currency I'm not sure anyone else could have given it." Noted Ulysses S. Grant scholar John Y. Simon, the speaker at the first annual meeting, in 1975, of the Stephen A. Douglas Association and principal eulogist at Mr. Newman's memorial service, worked as a stockboy at Newman's Abraham Lincoln Book Shop during the summers while he was in college. He claims to have learned more about Civil War history working for Ralph Newman than he did in graduate school.

In the first issue of The Little Giant (October 1989), Ralph Newman wrote

"A Commentary on the Stephen A. Douglas Association." In it, he said, "The Stephen A. Douglas Association came into existence not because of a lack of appreciation and admiration for the life and philosophy of Abraham Lincoln, but because of our great interest in the



Ralph Newman with a tall friend, Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, circa 1960s.

period of American history in which so many remarkable personalities lived and had such a lasting effect on its posterity. We wanted to study the great drama, not merely through the life of one great person, but by viewing other important individuals who peopled the stage of the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century in the United States."

We will miss him.

Barbara Hughett

The Ralph G. Newman Chair in Abraham Lincoln and Civil War Studies has been established at Lincoln College. Donations to the Chair, in Ralph Newman's memory, may be sent to the Development Office at Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois 62656.

ADELE CUTTS DOUGLAS: WASHINGTON BELLE

by Barbara Hughett

ADELE Cutts met Stephen A. Douglas during the election campaign of 1856, when he had just been narrowly beaten for the Democratic presidential nomination by James Buchanan. After a brief and intense courtship, they were married on November 20 in a Roman Catholic ceremony in Washington. Adele was a devout Catholic throughout her life. The Senator, widowed since 1853 and a member of no church, permitted Adele to raise his two sons from his first marriage in her faith.

Adele was born in Washington, on December 27, 1835, at the home of her grandfather, Richard Cutts, who had once been a congressman from Massachusetts and was married to Anna Payne, the sister of Dolley Madison. She was the older child and only daughter of James Madison Cutts and his wife Ellen Elizabeth O'Neal, of a prominent Maryland Catholic family. Young Adele spent a great deal of time in her childhood with her great-aunt Dolley—who lived until 1849; Dolley's Lafayette Square mansion, now known as the Cutts-Madison house, became her second home.

Her mother's sister, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, was an important Washington hostess who, at the outbreak of the Civil War, became a Confederate spy.



Rose O'Neal Greenhow with her eight-year-old daughter, Little Rose, in the yard of Old Capitol Prison, 1862. (Lloyd Ostendorf Collection)

In July 1861 Greenhow alerted the Confederate Army to Union plans for the first Battle of Bull Run, forcing detective Allan Pinkerton to send Rose and her young daughter to Old Capitol Prison.

With two great hostesses in her family, Adele was well prepared to assume the role of Washington belle and hostess extraordinaire when she wed Senator Douglas. A voracious reader and a better-than-average linguist, the lovely Adele attracted the admiration of all ages and both sexes. Young Henry Villiard described her as "a most lovely and a queenly apparition," her figure "perfectly proportioned, and her every movement and gesture most graceful."

Senator James Shields, her husband's colleague from Illinois, wrote that she had "good sense, exquisite taste, and a kind and generous disposition." Sara Rice Pryor, wife of a Virginia congressman, said that Adele was unaffected, sincere, and "as beautiful as a pearl." Her brilliant Washington salon was popular; together, she and her husband commanded considerable political power.

A devoted wife, she supported her husband in triumph and adversity and usually accompanied him on political trips. Their one child, Ellen, born in 1859, after an earlier miscarriage, lived only a few weeks, and Adele herself almost died of puerperal fever.

She was with Douglas during the Great Debates of 1858, where she gained political points for attending the receptions for ladies held during the events as well as for her gracious tact. After Douglas had broken with President



Adele Cutts Douglas (Lloyd Ostendorf Collection)

Buchanan over the Lecompton Bill, however, Adele engaged in a polite social feud with the President's hostess, his niece Harriet Lane, that was the talk of Washington.

After the Little Giant lost the 1860 presidential election to Abraham Lincoln, she accompanied her husband on his trip to the southern states in a final desperate attempt to prevent secession—a trip which was a terrible strain on his health. She was constantly at his side in Chicago during his fatal illness in May-June of 1861.

Following several years of seclusion, in 1866 Adele married Captain (later General) Robert Williams (1829-1901), a West Point graduate and a Virginian who had remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. They had six children—three girls and three boys. The family spent nearly twenty years (1871-90) at Western army posts while Williams was adjutant general of the Department of Missouri and then of the Department of the Platte. His assignment to the War Department brought them back to Washington, where Adele died in 1899. She is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM HELD IN DECATUR IN APRIL

THE Macon County Conservation District sponsored The Stephen A. Douglas History Symposium, which was held on April 17 at the Rock Springs Center for Environmental Discovery in Decatur, Illinois. The theme was "Stephen A. Douglas, Manifest Destiny, and the Settlement of Illinois."

The program included presentations by Mark Plummer ("A Young American Abroad: Richard J. Oglesby, 1856-57"), Robert Sampson ("The Reform and Pacifist Roots of Manifest Destiny"), Robert Johannsen ("Stephen A. Douglas, Manifest Destiny, and the Mexican War"), John Hoffmann ("Douglas for the Ages: Stephen A. Douglas as represented in Leonard Volk's Sculpture"), R. Lee Slider ("Antebellum Settlement Patterns of Macon County, Illinois"), Susan Nordmeyer-Gordy ("Wives, Submit to Thy Husbands: Gender Roles in Mid-19th Century Rural America"), and Stacy Pratt McDermott ("A Woman in Business on the Illinois Frontier: Henrietta Ulrich and the Contribution of Women Settlers to the Growth and Development of Illinois").

Additional panelists and commentators were Kevin Murphy, Bruce A. Tapp, Mark Sorenson, Thomas F. Schwartz, and John Cordulack. A goal of the Symposium was to create opportunities for dialogue between academic historians and those outside educational institutions who are interested in history.

DOUGLAS ON THE WEB

Here are a few of the sites where you can find information relating to Stephen A. Douglas on the World Wide Web:

state.il.us/hpa/DOUGHT.HTML

npg.si.edu/exh/brady/gallery/86gal.html

press.uillinois.edu/s97/johannse.html

ci.chi.il/us/landmarks/DouglassTomb.html

(Note: Yes, the people at the Chicago Landmarks site misspelled the Little Giant's last name.)

graveyards.com/douglas/

virtualvermont.com/history/sdouglas.html

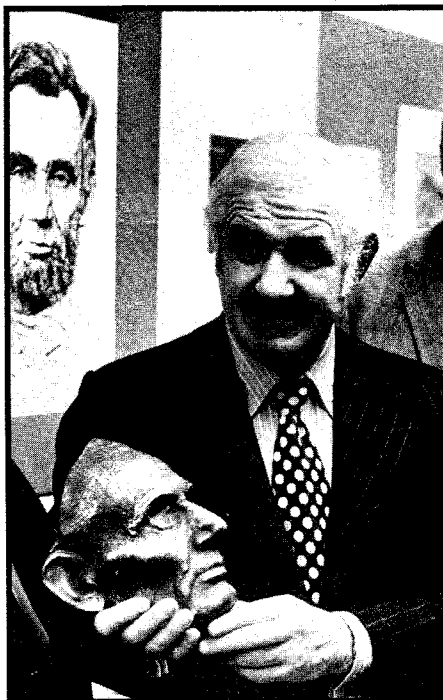
academicinfo.net.histus.html

Association programs and ceremonies at the Stephen A. Douglas State Historic Site are supported by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency,
Susan Mogerman, Director.

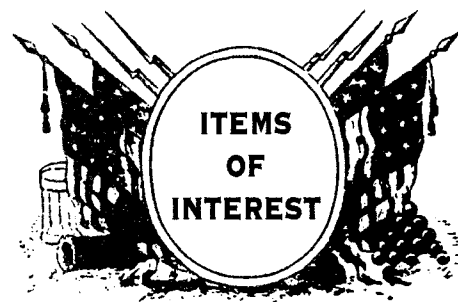


NEW OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

YOU will notice a new slate of officers on the masthead of this issue of The Little Giant. Chairman of the Board is Brooks Davis, longtime officer and former president. The new president, replacing C. Robert Douglas, who has retired and moved out of the state, is Joseph Wisheart, a Chicago area real estate executive and former president of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Secretary Jerri-Jennifer Smart replaces Faye Schwimmer, who has married and moved to Palm Springs, California. A graphic artist and writer, Smart is a trustee of The Civil War Round Table. Treasurer David Richert, editor at the American Judicature Society, is also a former president of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago.



Ralph Newman holding a life mask of Lincoln, circa 1970s.



Board member Jerome (Jerry) Slechta died on September 5 in Jefferson, Wisconsin, following a prolonged illness. He would have been 92 in December.

Members George Buss and Richard Sokup have recently been named to the board of directors. George and Rich have been portraying Lincoln and Douglas for a number of years throughout the Midwest, including at two of the C-SPAN Great Debate reenactments in 1994. Both men are natives of Freeport, Illinois, and serve on the board of the Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Society. (Sokup is president this year.) Buss teaches at Freeport Junior High School and Sokup is a partner in a Freeport insurance agency.

The Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Society will hold its annual commemoration of the Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Debate (August 27, 1858) on Friday, August 27. This year will mark the 70th anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln statue in Taylor Park. The statue is the work of French sculptor Leonard Crunelle. Participating in the ceremonies this August will be Freeport businessman and philanthropist Bill Koenig, grandson of W.T. Rawliegh, who commissioned the sculpture. Koenig, a child at the time, was present at the unveiling of the statue in 1929. For additional information about the commemoration, call Rich Sokup at 815-235-4121.

John Hoffman, of the Illinois Historical Survey, is trying to locate scrapbooks compiled by sculptor Leonard Volk (the designer of the Douglas Tomb). He believes they were last in the possession of the late Joseph Eisendrath. Anyone having any information about the whereabouts of the scrapbooks is urged to contact John Hoffman, University of Illinois, Illinois Historical Survey, 346 Main Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801, 217-333-1777.

