

THE LITTLE GIANT

A NEWSLETTER of the STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

Volume XIII, Number 1, May 2001



SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2001



Commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the death of Senator Stephen Arnold Douglas On June 3, 1861

10:00 a.m.

Stephen A. Douglas State Historic Site

636 East 35th Street
Wreath-laying Ceremony
At the Douglas Tomb



11:30 A.M.

COCKTAILS AND LUNCHEON

Entrée: Baked Salmon, with
Mango Papaya Relish

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
Brio Lounge, 15th Floor

Address by

DAVID E. LONG

Associate Professor of History,
East Carolina University,
Greenville, North Carolina

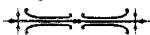
**"STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS:
CATALYST FOR LINCOLN'S
RISE TO GREATNESS"**



Cost: \$35 per person. Cash bar.
Your Guests are Welcome!

To make reservations,
Please contact

David Richert, 312-558-6900, x119, or
drichert@ajs.org
by Tuesday, June 5, 2001



1:30-4:30 P.M.

**Optional Civil War Tour
Of Chicago**

(for information, call
Brooks Davis, 312-944-5082)

DAVID E. LONG TO ADDRESS DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON ON "STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS: CATALYST FOR LINCOLN'S RISE TO GREATNESS"

By Barbara Hughett

TODAY Stephen Arnold Douglas is undoubtedly best known for his debates with Abraham Lincoln during the 1858 campaign, when Douglas sought to retain his seat in the United States Senate. At the time, Douglas was much better known in Illinois and in the nation than was his challenger, Abraham Lincoln. Douglas was one of the foremost statesmen in the country. Elected to the Illinois legislature at the age of twenty-three, he served with Lincoln and made a distinctly better record there than did the latter.

At twenty-seven, Douglas became secretary of state for Illinois and shortly afterward was the youngest judge ever to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court. Then, in 1843, at the age of thirty, he was elected to Congress and three years afterward to the United States Senate. As the "wise old men" of that body—Clay, Calhoun, Webster, and Benton—faded from the scene, Douglas was often seen as the intellectual leader of the Senate and the voice of young America. Yet he would soon be overshadowed by his fellow Illinoisan. It was those 1858 debates with the better-known Douglas that brought Abraham Lincoln center stage.

David E. Long will address the annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association on Saturday, June 9. His topic will be "Stephen A. Douglas: Catalyst for Lincoln's Rise to Greatness." In his presentation, Dr. Long will discuss Stephen Douglas's enormous impact on the culture and politics of the 1850s and, most importantly, his role in providing a stage for Abraham Lincoln to begin his journey to the White House and canonization as America's secular saint.



David E. Long

He will focus on Douglas's role in the 1850s in not only defining the territorial question and setting the stage for the rise of the Republican party and civil war in Kansas, but in actually bringing the slumbering giant of Lincoln's political wisdom and influence out of hibernation and back onto the political stage. Once there, Lincoln quickly assumed not only a leading role in Illinois Republican politics, but within a remarkably short time became a national figure of importance. Lincoln was the Republican candidate for president in 1860, then the president, and was the leader whose determination to hold the Union together not only saved American democracy, but also at the same time ended slavery—the greatest con-

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THE LITTLE GIANT



THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

c/o David Richert, Treasurer
6959A North Hamilton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60645

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TOUR OF CIVIL WAR-RELATED SITES IN CHICAGO TO FOLLOW LUNCHEON

Brooks Davis will be leading a tour of Civil War-related sites in Chicago following the annual luncheon, from approximately 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. A group coming in from Freeport, Illinois, to attend the luncheon has rented a bus for their trip. There will be several empty seats on the bus. If you would like to join the tour on the bus, **please call Brooks Davis (312-944-5082)**. The available seats will be assigned **on a first-come, first-served basis**. If you would like to follow the tour in your own car, that option is also available. Participation in the tour is free of charge, but we need to know how many people plan on attending.

A REMINDER: THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS HOME PAGE

Don't forget about the Douglas website. We were pleased to have its webmaster, David Sadowski, at our June 3, 2000, luncheon, at which time he told us more about the site. If you haven't been there yet, please visit the Stephen A. Douglas Home Page and explore the variety of offerings and links you will find there. It can be accessed by simply clicking **dsadowski.com** and then double clicking on *The Little Giant*.

DAVID LONG

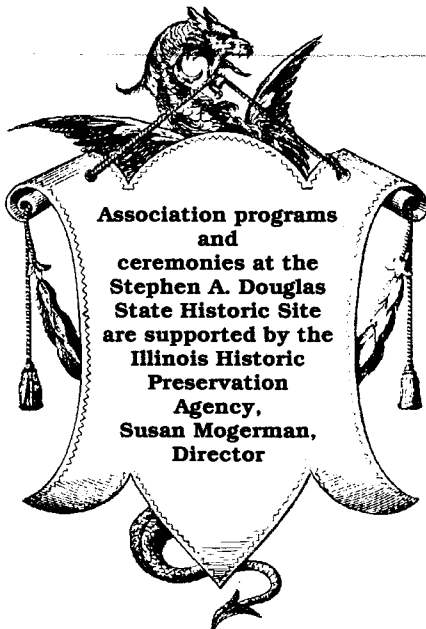
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tradition in the constitutional democracy created by the Founding Fathers.

David Long is an assistant professor of history at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He holds a B.A. degree from Ohio State University and a J.D. from the Ohio State University College of Law. Long served as a prosecutor in the State's Attorney's Office in Sarasota and Bradenton, Florida, and has practiced law in Florida and in Columbus, Ohio. He made a career change several years ago, returning to his "first love"—Nineteenth Century American history, and subsequently earning M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Florida State University. He served as a professor of law and history at Manatee Community College in Bradenton, Florida, and adjunct professor at Eckhard College in St. Petersburg, Florida. He also taught history courses at Tallahassee Community College in Tallahassee, Florida.

David Long is the author of the highly acclaimed 1994 book on the 1864 presidential election, *The Jewel of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and the End of Slavery*. His new book, *Lincoln and Liberty: The Emergence of a President*, about the 1860 election, is due to be published in November. He is also the author of numerous articles for history magazines and professional journals and is a popular speaker throughout the country on the lecture circuit. He serves on the board of advisors of The Lincoln Forum and on the board of directors of the American Blue and Gray Association.

Long has also appeared as a commentator on a number of network, cable, PBS, and C-SPAN television documentaries. He was featured prominently in the recent PBS series, "Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided" and will appear in a television program to air on Memorial Day on the History Channel, regarding the Battle of Cold Harbor.



"I trust the time will never come when I shall not be willing to make any needful sacrifice of personal feeling and party policy, for the honor and integrity of my country."

S. A. Douglas

May 10, 1861

A BRIEF, BUT COLORFUL, HISTORY OF THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

By Brooks Davis and Barbara Hughett

PART III

DR. MARK E. Neely, Jr., then director of the Louis A. Warren Library and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was the featured speaker at the 1989 annual luncheon, which was held at Ditka's City Lights restaurant on West Ontario Street. The topic of Dr. Neely's address was "Stephen A. Douglas and the Constitution." In October of 1989, the first issue of *The Little Giant* was published, at the behest of Chairman of the Board of Directors Ralph G. Newman. Barbara Hughett was named editor, with Muriel Underwood serving as designer and typographer.

Summer ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb had continued in 1989. Honorees that summer included Leroy Whiting, an aide to Mayor Richard M. Daley; James McLaughlin, director of St. Joseph's Carondelet Child Center; Othello Ellis, director of the Abraham Lincoln Center; Dr. Neely; Rebecca W. Henderson, principal of the Stephen A. Douglas School; and State Senator Margaret Smith.

The May 1990 issue of *The Little Giant* announced that the June 2 luncheon would be held at the Chicago Historical Society and would feature some special Douglas items from the

Society's collections as well as an address by Ellsworth Brown, president and director of the Chicago Historical Society, on "Stephen A. Douglas and Company." The luncheon was followed by a guided tour of a new exhibit, "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln."

The luncheon was preceded by the usual ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb, which were enhanced by the participation of Company K, Reactivated 58th New York Infantry, appearing in period costume. The honoree for the occasion was Mr. Corneal Davis, who served eighteen consecutive terms in the Illinois Legislature prior to his

retirement in 1980.

That same issue also announced the dedication of a Heritage Memorial Wall, erected on the grounds of the Griffin Funeral Home on Martin Luther King Drive, owned by board member Ernest A. Griffin. The funeral home is located on a portion of the land that had been the site of Camp Douglas, the United States Army's recruiting camp and prison for captured Confederate soldiers from 1862 through 1865. One side of the wall would honor Union soldiers; the other side would commemorate Confederate soldiers.

Ernest Griffin's grandfather had, in 1864, enlisted in the United States Army at this site. He served in Company B, 29th Infantry Regiment, United States Colored Troops, and was wounded in the Battle of the Crater. The dedication ceremony was held on May 26 in an impressive and moving ceremony that included addresses by Ralph G. Newman and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, and a performance by the Kennedy-King College Chorus.

The May 1991 *Little Giant* told of the June 1 luncheon, commemorating the 130th anniversary of the death of Senator Douglas. Former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson gave the major address, entitled "Stephen A. Douglas: Advocate of America First." The luncheon was held at the Prairie Restaurant, Burnham Room, of the Morton Hotel at 550 South Dearborn Street.

It was preceded by ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb, which again featured the participation of Company K, Reactivated 58th New York Infantry, with Captain Kenneth Pecanowski commanding. C. Robert Douglas, secretary of the Douglas Association offered a few brief remarks about Senator Douglas and the history of the tomb. The honoree was former Governor Thompson.

Jerry Warshaw, a charter member of the Association and a local artist, wrote an article for the newsletter about Leonard Wells Volk, the sculptor who designed the Douglas Tomb. The death of Herman Williams, longtime caretaker for the Tomb site, was noted in this issue. 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. On several

occasions, Herman Williams was the subject of feature newspaper articles. Herman's work was being carried on by his son, Patrick.

The next issue of *The Little Giant* came out in December 1991, with a page-one article about the restoration work being completed at the Douglas Tomb site. The restoration efforts, which the Illinois State Preservation Agency had begun in 1986, were done in historic context. After restoring the surfaces of the monument and all statuary to their original condition, the IHPA restoration team went to work on the area inside the door of the tomb. They restored the bust of Senator Douglas, stabilized the walls, and applied a consolidant to protect the walls from further damage from the elements. A new stone, equal in texture to the original, was placed in the doorway to the sarcophagus.

This issue included some other interesting items, such as a summary of the address by Governor Thompson the past June along with a photograph taken at the tomb ceremony.

Dr. John Y. Simon, professor of history at Southern Illinois University and editor of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, wrote an original article for *The Little Giant*, entitled "Stephen A. Douglas and Isaac N. Morris." Congressman Morris, of Quincy, Illinois, was a good friend and ally of Senator Douglas.

Page four of this issue contained a summary of the past summer's activities at the Douglas Tomb site. Ceremonies had been held at the Tomb on the first Sundays of July, August, and September in 1991. The honoree on July 6 was Judge Willie M. Whiting of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The August 4 honoree was Reverend George Clements, who had recently announced his retirement as pastor of Chicago's Holy Angels Church, a post
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BRIEF HISTORY*(continued from page 3)*

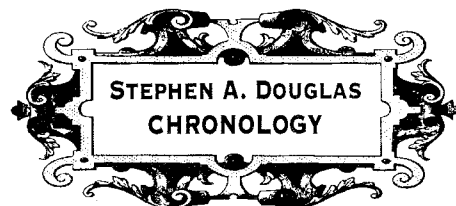
he assumed in 1969. Father Clements is internationally known for his work for humanitarian causes. The first Catholic priest to adopt a child, he gave impetus to the "One Church, One Child" program. An honored guest at the August program was Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, a longtime friend of Father Clements's family and a member of the Stephen A. Douglas Association.

The honoree on Sunday, September 1 was the current Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, LeRoy Martin. Superintendent Martin, at that time a thirty-six-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, rose through the ranks, beginning as a beat patrolman in 1955. Also honored that day were former Superintendent of Police Fred Rice and former First Deputy

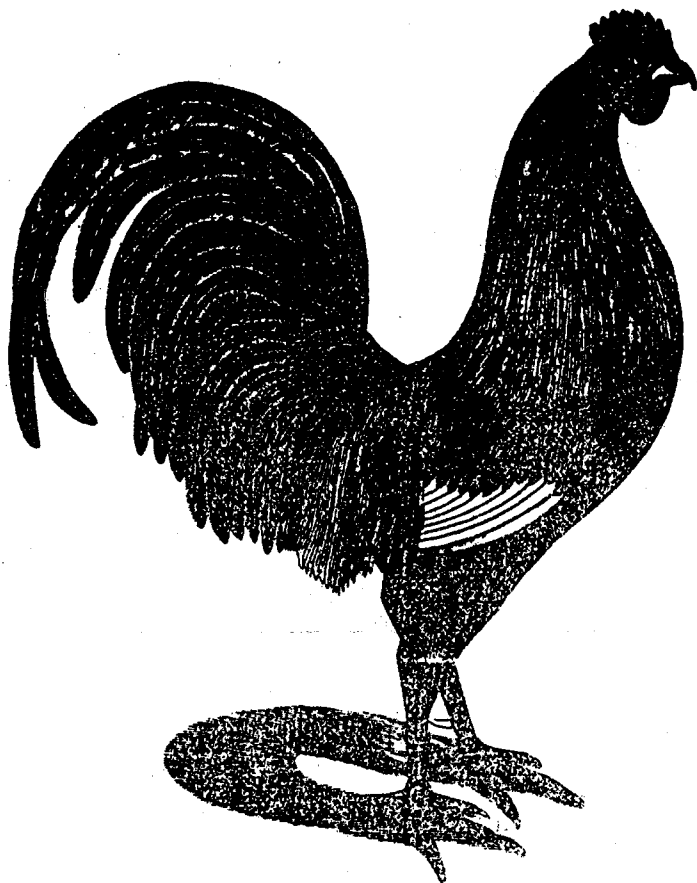
of Police Samuel W. Nolan.

The July and August events once again included the participation of the Reactivated 58th New York Infantry. On September 1, in addition to a performance by the Reactivated 114th Pennsylvania Zouaves, music was provided by the Emerald Society, the bagpipe unit of the Chicago Police Department. The invocation on that occasion was given by Reverend Kevin Dean, chaplain of the Chicago Police Department. LeRoy Whiting represented Mayor Daley at the event. Arrangements for these three summer events were made by Douglas Association Director Ernest A. Griffin.

(This is the third in a series of articles on the history of the Stephen A. Douglas Association. Part IV will appear in the next issue of The Little Giant.)



- 1813 Born 23 April at Brandon, Vermont
- 1828 Worked as an apprentice cabinet-maker at Middlebury, Vermont
- 1831 Student at the Academy, Canandaigua, New York; studied law
- 1833 Admitted to the Illinois bar
- 1835 Elected State's Attorney by the Illinois legislature
- 1836 Elected to the Illinois legislature
- 1837 Appointed Register of the Federal Land Office at Springfield by President Van Buren
- 1838 Defeated for Congress
- 1840 Campaigned for Van Buren for President
- 1841 Appointed Secretary of State of Illinois; elected justice of the Illinois Supreme Court
- 1842 Elected to the United States House of Representatives
- 1844 Re-elected to the House of Representatives
- 1846 Became Chairman of the Committee on Territories of the House
- 1847 Elected to the United States Senate by the Illinois legislature; became Chairman of the Committee on Territories of the Senate; married Martha Denny Martin
- 1850 Instrumental in drafting the Compromise of 1850
- 1852 Sought nomination for the Presidency; re-elected to the Senate
- 1853 Death of Mrs. Douglas; travelled to Europe
- 1854 Directed the Kansas-Nebraska Act through Congress
- 1856 Defeated for the Presidential nomination; married Adele Cutts
- 1857 Supported the Dred Scott Decision; broke with President Buchanan over the Lecompton Constitution
- 1858 The Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois; re-elected to the Senate
- 1860 Received Democratic nomination for President; defeated by Lincoln; went South in support of the Union cause
- 1861 Died 3 June at Chicago



This is the Cock that Crows in the 'morn!

DEMOCRATS! DAY-LIGHT IS BREAKING!

OCTOBER ELECTIONS AT HAND!

From the October 6, 1860, issue of The Campaign Plain Dealer, a publication promoting the candidacy of Stephen A. Douglas for President.