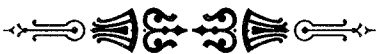


THE LITTLE GIANT

A NEWSLETTER of the STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

Volume XIV, Number 1, May 2002



SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2002



Commemoration of the
141st 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
Chicago, Illinois

Wreath-laying Ceremony
At the Douglas Tomb

Comments by
President Joseph Wisheart



11:30 A.M.

COCKTAILS AND LUNCHEON

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street

Cocktails Available at Lobby Bar
Luncheon Served in the Brio Lounge
(Both located on the 15th floor)

Address by

DR. JOHN E. SPLAINE

Amos B. Hostetter, Jr., Chair,
University of Denver and
Historical Consultant to C-SPAN

"STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS AS A DEBATER"

Cost: \$35 per person. Cash Bar.
Your guests are welcome!

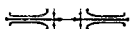
To make reservations, please contact
Joseph Wisheart, 847-548-8272;
jwisheart@aol.com
by Tuesday, June 4, 2002



1:30-4:30 p.m.

Optional Tour of Exhibits at the Chicago Historical Society

Cost \$10, \$8 students and seniors
(for information, call
Brooks Davis, 312-944-5082)



JOHN E. SPLAINE TO ADDRESS DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON ON "STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS AS A DEBATER"

By Barbara Hughett

THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS Debates of 1858, undoubtedly the best known such contest of words in American history, featured the sitting U.S. senator from Illinois, Stephen A. Douglas, and the man who sought to unseat him, Abraham Lincoln. Historian and television commentator John Splaine will address the annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association on June 8 on the topic of "Stephen A. Douglas as a Debater."

More experienced in formal verbal clashes than his frontier opponent, Senator Stephen A. Douglas had honed his ability to argue for his ideas while serving in the United States Senate. As a member of that chamber, he had witnessed the acknowledged rhetorical giants—John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster—debate the significant issues of the day.

Given this seeming advantage Douglas possessed, why did the incumbent senator agree to debate the former one-term congressman? Had not Douglas debated with and been tested by the best of men? Indeed, it was Abraham Lincoln who wrote to Douglas on July 24, 1858, proposing the now famous debates.

Even though there were some "difficulties in the way of such an agreement," the Illinois senator did consent to "jointly appear" with the upstart

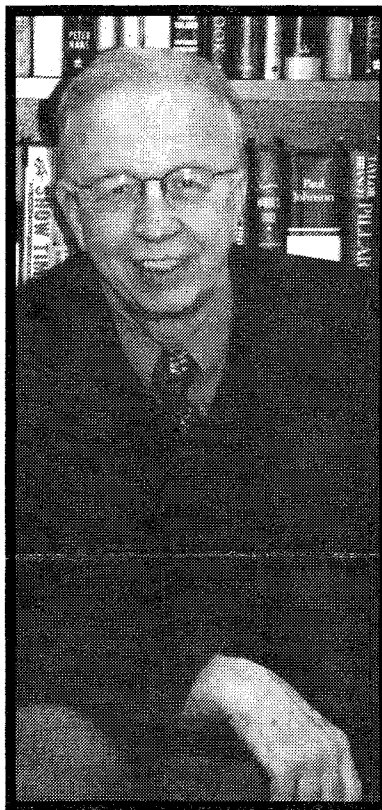
challenger in the cities of Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy, and Alton. Lincoln concluded the agreement with a final letter to the senator, sent on July 31, 1858, and the debate schedule was set. As John Splaine recounts in his book, *A Companion to the Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, "the verbal flint was at the ready. . . ." Thus, in the sun-blazing heat of mid-August, Douglas and Lincoln "were about to set words on fire."

John E. Splaine earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from the University of New Hampshire and his doctorate in education from Boston University. Since January 1, he has held the Amos B. Hostetter Chair in the School of Communication and the Office of the Pro-

vest at the University of Denver.

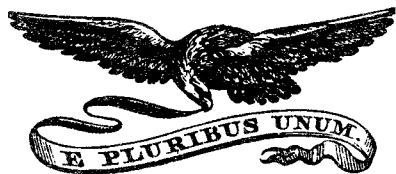
Dr. Splaine began his career by teaching history and social studies in high school for six years before becoming director of the Upward Bound program and instructor in education at the University of New Hampshire. From 1973-

(continued on page 2)



Dr. John E. Splaine

THE LITTLE GIANT



THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

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

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JOHN E. SPLAINE

(continued from page 1)

2002, he served on the faculty of the University of Maryland, teaching courses in media literacy, the history and philosophy of education, and the politics of education. During his time at the University of Maryland, he received twenty-four awards for outstanding teaching and advising from students, parents, and the state of Maryland. In 1995, he was nominated for a United States Professor of the Year Award.

He has written, co-written, or edited several books and is the author of numerous scholarly articles and book reviews. His books include *The Road to the White House Since Television* (1995) and *Critical Viewing: Stimulant to Creative Thinking* (1996). He co-authored the CD-ROM, *The House Divided: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (1995), which won five national awards. The CD-ROM included Dr. Splaine's book, *A Companion to the Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (1994), which accompanied C-SPAN's television series on the historic debates. He has been a consultant to and commentator on C-SPAN's series on "American Presidents," which won the prestigious Peabody Award in 1999.

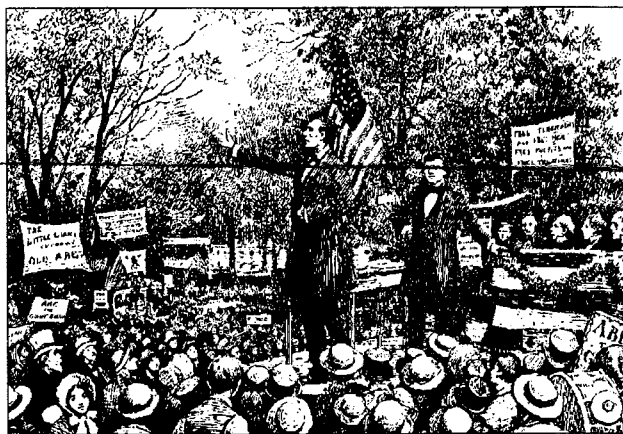
Dr. Splaine lives in Rockville, Maryland, serving as the University of Denver's Faculty in Residence in Washington, D.C. In that capacity, he teaches courses in political communication, television and politics, and television and the presidency for the University of Denver.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS DOCUMENTS DONATED TO ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS FIRST LADY Lura Lynn Ryan recently announced that eighty-three original legal documents, most pertaining to Stephen A. Douglas and one written by Abraham Lincoln, have been donated to the Illinois State Historical Library by Mr. and Mrs. James R. Hemp. Most of the documents pertain to Senator Douglas, including several cases argued during Douglas's tenure on the Illinois Supreme Court.

The majority of the donated documents are from Douglas's legal career, including several that he wrote during the first few years that he was a practicing attorney. These documents are rare examples of his early career, when he was striving to make a living on a traveling lawyer's salary.

Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) was an attorney, served in the Illinois State Legislature (1836-1837), on the Illinois Supreme Court (1841-1843), in the U.S. House of Representatives (1843-1847), and the U.S. Senate (1848 until his death). He was one of the most influential statesmen in U.S. history, drafting the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, among other landmark pre-Civil War laws concerning the slavery question. Douglas's series of debates with Abraham Lincoln in 1858 during the race for the U.S. Senate drew national attention. Douglas won that election, but lost the 1860 Presidential election to Lincoln.



[Editor's Note: Part IV in our continuing history of the Stephen A. Douglas Association will appear in the next issue of The Little Giant.]

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

Tomb Site Supervisor:
Michael Carson

Keep the Ball rolling—arouse the country on the great issues of self government & all will end well.

February 15, 1858



**DOUGLAS TOMB CEREMONIES
BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M.**

Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site, which precede the luncheon, will begin at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately one-half hour. In addition to the wreath-laying, some appropriate remarks will be made by Douglas Association President Joseph Wisheart. Three new interpretive signs erected by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency will be dedicated. Tomb Site Supervisor Michael Carson will show us other improvements that have been made at the beautiful little park surrounding Stephen A. Douglas's final resting place.

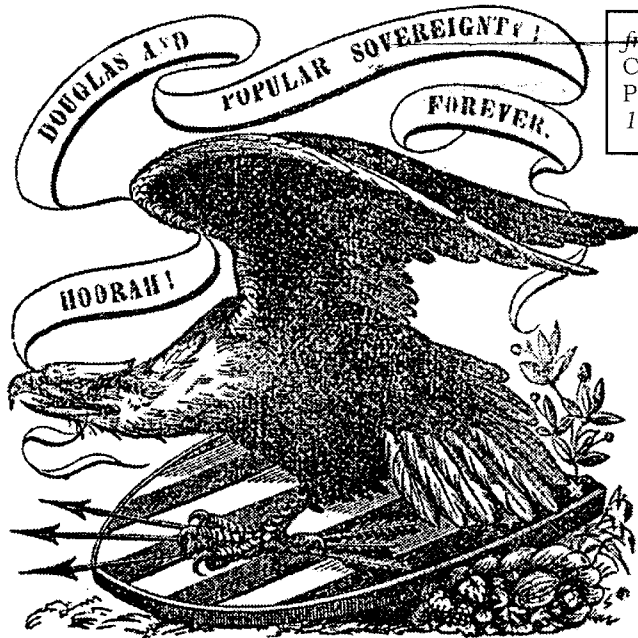
**AUGUST 27 PROGRAM AT
FREEPORT TO COMMEMORATE
DEBATE**

George Buss has announced that there will be a program in Freeport, Illinois, on August 27, to commemorate the 144th anniversary of the famous Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The program will begin at the Lincoln-Douglas Debate site at 5:00 p.m., followed by a reception at 6:00 p.m. and a dinner at 6:30 p.m. At press time, the tentatively-scheduled speaker had not yet confirmed. Rich Sokup will provide an update at the June 8 luncheon. For further information, call 815-232-4408.

**OPTIONAL TOUR OF CHICAGO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EXHIBITS**

We are also offering an optional tour of exhibits at the Chicago Historical Society (Clark Street and North Avenue) following the luncheon. Emphasis will be on the new American Presidency exhibit (which opened on February 16 and will close on September 2) and the continuing "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln" exhibit. Douglas Association member Jerry Warshaw, who is a docent at the Society, will lead the tour.

For more information about the tour, contact Douglas Association Chairman of the Board Brooks Davis (312-944-5082).



from the
Campaign
Plain Dealer,
1860

**BEHOLD THE CONQUERING HERO COMES!
DOUGLAS IN THE NORTH-WEST!**

To be in Cleveland, September 22nd.

Columbus, Sept. 24th.

Cincinnati, September 26th.

INDIANPOLIS, SEPT. 28th.

"Hail to the Chief who in triumph advances."

A special despatch from Washington to the New York Herald, gives the above programme of Mr. DOUGLAS' movements in the "Great Northwest." Let the people rally in their might and hear the great expounder of the Constitution and the bold defender of their rights. Friends of Popular Sovereignty, arouse to duty! Put on the whole armor of Democracy, and come out! Hickory Boys, awake! Organize your clubs; canvass every town and precinct; gather the old, the weak and the unwilling, and bring them in teams, in processions, on foot, on horse-back, on trucks, on stilts, to these popular ovations of the people.

Hark! from the broad and noble West,
Where Broun's and Benton's ashes rest,
In one unbroken Douglas shout,
Louder still the peal rings out:
"Clear the way, around the border,
The West is marshalled and in order!"



NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Allardice
Des Plaines, IL

Jerry Allen
Buffalo Grove, IL

Kevin Griffin
LaCrosse, WI

Noel Jackson
Evanston, IL

Nancy Jacobs
South Holland, IL

Nicholas A. Jankovich
Chicago, IL

Nancy K. Lindner
Kenilworth, IL

Susan Mogerman
Springfield, IL

James W. Nethery
Northbrook, IL

Bing Owens
Chicago, IL

Robert Sampson
Decatur, IL

Mark Schmitz
Des Plaines, IL

Judge Wayne C. Townley, Jr.
Normal, IL

Jackie Wilson
Evanston, IL

Courtenay Wood
Evanston, IL

"THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY: A GLORIOUS BURDEN"

THE HISTORY of America is the history of its presidents. For more than two centuries men have risen from humble ranks to the breathtaking power of the office, facing equal measures of challenge and crisis, hard work, and sacrifice. The lives and careers of these men and their families come to live through nearly 400 original artifacts, plus rare video and photography in this exhibit.

"The American Presidency" celebrates the most powerful political position on earth, and explores how its occupants have contributed to the political, cultural, and social history of the United States. Based on a permanent installation at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., this touring exhibition is divided into nine themed sections, including "Presidential Cam-

paigns," "The White House as Symbol and Home," and Assassination and Mourning." In addition to hundreds of items selected from the Smithsonian archives, the Chicago presentation of the exhibit also features dozens of objects from the permanent CHS collection of more than twenty million original artifacts.

Among the highlights of the exhibition are the pen Woodrow Wilson used to sign the April 1917 declaration of war against Germany, entering the United States into World War I; the medical kit used at Abraham Lincoln's autopsy on April 15, 1865; a formal gown belonging to Jacqueline Kennedy; and a CBS microphone used by Franklin D. Roosevelt to deliver the informal radio addresses he called "fireside chats."

The authentic interactivity of "Acting Presidential" allows visitors to experi-

ence what it might be like to "be the President," standing at an official White House podium with a Teleprompter during such historic moments as FDR's first inauguration speech in 1933, John F. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration speech, and Ronald Reagan's remarks at West Berlin's Brandenburg Gate in 1987. The private family life of America's presidents is featured in "The White House as Symbol and Home," which includes such items as china used during the Madison, Harrison, Reagan, and Clinton administrations, sports equipment, and an invitation to Susan Ford's 18th birthday party.

"Assassination and Mourning" traces America's tradition of ceremonial grieving, from the murder of Abraham Lincoln through the death and state funerals of James A. Garfield, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. This section features two signature objects from the CHS collection—Lincoln's deathbed and the black velvet evening cape worn by Mary Todd Lincoln on the night of her husband's assassination.

"The Presidency in Popular Imagination" features dozens of objects, including promotional toys ("Barbie for President 2000"), sheet music, movie posters, record albums, cartoons, and advertisements that have served to celebrate, criticize, and satirize our nation's political leaders. "Life After the Presidency" concludes the exhibition, with such objects as the surveyor's compass used by George Washington at his Mount Vernon home and Jimmy Carter's tool belt, used in building Habitat for Humanity homes.

Videos are shown throughout the exhibition. They feature news footage on presidents in turmoil, from the Great Depression to the Iran hostage crisis, plus "home movies" of life in the White House and clips of feature films that portray the president.

"The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden" was created by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center, and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The national tour has been made possible by the United States Congress, Kenneth E. Behring, the Smithsonian National Board, and The History Channel.

Admission to the exhibit requires a separate ticket purchase that includes admission to the Chicago Historical Society. Tickets cost \$10 (seniors and students, \$8; children 6-12, \$1).

Reprinted by permission from The New Yorker



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