

THE LITTLE GIANT

A NEWSLETTER of the STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

Volume XVII, Number 1, June 2006

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006

Commemoration of the
145th Anniversary
of the death of
Senator Stephen A. Douglas

10:00 a.m.

Wreath-Laying Ceremonies at
the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site
636 East 35th Street
Chicago, Illinois

Welcome: Brooks Davis, Chairman
Stephen A. Douglas Association

Wreath Laying: Edward Finch, President
Lincoln Douglas Society, and Brooks Davis

Banner Dedication: Charles Bednar, Director,
Stephen A. Douglas Association

Comments: George Buss, President, Stephen A.
Douglas Association

Thanks to: Illinois Historic Preservation
Association and C-SPAN

Annual Luncheon of the
Stephen A. Douglas Association

Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

11:00: a.m. Social
Noon: Luncheon

Address by
Brian Lamb
CEO, C-SPAN

"C-SPAN, Lincoln, and Douglas: A
Perspective on 1994 and Beyond"

Optional Tour of the
Union League Art Collection

Cost: \$35 per person
Parking fee: \$8.50

[Parking available at 318 South Federal,
just off Jackson]

Please return the enclosed
reservation form, with remittance
by June 14, or contact David Richert
at 773-761-6937 or by email
(drichert@earthlink.net).

BRIAN LAMB TO ADDRESS ANNUAL LUNCHEON ON JUNE 17

By Barbara Hughett

"C-SPAN, Lincoln, and Douglas: A Perspective on 1994 and Beyond" will be the title of Brian Lamb's presentation to the Stephen A. Douglas Association on Saturday, June 17. As founder and CEO of C-SPAN, the cable/satellite public affairs network, Brian Lamb has done much to bring American history alive for many thousands of viewers. This is in addition to carrying live broadcasts of all Senate and House of Representative sessions on C-SPAN and C-SPAN2, and covering the current political scene.

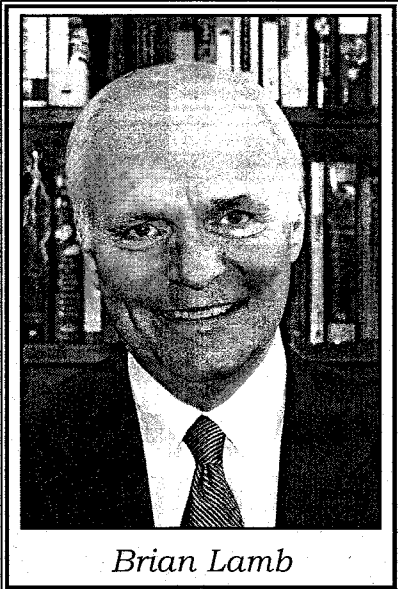
Growing up in Lafayette, Indiana, he became interested in broadcasting at an early age and built crystal radio sets to pick up local signals. In his high school and college years, he sought out jobs in Lafayette radio and television stations, spinning records, selling ads, and eventually hosting his own program, *Dance Date*.

Lamb graduated from Purdue University, with a degree in Speech, before joining the U.S. Navy. While in the Navy, he served

at the White House during the Johnson administration. He also served in the Pentagon's public affairs office, and later in the Office of Telecommunications Policy during the Nixon administration. After the completion of his service in 1967, his jobs included working as a freelance reporter and as a Senate press secretary.

In 1974, he began publishing *The Media Report*, a biweekly newsletter, and also served as Washington bureau chief for *Cablevision* magazine. By 1977, had won support from key cable executives for a channel that would telecast gavel-to-gavel sessions of the U.S. Congress. The not-for-profit company built one of D.C.'s first satellite uplinks—just in time to present the first televised session of the U.S. House of Representatives to 3.5 million cable households on March 19, 1979.

With cable industry support, C-SPAN grew rapidly and today employs 275 people and offers three 24-hour television net-



Brian Lamb

(continued on page 2)

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THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

c/o David Richert, Treasurer
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Chicago, Illinois 60645

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BRIAN LAMB

(continued from page 1)

works—C-SPAN, C-SPAN2, C-SPAN3; and WSCP, an FM station serving the Washington/Baltimore area and available nationally on satellite radio. In addition to sessions of Congress, C-SPAN programming offers coverage of a wide range of political events from Washington and around the world—such as congressional hearings, White House briefings, news conferences, and more. On weekends, C-SPAN2 features *Book TV*: 48 hours of non-fiction book programming from 8:00 a.m. Saturdays through 8:00 a.m. Mondays. The network has extensive program offering on the Internet that can be accessed at www.c-span.org.

An on-air presence since the networks inception, Lamb hosts *Washington Journal* once a week and hosted the highly-acclaimed *Booknotes* from 1989 to 2004. He now hosts *Q&A*, a weekly one-hour program in which he interviews people from a wide range of backgrounds—for example, journalists, teachers, politicians, authors, and technology innovators.

It was during a *Booknotes* program, while he was interviewing Harold Holzer about his book on the Lincoln-Douglas debates (*The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text*) that Lamb became particularly fascinated with mid-nineteenth century American history. This eventually led to C-SPAN's telecasting—live—the recreation of the seven 1858 debates in the Illinois cities in which they occurred in 1994, to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the network that specializes in the sort of extensive and uninterrupted political discourse that has otherwise gone out of style. C-SPAN has continued to present many programs about various aspects of American history.

Over the years, Brian Lamb has

interviewed Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Clinton as well as world leaders such as Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev. He is the author of *Who's Buried in Grant's Tomb: A Tour of Presidential Gravesites*, and the editor of several collections of *Booknotes* interviews, in which he edits out his side of the questioning, leaving something like an essay by the person interviewed. A modest man, according to a *Washington Post* profile, Lamb has never spoken the words "Brian Lamb" on the air.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Graham A. Peck, assistant professor of history at St. Xavier University, has joined the Board of Directors of the Stephen A. Douglas Association. He received his bachelor's degree at California State University, and his master's and Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and served as visiting professor of history, 2001-2002, at Rhodes College before coming to Xavier. Peck was our speaker on June 5, 2004, and has recently been named to the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

CHARLES BEDNAR HONORED

Longtime Director Charles (Chuck) Bednar was awarded the Brooks and Betsey Davis Award at the annual dinner on June 11, 2005. Chuck has done an enormous amount of work for the Douglas Association, not the least of which is the job he accomplished on the street signs, documented in this newsletter. His many contributions to the success of Association programs are greatly appreciated.

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

DOUGLAS TOMB SIGNAGE ON LAKE SHORE DRIVE

By Charles Bednar

The Stephen A. Douglas Association Board of Directors, at its June 2003 meeting, initiated a proposal to seek new directional signs in the neighborhood of the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site. Little did we then realize the circuitous route that would be necessary to realize completion of this project! We are pleased to be able to report that new signs have been erected within the proximity of the tomb.

A collaborative effort was established between Michael Carson, site manager, and, myself, representing the Stephen A. Douglas Association. Even after several inquiries to the State of Illinois Department of Transportation, no avenues of opportunity had been opened to enable us to install directional signs along major state thoroughfares within the city of Chicago.

Finally, we were able to establish a liaison with George Black II, field services director, Bureau of Traffic, and the Chicago Department of Transportation. Under his jurisdiction, he recommended our application to qualify for "trail-blazer" signs that would meet Chicago Department of Transportation regulations.

Through the splendid cooperation of Alderman Toni Preckwinkle (Fourth Ward, City of Chicago), the road was cleared to obtain approval for the fabrication and installation of five signs within the proximity of the tomb.

Diedre Holmes, field services supervisor, provided enthusiastic support to complete arrangements for the siting and installation of the new signs. And, as it turned out, all this was at no cost to our association or to the Historic Sites Division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

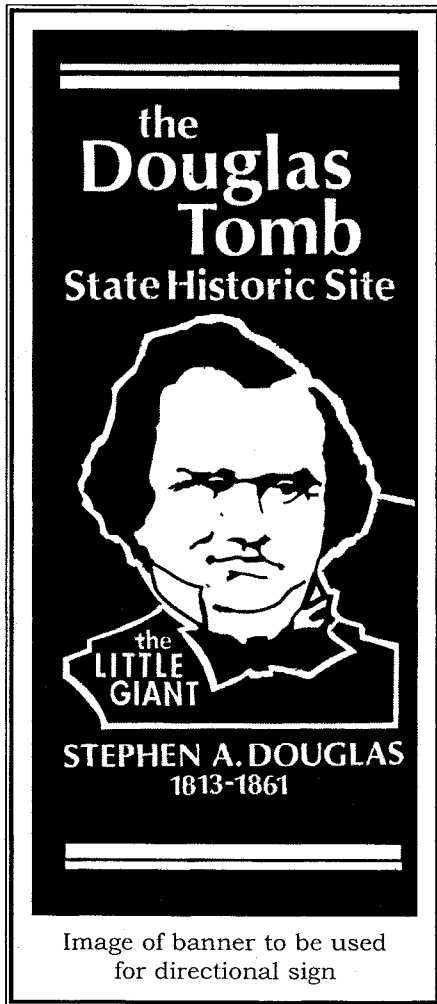


Image of banner to be used for directional sign

Our hats are off to all of those within the Chicago Department of Transportation for working to achieve the realization of this project! It was surely a "can-do" cooperative effort.

THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB ART COLLECTION

By Barbara Hughett

A post-lunch tour of the Union League Club Art Collection is an optional offering on June 17. The collection, one of the largest and finest private art collections in the city, includes hundreds of works by noted artists—such as Monet, G.P.A. Healy, and John James Audubon. In the collection are three portraits of historic and artistic distinction by Healy, a one-time resident of Chicago. These portraits, all painted from life, are of Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Fremont, and Daniel Webster. Healy was one of the most successful portraitists of the nineteenth century, producing numerous official presidential images and those of Civil War military leaders.

Another interesting portrait, and one of the few painted of him in life, is that of General Ulysses S. Grant by William Cogswell. Grant's son, General Frederick Grant, wrote, "it was the one portrait the family liked and considered the best." General Grant's widow Julia liked it so much that during the years after his death, she made arrangements to come and see it when she visited Chicago because she felt it had really captured the essence of her beloved husband.

Another notable portrait is Ralph Clarkson's "Lincoln." Painted from a rare photograph by Charles F. Gunther, it is sometimes said to be the only photograph of Abraham Lincoln in which there is evidence of a smile.

"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*

"DEBATE SQUARE" IN FREEPORT: IT'S HISTORY AND FUTURE

By Edward Finch

President, Lincoln Douglas Society

The site of the 1858 debate in Freeport, Illinois, between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas has

evolved over the past 147 years. Beginning in 1903, with President Theodore Roosevelt's dedication of a massive piece of granite (the "Debate Boulder") bearing a plaque regarding the significance of the Freeport debate, the site has undergone periods of neglect followed by periods of growth. In 1929, W. T. Rawleigh, founder of W.T. Rawleigh Company, donated to the

city the heroic-size statue "Lincoln the Debater," which was placed in Taylor Park, two miles from Debate Square.

It wasn't until the early 1980s that the City of Freeport began converting a parking lot near Debate Boulder into green space. With the addition of life-size statues by sculptor Lily Topol—"Lincoln and Douglas in Debate"—in 1992, the site became more than a drive-by attraction. As a result of the 1994 C-SPAN-sponsored reenactments of all seven debates for live telecasts, the City

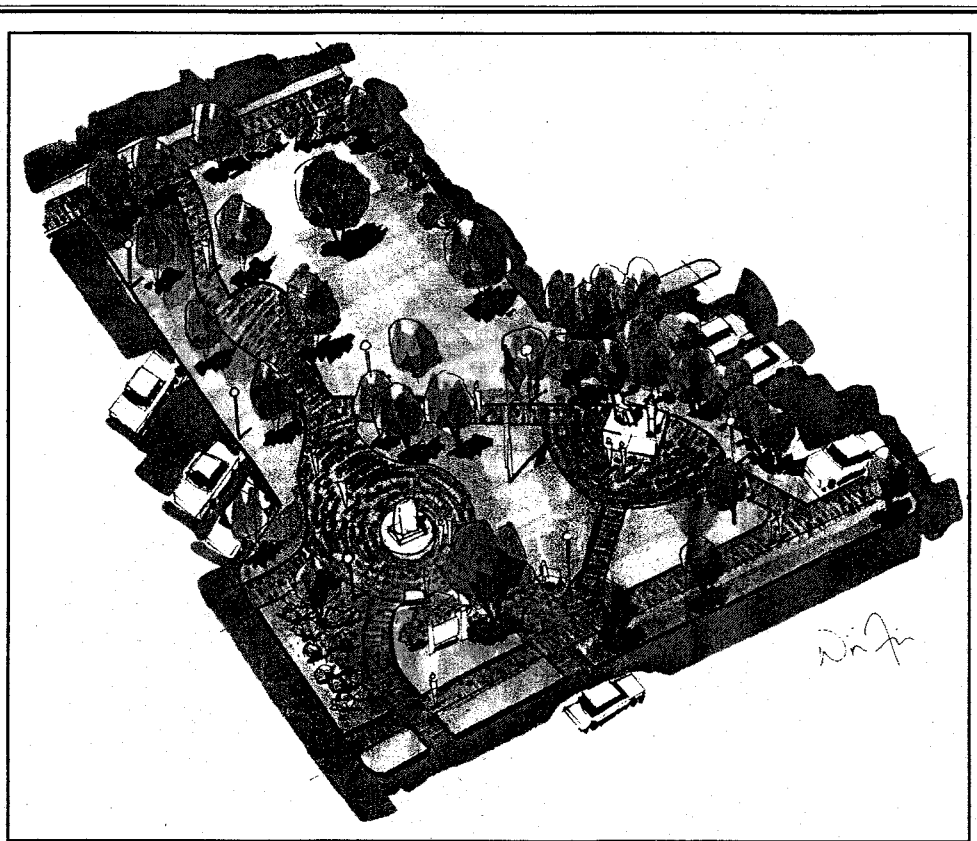
of Freeport enhanced the site with additional landscaping and officially designated it Debate Square.

Two years ago, a grant from Howard Publications, former owners of the Freeport Journal-Standard, led to the formation of a committee given the task of developing plans for an expanded Debate Square. The committee announced the plan they had developed in April 2005, winning

providing a modern explanation of the event, with an emphasis on Lincoln's "Freeport Question" and Douglas's response that became known as the "Freeport Doctrine." Construction began in the spring of 2006, with a projected dedication on August 27, 2007, the 149th anniversary of the Freeport Debate.

Telling the story of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and Freeport's

role in our nation's history is both the mission of the Lincoln-Douglas Society and the purpose of Debate Square. We seek to create an environment in which young people, adults, and students of all ages who come to visit the site can come away with an appreciation of what happened there and how those events echo down



Rendering of the proposed Freeport Debate Square

endorsements from the Lincoln Douglas Society and the various Freeport governmental departments and prompting a fund-raising initiative.

The design for the interpretive signage in the Square calls for the use of full-page reproductions from Freeport newspapers of the time of the events being described. For example, near the three-by-four-foot sign describing the debate will be a reproduction of the front page of the *Freeport Daily Journal* from September 2, 1858. Included will be inset boxes pro-

viding a modern explanation of the event, with an emphasis on Lincoln's "Freeport Question" and Douglas's response that became known as the "Freeport Doctrine." Construction began in the spring of 2006, with a projected dedication on August 27, 2007, the 149th anniversary of the Freeport Debate.

The estimated cost of the entire project is \$356,950.00, which is being funded by a combination of public and private giving. Contributions can be sent to the **Lincoln-Douglas Society, 2236 Chelsea Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032-9167.**

The Society is a 503(c)(3) organization recognized by the IRS. All donations will be acknowledged for tax purposes and donors will be listed on a plaque at Debate Square.