

THE LITTLE GIANT

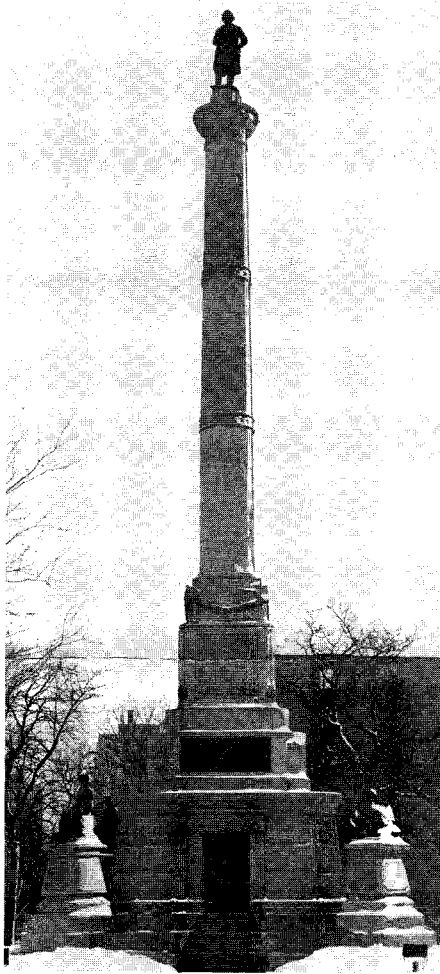
A NEWSLETTER of the STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

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Restoration Work Nears Completion at the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site

by Barbara Hughett



THE Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) began its restoration project at the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site in 1986. Work on the monument has been completed, and the agency is currently beginning its restoration of the superintendent's residence.

The Douglas Monument, located on land that had been part of the Illinois senator's estate, Oakenwald, was designed by noted nineteenth-century sculptor Leonard Volk. A 40-foot column atop the base supports a nine-foot-nine-inch bronze figure of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, which rises 100 feet above Lake Michigan. The four pedestals at the base are occupied by life-size statues, each differently composed and robed in classical garments, representing Illinois, History, Justice, and Eloquence.

The bas-reliefs in the panels of the main base of the superstructure depict the advance of civilization in America. They represent a Native American Scene; Pioneer Settlers; Commerce and Enterprise; and Education, the Culmination of Civilization.

The Monument was dedicated on September 6, 1866 in a ceremony attended by President Andrew Johnson, General Ulysses S. Grant, and several members of Johnson's cabinet. The column was completed in July 1878, when Volk's statue of Douglas was hoisted into place. But it was not until the summer of 1881 that the last of the

four statues at the base of the monument was completed.

The hazards of being exposed to the environment over the years had done considerable damage to the monument structure and its statuary. 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.

The work included caulking, tuck pointing, and water line restoration. A handicapped-accessible water fountain was installed on the grounds.

The IHPA's current project—restoration of the site superintendent's residence—is in the planning stage, according to Edward J. Keating, who works in construction management for the agency. He said that very little rehab work has been done since the structure was built in 1920.

Windows will be replaced and tuck pointing will be done on the house's brick masonry. All restoration work, Keating emphasized, will be done in historic context. The exterior of the one-and-one-half-story structure will appear as it did in 1920. The wooden trellises flanking the front entrance

(continued on page 4)

The Tomb of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, following extensive restoration work done by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The Douglas Tomb State Historic Site is located at 636 East 35th Street, Chicago, Illinois.



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*The Stephen A. Douglas
Association
extends warmest wishes for a
joyous holiday season and
a healthy and
prosperous new year.*



*"Give me a country first, that
my children may live in peace;
then we will have a theatre for
our party organizations to
operate upon."*

S. A. Douglas

April 25, 1861

1991 Annual Meeting and Luncheon Held on June 1

Address Given by Governor James R. Thompson

THE annual meeting of the Stephen A. Douglas Association took place on June 1. The day's activities began at 11:00 a.m. with ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb, commemorating the 130th anniversary of the death of Senator Douglas. The senator died at his home in Chicago on June 3, 1861.

The annual observance featured the participation of a Civil War reenactment group, the Reactivated 58th New York Infantry. A flag was presented to the day's honoree, former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson. Remarks were made by Douglas Association President Brooks Davis, Secretary C. Robert Douglas, and Honorary Director Corneal Davis.

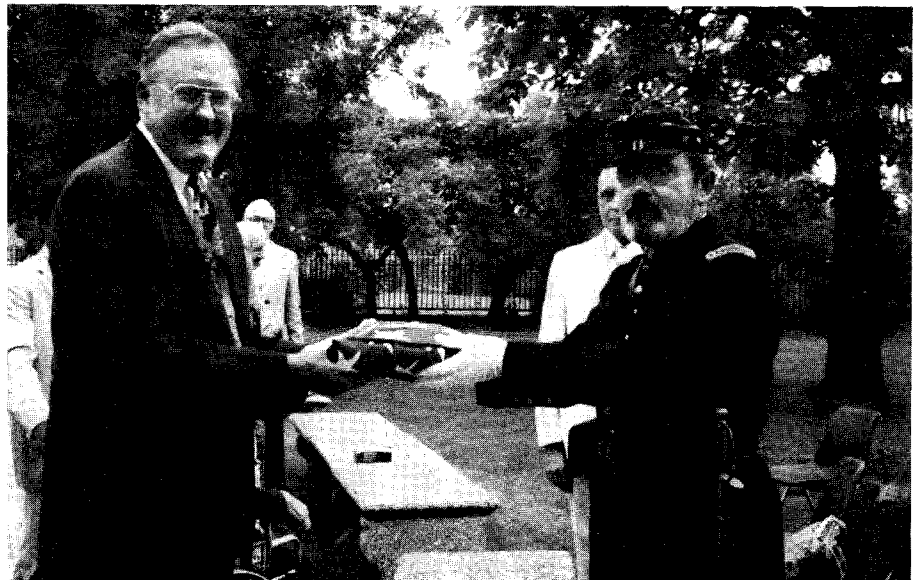
The annual luncheon began at 12:30 p.m. in the Burnham Room of the Prairie Restaurant, located in the Morton Hotel. The luncheon speaker was James R. Thompson, who served an unprecedented four terms as governor of Illinois (1977-1991). Thompson is presently a partner in the Chicago law firm, Winston & Strawn. His topic that afternoon was "Stephen A. Douglas: Advocate of America First."

Douglas Association Chairman of the Board Ralph G. Newman said, in his introduction of Governor Thompson: "There are those who think he is a closet Democrat. I disagree. He personifies the progressive stance of the Republican party—the very qualities which caused Abraham Lincoln to help create it. But, most important, like Stephen A. Douglas, he believes one is an American before he is a Democrat or a Republican."

In his address, Governor Thompson talked about Senator Douglas's remarkable political career, which began in 1835 when, at the age of twenty-two, he was elected to the office of Illinois State's Attorney. Thompson emphasized the Little Giant's selfless labors in 1860-1861 when, saddened by what was happening in his divided country, he put "America First."

After losing the 1860 presidential election to Abraham Lincoln, Senator Douglas—in failing health—toured the country in an effort to quell fears in the South and to preserve the Union. He put aside political differences and worked with the Lincoln administra-

(continued on page 4)



Presentation of the American flag to former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson by General Kenneth Pacnowski, Commander of the Reactivated 58th New York Infantry, on June 1, 1991.

Stephen A Douglas and Isaac N. Morris

by John Y. Simon

IMMEDIATELY after the end of the senatorial campaign of 1858, Stephen A. Douglas wrote an exultant letter to his friend and ally, Congressman Isaac N. Morris of Quincy. This previously unpublished letter was recently acquired by Southern Illinois University along with other letters addressed to Morris, most of them from another close friend, Ulysses S. Grant. Douglas wrote from Chicago on November 8:

I congratulate you upon the result of the recent election and upon your own glorious triumph. Our victory is complete in this state. We have a majority of ten on joint ballot in the Legislature, although we may have lost the State ticket by a few hundred votes. While I regret the defeat of Fonday and French, still we have secured a victory which ensures a permanent Democratic ascendancy in the State. Our friends have a grand celebration here on Wednesday a week, and, while no special invitations will be sent to any one, we will be glad to see you and as many more of our friends as can make it convenient to be here on the occasion. Present my kind regards to my friends in Quincy. . . .

Six days before Douglas wrote, Morris had defeated Republican Jackson Grimshaw for Congress in the Fifth District by a vote of 13,529 to 11,648. In two statewide contests, James Miller, Republican, defeated William B. Fonday, Democrat, for treasurer by a vote of 125,430 to 121,609, and Newton Bateman, Republican, defeated former governor Augustus C. French, Democrat, for superintendent of public instruction by a vote of 124,556 to 122,413. In the election for members of the legislature, which would choose the new senator, Democrats elected forty-six, Republicans forty-one; and these would join thirteen holdover state senators, eight Democrats and five Republicans. When they voted in January 1859, Douglas received the good news: "Glory to God and the Sucker Democracy. Douglas 54, Lincoln 46." Douglas's original estimate of a majority of ten on joint ballot



Photograph of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, believed to have been taken shortly after the 1858 senatorial election, in which he defeated Abraham Lincoln.

proved only slightly overoptimistic.

Born in Ohio in 1812, Morris was the son of Thomas Morris, U.S. Senator (1833-39) and candidate for vice president in 1844 of the abolitionist Liberty Party. Isaac Morris settled in Illinois in 1836 and two years later began to edit a Democratic newspaper in Quincy, where political opponents taunted him about his "Abolition Dad." While serving two terms as Democratic U.S. Representative (1857-61), Morris was a staunch ally of Douglas, yet Morris is best remembered as a friend and ally of the two most prominent Illinois Republicans of his day.

After South Carolina seceded in 1860, Morris offered a resolution to the House reaffirming "the immense value

of our national Union," which brought a letter from president-elect Lincoln expressing thanks for "views upon which we never were, and, I trust, never will be at variance." During the war Morris presented Illinois claims in Washington, gaining assistance and some support from his new friend Lincoln.

War brought to prominence an old friend, Grant, whose father Jesse had been a political ally of Thomas Morris. Senator Morris assisted in getting Ulysses an appointment to the United States Military Academy. In 1864, Isaac Morris wrote an anonymous newspaper biography of Grant, incorporating verbatim a sketch by Jesse. Knowing that Morris hoped to launch Grant's political career. Grant wrote that he was "not a politician, never was and hoped never to be" and election as president was "the last thing in the world I desire."

Four years later, when the tumultuous Andrew Johnson presidency had forced Grant to accept the Republican nomination for president "in spite of myself," he had Morris's support, which Grant acknowledged by appointing Morris a commissioner of the Union Pacific Railroad. Morris was a former Democrat but so was Grant, who favored Douglas for president in 1860 and appointed his son Robert as White House secretary. The small but choice collection of letters to Morris at Southern Illinois University should assist in bringing into sharper focus a man with a significant role in the political careers of Douglas, Lincoln, and Grant.

John Y. Simon, professor of history at Southern Illinois University, is the editor of The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, with eighteen of a projected twenty-six volumes now published. He is executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and writes extensively on topics related to the American Civil War era. Dr. Simon delivered the address at the first annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association in 1975.

SITE (continued from page 1)

door will be restored to their original state.

New finishes will be applied to all interior surfaces—walls, ceiling, woodwork, and doors. Work will be done on indoor stairways, and a half-bath will be added to the upstairs.

Also planned is the construction of a garage and storage building to the north of the house. In addition to serving as a garage, the structure will house lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and other tools that Superintendent Patrick Williams needs to maintain the site.

The sarcophagus of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, located inside a doorway at the front of the tomb. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency restored the walls, the entrance-way floor, and the bust of Douglas.



John Gunn

Summer Activities at the Douglas Tomb Site

CEREMONIES were held at the Douglas 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. Judge Whiting, who holds a J.D. degree from John Marshall Law School, has served in her current position since 1978. Her prior positions include those of Assistant State's Attorney and Assistant United States Attorney.

On August 4, the honoree was Reverend George Clements. Father Clements, who recently announced his retirement, has been pastor of Chicago's Holy Angels Church since 1969, and is internationally known for his humanitarian causes and his willingness to aid the less fortunate. The first Catholic priest to adopt a child, Father Clements gave initial 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 Clement's family, and a member of the Stephen A. Douglas Association.

Chicago Police Superintendent

LeRoy Martin, the honoree on September 1, is a thirty-six year veteran of the Chicago Police Department who rose through the ranks, beginning as a beat patrolman in 1955. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in public administration from Roosevelt University. 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 featured the participation of the Reactivated 58th New York Infantry commanded by General Kenneth Pacnowski. 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, commanded by Sargeant Ed McCarthy. The invocation was given by Reverend Kevin Dean, chaplain of the Police Department. LeRoy Whiting, an aide to Richard M. Daley, represented the mayor.

All the arrangements for these three summer events were made by Douglas Association Director Ernest A. Griffin.

SPEECH (continued from page 2)

tion, as he sought to unite a divided America. Loyalty to the Union in the southern part of Illinois was probably largely due to the efforts of Stephen A. Douglas.

"We must fight for our country," Douglas urged his listeners in 1861, "and forget all partisan differences. There can be but two parties—the party of patriots and the party of traitors." The last words he spoke before he died, at the age of forty-eight, contained a message he wanted to leave for his sons. "Tell them," he said, "to obey the laws and support the Constitution of the United States."

