To mark eight score years since the Emancipation Proclamation, the Battle of Gettysburg, and the Gettysburg Address—the signal events of 1863—The Lincoln Forum will bring back some of its most enduringly popular speakers and performers, and introduce the latest in new Civil War-era scholarship, at its 28th annual symposium: “What Price Glory? Emancipation and Gettysburg at 160.”

For the first time in nearly two decades, the Forum will feature one of the most popular and influential presidential and public historians of our time—Pulitzer Prize- and Lincoln Prize-winner Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of the 2005 classic Team of Rivals. Goodwin will appear with her producing partner and fellow executive producer Beth Laski in conversation with Forum Chairman Harold Holzer about their acclaimed 2022 History Channel seven-and-a-half-hour miniseries Abraham Lincoln, which explores Lincoln’s life and leadership through premium dramatic live-action scenes and expert interviews, providing a fresh, contemporary understanding of the complexities of young Lincoln who grows to become President Lincoln. The Gettysburg Address will be read by actor Graham Sibley, who portrayed Lincoln in the History Channel series produced by RadicalMedia.

“We are thrilled and honored to welcome Doris back to Gettysburg for The Lincoln Forum,” commented Holzer. “In her many books—including Leadership in Turbulent Times—she reminds us how our greatest presidents have overcome personal and political crises to complete Abraham Lincoln’s ‘unfinished work.’ Now, in her new work as the executive producer and expert in compelling docudramas on Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and George Washington, she has brought her own ‘political genius’—and historical insight—to a new form of communicating accessible history. It will be a pleasure to engage Doris and her brilliant colleague Beth Laski on their compelling approach—and to ask them...”

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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE
Worth 1,000 Words?

I’m not at all sure how many American presidents have appeared in film and television in the century since moving pictures first took hold of the cultural imagination. The easy answer is: many.

I’ve always been struck, however, by the discomfort so many American writers and readers express about dramatized portrayals of our leaders—unlike the British, who have been tolerant, even enthusiastic, about such adaptations ever since Shakespeare reintroduced their kings at the Globe Theatre. Americans seem to accept dramatized English history, too. No one here really thinks Elizabeth I behaved like Bette Davis or Glenda Jackson (or vice versa), or that Margaret Thatcher was very much like Meryl Streep, yet their films and miniseries chronicling (and exaggerating) their lives and personalities routinely win both audiences and Oscars.

It’s not that the likes of Raymond Massey and Daniel Day Lewis have been snubbed. On the contrary, they have earned nominations and awards of their own in portraying Abraham Lincoln. But my snail mail and email still bulge with nit-picking criticism of Spielberg’s Lincoln (for which I served as historical advisor), not to mention the timbre of Gregory Peck’s voice and the bulge of Henry Fonda’s fake nose. And now that I serve as Director of Hunter College’s Roosevelt House, I routinely field derisive complaints about nearly all the actors who have portrayed FDR, from Ralph Bellamy to Jon Voight to Bill Murray (all right: not so much for Ed Herrmann).

Do American history enthusiasts really have higher standards, a more exacting view of make-up and prostheses, or a resistance to dialogue that expands beyond the historical archive (as the Bard’s words did—routinely inventing or improving them)?

If so, it’s really a shame—and perhaps time that we lighten up. The moving image, whether in movie theaters, on HD screens, or on iPhones, remains hands-down the most potent teaching tool in our arsenal, and it would be incredibly self-defeating if we discourage adaptations capable of drawing young people into an appreciation of the American past. As we know, history knowledge and appreciation are declining alarmingly among the people we expect to vote and decide future national and local policy. How can young citizens chart the future if they haven’t been exposed to the past, any way we can serve it to them?

We know that dramatized history, even at its best, takes liberties to accommodate the medium. And while the differences are always worth pointing out—to help separate fact from fiction—at its best, drama can still engage and inspire what we used to call “further reading.”

At the age of eleven, I went from the televised movie Young Mr. Lincoln to books by Richard Current, Carl Sandburg, and Stefan Lorant. The former was a springboard to the latter, not a discouragement. And pretty quickly I figured out the difference between a film and a footnote.

This is why I’m so glad that the incomparably gifted and influential Doris Kearns Goodwin has added to her bounty of books a new archive of docudrama work that combines expert commentary with terrific, atmospheric, and gripping drama. She is striding the two forms of history—well, like a colossus, as one might expect.

I’d urge everyone to see the films and the TV series—ideally in the company of a young person—and hopefully bring them into the fold and the field by entertaining them, not showing off our expertise only by catching errors and exaggerations.

When Lincoln’s young son Tad asked him once to explain a vexingly difficult section of a Shakespearian tragedy they were watching together, the president merely exclaimed: “Why, it’s all in the play.” In other words: enjoy it for what it is. The play’s the thing. And when the curtain closes, you can always pick up a good book.

Harold Holzer, Chairman

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LINCOLN FORUM thanks all of our members who have made donations over the past 27 years. Your generosity has made our programs a success. We are pleased to announce that donations and membership payments can now be made directly at our website: https://www.thelincolnforum.org/

Thank you again for your continued support!
IMPRESSIONS GROUP OF TEACHER-SCHOLARS ATTENDS FORUM XXVII

By Ruth Squillace

Through the height of the pandemic, schools across the nation adapted to meet the demanding needs of the times. While some educators taught classes to socially distanced and masked students, others taught virtually or adopted a hybrid model. In the most socio-economically challenged schools in the nation, many students simply dropped off the rolls and remain unaccounted for to this day. Though schools may have finally returned to normal, it is a new normal—one in which teachers are called upon to address tremendous social and emotional, as well as academic, learning gaps. Thus, to properly honor the 2022 recipients of the Virginia Williams Teacher Scholarship, it is important to acknowledge the shifting landscape of the American classroom, because doing so further highlights the unique dedication and grit required of educators today. Though faced with these exigencies, the recipients of our most recent Lincoln Forum teacher scholarship went to great lengths to make history come alive for their students. Furthermore, they remained dedicated, focused, and sincere in their pursuit of professional development. The scholarship selection committee consists of Ken Childs of Columbia, South Carolina; Ruth Squillace, Lincoln Forum Teacher Scholarship Initiative Coordinator and high school social studies teacher from Long Island, New York; and Clark Zimmerman of Lenhartsville, Pennsylvania, who is an educator at Hamburg Area High School.

Larry Dorenkamp

Larry Dorenkamp is in his twenty-second year at North Hills Middle School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he teaches 8th grade American History. He has studied at Penn State and Georgetown, and recently completed his Master of Arts in American History and Government at Ashland University. Dorenkamp was the recipient of the 2019 Pennsylvania James Madison Memorial Fellowship, as well as the Barringer Research Fellowship for Teachers of American History (awarded by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation) in 2014. He has presented at numerous regional, state, and national conferences, including the 2017 National Council for the Social Studies and the John L. Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. Learning for learning’s sake has always been a guiding force in his own pursuits, and he was delighted to cultivate meaningful relationships with like-minded members at the Forum. Always on the lookout for classroom resources that will have an impact on students, he found great value in Jonathan White’s works. “To me, true appreciation for our American heritage lies in the words of those from the past. My students will better understand how the president’s views on race and emancipation evolved by looking at letters from African Americans, like Robert Smalls, whose influence impacted Lincoln’s decision to use soldiers of color in the fight against the Confederacy. Additionally, my students will examine the words of Abraham Galloway and his appeal to President Lincoln for the right to vote and how it ties to the passage of the 15th Amendment.” Following Christopher Oakley’s presentation, “Placing the Platform: Using 3D Technology to Pinpoint Lincoln at Gettysburg,” as well as the battlefield tour with Carol Reardon, Dorenkamp was thrilled to share his own excitement with his students upon his return to the classroom. “My learning in Gettysburg has not only impacted my instruction to my middle-level learners of American history, but also the discussions I have had with colleagues and fellow professionals.”

Monica Henry

Monica Henry teaches 8th grade U.S. History at Trinity Christian Academy in Jacksonville, Florida. Only in her sixth year, she has shown herself to be a hands-on educator who develops virtual museums and multimedia projects, which engage her students in a 21st-century classroom. Recently, she began a Master of Arts program at Gettysburg College through the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. On her experiences at the Forum, she echoed the sentiments of fellow recipients: an appreciation for the freedom to learn without end-product expectations. “The pure love of learning I experienced at the Forum rekindled my joy for history that can get buried beneath the ‘everydayness’ of teaching.” The breakout session with Craig Symonds and John Marszalek, “The Grant and Sherman Memoirs,” even provided inspiration for a graduate paper she was writing. Excited to learn from historians whose work she values, as well as from historians in areas of scholarship new to her, she stated, “If I am able to attend The Lincoln Forum in the future, I’ll need a much larger book budget!”

Kenton Horsley

Kenton Horsley teaches 8th grade U.S. History at Wurtland Middle School in Raceland, Kentucky. Over the years, he has been fortunate to attend several Gilder Lehrman seminars, most recently, “Reframing Lincoln,” under the instruction of our very own Jonathan White. While in attendance there, White announced Horsley’s award in front of his fellow scholars. Zooming in were additional 100 educators from throughout the country. Hopefully, the stir it created will generate even more interest in what the Forum has to offer educators. Horsley’s perspectives on the symposium are like those of so many other attendees. “I felt like no one was a stranger and The Lincoln Forum definitely had a ‘family’ feel to it.” Describing how this scholarship experience differs from others he has had, he stated, “I felt like this experience was designed for my benefit as a history teacher. I wasn’t overwhelmed with deadlines and lesson plans. I could relax and learn about Lincoln and the Civil War on my own terms. I also had the opportunity to interact with people who were not educators, but who shared a common interest in Lincoln. By experiencing their passion and differing insights, my love of learning about our 16th president was renewed. This was a great way to recharge my creative energies as an educator. If you are a Lincoln enthusiast, I cannot think of a better experience than The Lincoln Forum.”

The authentic passion and dedication exhibited by this past year’s teacher scholars serve as a reminder why continued support for educators is imperative for the future of the American classroom. If you or a friend or colleague is interested in applying to be a Williams Teacher Scholar at the 2023 Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg on November 16-18, please visit The Lincoln Forum website at www.thelincolnforum.org for additional information and the application form. Applications should be directed to Ruth Squillace, Coordinator, by June 30, 2023. Finally, please consider making a tax-deductible financial gift to support the various scholarship opportunities available through The Lincoln Forum. Donations can be made on the Forum’s website or sent to the Forum’s treasurer, Paul Ward, at 1769 Jamestown Road, Suite 103, Williamsburg, VA 23185.
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28th LINCOLN FORUM SYMPOSIUM TO PRESENT ALL-TIME FAVORITES, NEWEST

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whether it could inspire a ‘new birth of history’ in our schools and our country.”

As always, the symposium will take place November 16-18 at the Wyndham Gettysburg, and will feature lectures, panels, breakout sessions, period music, art and sculpture displays, a bookstore, an all-author book-signing, and a battlefield tour for first-time attendees—along with three dinners, two lunches, and two breakfasts.

Also returning to the Forum—literally by popular demand—to perform a full-length concert of Civil War music are Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, whose haunting composition “Ashokan Farewell” served as the theme music for the iconic Ken Burns PBS series, *The Civil War*.

The all-star cast of principal speakers at Forum XXVIII will include author and NPR host Steve Inskeep on his brand-new book *Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America*; bestselling biographer Ronald C. White on his new biography of the Gettysburg hero Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain; historian Kate Masur on her Nau Prize-winning *Until Justice be Done: America’s First Civil Rights Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction*; writer Edward Achorn on his acclaimed new volume on the 1860 Republican convention, *The Lincoln Miracle*; and Knox College professor Fred Lee Hord in conversation with historian and Forum executive committee member Edna Greene Medford on “African Americans Who Knew Lincoln by Heart.”

Forum Vice Chairman Jonathan W. White, co-recipient of the 2023 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, will introduce his latest discoveries and most recent book, *Shipwrecked*, in a talk called “A Tale of Two Slave Traders: Lincoln and the Destruction of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.” Longtime Forum favorite Craig L. Symonds will also return to the stage to unearth Civil War connections within his most recent biography of a World War II hero in a talk called “Farragut and Nimitz: Two Admirals, Two Wars, One Temperament.” Symonds recently won the Pritzker Military Prize, the most generous literary prize given in America. Finally, Daniel Weinberg, proprietor of the legendary Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, will do a special after-dinner appraisal of a Lincoln artifact.


In honor of the 160th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the Forum will also host a panel on “Lincoln the Great Communicator.” The session will feature Joseph Fornieri, author of *The Language of Liberty: The Political Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln*; Ronald White (among whose previous works are acclaimed books on the Second Inaugural and on Lincoln’s eloquence); Edward Achorn, whose work *Every Drop of Blood* examined Lincoln’s Second Inaugural; Chairman Emeritus Frank J. Williams, author of *Lincoln as Hero* and many other books; and Forum executive committee member Erin Carlson Mast as moderator.

An extraordinary roster of experts will appear at this year’s final-day, small-group breakout sessions. One will be “Here I Have Lived: The Lincoln Home and the Lincoln Cottage in Historical Memory,” with Erin Mast, CEO of the Lincoln Presidential Foundation; Michael Atwood Mason and Callie Hawkins of the Lincoln Cottage; and Samuel Wheeler of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Society.

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Other breakout sessions will offer Candice Shy Hooper, author of the new Delivered Under Fire: Absalom Markland and Freedom's Mail, in a conversation about "Lincoln’s Forgotten Mailman" with Susannah J. Ural of Mississippi State University; “What’s Left to Discover? Lincoln in the Archives,” offering insights into research from Michelle Krowl; John Lupton, executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Society; and Christian McWhirter of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.


“I am looking forward to seeing the Forum family when we return to Gettysburg in November,” said Vice Chairman White. “The speakers, panels, musicians, exhibitors, and breakouts are some of the most exciting we have ever assembled, and I think will be a treat for all attendees—regulars and First Timers alike.”

First-time Forum attendees will be offered a battlefield tour guided by the legendary Civil War military historian Carol Reardon of Gettysburg College.

As always, registration will be open to all dues-paying and lifetime Lincoln Forum members, with information on the hotel and symposium on www.thelincolnforum.org.

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**Don’t Swap Horses Midstream**

A day after receiving the Republican nomination for president in June 1864, Lincoln told a delegation from the National Union League, “I have not permitted myself, gentlemen, to conclude that I am the best man in the country; but I am reminded, in this connection, of a story of an old Dutch farmer, who remarked to a companion once that ‘it was not best to swap horses when crossing streams.’”

This metaphor appeared in numerous writings and publications during the election campaign and captures why some Democrats supported Lincoln’s candidacy even though they did not fully endorse his policies. One sailor from Connecticut was disgusted that his own Democratic Party had called the war a “failure” in its national platform and appeared to be willing to compromise with the South. While this Navy man almost certainly did not vote in the election, he could not bring himself to support his own party’s ticket. “Think it bad Buisness [sic] to swap Horses while crossing the stream,” he wrote in his diary. “The Republicans have had their whack at the Trough, and now to have to fat up the Democrats, the War would be good for another Year or two.” But if Lincoln stayed at the helm, he reasoned, “six months had ought to finish it up.” When word reached this sailor that Lincoln had been reelected, he wrote tellingly, “I am glad of it, but I am not celebrating any.” For him, support for Lincoln was support for the Union—not an endorsement of Lincoln’s wartime policies like emancipation.

This cartoon, which depicts Lincoln and Democratic nominee George B. McClellan (far left) as horses, appeared in Harper’s Weekly on November 12, 1864—four days after Lincoln won reelection.

\[1\] Quoted in Jonathan W. White, Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln (Louisiana State University Press, 2014), 115.
The Lincoln Presidential Foundation received an Inclusive Storytelling grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF) that will support designing exhibits for the Julius Rosenwald Boyhood Home, located within the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois.

Rosenwald, the son of German-Jewish immigrants, was born a block from the Lincoln Home in 1862. His family moved to a house across from the Lincoln Home in 1868 and lived there until 1886. In 2019, the house became the first building named for a Jewish-American in a National Park Service (NPS) unit. Rosenwald is perhaps best known for his leadership of Sears, Roebuck and Company and for his role in the creation of thousands of “Rosenwald Schools” built throughout the segregated South to provide education to African American youth. While his philanthropic efforts had a transformational effect on the nation, few people know his story.

“We are grateful that the National Park Foundation is supporting our efforts to share this uniquely American story with the public,” said Erin Carlson Mast, the Foundation’s president and CEO. “The intersections of Rosenwald’s life and that of Abraham Lincoln offer a rich opportunity to explore shared ideals around philanthropy, education and equal opportunity.”

Lincoln Home National Historic Site Superintendent Tim Good said, “By including stories at Lincoln Home beyond Lincoln, we demonstrate to the hundreds of thousands of visitors every year that each generation needs to meet new challenges facing their communities and the nation.”

The proposed project will result in the first long-term exhibit about a Jewish-American in a NPS unit. The Foundation will seek to raise additional funds for fabrication and installation of the exhibits.

“Rosenwald’s formative years, growing up Jewish-American in Lincoln’s hometown, are central to his story,” said Nancy Sage, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Springfield. “The fact that his boyhood home is situated at Lincoln Home National Historic Site offers a unique opportunity to welcome new audiences to the site and reach audiences who may not otherwise encounter his story.”

The grant will also fund the creation of new media content on Julius Rosenwald’s life and humanitarian impact, which will be developed by Looking for Lincoln—the coordinating entity for the 43-county Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. “This is exactly the type of collaborative project that helps national parks share important stories and supports efforts to continually build bridges across communities,” said Sarah Watson, executive director of Looking for Lincoln.

The NPF Inclusive Storytelling program is a new philanthropic investment to support NPS in updating interpretive programs, websites, visitor centers, and education programs at parks across the country.
On February 27, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History announced that Jon Meacham and Lincoln Forum Vice Chairman Jonathan W. White were joint winners of the 2023 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. Both spoke about their prize-winning books in November 2022 at Forum XXVII—White about *A House Built By Slaves: African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House,* and Meacham about *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle.*

The prize jury wrote that *And There Was Light* is “a timely and original biography of Lincoln, well informed by modern scholarship and full of educational value for the broad reading public.” They concluded, “Meacham’s superbly readable biography . . . is one of the very finest that we have, and will stand the test of time.”

The jury wrote that in *A House Built by Slaves,* “White captures the symbolic importance of social equality as an issue to be addressed during—and after—the restoration of the Union and eradication of slavery.” Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., called *A House Built by Slaves* “an attempt to size Lincoln up through the eyes of Black Americans who visited the ‘people’s house’ that their people had built and in whose names they were determined to win the fight for freedom and citizenship.”

Gettysburg College trustee Larry D. Walker added, “We are pleased to be able to honor two outstanding books. Jonathan White’s work provides us with a deeper and important understanding of the view of Lincoln shared by African Americans in the Civil War era. Jon Meacham’s work is a major contribution to the long line of Lincoln biographies that will be read and re-read for decades.”

The two laureates were recognized at an award ceremony held at the Harvard Club in New York City on April 11. The award they share included a $50,000 prize and bronze replicas of Augustus Saint-Gaudens’s life-sized bust, *Lincoln the Man.*
ANGELA MAYER SEeks collaboration BETWEEN THE LINCOLN FORUM AND A GERMAN INSTITUTE

By Roger D. Billings, Jr.

At a recent Board of Advisors meeting of the Forum, Angela Mayer reported that Mia Kamawitsu, a Frank J. Williams Student Scholar, had been accepted into the Ambassadors in Sneakers program of the German American Institute (DAI) in Tuebingen, Germany. This came about after Mayer informed Thomas Horrocks, who administers the student scholar program, that Williams Scholars might be good candidates for this German program.

Ambassadors in Sneakers offers twelve German and twelve American students an opportunity to spend four summer weeks together, two weeks in each country, meeting diplomats, politicians, and media representatives as they learn about the struggle for human rights. The tie-in with the Williams Scholarship Program is obvious: Lincoln was also an American champion of human rights. Mayer hopes the DAI and the Forum can cooperate in future programs that educate about Lincoln.

Mayer, the Forum’s only German member, has made regular visits to the Forum’s annual symposia since she discovered the place of Lincoln in American history. She does invaluable work posting information about Forum activities on social media, similar to the publicity she does for the police department in the State of Hesse, Germany.

Her fascination with Abraham Lincoln came about almost by accident. At first, her interest centered on George Washington and so in 2012 she flew to Washington, D.C., to see the historic sights relating to America’s founding father. She was disappointed to learn that Mt. Vernon and the Washington Monument were closed. A friendly National Park Service ranger suggested that she might enjoy visiting the Lincoln Memorial. Why not, she thought, although she knew little about Lincoln. Thus began the amazing relationship between a German police officer and the 16th president.

At the Memorial, Mayer encountered a sign that read, “quiet please,” but the crowd noise around the statue bothered her. Surely, a man of such importance deserved more respect. A park ranger assured her that the noise was normal, and that she might like to visit the bookstore. Good, she thought, she would find books about George Washington. To her chagrin, however, she learned that a water leak had damaged the Washington biographies. Another friendly ranger gave her a booklet of Lincoln’s speeches and recommended that she read it.

Mayer took the booklet outside to the National Mall in front of the Memorial, bought herself a glass of wine at a kiosk, and sat down to read. Enthralled, she couldn’t put the booklet down until sunset when she returned to the bookstore and bought two Lincoln biographies: Michael Burlingame’s 2-volume Abraham Lincoln: A Life (2008), and Doris Kearns Goodwin’s Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln (2005). Since then she has taken the 8-hour flight from Germany to attend the Forum each year and become a regular customer of Dan Weinberg’s Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, Inc.

(Roger D. Billings, Jr. is a member of The Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors.)

1 Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Tuebinger, dai-tuebingen.de.
On January 9, 2023, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a partner of the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park in Cornish, New Hampshire, awarded the Saint-Gaudens Medal to Harold Holzer in a ceremony held in New York City. The award honors his outstanding contributions as an authority on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era. Throughout his career, Holzer has recognized Augustus Saint-Gaudens as the sculptor who set the standard for civic monuments commemorating Lincoln with two great statues: Abraham Lincoln: The Man (Standing Lincoln) (1884-87) and Seated Lincoln (1897-1906), both for Chicago.

“We proudly present this medal to Harold Holzer,” said Saint-Gaudens Memorial president Thayer Tolles. “He has engaged a broad audience, bringing a wealth of insights into our ever-evolving understanding of Lincoln as man, president, and icon. His engagement with portrayals of Lincoln in the visual culture of the United States complements the Memorial’s longstanding commitment to fostering the enduring legacy of Saint-Gaudens.”

“I want to express my sincere thanks for this wonderful, and wholly unexpected, honor,” said Holzer. “For a ‘Dan French’ man to be recognized with the prestigious Saint-Gaudens Medal suggests that the creative synergy that once existed between those two giants continues to animate the study of, and appreciation for, American sculpture. I am so grateful to the Saint-Gaudens experts who first introduced me to Cornish, invited me to speak there, helped me with my research on Monument Man, and continue to educate and inspire me. And of course, to the Daniel Chester French community, and my Metropolitan Museum family, let me say how glad I am that we remain interconnected in pursuit of, and appreciation for, these extraordinary artists.”

Over the course of his career Holzer has spoken and written extensively on the visual arts, focusing on Civil War print culture, sculptural representations of Lincoln, and American public monuments. In 2016, Holzer delivered keynote remarks at the unveiling of a recast of Standing Lincoln at the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, on the occasion of the centennial of the National Park Service. “In his art-related scholarship Harold Holzer has consistently highlighted Saint-Gaudens and his important relationships with fellow artists of his time, most recently in his award-winning biography Monument Man: The Life and Art of Daniel Chester French (2019) in which Saint-Gaudens receives prominent consideration,” commented Donna Hassler, Director Emerita, Chesterwood, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and also a trustee of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial.

The Saint-Gaudens Medal, established in 1988, is awarded from time to time to those who, by their talents and vision, have made a distinguished contribution to the arts in the United States in the high tradition of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907). The Saint-Gaudens Medal has been given thirteen times. The award was last presented in 2021 to art historian Wanda M. Corn in recognition of her longstanding commitment to the preservation and stewardship of historic artists’ properties throughout the United States. Prior to that the medal was awarded in 2019 to Dartmouth College Library for its exemplary care and preservation of the papers of Saint-Gaudens, as well as those of other Cornish Colony artists and the Saint-Gaudens Memorial. Other recipients include historian and author David McCullough (2016), historian and author James B. Atkinson (2014), and museum director Earl A. Powell III (2005).
By Michelle A. Krowl

On February 13, 1861, James A. Garfield was in Columbus, Ohio, serving Portage County in the Ohio State Senate. There he had the opportunity to meet Abraham Lincoln for the first time, when the president-elect stopped in Columbus on his train journey through the North before reaching Washington, D.C., for his March 4 inauguration.

President-elect Lincoln favorably impressed the state senator, far more than Garfield anticipated. To his friend Burke Hinsdale, Garfield wrote on February 17, Lincoln “has a peculiar power of impressing you that he is frank—direct—and thoroughly honest. His remarkable good sense—simple and condensed style of expression—and evident marks of indomitable will—give me great hopes for the country.” To his wife Lucretia, Garfield expressed a similar sentiment. Garfield admitted that despite some lingering doubts about Lincoln, “there is a look of transparent, genuine goodness which at once reaches your heart, and makes you trust and love him.” “He has the tone and bearing of a fearless, firm man,” he continued, “and I have great hope for the government.”

Although Lincoln’s character won him over, Garfield found the president-elect’s physical appearance less inspiring. “He has been raising a respectable pair of dark brown whiskers—which, it is said improve his looks,” Garfield told Hinsdale, “but no appendage can ever render him remarkable for beauty.” He mentioned Lincoln’s new beard to Lucretia as well, noting, “notwithstanding all their beautifying effects he is distressedly homely.”

Many of Abraham Lincoln’s contemporaries remarked on his “homely” looks. Lincoln himself poked fun at his “poor, lean, lank face.” As a man in public life, Lincoln’s appearance might be considered fair game for comment. In his letter to Lucretia, however, Garfield also offered an unflattering assessment of Lincoln’s wife, Mary. “His wife is a stocky, sallow, pug-nosed plain lady, and I think has much of the primitiveness of western life,” Garfield wrote. “He stands higher, on the whole in my estimation than ever. She considerably lower.”

To her credit, Lucretia Garfield did not allow her husband’s catty remark to go unchallenged. “Don’t you think you were rather severe on poor Mrs. Lincoln?” she replied on February 21. “You were not called on to admire her beauty if she possess none of course, but must you place her lower in your estimation because she lacks it?”

Perhaps chastened by his wife’s rebuke, or simply distracted by other subjects, Garfield’s next letter to Lucretia said nothing about Mary Lincoln or her appearance.

Given the fame of Abraham and Mary Lincoln, any similar correspondence about the Lincolns would be of historical interest. That the authors in this case were themselves a future United States president and first lady only adds to the appeal of the Garfields’ exchange. Unfortunately, residence in the White House was not all the two couples would have in common. Both Mary Lincoln and Lucretia Garfield became widows after assassins’ bullets killed their husbands in 1865 and 1881, respectively.

Those tragedies lay in the future, though. In February 1861, Lucretia Garfield came to Mary Lincoln’s defense, telling her husband, in essence, if you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.

You can read the full correspondence of James and Lucretia Garfield online in the James A. Garfield Papers at the Library of Congress; see https://www.loc.gov/collections/james-a-garfield-papers/about-this-collection/. The three images accompanying this piece are courtesy of the James A. Garfield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

(Michelle A. Krowl is the Civil War and Reconstruction specialist in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, and the Secretary of The Lincoln Forum. This article was reprinted from the November 3, 2022, edition of Unfolding History: Manuscripts at the Library of Congress, https://blogs.loc.gov/manuscripts/.)
Attendees of the 2022 Lincoln Forum symposium gave Christopher Oakley a standing ovation for his lecture, “Placing the Platform: Using 3D Technology to Pinpoint Lincoln at Gettysburg.” Oakley received 9.84 out of 10 on the post-symposium surveys, making him the highest-rated of the Forum XXVII speakers, followed closely by Jon Meacham (9.80), Elizabeth D. Leonard (9.62), and Jonathan W. White (9.61).

The 2022 symposium received substantial media coverage. C-SPAN filmed most of the main stage sessions, and the New York Times ran a front-page story on Oakley’s discoveries on Dedication Day, November 19. The Forum also received positive press in Civil War Times, Civil War News, and American History magazine.

Forum attendees gave the symposium an overall rating of 9.47. Many attendees commented that this was “the best Forum ever.” Words like “fabulous” and “excellent” were widely used in the post-symposium surveys. One longtime attendee wrote, “I look forward to this conference every year. I would be disappointed if I could not attend. It is so well organized and presented. Friends I see each year are a great part of The Lincoln Forum.” A first-time attendee wrote, “Great speakers, warm welcoming people. Really neat, amazing fellow attendees.” Another first-timer added, “Everyone I’ve met has been so kind and welcoming! Dennis, Ron, Ruth and Penny have especially gone out of their way to introduce me to people and make this experience so worthwhile. I’ve enjoyed every moment and will be back! Thank you!!”

Attendees rated the Wyndham Gettysburg 8.98, and the meals 8.95. Several attendees found the meeting rooms too cold. Many also wished that the bookseller had provided a larger selection, as it had in previous years. (They were understaffed.) The Forum’s staff and leadership are looking for ways to ensure that the upcoming symposium has a broad selection of books and collectibles available for purchase and signing by authors.

Music has become a staple at the Forum, and most attendees rated the concert by the Federal City Brass Band highly. The panels on “Lincoln, Race and Citizenship” and “Lincoln and the Democrats” received high marks, and the breakout sessions were also popular. The two highest ranked were Andrew F. Lang and Michael Green on “Lincoln and the Union” (10.0, based on 5 ratings), and Craig Symonds and John Marszalek on “The Grant and Sherman Memoirs” (9.55, based on 20 ratings). Finally, the First-Time Attendee Battlefield Tour received high marks, and tour guide Carol Reardon enjoyed meeting the Forum attendees so much that she has already agreed to lead the tour at Forum XXVIII.

OAKLEY VOTED FAVORITE SPEAKER AT FORUM XXVII

Christopher Oakley

LINCOLN LORE EDITOR SARA GABBARD RETIRES

(Fort Wayne, IN) – In February, after more than two decades of service, Sara Gabbard retired as editor of Lincoln Lore. The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana issued the following statement thanking her for her many years of hard work:

Please join the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana in extending best wishes to Sara Gabbard, who has retired after over 20 years as editor of Lincoln Lore. For the last 13 years Sara has also functioned as executive director of our organization.

Since its inception in 1929, Lincoln Lore has had only five editors. Sara has faithfully carried on the tradition of excellence established by her predecessors: Louis Warren, Gerald McMurtry, Mark E. Neely Jr., and Gerald Prokopowicz.

During her tenure as editor, Sara authored many articles appearing in Lore and conducted countless interviews with Lincoln scholars and authors. One of those recent interviewees was Jonathan W. White. We are pleased to announce that Jonathan has agreed to carry on the strong legacy established by Sara and her predecessors as the next editor of Lincoln Lore.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Lincoln Collection thanks Sara for her many years of dedicated service. We wish her well in her retirement.

An eternal element of that illimitable work, of course, are the words Abraham Lincoln spoke here in 1863. Defining the American nation as one “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” the president called on his countrymen to so conduct themselves that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Lincoln’s entwined themes: equality and democracy. In those words and in his deeds, Abraham Lincoln chose liberty over captivity, progress over stasis, right over wrong. Driven by the convictions that the Union was sacred and that slavery was wrong, Lincoln was instrumental in saving one and in destroying the other.

This may sound grand or sentimental. Yet Lincoln’s antislavery convictions and his devotion to democracy guided him to pursue justice at perilous moments before and during the Civil War when a purely political man might have chosen a different course.

A key to Lincoln’s significance lies in his moral commitment to a larger good—an example of how the conscience of leaders and of the led has decisive implications for the life of the nation. There were political and practical reasons for Lincoln to do what he did. Yet there were also practical and political reasons for him to do the opposite of what he did. A constant in his calculus—sometimes decisive, sometimes not, but always there—was his moral opposition to human enslavement and his belief in a nation conceived in liberty.

This is not to celebrate him for moral perfection, for he was morally imperfect, but to illustrate that progress comes when Americans recognize the moral truth that all, not just some, possess common rights and are due common respect. In a democracy, the pursuit of power for power’s sake, devoid of devotion to equal justice and fair play, is tempting but destructive. Such is a reasonable extrapolation from the Gettysburg Address—and from the workings of our own consciences.

Lincoln kept the American experiment in self-government alive when it seemed lost. He did not do so alone. Ordinary people, black and white, sacrificed to preserve the Union against the designs of the rebel South. Many of those are buried here. We are here to commemorate their deeds. We pray for the repose of their souls, and for the strength to be worthy of their sacrifice.

And to be worthy stewards of Lincoln’s ultimate vision of the nation—that the country should be free of slavery, and that democracy must survive and thrive.

Let us be clear. Abraham Lincoln did not bring about heaven on earth. He was not a god. He was flesh and blood, fallen and frail and fallible. As are we.

In years of crisis Abraham Lincoln did more good than ill; in years of peril he pointed the country toward a future that was superior to the past and to the present. What we do in our own years of crisis and in our own moments of peril remains to be seen. But this much is clear: Abraham Lincoln and the honored dead of this place have shown us the way. Now it is up to us to follow the path they cut through the pain and the possibilities and the glories and the tragedies of history. Such is the illimitable work that lies before us.

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GUY FRAKER NAMED MCLEAN COUNTY, IL, HISTORY MAKER

Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors member Guy Fraker was named one of this year’s six McLean County History Makers. The award recognizes individuals whose lifelong service to the community has made McLean County, Illinois, a better place to live. Fraker and the other five award winners were announced on March 30 at a press conference at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington. A local press report stated, “Lincoln historian Guy Fraker III has a longstanding commitment to local land conservation efforts.” Fraker will be honored at the History Makers Gala on June 21.
BOOK REVIEW


Reviewed by Jonathan W. White

Sojourner Truth is one of the most remarkable and important figures in nineteenth-century America. Born into bondage as Isabella Baumfree in New York in 1797, she knew the horrors of slavery from a young age. She never knew most of her siblings (they had been kidnapped or sold), and at the age of nine she was taken from her mother. At night, Isabella would gaze up at the moon and stars knowing that her siblings and parents were doing the same, even though they were “ever so far away from . . . each other.” Sometimes when staring into the dark night sky she wondered if God “thought it was right” for people to be enslaved.

Isabella finally attained freedom in 1826 by fleeing from her owner—one year before she would have become legally free under New York State law. But when she did this her former owner, John Dumont, retaliated by illegally selling her five-year-old son, Peter, into slavery in Alabama (under New York law, it was illegal to sell a slave beyond state lines). Isabella fought through the state court system and after a year’s struggle regained custody of her child. Eventually Isabella experienced a powerful Christian conversion, and she changed her name to Sojourner Truth. She would spend much of the rest of her life traveling the nation speaking on behalf of human rights and her religious faith.

*So Tall Within* tells Sojourner Truth’s story through powerful prose that will be accessible to children from a young age into the pre-teen years. Author Gary D. Schmidt uses quotations throughout the text from historical documents, including *Narrative of Sojourner Truth, A Northern Slave* (first published in 1850). For instance, Schmidt recounts Truth’s White House meeting with Abraham Lincoln in October 1864, when she told him, “I appreciate you, for you are the best President who has ever taken the seat.” The title of the book comes from an incident when Truth confronted John Dumont’s wife about the illegal sale of her boy, Peter. In her *Narrative*, Truth said that when she confronted Mrs. Dumont, she “felt so tall within—I felt as if the power of a nation was with me!”

Illustrator Daniel Minter uses images of trees, plants, roots, water, and shadows to symbolize the effects of slavery, and the struggle of African Americans to overcome oppression. The final spread in the book—which depicts Truth at the end of her life—brings the reader back to the beginning of the story. As Truth looks up at the moon and stars, she reflects on the difference she’s made in the world. “[I] had work to do,” she said. “My lost time that I lost being a slave was made up.”

REMEMBERING LINCOLN IN LINCOLN

Officials in Lincoln, Argentina, marked the 158th anniversary of the Lincoln assassination with a tribute at The Lincoln Forum—donated bronze sculpture by Frank Porcu. The sculpture was first exhibited at the New-York Historical Society. Porcu, a regular exhibitor at the Forum, has also produced busts of Ulysses S. Grant and a statuette depicting Lincoln at the rostrum at Cooper Union. Lincoln, Argentina, is the first city outside the United States named for the American president—at the urging of Argentine leader (and early Lincoln biographer) Domingo Faustino Sarmiento (1811-1888).
The Lincoln Forum presented the 2022 Wendy Allen Award to the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia (LGDC) in November. Established in 1935, LGDC has a continual history of contributing to the study and dissemination of knowledge about Abraham Lincoln. Its location in the seat of national power and a tourist destination for all Americans has allowed it to provide unique public services to the community, including reenactments of Lincoln’s first and second inaugural addresses, annual wreath-laying festivities on Lincoln’s birthday, advocacy for the creation of a Lincoln Room in the U.S. Capitol, and collaboration with other Lincoln and historical organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. In 2020, LGDC participated in a “teach-in” to educate the public on the history of the Emancipation Memorial in Lincoln Park, which was under threat of removal. In 2022, LGDC organized and emceed the Lincoln Memorial Centennial celebration in conjunction with the National Park Service, with co-sponsorship by The Lincoln Forum.

The LGDC hosts monthly dinner meetings, monthly book study sessions, debate forums, an annual tour and picnic, a Lincoln’s birthday banquet, and member speaker events. LGDC issues a quarterly newsletter, The Lincolnian, to its members and provides free public news about Abraham Lincoln and the LGDC via an interactive website at www.lincolnian.org. LGDC supports educational opportunities through various donations, including the annual John T. Elliff Memorial Scholarship Fund donation to Ford’s Theatre for teacher training, contributions toward the Abraham Lincoln Institute’s annual symposium, and periodic LGDC awards for Lincoln-oriented service.

Approximately two dozen LGDC members attended the 2022 Lincoln Forum symposium and proudly took a group photo with Wendy Allen with the award.

On March 2, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library (PMML) in Chicago announced that Lincoln Forum executive committee member Craig L. Symonds was the recipient of the PMML’s 2023 Literature Award, a $100,000 prize that recognizes a living author who has made a significant contribution to the field of military history. “We are proud to award the Pritzker Military Museum and Library’s Literature Award to Dr. Symonds,” said PMML founder, Colonel Jennifer N. Pritzker, Illinois Army National Guard (Retired). “While he is already decorated with many awards including the Academy’s Teacher of the Year Award, Navy Meritorious Service Award, and Researcher of the Year Award, Dr. Symonds’ profound collection of books deserves recognition from the PMML.”

Symonds is professor emeritus of history at the United States Naval Academy, where he taught for thirty years. From 2017 to 2020 he was the Ernest J. King Distinguished Professor of Maritime History at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

By Tom Horrocks

In 2019, The Lincoln Forum inaugurated a book prize of $1,000 for a distinguished book in which Abraham Lincoln is a central figure. In 2021, the prize was named in honor of Harold Holzer, cofounder and current chairman of The Lincoln Forum. Previous winners of the prize include Sidney Blumenthal, Ted Widmer, and James Oakes.


To be honest, members of the selection committee, including myself, approached this book with trepidation. A book about the Union’s financial policies, in my opinion, was sure to be boring and dry as dirt. Our trepidation turned out to be sorely misplaced, however, for it was a pleasure to read this highly original and compelling book on the financing of the Civil War. Lowenstein presents his story in such a skillful way that readers, like me, who lack specialized knowledge of financial matters, will come away from this book with a much better understanding of how the Civil War was financed.

Unlike the many books that tell us how the war was fought, *Ways and Means* examines a subject that has long been ignored but is just as important. When Abraham Lincoln assumed the presidency in March 1861, he inherited a national debt of $65 million (equivalent to $2.3 billion today), thanks to his predecessor James Buchanan—and this was before the Civil War had even begun. By the end of 1861, the war was costing the federal government $1.5 million per day. The tariff, the only available source of income at the beginning of the war, was hobbled significantly due to the Union naval blockade.

The Lincoln administration had to find alternative sources of income to pay for the war. Lincoln, lacking the expertise as well as the time to manage the financing of the war, left fiscal matters in the hands of his secretary of the treasury, Salmon P. Chase, who also possessed little experience in fiscal policy. Yet, the overly ambitious Chase, one of Lincoln’s rivals for the 1860 Republican nomination and soon-to-be-scheming rival for the 1864 nomination, learned quickly on the job and turned out to be one of the most influential treasury secretaries in American history.

In addition to the tariff, there were three ways to raise revenue to pay for the war: selling bonds, printing money, and levying taxes. Chase involved himself in all three, partly with the aid of ethically challenged financier Jay Cooke. Chase worked with Congress to print paper currency as legal tender, create a system of national banks, and implement the country’s first income tax.

In this well-crafted work, Lowenstein introduces the reader to the largely untold story of how Lincoln and his cabinet, especially Chase, won the financial side of the Civil War, an essential component of military success, and in the process, changed the direction of the country.

At the closing ceremonies of its 27th annual symposium, The Lincoln Forum named historian Jon Meacham as the winner of its 2022 Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement. The award, Chairman Harold Holzer said in announcing the honor, “recognizes the field’s best practitioners and thanks them for lifetimes of achievement in illuminating the past to make sense of the present and inspire the future.”

Meacham is the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Andrew Jackson, George H. W. Bush, and Barbara Bush, among others, who has also written about Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the late Georgia Congressman John Lewis, and the “soul of America.” He is also an advisor to President Biden and has been consulted on and contributed to the president’s major speeches.

Last year, Meacham published The New York Times bestseller And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle. Meacham lectured on the book as the Forum XXVII keynoter, read the Gettysburg Address at Dedication Day the following morning at the Soldiers’ National Cemetery, and sat for a Q&A on the afternoon of November 19 at the annual meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania.

Holzer called And There Was Light “a magisterial must-read that takes its place among the essential cradle-to-grave biographies, and perhaps stands alone as a window into Lincoln’s morality, conscience, heart, and soul.”

Holzer added: “In an age in which the word ‘character’ has fallen from the vocabulary of core qualifications for leadership, Meacham has consistently reminded us that sometimes the best results come from the best people—those who exhibit ‘firmness in the right’ . . . those who find solace from the higher power that helps them see that light. Whatever our own individual beliefs, Jon Meacham’s book made abundantly clear that Lincoln believed there were forces capable of guiding him—that, tough as he could be, he needed to be tender, too; smart as he was, he could still learn from his peers; as widely as he had cast the net on what made one American, he could yet cast the net even wider. That the Union was worth fighting for, but that its unfinished work, its new birth of freedom, was worth striving for.”

Carthage College, which has a beautiful campus bordering Lake Michigan in Kenosha, was located in Springfield, Illinois, between 1852 and 1870. Abraham Lincoln served on the college’s board of trustees in 1860 and 1861. A statue of Lincoln and his private secretary John Hay stands prominently at the heart of the campus. For more information on the event, which is free and open to the public, contact Patrick Anderson at panderson@pnalaw.com.
The Frank J. Williams Student Scholars for 2022 were Lennox Cross and Samuel Pierce.

Lennox Cross is a senior at Robert F. Munroe Day School in Quincy, Florida. He has served as the president of the Chess Club and Brain Bowl teams and is an inaugural member of his high school’s Diversity Council. In 2022 he received recognition as a College Board National Achievement Rural and Small-Town Awardee thanks to his SAT and AP scores and his GPA. As a dual enrollment student at Tallahassee Community College, he has been on the President’s List numerous times and was the Texas Junior Classical Society State Greek History Champion in 2019. Lennox, who is passionate about music, theater, and history, particularly the Civil War, has logged more than 200 hours of community service. He will attend Florida State University and major in history for a future career in law. After the Forum, Lennox wrote to me that the meeting “has reaffirmed my passion for history, particularly the Civil War, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to learn from such an esteemed group of historians.”

Samuel Pierce is a homeschooled senior from Fort Washington, Maryland. His favorite subject is American history, and he enjoys reading a variety of books, but he prefers historical fiction novels by G. A. Henty. Samuel also plays soccer and engages in outdoor activities with his four siblings, and he cooks, especially cookies and bread loaves. Upon graduating from high school, he would like to attend Patrick Henry College and major in constitutional law. For Samuel, attending the Forum was “a fantastic experience” and “exceeded my expectations. I engaged with many different people and learned much more about President Lincoln. I would certainly return for future meetings when possible.”

The Lincoln Forum’s Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship program recognizes outstanding elementary, middle, or high school students like Lennox and Samuel who have demonstrated academic excellence as well as an interest in the life and career of Abraham Lincoln and in the Civil War. The scholarships enable the winners to attend Forum meetings by covering registration, travel, and hotel expenses. I would like to thank those who serve with me on the Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship Selection Committee: John Marszalek, Paul Ellis-Graham, Emma Benun, Michelle Krowl, and Leon Reed.

In 2021, Lincoln Forum member Patrick Anderson generously created a scholarship to encourage diversity at the Forum’s annual symposium. Named in honor of the great historians John Hope Franklin and Edna Greene Medford, the scholarship is open to students of color who are full-time undergraduates or graduate students. The selection committee for the 2022 award consists of the same Lincoln Forum members who served on the Frank J. Williams Student Scholarship committee noted above.

The Franklin-Medford Student Scholar for 2022 was Hugh Allen Goffinet. A junior at Howard University where he studies both history and Africana studies, Hugh has been an avid student of Civil War era history for nearly a decade, focusing primarily on the Black military experience during the conflict. On this subject, Hugh has partnered with Vicksburg National Military Park to research and interpret their captivating USCT history as well as write a short piece entitled “The Assault on Private Berry Brown: Civilian Violence Against the USCT” for the Emerging Civil War blog. In addition, Hugh has worked on film shoots, museum programs, and school programs to continue to spread awareness of Black soldiers’ contributions. Hugh is currently a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow at Howard University with a vision of pursuing a PhD and a career in academia. He summed up his Forum experience by stating, “I consider myself to be incredibly blessed that I had the honor of attending the 2022 Lincoln Forum symposium and having the privilege of interacting with some of the top scholars on the Civil War era. I extend my sincere gratitude to all parties involved in bringing me to this wonderful program.”

In 2021, Lincoln Forum Chairman Emeritus Frank J. Williams and Virginia Williams established an endowed faculty chair dedicated to the study of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War at Mississippi State University. This year, MSU selected Susannah Ural to be the first Frank and Virginia Williams Chair for Abraham Lincoln and Civil War Studies. Ural is a professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she directs the Civil War and Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi project. A military historian by training, Ural is the author of three books: Hood’s Texas Brigade: The Soldiers and Families of the Confederacy’s Most Celebrated Unit (2017), Don’t Hurry Me Down to Hades: The Civil War in the Words of Those Who Lived It (2013), and The Harp and the Eagle: Irish-American Volunteers and the Union Army, 1861-1865 (2006).
“SPIRIT OF FREEDOM” PROJECT AT SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY’S MCCORMICK

By Jonathan A. Noyalas with Daniel L. Bosques

In January 2021 Shenandoah University’s McCormick Civil War Institute (MCWI) was named an affiliate member of the Council for Independent Colleges’ Legacies of American Slavery Project. As an affiliate of the project MCWI received funding to locate documents that highlighted the ways the Shenandoah Valley’s Black population commemorated the Emancipation Proclamation and resisted the Lost Cause in the Civil War’s aftermath. MCWI’s project—“Spirit of Freedom”: Preserving Emancipation’s Legacy in the Shenandoah Valley—has not only uncovered scores of important documents, never before used by historians, but brought to light the thoughts of a U.S. Colored Troop veteran, Charles S. Tatten, about President Abraham Lincoln.

On October 10, 1931, Charles’s daughter, Pearl, then a music instructor at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, was invited to lead the college choir at a ceremony dedicating a monument to Heyward Shepherd, a free Black man from Winchester, Virginia, who became the first casualty of John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry in the autumn of 1859. After Pearl Tatten listened to remarks from representatives of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which erected the monument to manipulate historic reality and perpetuate the myth of the “faithful negro,” Pearl, not scheduled to speak, addressed the crowd. In her extemporaneous remarks—a document included in the “Spirit of Freedom”—Pearl stated in part: “I am the daughter of a Union soldier who fought for the freedom of [her] people for which John Brown struck the first blow.”

The documents in “Spirit of Freedom” reveal powerful words and resurrect the lives of individuals who have fallen into obscurity. Investigations into Pearl’s and her father’s background led the MCWI’s research team to the Derby Historical Society (DHS) in Ansonia, Connecticut, where, with the aid of Kellie Santiago (executive director of DHS), Marion O’Keefe (board emeritus DHS), and Daniel L. Bosques (assistant director, Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center), we were able to uncover important details about Charles’s life, including his service in the 29th Connecticut Infantry, career as Ansonia’s first Black and Native American police officer (he was part Nehantic), and tenure as adjutant of the local Grand Army of the Republic post. Among the documents in the DHS collections was a short Memorial Day address Charles delivered on May 31, 1909. It was discovered and transcribed by Daniel L. Bosques.

“Abraham Lincoln”

Lincoln, the President, Lincoln the Great Emancipator, Lincoln the “savior of our Union.” Lincoln the martyr, and Lincoln in almost every phase of his existence, has been, and will be the theme of orators and writers during this, the period of celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth. It is fitting that this should be so, for no name in history affords greater inspiration for heroism, and devotion to country, than the name of Abraham Lincoln. His daily life from his early youth up, his struggles, under most adverse circumstances to obtain an education—and his successful career, is an object lesson to us all. He has become our popular American hero, our typical American, and has won the chief place in all true American hearts. We honor and love him, and why?

1st because he was a man of the people, of the common people.
2nd because he was poor, and in spite of it, or perhaps because of it, has he gained the highest place in the gift of a great people.
3rd we love Abraham Lincoln too, because he was absolutely honest, not only to others but to himself.

There are many other reasons why we love him. He was homely, a man of brains, yet modest and humble, a kindly man, a Christian, a wise man, and brave. And that brings me to the point I wish to speak of—“Lincoln’s personal bravery,” and I wish to make it plain to you, especially to you young men, that the bravery of Lincoln was not what many of the youth of today speak of as brave. His was the courage of principle, the daring to do right, a courage that feared no danger, as proven by his going about the streets of Washington while President and when the threats of assassination were freely made, unarmed and at night.

I had the good fortune to be a witness of one exhibition of his bravery: It was in April 1865. The regiment, 29th C.V.I. [Connecticut Volunteer Infantry], of which I was a member was stationed at Fort Harrison, occupying the fort and breastworks adjoining, expecting at any moment to be ordered to attack the defenses of Richmond in front of us. On Sunday, Apr 3 about 3 o’clock in the morning there came to us evidence that “Richmond” had something doing—as soon as it was light, some deserters came over to our lines and told us, “The rebes are running away from Richmond and burning up everything.” Orders were immediately issued and a hurried march began which soon developed into a race between our reg’t and one of the 24th Corps to see which would have the honor of being first to reach the city. The roads & fields were dangerous outside their lines being thickly planted with torpedoes and mines, their stems projecting just enough above the ground so that the slightest touch of the foot of horse or man would explode them. We were successful in passing these and other like obstructions and were first to reach the City of Richmond. (Personally I had the honor of being the first man of the Union Army to put foot on the...
The Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize is awarded annually for the finest scholarly work in English on Abraham Lincoln, the American Civil War soldier, or the American Civil War era, and that also enhances the general public's understanding of the Civil War era. The $50,000 prize was established in 1990 by businessmen and philanthropists Lewis E. Lehrman and the late Richard Gilder, in partnership with Gettysburg College and Professor Gabor Boritt, Director Emeritus of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

Jonathan White, Craig and Marylou Symonds, and Edith Holzer

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The Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize is awarded annually for the finest scholarly work in English on Abraham Lincoln, the American Civil War soldier, or the American Civil War era, and that also enhances the general public's understanding of the Civil War era. The $50,000 prize was established in 1990 by businessmen and philanthropists Lewis E. Lehrman and the late Richard Gilder, in partnership with Gettysburg College and Professor Gabor Boritt, Director Emeritus of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

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Introduction by Jonathan W. White

In his famous public letter to Horace Greeley of August 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln called Greeley “an old friend, whose heart I have always supposed to be right.” In private, however, Lincoln likened Greeley to an “old shoe—good for nothing now, whatever he has been.”

Lincoln was not the only person to have mixed feelings about Greeley. Throughout much of her life, Elizabeth Oakes Smith—a prominent first-wave feminist writer, lyceum lecturer, poet, and novelist—loathed Greeley because she did not think he gave her cause enough support. After she published a series of essays on women’s rights in his New-York Tribune between November 1850 and June 1851, Oakes Smith was outraged that Greeley “allowed me to be abused in his columns” and that he “reproached” her for being “too thin skinned, for a woman who challenged abuse by the very work she was doing in the world.”

Horace Greeley snoozed now and then in her [Maria Child Weeks’s] pew, but always declared he heard every word. I have seen him, I dare not say snore through sermon and prayer, but at the crash of the organ start up, as if shot, wide awake. These, and other acquaintances made at this time led to a friendliness up to the death of these people. Though, I must say, I have doubts of the capacity of Horace Greeley for anything like what I should call Friendship. I never knew a man so utterly self-involved....

After describing Greeley’s wife, Mary, Elizabeth wrote:

If Mrs Greeley was devoid of vanity, Mr Greeley was by no means so. He perfectly understood the value of his uncouth manners, and old white coat, and trousers half tucked into his boots, and knew they gave popularity to many of the doctrines he strenuously advocated—he knew that success was helped by what was bizarre in taste—what was unlike prevailing methods—against which he was at war, and finding oddness brought grist to his mill had no scruple in using it: but when near the close of his life he turned square round and made a bolt for the Presidential chair [in 1872], and the foolish Democrats over-estimating his popularity threw all their prin-principles overboard, and supported their old enemy for the supreme honor in the gift of a great people, his, and their defeat was a well merited punishment.

I would by no means imply that Mr Greeley was a mere sham. He was crude as self-educated men always are. He had no just conception of what others had said and done in the world, and ideas new to him, which certainly were original to him, not borrowed, he failed to see were only a part of the common stock of human ideas, when he thought them new to the world, and sometimes uttered only platitudes....

Mr Greeley was foolishly ambitious of political aggrandizement. He had seen himself, by steady almost superhuman labor rise from a penniless youth to be at the head of one of the most influential papers in the country. He had done this with the aid of some little trickery, but certainly by no compromise of high principles. His stock in trade was truth—honesty—human equality and in advocating these he acquired a terse almost eloquent mode of expression, less coarse than that of [Federalist newspaperman William] Cobbett[t], but equally effective to the common mind—and when at last the great paper so fostered—so founded—so the life of this man by the tricks of a moneyed power was wrested from him—passed into other hands his brain reeled, and he “gave up the ghost” in the tender expressive language of scripture.

I knew and admired Mr Greeley for his sterling worthiness, and regarded the little blemishes to which I have alluded as less the substance of the man than the faint touch of lichen upon the face of a solid granite. He was hurried by events—he was pressed by care and labor—his brain seethed with dreams for human good—he was a wholesome, deadly in earnest man—chaste in life, devoted to high ideas but losing consideration for acquaintances who have chosen our several paths and will walk them to the end.”

In her autobiography, which she wrote more than thirty years later in the 1880s, Oakes Smith characterized Greeley in both respectful and unflattering terms. In one passage, she described seeing him at the Church of the Messiah in New York City:

Greeley and Oakes Smith had known each other for more than a decade by the time they had their spat in the early 1850s. He had been “a frequent visitor” at the home where she was living in New York City in the late 1830s. Now a bitter private correspondence passed between them in which she called him “my good friend, or enemy, which you will.” Greeley replied by saying, “No, since we cannot be friends and have no reasons and no wish to be enemies, let us be former
individual interest in the promotion of those of the masses. He had toiled without ceasing—he had encountered neglect and poverty and ridicule, and had never quailed before them, they were the common lot, and people were “too thin-skinned” who took them much to heart, hence he never paid me a cent for all I wrote for him, thinking it was reward enough to be held, as he said, “as a leader in a good work”!

With a rough exterior and a something approaching to a whine in his voice, when things went awry and which became half ludicrous at times, when he had a habit of using an ungenteel, not very emphatic kind of profanity, Horace Greeley was the subject of many a jest, and many a caricature, but his breadth of earnest, wholesome endeavor to benefit his kind, was so apparent, & so well understood by the public at large, that to explain, apologize for, or commend Horace Greeley seems a work of supererogation [supererogation].

He was kind, indulgent and patient with his impracticable wife and tenderly attached to his children. Little Pickey, as they were in a habit of calling his son, was as the apple of his eye, and though never demonstrative it was well known that this child was first and last in any and all tender thoughts of the father. When at last the beautiful child lay in his white resting, no more to be the subject for earthly care [he died from cholera on July 12, 1849, at the age of five], the shock was overwhelming, but he went the round of duty all the same and few knew the depth of his grief. Meeting him a few months after the death of little Pickey, I pressed his hand in silence for I saw a great change.

“Yes,” he said, answering to my thought, “I haven’t been so well since little Pickey died,” and his lips trembled.

Mr Greeley was truly a most remarkable man, and not likely to be forgotten. His knowledge of statistics was truly wonderful—he was a living newspaper—nothing pertaining to events incident to his own advent escaped his memory. Like the newspaper he was crude, prophetic, dogmatic, prosaic, heartless, with only here and there a touch of pathos. He was benevolent in a large sense—but not patient with the shortcomings that end in poverty and imbecility. His shrewdness was to the full extent of that Yankee quality—he was a successful man, and deserved success, but the sad eclipse that came upon him when he found his casting vote no longer swayed the Tribune, was a pitiful fact to those who knew and revered Horace Greeley. Sic transit.

Mr Greeley must be regarded as a type of the great human movement, in the overthrow of the privileged classes, with a Jacobinism akin to that of France. . . .

All of us at some time meet what may be called a Destiny—a form, a face—a voice never obliterated from the memory though years may come and go—and nothing be left but a divine echo. So it was with Horace Greeley. I am glad to say, upon testimony not to be disputed, and those of us who knew of this were made to feel a tender interest in this true, but uncouth man.

(Jonathan W. White is the author of Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running, and the Slave Trade, which tells the story of how the Lincoln administration prosecuted Elizabeth Oakes Smith’s favorite son, Appleton Oaksmith, for slave trading. It will be published in August.)

1 The correspondence between Greeley and Oakes Smith is available in the Gilder Lehrman Collection at the New-York Historical Society, and in the Oakes Smith and Greeley collections at the New York Public Library.

2 Oakes Smith’s autobiography was not published in her lifetime. The manuscript is held at the New York Public Library and is available on microfilm. Portions appeared in Mary Alice Wyman, ed., Selections from the Autobiography of Elizabeth Oakes Smith (Lewiston, Maine: Lewiston Journal Co., 1924). The entire diary was transcribed in Leigh Kirkland, “‘A Human Life: Being the Autobiography of Elizabeth Oakes Smith’: A Critical Edition and Introduction” (Ph.D. diss., Georgia State University, 1994). While I have examined the original and the microfilm at NYPL, this article is based on the edition by Leigh Kirkland.
LONG-FORGOTTEN LINCOLN PAINTING GOES

By Harold Holzer

An imposing, important, but long-forgotten full-length 1865 painting of Abraham Lincoln has been rediscovered at the Madison, New Jersey, Town Hall and placed on long-term loan at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington.

The nine-foot-high canvas is the work of an obscure Dutch-born portrait painter named Willem Frederik Karel Travers, who according to some 20th-century sources arrived in New York from Frankfurt, Germany, at age 36 in 1864 with the intention of enlisting in the American army. Apparently, doctors here detected a lung condition and rejected him for military service. Determined to show his devotion to the Union cause, Travers journeyed to Washington hoping to paint a portrait of President Lincoln. Travers was said to have met Lincoln on a sidewalk and persuaded him to pose.

Lincoln had already sat for a number of paintings, but, according to previously published accounts, allowed Travers to visit the White House and make sketches, which the artist took back to Germany and adapted into an oil portrait completed a few months after Lincoln's murder. Travers probably produced a close-up study portrait first and later expanded that work into the full-length painting that was recently located in New Jersey, where it is owned by the Hartley Dodge Foundation and has been hiding in plain sight on public display for four score years.

Now on five-year loan to the Portrait Gallery, it is being imaginatively displayed alongside the iconic Gilbert Stuart “Lansdowne” painting of George Washington—another work that morphed from close-up portrait (best known to us as the model for the dollar bill) into a heroic full-length image. Interestingly, the two full-length paintings briefly hung side by side at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. It is said that when Mary Lincoln saw it on view there, she was so overcome by its lifelike expression and posture that she fainted and had to be carried from the exhibit hall. (If she did glimpse the picture, it was at a fraught moment in her widowhood. Mary had been institutionalized at an Illinois sanitarium when the exposition opened in May 1876, retreated to her sister's Springfield home when she was released in mid-June, then in September went into exile in France by way of New York—though she did make reference to “N.Y.& Phil” in a letter to her nephew from Le Havre in October and apparently did make a brief stop at the Philadelphia fair.)

Though some of the corollary assertions about the painting come increasingly into question, the portraiture in the Travers work does in fact qualify as strikingly original. Unlike most Lincoln paintings of the period, even those by artists who enjoyed documented life sittings with their famous subject, it owes no clear debt to a specific photographic model. (Only the curl of hair on the forehead seems immediately identifiable; it had been captured by an unknown photographer in 1861 and was in turn adapted by painter Edward Dalton Marchant in 1863.) Lincoln was a notoriously impatient sitter, seldom holding still for sketches and measurements; hence many of the most noted artists for whom he sat, including painter Francis B. Carpenter and sculptor Sarah Fisher Ames, commissioned photographs that could fix Lincoln's image in precisely the poses they hoped to portray in their artworks.

Travers' composition features a number of patriotic and historic references. Lincoln clutches a bound copy of the Constitution, near which rests the 13th Amendment, which corrected a flaw of that founding document by abolishing slavery. In the background are a bust of George Washington, a reproduction of Emanuel Leutze's 1851 painting Washington Crossing the Delaware (included perhaps to remind viewers that another European artist had once painted a quintessentially American canvas), and a bronze-colored statuette of a liberated slave that bears a strong resemblance to J. Q. A. Ward’s acclaimed 1863 sculpture, The Freedman. The message here is clear: Like the father of his country, its savior had reconstituted it in the name of freedom—and deserved an equal place in the national pantheon.

Mary Lincoln was not the only Lincoln contemporary awed by the Travers work. In 1888, Ward Hill Lamon wrote to Rockefeller Wilson’s seminal work, Lincoln in Portraiture, identified as part of the estate of John D. Rockefeller’s nephew, Percy A. Rockefeller. From there it passed to another member of America’s wealthiest family, Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge. No one thought to search for the picture in her foundation headquarters, which later became the Madison Town Hall with its art collection intact. Nearly
50 years ago, in 1975, this writer published a copy of the painting in an article for *Antiques* Magazine, noting that “Travers’ original canvas is believed lost.” And for 45 years, it remained so—at least as far as the Lincoln world knew.

Then in 2021, historian Ted Widmer (*Lincoln on the Verge*) saw the canvas at Madison Town Hall and wrote about it for a President’s Day op-ed in the *Washington Post*. Widmer’s coverage helped focus public attention on its whereabouts and no doubt stimulated the Smithsonian’s interest. Widmer became a consistent champion of the work, hailing it as “lively” and “arresting,” and describing it as the best full-length painting of the 16th president (others are by Albion Bicknell, Joseph Ames, William Matthews, and William Cogswell—the last named of which is also on view at the National Portrait Gallery).

But how important—artistically and historically—is the Travers work? Like many undocumented period Lincoln paintings, the Travers work remains difficult to categorize and assess. Beautifully restored, the haze of varnish now removed, it certainly glows with life—but that does not make it an authentic life portrait. Recent research in fact suggests that Travers fabricated much of his back story—or at least did nothing to contradict it. He never tried enrolling in the Union army as he claimed, a discrepancy that calls the rest of his saga into question. The originality of the portraiture does suggest that Travers may indeed have enjoyed some life sittings for sketches, yet his final painting showed Lincoln with the kind of thick beard he wore back in 1863, not late 1864, when they supposedly met. His face looks remarkably unlined, whereas by the time Travers supposedly encountered Lincoln on a Washington streetcorner, the wartime president was aging markedly. An authentic life portrait would most likely have celebrated Lincoln’s crowning achievement, the Emancipation Proclamation, not the 13th Amendment, which was not ratified until Lincoln had been dead for almost eight months. Lincoln had shown a willingness to pose for artists who proposed commemorating that document, including Marchant in 1863 and Carpenter in 1864.

What of the lifelike torso and legs that took Ward Lamon’s breath away? In fact, they—and the entire bodily attitude in the Travers painting—seem to owe at least some debt to John C. Buttre’s popular full-length engraving of a standing *Abraham Lincoln*, published in New York shortly after the 1865 assassination. Did Travers see it before outlining his own composition? Like the Travers canvas, the Buttre print features a table filled with documents, a background bust of George Washington, and a plush velvet chair. But before Buttre gets more credit than he deserves for the Travers pose, it should be noted that the engraver adapted (pirated?) *his* Lincoln from a previously published engraving of Dennis Malone Carter’s standing portrait—of Andrew Jackson!

One thing is indisputable: The rediscovery of the W. F. K. Travers painting is a major event, and Lincoln students should certainly make their way to the Portrait Gallery to see—and judge—it for themselves.

Benjamin W. Loring was born in Duxbury, Massachusetts, in 1824 and went to sea at age 16. By 1860 he had traded life at sea for a lucrative packing business in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, providing supplies to the gold miners. Heeding the call of his country, Loring was commissioned as acting volunteer master in the U.S. Navy on February 6, 1862. Prior to reporting for duty Loring was briefly reunited with family members, and his sister Lilly presented him with a small penknife. This penknife would be Loring’s constant companion during the war.

Loring would serve aboard the ironclad USS Galena and the monitor USS Weehawken on which he was promoted to lieutenant. He commanded the tinclad USS Wave during the battle of Calcasieu Pass, May 5, 1864, during which the Wave and its sister ship the USS Granite City were overwhelmed and forced to surrender. Incarcerated in Texas at the Confederate prison Camp Groce, Loring would escape twice, with his story appearing in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper on January 28, 1865. (The above image shows the outfit he wore to escape from prison.) In order to recuperate from the hardships endured during his escape, Loring was ordered to the Washington Naval Yard. On April 14, 1865, he attended Ford’s Theatre, where he would witness the Lincoln assassination and be mistaken for an army surgeon as he provided supplies to the gold miners. Heeding the call of his country, Loring was commissioned as acting volunteer master in the U.S. Navy on February 6, 1862. Prior to reporting for duty Loring was briefly reunited with family members, and his sister Lilly presented him with a small penknife. This penknife would be Loring’s constant companion during the war.

This little one-bladed knife deserves more than passing mention. Its handle is engraved “This knife cut the Tie from the neck of President Lincoln when assassinated, April 14th 1865.” A sentence of history which may be thus explained. I was attached to the Washington Naval Yard in 1865 and my sole motive for attending Ford’s theater on the night of April 14 was the promised opportunity for observing, in comparatively close connection the 2 most distinguished public personages of the time A. Lincoln & US Grant. With this object I took a position on the same floor in a diagonal, in line from the box they were expected to occupy, thus having an unobstructed view of its interior. After the impact of the assassins shot had penetrated the minds of the audience, I made my way rapidly to and reached the stage just as a man was being assisted into the President’s box. With the seaman’s instincts and training I immediately followed and found the insensible President stricken upon the floor with my predecessor [sic] in climbing also a naval officer William R. Flood, attached to the Gunboat Primrose seated by, and holding his head. My first impulse was to cut the neck-tie,—done with this knife—to relieve Mr. Lincoln’s stentorius [sic] breathing.

I have learned through an open letter compiled from notes jotted down the day succeeding the assassination, and published in a prominent Magazine that there were two Army Surgeons at that time in attendance upon the scene. They only, no mention—hence this criticism—of the really conspicuous characters present: Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, Miss Keene, Major Rathbun [sic] and lastly, the naval surgeon who to Miss Harris’ perception directed operations. The author of that letter was doubtless my immediate predecessor in the “shimming” act—though from some casual remark I was given the impression he also was a naval officer—and who supported Mr. Lincoln’s head—which at no time rested in Miss Keene’s lap as reported. I cut the tie with the small knife, and while with a larger borrowed pocket knife, cutting the vest from neck to armhole in search of the wound, he accidentally placed his hand upon it, and exclaimed, “here it is in the back of his head!” Shortly prior to this the barred door was released, I think by Miss Harris, she being the most at liberty, in answer to calls for admittance and Miss Keene entered and flew to the box’s front; and called vociferously to the crowd upon the stage, “brandy! brandy! will someone bring a glass of brandy?” Someone did, and as the insensible President was unable to swallow, she disposed of it on my back, as I was kneeling upon the floor over the prostrate body.

With Miss Keene, or about that time, a gentleman entered and became a spectator. He may, or may not have been, one of the “Army Surgeons” for later came another person who announced that, “a place has been secured across the street for Mr. Lincoln.” He completed the number requisite for his transportation. One at the head, one at the limbs and feet, a third, clasping hands with myself, supported the trunk, the pairs slightly separated to divide its weight.

Thus was the inanimate body borne across the street to its last resting place on earth.

In concluding these minute and lengthy details . . . I will add that the scene presented in that box, as I see it now, would furnish material for a striking historic picture, and the mind of one present unable to receive, retain, and carry it to the grave, can hardly be valuable to its owner.

In 1895, Loring wrote the following on the margins of the page:

Several months subsequent to the writing of this account of the assassination of President Lincoln there was published in the New York Tribune of Sunday July 7th 1895, a communication which verifies to the letter my 30 odd year’s impression that the gentleman who held Mr. Lincoln’s head was a naval officer—his name William R. Flood then attached to the gunboat “Primrose.” In view of this statement what became of the Army Surgeons buries me deeper in mystery.”

(Richard E. Quest is the owner and chief battlefield guide of Virginia Civil War Tours and the author of I Held Lincoln: A Union Sailor’s Journey Home [Potomac Books, 2018].)
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Governor’s request to American Battlefields create a historic and the heart of Virginia’s recreational park in American Battlefields Trust applauds Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin’s announcement on Friday, requesting $4.93 million for the Piedmont region.

The American Battlefields Trust applauds Governor Youngkin’s announcement on Friday, requesting $4.93 million for the Piedmont region. The announcement marks a critical mass of legislative initiatives and budget amendments to turn Culpeper Battlefields State Park into a state park from 1,700 acres of preserved land.

The Culpeper Battlefields State Park initiative is a proposal to create a state park from 1,700 acres of preserved land in Culpeper County, urged by Governor Youngkin to make the Culpeper Battlefields State Park a priority for the new administration.

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Calls for Creation of Culpeper Battlefields State Park

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