



THE STUMP

Publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Society

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The Lincoln-Douglas Society was founded in 1929 for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the 1858 debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln during their race for the United States Senate.



THE STUMP is an annual publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Society
P.O. Box 58
Freeport, IL 61032



"The Stump"

The use of the word "stump" as a metaphor for a platform for political discourse goes back to the earliest days of American history. Just as Douglas argued his political ideas "from every stump in Illinois," the Lincoln-Douglas Society seeks to share information and ideas about one of the key events in our history.



LENZ GUEST SPEAKER AT ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Robert J. Lenz, past president of the Abraham Lincoln Association, will be the featured speaker at this year's Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Debate Commemorative Program. The annual program will mark the one hundred-fifty-sixth anniversary of the Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Debate and will be held at **7 PM on Wednesday, August 27th**.

Lenz is a Freeport native who now practices law in Bloomington, Illinois. He is also past president of the David Davis Mansion Foundation. His topic will be the 1864 presidential election.



The annual ceremony commemorating the Freeport Debate will be held in Debate Square at 7:00 PM. The presentation by Mr. Lenz will be held in **Freeport Public Library** after the outdoor ceremony at Debate Square. Both events are free. Coffee, tea and deserts will be served after the Lenz program.

The Freeport High School NJROTC Color Guard will present and retrieve the National Colors as part of the ceremony.

Attendees are urged to bring lawn chairs for the outdoor part of the program. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony also will be held inside Freeport Public Library.



The **Annual Membership Meeting of the Lincoln-Douglas Society** will be held at **6:30 PM on Wednesday, 27 August 2014** in the large meeting room of Freeport Public Library.

Lincoln-Douglas Society

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Gitz, Mayor of Freeport,
Connie Sorn, Freeport CVB

Comments, questions, suggestions, or
changes of address should be sent to:

The Stump
P.O. Box 58
Freeport, IL 61032

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remember to renew your Lincoln-Douglas Society membership using the form enclosed. Your continued support is critical to maintaining Debate Square.

DEBATE SQUARE WORK

Thanks to the volunteer work of several people, the benches at Debate Square received much needed attention during May and June.

Cathy & Ed Finch refinished the benches closest to the statues. They also refurbished the two trash receptacles in that area of the site.

Chris & Sarah Hatton refinished the benches along the west walks. Those benches were installed in 2008 when Debate Square was expanded.

As always, we are grateful to **Willie Alber** for his continuing work keeping the trash containers empty.

GENERAL U.S. GRANT PROGRAM SET

Famed Civil War General Ulysses S. Grant will come to life on the stage of **Winneshiek Theatre** on **Saturday, 27 September**. The Lincoln-Douglas Society will present "Unconditional Surrender: A Visit with Ulysses S. Grant," a written and performed by **Peter J. Grady**.

The one-hour show uses period music, photographs, cartoons, and drawings to explore Grant's successes and failures in military and civilian life. It will provide our audience with a new understanding of Ulysses S. Grant.



Peter Grady is a 1975 graduate of St. Ambrose University and a 1984 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law. He is an Assistant Attorney General in the Iowa Department of Justice. Besides his day job, Grady is an active member of the Marshalltown Community Theatre as a board member, actor and director.

The family of **Jean Hoefler** is underwriting the cost of this program in memory of their mother and her life-long support of local history and the Lincoln-Douglas Society. All proceeds from the program will go to Debate Square maintenance and preservation.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society is pleased to be partnering with **Winneshiek Players** in sponsoring the program.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling 815-233-2255.



FREEPORT'S centennial year, 1936 was commemorated at Freeport High School when a program was presented at the auditorium and at the Junior High and Immanuel Lutheran schools. This program consisted of three skits and several talks designed to portray the high lights of Freeport's past century.

The first and most important feature was the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Mr. Fulwider designed the skit of the debate with Elwyn Likens as a realistic Abe Lincoln and Bill Pfender taking the part of Stephen A. Douglas. In the picture of the debate above, Abraham Lincoln is speaking. Walter Breymann played the part of Wm. Turner, Lincoln's companion. Bill Seeley acted as Colonel Mitchell, the cohort of Stephen Douglas.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE MARKED IN 1936

Above is a partial page reproduction from Freeport High School's 1936 *Polaris*, the school's year-book. The story marks the efforts of the school system to commemorate the centennial of the city's founding. Unless someone can find documentation of an earlier one, this event may be the earliest Freeport re-enactment of the famed debates.

We thank Leone (Rutter) Baeber, FHS Class of 1936, and her friend Linda Le, for sending us this image and the information. Leone, now a resident of San Diego, CA, is 95 years young.

In a minor note on the photo, L-D Society president Ed Finch was pleased to point out that the podium being used in the picture is the same one he used in his classroom at FHS from 1980 to 2005.

“Lincoln Rallies the People,” a sculpture by David Seagraves, is being planned for the Logan County Courthouse grounds in Lincoln, IL. The statue will commemorate the 16 October 1858 speech by Lincoln as he sought to invigorate his supporters at the end of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate series. Funds are being raised by the Logan County Genealogical and Historical Society for the \$48,000 statue. To help raise funds, the Logan County G&HS is offering prints of a painting of the speech, Christmas ornaments commemorating the speech, as well as 24” high limited edition bronze replicas of the statue. Contact: www.logancoil-genhist.org or Email: lcghs1@hotmail.com for details.

LINCOLN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Last December I led a tour of the Stephenson County Historical Society for a group of high school students. This was unique for such tours in that all of the students were recent emigrants to the United States from Russia. They were participating in a week long retreat at *Vladimirovo* (Lost Lake) located at nearby Dakota, Illinois.

When they learned that my area of interest in history was naval history, one of them immediately asked if I knew about the time the Russian Czar sent ships of his navy to assist the United States in controlling the actions of the Emperor Maximilian in Mexico during our Civil War. I had to confess that this was an event in our Nation's history with which I was not familiar.

That question from a high school student was almost forgotten until this Spring when a new book arrived for possible review in this publication. Kevin Peraino's *Lincoln in the World: The Making of a Statesman and the Dawn of American Power* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2013) offers 310 pages of text, an extensive bibliography and eight pages of photographs.

The wide-spread communications network created by the telegraph was a technical advancement which allowed Lincoln to more effectively control the battlefield and his diplomats. The telegraph coupled with the proliferation of newspapers after the invention of the steam-powered printing press, enabled Lincoln to manipulate public opinion to an extent unimagined by his predecessors in the White House. Peraino's thesis is based on these two advances in technology as the tools Lincoln was successful in mastering to achieve his goal of keeping the Union together.

Beginning with Lincoln's stance on the Mexican-American War (1846-48) while he was a Congressman, to the complexities of his management of U.S. foreign relations while directing the American Civil War, Peraino's book paints in broad strokes. Of interest is the detailed look at the writings of Karl Marx who was working as a correspondent for Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune* at the time of the war. Marx's commentary of Lincoln's handling of the war and the reactions to the war by European powers makes for some fascinating reading.

Peraino does a good job detailing the problems Lincoln faced with a Secretary of State (William Henry Seward) who wanted to start a war with a foreign country in order to unite the nation as states began to secede. Finding the correct men to hold overseas diplomatic posts was another balancing act Lincoln had to achieve when diplomatic posts were considered political plums.

The largest problem facing the Lincoln administration was preventing foreign powers from coming into the war on the side of the Confederacy even as the Union blockade crippled economies across Europe due to the decline of American cotton exports.

As to the Russian navy's intervention, Peraino notes that the Czar Alexander II's dispatching of six ships to North American waters had as much to do with internal Russian politics as it did with the Czar's desire to thwart French ambitions in Mexico and thereby assist Lincoln and the Union. It is true, however, that Czar Alexander was popular with many Northern Abolitionists after he freed Russia's serfs in 1861.

All-in-all, an interesting read that does not become enmeshed in minutia.

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Books submitted to *The Stump* for review will be donated to Freeport Public Library. We cannot promise, however, to review all submissions.

