

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.

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

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"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.



SYMONDS TO DELIVER SOKUP LECTURE

Dr. Craig L. Symonds, retired professor and chair of the History Department at the United States Naval Academy, will present the 2015 Richard F. Sokup Lecture on Saturday, 29 August at Freeport Public Library. The lecture will be preceded by dinner with Dr. Symonds, also at the Library. The dinner is at 5:30 PM and is a fund raiser for Debate Square maintenance. The lecture will follow at 7 PM and is open to the public free of charge.

~Story continues on page 3

JOHN O'CONNOR TO PRESENT MISTER LINCOLN AT WINNESHIEK

Freeport native John O'Connor will present the one-man drama *Mister Lincoln* at Winneshiek Playhouse on Saturday, on Saturday, 17 October at 7 PM. The event is a fund raiser for Debate Square maintenance.

Mr. Lincoln tells the story, in first person, of Abraham Lincoln's life and mind from his youth to years as an attorney in Springfield to his years in the White House during the Civil War.

~Story continues on page 3.

MUSIC AT DEBATE SQUARE CONTINUES

Last year's popular "Music at Debate Square" series will continue this July with three evenings of free music. All programs begin at 7 PM.

Kendra Swanson will kick-off the 2015 series on Thursday, 2 July at 7 PM. Having just released a new CD of her music and beginning a performance swing through Ohio and Indiana, Swanson features her own mix of blue grass, country and folk. She is a graduate of Freeport High School.

Becca Kimpel will appear on Thursday, 9 July. A 2015 grad of Freeport High School, Kimpel will offer acoustic music in the genre of pop and folk.

Returning from last year's series, **Shelby Gahm** will perform on Thursday, 23 July. Like Swanson and Kimpel, Gahm is a product of the Freeport Public School's music program. She also performs on the acoustic guitar, offering a mix of her own compositions, as well as covers of works by other musicians.

Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. A free will offering will be collected and given to the performers.

ANNUAL CEREMONY MOVED

The L-D Society Board of Directors voted to move the annual ceremony and membership meeting to coincide with the Sokup Lecture on Saturday, 29 August. This event will be held after the fund raising dinner—at 7 PM. The Freeport NJROTC Color Guard will post the Colors and there will be the election for the Society's Board of Directors seats which become vacant this year.

BOOK REVIEWS

— Several works have crossed our desk seeking the attention of our members. As always, books submitted for review are then donated to Freeport Public Library.

Going Back to Gettysburg: Autobiography of a Corrupt Indian by M B. Lal (India: Partridge Publishing, 2014).

As if we needed further proof that Lincoln and his ideas are universal, this work by a now retired journalist from India offers additional testimony. Lal's thesis: "I feel sentimental about Lincoln and the war he launched because I am an Indian. In my country extremes of bondage and inequality are sanctified by religion. There is a whole community of untouchables whose plight even in the 21st century is worse than that of the Black slaves of America in Lincoln's day. Unlike the people of America then who rose in revolt against slavery and made tremendous sacrifices to wipe out this pugnacious institution from their country, the nouveau riche Indian middle class thrives on these distinctions and would let the poor starve to death, for all they care."

While this monograph is about the plight of India's underprivileged classes, it is a poignant reminder of the power of Lincoln's message and the world he tried to leave us.

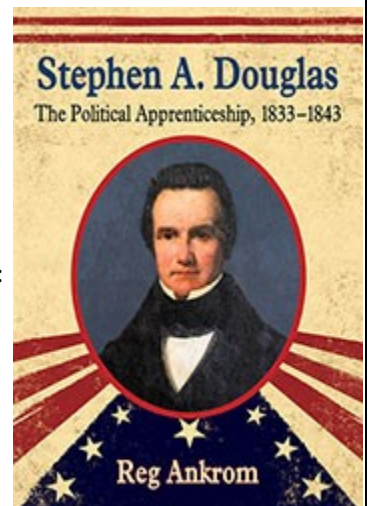
The Lincoln Deception by David O. Stewart (New York: Kensington Books, 2013).

David O. Stewart is a highly praised historian who has turned his hand to fiction. On his death bed in 1900 John Armor Bingham reveals to his personal physician what Mary Surratt told him just before she was executed for her part in the assassination of President Lincoln. Bingham was one of the prosecutors who gained the guilty verdicts and death sentences for the conspirators. From this point the story moves at tremendous speed as the physician and a Black man who befriends him, seek to uncover the rest of the conspiracy surrounding Lincoln's death. Stewart artfully blends historical and fictional characters to weave a tale that is compelling.

Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship, 1833-1843 by Reg Ankrom (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2015). The publisher has printed one hundred (100) special editions of this work with the inscription "Stephen A. Douglas Association, Chicago, Illinois, Limited Edition." Each copy of the soft cover book will be given a serialized number. The special books will also be signed by the author. Freeporters may remember Ankrom his involvement in the 2008 Debate Sesquicentennial celebrations in Quincy, his home town.

This limited edition can only be purchased through the Stephen A. Douglas Association. For a \$100 or higher membership the Association will send the limited edition to you. Send your membership to: David Richert, Treasurer, Stephen A. Douglas Association, 6959 N. Hamilton Avenue, Unit A, Chicago, IL 60645. Make check payable to: Stephen A. Douglas Association.

The image of Douglas on the cover is from the collection of **George A. Buss**.



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

The Stump
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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



SOKUP LECTURE continued from page 1.

Symonds began teaching at the Naval Academy in 1976, rising to the position of full professor in 1985. From 1988 to 1992 he was chair of the Department of History, retiring in 2005 as professor emeritus.

In 1994-1995 he served as visiting lecturer at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England.

Among his 19 published books are 10 works on the Civil War, including:

- *Confederate Admiral: The Life and War of Franklin Buchanan* (Naval Institute Press, 1999);
- *American Heritage History of the Battle of Gettysburg* (Harper Collins, 2001);
- *Lincoln and His Admirals* (Oxford University Press, 2008);
- *The Civil War at Sea* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

His most recent work is *Neptune: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

The topic of Dr. Symond's lecture will be "How Daniel Webster's Second Reply to Hayne helped inspire Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

To join Dr. and Mrs. Symonds for dinner on 29 August before the lecture, call 815-233-2255 to reserve a spot. Tickets are \$30 each with the proceeds going toward the on-going maintenance of Debate Square.

MISTER LINCOLN PROGRAM, continued from page 1.

Mister Lincoln was written by Herbert Mitgang, a well-known author and playwright. The one-man drama telling the story of Lincoln's life was written in 1982 and appeared on Broadway and at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. It was also featured on public television.

John O'Connor is a graduate of Freeport's Aquin High School and the son of John and Shirley O'Connor of Freeport. He graduated from Loras College and the University of Illinois, Springfield.

A veteran actor, O'Connor's favorite roles include Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, Frank Butler in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Adam Pontipee in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and Bill Sykes in *Oliver!*; Callahan in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*; Lawrence Jamieson in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Willy Wonka in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. John is a political writer for The Associated Press centered in Springfield, IL.

Mister Lincoln is a 90 minute program with a single intermission. There will be a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception to greet O'Connor following his performance.

Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by calling 815-233-2255. **Please do not call Winneshiek.**





Photo by Dave Washburn, Captured Memories
Photography, Freeport

REMEMBERING LILY TOLPO

by Mickey Martin

Friend and Coordinator of Lincoln Douglas Debate Statue

A grand lady from a bygone era has passed from our midst with little fanfare but with a larger than life legacy. Lily Tolpo, 97 of Stockton, Illinois passed away peacefully on January 30, 2015 at the Elizabeth Nursing Center with family and friends by her side. Lily was an accomplished artist working in various art forms over the years. Lily gave Freeport her most notable piece of sculpture, *Lincoln and Douglas in Debate*, which stands near the original debate site of 1858 in Freeport, IL.

It is hard to put into words what this beautiful and multitalented lady gave to our community when her family arrived here in 1969, and made their home outside Stockton on Massbach Road. Lily's husband Carl, was a noted artist and sculptor himself who's statue of Everett Dirksen, U.S. Senator from Illinois, stands on the grounds near the State Capitol in Springfield. His famous larger than life Lincoln bust stands in Ford Theater in Washington D.C. Carl created many other pieces, too numerous to mention. He passed away in 1976.

Lily is survived by her three children Christine, Carolyn and Vinc, all are accomplished musicians and professional artists. She is also survived by her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She left us not only with her amazing art but her unflappable spirit and love of life that we all cherish as part of her memory. She always said life was to be lived every day, every hour, every minute. All of life was her stage and she lived it well. She loved to cook and had many parties featuring her Chinese cooking that were enjoyed by her many friends over the years. Lily was an accomplished musician, always quick to pick up her violin and entertain her friends who often joined her with their own instruments. She worked Vaudeville as a "fiddler" with the Hollywood Cowgirls during summers while attending the Chicago Academy of Fine Art. She read palms and could be seen at many festivals around Northern Illinois as Zorita.

Lily was an artist and a sculptor and made her professional debut at an Illinois Society of Fine Art One Artist Show held at the Chicago Drake Hotel in 1941. Lily created numerous pieces of art over the years. I will mention those that can be viewed in the area.

- *The Freeport Doctrine* (1989) [4' by 6' painting that can be seen in the hall by the Library at Highland Community College, Freeport, IL];
- *Lincoln Douglas in Debate* (1992) [statue at Debate Square, Freeport, IL];
- *Whoofle, The Magic Dragon* (2001) [statue in the Commissioners Garden in Krape Park, Freeport, IL];
- *First Lady Julia Dent Grant* (2011) [statue on the grounds of the U.S. Grant Home in Galena, IL]; and
- *The Reading Lincoln* (2011) [statue inside the Freeport Public Library, Freeport, IL].

Many sculptures, paintings, drawings, letters, and ephemera are found in the Carl Tolpo and Lily Tolpo collection at the Illinois State Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum, Springfield, IL.

Ralph Newman of Chicago, Illinois's most recognized Lincoln scholar and collector stated that Lily's statue was the first of Lincoln and Douglas in debate ever done. He critiqued the small statue at a meeting in Chicago where he studied the statue and asked Lily to turn Lincoln's head a little more so he was looking at Douglas. Lily immediately "popped" off the head of the small clay model and repositioned it to Newman satisfaction. Newman was present at the unveiling in 1992. The statue is a significant work of art depicting Freeport's rich history as well as our nation's history. Lily's received many awards over the years for her art. She treasured her award from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois when she was awarded the Order of Lincoln in 2009 in a ceremony in Springfield for her original work *Lincoln and Douglas in Debate*.

In her last years in the nursing home Lily never lost her joy and love of life and looked forward to her many trips to Freeport to see her friends as well as her friends coming to Stockton to visit her during her last years. She made them joyous occasions by her infectious personality. Those who knew Lily, and called her a friend, will always be inspired by her words and actions. Lily's memory will live in their hearts forever as well as the art she left for all to enjoy. Lily's statue of Lincoln and Douglas in Debate will grow in historical significance over the years and will be a lasting legacy that Freeport can be proud of, for generations to come.

To Lily for a life well lived, rest in peace.