



THE STUMP

Publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Society

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Summer 2018

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.

FRANK WILLIAMS TO HEADLINE DEDICATION OF LINCOLN STATUE

Captain Lincoln, a new sculpture, will be dedicated on **Saturday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m.**, at the Kent Monument. Retired Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court **Frank J. William** will deliver the main address.

Justice Williams is not new to Freeporters; he delivered the first **Richard F. Sokup Lecture**, which was in 2007.

Other participants in the program include: The Galena Generals; Civil War reenactment group Battery "G"; Freeport NJROTC Color Guard; and **Dan Weinberg**, who will display rare artifacts from the 1832 conflict commonly called "The Black Hawk War."

Created by Freeport artist **R. Jay Castro**, the sculpture commemorates Abraham Lincoln's role in the burial of men killed near Kent, Illinois in 1832. (See related story on page 3 for a brief history of the conflict.)

For more details on this event, see page 2.



2018 MUSIC@DEBATE SQUARE

The Lincoln-Douglas Society's popular "Music@Debate Square" series will continue this summer with two Thursday evenings of free music. **All programs begin at 6:30 p.m.**

The **Highland Community College Jazz Band** will kick-off the series on **July 19**.

The summer series ends on **August 2** with **Southpaw Stance**, returning from last summer's series.

Tim Connors is manager of the series, which promises to be one of the best yet.

Both of the programs are free, but a free-will offering will be taken up for the benefit of the musicians.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.



CAPTAIN LINCOLN STATUE DEDICATION, CONTINUED:

Here are some of the details you will want to know as you plan to attend the statue dedication on **Saturday, June 23:**

- ⇒ The site of the monument / sculpture is located at 14109 W. Blackhawk Road, Kent, IL 61044.
- ⇒ There is parking at the site, including handicapped accessible.
- ⇒ Security and parking direction will be available at the site.
- ⇒ If you do not want to drive out to the site, a shuttle from downtown Kent will run at 10:30 a.m. and every fifteen to twenty minutes from then on.
- ⇒ It is suggested that you bring lawn chairs or blankets.
- ⇒ Freeport's own Lincoln—**George Buss**—will be presenting.
- ⇒ **Adam Moderow** will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event.
- ⇒ Stephenson County Board Chairman **Bill Hadley** will open the ceremony.
- ⇒ This event is endorsed by the **Illinois Bicentennial Commission**.
- ⇒ Plans are in the works for a social gathering at Wagner House in Freeport after the ceremony. Those plans will be announced at the ceremony.
- ⇒ Food service will be available at the site from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the program.

HELP STILL NEEDED

Donations are still needed to finish the work around the new statue—*Captain Lincoln* at the Kellogg's Grove Black Hawk Monument.

Your tax deductible contribution (made payable to: Capt. Lincoln Project) can be sent to:

Capt. Lincoln Project
State Bank
1713 Dirck Drive
Freeport, IL 61032

ANNUAL MEETING

The Lincoln-Douglas Society will hold its annual membership meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Freeport Public Library on Saturday, **August 25, 2018**. Election of Board of Directors positions will be held.



The Lincoln-Douglas Society

President: Edward Finch
Vice President: George Buss
Treasurer: Mindy S. Borgmann
Secretary: Nicole Bauer
Recording Secretary: Carole Dickerson
Board of Directors: Timothy R. Connors, Frank E. "Ned" Furst, Mary M. Hartman, Scott Leiser, Mickey Martin, Sally Noble, Michael Perry, M.D., and Jim Shankland
Board Members Emeritus: Robert Plager & Olga Carlile
Ex Officio Directors: Honorable Jodi Miller, Mayor of Freeport.

THE BLACK HAWK WAR: MIS-NAMED HISTORY?

A careful examination of the events of the 1832 conflict commonly called The Black Hawk War, can easily lead one to conclude that much of its history suffers from erroneous labels. The following will attempt to correct some of those labels.

- ♦ The “war” was so one-sided that the six-week long series of events might best be labeled a “conflict.”
 - ♦ Forces mustered by the European Americans included over 6,000 militia men, 600 U.S. Army regulars, and some 700 Native American allies.
 - ♦ Forces led by Black Sparrow Hawk consisted of some 500 warriors and around 600 non-combatants (old men, women and children).
 - ♦ The conflict resulted in the deaths of 77 European Americans and between 450 and 600 Native Americans, including non-combatants.
- ♦ Black Hawk was not a “chief.” The correct English translation of his name is Black Sparrow Hawk, and he could be more correctly referred to as a “war captain.”
- ♦ Applying the word “battle” to many of the clashes between the European Americans and the Native Americans is also misleading. It would be better to use the word “skirmish.”
 - ♦ 15 June — The First Skirmish of Kellogg’s Grove — three Illinois militia men killed.
 - ♦ 18 June — Skirmish of Waddams Grove (sometimes referred to as the Skirmish of Yellow Creek) — three militia men from Galena killed, three or more Native Americans killed.
 - ♦ 25 June — The Second Skirmish of Kellogg’s Grove (sometimes referred to as the Skirmish of Burr Oak Grove) — five Illinois militia men killed, about fifteen Native Americans killed.
- ♦ The 25 June struggle at Kellogg’s Grove was the last time that Native Americans under the leadership of Black Sparrow Hawk fought on Illinois soil.
- ♦ Abraham Lincoln arrived at Kellogg’s Grove on 26 June with an additional company of Illinois militia. He was involved with helping to bury the dead from the previous day’s fighting.
- ♦ Many of the dead from the various engagements across northwest Illinois were initially buried where they fell. It was not until the 1880s that local farmers began an organized effort to move all those bodies to the site at Kellogg’s Grove.
- ♦ In 1886 Stephenson County authorized the construction of a monument at the site.
- ♦ The bulk of the Illinois militia came from central Illinois, but their movement north to engage Black Sparrow Hawk’s forces was slowed by the supply wagons carrying their whiskey.
- ♦ The conflict came to a bloody end on 2 August when Black Sparrow Hawk’s group was caught trying to cross the Mississippi River to escape.
 - ♦ Known as the Battle of Bad Axe, it could more correctly be called a massacre.
 - ♦ The encounter occurred in what is today the state of Wisconsin, but at the time it was part of the Michigan Territory.

In addition to the stone monument at the site of the Kellogg’s Grove skirmishes, the site also has a commemorative sign placed there by the **Looking For Lincoln Heritage Coalition**. The site is also on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

As a side note, the **Chicago Blackhawks** of the National Hockey League (NHL) were named after the 86th Infantry Division of World War I. Team owner Frederic McLaughlin at the time the hockey team became part of the NHL (1926), had served in the 86th. While the 86th was named after Black Sparrow Hawk, the NHL team was named after the Division.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society
P.O. Box 58
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LINCOLN & DOUGLAS THIS SUMMER

Twice this summer Judge Douglas and President Lincoln will square-off again in programs at Debate Square. Freeport's own **Tim Connors** (Douglas) and **George Buss** (Lincoln) will be the presenters.

- ♦ **July 20 (Saturday) at 5:30 p.m.** the program "A Conversation Between Judge Douglas and Abraham Lincoln" will be presented.
- ♦ **August 25 (Saturday) at 5:30 p.m.** as part of the annual ceremony commemorating the Freeport Debate.

Both programs will be open to the public free of charge. Those attending are urged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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