

# For the People

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## The Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas Joint Debates and the Communication of the Newspaper

By Philip Silberman \*

In the modern day, television and the Internet are the main sources of information to people throughout the United States. However, in 1858, during the famous Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the newspaper was the only engine of mass communication. The debates were covered by many national and local newspapers and propelled Abraham Lincoln into the national spotlight. Lincoln, although losing the senatorial race, became known all over the country because of the newspaper reports and accounts, and two years later was nominated for the presidency. The debates, and the communication of them by the newspapers on both a local and national scale, are what gave Lincoln the popularity he needed to win the presidential nomination as well as the presidency itself.

In late July 1858, Abraham Lincoln, a relatively unknown lawyer, challenged the incumbent senator, Stephen Douglas, to a series of joint debates across the state of Illinois. Douglas accepted the challenge and the two agreed on seven locations, Freeport, Ottawa, Galesburg, Quincy, Alton, Jonesboro, and Charleston. Newspapers would also publish each debate, many using the verbatim speeches of the candidates. An important part of the newspapers though, was that they brought people into the audience. The *Chicago Times* specifically headlined: "An Audience Wanted" on July 30, 1858 for the upcoming debates.<sup>1</sup> The power of the newspaper advertisement is evident when looking at the number of people that attended the debates. In

the first debate at Ottawa, twelve thousand people gathered in the public park where it was held. In the second debate at Freeport, fifteen thousand people attended, this in a town with a population of about five thousand at the time. In Jonesboro, the smallest crowd came at two thousand people. Twelve thousand attended at Charleston, sixteen thousand at Galesburg, twelve thousand at Quincy, and six thousand at Alton.<sup>2</sup> The Alton crowd, however, contained many people from the state of Missouri, providing further evidence of the effectiveness of the mass press. To understand the exact communication used, specific articles should be looked at from the larger debates, specifically, the debates at Ottawa, Freeport, and Alton.

The first debate took place at Ottawa on August 21, 1858, in the confines of a public park. The area was mainly abolitionist Republican territory, giving Lincoln the advantage. Of the twelve thousand people that reported to the debate, many of them were from Chicago and had taken advantage of the cheap railroad rates from the city. It was even published in the newspaper, about how cheap the railroad would be. On August 18 and again on August 21, times for a special train to and from Ottawa were listed, and prices were cut in half because of the occasion. This communication was important in the attendance of the debate and, in turn, in conveying Lincoln's ideas and spreading his popularity. The *Chicago Daily Press and Tribune* had two separate reports concerning this debate with the headline: "Lincoln

and Douglas in Ottawa, Twelve Thousand Persons Present, The Dred Scott Champion Pulverized."<sup>3</sup> It followed with a short synopsis of the debate as well as verbatim speeches from both Douglas and Lincoln. The reason Douglas was said to have lost was because of Chicago's large number of Republican and generally abolitionist population. The publishing of the speeches was an important aspect of the article, however. When a person in Chicago, or anywhere else, read the newspaper and read Lincoln's speeches, they would communicate Lincoln's ideas and his popularity would be spread, even if they did not necessarily agree with him and his policies. The publishing of the speeches, especially the Ottawa ones, was a key part in the spread of Lincoln's popularity. The Ottawa speeches are important because Lincoln had the advantage throughout the crowd and technically won the debate. This is further proven in the second headline.

The second headline was also from the *Chicago Daily Press and Tribune* two days after the debate. The headline read: "Rich and Rare Development, The Back-Bone and Muscle of Douglas' Ottawa Speech Proved to be a Lie and a Fraud."<sup>4</sup> This is what helped to cement Lincoln's victory to the public eye. The article established Lincoln as the clear victor over Douglas. Again, the exact speeches of both men were published. Now, though, Lincoln was seen as a strong candidate, not simply an insignificant lawyer from Springfield. Another part in the article that

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## Lincoln: The Lawyer

By Rachel Doherty \*

**O**n a stormy night in Hardin County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. He was the son of a Kentucky frontiersman and grew up in a respectable home. His father owned 586 1/2 acres of farmland, two lots in Elizabethtown, and some livestock.<sup>1</sup> Lincoln looked up to and respected his mother, having said: “All that I am, or hope to be, I owe it all to my angel mother.”<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately Lincoln’s mother died when he was just ten years old. He was named after his grandfather, Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln Jr. did not know his grandfather well though, and has said: “I don’t know who my grandfather was, but I am more concerned to know who my grandson will be.”<sup>3</sup>

Growing up Lincoln had a variety of jobs. At the age of nineteen he was hired by James Gentry as bow hand and made only eight dollars a month. He left his home in early 1830 to move to New Salem, a tiny pioneer settlement near Petersburg, Illinois.<sup>4</sup> During the winter of 1830 and 1831 Lincoln, Lincoln’s stepbrother John D. Johnson, and John Hanks took a flatboat of produce from Beardstown, Illinois, to New Orleans. He was paid ten dollars a month.<sup>5</sup> The next summer he moved to Sangamon County, where he lived for the next six years.<sup>6</sup> He studied English grammar when he was twenty-three. For a while he even considered becoming a blacksmith. In 1819, when asked what his future would be, he replied: “I’m going to be the President of the United States.”<sup>7</sup> Later in his life, looking back on that comment, he said: “I didn’t know then I had sense enough to be a lawyer.”<sup>8</sup>

Lincoln was not the most intelligent man. His knowledge of the law and its technologies was limited—even his partners admitted it. Stephen T. Logan has said: “He was not much of a reader.”<sup>9</sup> Lincoln too acknowledged the fact, because he said: “I could read, write, and cipher by the Rule of Three,

but that was all.” He did not start studying law until after the 1834 election. During the election his future partner John T. Stuart commented to him that he should study law.<sup>10</sup>

In the fall of 1836 he received his law license. The following year, on March 1, Lincoln was admitted to the Illinois Bar.<sup>11</sup> He was twenty-nine at the time and had been living in Illinois for seven years. There were four judges who had admitted Lincoln to the Bar, and they were William Wilson, Samuel D. Lockwood, Theophilus W. Smith, and Thomas C. Browne. Three years later, on December 9, 1839, Judge Nathaniel Pope admitted Lincoln to practice in the United States Circuit Court System.<sup>12</sup>

As a young lawyer Lincoln quite often worried his client. He did not argue over every little point, he was not contentious, and he was flexible with minor points, not being bothered if he was wrong. He had good humor that disarmed the jury, but made his clients fret that he was giving away too much information. Sometimes he would seem a bit surprised and slightly confused by a case, but sooner or later he would usually master it.<sup>13</sup> Even so, if he found out during the course of a case that he was on the wrong side, he would lose all interest in it.<sup>14</sup>

Logan, in particular, was very impressed with Lincoln’s unusual grasp of cases. William Herndon thought he practiced best in the Supreme Court, because those cases were never rushed or hurried. Lincoln and his partners had one of the largest appellate practices in Illinois, and argued more than four hundred cases before the Supreme Court.<sup>15</sup>

Lincoln had a number of very famous cases. His first major case was the trial of Henry B. Truett.<sup>16</sup> Truett was charged in the Sangamon County Circuit in 1838 with the murder of Reverend M. Early. Coincidentally, the opposing attorney was Stephen Douglas. Lincoln argued that Early had threatened Truett with a “deadly weapon”—an upraised chair—and only shot Early in self-defense. Lincoln was successful and

Truett was acquitted.<sup>17</sup> This trial was very helpful to Lincoln’s law career because it showed, for the first time, how powerfully and persuasively he could perform before a jury.

Perhaps his most famous case, however, was the Duff Case. In this case, he defended William “Duff” Armstrong on a murder charge in 1858. Duff was the son of an old friend of Lincoln, who was now dead. The entire case rested on the eyewitness Charles Allen. Allen claimed he saw Duff kill James Metzler by the light from the full moon at about eleven o’clock, at about 150 feet away. Lincoln appeared quite confident about this case, for during Allen’s testimony, he stared at the ceiling, bored and unimpressed. When the time came for him to cross-examine Allen, he asked to use an almanac from 1857, and the judge allowed it. Lincoln then asked Allen to read out loud the entry for August 29, 1857, the night of the murder. The truth that ended the case came right out of Allen’s mouth—there was no full moon that night, nor was any part of the moon visible at eleven o’clock. The jury found Duff not guilty.<sup>18</sup> Lincoln won the case and did the entire thing for free.<sup>19</sup>

Lincoln’s honor as an advocate before a jury was acknowledged by other lawyers of his time as a very high order.<sup>20</sup> He appeared as council in the Supreme Court of Illinois, the highest court of the state, in some 175 cases, something rarely achieved by any lawyer, even today. He also appeared alone as counsel in 51 cases, and of those, 31 were in his favor, and as associate council in 124 cases.<sup>21</sup>

During Lincoln’s career, he had a total of three law partners. The first one was Stuart. They became partners in 1837. Then, on May 14, 1841, Logan became Lincoln’s second partner.<sup>22</sup> His most famous partnership, however, was with Herndon. In 1844 the Lincoln-Logan partnership dissolved, and Lincoln took Herndon on as a junior partner.<sup>23</sup> Lincoln and Herndon were quite

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## Abraham Lincoln Association Student Award

The Association is proud to publish in this issue the two essays selected to receive the 2005 Abraham Lincoln Association Student Awards. The purpose of the awards is to recognize the best research papers and best media projects on Abraham Lincoln submitted at the annual Illinois History Expo. Projects are developed by students in middle school and high school. Two \$500 prizes are presented each year to the award-winning students. Winners often go on to compete at the National History Fair. Presenting these student awards is one of the most important and satisfying aspects of fulfilling the Association's mission.

This is an appropriate opportunity to review the other awards and prizes sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association.

### The Logan Hay Medal

The purpose of the Logan Hay Medal is to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Association: to observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and to actively encourage, promote, and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career. The award was established in 1967 by the Association and the descendants of past Association President Logan Hay, who played an important part in the Association's formative years. The bronze medal is awarded infrequently and is the highest honor given by the Association. Past recipients are: 2002, Thomas F. Schwartz, Illinois State Historian; 2000, Cullom Davis, Director, The

Lincoln Legal Papers; 1989, Don E. Fehrenbacher, author and teacher, for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of Lincoln scholarship; 1989, Richard N. Current, author and teacher, for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of Lincoln scholarship; 1984, Floyd S. Barringer, M.D., President of the Association, for his service to the Association and to his efforts in resuming a regular publication program resulting in The Papers of the Abraham Lincoln Association; 1972, Paul Findley, Congressman of the 20th Illinois District, for his untiring efforts in the creation of the Lincoln Home National Historic Park; 1971, Nelson O. Howarth, Mayor of Springfield, for the constancy of his efforts in preserving the Lincoln Home Area as a worthy memorial to Abraham Lincoln; 1969, George W. Bunn Jr., President of the Association, for his guidance of the Association and most especially in the production of the Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln; 1968, Oliver J. Keller, President of the Association, posthumously, for his efforts in reactivating the Association and restoration of the Old State Capitol; 1967, Otto Kerner, Governor of Illinois, for his efforts in the restoration of the Old State Capitol.

### Lincoln the Lawyer Award

The Lincoln the Lawyer Award is presented to recognize individuals who reflect the character and ideals of Abraham Lincoln in their legal careers. The award is given infrequently. Past recipients are: 2000, Elmer Gertz, World-renowned Chicago Civil Rights Attorney; 1998, Joseph H. Hartzler, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois; 1992, The Honorable

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## The Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas Joint Debates and the Communication of the Newspaper

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bashed Douglas was, “The Douglas Forgery.” This section was before the speech, and accused Douglas of forgery and fraud in his speeches during the Ottawa debate. This entire article was conceived mainly because of Chicago’s political stance. Chicago, being the more Republican and abolitionist city, had their own interpretation of the events during the debate. There was, however, some truth to these allegations. In his speech Douglas called Lincoln a saloonkeeper from New Salem, as well as claiming that he was conspiring secretly to “abolitionize” the Whig Party he himself was a part of.<sup>4</sup> This information was all incorrect however. Lincoln was not a saloonkeeper in New Salem and at no point during the senatorial race was he trying to “abolitionize” the Whig Party. National reports differed on the debates as well, but even if they were different, they still helped to spread Lincoln’s popularity across the country.

Nationally, the Ottawa debate was interpreted in different ways. The importance, however, does not lie in what was reported, but just the fact that it was reported. It was reported in such cities as Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Baltimore, and St. Louis. Each of these newspapers, though, showed their own bias. The *Philadelphia Press* reported on August 26: “The Campaign in Illinois, Great Discussion between Douglas and Lincoln. Immense Enthusiasm. The Little Giant Triumphant. 20,000 People Present.”<sup>5</sup> In this newspaper, the reporters claimed that Douglas, not Lincoln, had triumphed in the debate. They also got the incorrect number of people, over exaggerating to twenty thousand from twelve thousand, to make it seem as though Douglas had more support and had a stronger victory. Although the author goes on to call Lincoln “the worst used-up man in the United States,”<sup>5</sup> his name became known. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* and New York’s

*Evening Post* had similar reports. They did not report with great bias, but complimented Lincoln, saying he was a worthy candidate and a good choice by the Republicans. The *Baltimore Sun*, on August 27, published excerpts from a letter taken from the *New York Express*, praising both candidates. The newspaper also pointed out: “The political campaign in Illinois is becoming decidedly warm and interesting, and begins to attract no little attention throughout the country.”<sup>6</sup> The debates were becoming more and more known as time went on, as was Lincoln. The *St. Louis Morning Herald* published on August 24 a letter sent in from a person who attended the debate. The author of the letter concluded saying Douglas was the victor. This letter was probably published to promote Douglas because Missouri was a Southern slaveholding state. As shown, the debates were publicized all over the country and the name Abraham Lincoln became much more commonly known.

The second debate was to take place on August 27, 1858, at the town of Freeport. The *Chicago Press and Tribune* reported on August 26 the times for the railroad that will be going to and from Freeport as well as a 60 percent reduction in fares. The outpouring of people was tremendous. The town had a population of only five thousand people at the time, yet fifteen thousand people, three times the town population, attended the debate. The *Chicago Press and Tribune*’s report of the debate headlined: “Great Debate Between Lincoln and Douglas at Freeport, Fifteen Thousand Persons Present. The Dred Scott Champion ‘Trotted Out’ and ‘Brought to His Milk.’ It Proves to be Stump-Tailed. Great Caving-in on the Ottawa Forgery. He Was ‘Conscientious’ about It. Why Chase’s Amendment Was Voted Down. Lincoln Tumbles Him All over Stephenson County. Verbatim Report of Lincoln’s Speech. Douglas’ Reply and Lincoln’s Rejoinder.”<sup>7</sup> Once again the newspaper had

taken Lincoln’s side and interpreted a second victory for him. The importance of this debate, however, was not to be realized until 1860. During the debate Lincoln asked Douglas: “Can the people of a United States Territory, in any lawful way, against the wish of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from its limits prior to the formation of a State Constitution?”<sup>8</sup> Douglas’s reply would be known after as the Freeport Doctrine, even though he was only restating his views. He stood firmly behind popular sovereignty, but his views ended up being too radical for the South, because of the recent Dred Scott Decision. It ended up splitting Democrats over the issue, with the South against Douglas, and the North for him. This is what cost him the presidential seat. If he had kept the Democrats united, he may have mustered enough votes to defeat Lincoln, but in the end he did not, even with his senatorial victory. The local newspapers did not brand it as anything too important, though it turned out to be extremely beneficial to Lincoln in his run for the presidency.

Reports of the Freeport debate were published nationally, just as the Ottawa debate was. Specifically, the debate was published often in Missouri and New York. In New York the details of the debate were published in the *Evening Post* and the *New York Daily Tribune*. On September 2 the *Evening Post* issued a quick synopsis of the debate day, but did not really discuss the actual debate. They described the scene, mainly, and the tremendous number of people that attended. It was the *Evening Post*’s September 7 report that actually dealt with the debates themselves, as well as the Freeport Doctrine. They said Douglas was “cornered” by Lincoln’s questions and then claimed to be the “upholder of the Dred Scott decision, and also of popular sovereignty.”<sup>9</sup> He then went on to say that what the Supreme Court says makes no difference on slavery, making

him in opposition to the Dred Scott Decision. That, in essence, is what truly angered the Southern Democrats, and divided the party. In Missouri the *Daily Missouri Democrat* was in support of Douglas, while the *Missouri Republican* was in support of Lincoln. All of these newspapers, however, managed to communicate the Freeport Doctrine. Since the Freeport Doctrine was spread throughout the country by the newspapers and the Democrats were split, it was made impossible for a Democratic candidate to win against a popular Republican. Thus, with the communication of the Freeport Doctrine, and the split of the Democratic Party, Lincoln was seemed more and more like a possible presidential candidate.

The Alton debate at was the last important debate between Douglas and Lincoln. The Alton debate took place on October 15, 1858. Just like the other debates, there were published train schedules for trains that would go to and from Alton. It was different this time, though, because it was not only advertised in Illinois, but also in Missouri. Springfield's *Illinois State Journal* and *Illinois State Register* reported the times as well as the half-fare price on October 14. The *Missouri Republican* gave the times as well as the *St. Louis Evening News* on October 14. For trains coming from Missouri, the price was only \$1. The *Chicago Times* did a report on the debate afterward, on October 17. This newspaper, which was pro-Douglas, described the crowd of six thousand as being mostly Democratic. This was probably because of the number of people that had flocked from Missouri. They also claimed Lincoln had dodged questions and Douglas had clearly won. The *Alton Daily Courier's* October 16 headline, however, read: "6,000 People Present. Lincoln Triumphant. Republicanism in the Ascendant. Douglas Vanquished."<sup>10</sup> They went on to discuss the speeches, which praised Lincoln's speech, mainly claiming he dispelled all charges that Douglas had brought against the Republican Party. The newspaper leaned more toward Republicans, though, because they had never been

amiable toward Douglas and were very supportive of Lincoln. The *Illinois State Register*, as well as the other newspapers, mentioned the fact that there were many people from out of state in attendance, mainly people from St. Louis and other parts of Missouri. This was what made the debate more important, the fact that the debates had become famous enough so that out-of-state attendance was close to that of in-state attendance. The debates were famous, and so were Douglas and Lincoln. The *Chicago Press and Tribune*, again siding with Lincoln and giving verbatim speeches, described the scene in the same sense, especially the *White Cloud* steamer from St. Louis that carried a full load of people. In all, the importance was mainly in that of fame and popularity, that made it more important than some of the other debates. Since Lincoln's popularity had obviously become huge in Illinois, his national success must be looked at as well.

Around the country, this debate was publicized in generally the same manner. Most of the newspapers wrote that the allure and novelty had worn off and it was shown in the smaller than usual crowd. Some cities that reported on the debate were New York, Cincinnati, and St. Louis. In New York, the *Evening Post* made the point about the debates that they "have not only been published in nearly all the journals in this state, but they have attracted the attention of the whole country."<sup>11</sup> This statement aptly describes the effect the debates had on the entire country. They also claimed that the Alton debate had the best discussion of all the previous debates. The *Cincinnati Gazette* reported on October 20 that the debates had been "a less advantageous arrangement to Douglas than to his competitor."<sup>12</sup> Across the country Lincoln was now a well-known figure and was especially popular among Republicans. The *St. Louis Morning Herald* and the *Missouri Democrat*, two pro-Douglas newspapers reported on the debate, claiming Lincoln was defeated. If there was anything Southern newspapers did when reporting on Lincoln, it is that they

spread the hate of Lincoln as well as the hate of Douglas. After the Freeport Doctrine, Southern newspapers were against Douglas, and they were always against Lincoln because of his Republican status. Inadvertently, the Southern newspaper coverage of the debates could be looked at as a cause of the Civil War. Their coverage spread the hate of Lincoln by branding him as an abolitionist, and naturally, Southerners hated abolitionists. Thus, in 1860 when he was elected, secession was bound to occur. The South was backed into a corner and could not risk the loss of slavery, so they had no choice but to secede. Overall, the national coverage in the North was mainly positive, and seeing this country lawyer fare so well against Douglas, Lincoln soon became the obvious choice for the presidency.

From July to October of 1858 Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas partook in some of the finest debates in the history of the United States. In all, there were seven debates across Illinois with attendance as large as sixteen thousand people. The importance of the debates, however, is not immediately recognized. Prior to their commencement, Lincoln was a relatively unknown lawyer from the town of Springfield competing with the famous Douglas, the father of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the incumbent senator to the U.S. Senate. Lincoln not only competed on the same level as Douglas, but according to some newspapers, competed on a higher level, such as the article from the *Chicago Daily Press and Tribune* deeming Douglas a liar in the Ottawa debate.<sup>4</sup> David Herbert Donald sug-

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## Lincoln: The Lawyer

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unlike in temper and habits, which many say was the secret to the success of their long friendship. Herndon commented that he knew Lincoln better than Lincoln knew himself. Lincoln never forgot to divide his fees with Herndon, always paying Herndon equally.<sup>24</sup> Even after Lincoln became president, before he left for the White House, he said to Herndon: "If I live, I'm coming back sometime, and then we'll go on practicing law as if nothing had ever happened."<sup>25</sup>

Lincoln practiced law in many different buildings and courthouses across Illinois. He first rented space in the Tinsley Building, directly over the United States Circuit Courtroom. In fact, they could even listen to proceedings through a trapdoor on their floor. Lincoln often did his research in the statehouse across the street, which is now known as the Old State Capitol. The library was right next door to his office, and on December 16, 1849, he was the first person to check out a book from it, signing under his partner's name.<sup>26</sup>

Lincoln practiced law on the Old Eighth Circuit for many years. He commonly visited small-town courthouses. Lincoln was the only lawyer to have traveled around the entire Circuit, and regularly attended the Circuit Courts. This lasted until 1858, when he became more involved politics.<sup>27</sup> The opening of a Circuit Court in any county brought people together, gathered at the local tavern and sang songs. Sadly, the only two original courthouses left from the Old Eighth Circuit Court are the Metamora Courthouse and the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse.<sup>28</sup>

The original Postville Courthouse, built in 1840, was one of the destinations of the Old Eighth Courthouse. Lincoln visited it about twice each year. He also often visited the Metamora Courthouse, which was completed in 1845. It was made from bricks burned at local kilns and hardwood from trees nearby the village. Lawyers such as Edward Baker, Logan, and Stuart had cases here, heard by judges like David

Davis and Samuel Treat.<sup>29</sup> All of these people were associates of Lincoln. The Metamora Courthouse is still around, and the first floor is now a museum that contains exhibits, such as the table that had part of it cut away so Lincoln's long legs could fit better.<sup>30</sup> He also commonly visited the Beardstown Courthouse. An upstairs room in the Beardstown Courthouse is the only courtroom still in use where Lincoln once practiced law.<sup>31</sup>

Lincoln's law career was long and successful, lasting twenty-five years. Even Leonard Swett, a great advocate and a trial lawyer better than almost every other during his time, acknowledged this. Swett said that if Lincoln ever had a superior of a jury, then he never knew Lincoln.<sup>32</sup> He also had a successful political career, becoming the Sixteenth President of the United States.<sup>33</sup>

Sadly, on April 14, 1865, he was shot by John Wilkes Booth, and died shortly afterward. Coincidentally, April 14 was Good Friday. Few men knew Lincoln well other than his partners and family. Yet he is still remembered and respected for his hard work and determination. Abraham Lincoln truly lived his life by one of his own famous quotes: "Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well."<sup>34</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Harry E. Pratt, *The Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln* (Springfield, Ill.: Abraham Lincoln Association, 1943), vii.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Lincoln Starts at New Salem," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/lawsalem.htm>.

<sup>5</sup>Pratt, 7.

<sup>6</sup>Louis Obod Renne and William Henry Herndon, *Lincoln and the Land of the Sangamon* (Boston: Chapman & Grimes, 1945), 20.

<sup>7</sup>Henry C. Whitney, *Life on the Circuit with Lincoln* (Boston: Estes and Lauriat, 1892), 33.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Lincoln Starts at New Salem," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/lawsalem.htm>.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>John T. Richards, *Abraham Lincoln, the Lawyer-Statesman* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1916), 6.

<sup>12</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Lincoln's Law Office," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/lawoffice.htm>.

<sup>13</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Logan Remembers Lincoln," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/lawoffice2.htm>.

<sup>14</sup>Joseph Sobran, "Lawyer and President," <http://www.sobran.com/columns/2003/030605.shtml>.

<sup>15</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Supreme Court," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/supreme.htm>.

<sup>16</sup>Pratt, 29.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Richards, 21.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid.

<sup>26</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Federal Jury Room," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/lawjury.htm>.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid.

<sup>28</sup>Abraham Lincoln Online, "Mt. Pulaski Courthouse," <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/tours/lawpulaski.htm>.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.

<sup>32</sup>Richards, 21.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., 5.

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## Abraham Lincoln Association Student Award

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Richard Mills, United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois; 1991, John P. Frank, Distinguished Legal Scholar and Lincoln Biographer; 1990, The Honorable Harlington Wood Jr., Circuit Judge United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; 1989, The Honorable John B. Hannum, Senior United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; 1987, The Honorable James R. Thompson, Former Governor of Illinois; 1986, The Honorable Robert C. Underwood, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois; 1985, The Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, Senior United States District Judge, Chicago.

### Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize

The purpose of the Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize is to recognize and encourage young scholars to conduct research on Abraham Lincoln and his times. An annual prize of \$5,000 is underwritten by the Lincoln Institute and the Lehrman Institute. The Abraham Lincoln Association and the Abraham Lincoln Institute, Inc., select the recipients. Selection of the award winner alternates between each organiza-

tion from year to year. A board of five scholars representing each entity serves as the jury. Recipients of the prize have been: 2005, Jennifer Weber, "The Civil War and Northern Society," Princeton University; 2004, Matthew Parks, "Self-Evident No More: American Political Thought, 1820-1850," Boston University; 2003, Graham Peck, "The Social and Cultural Origins of Sectional Politics: Illinois from Statehood to Civil War," Northwestern

University; 2002, Brian Dirck, "Mystic Chords: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, American Imagined Community, 1808-1860," University of Kansas; 2001, Stewart Winger, "Lincoln's Religious Rhetoric: American Romanticism and the Antislavery Impulse," University of Chicago; 2000, Deren Kellogg, "The Lincoln Administration and the Southwestern Territories," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## ALA Hires New Executive Assistant

The ALA Board of Directors has hired an executive assistant, Mary Shepherd, effective immediately. The Board of Directors anticipates a significant increase in ALA activity in celebration of the centennial of the ALA in 2008 and the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009. Mary will assist the Board and the officers of the ALA with planning and implementing the goals and mission of the ALA. Mary is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in finance, and received an MBA from Loyola Univer-

sity in Chicago. Mary has been quite active as a member of the David Davis Mansion Foundation Board of Directors. She will bring her organizational skills and love of history to the ALA, where they have been utilized already.

If you have any questions, want information about upcoming events, want to tell us about perspective members, or communicate with the Board of Directors, please contact Mary at [maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com](mailto:maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com), 309.663.9162, or toll free at 866.865.8500.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association in the category indicated:

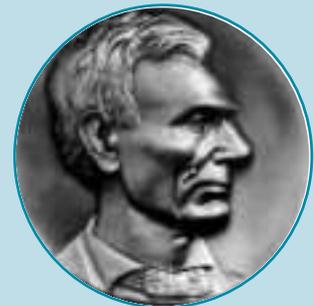
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## The Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas Joint Debates and the Communication of the Newspaper

*continued from page 5*

gests that it was Lincoln's loss that fueled him to go for the presidency, as well. Lincoln had lost, yet he was only driven to succeed. He was surely disappointed in the outcome but not necessarily surprised. Lincoln did, after all, want to win after his hard work in the campaign. His loss and the recognition of his ability as a political leader was what fueled his aspirations to be president.<sup>13</sup> However, the newspaper was a large contributor in helping Lincoln to achieve the national popularity he needed to make the jump from defeated potential senator to presidential nominee.

The real power of the debates is witnessed within the communication. The main engine of communication is the newspaper, which was the only thing people could use to find out what was happening in the world. The debates were published all over the country, and because they were, the name Lincoln became common. He had gone from being an unknown lawyer to a very popular Republican. It did not matter that he lost the election to Douglas, because he had given the

Republican Party hope for the future. He became their choice for the presidency in 1860 and would go on to become the president of the United States. The reporters published Lincoln's name all over the newspapers, and he became famous within a few months. Not only was the Republican Party united behind Lincoln, but the Democrats were split after Douglas's Freeport Doctrine. After asking a strategic question in one of the debates, Douglas had split the Democrats over the North and South. In his quest to become senator, Lincoln secured the Republicans the next presidential term by dividing the Democrats and uniting the Republicans. Overall, the communication of the newspaper of the famous debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, was what in turn made Lincoln the next president of the United States, and made him one of the most famous presidents of all time.

<sup>1</sup>*Chicago Times*, July 30, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Blaine Brooks Gernon, *Lincoln in the Political Circus* (Chicago: Black Cat Press, 1936), 107.

<sup>3</sup>*Chicago Daily Press and Tribune*, Aug. 21, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, Aug. 23, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup>*Philadelphia Press*, Aug. 26, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup>*Baltimore Sun*, Aug. 27, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup>*Chicago Press and Tribune*, Aug. 27, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup>"Reader's Companion to American History—FREEPORT DOCTRINE," [http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah\\_033700\\_freeportdoct.htm](http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah_033700_freeportdoct.htm).

<sup>9</sup>(New York) *Evening Post*, Sept. 7, 1858, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup>*Alton Daily Courier*, Oct. 16, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup>*Evening Post*, Oct. 17, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup>*Cincinnati Gazette*, Oct. 20, 1858, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup>Donald, *Lincoln* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995), 228.

\* Philip Silberman attends Walter Payton College Prep High School in Chicago and is the 2005 Abraham Lincoln Association Senior Essay Award winner.

## For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association  
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