

Join the Celebration

Political giants by name and size, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas knew well the City of Quincy and its citizens in the mid-nineteenth century. Lincoln campaigned for friends and himself in Adams County. Local citizens helped launch the national political career of Douglas, who lived in the city for six years. The two would return to Quincy on October 13, 1858, for the sixth Lincoln-Douglas Debate in their contest for a seat in the United States Senate.

These stories and others are available to your organization through the City of Quincy's Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Scheduling a Program

It's easy to schedule a program. From the list inside, select a program and call the contact number to arrange your group's presentation. The speaker will discuss any audio-visual needs with you.

Programs are presented free of charge. Should an individual or organization wish to make a contribution (tax-deductible), checks may be made payable to the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and sent to 706 Maine Street, Third Floor, Quincy, IL 62301.

Other Programs Available

From time to time, the Bicentennial Commission expects to add presentations to those shown in this brochure. To get the latest list of programs – and to review other Bicentennial activities and events – please visit our website:

www.LincolnDouglasQuincyDebate.com

THE QUINCY LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
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Building on

LINCOLN'S LEGACY

in Quincy and Adams County, Illinois

THE QUINCY
LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Speakers Bureau



EDUCATE, CELEBRATE, COMMEMORATE:

*Sharing the stories of Abraham Lincoln
and Stephen A. Douglas's connections to
Quincy and Adams County, Illinois.*

Reg Ankrom Quincy
217-779-2595

“Quincy’s Stephen A. Douglas” His debate with Lincoln in Quincy on October 13, 1858, was for Douglas a return to the city in which he had lived for six years. In 1841 he arrived in Adams County as the state’s newest – and at 27 years old the youngest – Supreme Court Judge. Within two years, Quincy citizens elected him their representative in Congress to launch his national political career. This is the story of Quincy’s Douglas.

Dr. Justin Coffey Quincy University
217-222-2080

“Abolitionists in Illinois” By the mid-1830s abolitionists, most of them from New England, began pouring into Illinois. They brought with them what in Illinois were considered radical views. But their commitment to the cause of immediately freeing the slaves created change in Illinois just before the onset of Civil War. Dr. Coffey looks at abolitionism in Illinois.

Dr. David Costigan Quincy University
217-222-2711

“Accommodations Before Civil War” The issue of slavery imperiled the U.S. Constitution. The founding fathers left to future generations the search for a solution. What followed was a series of accommodations in compromises and laws that sought to bind but simply put off a solution. This presentation looks at the efforts that ultimately failed, ending in Civil War.

Gary DeClue John Wood Community College
217-224-6500

“Stephen A. Douglas: Voice of the Democracy” DeClue stepped into the role of Douglas in 1994 for C-SPAN’s re-creation of the Lincoln-Douglas debate in Quincy. His study and characterization bring to life one of the nation’s greatest historical figures, Quincy Congressman, Illinois Senator and three-time candidate for the U.S. Presidency, all before his death at the age of 48.

Terrell Dempsey Quincy
217-222-2432

“Three for Freedom: Abolitionists from Quincy” In 1841 a vibrant community of abolitionists was growing in Adams County. Slaves who made it across the Mississippi could find friends among the often-hostile Illinois residents as men and women of the Mission Institute patrolled the riverbank looking for runaways to aid. In July 1841 three enthusiastic men – James E. Burr, George Thompson and Alanson Work, tired of waiting for slaves to come to them, headed into Missouri with little more than their idealism. Dempsey details the mission.

Speakers & Topics

Dave Dulaney Quincy
217-222-7243

“Steamboats at Quincy on the Mississippi” Dulaney has accumulated one of the finest collections of steamboat pictures to provide a fascinating look at river commerce in Quincy, Illinois, during the mid-nineteenth century. This presentation reviews Quincy’s important role as a shipping port on the Mississippi at the time of Lincoln and Douglas.

Phil Germann Quincy
217-222-0172

“Quincy on Debate Day” Quincy was bustling with commerce on October 13, 1858. Lincoln and Douglas, in town that day for their sixth debate in their campaign for the U.S. Senate, would see more than 12,000 people packed into the square surrounded by buildings filled with a variety of business enterprises. Germann provides a lively look at Quincy on debate day.

Dr. Tim Jacobs Quincy
217-223-3087

“Quincy’s Jonas: Lincoln’s ‘Valued Friend’” From the time they met in 1838 as young Illinois legislators, Abraham Lincoln and Quincy’s Abraham Jonas remained political and personal friends. This is the fascinating story of the role Quincy’s first Jewish attorney played in the career of the nation’s sixteenth president.

Dr. Tim Jacobs Quincy & **Dan Reed** Quincy
217-223-3087

“Medicine in the Civil War” The nation’s War of Rebellion killed and wounded hundreds of thousands of soldiers, testing the skills and endurance of those who administered medical treatment. Jacobs and Reed examine the ways medicine responded and was shaped by the challenges of the agonies from the battlefield.

Rob Mellon Quincy High School
217-221-9125 or 217-430-9987

“From Obscurity to Honor: Lincoln’s Rise” Abraham Lincoln’s ambition, morality and purpose take him from the Illinois frontier to a revival of the principles of the founding fathers to make a difference on the world stage. Mellon discusses Lincoln’s political acumen, rigorous preparation and sense of morality, which enabled the prairie politician to rise from obscurity to veneration for changing the nature of democracy in America.

Dr. Joe Messina Quincy University
217-222-8020

“Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and the Work of Moving a Nation” The Compromise of 1850 included a Fugitive Slave Law that required the return of runaway slaves to their owners. The measure stimulated Harriett Beecher Stowe’s provocative book, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. When he met Stowe in 1862, Lincoln reportedly said, “So you’re the little woman who wrote the book that started this great Civil War.” Dr. Messina looks at how this single work of fiction shaped a nation’s thinking about slavery.

Iris Nelson Quincy
217-224-8368

“Burnout: The Private Lincoln and the Pressure of Hardball Politics” What do we know about how Lincoln handled the “hell for leather” politics of 1858? What happened to Lincoln in Quincy on October 13 that year? Was it burnout or something else? Nelson describes the condition that Lincoln and his Quincy friends tried to keep quiet.

“Lincoln’s Loyal Confidante: Quincy Resident Eliza Browning” Close friends for nearly thirty years, Eliza Browning hosted Abraham Lincoln on the night of the October 13th Lincoln-Douglas debate. Learn how she supported Lincoln whenever she could and how it was that she spent a week at the White House when Lincoln’s son Willie died.

Ruth Ann Snowden Quincy
217-228-6000

“The Artist of Quincy’s Great Sculpture” In 1936, the City of Quincy dedicated the bas-relief sculpture by famed Illinois artist Lorado Taft in Washington Park to commemorate the Lincoln-Douglas Quincy Debate. This was one of several works by Taft, who sought to beautify cities with sculpture. Snowden’s extensive research and video look at the wide array of Taft’s remarkable talent.

Warren Speckhart Quincy
217-228-2654

“The Civil War in Southwestern Illinois” Illinois was a microcosm of the clashes between principles of the North and South that ultimately were settled in Civil War. Speckhart provides a perspective in an oratorical journey to Illinois’ three capitols – Kaskaskia, Vandalia and Springfield – and some of the personages who were to be found there.