



# The TURNING POINT

## Quincy's Lincoln-Douglas Debate Symposium

**FEBRUARY 2, 2008**

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ORR AUDITORIUM | 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

8:00 – 8:45 AM **REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:45 AM **OPENING SESSION**

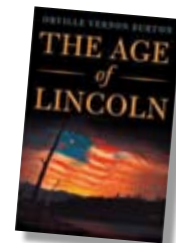
Welcome { **CHUCK SCHOLZ**, Quincy Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Chair  
**RAY SCHEITER**, Regional Office of Education

Keynote { **DR. VERNON BURTON**,  
Speaker { author of *The Age of Lincoln*

Symposium { Why Quincy Considers the Sixth Debate "The Turning Point"  
Introduction { **DR. DAVID COSTIGAN**, Quincy University

**DR. VERNON BURTON**, Distinguished University Teacher/Scholar at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, was awarded the 2007 Chicago Tribune Heartland Literary Prize for non-fiction for *The Age of Lincoln*.

Covering seven decades, "*The Age of Lincoln* reminds us that ideas are everything, and a book bursting with so many of them will provide robust reading for years to come." – **Catherine Clinton** U.S. history professor at Queen's University in Belfast, review in the *Chicago Tribune*, Saturday, October 14th.



10:00 – 11:00 AM **SESSION I**

*The Impending Crisis: Background to the Lincoln-Douglas Debates*

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

**1 Stephen A. Douglas: Preserver of the Union**

Compared to Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln could be considered a latecomer to preservation of the union. From the time he took his seat in Congress in December 1843, Douglas developed the compromises that developed the Great West – and kept the South from seceding.

PRESENTER: **Reg Ankrom**, Quincy

**2 A Nation Adjusting: "The Great Persuader," "Old Dick," and the "Crisis of 1850"**

The "Compromise of 1850" was largely the product of two Quincycans, Stephen A. Douglas and William A. Richardson. Was this "compromise" a mutual agreement and a durable solution to the problems posed by slavery, peace, land, and gold, or was it a temporary "adjustment" of the nation in response to them?

PRESENTER: **Steve Schneider**, Chicago

**3 The Fateful Kansas-Nebraska Act: A Party Abandoned, a New Party Formed, and Quincy Politicians Intimately Involved**

The paper will address the amazing series of events needed to pass a law that produced consequences that justly may be considered a proximate cause of the Civil War.

PRESENTER: **Dr. David Costigan**, Quincy University

**4 Rail Splitter in a Hurry: The Ambition and Purpose of a Prairie Politician**

Abraham Lincoln's ambition, morality and purpose take him from frontier Illinois to reviving the principles of the founding fathers and making a difference on the world stage. The Rail Splitter's political acumen, relentless preparation, and a sense of his own mortality enable the prairie politician to rise from obscurity and forever change democracy in America.

PRESENTER: **Rob Mellon**, Quincy High School

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **SESSION II**

*Slavery: "Where the Lincoln-Douglas Debate fits into the broad perspective of ante-bellum history."* – David M. Potter, historian

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

**5 Three for Freedom: The Misadventures of the Starry-eyed Abolitionists from Quincy in Missouri**

In 1841, a vibrant community of abolitionists was growing in Adams County. Slaves who made it across the Mississippi could find friends among the frequently 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, Thompson, Work, and Burr, tired of waiting for slaves to come to them, headed into Missouri with little more than their idealism.

PRESENTER: **Terrill Dempsey**, Quincy

**6 Blowing in the Wind: The American Consciousness**

How did *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe affect human empathy, especially in the North, and what impact did the Dred Scott Court case have in expediting the crisis?

PRESENTERS: **Dr. Joe Messina**, Quincy University; **Dr. Scott Giltner**, Culver-Stockton College

**7 Moral Evil Sanctioned by God: Southern Evangelicals and the Problem of Slavery in Antebellum America**

By referring to slavery as an "evil" Lincoln believed that the practice of slavery raised moral questions that the country could not ignore. Before the political crisis of 1861, American churches were torn by what one historian has labeled a "theological crisis." What was the religious thought of pro-slavery ministers and the reactions articulated by their anti-slavery opponents?

PRESENTER: **Dr. John Ayabe**, Quincy University

**8 Illinois Abolitionists and the Crisis of the 1850s**

By the mid-1830s, abolitionists, most of them from New England, began pouring into Illinois. The abolitionists were radicals whose views frightened even many Republicans. But their commitment to the cause of immediately freeing the slaves created change in Illinois just prior to the onset of the Civil War.

PRESENTER: **Dr. Justin Coffey**, Quincy University

## THE MORALITY OF SLAVERY AS ADDRESSED ON OCTOBER 13TH, 1858

"...reduced to its lowest element, [slavery] is no other than that between the man that thinks slavery is wrong and those who do not think it wrong... We think it is a moral, a social, and a political wrong... [Douglas] has, I believe, the honor of never saying that it is right or wrong."

– ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"I hold that under the Constitution of the United States, each State of this Union has a right to do as it pleases on the subject of slavery... I hold that the people of the slaveholding States are civilized men as well as we... They are accountable to God and to posterity and not to us..."

– STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

12:00 – 12:35 PM **LUNCH**

**Box Lunch Pickup is in the Lobby Area**

**Lunch Options:**

Dine and Interact with Mr. Lincoln

Dine and Interact with Mr. Douglas

Learn About the Lincoln-Douglas Debate  
Site Enhancements

Enjoy Authentic Lincoln-Era Music



The sixth Lincoln-Douglas Debate took place in Washington Park directly across from the columned Adams County Courthouse.

12:45 – 1:45 PM **SESSION III**

*The Turning Point:  
The 6th Debate*

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

**9 Raccoons and Politicians: The Tri-States Gather for the 6<sup>th</sup> Debate**

A look at the atmosphere, individuals, and events surrounding the most significant day in Quincy's history.

PRESENTER: **Phil Germann**, Quincy

**10 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 13th? Was it burnout or something else? Find out what Lincoln and his Quincy friends kept private.

PRESENTER: **Iris Nelson**, Quincy

**11 River City Confrontation: Lincoln and Douglas at the Quincy Debate**

What issues and concepts did Lincoln and Douglas focus on during this debate? What influence did this debate have on the outcome of the 1858 Senatorial contest? How did the Quincy debate effect Lincoln's political future?

PRESENTER: **Dr. Larry Balsamo**, Western Illinois University

**12 Front Lines of History: The Pre-Civil War Press**

Newspapers in 1858 were partisan in ways that would offend us today. An examination of the attitudes and language of some of the newspapers of that day.

PRESENTER: **Joe Conover**, Quincy

1:45 – 2:45 PM **SESSION IV**

*Interrelating History in Words,  
Sounds, and Images: Applications*

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

**13 Bringing the Age of Lincoln into the Classroom: A Teacher Workshop with Dr. Burton**

Find out how to take advantage of educational and historical databases to enhance your classroom resources. Learn one on one with a teacher who knows how to utilize valuable online instruction.

PRESENTER: **Dr. Vernon Burton**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**14 Point/Counterpoint: The Words of Lincoln and Douglas on Key Issues of the Quincy Debate**

Using debate quotes selected to frame Lorado Taft's sculpture at the Quincy Debate Plaza, Gary DeClue as Douglas and Jack Inghram as Lincoln, will interpret the six highlighted themes.

PRESENTERS: **Gary DeClue**, John Wood Community College;  
**Jack Inghram**, Quincy

**15 Among the Oldest Arts, Storytelling: One Slave's Voice**

Hear perspectives of an 1850's Missouri slave; what she overheard, what she thought, and what action she took. Through a how-to primer on storytelling, learn how to teach, explain, and instill knowledge.

PRESENTERS: **Mett Morris**, Quincy; **Paul Schwartzkopf**, Quincy

**16 Lorado Taft Beautifies Quincy with Sculpture: October 13, 1936**

Lorado Taft (1860-1936) sought to beautify cities through his sculpture; his numerous works are honored across Illinois. Recent photography and video capture the wide array of Taft's tremendous talent.

PRESENTER: **Ruth Ann Snowden**, Quincy

A pre-registration and payment are required. \$25 per person. Educator discounts available. Additional brochures and registration forms are available at: [LincolnDouglasQuincyDebate.com](http://LincolnDouglasQuincyDebate.com)  
Please feel free to contact us with any questions: [TheTurningPoint2008@yahoo.com](mailto:TheTurningPoint2008@yahoo.com) | (217) 228-4515

1858 Photography and Illustrations provided by the Chicago Historical Society, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library