



The Wide Awake Bulletin



The Lincoln Group of New York

FALL 2004

President's Letter



Joseph E. Garrera

Dear Members & Friends,

We start this Lincoln season with grateful thanks to the talented individuals who have put this publication together. After an extended absence our annual bulletin is once again in circulation. I am proud to introduce Steven R. Koppelman as our new editor and Henry F. Ballone as our graphic artist.

Hank Ballone is a highly successful desktop publisher with a serious interest in the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. He brings us a wealth of talent and experience. Steve Koppelman works as a vice president for North America's largest publisher of trade magazines and business information. Steve is a member of the executive committee and served as editor of our 25th anniversary publication that came out last year. My hat is off to both of these dedicated members; please join me in applauding their contribution through this work of excellence.

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Editor: Steven R. Koppelman
Artist: Henry F. Ballone

The Lincoln Group of New York 25th Anniversary Meeting • April 12, 2003

In a gathering both celebratory and historic, the Lincoln Group of New York held its 25th anniversary meeting on April 12, 2003. Celebratory for sure as the organization commemorated its first 25 years of existence. A special publication, detailing the history of the organization with a listing of each and every prior meeting date, speaker, and subject as well as letters of congratulations from New York political leaders including Governor George E. Pataki and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton was distributed. Historic, certainly, as the late Senator Paul



Senator Paul Simon (left), Harold Holzer (right)

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Historic, certainly, as the late Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, in one of his last public appearances, delivered a moving and memorable Keynote Address.

November, 2003 Meeting

On November 11, 2003, Pulitzer Prize winning author David Herbert Donald added yet another honor to his illustrious career--The Lincoln Group of New York Award of

achievement for 2003. The honor was bestowed upon him for his latest book entitled, *We Are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends*. This work examines Lincoln through his relationships with some of his closest friends including Joshua Speed, William Herndon, William Seward, and his private secretaries during the presidential years, John Nicolay and John Hay. The Award Committee was comprised of Professor James Rawlins (Chair), Professor Mark Washburne, and Paul Ellis-Graham.

book, calling it appropriately enough, "an outstanding achievement that gives us a deeper understanding of Abraham Lincoln." Past winners of this prestigious

Lincoln's early life and referred to it as an "important contribution." As if this wasn't enough to make the occasion of our well-attended (to say the very least) November meeting most memorable, the attendees were then privileged to hear our Award recipient, Professor Donald, deliver his lecture on "We Are Lincoln Men." The professor used his unique ability to display not only his renowned knowledge of Lincoln's life but also his innate warmth and sincerity in delivering what was simply a superb presentation. Perhaps no one is better suited to explain how Lincoln's closest friendships (though not necessarily intimate ones), served to shape him as a man and develop his career. No one in attendance could have walked away from that meeting unmoved by the eloquent Professor Donald.

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**Donald Wins Award of Achievement
Delights Audience with Lecture
"We Are Lincoln Men"**

Award include Douglas Wilson, Garry Wills, and Mark E. Neely, Jr.

But, the work of the Award Committee did not end here. They also awarded a special Citation of Achievement to the Lincoln College Museum for their participation in the writing, consulting, and producing of the video documentary *From Surveyor to President: A. Lincoln in Logan County*. The committee was impressed with this analysis of Abraham

In presenting him with the Award, Professor Rawlins pointed out how impressed the committee was with this

The Lincoln Group of New York

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John K. Lattimer
Steven R. Koppelman
Milton Seltzer
Richard E. Sloan
Larry West



Professor David Herbert Donald (center) receiving the 2003 Lincoln Group of New York's Award of Achievement from Award Committee member Paul Ellis-Graham (left) and Committee Chair Professor James Rawlins (right)

February, 2004 Meeting

DR. JOSEPH R. FORNIERI REVEALS ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S POLITICAL FAITH

Dr. Joseph Fornieri, assistant professor of political science at Rochester Institute of Technology, where he was a recipient of the Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching, addressed The Lincoln Group of New York on February 5, 2004 lecturing on his book, *Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith*.

The timeliness of this lecture as we entered a presidential election year could not have been missed. Dr. Fornieri, fresh off an appearance at the Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg, presented truly compelling evidence of Lincoln's political convictions as well as his biblical and deep personal beliefs. Both enlightening and thought provoking, Dr. Fornieri had his audience highly engaged as he shed new light on how Lincoln's vision of America was shaped by his religious and political faith.

Dr. Fornieri is considered to be a true up-and-coming Lincoln scholar and his lecture certainly supported that conviction. Historians will be hearing from him for some time to come.

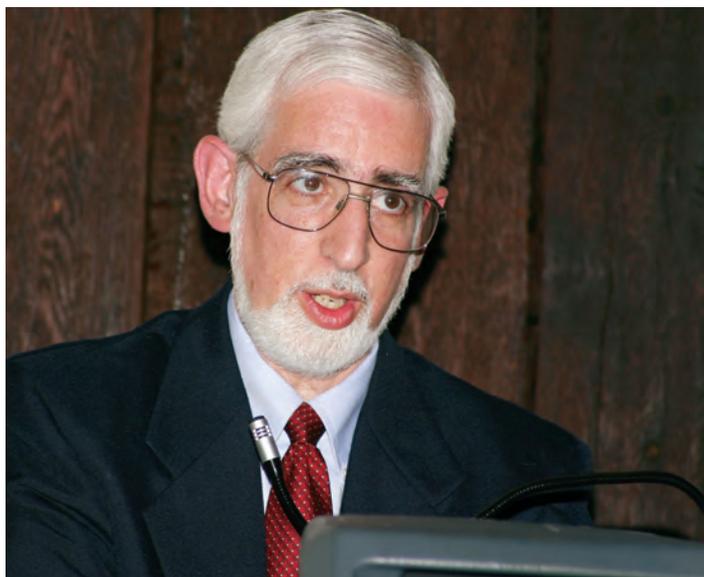
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Joseph R. Fornieri

April 2004 Meeting

RICHARD SLOAN BRINGS LINCOLN'S FUNERAL IN NEW YORK CITY "TO LIFE"



Richard Sloan

What a pleasure it was on April 28, 2004 as a Lincoln Group of New York founding member and past President, Richard Sloan, delivered a multi-media presentation allowing us to relive the historic Lincoln funeral in New York City. Richard was introduced by Gina Psipsikas, who was at one time, the youngest ever member of the Lincoln Group of New York, joining at age nine. But, in the spirit of full-disclosure (and family harmony), I would be remiss if I did not mention that her record was surpassed by my son, Scott Koppelman, who joined the Group as an eight-year old in 1999.

Richard spoke with true authority as he detailed in words, pictures (both then and now, which was fascinating), and music, each and every step of the funeral procession. This funeral was unequalled in American history, certainly to that point in time if not still. The ceremonies were so elaborate that they required two days to encompass.

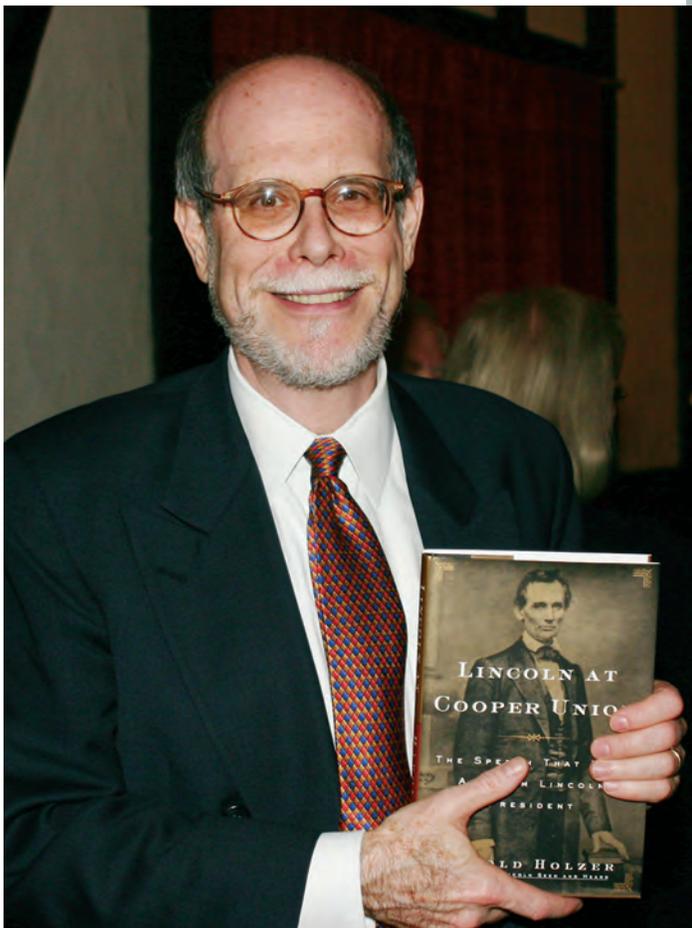
As pointed out by Lincoln Group of New York President, Joseph E. Garrera, "The Lincoln funeral was an event so spectacular that it transformed the funeral industry in this country." I believe it's fair to say that Richard Sloan's program "Abraham Lincoln's Funeral in New York City" transformed what we all thought we knew about this historic and solemn occasion.

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November 4, 2004 Meeting

HOLZER'S NEW BOOK, LINCOLN AT COOPER UNION, RECEIVES ACCOLADES

Founding member Harold Holzer, who will be the guest lecturer at our upcoming meeting on November 4, 2004, has been receiving numerous accolades and rave reviews for his latest book, *Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President*.



Harold Holzer with his latest book

Professional reviewers have called this book "fascinating" and "vivid." They say it is "well written and documented," and an "excellent contribution to Lincolniana." In referring to it as "a gem of a book," one reviewer stated unequivocally that this book "is thought-provoking, a pleasure to read and stands out as one of the finest recent books on our sixteenth president."



Actor Sam Waterston appeared in his role as Abraham Lincoln and reenacted the famous speech May 5, 2004 at Cooper Union.

In addition to receiving a slew of outstanding reviews, a special event to celebrate the publication of the book was held on May 5, 2004 at Cooper Union. Celebrated actor Sam Waterston appeared with Mr. Holzer to reprise his role as Abraham Lincoln and reread the famous speech before a "standing room only" crowd that included New York Governor George E. Pataki. This "social experiment" as Waterston called it, proved to be a huge success for the publication launch.

To add one more tribute to the ever-growing list, I would simply point you to page 54 of the book where Mr. Holzer quotes one of the young men that had invited Lincoln to speak in New York. The man observed that Lincoln produced "the most carefully prepared, the most elaborately investigated and demonstrated and verified of all the work of his life." I believe that the exact same thing can be said here of Harold Holzer's latest contribution to our knowledge of the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

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Founding member Harold Holzer
will be the guest lecturer at our
November 4, 2004 Meeting

Milton Seltzer in the News

Executive committee member Milt

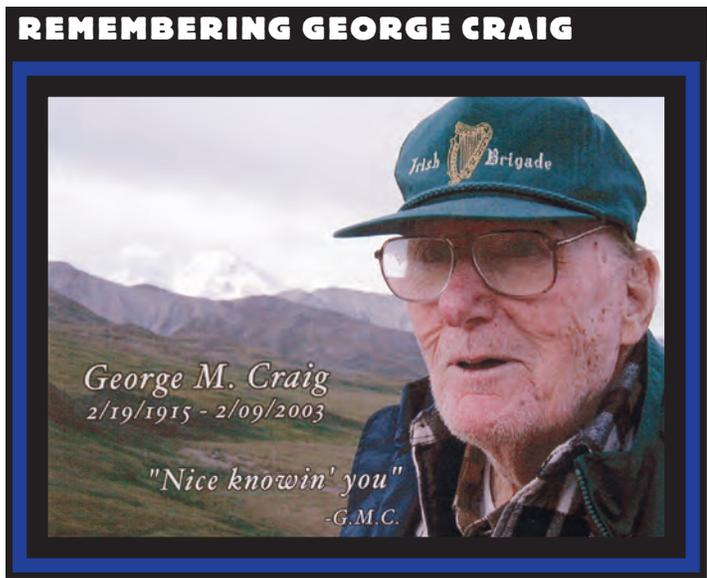
Seltzer was featured in a Newsday article titled "Creatively Yours." The focus of the article was on imaginative people who make their own holiday greeting cards.

Each year Milt creates a different Abraham Lincoln related theme card which he sends to his fellow Lincoln devotees. This past year's card was a photo of a statue of Abraham Lincoln with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and General Ulysses S. Grant. However, Milt used his skill and ingenuity to show all three wearing red Santa Claus hats and seemingly reading a holiday card.

President of The Lincoln Group of New York, Joseph E. Garrera exclaims "His holiday cards are collectibles, people look forward to seeing them, they're dazzling and exciting to receive."

This used to be known to just a select group of Milt's friends and family. Now, due to the Newsday article, all of New York knows it too! **Congratulations Milt!**

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Since the last publishing of The Wide Awake, one of the founding members, and former president of the Lincoln Group of New York, George Craig passed away. He may not be with us physically, but his spirit of camaraderie will guide us forever. George was well known to all students of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. If you had the pleasure to meet him, you'll never forget him. He is truly missed.

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**ATTENTION MEMBERS:
YOUR GENEROUS HELP
IS REQUESTED...**

As you're certainly aware, one of our most popular Lincoln Group of New York meeting events is the book raffle. What you might not know is that our members donate all of the books. That's where your help is needed. To keep this raffle going with high quality Lincoln publications, we respectfully request that if you have any books that you can spare for the raffle, simply bring them to the meeting and see one of our Executive Committee members to ensure that they're included in that night's raffle. Thank you, in advance, for anything you can contribute.

President's Letter, continued



As president I often reflect on the quality and success of our programs. Perhaps more important, I reflect on the many good people in our organization. Our objective is to foster the study of Abraham Lincoln, and one important benefit of that study is our ability to network and develop lasting relationships with outstanding members who share a passion for researching history. I am thankful to hear from those of you who occasionally send me notes and recommendations, and am honored to be a part of your Lincoln experience.

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 4, 2004 when we host Harold Holzer who will speak about Lincoln at Cooper

Union. Holzer's accomplishments in bringing the Lincoln legacy to the American people are unsurpassed. His new book *Lincoln At Cooper Union: The Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President* is a seminal achievement. Plan on attending and please bring a guest to our special meeting on November 4, 2004 for what is certain to be a memorable evening with Harold Holzer in New York.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH E. GARRERA

25th Anniversary, continued

Simon of Illinois, in one of his last public appearances, delivered a moving and memorable Keynote Address.

After a stirring welcome by Lincoln Group of New York President Joseph E. Garrera, those that were fortunate enough to be in attendance at the venerable 7th Regiment Armory in New York City, enjoyed a slide show of 25 years of Lincoln Group memories by founding President Larry West. This was followed by a stimulating lecture from Harold Holzer fittingly entitled "Lincoln and New York." Chief Justice of the State of Rhode Island, Frank J. Williams, then presented President Joseph E. Garrera with



Chief Justice of the State of Rhode Island, Frank J.

Williams, presents President Joseph E. Garrera with an official State of Rhode Island proclamation commemorating the Group's 25th anniversary.

an official state of Rhode Island Proclamation commemorating the Group's 25th anniversary. Chief Justice Williams followed with a thought-pro-

voking lecture titled "Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties: Now and Then." This session stimulated some spirited discussion.

Other events of the day and evening included Professor Iver Bernstein, acclaimed author of *The New York City Draft Riots*, lecturing on the "Real Gangs of New York," and a panel discussion on "Collecting Lincoln." The star-studded panel included renowned collector Dr. John K. Lattimer, author of *Collecting Lincoln* Stuart Schneider, and proprietor of The Abraham Lincoln Bookshop in Chicago Daniel Weinberg.

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25th Anniversary, continued

Perhaps though, the highlight of the gala celebration was the appearance of former Senator Paul Simon of Illinois who delivered a keynote address that not only illuminated us on Abraham Lincoln, the man, but also demonstrated what a kind and passionate public servant and man Senator Simon himself was. His presentation was truly inspiring.

As if all of this was not enough, other senses were stimulated as well. Visually, we were enthralled by the impressive museum-quality collection of Lincoln memorabilia brought in by group members such as Dr. Lattimer and Joseph E. Garrera. Our auditory sense was aroused in the moving renditions of both the Star Spangled Banner and The Battle Hymn of the Republic performed beautifully by Jacqueline Kroschell.

It was a most memorable event on which



The impressive museum-quality collection of Lincoln memorabilia brought in by group members such as Dr. John K. Lattimer and Joseph E. Garrera

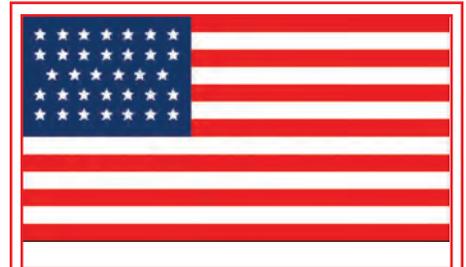
the Executive Committee had worked very long and hard. All that were fortunate enough to attend enjoyed themselves immensely.

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As one group member commented,
"We should do this every year!"



Executive committee member Milt Seltzer (left) and Vice President of the Lincoln Group of New York, Hans Trefousse (right) as they were celebrating the anniversary.



On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

- Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.

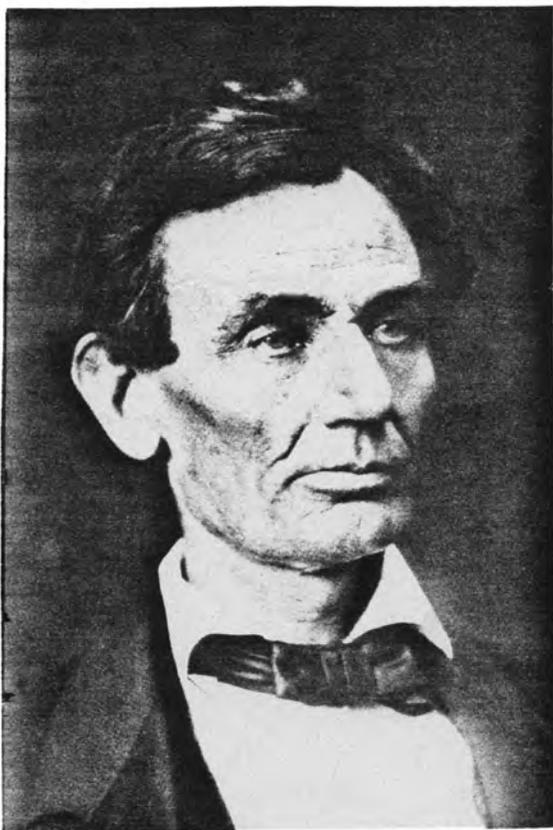
- Act of April 4, 1818 - provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.

The 34-Star Flag: This flag became the official United States Flag on July 4th, 1861. A star was added for the admission of Kansas (January 29th, 1861) and was to last for 2 years. **The only President to serve under this flag was Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865).**

Source: www.usflag.org/flag.evolution.html

A Man Worth Knowing





In an age where values have eroded and sports celebrities are considered role models, one man's accomplishments still provide encouragement and guidance.

He believed in the American Dream, in liberty, in equality, and in the supreme power of truth.

He believed important principles may not and must not be flexible. He endured his struggles with determination and courage.

He had a faith that right makes might and with that faith he lived his life.

No one can know him too well--and no one can know him at all--without being better for the knowledge. His name is **Abraham Lincoln**.

THE WIDE AWAKE is a publication of The Lincoln Group of New York. We welcome your feedback, letters and comments, as well as news of your Lincoln related activities. Please direct your correspondence to:

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