

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum - Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

**Guest Speakers:** Darrel Bigham and Jennifer Rosenfeld

**Title of File:** 20070207ssflincoln

**Date:** February 7, 2007

Room: Social Studies Forum

**MichaelH:** Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

**MichaelH:** tonight's topic is VERY special...

**MichaelH:** and one that we've been planning for some time

**MichaelH:** we have some representatives from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission joining us this evening for what I hope will be the first of many sessions

**MichaelH:** we'll let them talk to us in a minute about the Commission and what we'll discuss tonight in a second

**MichaelH:** but, let's first start with introductions. Would everyone let us know who you are, what you teach (or do), and your geographic location?

**DavidWe:** I'm David Weksler. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer in Tapped In

**MichaelH** is a social studies teacher in southwestern Indiana

**BichN:** I'm Bich, a student teacher at Moore Elementary in Houston.

**KyleGst13:** Kyle Ward, History & Political Science, Indiana

**JamesCox:** James Cox 5th grade in San Antonio

**ByronH:** Byron Holdiman. Currently in the Pittsburgh PA area, but moving to Quincy, IL soon. I am teaching professional development workshops on using primary sources from the Library of Congress and will be doing the same thing in Illinois.

**RobertGst21:** I'm Rob Kennedy. I work for HarpWeek in Norfolk, VA, and formerly taught American history.

**KarenSN:** Karen Needles, College Park, Md. former teacher, now director of Lincolnarchives.us

**GaryML:** Gary Livingston, TX History teacher in San Antonio

**JimBe:** Hi, I'm Jim Beeghley. I am a doctoral student in instructional technology at Duquesne Univ in Pittsburgh, Pa and I live in central Pennsylvania. My current research is the uses of technology to teach the Civil War.

**MichaelH:** let's take a minute and think about what Lincoln means to us. When we think of Lincoln, (other than President), what's the first thing that comes to mind?

**DarrelB:** I'm Darrel Bigham, a member of the ALBC and chair of its Education Committee. I am administrator and history faculty at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. I hope to be able to paste some information about an upcoming teachers institute. but cannot somehow do that. I may forward that to Michael, and ask him to figure out how to get this to you.

**MichaelH:** Darrel, if you want to send it now via e-mail, I can paste it before the end of the session tonight

**DavidWe:** Welcome to tapped In, Darrel

**GaryML:** Bravery

**TedW:** Thanks, Good evening I am new and this is my first night on. Be gentle.

**MichaelH:** yes, I agree with that, Gary

**JennifeGst23:** I'm Jennifer Rosenfeld, Program Director of the ALBC--happy to join you all as well.

**DavidWe:** Welcome to Tapped In, Ted

**JamesCox:** Bold, integrity, big picture guy

**MichaelH:** don't worry, Ted, we are really informal here

**MichaelH:** that's good, too, James

**GaryML:** stood up for what is right

**MichaelH:** so, you'd say "integrity", Gary?

**BichN:** An American Symbol of Equality

**DarrelB:** Sorry for the technical glitch. I just added information about our institute June 14-15, with apologies for methods. Yes, information is available at <http://www.usi.edu/hsi> [Ed. Note: The information that Darrel pasted into the chat has been moved to the end of this transcript. BJB]

**MichaelH:** it's ok. Darrel has a really cool institute on Lincoln during the summer, and he wanted to let you all know about it. It'll be in your transcript, and I'll post it to the listserv and to the SSF list after the session. It'll be a lot of fun...I'm definitely planning on going

**DavidWe:** Have you been before, Michael?

**DarrelB:** We are adding registration details in the next several weeks. But in the meantime, contact my AA at the address/phone noted at the top.

**MichaelH:** not yet, David... just had schedule conflicts the past two years

**MichaelH:** ok, we all know how we would think of Lincoln... how do we get our students to appreciate that Lincoln that WE see?

**MichaelH:** That's why Darrel and Jennifer are joining us tonight

**KarenSN:** His words say it all. Using his speeches, and correspondence is the surest way to see Lincoln.

**MichaelH:** They want to find out what our needs and thoughts are about possible resources, lessons, and other ideas we might have about how to "teach" Lincoln

**GaryML:** I think you have to first introduce what was going on in the U.S. at the time

**MichaelH:** don't forget though... Lincoln is much more than "social studies".

**BrettML:** Definitely. context matters.

**DavidWe:** I just watched the re-broadcast of the Ken Burns film on the Civil War

**MichaelH:** he's Language Arts, he's character ed, he's even math and science.

**KyleGst13:** Let them know where he came from and how he got his start.

**KarenSN:** His favorite Shakespeare was MacBeth

**BichN:** Let them know of the great things he has done.

**BrettML:** It's important for students to grasp the political forces of that time - what he had to contend with.

**KarenSN:** Loved to tell jokes, but also used parables to get his point across

**MichaelH:** Jennifer and Darrel, I wonder if this might be a good time for you to show the web site and maybe we can start with what you'd like the session participants to share with you tonight

**JennifeGst23:** Sure, our website is [www.lincoln200.gov](http://www.lincoln200.gov)

**MichaelH:** don't stray too far, though, we have a lot to share and discuss tonight

**JennifeGst23:** On the Web site, you will see on the left hand side, a navigation bar that has various topics: if you click on "about the Commission," you will find bios on each of the Commissioners, a copy of our enabling legislation, as well as info about our staff.

**MichaelH:** so, the ALBC is a Federal project, right, Jennifer?

**JennifeGst23:** Yes, the Commission was created by Congress

**MichaelH** checks to see if everyone can find the webpage ok

**JennifeGst23:** Its members, who are appointed by the president and congressional leaders, include political leaders, jurists, historians, and collectors. There are 15 members

**DavidWe:** Are you guys connected to the new museum in Springfield, IL?

**DarrelB:** I would add, though I am unsure (without having the site in front of me) how you get to it, that we have lots of online resources for teachers and students, and also a list of endorsed projects, many of which are K-12.

**JennifeGst23:** One of our Commissioners, Julie Cellini, is part of the team responsible for the museum in Springfield.

**DavidWe** nods

**JennifeGst23:** The section that might hold the most interest to you all as teachers is the section currently titled, "About Lincoln." There you will find on-line resources like links to lesson plans, Lincoln organizations, government agencies, a simple timeline, the text of some of Lincoln's best known speeches and writings, plus a gallery of images.

**MichaelH:** there's a lot we want to discuss tonight, and this session is just the first of many discussions we want to have over the next several months (Abe celebrates his 200th birthday in February, 2009, and that's just right around the corner)

**MichaelH:** There's definitely a lot of great resources there Jennifer

**MichaelH:** I know we've discussed (Jennifer, Darrel, and Eileen) some ideas we want to cover in the session tonight, so let's see if our group has some ideas, questions, or suggestions about that

**MichaelH:** I think the ALBC wants to make sure that K-12 teachers have a good selection of lessons and resources, and they also want to stress that just like Lincoln himself belongs to all of us... the teaching of Lincoln goes beyond social studies as well

**JennifeGst23:** We have a nice start on our website, but would like to expand it with links to other resources, so I would be curious to know what sites you use currently and find useful.

**MichaelH:** How do we teach about Lincoln (thinking of the upcoming bicentennial) and do the man justice? How do we best honor his memory and achievements?

**DarrelB:** One point, in response to **TedW**. Grassroots activity is central for us. Consider, as one example, the impact of one school project we endorsed through a HS class in Ohio--Emancipation Day, Sept 22 in Washington Courthouse, Ohio, This group of students and teachers has convinced the Ohio General Assembly to make Emancipation Day a statewide event.

**DavidWe:** What do they plan to do on that day, Darrel?

**JennifeGst23:** And they want to serve as a model for other schools to do the same in their state.

**JimBe:** What about a blog on teaching about Lincoln?

**DarrelB:** I think they want to restore a day-long celebration that, on Sept 22, was fairly common among African American schools --at least as t have researched it, in the Midwest.

**MichaelH:** Jennifer, that's a great idea (Jim's idea of a blog...) can you do that on the ALBC site?

**JennifeGst23:** Not with the current set-up, but our tech people are looking into it. We were hoping to have various "guest bloggers" from our Advisory Committee post.

**DarrelB:** There is a blog on Lincoln, although I am unsure whether the focus is teaching, that Brian Dirck at Anderson University in Indiana maintains. It may be the only blog at the present. It is quite good. He was a student of Philip Paludan, a major student of Lincoln and Civil War America.

**MichaelH:** I think that would be cool... to be able to interact...

**JimBe:** the A. Lincoln Blog?

**MichaelH:** don't forget, you can do similar things in TAPPED IN... it wouldn't be a blog, but it would be interaction in real time between experts and teachers, or perhaps even students

**KarenSN:** The Lincolnarchives.us website has the Railsplitter Forum located at <http://www.lincolnarchives.us/forum/login.php> . You are more than welcome to use that to discuss Lincoln and teaching strategies

**DarrelB:** Jim--I think that is the address.

**JennifeGst23:** Our Advisory Committee consists of over 150 people--many are famous scholars like Doris Kearns Goodwin

**JennifeGst23:** You can see the whole list of our website

**JimBe:** Time is always an issue in the classroom. How can we help teachers by showing them strategies for working these lessons into a tight curriculum?

**MichaelH:** We'd definitely love to get Doris Kearns Goodwin here for a chat, Jennifer

**DavidWe:** There is a challenge for you, Michael!

**JeffC:** I think it would be interesting for students to find the flip side of Lincoln... things that aren't completely positive about him. We idolize him (and Washington, etc.), but of course in today's society... negative sells. Students would be interested I think in learning that the man wasn't perfect... there were flaws... both human and political.

**DavidWe:** he lost a lot of elections

**JimBe:** what about an audio interview of a Lincoln actor? answering questions from a reporter like Lincoln would

**KyleGst13:** He was also not loved and adored by all while he was President.

**BichN:** what flaws?

**MichaelH:** Jennifer, actually, you have capability for a message board and group room in TI right now if you'd like to set that up

**DavidWe** . o O ( he suspended Habeas Corpus )

**DarrelB:** And many of these people on the ALBC Advisory Committee are on our Speakers Pool (see ALBC website). Yesterday as a consequence of being on it I received a call from a fifth grade student in Emporia, Kansas. I haven't talked with 10 year olds about scholarship for some time.

**RobertGst21:** Brian Dirck is currently discussing Lincoln's flaws on his blog, which, I agree is excellent. He would also be a good choice to have on this forum.

**JeffC:** Well... not just that... he was also autocratic. I remember there was a vote in his cabinet once on some issue (don't remember what it was) and he said "There are twelve eyes and one nay (his). The nays have it."

**ByronH:** Maybe a database of short (1-2 day) lesson plans can be placed on the website submitted by teachers.

**MichaelH:** Rob, could you send me some contact information on Brian via e-mail and I will e-mail him?

**MichaelH:** Byron, that's a great idea....

**MichaelH:** the only thing, Jeff, I'd feel much better about Lincoln being a "decider" than.... well, that's another topic for another day

**RobertGst21:** Michael, the URL is <http://alincolnblog.blogspot.com/> which should have contact information.

**MichaelH:** thanks, Rob, I'll check it out after our session

**MichaelH:** Rob, you might also take a moment and show Jennifer and Darrel your web resource if you'd like

**JennifeGst23:** Thanks!

**MichaelH:** While we're discussing... I want to come back, also, to Byron's suggestion

**DarrelB:** For those of older people who haven't had much experience at these forms of communication, could you preface your replies with the name of the person to whom you are responding? If not, it's a general observation.

**MichaelH:** I would think we would need lessons that would be suitable for several grade levels, and also cross-curricular

**RobertGst21:** Sure. HarpWeek's scanned over 400 Lincoln-related cartoons from period newspapers. All the images are indexed by person, topic, symbol, and place. The website can be found at: <http://www.abrahamlincolncartoons.info/>

**DarrelB: MichaelH--**That is crucial. Because of teaching standards, we will otherwise limit teaching of Lincoln and his times to grades 4, 8, and 11, and to social studies.

**JennifeGst23:** Robert, are there lessons attached to these primary source materials?

**MichaelH:** That makes sense, Darrel. I think we could also combine some various disciplines within those lessons... for example, maybe ask students to do some writing, or do some statistical research of some kind?

**ByronH:** I will be having teachers creating lesson plans based upon primary source materials and since I will be in Illinois, I can highly suggest that they use Lincoln as their topic.

**RobertGst21:** No, Jennifer, but we do have a lesson plan developed by Eric Rothschild called "Lincoln's Campaign Manager." It can be accessed via our main website: [www.harpweek.com](http://www.harpweek.com).

**JennifeGst23:** To Michael's point, the IN Humanities Council just developed some lessons on the early Lincoln years that have a cross-discipline approach, on the Elem level if I remember correctly

**MichaelH:** Jennifer, I've visited the Harper's site before... and it might be a good one to add to your resources, if you would like.

**DarrelB:** For all who are engaged this evening, the ALBC web site has some lesson plans and other teaching materials online. Also check the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Humanities Council, both of which have added online lesson plans in the recent past.

**RobertGst21:** The specific URL for "Lincoln's Campaign Manager" is: <http://lincolnanthecivilwar.com/Activities/LCM/LCMdefault.asp>

**MichaelH:** thanks, Rob

**RobertGst21:** You're welcome, Michael.

**MichaelH:** Darrel and Jennifer, we've discussed a bit about soliciting lessons from teachers... do you think that would be a beneficial thing to add to the ALBC site... letting teachers submit lessons and deciding which lessons should be included on the site?

**JennifeGst23:** I should also mention that I am familiar with Karen's Document on Wheels project and its value to teachers

**KarenSN:** Thanks Jennifer

**KarenSN:** We will be letting teachers submit lessons and units on the website

**KarenSN:** With the thousands of primary sources we have online, teachers can build some great lessons



**ByronH:** Also in 2009, National History Day theme is Individual in History. Would be a good year for students to choose Lincoln and focus on him in their exhibit.

**JimBe:** Do any of the websites have video clips for teachers to incorporate?

**JennifeGst23:** Yes, we hope to let teachers post lessons--we already have some tied to specific institutions like national Parks sites, for example.

**BrettML:** That sounds great.

**JennifeGst23:** We have been in conversation with National History Day and they hope to develop some Lincoln lessons for their contest book to encourage Lincoln projects. They said they did that for the 50th anniversary of WWII and got a great response.

**ByronH:** Jennifer, that sounds great

**JennifeGst23:** Jim, not that I know of (video clips). Does anyone have any they recommend?

**DarrelB:** Could we have a brief discussion on why Lincoln (Newsweek, recently) identified Lincoln as the most influential American? Why most scholars consider him the greatest president? How do we communicate that to our students? To a postmodern age? To many here and abroad who are opposed to the sort of modernization he advocated? If Lincoln were to come back to the US, what would impress him the most? The least? Those of us who have worked with Lincoln Boyhood Natl Memorial in Spencer County, IN, think it would be the high school abutting the Lincoln farm.

**DarrelB:** Sorry for the glitch, everyone. I had intended to add a note that Jennifer could expand upon about Natl History Day

**MichaelH:** It's ok, Darrel, and a great question

**MichaelH:** Darrel, my thought would be (to your question)... a self-made man... little formal education, but a wonderful intellect, led the country through it's greatest crisis... didn't do the popular thing, but did the RIGHT thing

**MichaelH:** Jennifer and Darrel, we've got about seven or eight minutes left....

**MichaelH:** let's consider what we might do next... what our next steps should be....

**JamesCox:** I agree Michael. He was determined to preserve the union. A big picture goal

**MichaelH:** we've had a lot of great ideas tonight, but it's evident we will be refining this a lot more as we go on

**MichaelH:** so... here's what I'd like to propose...

**MichaelH:** We probably need a follow-up session at both of your convenience.... and we can work up an agenda about what we should discuss next

**MichaelH:** Kyle is doing a session about how historic events are interpreted (and reinterpreted) by history textbooks in our late February session, but we can schedule some follow-up chats as the TI schedule allows

**JennifeGst23:** Sounds great.

**MichaelH:** I think our little group can help the ALBC think of some direction and resources as we go along...

**DarrelB:** Michael. Many thanks for setting this up, I think we'd like to establish another discussion session. In several places in TI. And to create a room for Lincoln on Tapped In

**JennifeGst23:** Thank you all so much for the ideas and suggestions. Please sign up for email updates on our website. We are also planning to offer a special "Lincoln Bicentennial Schools" designation for schools that plan a Lincoln project at their school during the 2008-9 school year.

**MichaelH:** That sounds great, Darrel... and it will be no problem. I can help you all do that via e-mail

**GaryML:** Thanks for the information tonight

**MichaelH:** Jennifer, you probably just said this, but what if anyone in our session would like to contact the ALBC... is there an e-mail address

**MichaelH:** Another quick thing.... if you'd like a personal reminder about upcoming ALBC sessions, please send me an e-mail at [mhutch@charter.net](mailto:mhutch@charter.net). When we schedule our next session, I'll e-mail you personally with that information

**JennifeGst23:** My address is [jero@loc.gov](mailto:jero@loc.gov) and all the other staff emails are available on our website too

**RobertGst21:** An interesting session. Thanks, Michael.

**MichaelH:** Darrel, Jennifer, thank you so much for joining us this evening

**MichaelH:** Rob, I'm glad you could join us... hope you'll come back for further sessions

**DavidWe:** Yes, well done, Darrel, Jennifer

**DarrelB:** Thanks, Michael, for arranging this. In the interim, I would suggest all look at [lincoln220.gov](http://lincoln220.gov), and the endorsement process. Let's get more schools involved.

**KyleGst13:** Thanks Mike for putting all his together. Talk to you later.

**MichaelH:** absolutely, Darrel. Maybe our participants tonight could help spread the word

**JennifeGst23:** Thank you all and thanks Michael for putting us all together this evening

**MichaelH:** I'll get with you on your session a bit later, Kyle

**DavidWe** will do his best to spread the word about the web site

**ByronH:** Thanks Mike, this has really got me thinking about some ideas. I am excited.

**KarenSN:** Who said they were working on technology and the Civil War?

**MichaelH:** Jim did... I think I have his e-mail address somewhere, Karen

**BJB2:** Jim Be was, Karen

**KarenSN:** Would appreciate it .

**ByronH:** Also want to let people know that the American Memory collections at the Library of Congress (<http://memory.loc.gov>) has a lot of primary source items on Lincoln and the Civil War.

**DavidWe:** LOC has great resources, Byron

=====

The Elusive Lincoln: Teaching and Learning about Abraham Lincoln through Documents and Images

Fourth Annual Lincoln Institute for Teachers  
University of Southern Indiana  
June 14-15, 2007

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jane Reynolds, [812-465-7014/areynold@usi.edu](mailto:812-465-7014/areynold@usi.edu)

Wednesday, June 13  
Informal reception and dinner for speakers and participants, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 14  
9:00 Welcome and Introductions

9:15 Creating Images of Lincoln during His Lifetime --Harold Holzer  
10:30 Break  
10:45 Reading between the Lines: Locating and Interpreting Lincoln Evidence --  
Matthew Pinsker  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Telling the Lincoln Story with Images from the Lincoln Collections at the  
Indiana Historical Society --Matthew McMichael  
2:00 Break  
2:15 Telling the Lincoln Story to a 21st Century Audience --Thomas Schwartz  
3:30 Break  
3:45 Panel Discussion: How stories are created and changed --The four  
presenters (Darrel Bigham, moderator)  
4:15 Conclusion  
5:30 Reception, University Center  
6:00 Dinner  
7:00 Public Presentation: Lincoln at the Cooper Union --Harold Holzer

Friday, June 15

8:00 Breakfast  
8:30 Reflections on Thursday—the four presenters  
9:00 Resources for Teachers and Students at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential  
Library and Museum --Tom Schwartz (also discuss Papers of AL, ALA resources)  
10:00 Concurrent Sessions (Select One)  
Online Resources: Primary Sources and Teaching Materials --Martha Beckort  
Lincoln Materials in the National Archives (tent.)  
11:00 Breakout Sessions (share experiences teaching about Lincoln, applications  
from previous institutes, and interest in the format of the 2008 institute; all rooms to have  
computers/web access) NOTE: Harold Holzer, Matt McMichael, and Matt Pinsker to  
“float” between sessions, providing informal comments and suggestions.

Teachers in Middle Schools will select which of the following is more apt for them.  
Elementary Teachers (Lee Bilderback and Robert Boorstrum) Martha Beckort will  
probably want to participate in this session.

Secondary Teachers (Bill Bartelt and Jon Carl)

This session will include an introduction to the SRI “Tapped In” project.

Bookstore will be open after Holzer presentation Thursday and from 9 to 12:30 on  
Friday.

12:30 Lunch and Adjournment