

Reginald R. Ankrom

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Academic Appointments:

Quincy University

Adjunct Professor of History, January 2023

Education:

University of Kansas

MS, Journalism, December 1973

Thesis: "Coverage of Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley during the 1968 Democratic National Convention" (Directed by Dr. Del Brinkman, Dean, William Allen White School of Journalism)

Illinois College:

BA, English, May 1971

Publications:

Books:

Stephen A. Douglas, Western Man: The Early Years in Congress, 1844-1850 (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland Publishing Company, 2021)

Winner, Best in Illinois History for Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society, 2022.

Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship, 1833-1843 (McFarland, 2015)

Winner, Superior Scholarship, Illinois State Historical Society, 2017.

"Stephen A. Douglas and Union: 1851-1861," anticipated publication 2026
(McFarland)

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

"John Wood and the Mormons," in *The Quincy Miracle: A Rescue Never to be Forgotten*, ed. Dr. Susan Easton Black (Sandy, Utah: History of the Saints, Inc., 2016)

Articles:

(Partial list; *Quincy Herald-Whig* unless noted)

"Lincoln-Douglas Debate Celebration Stirs Another Debate" (October 8, 2022)

"Death Keeps Son of U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas from Quincy" (October 1, 2022)

"Survivors of Quincy's Lincoln-Douglas Debate" (September 24, 2022)

"The Story of John Wood's Parents: Dr. Daniel Wood (1754-1843) and Catherine Crouse Wood (1774-1848)" *Governor's Post*, Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County (Spring 2022)

- “Illinois’ ‘Glory’ Brigade: Quincy Organized Illinois’ only Black Regiment of the Civil War,
Illinois Heritage Magazine, Illinois State Historical Society (May/June 2022)
- “John Wood Caught California Gold Rush Fever,” *Governor’s Post*, Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County (Fall 2021)
- “Feast of Reason and the Flow of the Soul: John Wood and Willard Keyes Find Their Brides,”
Governor’s Post (Winter 2021)
- “Congressman Douglas’s In-laws Plant Move to Quincy” (December 31, 2021)
- “Quincy Sisters Marry Volk Sculptors” (December 8, 2021)
- “Adams County Historians Trace Quincy Connections to American Beginnings,” *Illinois Heritage Magazine* (January/February 2021)
- “Quincy Ancestor Signed Declaration of Independence” (December 13, 2020)
- “Quincy Family Had Connection to Birth of the Nation” (December 6, 2020)
- “Stephen A. Douglas Brings a Wife to Quincy” (August 16, 2020)
- “Stephen A. Douglas Finds Chaos in First Day in Congress” (August 8, 2020)
- “John Wood Caught California Gold Rush Fever” (June 25, 2020)
- “Another Outburst of Cholera Terrorizes Quincy” (April 19, 2020)
- “Mississippi Carries Deadly Epidemic to Quincy in 1833” (April 12, 2020)
- “Ross Brothers Settle in Western Illinois, Founding Pike County” (December 8, 2019)
- “Power of Quincy’s Press Plays Role in Lincoln-Douglas Debates” (October 20, 2019)
- “Family’s Affection Tested by Scandal that Rocked the State” (June 20, 2019)
- “Quincy Attorney Played Part in Ill-Fated Convention” (April 7, 2019)
- “Impoverished Lincoln Cousin Lived in Quincy” (February 10, 2019)
- “John Wood and Willard Keyes Find their Brides” (December 16, 2018)
- “1858 Senate Candidate Abraham Lincoln Considered Quitting the Race” (October 6, 2018)
- “First Black Catholic Priest Bound for Sainthood,” *Illinois Heritage Magazine* (September 1, 2018)
- “Quincy Lawyer Promoted Ulysses S. Grant for the Presidency” (July 22, 2018)
- “Disgraced Pike County Clerk Creates ‘Third House’” (June 17, 2018)
- “Obscure County Clerk Certified Fraudulent Pike County Election” (June 3, 2018)
- “Atlas Shrugged as Wood’s Adams County Gains Ground” (April 22, 2018)
- “Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian from Camp Point Disappoints QU Friar” (March 4, 2018)
- “Spinster’s Beloved Pianoforte Still Enchants in Mansion’s Parlor” (December 17, 2017)
- “Nature More Important than Slavery for Early Settler” (November 5, 2017)
- “The Eccentricities of John Livingston Moore III” (October 1, 2017)
- “Judge’s Anti-Slavery Decision Redeemed His Reputation” (August 13, 2017)
- “A Pilgrimage to Servant of God Father Tolton’s Gravesite” (July 21, 2017)
- “First American Black Priest on Path to Sainthood” (July 9, 2017)
- “Quincy’s John Wood Lent Governor’s Office to Republican Presidential Candidate Abraham Lincoln” (May 7, 2017)
- “Governor Got Undeserved Credit for Civil War Skirmish” (March 12, 2017)
- “Lost 19th Century Artwork of Edward Everett Returned to Quincy” (January 15, 2017)
- “Governor from Quincy Misconstrued Celebrity for Popularity” (December 4, 2016)
- “Lincoln Knew Enough about Know-Nothings to Keep Distance” (October 10, 2016)

- “A Quincy Lawyer was Last to Meet with Lincoln” (August 28, 2016)
“Wood Wanted Octagon House To Be Finest in State” (July 3, 2016)
“Two Quincyans Influence Outbreak of Civil War” (April 17, 2016)
“Whig Editor Shared Love of Poetry with Lincoln,” (March 7, 2016)
“John Wood Never Discussed His Absent Mother” (January 17, 2016)
“John Wood, 12th Governor of Illinois,” *Illinois Heritage Magazine* (January 1, 2016)
“Early Merchant Filled Area’s Needs and Prospered” (October 25, 2015)
“Abraham Jonas Was Father of Freemasonry in Illinois” (August 2, 2015)
“Wood’s German Heritage Helped Him Rise to Governor” (July 12, 2015)
“Illinois Politics and Lincoln’s ‘Least Man,’” *For the People*, Abraham Lincoln Association (June 1, 2015)
“John Wood Learns Harsh Political Lesson” (April 24, 2015)
“The Story of John Wood’s Parents” (November 28, 2014)
“John Wood Fights Slavery in Illinois” (August 23, 2012)
“Furniture Witnessed Birth of America’s Political Parties” (September 3, 2011)

Essays:

- “Stephen A. Douglas, Slavery and Statues,” *Illinois Heritage Magazine*, Illinois State Historical Society (July 2020)

Book Review Essays:

- “‘Abraham Lincoln: A Western Legacy,’ by Richard W. Etulain,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (Fall/Winter, 2021)

Awards, Honors:

- Inducted lifetime member into Kappa Tau Alpha, National Journalism Honors Society, on Faculty Recommendation, University of Kansas, 1972
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Kansas, 1971-1972
Thomas Smith Prize in English for original play, “Adrift,” Illinois College, 1967.

Speech and Media Presentations:

- “The Attractions of Miss Mary Ann Todd,” Tri-State Civil War Roundtable, Quincy, IL (December 13, 2022)
“Lincoln and the Democrats,” Panelist, Annual Lincoln Forum Convention (November 18, 2022)
“When Lincoln Almost Quit His 1858 Senate Campaign,” Looking for Lincoln Heritage Foundation Conversations (October 5, 2022)
“Stephen A. Douglas: Western Man,” Herrin, IL, Public Library “Guest Lecture Series” (September 16, 2022)
“Stephen A. Douglas, Right and Wrong,” Jacksonville, IL, Public Library (July 28, 2022)
“Lincoln’s Quincy Pals: Pros and Cons,” Looking for Lincoln Heritage Foundation Conversations (June 8, 2022)
“Appeal of Decision for the Removal of Stephen A. Douglas Statues from the Illinois State Capitol Grounds,” State Board of the Architect of the Capitol, Springfield, IL (May 24,

- 2022)
- “John Wood, Miner,” Breakfast Optimists, Quincy, IL (February 15, 2022)
- “Stephen A. Douglas, Western Man: The Early Years in Congress,” Podcast, History Ago Go (February 1, 2022)
- “How Stephen A. Douglas Secured the West,” Illinois Channel (October 5, 2021)
- “Stephen A. Douglas, Western Man,” Annual Meeting, Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County (June 27, 2021)
- “The Surprising Stephen A. Douglas,” with Dr. Graham A. Peck, Center for Lincoln Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield (June 23, 2021)
- “The Surprising Stephen A. Douglas,” Bishop Hill, IL ((May 19, 2021)
- “The Intertwined Lives of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas,” Illinois Channel (January 12, 2021)
- “The Political Apprenticeship of Stephen A. Douglas,” Podcast, History Ago Go (January 10, 2021)
- “Does Removing Stephen A. Douglas Portrait, Statues from the Capitol Diminish Our History,” Illinois Channel (July 21, 2020)
- “Douglas, Statues, and Slavery,” American Association of University Women, Quincy, IL (October 10, 2020)
- “Lincoln, Douglas, and Slavery: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates,” with Dr. Lucas Morel, professor of history at Washington and Lee University, The Lincoln Archives Digital Project (June 9, 2020)
- “Earliest Days of Pike County, Illinois,” Pike County Historical Society, Pittsfield, IL (October 14, 2019)
- “The Rise of Stephen A. Douglas,” University of Illinois Alumni Sage Society (September 10, 2019)
- “My Jacksonville Friend, Stephen A. Douglas in Jacksonville,” Prairie Land Chautauqua, Jacksonville, IL (September 2, 2019)
- “Slave Nation, Slave State,” Quincy Chapter PEO, Quincy, IL (August 1, 2019)
- “Father Augustus Tolton and the Path To Sainthood,” First Presbyterian Church, Champaign, IL (December 5, 2018)
- “Bicentennial Illinois,” Dorothy Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Quincy, IL (November 17, 2018)
- “Stephen A. Douglas of Western Illinois,” Brown County Historical Society Annual Meeting (September 20, 2018)
- “The Surprising Cause of the American Revolution,” Daughters of the American Revolution, Menard County (August 11, 2018)
- “Stephen A. Douglas, Patriot,” Illinois Bicentennial: Illinois and the Civil War, Springfield, IL (August 9, 2018)
- “The Quincy Refuge of Father Augustine Tolton,” Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium, Nauvoo, IL (February 3, 2018)
- “The Lost Art of Edward Everett,” Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County (December 2, 2017)

- “Abraham Lincoln and Illinois College President Julian Monson Sturtevant” Monday
Conversations, Jacksonville, IL (May 1, 2017)
- “Stephen A. Douglas of Quincy,” High-12 Club, Quincy, IL (May 3, 2017)
- “Douglas and Lincoln in Southern Illinois,” Union County Historical Society (March 27, 2017)
- “The Civil War’s 29th U.S. Infantry, Colored, of Quincy,” Tri-State Civil War Roundtable (June
12, 2016)
- “Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship, 1833-1843,” Jacksonville, IL, Savings Bank
(May 16, 2016)
- “The Elections of 1860 and 2016,” Green County, IL, Historical Society, Carrollton, IL *May
15, 2016)
- “John Wood: His Quincy Homes,” Quincy Preservation Commission (May 20, 2016)
- “John Wood and the Mormons,” Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium, Nauvoo, IL (February 6,
2015)
- “The Evolution of Lincoln’s Theology,” Melrose Methodist Men’s Club, Quincy, IL (January 6,
2015)
- “The True John Wood,” Louisiana, MO, Historical Society Annual Meeting (November 13,
2014)
- “John Wood of Quincy,” POLIS, Quincy University (September 16, 2014)
- “Quincy Woman of Grit: Christiana Holmes Tillson,” Quincy Public Library (October 8, 2013)
- “Spielberg’s Lincoln,” Culver-Stockton College (May 18, 2013)
- “Congressman Stephen A. Douglas of Quincy,” Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center,
Quincy, IL (April 23, 2013)
- “Winchester’s Stephen A. Douglas,” in Winchester community observance of bicentennial of
Douglas’s birth (April 21, 2013)
- “Stephen A. Douglas, Habeas Corpus, and Personal Liberty,” Illinois Supreme Court Historic
Preservation Commission (April 4, 2013)

Interviews/Appearances

(brief list)

- “Quincy author says history’s treatment of Stephen Douglas ‘incorrect’” by Deborah Gertz
Husar, *Quincy Herald-Whig* (August 8, 2021)
- “New book traces Stephen A. Douglas’s early years in Congress” by Deborah Gertz Husar,
Quincy Herald-Whig (May 19, 2021)
- “Quincy’s 175th: Quincy was starting to bustle even before it was incorporated as a city in 1840,”
by Deborah Gertz Husar, *Quincy Herald-Whig* (October 6, 2020)
- “Ankrom finishes first of three books about Stephen A. Douglas” by Ed Husar, *Quincy Herald-
Whig* (May 1,
2015)
- “Document sheds more light on Quincy’s role in anti-slavery movement” by Ed Husar, *Quincy
Herald-Whig* (December 28, 2012)

Historical Organization Memberships:

Abraham Lincoln Association

Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County

Illinois State Historical Society (Advisory Board Member)

Lincoln-Douglas Interpretive Center (Board Member)

Lincoln Forum

Looking for Lincoln Heritage Association

Tri-State Civil War Roundtable