

Finding Lincoln

George Stuart remembers . . .

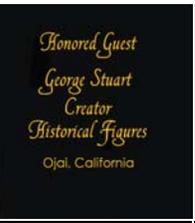
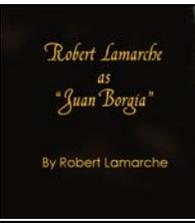
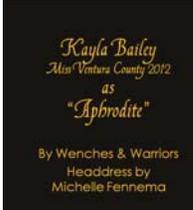
I began my career as a monologist in 1959, my focus was on the history of England and Europe. This is what my studies and research had prepared me for. In late 1962 my managers told me I should prepare a monolog on American subjects. My audiences were Americans who wanted to hear their own history. I contested the notion, and declared the audiences would want to hear something new to them. I was contradicted and told it was just the opposite – Americans wanted to hear about what they knew and familiar to them. Perplexed and dumbfounded, I had to consider the wishes of the professionals representing me.

That year I was booked for the mid-west. While I had a few days layover in Chicago, I decided to look into a talk on Abraham Lincoln. I went down to Springfield, saw the Lincoln home and neighborhood. But having heard of the village of New Salem where Lincoln spent several years, I decided to visit that site.

Continued on page 2.



Fashion Show and Marketplace Prove Artistic Successes Leading Up to February Carnevale

 <p>Honored Guest George Stuart Creator Historical Figures Ojai, California</p>	 <p>Robert Lamarche as "Juan Borgia" By Robert Lamarche</p>	 <p>Jennifer Ridgway as George Stuart's "Lucrezia Borgia" By Shelley Rogers and Robert Lamarche</p>	 <p>Amanda Ford Miss Ventura Outstanding Teen By Samiah. Expression of Timeless Fashion Mask by Delightful Diva</p>
 <p>Kayla Bailey Miss Ventura County 2012 as "Aphrodite" By Wenches & Warriors Headress by Michelle Fennema</p>	 <p>Austin Tackett as "Bauta in Red" By April Rae Tackett</p>	 <p>Coral Young By Joyce Abelson</p>	 <p>Raul Gudino as "French Valois" By Robert Lamarche</p>
 <p>Joseph Fuqua as "Renaissance Venetian" By Robert Lamarche</p>	 <p>The Madrigal Singers Ojai, California</p>	 <p>Tyler Brown as "The Duke" By Faire Ladies & Faire Lords Mask by Astera Leather</p>	 <p>Ventura High School Dance Team Olivia Bacon Lauren Harrison-Brady Angelica Horton Nicole Perica Malish Pena Yessica Santana Bobby Toret Sage Schneiderbauer Alana Vivian Alara Warrick</p>

For a 40-minute video of the festivities, search "Carnevale Ventura" on YouTube, or contact Leroy Becker at 805-641-3100 for a DVD.

The first-time event drew more than 150 So Cal participants, when a dozen historical clothing designers teamed up to present a kaleidoscope of dazzling costumes on the fashion show runway. Ideas and merchandise in the Marketplace featured masks, jewelry, accessories as well as complete costumes for all age groups. The infamous Borgia family were brought to life by designers Robert Lamarche and Shelley Rogers, who painstakingly replicated George Stuart's Historical Figures of Lucrezia, Juan, Cesare and Rodrigo (Alexander VI) Borgia.

Several Miss America Scholarship titleholders and princesses were among the models wearing undergarments donated by Fashion Forms of Ventura. See the Fashion Show program in the News/Media Archive on www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com.

“Lincoln’s Top Hat Dropped to My Chin!”

(Continued from Page 1)

My hotel agreed to arrange for a limousine to take me out to the location. This was February and the "village," an historic site, was closed for the season, yet this proved to be a remarkable experience.

Without the crowds and covered in snow, the reconstructed village appeared much as it had in the 1830s. We tramped around in the snow, peering into windows and taking in the setting. The Rutledge Inn was still in operation as the site caretaker’s home, and we were invited inside for coffee and cake. Sitting by the original fireplace with the friendly hosts and their stories of New Salem’s history and restoration, I had the surreal feeling of being transported back in time. Overall it was one of the most remarkable "research" experiences I’ve ever had.

Rutledge Tavern in New Salem. Illinois



Later that week I visited the Chicago History Museum, where I was graciously received and my request to see some of Lincoln’s clothes was granted. This also proved to be a one-of-a-kind moment. I was taken to a small room with table and chair. Minutes later a staff member entered with an armload of clothing, a hat, an umbrella and placed them on the table and left! I was all alone with Lincoln’s clothes – no gloves, no staff oversight.

I measured and made notes as fast as I could and before I was interrupted I tried on Lincoln’s hat! It sank down over my small skull, almost to my chin - Lincoln had a large head. This was an extraordinary research experience, one that would never be possible today. I will remember that moment always!

With these site visits, many biographies, and the help of Dr. Jay Monaghan and the Wyles Collection (UCSB), The Smithsonian Institution, the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, I embarked on a biographical study of Lincoln, illustrated with portrait Figures. My objective was a visual record of Lincoln at various stages of his life.

Lincoln’s top hat and suit.



The biographical Lincoln Monolog includes a fascinating cast of supporting characters. Visit galleryhistoricalfigures.com.

Historical Figures News

“Lincoln Monolog . . . the Most Popular Ever”



The Rail Splitter

The early portrait as the famous rail splitter was our starting point. Many artists have attempted this image before me. We all worked from the literary descriptions and, while each had his own interpretation, there are distinct threads of similarity throughout all efforts.

The Springfield Lawyer

The next portrait represented his Springfield days as lawyer and politician in the Illinois legislature. This was also the time of his marriage and family development. His appearance in the white suit is derived from photos of him his sensible summer suit of white linen.



The New President

The third portrait was to show his new beard on the day of his Inauguration in 1860, and to show that he had yet to abandon his out-of-date blanket or shawl, which was being replaced in most men's wardrobes. A number of his shawls have survived; the one copied here is in the Smithsonian.

The Thoughtful Chief Executive

The next portrait was a pensive pose with glasses and something he was reading or studying. It was inspired by either the address he was to give at Gettysburg or his previous decision to issue the emancipation proclamation.



The Tragic End

Finally the tragic portrait of his last moments at the Ford Theater. He was ill and dying of Marfan's disease, a slow and debilitating illness. The cost of the war, the responsibilities of his office and personal tragedies were prodigious for any human to bare. He was emaciated from illness and shrunken by life, but they say he was happy that night with the end of the carnage and the delight he always took in the theatre. Perhaps there was just a trace of a smile in his face. It would all be over momentarily.



Epilogue

My business manager was correct. The Lincoln monolog has been the most popular piece I've ever attempted.

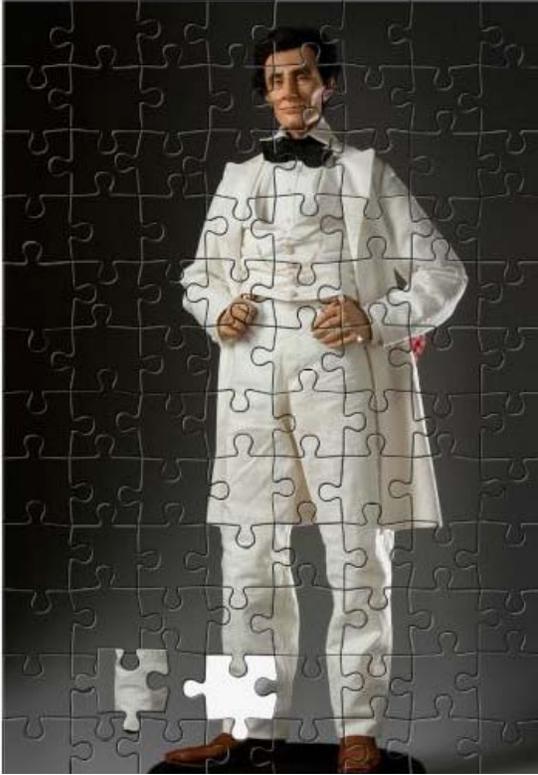
I've learned to love it as well. Abraham Lincoln is an irresistible subject for all time.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Article is also available on the Historical Figures blog at <http://www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com/blog.html>

Foundation News

Lincoln Era Figures Get Virtual Puzzles



This week the Personalities of the Lincoln Era join the French, English, Russian, Chinese, and Italians in the Puzzle Project "Done" list.

Puzzles have from 60 to 200 pieces each.

By year end, all Figures will have puzzles. Every day more than 100 avid fans worldwide solve puzzles of Historical Figures on line. Try one on each Figure's page.

Your Annual Membership is More Important than Ever

With exciting new Carnevale Ventura activities now underway, the Foundation has undertaken the challenge of making the Historical Figures an educational and financial asset to the community.

Before 2012, Foundation activities focused on documenting the work of George Stuart and building awareness of the Historical Figures among national and international audiences. The results have been exciting, with more than a million visitors worldwide viewing our 2,000 page website. Hundreds of DVD's have been shipped to admiring artists and history enthusiasts. With MVC collaboration, Historical Figures have been exhibited in several states, including the Clinton Presidential Museum in Arkansas.

This year, we turned to serving the local community by building awareness of the Figures among residents of Ventura County and throughout Southern California. We chose a Renaissance and Reformation theme, and especially the Borgia family, who we brought to life in our Carnevale Ventura events. The enthusiastic response of the Renaissance re-enactment community, local businesses, schools and city organizations has been breathtaking and inspiring.

For the recent Fashion Show, costume designers and artists, event planners, models and dozens of volunteers put in thousands of hours. While a few were familiar with the George Stuart or the Figures, they now appreciate both. (See page 1 and the "Carnevale Ventura" video on YouTube).

On February 9, the Carnevale Ventura Faire in beautiful Mission Park and nearby Masked Ball will recreate the Italian Renaissance for visitors and merchants.



Your membership or donation will assure that Carnevale Ventura events are educational and artistic successes.

Let 'Em Eat Cake **Exhibit Runs Now to February,** **Feature Two Stuart Monologs**

Queen of France

One Performance
2:00 p.m.
Tuesday

January 22, 2013
Museum of Ventura County
Call (805) 653-0323 x 7

Marie Antoinette

The Mob at the Gates

One Performance
2:00 p.m.
Tuesday

February 19, 2013
Museum of Ventura County
Call (805) 653-0323 x 7

Maximilien de Robespierre

