

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **USM Explores John Brown's Raid, Abraham Lincoln, and the Election of 1860 for Annual Lincoln Event**

*7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, 2012, Xavier Theatre*



**Dr. Jonathan Earle**

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary will help shed new light on the dynamic political landscape of 1860—including the impact of the dramatic local raids of John Brown on both Lincoln and the presidential election—at the university's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Event at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20. Dr. Jonathan Earle, associate professor of history at the University of Kansas, author, and noted historian of American politics, will deliver the lecture.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

The USM Lincoln Event is made possible by Country Club Bank of Leavenworth and Lansing, the event benefactor.

Pete Payne, regional president of Country Club Bank, was at the University of Saint Mary campus on Wednesday, Jan. 18, to present a check to University of Saint Mary President Sister Diane Steele to cover the costs of the 2012 Lincoln Event.

"As always, it is our pleasure to help make the University of Saint Mary Lincoln Event series possible," Payne said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Lincoln's historic 1859 visit to Kansas' First City, Leavenworth."

Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM's academic vice president, said the university "is very excited to have Dr. Jonathan Earle speak at this year's Lincoln Lecture, continuing our record of excellence in this lecture series. He is a nationally-known scholar, as well as a dynamic, entertaining, and informative speaker. And he will be addressing a topic of considerable interest to area residents—namely the relationship between John Brown of Bleeding Kansas fame, Lincoln, and the election of 1860. Attendees will find the connections Dr. Earle makes intriguing."

Dr. Earle is a past associate director for programming at KU's Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics and the author of several books, including *John Brown's Raid: A Brief History with Documents*. His Lincoln Lecture is titled '*It Could Avail Him Nothing That He Might Think Himself Right: John Brown's Raid, Abraham Lincoln, and the Election of 1860*.'

"The campaign of 1860 is fascinating," Dr. Earle said. "There are so many twists and turns and contingent events that could have turned everything on its ear. And that's where John Brown comes in. His acts of retribution, violence, and terror happened not in isolation but in the midst of the nation's sectional crisis. Republicans like Lincoln and Seward were furiously trying to distance Brown from the anti-slavery Republican Party; their opponents were trying to do the opposite."

John Brown and five of his sons moved to the Kansas territory in the 1850s, where he headed up an anti-slavery militia and perpetrated attacks on pro-slavery settlers. His eventual raid of the federal

arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va., led to his capture and conviction. He was executed on Dec. 2, 1859—one day before a campaigning Abraham Lincoln arrived in Leavenworth.

“People should understand how important Kansas, and northeast Kansas specifically, were to world historical events at that time,” Dr. Earle said. “People know about Lincoln’s Cooper Union speech, but they don’t always know how all key lines were intersecting in Leavenworth at that time. I plan to explore that at the Lincoln Lecture.”

The University of Saint Mary started the annual Lincoln series in 1999 to acknowledge the university’s Bernard H. Hall Lincoln Collection, which includes extensive and unique Lincoln memorabilia. USM’s De Paul Library houses the collection, which includes a rare, original copy of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment—the document that abolished slavery—signed by Lincoln.

Over the past 13 years, USM has hosted a variety of luminaries for the Lincoln Event. Previous guests have included politicians, historians, U.S. Army generals, best-selling authors, and actors who’ve portrayed first lady Mary Todd Lincoln and President Lincoln himself.

Items from the university’s Lincoln collection will be on display in the Walnut Room immediately following Dr. Earle’s lecture.

Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Call (913) 758-6165 or visit [www.stmary.edu/lincoln](http://www.stmary.edu/lincoln) for more information.

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*

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