

Gallaudet Museum and Shakespeare

by Shane Dundas



Heads up! One of humankind's most influential people, William Shakespeare, is coming to Gallaudet University this October. Gallaudet University has the honor to be selected as a premiere site to display 400 years' worth of Shakespeare's original works, in an exhibit called *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare* from October 7 - 30, 2016 at the Washburn Art Building. This traveling exhibit by the Folger Shakespeare Library will go through all 50 States plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; for D.C., it's coming to Gallaudet University.

The First Folio is a collection of Shakespeare's works compiled together into a book. Without it, most of Shakespeare's works that have been deeply engrained into humanity as we know it would have been lost forever. That would mean no *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Henry V* or *Hamlet* for us. Thankfully that is not the case and the *First Folio!* exhibition will be the proof of that.

Once the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#) secured Gallaudet University as a location to showcase the 400-year-old book, the University rolled up its sleeves

and began making plans surrounding the *First Folio!* Plans include workshops, presentations, performances, festivals, and of course the *First Folio!* exhibition itself. It was natural for the Gallaudet Museum to join the process by producing a supplemental exhibit that features many decades of the Deaf community's involvement with Shakespeare.

Museum manager Meredith Peruzzi has been working closely with Jill Bradbury, supervising director of *First Folio!* for Gallaudet University. With several interns, Peruzzi has spent countless of hours over many months in researching, writing, and producing the exhibit that will stand along side the book itself.

While Peruzzi has been very busy with the project, the Museum staff have been collectively operating the Museum by handling the influx of visitors, conducting other historical research projects, and improving it's outreach efforts. Many thanks to the staff for all of their hard work and patience!

For more information about *First Folio!*, please [click here](#) for more information, including exhibition hours and other events that are free and open to the public.



Meredith Peruzzi examines the mannequin for *First Folio!*
Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas.

FIRST FOLIO!

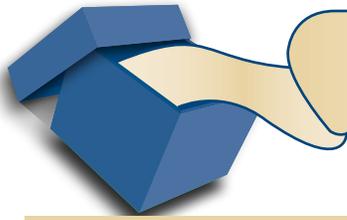
SAVE *the* **DATE!**

OCTOBER
7-30
2016

GALLAUDET
UNIVERSITY

gallaudet.edu/SHXGallaudet
firstfolio@gallaudet.edu

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Time Capsule

Presidential Inauguration : 1864

by Shane Dundas

Editor's note: The *Time Capsule* is a series of articles featuring the people and places of Gallaudet University's history.



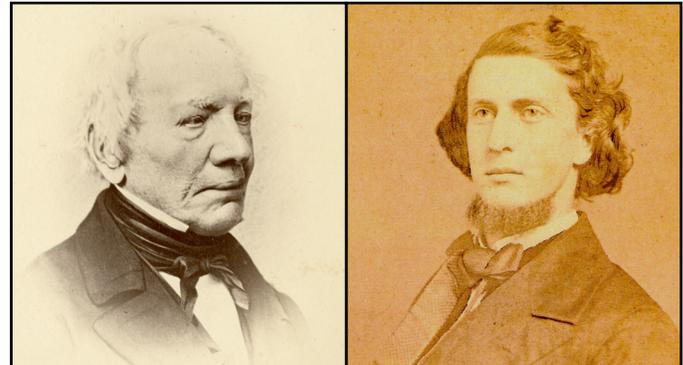
President Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano
Eleventh President of Gallaudet University

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Office of University Communications.

This article is dedicated in honor of President Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano and her upcoming Presidential Inauguration, which is one of the biggest events in this fall season. While there have been several past Presidential Inaugurations, the very first one stands out as the most historically fascinating and intriguing. Imagine yourself back in time in the midst of the Civil War battles surrounding the District of Columbia. 1864 was the year that changed everything forever for Deaf people.

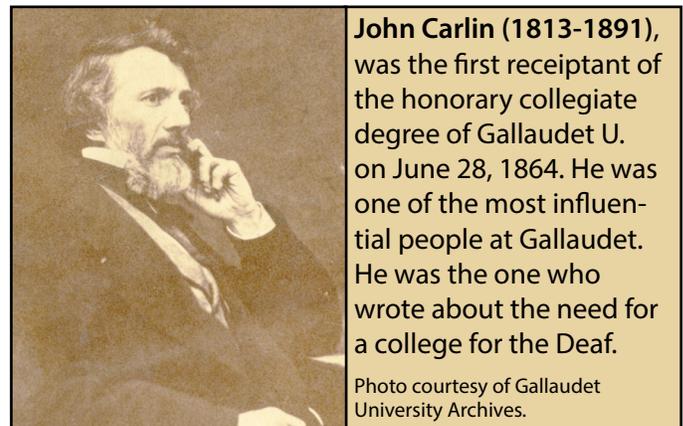
While Gallaudet University celebrates April 8, 1864 as "Charter Day" as the day that President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill for an institution to confer degrees for Deaf people, it was not until June 28, 1864 when the National College for the Deaf and Dumb was formally launched on Inauguration Day, with Edward Miner Gallaudet being inaugurated as the first President. The ["Inauguration of the College for the Deaf and Dumb"](#)

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Laurent Clerc, circa mid to late 1860s.

Edward Miner Gallaudet, circa 1864.



John Carlin (1813-1891), was the first recipient of the honorary collegiate degree of Gallaudet U. on June 28, 1864. He was one of the most influential people at Gallaudet. He was the one who wrote about the need for a college for the Deaf.

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Interesting facts about the Presidential Inauguration

- Edward Miner Gallaudet was only 27 years old when he was inaugurated as President.
- Although EMG was the President, it was Amos Kendall and his secretary that signed the first diploma for John Carlin. As U.S. Presidents did not sign diplomas until 1869, President Lincoln's signature appears only on the University Charter.
- The Inauguration ceremony did not take place on Kendall Green! It took place at a Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.
- The only officially recognized President of Gallaudet that wasn't inaugurated was Elisabeth Zinser (1988).

Visitors Galore

by Shane Dundas



Museum staff Shane Dundas welcomes JumpStart students and explains the history of Gallaudet U.

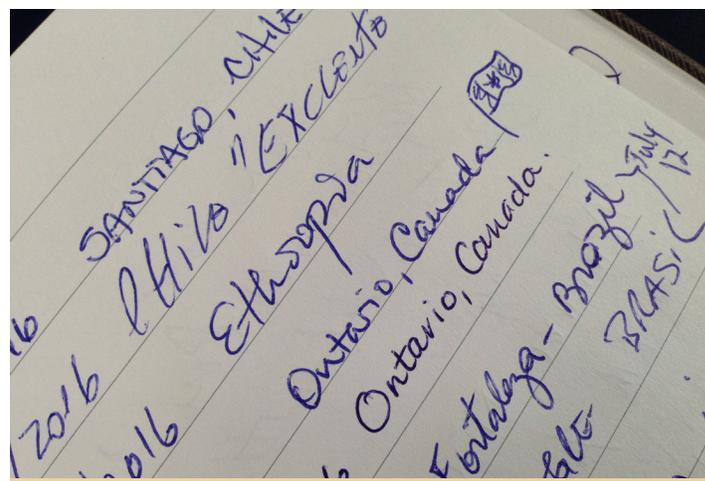
Photo courtesy of Lorian Jones and JumpStart Program.

This past summer, the Gallaudet Museum has had steady streams of visitors coming through Chapel Hall to navigate the histories of Gallaudet University. Even though the summer schedule says we are open every Monday and Friday, with Tuesdays through Thursdays open by appointment and for tours from the Visitor's Center, we still have plenty of people coming to see our exhibits. We have had many requests for appointments and inquiries about the Museum have increased throughout the summer.

The most intriguing aspect of visitor demographics is the ongoing flow of international visitors coming from

countries such as India, England, Canada, Finland, Switzerland, Uruguay, Chile, Ethiopia, Brazil, France, Australia, Germany, Serbia, China, Nigeria, and Japan. There have been visitors from all over the U.S., and even some coming from as far away as Hawaii.

Another fun group of visitors includes several groups from the Summer Youth Programs, such as "Discover Your Future" and "Immerse Into ASL." Plus we have had several large groups from Gallaudet University's JumpStart Program.



The Museum's guest book are filled with visitors' comments and signatures, some in their native languages. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas.

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program included numbers of distinguished guests, including Laurent Clerc, who also gave a presentation. In Clerc's address, he reflected on the impact of the establishment of the first school for the Deaf stating, "It has broken that barrier which had separated for several centuries the deaf and dumb from those who hear and speak." Clerc felt the same sentiments as Deaf people who enter into the sphere of higher education.

During the inauguration ceremony, as a symbolic act of a college conferring degrees, John Carlin had the privilege to be the first to receive a honorary Master's Degree. In Carlin's address, he stated, "The birth of this infant college, the first of its kind in the world, will bring joy to the mute community. True, our new Alma Mater has drawn its first breath in the midst of strife here and abroad; but as the storm now raging over our heads is purifying our political atmosphere, the air which it has inhaled is sweet and invigorating bow favorably this circumstance augurs its future success!" That was when he knew Deaf people were at *home*.

President Cordano said that "it takes a village to create a President," but Gallaudet is also a home where she and all the future presidents will thrive and grow, leading Gallaudet University. The Gallaudet University Museum team wishes President Cordano the very best of luck and support in all her endeavors for a very successful presidency.

Points of Confusion

by Trevor De Rosch

In researching events in Gallaudet University's history, I often come across fascinating topics that may not fit well into short posts for social media. One of these was a description of the first game of the season between the Columbia Athletic Club (C.A.C.) and the Kendalls of the Columbia Institute, on October 19, 1892, that was covered in the very first edition of the [Buff and Blue](#) (page 11).

In the game, the C.A.C. scored a touchdown, a try at goal (reminiscent of today's extra point), two more touchdowns, and another try at goal (the Kendalls didn't score at all). Following the modern point system (touchdown = 6, extra point = 1), this would result in 20 points. However, the article claims the end score was 16-0, indicating football scoring was different 100 years ago.

After doing some digging online and some mathematical tinkering, I discovered that the point system was probably 4 points for a touchdown, and 2 points for a try at goal. This fits the scoring mentioned.

I thought this was a fascinating account of how different the scoring was for college football in the

1890s. To learn more about how the game of college football changed over time, I found this [website about college football history](#), there is no mention of a "try at goal" system in the 1890s.

If any of our readers know more about this topic, we would be ecstatic to hear from you. You can email the museum at museum@gallaudet.edu.



The Kendalls, 1892. Among the players were Paul Hubbard (#16) who started the "football huddle," Dr. Charles Ely (#5), and Dr. Percival Hall (#10).

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

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For your stories or memories relating to Gallaudet in general, use the hashtag **#150Beyond**. If it's relating to *Deaf HERstory*, use the hashtag **#DeafHERstory**.

We look forward to learning about your stories or memories!

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The Gallaudet University Museum publishes the Our Story newsletter. We welcome photographs and stories of historical significance relating to Gallaudet University and Deaf History.

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