



Fall Edition

NEW VISITOR CENTER OPEN!



The newly reopened Knob Creek Tavern Visitors Center

On Saturday, October 9, 2021 the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park hosted the Knob Creek Tavern "Open Doors" event to celebrate the opening on the new Knob Creek Tavern Visitor Center. For the last 20 years, the local community collaborated with the National Park Service and the State of Kentucky for the acquisition of the land, the restoration of the tavern, development of new visitor facilities, and installation of interpretive exhibits. On this day, visitors were welcomed with tours of the newly reopened Tavern, a nature tour, and living history presentations that included period music, and frontier demonstrations. While now closed for the winter, plans are to re-open the Tavern for the next season in the Spring of 2022.

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT



The Milky Way seen at Knob Creek

On Friday, October 8, 2021 the popular annual Night Sky Program returned to Knob Creek. Visitors to the program were treated to a phenomenal presentation by Dr. Mark Pitts of Eastern Kentucky University as he talked about stars, planets and other celestial phenomenon. This year's program was part of the events leading up to the opening of the Knob Creek Tavern Visitor Center. Visitors were not disappointed during the program as there were clear skies and cooler temperatures that made for perfect night sky viewing. Many also took advantage of a special "sneak peek" inside the newly rehabilitated Tavern during the program. The park hopes to expand night sky program opportunities at this site in the future.

At the Park

UPDATES FROM IN AND AROUND THE PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Glorious fall has arrived with frosty mornings, brilliant leaves, and shorter days. It is the time of year to gather the harvest, celebrate fruits of labor, and gratefully count our blessings. On October 9, the park opened the doors of the new Knob Creek Visitor Center. I believe this was the perfect season of the year for this new beginning. We are deeply grateful to so many, who were determined to preserve the Lincoln's Knob Creek Farm and the Knob Creek Tavern. It has been a labor of love for decades and is a gift given to future generations. Thank you.



Park Superintendent Catherine Bragaw at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace.

DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION



Fall at the Birthplace Visitors Center

Fall is always a good time to reflect on the past year, but also look forward to the future. Can I just say how proud I am of my team, and how much they have accomplished this year? They have gracefully navigated the busy summer season, which always presents some unique challenges, but they have also diplomatically dealt with visitors who were upset over COVID regulations. They also presented new programs for Juneteenth, Shakespeare in the Park and Writing for Change, among others. They did this all with a smile and I applaud them all. Wonderful job team! I was very excited about our "sneak peek" event at the Knob Creek Tavern on October 7, 2021 and the return of the park's popular Night Sky Program on October 8, 2021. The Book Club continues to meet on the third Friday of the month. We have some updates for our programming for next year, so stay tuned!

DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE



Birthplace wooden boardwalk with newly replaced handrails

The maintenance division is always busy ensuring that all the park's buildings, trails, and landscapes are being maintained and kept in a good condition to ensure visitor satisfaction and safety. Daily operations of the maintenance division include custodial duties, maintaining the park's landscape and requesting project funding and overseeing projects to rehabilitate or perform preventative maintenance on all the park's locations and assets. Some of these projects include Installation of a Fire Suppression System at the Birthplace Unit, Rehab of the Knob Creek Tavern, Cyclic Painting of the Visitor Center, Cyclic Maintenance of the Picnic Area Comfort Station, and Cyclic Maintenance of the Wooden Boardwalk. The maintenance division has a team of 6 employees that are dedicated to mission of the NPS and take pride in making the park a safe and beautiful place for visitors to enjoy from all around the world.



"TL" HEADSTONE MOVED TO KNOB CREEK TAVERN

One object that was moved to the new Knob Creek visitor center is the gravestone of Abraham Lincoln's younger brother. Today, visitors can view the original gravestone at the new visitor center as well as touch a replica next to it. Lincoln's younger brother was believed to have been named Thomas, (after his father), due to the inscription on the stone headstone of "TL". "TL" was born around 1812 at the Knob Creek Farm and passed away as an infant due to an unknown illness. He was buried at the Redmon family cemetery (off park property) near Knob Creek. In 1959 his original grave marker was replaced by a Boy Scout group with a more permanent one. Sadly, Thomas would become the first of several family members who would pass away during Lincoln's lifetime. Lincoln's personal sense of loss would be conveyed to so many others during the Civil War.



"TL" Headstone is now on display at the Knob Creek Tavern Visitors Center

NEW INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS INSTALLED AT THE KNOB CREEK TAVERN

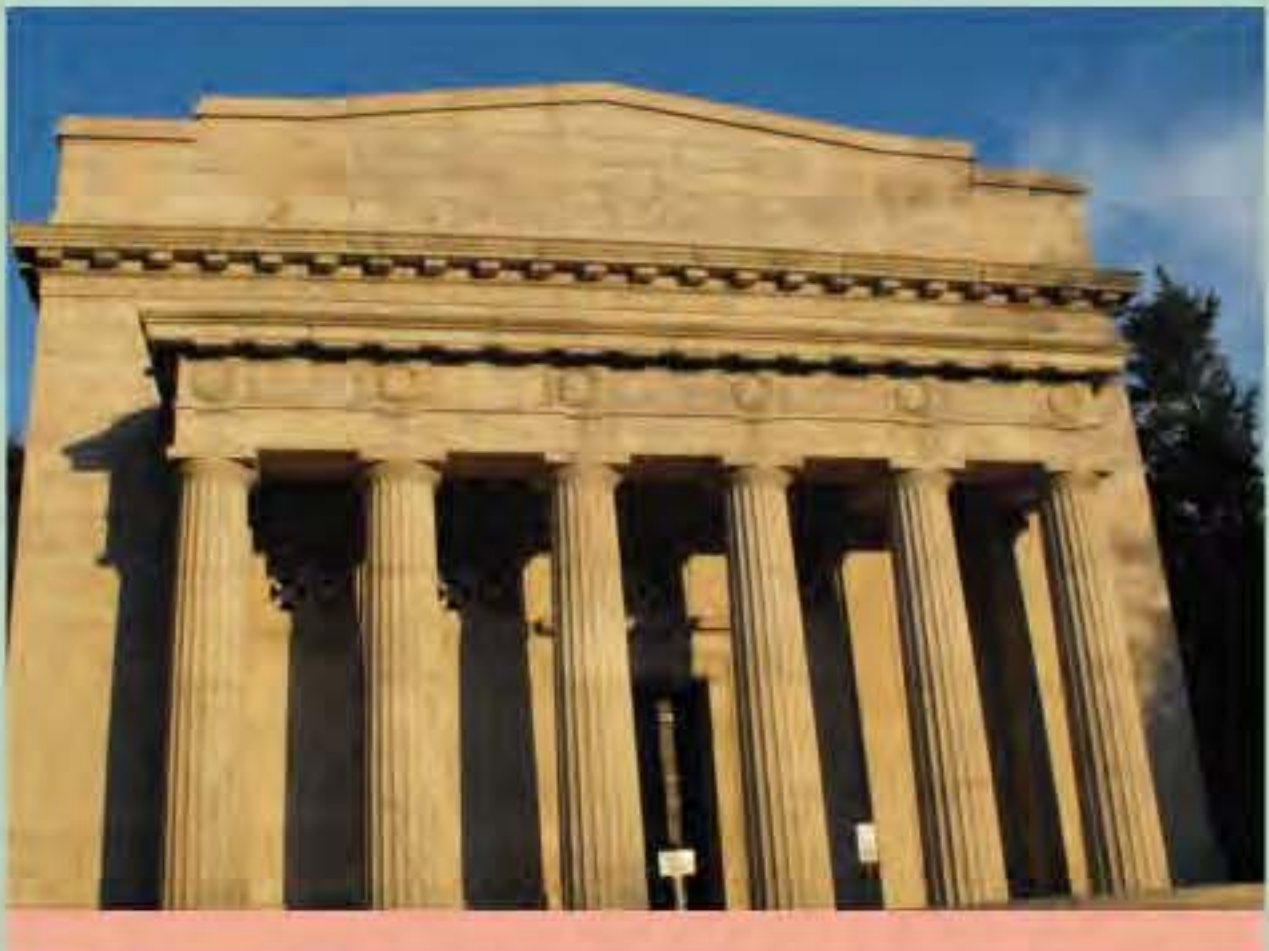


New Exhibits in the Knob Creek Tavern

During the week of August 16, 2021, the new interpretive exhibits for the Knob Creek Tavern were installed. Park Staff worked on these exhibits since January 2016 with input gathered from the local community. The exhibits tell the story of the Lincoln family's time at the Knob Creek Farm, the influences on young Abraham life, the legacy of Lincoln, linked to his early Kentucky years, as well as the story of the Howard Family developing the site. Tactile elements and audio description is included for visitors and a worktable is featured for Jr. Rangers to use. The four main sections of exhibits highlight photos and colors that evoke the four seasons, since the Lincoln's lives were dictated by the seasons while farming on the Kentucky frontier.

LINCOLN'S WORDS

Have you ever looked carefully at the Memorial Building in the park and read the 3 different Lincoln quotes? You have probably seen the quote "With Malice Toward None, With Charity For All" above the columns on the front of the building. But there are also two lesser-known quotes located behind the columns alongside the front doors. The first, on the left side, is perhaps the most important speech Lincoln gave that affected his political career. Known as the "Cooper Union Speech", Lincoln was addressing the slavery crisis and ending the speech with "Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it". The second, on the right side of the doors, reads "Stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong". This was from a speech he gave in 1854 and demonstrated the strength of his moral convictions.



Park's Memorial Building inscribed with Lincoln's words

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 19TH GETTYSBURG ADDRESS MEMORIAL BUILDING LIGHTING EVENT

On Friday night, November 19, 2021, the park will be hosting the final Memorial Building lighting event for the year. The event will run from 6:30pm to 9:00pm and will feature the park's Memorial Building illuminated in white light and Larry Elliott will portray our 16th president. He will be on hand for photos and will give 2 presentations at 7pm and 8pm which will include reciting the Gettysburg Address. The event is free and open to the public.

PARKS AND PAGES BOOK CLUB

Join us for Parks and Pages and this year's theme: "Battlefield and Beyond" from the American Civil War. Join Rangers for a discussion at 3pm (ET) on the 3rd Friday of every month both in the park and on the park's Facebook page. No reservations or fees are required for this program. Please check the park's website or Facebook page for the full schedule.

November 19, 2021

Native American History Month

Caught in the Maelstrom by Clint Crowe (pg 288)

December 17, 2021

Victorian Christmas

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (pg 64)

LOOKING AHEAD: 2021 AND BEYOND

November 19, 2021: Memorial Building Lighting for the Gettysburg Address Anniversary: 6:30pm to 9:00pm (ET)

November 25, 2021: Park is closed for Thanksgiving Day

December 25, 2021: Park is closed for Christmas Day

January 1, 2022: Park is closed for New Years Day

February 12, 2022: Annual observance of Lincoln's Birthday with wreath laying at the Memorial Building at 10am (ET)

February - African-American History Month

March - Women's History Month

If you have any questions or comments about the park's newsletter, or if you would like to join our email list please reach out to us at:
abli_superintendent@nps.gov

Community Pulse

TIS THE SEASON AT THE LINCOLN MUSEUM



The 2021 Christmas ornament from the Lincoln Museum

The Lincoln Museum is looking forward to a festive holiday season that kicks off with Light Up Hodgenville on Friday, November 19 starting at 6 pm. For many years, the museum has produced a keepsake ornament and this year we're recognizing the reopening of Knob Creek by featuring the boyhood home cabin set amidst the rolling knobs. We hope you join us for the festivities downtown and wish you the happiest of holidays!

EASTERN NATIONAL UPDATES



New Store at the Knob Creek Tavern

Eastern National will be setting up a temporary retail operation at the new Knob Creek Tavern visitors center. As part of this, we will be bringing on a part time seasonal associate to assist with store coverage. Keep an eye out for a new face joining us soon. The temporary store will likely remain as such through the Spring 2022 season, as Eastern National is implementing a new point of sale system in the first half of the new year. After this update is completed, plans will be made to install a permanent retail operation at the site. This will include new product development, so if you collect things like tokens, postcards, or magnets, you might want to save some space for some new additions! Speaking of new items, did you know you can order things from any Eastern National store by mail? Simply call the store and they can ring you up for a mail order.

PASSPORT TO YOUR NATIONAL PARKS



Passport to Your National Parks

For Passport to Your National Parks fans, the official launch of the "Knob Creek Farm" Passport stamp took place on October 9, 2021. The sites chosen to be on the 2022 Regional Stamp sheet will be announced soon. Additionally, the new 2022 Collector's Edition will be launching on the same day.