



Mr. Lincoln's Neighborhood News

Winter 2008/2009 Vol. 1 No. 3

Will You, Won't You Join Us?

Special focus on Bicentennial Events at Lincoln Home National Historic Site

The time is here at last! The Abraham Lincoln 200th birthday celebration is in full swing! We encourage you to come enjoy our special events taking place throughout 2009. For details on these events, see our Update Insert or call 217-492-4241.

February 7th, 2009

8:45am-4:40pm (throughout the year) Lincoln Home tours with uniformed and costumed staff.

9:00am-4:00pm Ranger Talks and Living History Programs. Lincoln Neighborhood and Visitor Center.

1:00pm-3:00pm Unveiling of restored Lincoln Campaign Banner, new film premiere, and park wide restoration update. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

February 11th, 2009

10:30am Lincoln's *Farewell Address* reenactment Prairie Capitol Convention Center.

February 12th, 2009

9:30am-10:00am and 4:00pm-4:30pm Children's book signing. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

10:00am-11:00am and 4:30pm-5:30pm Children's story telling with Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

1:00 pm-2:00pm and 2:30pm-3:30pm *George L. Painter Lincoln Lectures*. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

February 13th, 2009

9:00am-11:30pm Lincoln and Leadership. Hoogland Center for the Arts. Advanced registration requested.

2:00pm-3:00pm *Abraham, Frederick, Harriet, and Martin: Part I*. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.



Staff in period appropriate dress.



Be sure to check out our special Ranger Talks and programs.

February 14th, 2009

10:00am-11:00am *Abraham, Frederick, Harriet, and Martin: Part II*. Location TBD.

1:00pm *Music of the Lincoln Era*. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

4:00pm-5:00pm *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography of Words and Music*. Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

Page 2. Lincoln Home, for the Holidays

Find out how the Lincoln's spent their holidays and what traditions they enjoyed in this article about the 1860s take on Christmas.

Page 3. Museum Matters

Museum artifacts can now be viewed online! Find out more about our Teaching with Museum Collections.

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From the Superintendent

We invite you to attend and participate in Lincoln Home National Historic Site's February 11 to 15, 2009 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration of his birth. There will be special living history and park ranger guided tours and programs in various locations throughout the park; children's story telling sessions with Abraham Lincoln and authors of children's books on Lincoln; the George L. Painter Lincoln scholar lectures; a workshop on Lincoln and leadership; a discussion between Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; music presentations of the Lincoln-era; and a program entitled "Abraham Lincoln: A Biography in Words and Music." You will also have an opportunity to view the park's new 26 minute, high definition, surround sound, orientation film in the Visitor Center theatre.

All of the above programs and activities are free, so please accept our invitation to celebrate Mr. Lincoln's 200th birthday party with the staff and volunteers at Lincoln Home NHS.

James A. Sanders
Superintendent

Lincoln Home, for the Holidays

Christmas in the time of Abraham Lincoln was a lot different than it is for us today. The idea of Santa Claus did not become popular until drawings of the jolly old elf appeared in Harper's Weekly in the 1870s and 1880s.

The Christmas tree first appeared in print in *Godey's Lady Book*, 1850. But even so, traditional trees were different in this time. Christmas trees were first brought to the United States by German immigrants, and were usually tabletop trees. Because most of the firs here in the United States were larger, the Christmas tree became the floor to ceiling versions seen today. We do not know if the Lincolns had a tree in their home, but the Springfield Episcopal Church and the First Presbyterian Church had Christmas trees in their buildings. The Lincolns probably



Every year the neighborhood is decorated.

visited these churches and saw the trees illuminated by many candles.

In 1860, there were no lights on the houses, no reindeer on the roofs, and no elves in the front yards. What decorations they had were not put up until Christmas Eve night. Willie and Tad, Mr. Lincoln's two youngest boys, used their mother's stockings for gifts, since they were larger and held more toys, books, popcorn balls, and candy. The boy's list may have also included firecrackers and horns, which were great for noisemaking and popular at the time.



Typical gifts for boys in 1860: Books, carved wooden animals toys, gun powder firecrackers, hoops, and a stocking to hang above the fireplace.



Meals during the holiday season consisted of foods like chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, oranges and cloves, roast beef, and pickles.



Lincoln Home Sitting Room decorated for the Holidays.

Museum Matters

Lincoln Home National Historic Site's newest exhibit, *Teaching with Museum Collections: Lincoln Home* is available on the internet at <http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/liho/>. It is the goal of the National Park Service's Museum Management Program to have web-based exhibits for all 391 parks.

The Lincoln Home exhibit features photographs of over 200 artifacts from the collection, and a virtual tour of the Lincoln Home. The Curatorial staff began selecting themes and artifacts in 2005. These themes cover the Lincoln Home itself, Mary & the boys, Lawyer to President (his legal and political careers,) funeral, return to Springfield, and Memorabilia. In February 2006, a professional photographer took high-resolution pictures while the staff scanned an additional 50-60 prints, drawings, and papers that fit one or more

of the themes. In the summer of 2006, a workshop was held with twelve local teachers for the purpose of creating lesson plans using the images of the artifacts as the main source of information. The teachers worked in small groups to decide what grade level they wanted to write for and what the activities would be. The plans also had to meet National Curriculum standards.

Following the workshop, the Curator, with help from the Curatorial staff, Historian, and Interpreters wrote up labels for the themes and individual artifacts, creating over 200 labels by the time it was all finished! Then the Museum Management office created a fun, interactive and easy to use web exhibit.

The exhibit went online in September 2008.



Promotional Postcard.

The Giving Season

If you're looking for the perfect gift for any season, the Lincoln Home Museum Shop is a great place to look! The souvenirs found in our store range from unique items found only at our site, to classic favorites like the *Lincoln Logs* set. With a wide variety to choose from,



Top to bottom: Lincoln Action Figure, Presidential China and Lincoln Home ornament, Lincoln Logs, Presidential China, and doll kit.

the Museum Shop is a great way to share memories and give thoughtful gifts. It's also a way to support your National Parks! Eastern National has donated over \$89 million to the National Park Service since 1947, providing parks around the nation with a chance to fund educational programs, public events, and other such services for national park visitors.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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For Bicentennial Information visit:

www.lincoln200.net
www.kylincoln.org
www.in.gov/lincoln
www.lincoln200.gov

Editor's Note

Time keeps flying by, and now is the snow! The Lincoln neighborhood is gorgeous when covered in snow and decorated with balsam. Winter is a great time to stop by and see the home of our 16th president.

In addition to the natural beauty of the snow laden homes, this year is an exceptional time to plan a trip to the Lincoln Home. There will be many programs and events taking place in February for the Bicentennial and throughout the whole year!

As always, we're open everyday of the year from 8:30-5:00, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1! We hope to see you and yours soon!

Mission Statement

The mission of the National Park Service at Lincoln Home National Historic Site is to conserve unimpaired, for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of present and future generations, the Lincoln Home and its associated cultural resources and values that were critical to the emergence of Abraham Lincoln as both a national leader and international symbol of democracy.

This mission is rooted in and evolves from the park's legislative mandate found in the Act of Congress of August 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 347) as amended.

Lincoln Home Update

Listing of Springfield Area Bicentennial Events

January 2009-2010

Living History Programs

Throughout the day, uniformed and costumed Ranger Talks and Living History Programs will be offered at a variety of locations within Lincoln Home National Historic Site, daily 8:45am-4:40pm, free admission.

February 4, 2009

WUIS Special Radio Programming

Lincoln the Poet, Lincoln the Lawmaker, and Lincoln and Humor at 6:30pm. Details at wuis.org

February 6-8 and 13-15, 2009

Our American Cousin

Hit 19th Century comedy about a staid British family whose lives are turned upside down by the arrival of a boorish American relative. The play was performed at Ford's Theater in April of 1865, with President Lincoln in the audience. This Springfield Theatre Centre production will recreate that pivotal union of theatre and history. Hoogland Center for the Arts, Feb. 6-7 and Feb. 13-14 8:00pm, 8 and 15 2:00pm. Tickets required.

February 8, 2009

The Lincoln Project

An exhibition of paintings by Chicago artist Don Pollack opens in the Illinois Gallery. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, daily, 9:00am-5:00pm, free admission.

Collecting Lincoln

Daniel Weinberg of Chicago's Abraham Lincoln Bookshop moderates a panel of noted Lincoln collectors. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 2:00pm, free admission, reservations requested.

Reflecting on Lincoln

Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, reflects on a lifetime of Lincoln scholarship. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 7:00pm, free admission.

February 9, 2009

The Last Lincoln Lecture

Richard Carwardine, a Rhodes Professor of Am. History at Oxford University, author of *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power* presents an evening lecture program titled "The Last Lincoln." Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 7:00pm, free admission.

February 10, 2009

The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage

David Mark Epstein, author of *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage*, discusses his book in the Union Theatre. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, 7:00pm, free admission, reservations requested.

Anniversary of the Lincoln Reception

Program commemorating the Anniversary of the Lincoln Reception at the Vachel Lindsay Home. This was the lifelong residence of poet Vachel Lindsay, remembered locally for "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight." Built in 1846, Lindsay's home was originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clark M. Smith, Mary Lincoln's sister and brother-in-law. Vachel Lindsay Home, time TBA, free admission.

February 11, 2009

Lincoln's Farewell Address

On February 11, 1861, President-Elect Lincoln bade farewell to the citizens of Springfield as he left for Washington, D.C. Springfield students and the public welcome Mr. Lincoln to the Prairie Capitol Convention Center on a trip back in time to Mr. Lincoln's departure. Prairie Capitol Convention Center, 10:30am, free admission.



Guest appearance by Lincoln.

Illinois Symphony Bicentennial Performance

The Illinois Symphony performance sponsored by the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Prairie Capitol Convention Center, 7:00pm, free admission.

February 12, 2009

Lincoln Author Book Fair

Well known Lincoln authors will participate in book signings, panel discussions and programs. All events held throughout Springfield's historic sites. Daniel Epstein, Karen Winnick, Michael Burlingame, David Contosta, Daniel Howe, Elizabeth Varon and others celebrate the Bicentennial. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 9:00am-5:00pm, free admission.

Statewide Birthday Bell Ringing

A statewide bell ringing at Noon. All are invited to join in the ringing. Throughout Illinois (locations vary), 12:00pm, free.

Naturalization Ceremony

New U. S. citizens will be sworn in during a special Bicentennial Naturalization Ceremony. Old State Capitol, 3:00pm, free admission.

George L. Painter Lincoln Lectures

The Painter Lectures are scheduled annually. Participants in Session I include Dan Guillory, Kent Gramm and Wayne Temple discussing the "The Literary Lincoln." Session II includes Michael Burlingame, Catherine Clinton, Wayne Temple, Karen Kostyl, Camesha Scruggs discussing The Personal Lincoln. Lincoln Home National Historic Site Visitor Center, 1:00pm-2:00pm, and 2:30-3:30pm, free admission.

Bicentennial Period Ball

A Bicentennial Period Ball with the 10th Cavalry Regiment Band providing period music; ladies and gentlemen are invited to wear mid-1800's attire, but not required to attend. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Plaza, 6:00pm-9:00pm, free admission, reservations requested.

February 12, 2009

Abraham Lincoln Association Roundtable
Roundtable discussion, featuring Vernon Burton, Daniel Walker Howe, Michael Burlingame, Elizabeth Varnon, Russell McClintock, David Contosta. Old State Capitol, 9:00am-10:30am, free admission.

Gettysburg Address Reading

Statewide reading of the Gettysburg Address with Illinois grade school students participating in the simultaneously read speech. Location TBD, 9:30am, free admission.

Book Signing and Children's Story Telling with Abraham Lincoln

Author book signing followed by Abraham Lincoln talk with children about the importance of reading. Harriet Tubman, Jameson Jenkins, Sojourner Truth will each briefly talk to the children. Lincoln Home National Historic Site Visitor Center, 9:30am-10:00am and 4:00pm-4:30pm; Story Telling 10:00am-11:00am and 4:30pm-5:30pm, free admission.

Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday Party

A once in a lifetime celebration! Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday Party celebrated in the evening, sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6:00pm-12:00am, tickets required.

February 13, 2009

Lincoln and Leadership Program
Lincoln and Leadership Program with Fritz Klein as Abraham Lincoln, sponsored by Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 9:00am-11:30pm, free admission, advanced registration required at: liho_superintendent@nps.gov.



Lincoln Home Visitor Center, 426 S. 7th Street.

Abraham, Frederick, Harriet, and Martin: Part I

A Discussion with Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King. Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 2:00pm-3:00pm, free admission.

February 14, 2009

Abraham, Frederick, Harriet, and Martin: Part II

A Discussion with Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr.. Location TBD, 11:00am, free admission.

Music of the Lincoln Era

Music of the Lincoln era performed by a wide variety of singers and musicians. Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Visitor Center, 1:00-3:00pm, free admission.

Abraham Lincoln: A Biography in Words and Music

"Abraham Lincoln: A Biography in Words and Music" features Lincoln and another historic characters talking about Lincoln's life. Includes related period musical performances by a choral group. First Presbyterian Church 5:00pm, free admission.

February 15, 2009

The Abolitionist Church and Lincoln's Friend

Robert J. Davis will portray Jameson Jenkins, a friend and neighbor of Abraham Lincoln and conductor on the Underground Railroad. He found a spiritual home among the abolitionists at Second Presbyterian Church, which is now Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Westminster Choir will perform hymns from "The Presbyterian Psalmist" of 1852. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4:00pm, free admission.



Save the Date!

October 15-18, 2009: Lincoln Colloquium

The Lincoln Colloquium is a special event held every year at different locations throughout the Midwest. From October 15-18, 2009, the Colloquium comes to Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

This year the program focuses on the environment of the 1800s. *The Nature of Lincoln: How the Environment Shaped Lincoln and how Lincoln's Generation shaped the Environment* promises to be an interesting discussion as Lincoln's childhood on the rugged frontier is analyzed, as well as dealing with weather and man's determination to master his surroundings. Take a closer look at how

Lincoln and his generation affected, and were effected by the world around them. The Colloquium is presented in partnership with the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, University of Illinois at Springfield, Illinois State Museum, and Eastern National, and many others. For more information, contact the Lincoln Home National Historic Site at 217-391-3241.