



February News

Icy Weather Forces Inaugural Event Cancellation

A dangerous combination of ice and snow forced the cancellation of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Inaugural Ceremony in Hodgenville on February 12. First Lady Laura Bush, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, members of Congress, and actor Sam Waterston had been slated to attend.



Although the mid-morning ceremony was cancelled, many other planned activities went on as scheduled. Other events surrounding the ceremony in Lincoln's home state included a "Journey to Freedom: Songs of the Underground Railroad" performance on Saturday, February 9, in Elizabethtown. The performance incorporated music and drama to tell the stories of three Hardin Countians and their personal journeys to freedom.

The next night, the Singletary Center for the Arts on the University of Kentucky campus in Lexington was the scene of the gala "Our Lincoln" celebration sponsored by the Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc. The sold-out show featured a number of musical and dramatic performances.

Monday, February 11, featured several events in Louisville including a symposium headlined by well-known author Doris Kearns Goodwin, the opening of a new exhibit at Farmington Historic Plantation titled "An Enduring Friendship: Abraham Lincoln and Joshua Speed," and a "Kentucky Salute to Abraham Lincoln" performance at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville.

Although the morning kick-off event at the Lincoln Birthplace was cancelled, Governor Steven L. Beshear helped dedicate the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Hodgenville that afternoon.

The dedication was followed by the annual Lincoln Days Luncheon in the school cafeteria with speaker Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank Williams.

The unveiling of the new Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail took place later that afternoon in downtown Hodgenville and a kick-off finale was held that night in Elizabethtown where another packed house was entertained by a combination of dramatic and musical presentations at the Hardin County Performing Arts Center. To find out more about the Lincoln Heritage Trail, visit www.kylincolntrail.com

KET Lincoln Special to Air Saturday

As Kentucky and the rest of the nation embark on a two-year celebration of Abraham Lincoln, a new KET production explores the life and career of Kentucky's most famous native son. **Lincoln: "I, too, am a Kentuckian."** is a *Kentucky Life* special hosted by Dave Shuffett. The program examines the many Kentucky people and places that profoundly influenced American's 16th president.



Airing Saturday, March 1 at 8/7 p.m. CT on KET1 and KET HD; Sunday, March 2 at 1 p.m./noon CT on KET1; and Sunday, March 9 at 6/5 p.m. CT on KET2, the program kicks off KET's TeleFund 2008. It is KET's first long-form documentary produced entirely in high definition. Born near what is now Hodgenville, Ky., Lincoln retained lifelong connections with the Commonwealth. The Lincoln family left Kentucky when he was just seven years old, but some of the most influential people in his adult life were Kentuckians, including his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and his best friend, Joshua Speed, along with many of his business partners.

The program visits the Jefferson County site where, in 1786, Lincoln's grandfather was killed by American Indians; Lincoln's birthplace and boyhood home near Hodgenville; the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington; and Farmington, the Louisville home of Joshua Speed.

Viewers also journey to the Lincoln family's Indiana homestead and Springfield, Ill., where his law career flourished. Then, the program travels to Washington, D.C., where President Lincoln dedicated the final four years of his life to keeping the Union intact. That monumental effort included the delicate diplomatic task of keeping Kentucky in the Union. As tensions flared into civil war, the president wrote that "to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game."

Commentary is provided by several local and national Lincoln experts, including presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin; Douglas Wilson, director of the Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill.; John Kleber, editor of the Kentucky Encyclopedia and professor emeritus of history at Morehead State University; and Alicestyne Adams, director of the Underground Railroad Research Institute at Georgetown College.

Finally, **Lincoln: "I, too, am a Kentuckian."** looks at the ways Lincoln was commemorated in the years after his assassination, especially in his native state.

Lincoln: "I, too, am a Kentuckian." is a KET production, made possible in part by a grant from the Kentucky Historical Society and The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The program is produced and directed by Joy Flynn. More information about KET programming and education services, as well as how to support KET, can be found at www.ket.org.

Kentucky Heritage Trail Web Site Now Available

A new Web site taking visitors on a virtual visit to historic sites along the new Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail is now available. Like the real locations along the trail, the Web site at www.kylincolntrail.com maps the Kentucky people, places and events that shaped the Lincoln legacy and tell the story of his early years in Kentucky.



The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail is a scenic route across central Kentucky to be designated by 27 markers and including signature historic sites in Hodgenville, Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Elizabethtown, Nicholasville, Springfield and Richmond as well as additional sites across the state that illuminate Lincoln's life. Highlighting each of these, the Web site also features other historic Kentucky places located nearby, to extend visitor interest beyond the trail itself. This new trail reinterprets and updates the original Lincoln Heritage Trail which was created in the early 1960s through Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

The first inaugural marker was unveiled in Hodgenville on February 12 by Governor Steven L. Beshear. It depicts the founding of Hodgen's Mill - the community that came to be known as Hodgenville - and the connection between this early settlement and the Lincoln family. Remaining markers will be placed throughout the spring, including directional and highway signage.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail is a project of the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Kentucky Department of Tourism and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Kentucky Arts Council Grant Funds Historical Dramas

The Kentucky Repertory Theatre in Horse Cave has been awarded a grant of \$170,000 by the Kentucky Arts Council, funded through the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, to produce "Abraham Lincoln" and "With Malice Toward None," celebrating the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Kentucky Repertory Theatre's production of "Abraham Lincoln" is adapted from the 1918 play by John Drinkwater, which appeared on Broadway in the early 20th century. Featuring a cast of 15, this historical drama recounts events from Lincoln's life from his election as president, through the Civil War, to his assassination in 1865. Audiences will have a chance to see "Abraham Lincoln" at the Kentucky Repertory Theatre in Horse Cave, beginning in August 2008.

Based on an original concept by Kentucky Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director Robert Brock, "With Malice Toward None" is an exciting multimedia production that uses lights, music, sounds, photographs, and video to call attention to Lincoln's important speeches and writings. Featuring a cast of five performing dramatic scenes set against the backdrop of the Civil War, this play will tour schools, colleges, theatres, and performing arts centers throughout Kentucky in the spring of 2009.

Schedule details can be found on the calendar of events at www.kylincoln.org.

Lincoln Artwork to be Featured at March Event

Visitors to the upcoming Kentucky Crafted: The Market on March 8-9, 2008 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, will have the first chance to see and buy items in a special Lincoln Collection Showcase.

The Kentucky Arts Council, with funding from the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, has awarded over \$6,000 to date in Product Development Grants for artists to create special Lincoln-themed products commemorating the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth in Kentucky.



Artists participating in the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Crafted Program who already have products relevant to the Lincoln era have also been invited to participate. These unique, high-quality products include hand-crafted items that are historic replicas; commemorative pieces; and prints and note cards produced from original artwork.

Lincoln products will be sold later in retail venues across Kentucky, including but not limited to the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, selected Kentucky State Parks gift shops, the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea, and the 1792 Store at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.

Kentucky Lincoln Sites Ready for Travel Season!

Kentucky's signature Lincoln sites received high marks from visitors, according to results from a recent performance management survey.

The survey was compiled from visitor questionnaires collected last summer at the sites. Results showed they received high marks in most areas - especially those connected with customer service.

The survey was funded by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission as part of an effort to ensure that Kentucky's signature Lincoln sites put their "best foot forward" during the Lincoln bicentennial period and this summer's busy travel season. The performance management program is offered by the American Association for State and Local History, a national association headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. The program provides historical societies, historic sites, and museums with a new way to measure visitor satisfaction and gain important support material for fundraising, marketing, strategic planning, and program development.

Kentucky Historical Society Awards Lincoln Grants

The Kentucky Historical Society has awarded \$51,359 in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission grants for Lincoln-related community projects. "These grants from the Kentucky Historical Society will allow communities throughout the state to celebrate our native son during the bicentennial commemoration," says Kent Whitworth, executive director of the Kentucky Historical Society, which administers the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. "The projects these grants fund help Kentuckians to discover Lincoln's many connections to the state, which gives them perspective on the present and inspiration for the future."

The grants, using funds previously appropriated by the Kentucky General Assembly, will be used to support a variety of themes related to Lincoln and Kentucky, including slavery, nineteenth-century political culture, the Civil War, and Lincoln's legacy. Projects include educational programs, exhibits, public art, community celebrations, speakers, classroom tools, and more.

Grants are available to museums, historical organizations, educational institutions, city and county governments, and other nonprofit organizations. This round of grants were made available to the Commission from the General Assembly and were distributed to Kentucky communities through the Kentucky Historical Society.

Additional Updates

Presidential historian and ABC news consultant Richard Norton Smith will discuss Abraham Lincoln and emancipation at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, at the William F. Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville. A McConnell scholar panel discussion on Lincoln and leadership in Kentucky will follow. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jami Allen at 502-852- 8747.

"Lincoln's Wartime Stand on Political Opposition" will be held 7 p.m. Monday, March 10, at the Holbrook Student Center, Thomas More College. Dr. Mark Neely will present this free public presentation.

"A Meeting of the Minds: The Presidents of Mt. Rushmore Speak" will be presented at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, and at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, March 10, at the Springfield Presbyterian Church, East Main Street, Springfield.

The Kentucky Official Highway Map for 2008, which beckons travelers to a multitude of attractions, is now available at welcome centers and rest areas across the commonwealth. The new edition highlights locations that figured prominently in the life of Lincoln, the nation's 16th president, who was born near present-day Hodgenville on Feb. 12, 1809.