



June News

Lincoln-Hanks Wedding Event Set for June 14

June is traditionally the month for weddings and an historic one will be recreated on the grounds of Lincoln Homestead State Park in Springfield on Saturday, June 14.

The wedding of Abraham Lincoln's parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, is the topic of the outdoor drama, *Dearly Beloved: The Vows of a Lincoln Legacy*. This event marks the 202nd anniversary of their marriage, which took place on June 12, 1806. Performances are scheduled for 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.



"The Lincoln-Hanks wedding celebration is the premier Kentucky family historical entertainment experience," said Kentucky Senator Dan Kelly, of Springfield. "It will be great fun and a tremendous glimpse into the entire frontier culture at the time of the Lincoln-Hanks wedding. *Dearly Beloved: The Vows of a Lincoln Legacy*, is a fun, exciting, and moving story about Abraham Lincoln and his Kentucky roots."

This outdoor drama is produced by the Kentucky Historical Society's Museum Theatre Program, in cooperation with the Kentucky Department of Parks and the Springfield/Washington County community.

In addition to the wedding ceremony, there will be historical speakers throughout the day, including Dr. Thomas Walker, Governor Isaac Shelby, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. The entire day will feature food, music, and activities that provide visitors with a look at what America was like in the early 1800s, when Lincoln's parents were married.

For more information about the event and for directions to Lincoln Homestead State Park, see the [Lincoln Hanks Web site](#) or visit the [Parks Web site](#).

Authors to Sign Books at the Jefferson Davis Symposium

Several well-known history scholars will sign their books as part of "The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis" symposium at the Kentucky Historical Society on June 27.

The authors are in Frankfort to participate in the symposium, which examines complex issues related to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America and a Kentucky native.

Authors who will be signing include:

- William J. Cooper Jr., Boyd Professor of History, Louisiana State University
- Richard J. Blackett, Andrew Jackson Professor of History, Vanderbilt University
- Charles P. Roland, professor emeritus of history, University of Kentucky
- Edward M. Coffman, professor emeritus of history, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- John Coski, director of library and research Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia
- James A. Ramage, Regents Professor of History, Northern Kentucky University

Visitors are not required to attend the symposium in order to attend the book signing. However, if you would like more information on "The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis" symposium, please visit the [Kentucky Lincoln Commission's Web site](#). The registration deadline is Friday, June 20.

Boy Lincoln Sculpture Unveiled, Passport Program Launched

The Hodgenville town square was alive with activity on Saturday, May 31, as the Boy Lincoln sculpture was unveiled in front of a crowd of hundreds, followed by the official launch of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Passport Program.

"We're very excited about the unveiling and dedication of the Boy Lincoln statue," said LaRue County Judge Executive Tommy Turner. "It allows all to see that the greatest President was once a young Kentucky lad. Having the Weinman presidential statue and the Boy Lincoln statue within a few hundred feet of one another offers a unique perspective and should inspire all youth who see it to know they too can



The Boy Lincoln statue was placed at ground level, allowing children to touch it, stand beside it, and be photographed with it.

Later in the afternoon, the passport initiative was unveiled, just in time for the summer heritage touring season. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Passport Program is a fun and exciting way to explore Kentucky's Lincoln sites.

Lincoln Heritage Trail Passports can be obtained free of charge at any [Lincoln Trail](#) location or by contacting the [Kentucky Department of Tourism](#).

Lincoln Museum Updates

Two of the four major goals of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission are strengthening the long-term legacy of Kentucky's Lincoln sites and museums and enhancing Kentucky's heritage-tourism industry. One of the ways that commission staff at the Kentucky Historical Society is working to accomplish these goals is by helping sites identify areas of improvement and then providing funding and assistance to make those improvements a reality.



The Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville is one of the state's signature Lincoln sites, and two areas that Museum Director Iris LaRue identified as needing improvement were introductory signage for the museum's art gallery area and replacing some outdated panels.

Other planned improvements include uniform interpretive signage at each of the 12 dioramas in the museum and a new "Hodgen's Mill" exhibit upstairs. These additions will help make the museum more visitor-friendly and will last well beyond the Lincoln Bicentennial period.

For more information about the Lincoln Museum, visit the [Museum's Web site](#) or call 270-358-3163.

"Forever Free" Exhibit Travels to Hardin County

The "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" exhibit opens June 12 at the Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Dr., Elizabethtown. This national traveling exhibit focuses on Lincoln's life as he dealt with the events and challenges leading up to the Emancipation Proclamation. It also highlights the role of black soldiers during the Civil War.

The exhibit, featuring rarely seen photographs and reproductions of famous documents, letters, engravings, newspaper reports, cartoons, and memorabilia, will be on display in Hardin County through July 25. It will then travel to the Lexington Public Library for a six-week run beginning August 8.

The Hardin County Public Library has planned numerous events for the public in conjunction with "Forever Free," including book discussions, speakers, and children's activities.

A complete list of activities is available on the [Lincoln Commission Web site calendar](#). The opening reception is planned for Monday, June 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Historian Doug Cantrell will give the keynote address. During the day on June 16, the KHS HistoryMobile will be at the library.

"Forever Free" is funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Kentucky exhibit is funded, in part, by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. For more information, visit the [library's Web site](#) or call 270-769-6337.

Glasscock Elementary Students Bring Lincoln to Life in Presentation

Third-grade students in Karen Nelson's class at Glasscock Elementary School in Lebanon received a \$500 Lincoln Heritage Education Grant through the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to research, create, and perform an original presentation about Abraham Lincoln.

The students presented their project to other Glasscock Elementary students in mid-May.

"Schools from 12 counties across Kentucky have received over \$5,000 this year to help fund field trips to Lincoln sites or do Lincoln-related projects in their classrooms through the Lincoln Heritage Education Grant Program," said Kate Hesseldenz, program coordinator.

Camp Nelson Joins National Underground Railroad Network

The Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation sponsored a celebration on May 18 recognizing Camp Nelson's recent inclusion into the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

The featured speaker was Barbara Tagger, program manager with the National Park Service.

Camp Nelson is one of the signature Kentucky Lincoln sites and is located approximately 18 miles south of Lexington on US 27.



For more information, visit [Camp Nelson's Web site](#) or call 859-881-5716.

Additional Notes:

- The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will meet 1 p.m. Monday, July 14, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.
- The Kentucky History Education Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. The topic is "Abraham Lincoln and Kentucky." More information is available at www.history.ky.gov.
- The Great American Brass Band Festival is scheduled for June 12-15 in Danville. The play, *Strike Up the Band: Lincoln Comes Home* will be part of the festivities. For more information, contact Cindy Long at Centre College at 859-238-5714.
- The Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile continues to travel throughout Kentucky, sharing the "Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln" exhibit with visitors throughout the commonwealth. It will be at the Fort Harrod Beef Festival June 7-8; the Hardin County Public Library on June 12; the Lincoln-Hanks Wedding Event in Springfield on June 14; and the Filson Club in Louisville on June 18. On June 27, the HistoryMobile will travel to Jackson County for the Touchstone Cooperative Annual Reunion and Picnic.
- One Man's Lincoln is scheduled for presentation at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 20, at the Kentucky Repertory Theatre in Horse Cave. A reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and a lecture by Dr. Wade Hall begins at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, call 270-786-2177.
- A free musical tribute to Lincoln will take place 5 p.m. Friday, July 4, at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. For more information, call 270-358-3137.

