



November News

Hodgenville Lincoln Statue is Commissioned

The City of Hodgenville has commissioned the Daub Firmin Hendrickson Sculpture Group of Berkeley, CA to create a bronze life-size sculpture of the boy Lincoln. The sculpture will be installed in front of the existing bronze seated Lincoln sculpture in a circular park area in the town square of Hodgenville.

The in-the-round sculpture will depict Lincoln, at age seven, leaning against an old tree trunk, reading a copy of Webster's Elementary Spelling-book, with a linen satchel filled with ears of corn, a fishing pole, and his dog "Honey," sitting attentively close by.

The Daub Firmin Hendrickson Sculpture Group was selected from a field of over 75 proposals by sculptors, nationwide. The Sculpture Group is composed of three sculptors, Eugene Daub, Rob Firmin, and Jonah Hendrickson, who primarily work to commemorate significant contributors to American history.



Funding for this project was provided by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission through the Kentucky Arts Council, which has worked in an advisory capacity with the City of Hodgenville and the Lincoln Sculpture Committee in developing the guidelines, criteria, and request for proposal for the public art commission.



Candlelight will Reveal the Past at Mary Todd Lincoln House

Step back in time and enjoy a look at Christmas past at the Mary Todd Lincoln House during candlelight tours on Friday, December 14, and Saturday, December 15. Visitors will be received from 6 to 8 p.m. The house will close at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for members of Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, and \$5 for children under 12. The Mary Todd Lincoln House is located at 578 West Main Street in downtown Lexington and free parking is available.

The event celebrates the holiday season and Mary Todd Lincoln's 189th birthday. It includes a self-guided tour by candlelight, period decorations, and light refreshments featuring Mary's signature white-cake recipe, a favorite of Mr. Lincoln's. Costumed docents, including a Mary Todd Lincoln interpreter, will host the tours.

The childhood home of Mary Todd Lincoln was opened to the public in 1977 and is the first historic site in America to honor of a former First Lady. For more information, call 859-233-9999.

Forever Free Exhibit Opens

The "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" exhibit opens December 13 at the Louisville Free Public Library, 301 West York Street, Louisville. The exhibit will be on display in the library's Bernheim Gallery through February 15, 2008.

"Forever Free" is a traveling exhibit that showcases rarely seen photographs and reproductions of famous documents, letters, engravings, newspaper reports, cartoons, and memorabilia. The 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 is presented in six colorful sections. Each section contains easy-to-follow explanatory material that is suitable for all ages. It is open to the public for viewing during regular library hours.

Metro Louisville is one of only four communities in Kentucky chosen to host the "Forever Free" exhibit. It will travel to the Ekstrom Library at the University of Louisville in late February 2008. From there, it will travel to the Hardin County Public Library, the Lexington Public Library, and the Boyle County Public Library. Each library will have the exhibit for approximately six weeks.

"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.

Chestnut Trees Planted at Lincoln Birthplace

Five blight-resistant chestnut trees were recently planted at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, part of a joint venture made possible by donations from the Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors and The American Chestnut Foundation. The trees replace chestnut trees that were prevalent in the area during Lincoln's lifetime and will be part of the lasting legacy of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.



Families in rural America, including the Lincoln family, once depended heavily upon the American chestnut for food and shelter. These trees grew straight and tall and were rot-resistant, making the wood desirable for building everything from log cabin homes to split-rail fences. The small nuts were sweet and fed entire families as well as many species of wildlife.

Visitors to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site have the opportunity to view four structures directly adjacent to the site built with American chestnut logs. The Nancy Lincoln Inn and four small cabins were constructed from large chestnut logs and red-heart pine. Built by James R. Howell in 1928-29, these buildings are open to the public and are still owned and managed by the Howell family.

Kentucky Lincoln Commission at the Commemoration Kick-off Event

February 12 marks the kick-off of the bicentennial commemoration of President Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (KALBC) and the Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile will be on site for the ceremonies at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Hodgenville.

KALBC partners and representatives from Lincoln sites will also have a place inside the KALBC tent, which will be located adjacent to the visitor's center on-site. More details will be provided as they become available.

Intercollegiate Task Force to Meet in January

Exploring Lincoln's complex views on race and slavery was one of the possible joint projects discussed at the inaugural meeting of the Intercollegiate Task Force, sponsored by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The meeting was held at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in mid-September and was attended by more than 20 representatives from 14 of Kentucky's colleges and universities. Many of the colleges are planning Lincoln-oriented programs during the 2008-2010 bicentennial commemoration and some events have already taken place. Georgetown College recently held its first Underground Railroad Conference featuring Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree and a Lincoln-themed quilt show was on display through October 31 at Kentucky State University.

The task force plans to hold quarterly meetings to discuss activities and to explore collaborative partnerships on the subject of Abraham Lincoln. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 14, at the Kentucky Historical Society. For more information, contact [Jeanine Scott](#) by email or by phone at 502-564-1792, ext. 4467.

Other News

- Tickets for the Lincoln Bicentennial Kick-Off events are now on sale. For details, see the [Kentucky Lincoln Commission Web site](#).
- The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will meet 1 p.m. Monday, November 19, in the Hodgenville Community Room, downtown Hodgenville. The meeting is open to the public.
- *Nancy Hanks Lincoln: A Frontier Portrait*, is now back in print. The biography was written by Harold and Ernestine Briggs and is available at [Unlimited Publishing](#).
- Birthplace of Lincoln license plates are expected to go on sale in December. The initial cost of the plate is \$34 with a \$21 annual renewal fee.

Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Members List	Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council List
<p style="text-align: center;"> Kent Masterson Brown Dr. Anne Butler Kimberly Clay Mayor Terry Cruse Senator Carroll Gibson Robin Chandler Senator Dan Kelly (cochair) Iris LaRue Donna M. Neary James Ott Steve Price Keith Pruitt Dr. Winfield Rose Andrea Saylor Representative Dottie Sims Will Terwort Garnett Thurman, Jr. Judge Executive Tommy Turner (cochair) Kent Whitworth Representative Brent Yonts </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Alicestyne Adams Eric Brooks Sandy Brue Thomas Caradonio Virginia Flanagan Mayor Mike Haydon Brooks Howard Shae Hopkins Kim Jefferson Colonel Arthur Kelly Daniel C. Kelly III Dr. John Kleber Dr. James Klotter Steven T. McMurtry Lori Meadows Judge Paul Patton Dr. Judy Pierce Dr. James Ramage Dr. Paul Tenkotte Gwen Thompson Dr. Mary Sias Senator Katie Stine </p>

e-mail: lisas.cleveland@ky.gov

phone: 502-564-1792

web: <http://www.kylincoln.org>