



December News

Bicentennial Commemoration Offers Many Ways to Participate

Kentuckians who want to take part in official kick-off ceremonies for the Lincoln bicentennial have a variety of options, including the inaugural event on February 12, 2008 at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Hodgenville. This event is free and open to the public.

Featured invited guests include President George W. Bush, Governor Steven L. Beshear, Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Sam Waterston, best known for his television role as an attorney on *Law and Order*. The American Spiritual Ensemble and Saxton's Cornet Band will provide music.

Representatives from Kentucky's Lincoln sites, the Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile, and Lincoln-related merchandise and art will also be located on-site.

The inaugural program begins at 10:30 a.m., but the site will be open to the public beginning at 7 a.m. Bus transportation will be provided.

School trips to the inaugural event are encouraged. If your school would like to send students to the opening ceremony, please contact Sandy Brue at the birthplace at 270-358-3137.

Several events are also scheduled in the days preceding the official kick-off ceremony. Please see the [Kentucky Lincoln Commission's Web site](#) for a complete list.



Lincoln Chautauqua Characters in Demand During Bicentennial

The Kentucky Humanities Council now has four new Kentucky Chautauqua characters related to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Chautauqua characters are actors portraying an actual person in a convincing drama. These characters are partially funded by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The Chautauqua programs are available to communities and classrooms across Kentucky for a small fee. The four Lincoln-related characters include the man himself, portrayed by longtime

Lincoln dramatist Jim Sayre of Lawrenceburg. Sayre's drama illustrates Lincoln's lifelong connections to his native state.

Mary Todd Lincoln is portrayed by Angela Bartley of Louisville. Veteran Chautauqua actor Erma Bush, also of Louisville, portrays Margaret Garner, an enslaved Kentucky mother who escaped, was caught, and then killed one of her own children rather than see the child returned to slavery.

Emilie Todd Helm is portrayed by Betsy B. Smith of Cynthiana. Helm was Mary Todd Lincoln's sister who visited the Lincolns in the White House after the death of her husband, Confederate general Benjamin Hardin Helm, arousing protests about the "Rebel in the White House."

For more information about scheduling Kentucky Chautauqua programs, contact the [Kentucky Humanities Council](#), 206 E. Maxwell St., Lexington, KY 40508, or by telephone at 859-257-5932.

Lincoln Birthplace Sponsoring Public Speaking Contests

Kentucky middle school and high school students are eligible to compete in one of two Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Public Speaking Contests, sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Hodgenville. The contests are planned for February 2008.

Students are challenged to develop, organize, and communicate ideas relating to the life and career of President Abraham Lincoln for their speeches, which should range in length from five to 15 minutes. Speeches will be judged on originality, accuracy, and presentation.

The high school contest will take place 10 a.m. Saturday, February 10, and the middle school contest is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, February 2. The location will depend upon how many people enter each contest. Contestants will be informed about the location prior to the contests.

First-place, second-place, and third-place winners will receive a cash prize and all participants will receive a certificate. The first-place winners will receive their prizes during the bicentennial inaugural ceremonies on Feb. 12, 2008.

Entry forms along with contest rules and resource guides are available at the [Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site](#), 2995 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748. The Birthplace phone number is 270-358-3137.

Lincoln Commission Offers Endorsement Program

In addition to its many grant programs, the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission offers an endorsement program for Lincoln-related projects in Kentucky.

The commission recently endorsed a magazine project titled *The Lincoln Bicentennial Magazine, Kentucky Commemorative Edition*. The publication, produced by The Clark Group and Back Home Kentucky, Inc., will focus on the remarkable life and times of Abraham Lincoln, with emphasis on his childhood years in the commonwealth. Leading Kentucky poet and author Dr. Richard Taylor is the principal author of this special issue magazine, which will be available in spring 2008.

More information about the Lincoln Commission's Endorsement Program can be found on the [commission's Web site](#).

Commission to Meet January 7

The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will meet 1 p.m. Monday, January 7, at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort.

The commission last convened on November 19 in Hodgenville. The meeting featured updates on a wide array of commission-sponsored initiatives from education and marketing to public art.

The following projects were featured:

- Kentucky's Lincoln Heritage Trail
- the commission's updated Web site
- Lincoln merchandise
- the Hodgenville statue project
- Kentucky Educational Television's upcoming Lincoln special

Other News

- The Commission's Intercollegiate Task Force will meet 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, January 14, at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort.
- With Malice Toward One -- Abraham Lincoln and the Political Cartoonists will be held noon Thursday, December 20, at the Frazier International History Museum in Louisville. Dr. Mark Summers will discuss one very effective way to change or direct public opinion -- the political cartoon. During the Civil War, newspapers on both sides attempted to sway public sentiment. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tony Dingman at 502-756-5665.

Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Members List	Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council List
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