



June E-News

Frank J. Williams to Speak at the Kentucky Historical Society

Frank J. Williams, chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and noted Lincoln scholar, will speak at the Kentucky Historical Society on June 26. Chief Justice Williams will appear as part of a teacher workshop produced by the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. His lecture is titled "Legend and Myth - Abraham Lincoln and Kentucky."



Chief Justice Williams is founding chairman of the Lincoln Forum -- a group dedicated to enhancing the understanding and preservation of the Lincoln legacy. Williams is author of numerous books, including his latest work, *Judging Lincoln* (2002). His other works include: *Sources and Styles of Leadership* (1994) and *Abraham Lincoln Contemporary* (1995). Chief Justice Williams also serves as literary editor of the *Lincoln Herald*, where he contributes a quarterly survey of "Lincolniana."

The lecture will begin at 9 a.m. and the public is welcome. For additional information about this event, please [contact Sandy Brue](#) at 270-358-3137.

Lincoln Artifact Found at Kentucky Department of Library and Archives

A researcher at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives found a court document that Abraham Lincoln apparently signed and filed in Vermillion County, Illinois, in May 1853, in response to a lawsuit filed by his father-in-law's law firm in Lexington.

The three-page court document concerning a disputed debt of \$472.54 was in a box of documents acquired by the state archives almost twenty years ago from the late Dr. Thomas D. Clark.

According to James M. Prichard, supervisor of the archives research room, William H. Townsend cited this suit in his book *Lincoln and His Wife's Home Town*, which was published in 1929. The specifics of the case involved two surviving partners of a firm founded by Lincoln's late father-in-law, Robert S. Todd. They filed suit against the future president in 1853, claiming that he had collected debts owed to the firm during Robert S. Todd's lifetime and had converted the funds to his own use.

"Townsend, who discovered the case in the Fayette County Court House in 1922, noted that the litigation challenged long-held historical beliefs that Lincoln's integrity had never been called into question," Prichard said. "Lincoln provided affidavits from Illinois that completely disproved the

allegations and the suit was dismissed in 1854."

Other files in the collection include papers concerning Thomas Lincoln, the president's great uncle, as well as some probate cases involving the family of Mary Todd Lincoln.

"Kentucky Leading the Way"

According to an Illinois newspaper, Kentucky is "leading the way" in Lincoln bicentennial planning. The article, published in the *Springfield Journal-Register* in May, highlights the significant funding for Lincoln efforts in Kentucky. The paper also states that since Lincoln was born in the commonwealth "it shouldn't be surprising that Kentucky is ahead of Illinois and Indiana."

Support for Lincoln-related projects in Kentucky has been substantial according to Kent Whitworth, executive director of the Kentucky Historical Society, which administers the state's Lincoln commission. "To date, funding from federal, state, local, and private sources has been devoted to Lincoln bicentennial initiatives in Kentucky," he says. "With these investments in Kentucky communities, the commonwealth is in a good position to begin to tell its Lincoln story to the world."

There are additional reasons for Kentucky's success in Lincoln bicentennial planning according to Kimberly Clay, director of Cultural Heritage Tourism at the Kentucky Department of Tourism. "From the beginning, Kentucky's Lincoln bicentennial has benefited from partnerships among its Lincoln communities and state agencies. The Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Humanities Council, Kentucky Heritage Council, Kentucky Department of Tourism, Kentucky Department of Parks, and Kentucky Education Cabinet, including Kentucky Educational Television, are just a few of the partners working together to commemorate this great Kentuckian," she notes.

The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Governor Ernie Fletcher in 2004, also includes members from the Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, the Lincoln Homestead State Park near Springfield, and the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville.

The *Springfield Journal-Register* article [can be read here](#). More information about Kentucky's Lincoln bicentennial can be found by [visiting our Web site](#).

Lincoln Birthplace Announces Summer Hours and Programs

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is now operating under its summer schedule that provides extended hours for visitors. The Birthplace is open from 8 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. daily through Labor Day. The site's film, *Lincoln: The Kentucky Years*, is shown on the hour and half-hour in the recently renovated Visitor Center auditorium and new wayside signage with colorful graphics and new text has been installed providing information on the park, the Sinking Spring, the Boundary Oak, the Nancy Lincoln Inn, and the Memorial Building.

The Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is staffed daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A historical garden has been planted with many of the vegetables and herbs the Lincoln family might have used.

For additional information, [contact Sandy Brue](#) at 270- 358-3137.

Other News

- **Teachers are encouraged to enroll in the Lincoln Teacher Network** at Georgetown

College scheduled for July 26-28, 2007. Teachers will design standards-based units of study for K-12 students on the subject of Abraham Lincoln and the Underground Railroad. This network is produced in association with the Kentucky Department of Education and sponsored by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. For more information, please [contact Alicestyne Adams](#) at 502-863- 2203.

- **Ashland: the Henry Clay Estate will host its 2007 Lawn Party on June 16.** The theme of this year's event is "Celebrating the Clay-Lincoln Connection." For tickets and information, please call 859-266-8581 or [go online](#).
- **The Boyhood Home of Abraham Lincoln, on the Knob Creek Farm, begins its summer program schedule on June 24.** Everyone, especially families with children, is invited to bring a picnic lunch and learn about the life and times of the young Lincoln family who lived on the Knob Creek Farm between 1811 and 1816. All programs are free and activities begin at 1 p.m. For more information, [contact Sandy Brue](#) at 270-358-3137.
- **The Kentucky Humanities Council's newest Lincoln grant application** is [available at their Web site](#).
- **A visitor assessment survey** at signature Lincoln sites in Kentucky will begin this month. The survey is funded by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.
- **On June 23, there will be a rededication of Governor Thomas E. Bramlette's restored tombstone** and an unveiling of the Bramlette historical highway marker in Louisville, sponsored by the Kentucky Historical Society.
- **A new exhibition titled *Lincoln and Northern Kentucky*** will open at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington on July 1.
- **The next meeting of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission** is 1 p.m. August 27, 2007, at the Opera House in Springfield, Kentucky.

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 Sally Hamilton 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 Gerald R. McMurtry Lori Meadows Paul Patton Dr. Judy Pierce Dr. James Ramage Dr. Paul Tenkotte Gwen Thompson Dr. Mary Sias Senator Katie Stine</p>

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