



January News

Lincoln Inaugural Ceremony Update

Kentucky will take a place in the spotlight on Tuesday, February 12, at the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Inaugural Ceremony at the Lincoln Birthplace in Hodgenville.

Federal and state officials and dignitaries are expected to pay their respects to the nation's 16th president, who was born in a log cabin in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. This ceremony serves as the official opening of the national bicentennial commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Kentucky will host individuals from at least 20 different states during these inaugural events, according to the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Several Kentucky schools are expected to bring students to the event.



President George W. Bush has been invited, but the White House has not yet confirmed his attendance. First Lady Laura Bush has also been invited, as well as U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, Governor Steven L. Beshear, Pulitzer-Prize-winner Doris Kearns Goodwin, and actor Sam Waterston, best known for his television role as an attorney on *Law and Order*. Music will be provided by the Saxton Cornet Band and the American Spiritual Ensemble. LaRue County Judge Executive Tommy Turner will serve as master of ceremonies. Turner is a member of both the national and state Lincoln commissions.

"This inaugural event signifies the opening of a window of renewed interest in Lincoln in Kentucky," said Turner. "We look at the bicentennial as not a single-day event, but something that helps create a lasting legacy for Kentucky."

The ceremony at the birthplace is free and open to the public. The program is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m., but gates will open at 7 a.m. Vehicles will not be allowed onsite; shuttle transportation will be provided from several area parking lots in Hodgenville.

"Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln," an exhibit in the Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile, will be available onsite. Representatives from Kentucky's Lincoln sites will be present and Lincoln-

related art and merchandise will also be onsite. Representatives from Kentucky Education Television will provide sneak previews of a new Lincoln program titled Lincoln: "I, too, am a Kentuckian," which is scheduled to air on Saturday, March 1. This program will be the first KET production in high definition. See the [Commission's official Web site](#) for more information.

Lexington Celebration Planned for February 10

The Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc. will host a gala "Our Lincoln" celebration on Sunday, February 10, at the Singletary Center for the Arts on the University of Kentucky campus in Lexington.

This gala is one of several events leading up to the official opening of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration on February 12. The performance begins at 7 p.m.



"Our Lincoln" will feature the American Spiritual Ensemble, the Lexington Philharmonic performing Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait" with spoken word, and the premier performance of an act from "River of Time," a new Kentucky opera about Lincoln as a young man.

Lexington native and Chicago Symphony violinist Nathan Cole will perform some of the haunting music made known to the public by filmmaker Ken Burns' "The Civil War." The evening will also include vignettes from new Kentucky Chautauqua characters: Mary Todd Lincoln and her sister Emilie Todd Helm, Margaret Garner, and Abraham Lincoln.

Kentucky's poet laureate, Jane Gentry Vance, will read her favorite Lincoln poem and the Kentucky Repertory Theatre will present a cameo from Wade Hall's drama, "One Man's Lincoln."

More information and tickets are available online at www.ourlincoln.org. Tickets can also be purchased on the [Singletary Center's Web site](#).

Kentucky Salutes Lincoln

Award-winning journalist and Louisville native Bob Edwards will lead "A Kentucky Salute to Abraham Lincoln" on Monday, February 11, at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville.



The evening will feature a musical and dramatic tribute to Lincoln, celebrating his life and spirit through music, song, and oratory. The Louisville Orchestra will perform with acclaimed soprano Angela Brown. Capping the program is a performance of "Lincoln Seen and Heard" by award-winning actor Sam Waterston and Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer.

Kentucky sculptor Ed Hamilton will display a replica of his new Lincoln statue, which will be unveiled at the Louisville Waterfront Park in 2009. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view a model of a new statue planned for Hodgenville. Lincoln quilts, art, official bicentennial merchandise, and information on Kentucky's Lincoln sites and the Lincoln Heritage Trail will also be available in the Center's lobby area. Kentucky Education Television is taping this event for broadcast later in 2008.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and cost \$50 per person or \$10 for students. To purchase tickets by phone, call 502-584-7777 or go [online](#). Tickets are also available by visiting the Center's box office, located in the second-floor main lobby at 501 West Main Street, Louisville.

Lincoln Heritage Trail Ceremony Set for February 12



Capping off the February 12 activities in Hodgenville, at 3 p.m. Governor Steven L. Beshear and other dignitaries will participate in a ceremonial unveiling of the first marker of the new Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, located on the square in downtown Hodgenville.

The public is invited to join the community and city and county officials to celebrate the rollout of the new heritage trail with food, music and other festivities commemorating the 199th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. Plan to shop and dine in downtown Hodgenville, or bring the kids and have your photo taken with a Lincoln presenter. Enjoy music by the Larue County Band of Hawks as you stop by the Lincoln Museum Community Room for an art display and a piece of birthday cake.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail will include directional and highway signage, a brochure, map and Web site detailing sites throughout central Kentucky important to Lincoln's life, which culminated as our nation's 16th president. This inaugural marker depicts the founding of Hodgen's Mill, the community that came to be known as Hodgenville, and the connection between the settlement and the Lincoln family.

Twenty-six additional markers will be placed along the trail throughout the spring and the summer, all relating President Lincoln's Kentucky story and highlighting the key people, places and events that firmly established Lincoln as a Kentuckian. The new 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, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Tickets On Sale for Lincoln Days Birthday Luncheon

The annual Lincoln Days Birthday Luncheon will be held 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, following official opening ceremonies of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration. The luncheon, sponsored by Lincoln Days Celebration, Inc., will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Hodgenville.

Lincoln Days Celebration, Inc. is a community organization dedicated to planning observances of Lincoln's birthday and the annual Lincoln Days event in Hodgenville, which is held each October.

The main speaker for the luncheon will be announced at a later date. Tickets are \$30 each and are available [online](#) or by phone at 270-358-8710.

Lincoln License Plates Now Available!



Birthplace of Lincoln license plates are now available at county clerks' offices throughout Kentucky. This specialized plate costs \$34 initially, with a \$21 annual renewal fee.

"It is my hope that many Kentuckians will take advantage of the opportunity to reclaim Abraham Lincoln by displaying a Lincoln Bicentennial Plate on their vehicle, said Lindy Casebier, executive director of the Kentucky Office of Arts and Cultural Heritage. "As we begin this two year celebration of the birth of Kentucky's favorite son and our greatest president, join us by purchasing a Lincoln plate."

Songs of the Underground Railroad Event is Free to the Public

"Journey to Freedom: Songs of the Underground Railroad" will be performed at 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, at the Old Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The songs, which included a secret language or code understood only by the escaping slaves, will be performed by the choir of the First Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. This free event incorporates music and drama to tell the stories of three Hardin countians and their personal journeys to freedom. For more information, call the Hardin County History Museum at 270-763-8339.

Additional Updates

Lincoln's life in Kentucky will be featured in a new HistoryMobile exhibit, set to debut at the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration on February 12. See www.kylincoln.org for details.

The next meeting of the Commission's Intercollegiate Task Force will be 11 a.m. on Friday, January 25.

The next meeting of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will be April 14.

Kentucky Education Television will premiere its new Lincoln special titled "Lincoln: I too am a Kentuckian" on Saturday, March 1.

Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Members List

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

Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Advisory Council List

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