



May News

Kentucky Historical Society Brings Abraham Lincoln to the Governor's Derby Breakfast

The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History is bringing Abraham Lincoln to the Capitol grounds this year in celebration of the Governor's Derby Breakfast, set for 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at the Capitol.

Visitors to the Capitol grounds will have an opportunity to tour the Kentucky Historical Society's (KHS) new HistoryMobile exhibit, "Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln." This popular exhibit explores Lincoln's frontier childhood, his career from log house to the White House, and his struggles to end slavery and lead the nation through the Civil War.



Children's activities include Derby hat-making and hobbyhorse races on the east lawn behind the Capitol building, just across the street from the Derby breakfast tent. These activities will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and children who participate will receive free admission to the historical society, located at 100 West Broadway in downtown Frankfort. A Derby hat contest will also be held at 10:30 a.m. in conjunction with the Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist Commission.

After touring the HistoryMobile or fashioning a Derby hat, be sure to register to win a free copy of KET's Kentucky Life special titled "Lincoln: I, too, am a Kentuckian," as well as official Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration merchandise.

KHS will be selling Lincoln Bicentennial merchandise, including t-shirts, hats, and lapel pins, both at the Derby breakfast and at KHS's 1792 Store. Official Derby posters will also be sold on the Capitol grounds and at the KHS store, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 3. The 2008 commemorative posters feature Kentucky-bred Citation. The tribute marks the 60th anniversary of his victory in the Kentucky Derby and ultimately the Triple Crown in 1948.

Hodgenville Statue Unveiling Set for May 31

Plans are underway for a celebration on Saturday, May 31, in Hodgenville, when the new boy Lincoln statue will be unveiled on the town square.

City officials are planning a day-long celebration, including discussions with the sculptors, performances by Lincoln Chautauqua presenters, and more. The program is tentatively scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on the town square.

The Daub Firmin Hendrickson Sculpture Group of Berkeley, Ca. created the 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.

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 comprised of three sculptors, Eugene Daub, Rob Firmin and Jonah Hendrickson, who primarily work to commemorate significant contributors to American history. They have produced a large number of public monuments that have required collaboration with community members, architects, and government agencies, in the design and installation of public art projects.

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.

Lincoln Hanks Wedding Event Set for June 14

A performance of the outdoor drama, "Dearly Beloved: The Vows of a Lincoln Legacy," will be held at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on June 14, 2008 at Lincoln Homestead State Park in Springfield. The event marks the 202nd anniversary of the marriage of Abraham Lincoln's parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, on June 12, 1806. Food vendors will be available at the park and a shuttle service will be provided to and from the parking areas. Parking costs \$5 per car. An additional charge will be assessed for buses or large vans.

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 American Experience is also part of the day's activities. The American Experience is designed to give visitors a look at what America was like in early 1800's

when Lincoln's parents were married. Some of the activities and interpretations include a wool spinner, flint napper, "Jack and Mattie" common stock people, quoits and tomahawk throwing, rail splitters and more. There will also be children's activities including corn shuck dolls and flowers, games, as well as period music.

For information and directions to Lincoln Homestead State Park, go to the <http://parks.ky.gov> or call 859-336-7461.

Lincoln Birthplace Offers Summer Programs

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Hodgenville has several free public events planned for the summer. Included are:

- On May 24, the Larue County High School band will provide a concert on the grounds beginning at 2 p.m.
- On July 4, there will be period and patriotic songs beginning at 5 p.m.
- On August 21, the park will host a costumed re-enactment of the first Lincoln/Douglas debate, which was held on August 21, 1858 in Ottawa, IL. The debates will be held outdoors, weather permitting, otherwise indoors at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours start at the National Historic Site on May 26. That means that Lincoln's Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is staffed daily between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and park staff will offer four tours a day at the Birthplace at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov or call Sandy Brue at 270-358-3137.

Lincoln Grants Update

The Kentucky Historical Society recently awarded a second round competitive grants funded by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. These grants may be used by a museum or history organization, a city or county government, or other community organization for a project that helps increase public appreciation and awareness of some aspect of Lincoln in Kentucky history. They may also be used to develop Lincoln-themed exhibits or educational programs for the public or for schools.

The Kentucky Historical Society has distributed more than \$50,000 in competitive grants this fiscal year. Recent awards include:

- Bluegrass Railroad Museum - "Lincoln - Rail Splitter and Rail Rider" (\$3,400)
- Filson Historical Society - Additions to the Filson's "Kentucky's Lincoln" Web site (\$2,500)
- McLean County Fiscal Court - "Tribute to Lincoln's Union" (\$5,000)
- Kentucky State University - Story of Lincoln for preschoolers (\$5,000)
- Todd County Fiscal Court - Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis: "Contrasts, Commonalities and Conversations" (\$5,000)
- Kentucky Book Fair - Appearance by Lincoln author at 2008 Book Fair (\$5,000)

HistoryMobile Continues to Tour



The Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile, a 300-square-foot exhibit inside a tractor-trailer, is continuing its journey throughout the commonwealth. This traveling museum's new "Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln" exhibit tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's connections to his native state.

May stops include a visit to the Capitol grounds on Saturday, May 3, for the Governor's Derby Breakfast; a stop at the St. Joseph's Children's Home in Louisville on Sunday, May 4, for the 2008 Kentucky Colonels Reunion Barbecue; and a visit to Hodgenville on Saturday, May

31, for the boyhood Lincoln statue unveiling ceremony.

Register Now for Symposium on "The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis"

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America and a Kentucky native, is the topic of a day-long symposium set for Friday, June 27, at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Davis's birth. Keynote speaker will be nationally known Civil War scholar and author William J. Cooper Jr., of Louisiana State University.

The symposium is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a break for lunch. Events include two topical panels followed by a roundtable discussion. For complete details and a registration form, see <http://kyl.incoln.org/events/jefferson.htm>

Intercollegiate Task Force to Meet May 30

The next regular meeting of the Intercollegiate Task Force, sponsored by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will be held on Friday, May 30, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.

Task force members will hear a presentation by Dr. Blaine Hudson on "Lincoln from an African American Perspective" and receive information on college projects currently planned and possible grant opportunities.

The task force is made up of more than 35 members, representing 20 colleges and universities throughout the commonwealth. For more information, contact Jeanine Scott at jeanine.scott@ky.gov.