



## July/August News

### Experience Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln at the 2008 State Fair

Visitors to the 2008 Kentucky State Fair will have an opportunity to explore the many facets of Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln, an experience provided by the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) and the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

"We're so excited about the opportunity to introduce Lincoln to both children and adults at the 2008 Kentucky State Fair," said Kent Whitworth, executive director of KHS. "We're going to give them an opportunity to learn about Lincoln's many Kentucky connections and to have a lot of fun in the process."



The 8,000-square-foot Lincoln experience will be housed in South Wing B of the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. Fair dates are August 14-24.

Students and adults who visit the fair will be introduced to Kentucky's many Lincoln-related sites through the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail. They can pick up a trail passport to begin collecting stamps at each of the Lincoln sites throughout the commonwealth. After collecting 10 or more stamps, visitors are entered to win monthly prize drawings.

Lincoln interpreters, rail-splitters, museum theatre, and the KHS HistoryMobile are all part of the experience in this area. The HistoryMobile is a tractor-trailer that is now housing an exhibit on "Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln." The exhibit explores Lincoln's frontier childhood, his career from a log house to the White House, and his struggles to end slavery and lead the nation through the Civil War.

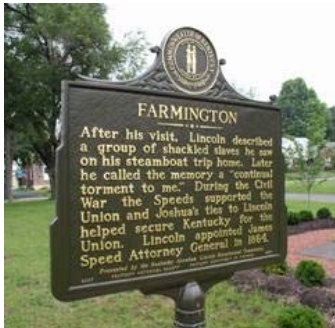
In addition, a new portable museum exhibit on Lincoln will debut at the state fair this year.

Educational games and a narrative stage will help bring "Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln" to life for visitors. There will also be an opportunity for guests to have their picture taken with both Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Lincoln merchandise will be available in the mobile 1792 Store in this area. Students can also get a temporary Lincoln bicentennial tattoo or pick up a free Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission window cling.

"We want this to be an educational experience," said Whitworth. "We want both students and adults to leave this area with a better understanding of Kentucky's many connections to Lincoln throughout his life. There's no better time to learn his legacy than during the bicentennial commemoration of his birth."

## **Farmington Historic Plantation Receives Funding for Improvements**



Farmington Historic Plantation in Louisville has received more than \$65,000 in funding over the last two fiscal years from the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

These grants have helped fund physical improvements to the site, including restoring the front entrance on Bardstown Road to increase visibility; research and design costs for a new exhibit, "Lincoln and Farmington: An Enduring Friendship;" additional staffing; reprinting a booklet titled "Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln" by Joshua Speed; and programming support for "Abraham Lincoln: Three Weeks at Farmington" set for October, 2008.

As a signature Lincoln site, Farmington Historic Plantation was eligible to receive this funding in the form of block grants and competitive grants from the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and its funding partners.

"We are so grateful to the Bicentennial Commission and the Kentucky Historical Society for its continued financial and staff support of our Lincoln initiatives," said Andrea Saylor, Farmington's executive director. "The bicentennial has provided Farmington the opportunity to really look at what we need to improve to enhance the visitors' experience, from our front entrance to the remainder of our eighteen acres. The result of this evaluation has prompted the organization to move forward with new exhibits, capital improvements, a new programmatic approach, and an updated interpretation of the site and the bicentennial was the catalyst for this entire organizational shift."

## **"Forever Free" Exhibit Moves to Lexington Public Library in August**

"Forever Free," a national traveling exhibit explaining how Lincoln's views on slavery and emancipation changed over the years will be on display in the Lexington Public Library's first floor gallery from August 8 until September 22.

In addition, an exhibit titled "Freedom's Struggle: The Underground Railroad along the Ohio River in Kentucky and Indiana" will open the same day on the second floor atrium at the library.

Activities scheduled for Saturday, August 9, include vintage dance workshops, children's activities, and Lincoln's Lexington Walking Tour. Donna McCreary, author of *Lincoln's Table* will be at the library and local restaurants will offer samples of food featured in her book.

"Civil War Weekend" will take place on Saturday, August 30, with a Civil War re-enactment at Phoenix Park, children's activities, Lincoln's Lexington Walking Tour, a panel discussion with state historian Dr. James Klotter, and a performance by Saxton's Cornet Band.

Events scheduled for Saturday, September 20, will focus on the celebration of Emancipation Day with actors interpreting the historic figures of Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Dinnie Thompson, and AA Burleigh. The final Lincoln Lexington Walking Tours will take place in addition to children's activities, a discussion about the Underground Railroad, and a performance by the Kentucky State University Choir.

### **Washington County Lincoln Statue Unveiled at Commission Meeting**

The City of Springfield has commissioned Californian Paula B. Slater to produce a 10-foot-tall, full-figure bronze sculpture of Abraham Lincoln that will stand in a site titled "In Sacred Union" directly in front of the new judicial center facing the Washington County Courthouse.

A replica of the statue was unveiled on July 14 at the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission meeting in Frankfort.

The site around the statue was designed by Brad M. Bourgoyne of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It commemorates Lincoln's search for evidence of his parent's marriage and the discovery of the marriage records in the Washington County Courthouse 17 years after his death.

Funding for the 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 Springfield and the Lincoln Sculpture Committee in developing the guidelines, criteria, and request for proposal for the public art commission.



### **Kentucky Repertory Theatre Begins Major Lincoln Production**

On August 22, Kentucky Repertory Theatre at Horse Cave will launch its major Lincoln-related production, *Abraham Lincoln*, a powerful political drama that follows Lincoln from the 1860 election to his assassination in 1865. *Abraham Lincoln* is adapted from an early twentieth century play by John Drinkwater that played in the United States and Britain. The play features a twenty-member cast and will run from August 22 to November 1 of this year and again in 2009.

Kentucky Repertory Theatre is currently offering *One Man's Lincoln*, and in early 2009 it will debut the traveling piece, *With Malice Toward None*.

For tickets call 270-786-2177 or 800-342- 2177. *Abraham Lincoln* is sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Lincoln Commission.

### **Stephen Foster Productions Presents The Civil War**

From August 18 to 23, Stephen Foster Productions will present the musical, *The Civil War* at My Old Kentucky Home State Park near Bardstown. Drawing on letters, diaries, firsthand accounts, and the words of Abraham Lincoln, *The Civil War* is a thrilling and awe- inspiring dramatic theatrical concert.

For tickets, call 800-626-1563 or visit [www.stephenfoster.com](http://www.stephenfoster.com). *The Civil War* is sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Humanities Council, and the Kentucky Historical Society.

### **Other Notes of Interest:**

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site will host a costumed re-enactment of the first Lincoln- Douglas debate on Thursday, August 21. This date marks the 150th anniversary of the first Lincoln- Douglas debate held in Ottawa, Illinois. The event will be held outdoors, weather permitting, at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. , and 4 p.m. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved indoors.

The Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile houses a traveling exhibit on "Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln." September stops include:

- Bluegrass Heritage Museum, Winchester, September 4-5
- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, September 10
- Downtown Lexington, September 19-21
- Hancock County Schools, September 25-26
- Sorghum Festival, Hawesville September 27- 28
- 19th Century Fair, Wickland, September 30

For a complete listing of Lincoln events, visit [www.kylincoln.org](http://www.kylincoln.org).