



February / March 2009 News

Happy Birthday, Abraham Lincoln: February 12, 2009 Marked Bicentennial Year

February 12, 2009, marked the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, and Kentuckians from communities across the commonwealth participated in commemorative activities and projects. These events and projects united Kentuckians in the mission of sharing with the world the story of Abraham Lincoln's connections to the state.

A new penny featuring Abraham Lincoln's Kentucky connection was the first of four coins released by the U.S. Mint to chronicle Lincoln's life. The coin was released into circulation February 12, 2009, and was unveiled in Hodgenville.

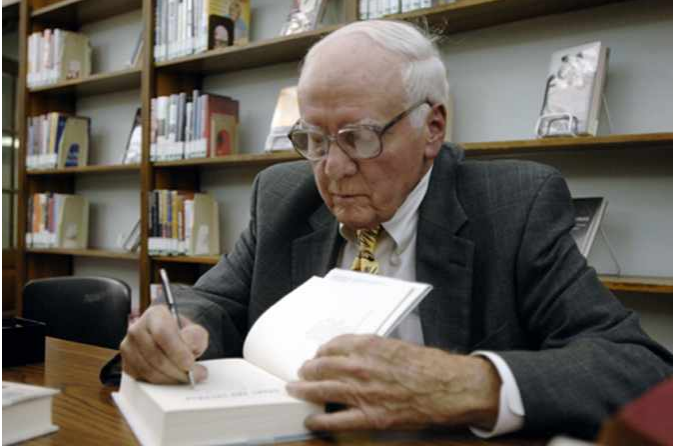
National Park Service officials estimated that 1,500 people attended the unveiling ceremony in Hodgenville, which included a penny exchange that offered ceremony attendees the first opportunity to purchase the new pennies.



Photo by Chris Floyd, Centre College

Other notable events in February include the performance of [Our Lincoln](#) at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; the restoration of the replica cabin at the [Knob Creek National Historic Site](#) in Hodgenville; and a trio of events in Frankfort at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, including Family Fun Day, which drew more than 1,500 children and adults.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, which began February 12, 2008, closes on February 12, 2010. Find out more about upcoming events in Kentucky by visiting the [KALBC's Calendar of Events](#).



EKU to Host "An Evening with Lincoln" on March 25

A talk and book signing by Richmond historian and biographer Charles Bracelen Flood, author of the recently published book *1864: Lincoln at the Gates of History*, is the highlight of "An Evening with Lincoln: Celebrating the Bicentennial" at Eastern Kentucky University on Wednesday, March 25.

The event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Reading Room of ECU's Crabbe Library, is open to the public

and sponsored by ECU Libraries and Madison County Public Libraries.

In addition to Flood's talk, the evening will include the unveiling of a rare piece of American history from ECU's University Archives - a letter written by Abraham Lincoln in 1861. The letter will be part of a larger display entitled "Paroles, Passes and Pardons: The Near Civility of the American Civil War." The exhibit will remain on display through April 23.

Parking for the evening is available behind the Eastern Kentucky University Alumni House on Lancaster Avenue and in the city parking lot on Crabbe Street. Shuttle service will be available to and from the lots before and after the program.

Lincoln-themed Quilt Exhibit on Display in Paducah

The National Quilt Museum in Paducah is featuring a special exhibit in recognition of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The exhibit, "Lincoln: Then and Now," will be on display at the museum through April 7.

The exhibit includes both quilts made during Lincoln's lifetime and more contemporary quilts created as part for a contest to celebrate the life of President Lincoln. Among the items in the exhibit is a flag that, according to family lore, was used on the back of a train during Lincoln's presidential campaign. Another quilt was made for a Civil War soldier, which he used during the Civil War.



The [National Quilt Museum](#) is a non-profit institution located in downtown Paducah. The museum is open year-round Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST. Contact the museum at 270-442-8856 for additional information.



Joseph Holt House Purchased by Breckinridge County

With the support of the Kentucky Heritage Preservation Office and the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Breckinridge County purchased the Joseph Holt House on December 5, 2008.

This acquisition ended an almost two-year series of negotiations to purchase the home and its surrounding acreage from a private owner.

In 1862, after Abraham Lincoln appointed him judge advocate general of the United

States Army, Joseph Holt carried out Lincoln's desire to extend military jurisdiction over civil matters, including trials of political prisoners. After Lincoln's assassination in 1865, Holt joined Edwin Stanton and fellow Kentuckian James Speed in calling for trial by military commission of the assassination conspirators.

Recent Lincoln Acquisitions Enhance KHS Collection

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) recently acquired several significant Lincoln artifacts. A display case featuring these newly acquired pieces has been installed in Kentucky's signature bicentennial exhibition, [Beyond the Log Cabin: Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln](#).

A pair of Mary Todd Lincoln's earrings, a January 1863 letter written and signed by President Lincoln to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton discussing the parole of two Kentuckians, a collection of pre-Civil War wills and manumissions from Kentucky, and two letters written in 1864 by an Ohio soldier discussing life at Camp Nelson, Kentucky are among the recently acquired artifacts that are on display.



"We are incredibly excited about these new additions to our collection," said KHS Assistant Director Marilyn Zoidis. "These artifacts will enable us to tell a more complete story of Abraham Lincoln and his lifelong relationship with Kentucky."

In order to tell the story of Kentucky and Kentuckians, KHS staff continually strives to expand the society's collection. Each of the newly acquired items will aid KHS in presenting the Lincoln story—his family, the times in which he lived, and the issues surrounding the making of one of our greatest presidents. These items provide a lasting legacy of the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial for the people of the commonwealth.

The display case featuring the recent acquisitions and the Lincoln exhibition will be on display in Frankfort until June 6, 2009. [Beyond the Log Cabin](#) will travel to The Speed Art Museum in

Louisville in late June 2009 and then be displayed at the Highlands Museum & Discovery Center in Ashland in October 2009.

Lincoln Project and Community Grants Awarded in January

More than \$16,500 in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (KALBC) project money was awarded by the Kentucky Historical Society to historic groups, historic sites, and local communities in January .

Project grant recipients included: Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremen Landing: \$1,500; Farmington Historic Plantation: \$2,500; McLean County Fiscal Court: \$2,500; Hopewell Museum: \$1,500; Matters of the Heart, Inc.: \$1,675; Friends of L&N Depot, Inc.: \$2,500 and Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association: \$2,500.

More than \$4,000,000 in Lincoln project grant money has been awarded through KALBC's state agency partners, including the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Humanities Council, since the Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial program began in 2006. Museums, historical organizations, educational institutions, city and county governments, and other non-profit organizations are using the grants to support a variety of themes relating to Lincoln and Kentucky. Funded projects include educational programs, exhibits, public art, community celebrations, speakers, classroom tools, and preservation initiatives.

Small community tool-kit grants were also awarded in January for communities across the state to use during February to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 2009.

Recipients included: Louisville Historical League: \$250; Hardin County History Museum: \$250; Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site: \$250; Harrodsburg First: \$50; Cave Hill Heritage Foundation: \$250; Behringer-Crawford Museum: \$250; Meade County 4-H: \$100, and Adair County 4-H: \$250.

Other notes of interest...

Brown Bag program at the Kentucky Historical Society to Focus on Emilie Todd Helm

The free monthly Brown Bag program at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History will be presented at noon on Wednesday, March 4 by Lynne Hollingsworth, Kentucky Historical Society staff member. She will discuss Emilie Todd Helm, Mary Todd Lincoln's half sister.

Free Lincoln Bicentennial Bookmarks, DVDs and Learning Resource Sheets for Teachers

Kentucky teachers can receive free Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial bookmarks, Lincoln learning resource sheets and DVDs produced by Kentucky Educational Television titled *Lincoln: The Kentucky Years* for their classes while supplies last by emailing [Jeanine Scott](mailto:Jeanine.Scott@kentuckyhistory.org) with mailing information and the type and number of materials requested.

Two Lincoln-themed Exhibits to Open Soon

Two new Lincoln-themed exhibits open in March. The Lexington Public Library will display *A House Divided: The Lincoln's Confederate Relatives* beginning March 2. This exhibition was created in collaboration with the Mary Todd Lincoln House and will be on display at the Lexington Library's gallery through May 31, 2009.

The opening ceremony for *Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times* will be held at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. The national traveling exhibition, organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, will be on display through March 30.

Two programs planned at Murray State

Presidential Historian Richard Norton Smith will give a presentation, as part of Murray State University's Presidential Lecture Series, in the Lovell Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m on Tuesday, April 14. Smith's first major book, *Thomas Dewey and His Times*, was a finalist for the 1983 Pulitzer Prize.

Prof. Roger Billings from the Chase School of Law at Northern Kentucky University will give the annual Waterfield Lecture beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 16. The title of his lecture is "A. Lincoln, A Kentucky Politician."

Both presentations are free and open to the public.

Second Symposium to be held in April

The second symposium in a series of four symposia sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission, the Georgetown College Underground Railroad Research Institute, and the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will be held April 17-18 at Pine Mountain State Resort Park.

The title of the symposium is "The Lincolns, Slavery and the Opening of the West."

For information, or to register, call Tressa Brown at 502-564-7005, ext. 125.

Upcoming Museums-to-Go Sites

- March-April: Letcher County Central High School
- March-April: Bluegrass Heritage Museum, Winchester
- March-April: National Center for Presidential Studies, Branson, MO
- April-May: Harrodsburg (Location TBD)
- April-May: Maysville Community and Technical College
- April-May: West Baton Rouge Museum, Baton Rouge, LA

Find out more about reserving Museums-to-Go by emailing [Warren Greer](mailto:Warren.Greer@kentuckyheritage.org).

Upcoming HistoryMobile Sites:

- March 5: Rosenwald/Dunbar Elementary School, Nicholasville
- March 11: Grant County Public Library
- March 12: Owen County Public Library
- March 13: Owen County Middle School
- March 17: Auburn Museum, Auburn, KY
- March 18: Auburn School, Auburn, KY
- March 26: Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills, KY
- April 17-18: African American Heritage Conference, Pinveville, KY
- April 22: Springfield Lincoln Statue Dedication, Springfield, KY
- April 25-27: Kroger Fest-a-Ville, Louisville Waterfront

Contact [David Whealdon](mailto:David.Whealdon@kentuckyheritage.org) to reserve the HistoryMobile in your area.

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