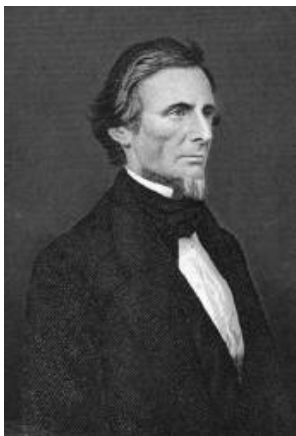




April News



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 for "The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis" will be nationally known Civil War scholar and author William J. Cooper Jr., of Louisiana State University. Cooper is the author of *Jefferson Davis, American* (2000) as well as other works on slavery and the South, including *The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828-1856* (1978), *Liberty and Slavery: Southern Politics to 1860* (1983), and (with Thomas E. Terrill) *The American South: A History* (1990).

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.

Panel 1: Jefferson Davis and the Civil War

This panel discussion features both established and emerging scholars highlighting recent work on Davis's role in the war, Confederate military and diplomatic efforts, African Americans in the Confederacy and the Confederate army, and life in the South during the war. It includes panelists Cooper, Richard J. Blackett, of Vanderbilt University; and Charles P. Roland, author and professor emeritus of history at the University of Kentucky. Edward M. Coffman will serve as moderator.

Panel 2: Jefferson Davis and Lost Cause Memory

This discussion focuses on the actual and symbolic roles Davis and his family played in the emergence of the Lost Cause, both across the old Confederacy and in Kentucky. Panelists include Anne Marshall of Mississippi State University and John Coski, director of library and research at the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. James A. Ramage, Northern Kentucky University, will serve as moderator.

"The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis" will end with a group discussion on how to interpret Jefferson Davis era Confederate history accurately and sensitively at Kentucky's historic sites.

The deadline for registration is Friday, June 20, and seating is limited to the first 200 people. The

registration fee includes lunch. Cost is: \$25 general public; \$20 Kentucky Historical Society members; \$10 students (photocopy of student ID must accompany registration form).

To register, please contact Julia Curry at 502-564-1792, ext. 4414. You can also download a registration form from the [Lincoln Bicentennial Web site](#).

Lincoln License Plates and Merchandise Available

The upcoming travel season is a perfect opportunity to show your pride in Kentucky as the Birthplace of Lincoln by purchasing a new, special edition Lincoln license plate.

These plates are available at county clerks' offices throughout the commonwealth. They feature the Lincoln bicentennial log cabin logo and the tagline: "Birthplace of Lincoln." It costs \$34 initially, with a \$21 annual renewal fee.



Lincoln bicentennial merchandise is also available at the Kentucky Historical Society's 1792 Store or [online](#). The product line features t-shirts, outerwear, caps, mugs, lapel pins, blankets, and even golf balls.

Forever Free Exhibit Traveling Throughout Kentucky



"Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" is a national traveling exhibition that focuses on Lincoln's efforts to restore a Union divided by the Civil War. The exhibit is on display through April 2 at the William F. Ekstrom Library on the University of Louisville's main campus.

After April 2, it will move to a library in Illinois for a six- week stay and then return to Kentucky in June. During the second half of 2008 and early 2009, the exhibition will be on display at the Hardin Co. Public Library in Elizabethtown, June 12 to July 25; at the Lexington Public Library August 8 through September 19, and then in

Danville from November 27 through January 23. The Kentucky locations are part of a group of 63 libraries across the country selected to host the exhibition.

Viewing is free and open to the public. The exhibit was organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City, in cooperation with the American Library Association.

Groundbreaking Held for Camp Nelson Barracks

Ground was broken for a reconstructed barracks building at the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Jessamine County on Saturday, March 15, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation. The new addition is located near the White House and Interpretive Center. It will replicate the barracks building that was on the site in the 1860s and will include a genealogical research facility with research materials and equipment.

"The barracks building will be an excellent addition to the park which will aid us in educating the public about the national significance of Camp Nelson," said Michael Crutcher, chairman of the Camp Nelson Foundation.

Volunteers Assist with Lincoln Boyhood Home Archeology Dig

More than 25 volunteers, many of them high school and college students, braved the cold temperatures to assist with archeological survey work at the National Park Service's Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek during the first two weeks in January.

They assisted archeologists from the Southeast Archeological Center in Atlanta with the project, which was funded by the Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The goal was to provide archeological data for any evidence from the Lincoln family time period or earlier historical periods using shovel testing survey methods, geophysical surveys, magnetometer surveys, test unit excavation, and backhoe trenching.



Lincoln-Themed HistoryMobile Continues to Tour

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

"Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln" is divided into five areas which explore Lincoln's frontier childhood, his career path from log house to the White House, and his struggles to end slavery and lead the nation through the Civil War. Within the exhibit are touchable objects, images, audio clips, video, and interactive elements that appeal to a variety of learners. Visitors will also experience different periods in Lincoln's life and how each time period shaped the legacy that has followed Lincoln for the past two hundred years.

April stops include a visit to the Louisville Free Public Library on April 10-13 during the 2008 National Council on Public History Conference.

African American Heritage Commission Receives Three Lincoln Grants

Three Kentucky African American Heritage Commission Lincoln Preservation Grants have been awarded to projects that highlight African American heritage in relation to Lincoln. The projects include an original play centered on Lincoln's authorship of the Emancipation Proclamation, a museum exhibit focusing on Logan County General Stephen Burbridge, and an investigation seeking to identify and preserve the burial site of an African American regiment ambushed near Simpsonville during the Civil War.

The grant program was funded by \$20,000 in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission funds. It was open to state and local governments and non-profit organizations for African American- related Lincoln sites or projects that would preserve and enhance our knowledge of Kentucky African Americans prior to 1900.

"The African American experience in the time of Abraham Lincoln is a complex and fascinating chapter in Kentucky and United States history, and we are pleased that these grants can help tell a small part of the larger story," said Dr. J. Blaine Hudson, chair of the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission and dean of the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences.

The grant program is administered in partnership with the Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office. For more information, visit the [Heritage Council Web site](#).

Additional Updates

The City of Hodgenville is planning a Lincoln- themed bash on Saturday, May 31. Events will include the unveiling of a statue of a young Lincoln and children's games from the early 1800s. More details will be provided in the May newsletter.

Hart County High School Student Martha Williams was the grand prize winner in a speech contest for high school students held in early February. Williams won a \$300 cash prize and also presented her entry at the Lincoln Days Luncheon on February 12 in Hodgenville. Second place went to Camerson Lile, of Barren County High School. Hunter Stevens from Green County High School was third place winner. Middle school speech contest winners were Savannah Rash, Laura Flynn, and Blake Kennedy Aaron. Both contests were sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

The next meeting of the Commission's Intercollegiate Task Force will be 11 a.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.

Professor James McPherson, noted historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author for his book, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, was this year's presenter at the University of Louisville's Gottschalk lecture, held March 6 at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville. McPherson spoke about Abraham Lincoln's role as commander in chief during the Civil War, touching on such topics as presidential war powers, Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the termination of the writ of habeas corpus, and the use of military courts.

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 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 </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 John J. Johnson 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. Mary Sias Senator Katie Stine Dr. Paul Tenkotte Gwen Thompson Roger Truitt </p>