The Lincoln Museum



# Enduring Motives Move to Our New Museum

By Ian M. Rolland Chairman & Chief Executive Officier Lincoln National Corporation Presity for Max

### A Snapshot View of The Lincoln Museum collection

- Approximately 200 documents signed by Lincoln
- 18,000 books
- 7,000 19tb century prints, engravings, newspapers and music sbeets
- 200,000 newspaper and magazine clippings
- 5,000 original photographs
- Hundreds of paintings and sculptures
- Scores of period artifacts and Lincoln family belongings

Arthur Hall would be proud. What stands here today is the outgrowth of his deep, personal admiration for Abraham Lincoln, as well as his decision to attend a lecture about Lincoln given by a minister.

Let me explain. Ninety years ago, Arthur Hall wrote to Robert Todd Lincoln, seeking permission to use his father's name for the new insurance company that Hall and his fellow investors were forming in Fort Wayne. Robert granted permission and even sent along a famous photo of Abraham Lincoln – the same image that graces \$5 bills today.

About 20 years later, Mr. Hall attended a lecture given by Louis A. Warren. Although Dr. Warren was a minister, he was also an Abraham Lincoln enthusiast and now spoke for the Lincoln Union of Northern Indiana – of which Hall was president.

Hall liked what he heard. He soon persuaded Warren to come to Lincoln National and head the newly established Lincoln Historical Research Foundation. Hall wasn't sure what he wanted the new foundation to do, but he was certain of why. The founder of Lincoln National wanted to honor the company's debt to its namesake. He left it to Dr. Warren and his successors to answer the "what" and the "how."

From such pure and passionate motives has evolved the world's largest privately owned collection of Lincoln material, as well as The Lincoln Museum's newsletter, *Lincoln Lore* – the oldest continuously published periodical solely dedicated to Abraham Lincoln. By the way, this souvenir program marks issue No. 1,842. That's a lot of information about Lincoln!

In 1992, Lincoln National Corporation's Board of Directors agreed with senior management that such a national treasure needed to be shared with a greater audience. When we discussed moving the museum to a larger metropolitan area for greater visibility, the local outcry convinced us to keep the museum at its place of origin. Lincoln National's employees roared the loudest to keep the museum here.

And so, we built a new museum. Our goal was to add excitement and increase visibility – without compromising the scholarly reputation it has achieved over nearly seven decades.

While Arthur Hall might not be sure how to master some of the computer games we've included in our new facility, I'm certain he'd be proud of the home we're opening to house the outgrowth of his dream. After all, Mr. Hall's motives are still ours. We've just given his dream a dazzling and sophisticated new environment – all to honor the significant and extraordinary life of our namesake.

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Welcome to the new Lincoln Museum! And that's just what you'll find – a new museum – from high-tech exhibits to state-of-the-art research facilities. At 30,000 square feet, the museum is nearly triple the size of its predecessor. Consider that:

- •We now have 5,400 square feet for collection storage, compared to 400.
- Our 3,000-square-foot temporary and changing-exhibit gallery means we can showcase more of our own collection and attract those of others.
   Plus, extensive exhibition-preparation space enables us to design and build new exhibits as well as borrow traveling ones.
- Our research facilities include modem connections for users bearing computer notebooks between their history books.
- Ours is among the largest museum stores in the state.
- We offer two lobbies, a theater and a small meeting room for private rentals. (The Cabinet Meeting Room is furnished with the original table and chairs used by Lincoln National's first board of directors.)

And there's something else that's new, too. Our funding status. As part of The Lincoln National Foundation, The Lincoln Museum has become a nonprofit organization – meaning a percentage of your contributions are tax deductible. Unlike the old museum, the new Lincoln Museum needs your financial support to keep its message vibrant and current.

You can show your support by becoming a Lincoln Museum volunteer, purchasing a museum membership or contributing to special fund drives. Regardless of how you support the museum, you make it possible for us to continue to serve the nation as the pre-eminent museum of Abraham Lincoln's life and times.

The most exciting feature of this service is The Lincoln Museum's new permanent exhibit. The 8,000 square foot exhibit is four times as large as the former one and boasts four theaters, 11 galleries, 18 computerized/hands-on activities, and scores of artifacts. A detailed behind-the-scenes account on pages four and five explains how and why we chose "Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment" as its theme.

Please come back to visit us often to see the exciting new and special exhibits ahead, as well as to study the permanent exhibit in greater detail. Most of all, enjoy learning how this new chapter in the story of The Lincoln Museum unfolds.

## About the Director.

Joan Flinspach bas been director of The Lincoln Museum since July 1993. Prior to coming to Fort Wayne, Ms. Flinspach served as Director of The Boys Town Hall of History, Omaba, Nebraska, where she oversaw construction of the facility, excluding the main exhibit. She also served as director of the Historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Ms. Flinspach graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in History and bolds an M.A. in Historic Preservation and Museum Studies from Middle Tennessee State University.



# **To Our Guests**

Joan L. Flinspach Director, The Lincoln Museum

### Directors of The Lincoln Museum

Louis A. Warren	(1928 to 1956)
R. Gerald McMurtry	(1956 to 1973)
Mark E. Neely, Jr.	(1973 to 1992)
Joan L. Flinspach	(1993 to present)



### Building the 'Experiment'

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#### A Growing Mussion

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PRTT-The Louis & Warren Lincoln Library and Measure expands into a helieved FLOOD against Red ghave in Lincole Automat's housiling of / 1080 2 climitum

Separator 1995 The Lincols Moreow respires in its same SUITH spante from home at 200 S. Berry Mean

In February 1993, months of debate and controversy concerning the future of The Lincoln Maleum came to an end when Lincoln National Corporation announced its decision to build a new home for the museum in Fort Wayne. With the museum's luture secure; the next challenge was to design a permanent cubbit, one that would showcase the museum's rich collections while telling a meaningful story of the Me and times of Abraham Lincoln.

The first step was to find an exhibit design firm that could translate the museum staffs stess into reality. After interviewing a number of leading designers. the museum selected Formations, Inc. of Portland, Oregon, Formations' record, including an award-ainning tribal museum at Warm Springs. Oregon, demonstrated its ability to make complex historical subjects accessible to the public while maintaining high standards of scholarship.

Planning began in December 1993, when museum stalf members mot with Formations to decide which elements of the Lincoln story should be the locus of the permanent exhibit. Drawing upon the recent scholarship of Gabor Borit. Philip. Polucian, Mark Neety, and others, the planning team agreed that both of Lincoln's great works, his efforts to end slavery and to save the Union, were integral to his vision of America as an ongoing experiment in human freedom. Thus, the new parts manent exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment," was to emphasize Liscoin's role in preserving and purifying America's experiment in government of, by and for the people.

As research and writing of the exhibit storyline got underway. Portland architect Thompson Valvoda & Associates began to configure the museum's new space, located within the Lincols National Corporate headquarters building In addition to the permanent exhibit, the museum had to accommodate a temporary exhibit hall, a large book and gift shop, research and conference rooms. administrative offices, and the vital storage spaces for the preservation of its massive collection of books, artifacts, and other Lincoln-tolated materials

> Working under ever present constraints of space, time. and money, the team continued to grow. Odynamy Productions of Portand was subcontracted to produce video presentations.

and Harvest Moon Studio of Los Angeles signed on to write original software for touchsomen computer exhibits While museum staff members researched and edited the scripts. Odyssey personnel recruited Hollywood stars Sam Waterston and Ossie Davis, and movie critic Gene Sakel, to lend their talents to the project.

Through the first rane months of 1094, the staff culled the museum's collections for artifacts and images to be included in the exhibit, while simultaneously working with Formations on draft after dealt of the exhibit screet.

These drafts were reviewed by David Herbert Donard the museums chief historical consultant, and many other historiant: museum professionals, and local teachers, who scrutinized the whibit for its acouracy. puelty of interpretation and educational value.

Imacher Construction of Fort Wayne began \$3. clear away existing effices fees the site in September 1994, and by February 12, 1995, the maanum wats abso to host a "Even Walls Party" in the shell of the exhibit space to celebrate its progress.

The first pieces of the exhibit arrived by fruce. from Formations' started in June 1995. Through the rest of the summer woodworkers, painting, and other

artiking worked overfime to prepare the gallenies, as the semaning parts of the exhibit began to appear. Be-size figures from LifeFormations of Bowling Green. Chio, and Studio EIS of New York, computer hardware from Entouch of Portland.

and exhibit casings from ICON of Fort Wayne. Last of all came the actual artifacts from The Lincoln Museum's collection, which were carefully transferred from the old museum alterunder. armed quart.

Even during final hybitation, municum staff members and contractors continued to make advatments to clarify and locus the exhibits slory of Lincoln and America's great experiment. By the middle of September the exhibit was mady. in time for the dedication persmaners.

In a hagment written for a speech in the 1850s. Abraham Emodin wrote of America's system of government. "We made the experiment and the hut is before us."

> It is our hope that 'Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment" will contribute to the understanding and continued success. of that experiment.





**Prior Construction in Congletion** 

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Gerahl J. Prokopsavicz has been with The Lincoln Museum unw September 1995 He bolds a Ph.D in History from Harvard University and is a member of the bar of the State of Illinois.

# A Sampling From The Lincoln Museum's Collection

This photo shows Uncoin's legal-size wallet, which bears bis denature and portnits of Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Us elegantly engrated per knife was found tucked inside the callet after it was purchased at auction.

CALOR WHEN PARTY NAMES IN CO.

### The Lincoln Museum's Newsletter

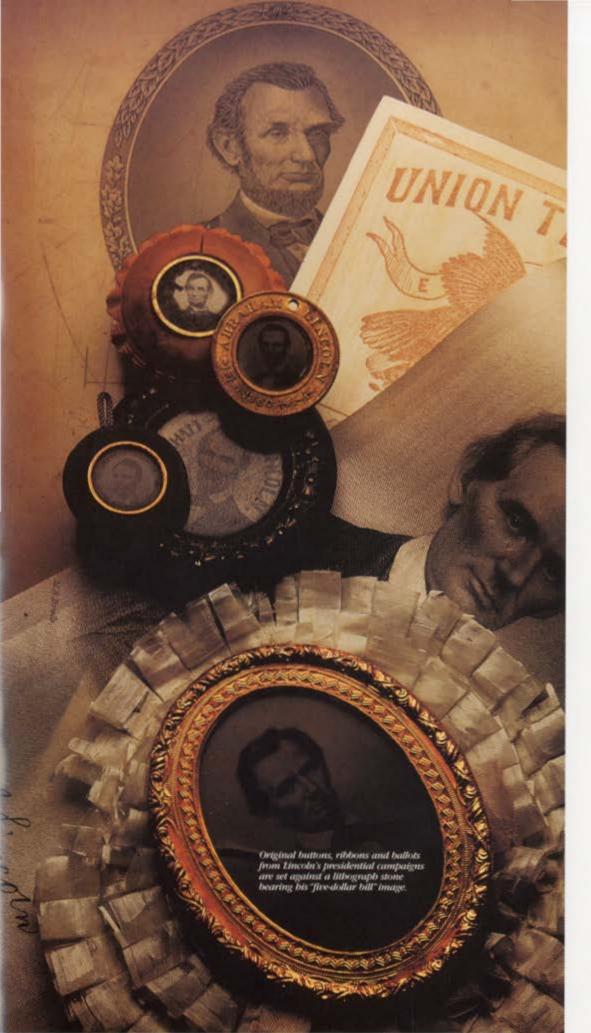
Lincoln Lore was originally conceived partly as a source where editors could find "short Lincoln items for their publications" (Lincoln Lore #1) These pages contain samples of such items drawn from the early days of Lincoln Lore.

#### "Stray Ballots - 1860

Hardin [County, Ky.] was the first bome of Lincoln's parents, and bere many of Abrabam's relatives still lived [during the election of 1860]. Out of a total of 2,091 votes Lincoln received six."

Lincoln Lore #30, November 4, 1929





### "Dictionary of Congress - 1858

Possibly the most condensed [autobiographical] data which [Lincoln] presented, was sent to the editor of the Dictionary of Congress for 1858, upon the usual request for a sketch of bis life. It follows in six brief sentences:

- Born, February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky
- Education defective.
- Profession a lawyer
- Have been a captain of volunteers in Black Hawk War.

Postmaster at a very small office. Four times a member of the Illinois Legislature, and was a member of the lower bouse of Congress."

Yours, etc. A. Lincoln"

Lincoln Lore #20, August 26, 1929

### "Lincoln's Wearing Apparel

One of the most valued treasures presented to the Chicago Historical Society is a coat which affidavits attest is the garment worn by Abraham Lincoln on the night of bis assassination. Five years ago, there came to light in Philadelphia several pieces of wearing apparel said to bave been worn by Lincoln on that fateful night. The items were: An old black suit, the collar stained with the blood of the martyred President, the trousers badly wrinkled, a badly torn overcoat, and a faded silk stock. The clothes were sold for \$6,500."

Lincoln Lore #1, April15, 1929

# A Busy Fall at The Lincoln Museum



Gerald R. Ford



David Herbert Donald



David Rusk



William Warfield

The Lincoln Museum is celebrating its reopening with a series of special events and exhibits.

## **Opening events**

- Gerald R. Ford, 38th U.S. President, serves as keynote speaker at Inaugural Opening September 21.
- David Herbert Donald, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and Charles Warren
  Professor of American History Emeritus, Harvard University, presents,
- "'Events Have Controlled Me:' the Fatalism of Abraham Lincoln," at the 16th R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture Sept. 22. The lecture series honors R. Gerald McMurtry, former Lincoln Museum director.
- David Rusk, author of Cities Without Suburbs, addresses the Lincoln Leadership Conference on Sept. 22, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke.
- Ian Rolland, chairman and chief executive officer of Lincoln National Corporation, and Robert Anker, president and chief operating officer of Lincoln National Corporation, host a formal evening reception for community leaders Sept. 22.
- William Warfield, vocalist, is guest artist in Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Sept. 23 performance of "A Lincoln Portrait," by Aaron Copland and Roy Harris.
- "Young Mr. Lincoln," and "The Prisoner of Shark Island," two John Ford-directed films, are presented at the Sept. 24 Lincoln Filmfest at the Embassy Theatre.
- October 1: The Lincoln Museum opens its doors to the public.

# **Special exhibits**

## September 17- October 15: The Lincoln Funeral Train

After a national tour that retraced the route of the original, Professor Wayne Wesolowski's scale replica comes to Fort Wayne. The exhibit includes models of Lincoln's private coach the "United States," the locomotive "Nashville," and the Springfield hearse with honor guard.

September 17 - October 15: Emancipation Proclamation and Thirteenth Amendment (See Page 9)

From The Gilder Lehrman Collection, in New York, come Lincoln-signed copies of two of the most influential documents in American history.

November 7 through December: Lincoln and his Contemporaries: Photographs by Mathew Brady from the National Portrait Gallery's Meserve Collection

The Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit showcases 60 modern small format prints, including five of Abraham Lincoln.

## November 7 through December: Arthur Hall

The story of the founding executive of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., whose interest in Lincoln led to the birth of The Lincoln Museum. (see Page 2)

## November 7 through December: Sheldon Hine Retrospective

Sheldon Hine's photographs capture the monumental qualities of "The Hoosier Youth" sculpture by Paul Manship, installed in 1932 at the Harrison Street entrance of Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. headquarters.

From its opening through October 15, 1995, The Lincoln Museum will display rare Lincoln-signed copies of two of the most important documents in American history: the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment Resolution.

The Emancipation Proclamation helped transform the Civil War from a struggle to reunite the states into a crusade for human freedom. The preliminary Proclamation, issued September 22, 1863, warned the South that on the next January 1, slaves in states still in rebellion would be "then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Lincoln already had foreseen that the "mere friction and abrasion" of war would inevitably doom slavery, but his Proclamation did much to accelerate that process. It encouraged slaves to escape, made possible the large scale enlistment of African-American soldiers, and demonstrated the federal government's resolve to use any means to weaken its enemies. After some initial doubt, public opinion both in the North and abroad endorsed Lincoln's act as a clear and lofty policy that helped to redeem the Civil War's enormous cost.

The Thirteenth Amendment completed the work of the Emancipation Proclamation by outlawing slavery in the United States. After an unsuccessful attempt in 1864, Lincoln persuaded Congress to pass a constitutional amendment banning slavery in January 1865. The Thirteenth Amendment was the first change made to the Constitution in more than 60 years and the first substantive change to American constitutional liberties since the Bill of Rights in 1789.

Lincoln did not live to see the amendment take effect. It became law when ratified by three-fourths of the states in December 1865, eight months after his assassination. The last state to ratify the amendment was Mississippi, which did so in 1995, 130 years later.

The Emancipation Proclamation on display is among the 48 copies of the "authorized" edition, printed by Charles G. Leland and George H. Boker and sold in 1864 to benefit soldiers' hospitals maintained by the U.S. Sanitary Commission. It is signed by Lincoln, Secretary of State William H. Seward, and personal secretary John G. Nicolay.

The Thirteenth Amendment Resolution on display is a souvenir copy signed by Lincoln, Speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax, Vice President Hannibal Hamlin, and 36 senators. It is one of 13 copies signed by the President and was most likely prepared as a souvenir for one of the Senators who helped to pass the amendment.

Lincoln's signature on this document is unusual because presidents do not normally approve or sign amendment resolutions before they are sent to the states for ratification. Both houses of Congress censured Lincoln for breaking this tradition, perhaps fearing that his approval of this constitutional amendment would imply a presidential right not to approve others.

These documents on display at The Lincoln Museum are on loan from The Gilder Lehrman Collection, on deposit at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York.

# Rare **Documents** on Display

### Tile and Wood

The raja slate tile used in The Lincoln Museum's lobby was imported from the colorful hills 120 miles southwest of New Delbi, India, in the province of Herayana. The wood used is Anigre mabogany, barvested from replenisbable forests in Africa.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF A proclamation. Warres, on the

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Alraham Lincols

# The Great Paradox: Preservation vs. Exhibition

By Carolyn Pitts-Texley Collections Manager/Archivist Preservation and exhibition pose one of life's great paradoxes for museums: Museums exist to make their collections accessible to the public, while still preserving those collections for generations to follow. In the case of The Lincoln Museum, that means preserving approximately 200 documents signed by Lincoln, his wallet and shawl, and many other period artifacts and family belongings.

Environment is the factor most critical to the well-being of historical artifacts. Temperature, relative humidity, air quality, and light levels all must be controlled and monitored.



The Lincoln Museum's heating/ventilating/air-conditioning system maintains a temperature within five degrees of 68 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity level between 45 percent and 55 percent. The system also filters the air to eliminate dust, gasses from air pollution and other harmful particles. In the process, the system exchanges the air several times per hour, helping to protect the collections against insects, mold or mildew, all of which much prefer stagnant, damp, warm air.

All light causes damage, with ultraviolet light (UV) being the worst offender. While sunlight is the major source of UV, fluorescent light also produces damaging amounts. Thus, all light fixtures within The Lincoln Museum's exhibit areas include filters that eliminate UV. Camera flashes are another culprit – especially when you consider that one flash produces UV effects comparable to a day's worth of sunlight – which explains why The Lincoln Museum asks visitors to hold the flash in exhibit areas.

In addition to proper storage, artifacts selected for exhibition need to be monitored and removed from exhibit to "rest" in the dark with controlled storage conditions when damage is noted.

Another major source of grief for artifacts is the "human touch." Which brings up another paradox. Human touch is what makes many artifacts interesting and valuable. The wear and tear on Lincoln's legal wallet from everyday use makes it more interesting than if he had simply stored it in a box for posterity. But wear from subsequent owners detracts from the interest created by Lincoln. That's why all visitor-touchable items in The Lincoln Museum's permanent exhibit are reproductions; all artifacts are protected from contact.

And so the paradox continues for The Lincoln Museum, as we balance the need for both preservation and exhibition.

## About the Collections Manager/Archivist:

Carolyn Pitts-Texley joined The Lincoln Museum in February 1994. She previously served as Archivist for the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and bolds an M.S. in Library Science from Wayne State University.

### The Lincoln Museum bours:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday tbrough Saturday

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

#### Admission:

\$2.99 adults \$1.99 senior citizens \$1.99 children ages 5-12 Under 5 and members free \$1.99 group rates (12 or more) ...the many scholars and educators who freely contributed their time and energy to review draft after draft of the script for the new permanent exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment." These reviewers spent many hours searching for errors, challenging questionable interpretations, and suggesting improvements. For any flaws that remain, the museum staff accepts full responsibility.

# The Lincoln Museum Thanks...

Chief Historical Consultant David Herbert Donald

## Harvard University

Reviewers

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Thanks to Lincoln National Corporation and Lincoln National Foundation, Inc. for their ongoing generosity and support, with special thanks to Ian Rolland and Robert Anker.

We welcome you to become a charter member of The Lincoln Museum. As a member, you'll be a partner in preserving and celebrating the life of this extraordinary man and the success of the American Experiment. Memberships are valid through January 1, 1997.

## Annual Individual membership categories

Individual: \$20 Family: \$35 (includes two adults and children under 18 sharing the same household) Congressional: \$100 Cabinet: \$500 Presidential: \$1,000

## Annual organization categories:

Business Member (for profit): \$100 Business Member (nonprofit): \$50 Business Patron: \$500 Business Friend: \$1,000 Business Partner: \$5,000 Corporate Sponsor: \$50,000

Free admission, museum store discounts, and many other benefits await members of The Lincoln Museum.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the opening of The Lincoln Museum.



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The Lincoln Museum Fort Wayne, Indiana

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