



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2008

*“All I am, or can be, I owe to my angel mother.”*  
—Abraham Lincoln

### **Mother’s Day Celebration commemorates Abraham Lincoln’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in his boyhood home**

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*National ceremony to celebrate Lincoln’s boyhood and honor his mother;  
More than 3,600 scouts to participate in encampment among special weekend events*

LINCOLN CITY, Ind. (April 8, 2008) – Abraham Lincoln often credited his mother, Nancy Hanks, and stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston, for helping shape his character, foster his education and instill in him the values that led him to become president and one of the most respected leaders of the world.

Because of the influence women played in Lincoln’s life, it’s only fitting to begin celebrating his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday on Mother’s Day weekend at his boyhood home, now known as Lincoln City, in Spencer County. It will kick off a multi-year celebration in Indiana of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth. The 16<sup>th</sup> president would have been 200 on Feb. 12, 2009.

It’s that influence that has inspired the Mother’s Day events in Spencer County, where Lincoln spent 14 formative years of his life. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial preserves the site of the farm where Lincoln lived, from the ages of 7 to 21. It includes a living-history farm, visitors center museum, and the gravesite of Lincoln’s mother. When she passed away, the then nine-year-old future president helped his father dig a grave and bury her. Abraham Lincoln’s sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, who also died during Lincoln’s years in Indiana, is buried at nearby Lincoln State Park.

“The honesty, leadership and determination that shaped Abraham Lincoln’s legacy were formed during his youth in the Hoosier state, making this a fitting tribute not only to the former president, but to the women in his life who helped him succeed,” said Connie Nass, chairperson of the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (IALBC).

While visitors are welcome at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial 362 days a year, the events taking place over Mother’s Day weekend make May 10 and 11 an especially exciting time to visit.

#### **Saturday, May 10**

The public is invited to observe various activities throughout the weekend. A Civil War encampment, Native American encampment, black powder rifle shooting contest and frontier medicine demonstrations will take place at Lincoln State Park, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Buffalo Run Farm.

As part of the weekend, more than 3,600 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky are expected to participate, along with their leaders and parents, in a two-night campout at Lincoln State Park. A similar Boy Scout encampment was done in 1958 as part of the commemoration of Lincoln's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On Saturday, at 9 a.m., the scouts will raise The Garrison Flag to the top of a 120-foot flagpole at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. And later a scout bike trek will retrace the route the Lincolns took once they arrived in Indiana by flatboat.

In addition, there will be a display of quilts made in patterns of the Underground Railroad in Nancy Hanks Lincoln Hall at the Memorial's visitors center. A quilters group called the Piece Makers from Spencer County sewed all 20 quilts.

### **Indiana Lincoln Bicentennial Activities at Lincoln State Park**

DATE: Saturday, May 10, 2008  
TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT  
PLACE: Lincoln State Park, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Buffalo Run Farm  
COST: \$10 for ID bracelet required; obtain at the parking area  
PARKING: Heritage Hills High School, corner of CR 1600 and SR 162, Lincoln City  
INFO: [www.ThinkLincoln.org](http://www.ThinkLincoln.org) or [www.IndianasLincoln.org](http://www.IndianasLincoln.org)

### **Sunday, May 11 (Mother's Day)**

A special ceremony will take place on Mother's Day. This event is free and open to the public, though tickets are required for reserved seating. Tickets must be reserved in advance by calling the Spencer County Visitors Bureau at 888-444-9252.

Beginning at 1 p.m. CDT, the Red Bank Reunion Band will play Civil War-era music in period military costume. The Lincoln Bicentennial Mother's Day Celebration ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. CDT and include music, a drama performance, speakers and a wreath-laying ceremony.

- **Wreath-laying ceremony.** A wreath will be laid at the foot of each of the five panels of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Visitors Center building. Four of the panels represent where Lincoln lived – Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Washington, D.C.; the fifth panel commemorates the heritage Lincoln left to the men and women of all time.
- **Musical performances.** Indiana resident, singer and music teacher Shelia S. Billings will perform a song about Lincoln's mother titled, "Nancy Hanks." Celebration Singers, a multi-county Southern Indiana choir, will sing patriotic music.
- **Original drama performance.** Using the words of Lincoln and his stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston, a 10-minute drama will feature student actors from the nationally acclaimed Department of Theater at the University of Evansville. The presentation was written by University of Evansville Drama Professor R. Scott Lank.

The Mother's Day Celebration is the second of five national signature events created by the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. It also serves as the state-wide Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration kick-off for the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which was created in 2006 by the Indiana General Assembly to commemorate America's greatest president and showcase his Hoosier roots.

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial preserves the home where Abraham Lincoln lived for 14 years – a quarter of his life. Originally built as the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park and opened in 1943, it became part of the National Parks Service in 1962.

In 2007, Gov. Mitch Daniels dedicated new highway signs at every entrance to the state that proclaims Indiana is "Lincoln's Boyhood Home." Gov. Daniels and Congressman Baron Hill are among the dignitaries who will speak at the May 11 event. Joan Flinspach, President & CEO of The Lincoln Museum in Ft. Wayne, will give the keynote address.

To learn more about Indiana's Lincoln sites and statewide bicentennial efforts, visit [www.IndianasLincoln.org](http://www.IndianasLincoln.org) or [www.ThinkLincoln.org](http://www.ThinkLincoln.org) or [www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo). The Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Web site was produced in partnership with the Indiana Office of Tourism Development.

**Indiana Lincoln Bicentennial Mother's Day Celebration Ceremony**

DATE: Sunday, May 11, 2008  
TIME: 1 p.m. CDT (Music); 2 p.m. CDT (Program)  
PLACE: Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City, Ind.  
COST: FREE; though tickets must be reserved by calling 888-444-9252 (Tickets will be mailed in advance)  
PARKING: Heritage Hills High School, corner of CR 1600 and SR 162, Lincoln City  
INFO: [www.ThinkLincoln.org](http://www.ThinkLincoln.org) or [www.IndianasLincoln.org](http://www.IndianasLincoln.org) or [www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo)

DIRECTIONS: The park is located on Indiana Highway 162, 45 minutes east of Evansville. From Interstate 64, exit at US 231, (exit 57) and travel south through Dale, continue on US 231 to Gentryville, then east on Indiana Highway 162 for two miles.

CREDENTIALS AND MEDIA PARKING: Media interested in covering Mother's Day Celebration, can obtain credentials and parking passes by contacting Melissa Miller. Parking is limited, so making arrangements in advance is necessary.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Melissa Miller, Spencer County Visitors Bureau, 888.444.9252, [tourinfo@psci.net](mailto:tourinfo@psci.net)