



THE COTTAGE COURIER

Vol. 8

www.lincolncottage.org

Winter 2010

2009 Year In Review



This February marks the second anniversary of our opening to the public and the conclusion of the Lincoln Bicentennial. While it was only our second year of operation, it was a year of change and growth.

The year kicked off with the opening of a bicentennial special exhibit, "My Abraham Lincoln," and the dedication of a new bronze sculpture of President Lincoln and his horse. This amazing sculpture, depicting a life-sized Lincoln as he prepares to embark on or return home from his daily commute to the White House, was created by StudioEIS and donated by longtime supporter Robert H. Smith and his wife, Clarice.

Bob Smith's passing at the end of 2009 came as a shock to all of us. We were fortunate to have his strong and encouraging support

at President Lincoln's Cottage for nearly 10 years. His generosity made much of our preservation and educational programming possible and set us on a path for growth, for which we are eternally grateful.

In 2009, visitors came from every corner of the nation as well as overseas, matching our first year's attendance of over 26,000. School group visitation continued to increase as more teachers became familiar with our programs. The Cottage continued to be recognized in the local and national arena, with accolades such as the 2009 Volk Award, presented by The Lincoln Forum. The award honors excellence in advancing Lincoln history and

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Upcoming Program

Cottage Conversation

April 15, 2010

Craig Symonds

All Cottage Conversations:

6:00pm - Reception

6:30pm - Lecture

7:30pm - Book signing

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION: \$25

COTTAGE DONORS \$100+: FREE

Reservations:

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or (202)829-0436 x31228

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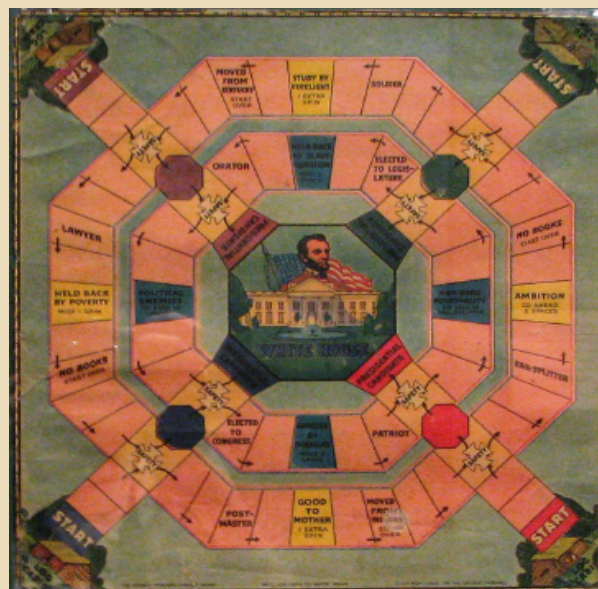
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A CLOSER LOOK...

AT *Log Cabin to White House*

The success of our current bicentennial special exhibition *My Abraham Lincoln* has prompted the extension of the exhibit through August 1, 2010. The collections will remain the same with the exception of the Dr. Stone medical school diploma of The Leo Pascal Collection. Due to its fragility, it was replaced this month with a new item from the Pascal family, a board game from 1923 inspired by Lincoln's path to the presidency.

"Log Cabin to White House" was the third Fireside Game featured in *The Chicago Tribune* in 1923. The preceding games in the series were titled, "The Game of Movie Stars" and "The Game of Fortune Telling," indicating that these games did not focus exclusively on history and politics, but rather popular subject matter of the day. The Lincoln-inspired game was published, appropriately, in February of 1923 and was followed by "The Game of Jungle," "The Game of Bank Directors," and "The Game of School." "Log Cabin to White House" is unique in the series in that it focuses on one person, loosely following a single life story, but is similar to the rest of the series in that it follows a theme of advancement or improvement of one's condition, with various pitfalls and bonuses along the path to success. In this case, a player in the "Log Cabin to White House" game can benefit greatly from landing on spaces such as "Good to Mother," while landing on a square indicating a major move, such as moving from Kentucky to Indiana, sends the player back to start. More interesting, perhaps, are the losses of turns for landing on the "held back by slavery question" and "awkward personality" squares.



The Chicago Tribune's Fireside Games, No. 3 Log Cabin to White House

The Chicago Tribune, 1923

In this game, the players win by being first to advance from their Log Cabin to the White House, while avoiding landing on such hazards as an "awkward personality."

The Leo Pascal Collection

While the game is just that, a simple game, it serves as a metaphor for the two steps forward one step back, winding path that Lincoln took from his humble beginnings in a log cabin in Kentucky, to the White House in Washington, D.C.

By Erin Carlson Mast
Acting Director/Curator

My Abraham Lincoln is currently on display in the Special Exhibits Gallery of the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center at President Lincoln's Cottage.



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To learn more visit:

[http://www.lincolncottage.org/
events/index.htm](http://www.lincolncottage.org/events/index.htm)

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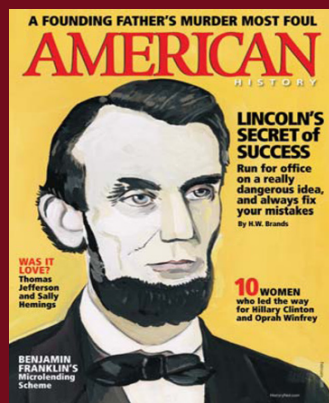
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New School Program!



President Lincoln commuted daily from the Soldiers' Home to the White House in the summers of 1862-64. Along the way, Lincoln came in contact with front line soldiers, soldiers who had been wounded in battle, escaped slaves living in contraband camps, and Washington residents, such as Walt Whitman. These encounters brought President Lincoln closer to the war. In the Cottage's new program, *I See the President*, 4th and 5th grade students will analyze first hand accounts from those who met President Lincoln on his daily commute to discuss their unique views of the war and will participate in a creative writing activity.

(Programs meet DC, VA, MD and McREL learning standards.)

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Come see where Lincoln lives!

Year In Review ...continued

preserving his memory and was presented to President Lincoln's Cottage for restoring and opening the Cottage to the public for the first time in history. The Cottage also received a 2009 "Project of the Year" award from the U.S. Green Building Council's National Capitol Region chapter. The Project of the Year award came after the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center officially received LEED Gold certification in April 2009, the first building at a National Trust Historic Site to become LEED certified. This fall, we launched a self-guided Eco-Tour of the site and online resources, which put a strong emphasis on historic preservation as a path toward environmental sustainability. Many of the Cottage features that made it so attractive as a seasonal residence for the Lincolns are the same design elements that make it "green" today, an important message learned by the architecture and design students who come to learn about its green features.

Cottage Conversations, a series begun in our inaugural year, has grown into one of the most popular ongoing programs at the site. The series brings in scholars of recently-published books on Lincoln and related topics.



(left to right) Frank Milligan, Andy Balderson, and Robert H. Smith in front of the Lincoln sculpture at the Cottage

Speakers in 2009 included Michael Burlingame, Catherine Clinton, and Ron White. Our second year was a success thanks in part to the strong leadership of Frank Milligan, who served as Director of the site from 2005-9. Frank officially left President Lincoln's Cottage in January 2010 to take on a new and exciting challenge as Executive Director at Morven Park, an historic site in northern Virginia. The President Lincoln's Cottage staff will miss him and wishes him well.

Although we said good-bye to Frank, the site welcomed a new Curator of Education in 2009, Callie Hawkins. Callie has worked hard over the past year to establish new and exciting educational programs for the site, including one designed for middle-schoolers, *I See the President* (see page 4).

In addition to on-site programming, President Lincoln's Cottage continues to expand its online presence. After winning a national museum award in 2008 for the interactive exhibition program *Lincoln's Toughest Decisions*, President Lincoln's Cottage received a grant from the Motorola Foundation to convert

the "Debating Emancipation" portion of the *Decisions* program for online use. The online program launched September 22, 2009, the anniversary of Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Building on the success of the President Lincoln's Cottage blog, an outlet for new research and information from the site, the Cottage launched several more social media pages, including a YouTube channel and Facebook Fan Page. With nearly 3,000 Facebook Fans, the page has become a great way to generate awareness about the Cottage and its programs and to interact with the public. Fans often use the forum to ask Lincoln and site-related questions, share news about Lincoln, and tell others about their experience visiting the site. All of our educational programs, online programs, and links to official social media pages may be accessed through our website: www.lincolncottage.org.

Over the past year, President Lincoln's Cottage has established close ties to other area historic sites, including Ford's Theater, Frederick Douglass House National Historic Site, and Tudor Place Historic House and Garden. Together, these four sites



Lincoln's Hat Program
Third Grade

formed the Civil War Washington Consortium and have collaborated to bring more students and teachers to all of the sites for place-based learning, with another series of week-long teacher workshops scheduled for this summer. President Lincoln's Cottage is also preparing to launch its next special exhibition, which takes a new look at Lincoln's legacy through historical portrayals of Lincoln on stage and screen and public presentations from modern-day Lincoln presenters.

Our first two years have been successful in spite of the severe economic downturn, and yet our work is far from finished. We are constantly seeking to improve the site and cultivate support. We thank all of you who have supported the site, and hope the incredible history embodied at President Lincoln's Cottage and the staff's ongoing efforts to preserve and interpret this place inspires all of you and many others to support us in the years to come.

Erin Carlson Mast
Acting Director / Curator
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Lincoln's Hat Program
Third Grade