



## Ring in the New Year at Freedom's Eve!

Enjoy live music, desserts, and drinks at our annual New Year's Eve celebration. Details on page 2.

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*This newsletter is funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

## From the Director

Dear Friends,

Life at the Soldiers' Home in the fall of 1864 was full of activity: Mary and Tad returned home from a vacation in Vermont, the Presidential Guard dutifully protected Lincoln amid increased threats to his safety, and Lincoln was reelected president. The Lincoln family could not have anticipated that it would be their last season living here.

Fast forward to the fall of 2004, and you would have found the site full of activity of a different sort. Our team was deeply engaged in the research, preservation, restoration, and interpretation necessary to make this place whole again. Among our many close advisors, supporters, and friends was Dr. Clement Price, who recently passed away. We dedicate this issue of *The Proclamation* to his memory. We recognized then as we do now that resurrecting a place pivotal to Lincoln's presidency and the only designated National Monument in Washington, DC, was a rare opportunity. We hold ourselves to the highest standards. It's not always glamorous – we just completed a month-long application of limewash to the Cottage's stucco – but it's an obligation and a privilege. Our supporters share the obligation and privilege with us, and for that we thank you.



We have shared new scholarship since we first opened our doors—since so few people had heard of this place, most of the scholarship was unfamiliar. But we continue to share groundbreaking scholarship in many ways, including through our tours, exhibits, the re-imagined signature Cottage Conversations series, and through this newsletter. For example, despite Lincoln being the subject in thousands of books, not one is devoted to the topic of Lincoln and immigration. We are pleased to look at that very topic in this issue's feature article by Dr. Jason H. Silverman, author of the forthcoming book, *Lincoln and the Immigrant*. Dr. Silverman will also join us for next year's Cottage Conversations series.

We are looking forward to a busy end of the year, and hope you can join us for one of the many upcoming events we are hosting, including our third annual New Year's Eve party.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter. If you want more photos, we encourage you to check out our feed on Instagram. Let us know what you think by joining our conversation on Facebook and Twitter, or drop me a line by email.

Erin Mast  
[EMast@savingplaces.org](mailto:EMast@savingplaces.org)

*A Lincoln*  
PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE  
AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME



## Join us for the 3rd Annual Freedom's Eve Celebration on December 31

Ring in the New Year at President Lincoln's Cottage! Celebrate the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at Freedom's Eve, the annual New Year's Eve party at President Lincoln's Cottage, and enjoy live music, desserts, and drinks at a party with meaning.

Wednesday Dec. 31, 9:30 pm – 12:30 am.  
\$100/person, advance purchase requested.  
To purchase tickets, contact Hilary Malson at [HMalsen@savingplaces.org](mailto:HMalsen@savingplaces.org) or 202-829-0436 ext. 31228.



*Image credit: Bruce Guthrie, Freedom's Eve 2013.*

## Bring the 2015 Civil War Sesquicentennial Ornament Home Today - Final Edition in Collection



Adorn your tree with an official President Lincoln's Cottage ornament. The fifth, and final, edition of the Sesquicentennial Ornament Series depicts President Lincoln shaking the hands of a veteran at the Soldiers' Home. This elegant piece commemorates President Lincoln's last visit to the Cottage.

Lincoln's travels to the Soldiers' Home bookend his presidency. He first rode out to the Soldiers' Home a few days after his 1861 inauguration, and last rode through the grounds the day before he was assassinated.

All five of President Lincoln's Cottage custom Civil War Sesquicentennial ornaments are available now in the our online store. [Shop now!](#)



## Notes from the Desk

"My wife and myself recently had occasion to visit President Lincoln's Cottage. We had an incredible experience. The shop manager welcomed us in the gift center with genuine enthusiasm for what we were about to experience. His knowledge and experience as a dedicated Lincoln historian quickly became apparent when he showed us the array of fine books available for purchase. I ended up purchasing two with his recommendation, one of which I finished before leaving DC (*Lincoln and the Indians*). It was first rate! Our grandsons are currently enjoying one of the selections from the children's section.

***"[Our guide's] enthusiasm was contagious."***

The initial video presentation and tour simply could not have been better. Neither of us had ever experienced the format our guide utilized. The extremely appropriate historical segments were absolutely complementary to the significant issues which she raised and stories which she told. Her personal enthusiasm was contagious. We came away from the tour with an understanding of the significance of the Cottage in Lincoln's life and wanting to learn more.

We look forward to our next trip to DC which will include a visit to President Lincoln's Cottage. We are hopeful that it might be in conjunction with one of your on-site lectures. Meanwhile, thank you so much for affording such a wonderful experience and a special thank you to your team for a terrific job."

Bob and Ellen Knight, Missoula MT

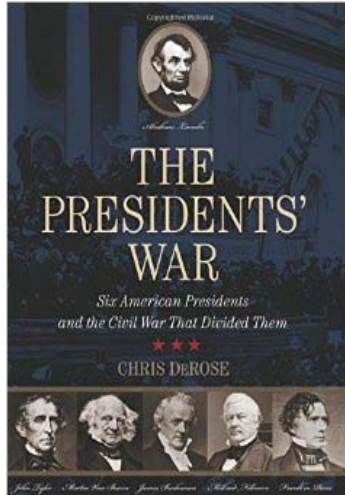


Image credit: Bruce Guthrie



## Cottage Conversations Returns to the Cottage

Cottage Conversations, the signature speaker series at President Lincoln's Cottage, returns this fall – with a twist. This season, featured scholars will be interviewed by a notable guest host. Join us on **Thursday December 4** when historian Chris DeRose, author of *The Presidents' War: Six American Presidents and the Civil War That Divided Them*, discusses his newest work with presidential historian Michael Beschloss.



Reception at 6:00 pm, \$10. Lecture at 6:30 pm, \$10. Free for \$250+ members. **JOIN NOW.**

RSVP and ticket purchase: Michelle Martz, 202-829-0436 x31224 or [MMartz@savingplaces.org](mailto:MMartz@savingplaces.org).

Before the program begins, enjoy wine, beer, and light appetizers at a reception in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center atrium from 6:00-6:30 pm. A book signing follows the program.

The 2014-2015 Cottage Conversations season is made possible with generous support from: Mr. David Bruce Smith, Mr. James Tennes, and Mr. Matthew Tennes.

### SAVE THE DATE! Spring 2015 Cottage Conversations

March 5 – Brian Jordan, *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*

April 9 – Don Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War*

May 21 – Michael Kahn, *'What Fools These Mortals Be!' The Story of Puck – America's First and Most Influential Magazine of Color Political Cartoons*

## Follow @LincolnsCottage and Stay Connected

Get the latest updates from the Cottage by following our social media accounts:



## Preservation in Progress: Limewash Application on the Cottage Exterior



Recent visitors to President Lincoln's Cottage have observed extensive preservation work taking place throughout the property. One major project is the application of three limewash coats to the entire exterior of the Cottage, which will enhance the appearance of the stucco. Interested in learning more? Contact John Davison, Associate Director for Development, at [JDavison@savingplaces.org](mailto:JDavison@savingplaces.org).

This project is funded by the HTR Foundation, with matching support from the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## What Will Be Your Legacy?

By guiding the country through the Civil War and confronting slavery, President Lincoln created a powerful, enduring legacy. At President Lincoln's Cottage, visitors are able to explore that legacy 150 years later. Despite its profound significance, the site is the only National Monument that does not receive government operating support, and it lacks an endowment. To keep the site protected, accessible, and relevant – to keep President Lincoln's Cottage a home for brave ideas – we ask that you please consider leaving a bequest to the Cottage in your will.



For more information about using your will to protect President Lincoln's Cottage, please contact John Davison, Associate Director for Development: [JDavison@savingplaces.org](mailto:JDavison@savingplaces.org).



## ***“Not an American Practice’: Lincoln’s Life at Risk” New Exhibit Opening January 2015***



Abraham Lincoln risked his and his family’s safety to live at the Cottage for more than a quarter of his presidency. However, for much of this time, Lincoln rode to and from the White House alone and unguarded, making him an easy

target for would-be assassins and kidnappers. That the President of the United States traveled anywhere without a security detail is unfathomable today. Yet the lack of precedent for a presidential assassination created a sense of security that faded as the Civil War waged on.

The new exhibit “‘Not an American Practice’: Lincoln’s Life at Risk,” opening in January 2015 in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center at President Lincoln’s Cottage, will investigate the various efforts to protect Lincoln at the Soldiers’ Home and beyond, and encourage visitors to contemplate how Lincoln’s assassination forever changed presidential security.

## ***On View Through December 2014: President Lincoln’s Carpet Slippers***

While Abraham Lincoln’s public image was defined by his signature stovepipe hat, his private, more casual nature is highlighted in an exhibit at President Lincoln’s Cottage. Meetings at the Cottage were often impromptu and informal, and Lincoln was known to greet guests while wearing carpet slippers. An original pair of Lincoln’s own slippers is on public display in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center at President Lincoln’s Cottage through December 2014. The slippers are on loan from the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, OH.



## Class Visits at the Cottage



Inspire your students at “the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation!” On-campus programs are available for K-12 students, and include a specialized tour of the Cottage and an interactive program component that meets Common Core and national standards of learning. Teacher materials and lesson plans are available to prepare students for their visit.

Contact the Education Department and schedule your class field trip to President Lincoln’s Cottage today. Call 202-829-0436 or email [LincolnEd@savingplaces.org](mailto:LincolnEd@savingplaces.org).

## Double Your Impact

When you donate to President Lincoln’s Cottage, the Robert H. Smith Family Foundation generously matches your contribution. For example, a gift of \$250 becomes \$500. Your support is critical because President Lincoln’s Cottage:

- *is the only National Monument in the country that receives no government operating support;*
- *has no endowment (but budgets responsibly and has no debt either); and*
- *is making a substantial difference through original, transformative programs such as our international Students Opposing Slavery initiative and our effort to bring every DC public school student to Lincoln’s beloved home free of charge.*

**Help us build a sustainable future for this historic treasure by making a gift today!**

**Click here to donate**

## Host A Holiday Soirée in Lincoln’s Beloved Home



Unique. Memorable. Historic.

President Lincoln’s Cottage is an unparalleled setting for both private and corporate events. With two beautifully restored historic buildings and a pastoral setting, this venue provides respite from the hectic pace of downtown DC. Whether you are holding an executive retreat in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center or hosting a reception in the same rooms where Lincoln himself entertained, our events staff will ensure that everything runs perfectly. Click [here](#) to learn about site rentals at President Lincoln’s Cottage. Contact Events Coordinator Sahand Miraminy at 202-829-0436 x31232 or at [SMiraminy@savingplaces.org](mailto:SMiraminy@savingplaces.org).



# The Great Emancipator and the Immigrant

By Dr. Jason H. Silverman

Think about Abraham Lincoln and chances are you think about the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, or perhaps President Lincoln's Cottage. But in all likelihood, you don't think about his relationship with immigrants. Although more than 16,000 volumes have been written on Lincoln, not one of them is devoted exclusively to his philosophy on immigrants and immigration.

Lincoln lived in an era when immigration was as controversial as it is today. Between 1840 and 1860, four and a half million newcomers arrived in the United States, most of them from Ireland, the German states, and Scandinavian countries. Many more crossed back and forth across the border with Mexico, newly redrawn in 1848.

From an early age, Lincoln developed awareness and a tolerance for different peoples and their cultures. While no doubt a product of his time, Lincoln nevertheless refused to let his environment blind him to the strengths of diversity, and throughout his legal and political career he retained an affinity for immigrants, especially the Germans, Irish, Jews, and Scandinavians. Indeed, immigrants and their plight were never far from Lincoln's thoughts or plans. His travels at a young age down the Mississippi River to the port of New Orleans exposed Lincoln to the sights, sounds, and tastes of a world hitherto he could only have dreamed about. More importantly, however, it established a foundation and sympathy for the rest of his life when it came to the foreign-born, as

well as to the enslaved.

It must have been an odd sight indeed seeing the tall, lanky boy sailing down the Mississippi River in 1828 with his companions, looking wide-eyed and in awe of everything that he saw. Just nineteen years old and finally freed of his obligations to his father and the farm, Lincoln set off from Indiana on the first of his two flatboat journeys. Sailing on what must have been an amusing sight, a log cabin on a raft with barrels and hogs, Lincoln embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. For the first time in his young life Abraham Lincoln was traveling far and, while he could not know it, what he would see would shape his thoughts for the remainder of his life. During this trip, Lincoln would first come in contact with foreigners in the exotic port city of New Orleans. And although he probably did not distinguish Swedes from the Dutchmen, Italians, Spaniards, Swiss, Norwegians, and

Russians whom he observed, he did realize for the first time in his life that immigrants from many lands formed part of the American population.

Lincoln's two flatboat journeys exposed him, for weeks on end, to the vastness of the American landscape. No subsequent travels would ever match the length of those journeys. They immersed him in the relationship between transportation and economic development in the West, which, of course, included encouraging immigration. Lincoln's trips to New Orleans represented his only journeys deep into the slave South and into places where enslaved African Americans not only abounded, but predominated overwhelmingly. New Orleans also ranked as the largest city the young Lincoln had ever seen, and would remain so until he stepped upon the national stage as a newly elected congressman in 1848. More importantly, it also



*New Orleans From St. Patrick's Church, 1852.  
Image courtesy Library of Congress.*



represented the most ethnically diverse and culturally foreign city in the United States. Aside from a day trip to Niagara Falls, Canada, in 1857, New Orleans represented the closest Lincoln ever came to entering another country. And, while Lincoln occasionally encountered French- or Spanish-speaking immigrants, or Catholics and Catholicism in his early years in Indiana, Illinois, or on the Ohio River, Lincoln's trip to New Orleans engulfed him in a different culture's ethnicity, ancestry, religion, language, race, class, caste, cuisine, architecture, and sheer urban size. It gave him a perspective that no other place or time in his life would provide.

In New Orleans, Lincoln also saw the nation's largest concentration of free people of color, among them some of the wealthiest and best-educated people of African ancestry anywhere. Lincoln found himself enthralled by the multitude of cultures he first witnessed in the large Catholic and foreign-born population of New Orleans. Later in his life he would remember what he saw as a youth and would forcefully oppose the nativist movement of the 1850s and the Know Nothing Party, which was gaining popularity at the time.

Ironically, it was through Lincoln's connection with New Orleans and the efforts of several immigrants that the Great Emancipator freed his first person of color. John Shelby, a free African American from Springfield

Illinois, found it difficult to travel in New Orleans in 1856. Not having the proper papers to travel freely in the Crescent City, Shelby was arrested and imprisoned. Shelby made contact with a New Orleans attorney named Benjamin Jonas, also from Springfield. Jonas' father, a leading citizen of Springfield and one of the first Jewish settlers in the region, was a friend of

won Shelby's release and returned him safely to Springfield. John Shelby thus became among the first, if not the actual first, African American ever freed by Abraham Lincoln, since Shelby's New Orleans imprisonment would have eventually resulted in his forced labor and his likely enslavement. Lincoln's affection for the Jonas family determined that he would take this action as much for them as for Shelby himself. Lincoln regarded Abraham Jonas as "one of my most valued friends"; their friendship dated back to the 1830s.

Like that of so many in the mid-nineteenth century, Lincoln's philosophy on immigrants was about more than the free labor economy. Abraham Lincoln was a product of his times and his environment. And despite whatever personal circumstances an immigrant might have, many men of his era saw every ethnic group, every immigrant, - whether Irish, Jewish, German, or Swedish, - as monolithic. But Lincoln tended to perceive each individual and each group as distinctive in its own right. Because he saw the diversity of these groups, rather than simply viewing them as "foreigners" or "savages,"

Lincoln's relationship with individuals of different ethnicities, as well as their groups, was as varied as the man himself.

Yet, it is obvious that when needed, Lincoln put his money where his mouth was. It has been recently discovered that during his less-than-successful single term in the United States House of



*Portrait of Benjamin Jonas.  
Image courtesy Library of Congress.*

Lincoln's and, because of their connection, Lincoln took on the case. Lincoln and his law partner William Herndon ultimately drafted \$60.30 out of the Metropolitan Bank of New York and, on May 27, 1857, sent the funds from their Springfield law office to Benjamin Jonas' office in New Orleans. Jonas paid the fine and, by early June,

Representatives, Lincoln joined many other Americans and contributed \$10 (hundreds of dollars in today's money) to the Irish Relief Fund during the Great Famine. Perhaps this was because Lincoln's first teacher at Riney's School in Hodgenville, Kentucky, had been of Irish descent. Whether Riney left a lasting impression on him or not, Lincoln always remained interested in Irish culture.

After the Republican Party was formed in 1854, the anti-immigrant Know Nothings drifted into the new party and wanted Republicans to adopt a policy similar to theirs. Lincoln refused. When he ran for president, Lincoln opposed any change in the naturalization laws or any state legislation by which the rights of citizenship that had previously been accorded to immigrants from foreign lands would be abridged or impaired. He advocated that a full and efficient protection of the rights of all classes of citizens, whether native or naturalized, both at home and abroad, be guaranteed.

Throughout his life, no immigrant group was closer to Lincoln than the Germans, who marched with him all the way to the White House. While it is questioned today whether German support was as responsible for Lincoln's 1860 election as previously believed, Germans nevertheless provided very significant support and were effusive in their praise of him. Lincoln reciprocated the support and throughout his life always enjoyed the Germans and their culture.

Lincoln understood the

challenges that immigrants faced in both rural and urban America. He worked the land with his own hands for fifteen years, surveyed it for five, and spent nine-tenths of his life in agricultural areas. Lincoln had an intense and continually developing commitment to the ideal that all people should receive a full and fair reward for their labors, so that

accepting, and utilizing of immigrant labor. Lincoln fully understood that such development enhanced the chances that the common man would improve their lives.

One such manifestation of Lincoln's broad view of how best to serve the interests of "the many poor" was his attitude toward immigrants. He never



*"American Patriot," a short-lived nativist newspaper, was published in 1852. Image courtesy Library of Congress.*

they might have the opportunity to rise in life. This principle guided his thinking on immigration. This son of an almost illiterate, poor father eventually rose to the White House, so his commitment was naturally a personal one. And this, Lincoln's American Dream, became a mantra throughout his entire political life.

Lincoln possessed sympathy for "the many poor" as he called them since he, himself, had long been one. By the 1850s his compassion manifested itself in a full-blown ideology of supporting governmental policies aimed at economic development and free labor, including the welcoming,

shared the nativist leanings of the old Whigs. Certainly his attitude had a political ingredient to it, but since more immigrants supported the Democrats than Lincoln's own party, it was also made up much more of future hopes than contemporary realities. Much more crucial were his central economic beliefs. Lincoln saw immigrants as important—the most important of any country's "natural resources."

The Civil War not only diverted thousands of Americans from civilian to military pursuits, but it also drastically reduced immigration. At first the Lincoln administration tried to meet the



difficulty through unofficial State Department efforts and by aiding the work of state agents, with Lincoln taking an active interest in the matter. But by the end of 1863, Lincoln decided to do more and directly asked Congress for assistance. His annual message to Congress that year requested that they devise a system for encouraging immigration. It spoke of the flow of immigrants from the Old World as a “source of national wealth,” and it pointed to the labor shortage in both agriculture and industry and to the “tens of thousands of persons, destitute of remunerative occupation,” who desired to come to America but needed assistance to do so. The conclusion showed that in spite of slavery and the war, Lincoln could still be a perceptive observer of the American need for immigrant labor. Congress soon responded favorably to the presidential request.

Indeed, the Republican Party Platform of 1864, which Lincoln helped draft, echoed Lincoln’s philosophy: “Foreign immigration which in the past has added so much to the wealth, resources, and increase of power to this nation—the asylum of the oppressed of all nations—should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy.”

This year is the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s signature piece of immigration legislation. The Act to Encourage Immigration signed into law on appropriately July 4, 1864, was the first comprehensive federal immigration law in American history. This law established the first U.S. Immigration Bureau, whose primary function was

to increase immigration so that American industries would have an adequate supply of workers to meet production needs during the Civil War. In addition, in an effort to reduce the number of immigrants who left industry for homesteading or army enlistment, the law made pre-emigration contracts binding. The law spawned a host of private labor recruitment agencies that for many years continued to be a significant force behind European emigration.

To his dying day, Lincoln related to the immigrant in a manner that few of his contemporaries would, or could. There were not many people who could doubt where Lincoln’s allegiance lay. More than a few immigrants could relate to Lincoln’s stories of poverty and austerity. He was of the people, the common man, and the immigrant, whom Lincoln said God loved so much because he made so many of them.

To Lincoln, America never ceased to be the land of opportunity, and he welcomed newcomers to its shores long before the Statue of Liberty represented the immortal words of Emma Lazarus.

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*Dr. Jason H. Silverman is the Ellison Capers Palmer, Jr., Professor of History at Winthrop University and author of the forthcoming Lincoln and the Immigrant. Interested in learning more? Dr. Silverman will be the first Cottage Conversation speaker for the 2015-2016 season. Stay tuned for updates!*

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## ***Save the Date: April 2015 Commemorations at President Lincoln's Cottage***



***"We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart."  
-Abraham Lincoln, April 11, 1865***

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From April 11 through April 19, join President Lincoln's Cottage for ceremonies of remembrance as part of a citywide commemoration of Lincoln's life and legacy. Stay tuned for updates on programming and events from President Lincoln's Cottage.