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Groundbreaking Interactive Tour Experience at President Lincoln's Cottage

Guides can curate tours to group interests in real time, with the aid of tablets and enhanced multimedia.

Washington, D.C. – New interactive technology is enhancing the tour experience at President Lincoln's Cottage. Thanks to the introduction of resource-rich tablets, guides can now curate tours of the Lincoln family's home in Washington, DC by tailoring the tour to the needs and interests of each group in real time. An array of new features, such as crisp, high-quality visuals, audio recordings of never-before-told stories, scents, "windows into the past" and a dramatic presentation on wartime Washington, creates an evocative, sensory experience for visitors. This project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"Our conversational approach and immersion into Lincoln's time here at the Cottage will carry over to the new tour, but now our guides can shape the tour experience for our visitors in real time," says Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage. "The rich multimedia is a catalyst for a conversation on Lincoln's revolutionary ideas and how they shaped our nation. With the new tablets, guides can pull up supplementary historical resources that support visitors' questions, and share them with the group on a large screen. By experiencing a tour at President Lincoln's Cottage, visitors will gain new perspective and a deeper understanding of why this historic place was critical to Lincoln's presidency and his development of the Emancipation Proclamation."

Tickets are required for tours of President Lincoln's Cottage, and advanced ticket purchase is recommended. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.lincolncottage.org/tickets or by calling 1-800-514-ETIX.

President Lincoln's Cottage, "the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation," is located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. While living here for more than a quarter of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln bonded with soldiers and veterans, made crucial decisions about the Civil War, and, most notably, developed the Emancipation Proclamation his first summer in residence. His daily commute put him in regular contact with wounded soldiers and self-emancipated men, women, and children. Today, the site offers an intimate, never-before-seen view of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and private life, and new perspectives on the influential ideas Lincoln developed while living here.

Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Cottage tours are on the hour, 7 days a week. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: www.lincolncottage.org or call 202-829-0436.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. President Lincoln's Cottage is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit: www.preservationnation.org.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.