

NEWS FROM PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE

Vol. 2

www.lincolncottage.org

Summer 2008

Dear Friends,

In this edition we highlight two extraordinary gifts to President Lincoln's Cottage. A life size bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln and his horse (illustrated in maquette form on page 2) will be installed at the Cottage this fall thanks to the generosity of our benefactor Robert H. Smith. This piece is destined to be among the great works of Lincoln sculpture, and also a valuable teaching tool in bringing to life the story of Lincoln's daily commute to the Cottage.

The gift of the George and Martha Washington prints (this page) marks the return of the first original artifacts to the Cottage and I am grateful to George Grimes for his generosity in donating them to us.

These gifts and those of our members and volunteers make it possible to provide a unique and enriching experience at the Cottage and to preserve this treasure of American history. To all of you, my heartfelt thanks.

*Frank D. Milligan, Ph.D.
Director*

First Original Artifacts to Return to Cottage

The extensive press coverage of the restoration of President Lincoln's Cottage has brought visitors from around the country and has now brought two original artifacts back to the Cottage. A newspaper article about the opening of the Cottage prompted George Grimes of Florida to bring to our attention two prints that once belonged to his step-grandfather, Col. Claire R. Bennett who was Secretary-Treasurer of the Soldiers' Home in the 1940's and 50's. When Bennett left Soldiers' Home, he brought with him the 2 prints, along with a bed and sideboard said to have been in the Cottage during the Civil War. It was not unusual for long-term employees of the Home to take (or receive) art and furniture from the house they had occupied, in many cases for a decade or more when they left their position.



The bed and sideboard were sold at an estate sale after Colonel Bennett's death but the prints, one of George Washington and the other of Martha, went to Grimes's father. After extensive research, PLC staff concluded the prints are of the Lincoln period, and the details of the story accurate. Coincidentally, these prints are identical to two that hang in the Lincoln Home in Springfield, and even the oval wood and paper mache frames are the same. However the National Park Service has them on display as "representative" of what the Lincolns might have hung in their parlor based on sketches created after Lincoln was elected President. Prints of George and Martha Washington were mass produced in the 19th century and very popular images for display in homes. After conservation treatment and stabilization, George and Martha will return to President Lincoln's Cottage this fall, hung in a place of honor in either the Parlor or Library, as the gift of George Grimes.

Erin Carlson Mast, Curator

“A Deep & Subtle Expression” Exhibit Features Studies of New Sculpture

“A Deep & Subtle Expression: Lincoln in Sculpture – Works from National Trust Collections” is on display at the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center at President Lincoln’s Cottage through December 19, 2008.



This exhibition explores the ways that artists have attempted to convey the soul of Abraham Lincoln through sculpture and statuary. Objects for the exhibition were drawn exclusively from the collections of National Trust Historic Sites including: President Lincoln’s Cottage, Woodrow Wilson House, Chesterwood Estate & Museum, and Villa Finale.

Highlights of the exhibition include a Lincoln life mask once owned by John Hay, a rarely seen model of the “Standing Lincoln” by sculptor Daniel Chester French, and never previously exhibited studies for a new sculpture for President Lincoln’s Cottage.

This new sculpture was created by StudioEIS in Brooklyn and was made possible through the generous support of Robert H. Smith. The finished piece is a life-size statue of Lincoln and his horse, a scene that would have been all too familiar when the Lincolns were living at the Soldiers’ Home and the President commuted daily to and from the White House.

The staff of President Lincoln’s Cottage and StudioEIS agreed that the sculpture should be something entirely new and natural, a moment in time at the Soldiers’ Home. Every detail of the sculpture was researched for accuracy, down to the irregular dimensions of the famous top hat, while the artists worked hard to ensure a natural appearance giving the viewer the sensation that they are stumbling across the real Lincoln. As a final touch, Lincoln and his horse will be standing at ground level, not elevated on a platform, to give the viewer a more intimate experience.



President Lincoln’s Cottage will unveil the new sculpture this autumn. [Click here](#) to read the New York Times article from July on the statue unveiling.

Caring for Our Collections

President Lincoln’s Cottage relies on the generosity of donors to build its collections. With the establishment of a permanent collection comes the responsibility to care for that collection. Currently, we are only able to accession objects that are in good condition or need only minor conservation work. Accordingly, President Lincoln’s Cottage is establishing a fund to conserve objects and enhance collections storage. If you would like to support the conservation of the George and Martha Washington engravings and other historic objects at the Cottage, please contact George Rogers, Director of Development at george_rogers@nthp.org.

“Evenings at President Lincoln’s Cottage”

For members of the

Lincoln Cabinet:

September 18

with

Chandra Manning

author of

“What This Cruel War
Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery
and the Civil War”

Lincoln Cabinet members
contribute \$1,000 or more
annually. To become a member
of the Lincoln Cabinet please
contact George Rogers,
george_rogers@nthp.org

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Museum Shop

Tours offered on the hour
Mon - Sat 10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

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OCTOBER 2008 - OCTOBER 2009

For questions or to apply
please contact

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Entertain in Presidential Style

During the Lincoln presidency, Mary and Abraham Lincoln used the tranquil setting of their country retreat at the Soldiers' Home, their "Summer White House," as a venue for entertaining many guests: family, friends, and business and political colleagues.

With the introduction of a facility rental program, twenty-first century hosts and hostesses may now

entertain friends and associates in "presidential-style" in these same spaces making the historic site an ideal venue for private and corporate events.

The two historic buildings of the site, the 1842 Gothic revival style Cottage and the 1905 Beaux Arts style Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center, as well as the bucolic setting offer many options for indoor and outdoor entertaining. Additionally, a tent may be erected on the lushly landscaped grounds to accommodate larger gatherings of up to 250 people. Ample free parking is available on site and both buildings are fully accessible.

For site rental information, please consult our website: www.lincolncottage.org



**WASHINGTON & LINCOLN '08
THE GREAT DEBATE**



Visit www.nowdebatethis.com for more information on the "Now Debate This" contest and the contestants August 1st visit to President Lincoln's Cottage.

Are You a Lincoln Collector?

In celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial, President Lincoln's Cottage will present an exhibit looking at the history of Lincoln collecting over the years. Souvenirs and memorabilia produced over the last century will be a major component of the exhibition. Those who have a Lincoln collection are

invited to contribute items. If you hold such items and would consider loaning your collection (in whole or in part) for the upcoming exhibition, please contact Erin Mast, Curator, at erin_mast@nthp.org.

