



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
....continued on Page 4

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:

alison_mitchell@nthp.org
or (202)829-0436 x31228

In This Issue...

A CLOSER LOOK...

by Erin Carlson Mast, Acting Director/Curator

PAGE 2

SITE RENTAL PROGRAM

PAGE 3

NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM!

I See the President

PAGE 4

YEAR IN REVIEW...continued

by Erin Carlson Mast, Acting Director/Curator

PAGE 4



Events at President Lincoln's Cottage

Make Your Next Event Presidential!

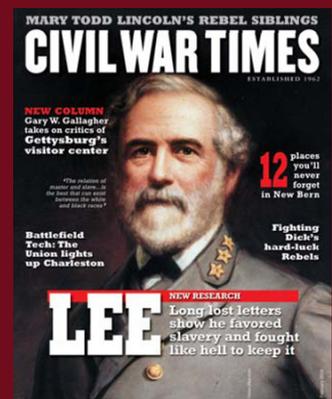
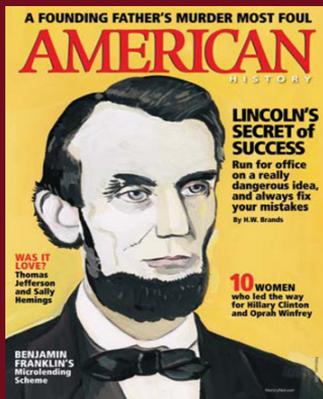
Cottage rooms glow with soft evening light during the fall and winter seasons, lending a magical quality and Victorian ambiance to any celebration. Two historic buildings and landscaped grounds offer many options for large and small gatherings, and formal and casual entertaining. Call now to reserve space for your private or corporate event.

To learn more visit:
<http://www.lincolncottage.org/events/index.htm>

For questions contact
Events Manager,
Leslie Bouterie
leslie_bouterie@nthp.org
202.829.0436 x31232

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR OUR READERS!

THE WEIDER HISTORY GROUP IS PROUD TO OFFER PATRONS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE AN EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT ON THE FOLLOWING WEIDER HISTORY GROUP TITLES:



Subscribe now and enjoy the fascinating stories of the people, events, triumphs and tragedies that define America. Find a host of expertly written articles plus rare historic photographs, maps, and artwork within the pages of each magazine.

Just \$18.95 per title for a full year (six issues)

To order by phone, please call 1-800-435-0715 and mention code **SoLCTX**

This rate is available only to patrons of President Lincoln's Cottage..

Offer available to new subscribers only.
Subscription outside US: Add \$12/year.

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.)

VISIT

WWW.LINCOLNCOTTAGE.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 Douglas 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
erin_mast@nthp.org



Lincoln's Hat Program
Third Grade