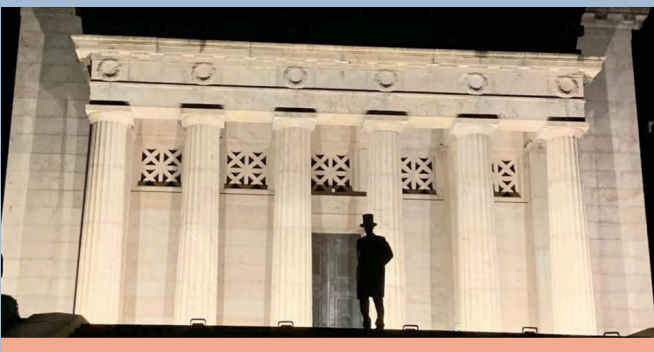




Winter Edition

A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM AT THE PARK



Larry Elliott as Lincoln silhouetted against the park's Memorial Building.

On Friday, November 19, 2021, "A New Birth of Freedom", a Memorial Building lighting event recognized the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. During the event, Larry Elliott, well-known living historian, depicted Abraham Lincoln and read the address providing inspiration and background on the famous 272-word speech. Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address on November 19th, 1863 as a short dedication speech for the new national cemetery located adjacent to the battlefield. He crystallized in a few sentences the meaning and sacrifice of the great Civil War. This illumination is part of a multi-event series that takes place throughout the year at the park commemorating milestones of Abraham Lincoln's life that had a national impact.

READING WITH A RANGER RETURNS!



Ranger Amanda as she reads to kids at the LaRue County Library.

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace has broadened their community outreach plan by resuming the Reading with a Ranger program at LaRue County Public Library and launching a new program with Hardin County Public Library. Promoting a love for reading at an early age improves literacy and lifelong learning. The LaRue County Public Library has partnered with the park for several years and has now resumed the presentations following a break due to Covid. The park's new partnership with Hardin County Public Library began this winter. "It's been a treat to have someone from the National Park Service come in and read to the kids, I think it reminds families of all the things that the community has to offer between our parks and the library." – Becca Isaacs from Hardin County Public Library. We look forward to growing engagement with our libraries as we explore stories and environment.

At the Park

UPDATES FROM IN AND AROUND THE PARK

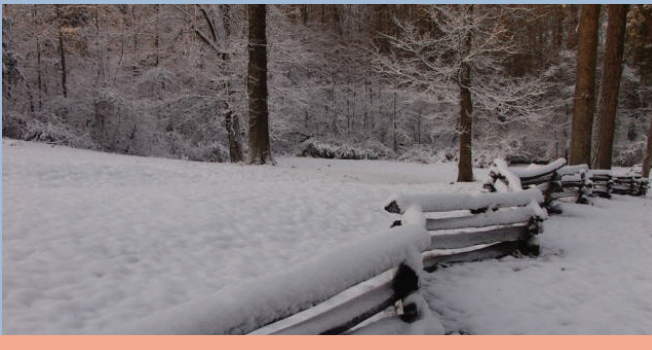
SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Winter is here with its glorious cold temperatures and white blankets. Our thoughts turn to 1809, when a young mother knew that her time to bring forth a new babe was close at hand. He came on February 12th and she called him Abraham. During his lifetime, he would advance the meaning of freedom for our nation. National anniversaries mark the measure of time and the impact each event has; remolding who we are. It was during the Lincoln Centennial that the Niagara Movement and other civil rights advocates joined together to establish the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP was committed to advancing freedom yet unfulfilled for African Americans. Each generation from past to present wins again the dream of freedom.



Park Superintendent Catherine Bragaw

DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION

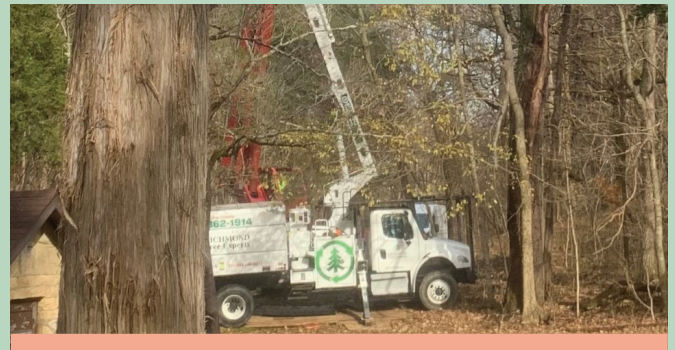


A Snowy Day at the Park.

A new year is upon us. The birth of a new year gives us time to reflect on the past and look forward to brand new beginnings. I have great hope in moving forward in 2022! I am very excited about new programming for the Division of Interpretation and the return of some old favorites. We are reinventing the Parks & Pages book club and will be holding in-person discussions at Vibe Coffee in downtown Hodgenville. We hope that you can join us! The ever-popular Shakespeare in the Park is scheduled to return in May 2022 with Kentucky Shakespeare's production of Julius Caesar. We can't wait to see this production staged using the Memorial Building as the backdrop. I have no doubt Mr. Lincoln would approve! My team is working on new programming for Reading with a Ranger, some special interpretive programs, and a lecture series. Stay tuned to future editions of the park newsletter for more details!

-Stacy Humphreys

DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE



Hazardous Tree Removal taking place at the Park.

In the fall of 2021, the Facility Management Division (FMD) awarded a contract to remove 13 hazardous trees from the park's maintained landscape and public access areas. Within these areas, hazardous trees have a high potential of falling and causing severe harm to the park visitors and damage to resources. All 13 trees were felled and removed from the park in two days. FMD makes the safety of park visitors a top priority. It is our goal to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all. To accomplish this goal the FMD has set forth several measures to reduce environmental hazards. The park Severe Weather Plan, Structural Fire Plan and a Winter Operation Plan are tools used to ensure visitor and staff safety. The FMD also marked successful completion of annual training includes CPR/first aid, Trail Safe, and Fire Extinguisher training.

-Scott Powell

SPOTLIGHT RANGER: RACHEL KEM

The Birthplace extends a warm welcome to Rachel Kem as our new spotlight ranger. Rachel brings a great deal of experience and skill from her 7+ years with the NPS to our team. From providing information to visitors in Boston Harbor Island to giving guided tours and environmental education programs at Mammoth Cave, she has had the opportunity to enrich the experiences of countless guests. A native Kentuckian, Rachel is from Barren County where she resides with her spouse and her three kitties: Charlotte, Floyd, and Puffs. She started working with the Mammoth Cave social media team back in 2017 and now sits as a Chairperson on their committee. She has been working with our park's social media team to provide digital content on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter platforms moving into this new year. We look forward to all that we will accomplish together on her 120-day detail here at the park!



Rachel Kem at Mammoth Cave

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!



Park Volunteers hard at work.

Have you ever thought about working at a national park? Do you like working with people and being outside? Do you know a frontier skill or trade? Well, we have a volunteer opportunity for you! The park will be hosting a Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) Open House event on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm (EST) at the Birthplace Visitor Center auditorium. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the park and volunteer opportunities can attend. Volunteer opportunities include working at the park's information desks, working at the Memorial Building, doing clean-up projects and other maintenance activities, living history programs, and leading tours. We are also looking for volunteers who will work as "Trail Ambassadors" to walk the park trails and report any issues such as downed trees. Don't forget the Knob Creek Tavern visitor center will reopen on weekends in April and we are looking for volunteers to work there too!

LONG-TIME PARK GUIDE GARY FERGUSON RETIRES

Gary Ferguson came to wear the iconic green and grey uniform of the National Park Service (NPS) back in June of 2005. In the 16 years with the NPS, he took countless visitors on a walk through LaRue County's rich history as a park guide and educator. Our team will remember him fondly as an incredibly intelligent and well-informed ranger, and as an amazing person of great compassion and even greater humor. Gary has been in the work force since he was 14, hauling hay and cutting tobacco so he could purchase his first drum set. His time working in the sun and soil, much like Lincoln himself, would give way to his own love of learning as he went on to get his bachelor's and then master's degrees. A flyer on a bulletin board outside the history department where he was working would lead him to the park service. In December of 2021, Gary took his well-earned retirement and now gets to spend his days with his grandchildren. A scholar and a Rockstar, it can be said with confidence that he will be greatly missed.



Park Guide Gary Ferguson giving a tour to park visitors.



LINCOLN'S BIRTH

As we head into winter, we inch closer to the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12th, 1809. Every year, the park commemorates his birth with a wreath laying in front of the symbolic cabin located inside the historic Memorial Building. It was on this land that he came into this world, and likely had his first taste of water from the Sinking Spring. His recollections of this place were foggy, probably because the family left the Sinking Spring farm when he was only around two years old. Later, in 1860 he wrote, "I was born Feb. 12. 1809, near where Hogginsville [Hodgenville] now is, then in Hardin county." When the family moved to the Knob Creek farm, Lincoln later experienced his first memories of planting pumpkin seeds in the ground there as a child. There are many sites connected with the life of Abraham Lincoln, but only one place, the Sinking Spring farm, is the one true place of his birth.



Winter at the Sinking Spring Farm

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH: REMEMBERING NANCY LINCOLN

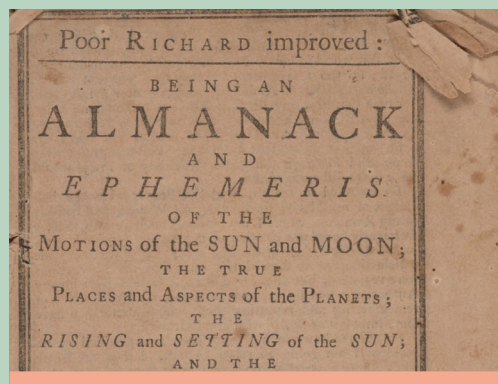


The Nancy Lincoln Inn which sits on land next to the park.

March will be Women's History Month, and what better way to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln's mother than to mention the Nancy Lincoln Inn? Named after his birth mother, who, sadly, died of milk sickness in Indiana, many visitors ask about the Inn (which is adjacent to the park property, but just outside our boundary). The Nancy Lincoln Inn was built in 1928 by James R. Howell, to address the increasing visitation of tourists coming to the site by car. The Inn, along with four nearby cabins, were built using chestnut logs and red pine for the floors. Since 1928, the Inn has remained with a hallmark sign that says "Nancy Lincoln Inn" on the top of the building. Although Abraham Lincoln adored his stepmother, it is believed that when he referred to his "angel mother" he was referring to his birth mother, Nancy Lincoln.

A LOOK BACK AT THE ALMANAC

As we head into winter, one of the biggest questions people have is how much snow they will get for the season. When the Lincolns lived at Knob Creek, it's possible they may have been able to procure a copy of the Old Farmer's Almanac, which was first published in 1792, to predict the seasonal weather. Another almanac that was published later was The Farmers' Almanac in 1818. Both almanacs were undoubtedly influenced by Poor Richard's Almanac, first published by Benjamin Franklin in 1732. Almanacs were a valuable resource for frontier people who had few ways to predict seasonal weather when planting crops. Ironically, Abraham Lincoln himself used a copy of an almanac in a court case in 1857, in which he argued that the witness could not have seen the crime committed by the light of the moon, because, according to the almanac, there was no moon that night of the incident!



Front Cover of Poor Richard's Almanack

UPCOMING EVENTS

LINCOLN BIRTHDAY EVENTS!

Every year on February 12th the park and the Hodgenville community observes the birth of our 16th president. Here are the events for 2022:

10:00am: Wreath laying at the Symbolic Birth Cabin at the park's Memorial Building *free*/virtual broadcast*
11:30am: Wreath laying and rededication at Boy Lincoln Statue in the Square *free*/virtual broadcast*
12:00pm: Lincoln Birthday Lunch at the Hodgenville Community Room. For lunch tickets, please call the Lincoln Museum at 270-358-3163.

2022 PARKS AND PAGES BOOK CLUB

Join us for Parks and Pages in 2022. This year's theme will be "Lincoln's Influence on America." Join Rangers for an in-person discussion held at Vibe Coffee in downtown Hodgenville, at 3pm (ET) the third Friday during the months of March, June, September and December. No reservations or fees are required for this program. Please check the park's website or Facebook page for the full schedule and complete list of books.

March 18, 2022 – National Parks – America's Best Idea
The Yosemite
by John Muir (304pg.)

June 17, 2022 – In the Pursuit of Equality
My Work Is That of Conservation: An Environmental Biography of George Washington Carver,
by Mark D. Hersey (320pg.)

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022

February 12, 2022: Annual observance of Lincoln's Birthday with wreath laying at the Memorial Building at 10am (ET)

February - African-American History Month

March - Womens History Month

April 10-24, 2022: Now He Belongs to the Ages with Memorial Building illumination on Thursday, April 14th

April 16-24, 2022: National Park Week

April 16, 2022: National Junior Ranger Day

April 22-25, 2022: Forest Bathing (more details to come in our Spring Newsletter!)

If you have any questions or comments about the park's newsletter, or if you would like to join our email list, please reach out to us at:

abli_superintendent@nps.gov



Community Pulse

BOY LINCOLN STATUE RETURNS TO SQUARE



The Boy Lincoln statue on the Square in downtown Hodgenville.

The Boy Lincoln statue is finally returning to his place in the downtown square in Hodgenville. Originally, this statue was placed on the square for the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009. After being the victim of some unfortunate accidents, and knocked off his base, Boy Lincoln had to be returned to the original foundry to fix the base of the statue. He has now been returned home and will take his place on the square and rededicated on February 12, 2022 just in time for Lincoln's birthday observance.

WINTER UPDATES FROM EASTERN NATIONAL



Products available in the park Store at the Birthplace.

The Eastern National store at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHP is excited to continue work on developing our second retail location inside the new Knob Creek Visitor Center. The Knob Creek Farm or Early Boyhood Home grounds are open all year round with the visitor center open seasonally. The new site supports multiple themes that broaden exploration and bring new products that deepen the visitor experience at our park. We are focusing many of our selections on local Kentucky history and early 1800's frontier farm life. Visitors who come to the park this coming summer will see new custom memorabilia hitting the shelves!

MEET PARK VOLUNTEER PHYLLIS GENTRY



VIP Phyllis at the park

Phyllis Gentry has been serving as a volunteer for the park for about eight years. She is a retired registered nurse and lives on a farm near Athertonville. Phyllis loves Lincoln history, preserving special places and sharing her knowledge with others. She loves welcoming park visitors and chatting with them about their travels and interest in Abraham Lincoln! Phyllis serves on our special event "swat" team and is a joy to work with!