



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

For Immediate Release:
December 22, 2008

For Information Contact:
Henry Haupt

Secretary Of State Jesse White Publishes Lincoln Teaching Packet

Illinois Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White announced the publication and distribution of a new teaching packet, Abraham Lincoln in Illinois: a Selection of Documents from the Illinois State Archives, in commemoration of the 2009 bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

"Abraham Lincoln in Illinois contains 35 document reproductions of Lincoln related documents held at the Illinois State Archives," said White. "To assist teachers in their classroom, each packet also contains an 87-page teacher's guide about Abraham Lincoln in Illinois."

White said the teaching packet is designed to promote knowledge about Abraham Lincoln and the early history of Illinois, while also teaching history students how to use and analyze primary document material. The Illinois State Archives houses more than 120 Abraham Lincoln documents, including many bills he wrote as a state legislator.

A copy of the packet is being sent to every public middle and secondary school in Illinois. Other in-state educational institutions may also receive a free packet by writing to the Illinois State Archives, c/o Archives Publications, Third Floor Norton Archives Building, Springfield, IL 62756 or by calling (217) 782-2226.

Funding for Abraham Lincoln in Illinois was generously provided by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois is the seventh teaching packet issued by the Illinois State Archives. Previous teaching packets are Windows to the Past 1818-1880 (out of print), a collection of downstate county records that focused on rural development; Early Chicago 1837-1871, which focused on Chicago's development up until the Great Chicago Fire; From the Ashes: 1872-1900, which focused on Chicago's recovery from the fire; Illinois at War: 1941-1945, which examined the home front during World War II; Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940, which reviewed life in Illinois during the Great Depression; and The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911, which reviewed the construction and decline one of the major internal improvements in Illinois history.

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois is one of several initiatives taken by the Secretary of State's office to commemorate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. The Secretary of State also serves as the State Librarian and in that role Secretary White conducted an essay contest on Lincoln for students in grades 5-6, 7-8 and high school, created a commemorative flag that was distributed to all the libraries in the state, and printed informational bookmarks that have been distributed throughout libraries and schools.