



ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) officially became an independent agency in July 2017 and is home to one of the world's greatest collections of Lincoln documents and artifacts. It houses irreplaceable letters written by and to Lincoln, unique artifacts from his life, books and art exploring his impact on the world. Great Lincoln scholars view the library as a premier destination point to research his life.

Each year, more than 250,000 people visit the museum to learn about Lincoln's service to the country. In the Treasures Gallery — the heart of the museum — visitors can view historical documents, such as a signed copy of the Gettysburg Address, or personal Lincoln items, like the last axe Lincoln ever used or the key to his Springfield home.

The museum offers detailed exhibits that immerse guests in scenes from Lincoln's life. Visitors can experience Lincoln reading by the fire in a log cabin or debating the Emancipation Proclamation in his office. Exhibits are supplemented by multimedia shows and historic interpreters who converse with visitors about the past.

The ALPLM also offers an ever-changing showcase of temporary exhibits. Past topics have included the four Presidents from Illinois, the life of President John F. Kennedy, Civil War medicine, the rivalry between the Chicago Cubs and the St. Louis Cardinals, and Lincoln's greatest speeches.

The library contains millions of items relating to the general history of Illinois. Researchers can find everything from early maps of the state to letters by renowned writers, such as Edgar Lee Masters and Richard Wright. The library also has an unmatched collection of newspapers from every era of Illinois history.

ALPLM staff members share knowledge and insight about Lincoln and Illinois history with the world in a variety of forms. Historians speak at public events. Through the Oral History Program, staff records the memories of Illinois residents and makes them available online. The education team provides lesson plans to teachers and plans activities for students to enhance the learning experience. Experts on newspapers, photographs and letters field public inquiries.

The roots of the ALPLM stretch back to 1889, when the state created a historical library. In 2004, that library merged with the new presidential library, which was a part of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Thirteen years later, the Governor and General Assembly decided the ALPLM would be more effective as its own agency.

For more information about the ALPLM, visit www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov.



1 The ALPLM's Lincoln Collection includes books, paintings, photographs and illustrations about the President, including this print of Lincoln and his Springfield home.

2 Generous donors share their Lincoln keepsakes with the world and ensure that they will be protected for future generations when they give them to the ALPLM. One example is this ring woven from the hair of Tad Lincoln's ponies.

3 Tools used in the failed attempt to steal Lincoln's body provide a physical connection to a bizarre moment in history.

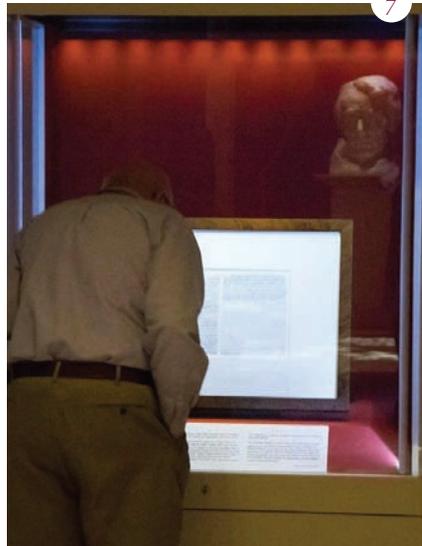
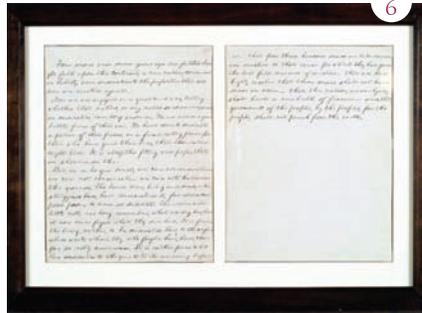
4 Due to the expansive collection of Lincoln items housed at the ALPLM, guests are assured of a new display each time they visit.

5 ALPLM experts frequently display prized artifacts — like the fan Mary Lincoln carried on the night of her husband's assassination — and share their knowledge with visiting groups.

6 Lincoln made several copies of his famed Gettysburg Address. Five remain, and one of them is owned by the State of Illinois. Pennies and nickels donated by the children of Illinois in the 1940s helped purchase this priceless document.

7 Light and humidity can damage rare documents such as the Gettysburg Address. This document is typically displayed in November around the anniversary of the speech.

8 Abraham and Mary Lincoln suffered many tragedies, including the loss of their son Edward. He now rests in the Lincoln Tomb, and his original headstone is on display at the ALPLM.





1 One way ALPLM visitors learn is by interacting with historic interpreters who portray President Lincoln and other figures from the past.

2 Visitors young and old enjoy interacting with Civil War soldiers who expound upon their experiences during battle.

3 A 31-foot-tall sculpture of Abraham Lincoln entitled "Return Visit" is on display at the ALPLM until September 2020. It was installed in May 2019 and was created by Seward Johnson.

4 The ALPLM knows how to have a little fun amid all the serious business.

5 The ALPLM's audiovisual collection includes rare footage of the first televised debate in a presidential campaign. It featured Adlai Stevenson II facing Estes Kefauver during a 1956 primary race.

6 With its stars arranged to spell "free," this flag of the Civil War era celebrates the anti-slavery movement.

7 The ALPLM's collections cover virtually all aspects of Illinois history. These boots were worn by Dan Walker when he walked across the state to promote his campaign for Governor in 1972.



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1 A poster from World War II reiterates the importance of keeping secrets by showing a dog waiting for its master who will never return from war.

2 Displays often include beautiful jewelry owned by Mary Lincoln, including this coral necklace.

3 The presidential library organizes the state's annual Illinois History Day competition, where students present research papers, documentaries, displays, websites and even brief performances. This performance portrays an experience of the Underground Railroad.

4 Protecting and preserving items in the ALPLM collection is a top priority. Staff experts use many techniques to repair aging documents.

5 Sauk leader Keokuk was one of the most important Native American figures of the first half of the 19th century.

6 Hands-on educational activities are an important part of the ALPLM's services.

