

LINCOLN, VIRGINIA'S ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL  
LINCOLN COMMUNITY LEAGUE • LINCOLN PRESERVATION FOUNDATION  
P.O. BOX 6 • LINCOLN, VIRGINIA 20160

LINCOLN, VIRGINIA WELCOMES AMERICA TO ITS  
2009 ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

*Loudoun County's 1730s Quaker village, uniquely linked to President Lincoln  
and his legacy, kicks off its nationally endorsed programs on February 12*

**Events ranging from the first Lincoln Fair to talks on the village's role in the  
Underground Railroad will encompass all its historic sites of Quaker and African American life**

**February 12**, Lincoln, Virginia – On the Bicentennial of President Lincoln's birth, the second place in the nation named *in his honor, in his lifetime—and in Virginia* —will kick off its year-long celebration with **a special event at its post office.**

The post office is the focus of Lincoln's first Bicentennial event because it is this institution that led the local Quakers to change the name of their village—Goose Creek—to Lincoln in honor of the 16th president.

**It was in 1861** that the residents of the 1730s village of Goose Creek, notable for their **active abolitionism and role in the Underground Railroad, sought their own post office** so they would no longer have to travel through unfriendly territory to pick up their mail two miles away in Purcellville. **They turned to the new president, himself a former postmaster (in Salem, Illinois), who granted their request. "Goose Creek" not only became "Lincoln," but also lived Mr. Lincoln's legacy of freedom and equality.**

**Now, 148 years later**, while students across the country participate in a Lincoln Bicentennial online teach-in, the students of Lincoln Elementary School, will celebrate President Lincoln's 200th birthday an old-fashioned way: by **writing letters to our new president. Their theme, echoing Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, is how they can help complete our country's "unfinished work."**

**The Lincoln students will hand-deliver their letters to the post office**, where they will be greeted by Arlene Janney, whose husband Asa Moore Janney served as postmaster for much of the 20th century. Their son John Janney and Phil Daley, president of the Lincoln Community League, which maintains this rural postal station, will share postal traditions of the 1850s and '60s with the children. And then their letters, bearing their choice of one of the four new Lincoln commemorative stamps, will be cancelled and **sent to the White House and the attention of President Obama—our nation's first African American president.** They hope for a prompt reply!

**Other Bicentennial events and activities endorsed by the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission include:**

- **The festive opening of the Lincoln, Virginia Bicentennial Exhibit** this spring in conjunction with the meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial committee of Virginia
- **The first Lincoln Fair and Post Office Rededication post on July 3** – the date the Lincoln Post Office officially opened in 1865, four and a half years after President Lincoln first authorized it. **The fair will feature:**
  - a **special exhibit** of Lincoln history and artifacts installed in the Lincoln Studios, the village's restored 1908 grocery
  - a **visit from "Abraham Lincoln"** (Pete Raymond of Wooster, Ohio)
  - an **Abe Lincoln lookalike**
  - **contest** at the post office
  - musical events, including a **gospel choir concert**
  - **interpreted walking tours of Lincoln's historic sites**, including the memorial to founder Hannah Janney, the original 1765 Goose Creek Meeting House, the still-active 1815 Meeting House, 1884 Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Living history events at the 1815 one-room Oakdale School where children both white and black were taught together for 65 years in what is possibly Virginia's first (illegally) integrated public school
  - **carriage rides** through the beautiful Goose Creek Historic District that surrounds the village
  - **a farmers' market**
  - 18th and 19th century **crafts** and **demonstrations**
  - **visitors' photographs** made in **Mathew Brady style**
  - hands-on children's activities, such as **postal stamp design workshops**, and an **introduction to archaeological digs at the Grace Church restoration site**

In the fall, Lincoln, Virginia's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial will continue with **a series of lectures** on:

- the **founding of Goose Creek and the early Quakers in Loudoun**
- Quaker leadership in public education for all
- **pre-Civil War life in Lincoln** and the relationships between the white Quakers and their African Americans neighbors. the War, the Underground Railroad, and conscientious objection
- **Reconstruction**, focusing on the social, economic, educational, and racial relations as African Americans established churches and schools with the help of the Goose Creek Quakers (see Mt. Olive Baptist Church and Grace Methodist Episcopal Church)

Lincoln, Virginia, the first place in the nation—after Salem, Illinois, which Abe Lincoln himself christened—welcomes visitors and visibility in 2009, hoping both will engage the public in Virginia history and help this village preserve its sense of place for America's people and history.

Funds raised through the Lincoln, Virginia bicentennial will support the programs of the Lincoln Community League and the Lincoln Preservation Foundation.

For further information, as well as photographs and video:

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