



For Immediate Release
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HISTORY COMES ALIVE COMES TO LIFE AGAIN THIS SUMMER IN SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD- April 19, 2011. It's alive, it's returning, and it will attract visitors.

The popular "History Comes Alive" program returns to Springfield during 2011 to allow visitors to take a step back in time at the city's Lincoln historic sites from mid-June through mid-August. The program, which drew thousands of additional visitors to those sites last year, returns during this Civil War 150th anniversary year courtesy of a grant from the Office of Tourism (IOT) at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

"History is alive in Springfield all year long," according to Tim Farley, Executive Director of the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Historic sites throughout the Springfield area offer excellent programming that allows visitors to immerse themselves in Lincoln's history throughout the year. What makes "History Comes Alive" so significant is that it allows us to offer a variety of period, interpretive entertainment on a more continuous daily basis for eight weeks during the peak tourism season, enticing visitors to extend their stay in Springfield."

During "History Comes Alive," Springfield visitors will enjoy a wide array of free interpretive experiences at multiple Lincoln historic sites including: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Old State Capitol, Lincoln-Herndon Law Office, Lincoln Depot and Vachel Lindsay Home as well as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. In addition, costumed interpreters will host a variety of programs throughout the historic downtown area.

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Many favorites from 2010's History Comes Alive will return in 2011 along with new performances sure to entertain. Mr. Lincoln, himself, will be present daily throughout the eight-week period. Daily programming will include living history interpreters presenting daily programming and demonstrations through the Lincoln Home neighborhood. Mr. Lincoln's World at Old State Capitol and Lincoln Herndon Law Office will include portrayals of Mr. Lincoln in his campaign office, Governor Richard Yates and Mary Lincoln, as well as period games and demonstrations.

The third annual Civil War Medical Encampment, taking place June 10-12 at the Old State Capitol, kicks off this season when the entire Old State Capitol grounds will transform into a Civil War field hospital complete with re-enactors, camp life and activities for the entire family. The event, sponsored by Memorial Medical Center, the Old State Capitol Foundation, and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, will focus on issues related to health and medicine during the Civil War.

Other returning favorites include Mystic Chords of Memory each Saturday at the Lincoln Home and Old State Capitol. Hear Lincoln deliver his "Farewell Address" on the steps of Lincoln Home and then follow Abraham and Mary's horse-drawn carriage to the Old State Capitol where Mr. Lincoln will deliver parts of his First Inaugural Address. The Lincoln Troubadours, a popular feature from 2010, will return with several performances daily Thursday through Sunday.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will host a variety of performances in June and July including theater, period musicians, bands and period musical and play performances. A complete list of events will soon be available on the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau website, www.visit-springfieldillinois.com. In addition, schedule brochures will also soon be available for download from the site.

"Tourism is an economic driver for the State of Illinois and Springfield is a proven destination," says Jan Kostner, Deputy Director at IOT. "The IOT is proud to offer their support to the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, the National Park Service, the Illinois Historic



Preservation Agency and the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau again this year to offer our summer visitors “History Comes Alive.””

The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition will again manage the grant for this summer’s program. The Coalition manages the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, encompassing 42 central Illinois counties. “History Comes Alive will showcase Lincoln’s rich history,” according to Kay Smith, acting director for the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. “Our hope is that after visitors experience Lincoln in Springfield, they will want to continue their exploration throughout the 42 Illinois counties that make up the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.” Tourism officials hope the program in Springfield will serve as a model for future programming throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

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