



CIVIL WAR
INSTITUTE
at Gettysburg College

Civil War Institute

Newsletter, March 2009

Headquarters for the PA Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission



A Message from Gabor

Dear Friends,

**By late June it is usually warm,
Even hot in Gettysburg.
In the night at our farm,
The fireflies glow in the dark,
Fleeting specks illuminating the woods and turning Marsh Creek into a pageant.
In the daytime along the side of the road,
Orange tiger lilies proclaim their eternal message.
My heart overflows;
It is time to see old friends again,
Time to make new ones.
It is time for the Gettysburg Civil War Institute.**

I said this once, a long time ago and ever since we've begun the Civil War Institute's summer week with these words. At one point, an Oxford editor put these words in poetry format and they reached many more people. The name CWI itself, like so much else, came from all of you, my friends. So much we have done together. But the time is up. After this June I have to say goodbye. May the CWI and Gettysburg College prosper. God bless you.

Respect, good friends

Gabor

Take a walk down memory lane at:

<http://www.boritt.com/memories>

Gabor Boritt in Print

Gabor has been cited in many different articles in the past months. As one of the foremost Lincoln Scholars he was in high demand during the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. Read the [Gettysburg Experience](#), [Time Magazine](#) and [New York Times](#) articles.

Gabor Boritt and Allen Guelzo Honored

Gabor Boritt and Allen Guelzo received the [Lincoln Academy Metal](#) in Springfield, Illinois. To learn more about this honor and to read all the names of those who were honored check the [Lincoln Academy](#) web site.

Lincoln Prize 2009 News

Lincoln Prize Winners Announced

The co-laureates for the 2009 Lincoln Prize (for scholarship published in 2008) are James McPherson for *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief* (The Penguin Press) and Craig Symonds for *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War* (Oxford University Press). The \$50,000 Lincoln Prize recognizes the finest scholarly work on the Civil War era. The Prize has been previously awarded to renowned filmmaker Ken Burns, Allen Guelzo, Doug Wilson, and Doris Kearns Goodwin. [Click here](#) for the full press release.

2009 Lincoln Bicentennial Events

Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday Celebrated in Harrisburg

Lincoln's milestone 200th birthday was celebrated in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building on February 11, 2009. The Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, headquartered at Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute, was a sponsor of the event. Jim Getty read the Gettysburg Address at the State House to an enthusiastic group of state congressmen.



David Wills House Grand Opening

The Wills House officially opened to the general public on February 12, 2009. It is operated by Main Street Gettysburg and the National Park Service. After undergoing immense restoration, the museum now features seven galleries – including the rooms where Wills organized war memorial plans and where Lincoln wrote and revised his Gettysburg Address. For more information on the David Wills House, [click here](#).



CWI 2009 News

CWI 2009 Theme: The Assassination of Lincoln and The Life of Mary Todd Lincoln June 21 - June 27, 2009

The Civil War Institute in 2009 promises to be an exciting week. This is the Bicentennial year of Lincoln's birth, so it is very appropriate that we once again focus on Lincoln. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers featuring Michael Burlingame, Philip Kunhardt, Ed Steers, Thomas Craughwell, Michael Kauffman, Craig Symonds, James McPherson, Harold Holzer, Frank Williams, Catherine Clinton, Daniel Epstein, Jason Emerson, Allen Guelzo, Daniel Weinberg, and others. Tours will include Lincoln sites in Washington DC and Gettysburg, and, as always, Gettysburg Battlefield tours. For a full list of events, speakers, and tour guides check out the [tentative schedule](#). To reserve a spot, a [registration form](#) should be filled out and sent along with your non-transferrable, non-refundable deposit. Spaces are limited and fill quickly, so don't delay.

CWI 2009 Scholarship Deadline Extended April 30, 2009

The deadline to apply for a teacher or student scholarship to attend the 2009 Civil War Institute has been extended to April 30th, 2009. It's easy to apply and the CWI is now Pennsylvania ACT 48 credit approved. Send in a [scholarship application](#) with the required paperwork and you will be notified by June 1 after the selections have been made. The Institute provides scholarships for approximately 15 students and 10 teachers through donations made by interested groups or individuals. If you would like to make a donation please fill out a Civil War Institute [donor form](#). [Read](#) about former scholarship winners' experiences.

Fortenbaugh 2009 News

2009 Robert Fortenbaugh Speaker Announced Michael Burlingame



Michael Burlingame is one of the foremost authorities on Abraham Lincoln. He has thoroughly studied the life and times of Abraham Lincoln, about whom he has published twelve books. His most recent work, *Lincoln: A Life*, brings an encyclopedic knowledge to the subject. Professor Burlingame serves as a member of the board of directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association headquartered in Springfield, IL, as well as at the Abraham Lincoln Institute in Washington D.C. He is also on the board of advisors for the Abraham Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College in Galesburg, IL.

Pamphlets of most former Fortenbaugh Lectures are available for sale at the Civil War Institute for \$10.00 each. Checks should be made out to Gettysburg College. Send your order to the Civil War Institute at 300 North Washington Street, Campus Box 435, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

Learning about Lincoln

The ancestry of Abraham Lincoln holds a rich history in itself. Like many of his fellow citizens of the middle western states, Lincoln's ancestors had lived in Pennsylvania, had moved southward through the Great Valley into Virginia. Passing through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky, and then across the Ohio River into the Old Northwest. His people were a part of the tide of settlement which pushed the frontier westward, redeeming the land from the forest and building the new states of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.

Long before Abraham Lincoln set foot in Gettysburg on November 19, 1863 to deliver "a few appropriate remarks", his ancestors, Mordecai and Abraham, settled in Berks Country. President Lincoln's great-great-grandfather, Mordecai, settled in Pennsylvania with his brother, Abraham, in 1720. The beginning of the Lincoln legacy started at the house of Mordecai Lincoln in a small town in Pennsylvania – and ended when Abraham Lincoln's grandfather, also named Abraham, moved down to Virginia.

To learn more about Lincoln's ancestry, visit the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission [website](#).

Upcoming Lincoln Events

February 21- March 15, 2009 (Weekends)

"Key Moments and Commanders of the Gettysburg Campaign" is a free winter lecture series being held weekends from February to mid-March. The lectures will be held on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 PM at the Gettysburg museum and visitor center. Upcoming lectures have been featured in *Civil War News*. [Click here](#) for more details on this lecture series or call (717) 334-1124, ext. 8023.

March 6- 8, 2009

Reenactor Appreciation Weekend in Gettysburg

The 4th Annual Reenactor Appreciation Weekend returns to our historic town. Reenactors of all time periods are welcome, and admission is free to those in costume. Several businesses in the Gettysburg area will also be offering special discount rates to reenactors and their families. The weekend includes receptions, teas, fashion shows, and other entertainment. For a small fee, the general public can be admitted. For more information, [click here](#).

March 9 – 26, 2009

A Visit with Mr. Lincoln

Our 16th President comes to life as award-winning Jim Getty recounts Abraham Lincoln's homespun stories of youth, personal and political life, and more in his one-man performance. Mr. Getty is America's foremost Lincoln portrayer and a member of the National Speakers Association. For audiences Grades 2 and up. 45 minutes in length. No fee is charged. For dates, times, and locations, [click here](#).

March 14, 2009

Pennsylvania Confederate Ball

This year's Pennsylvania Confederate Ball will be held at the Gettysburg Hotel as a benefit for *Susan G. Komen for the Cure*. For more information, contact Danielle Costa at (717) 796-0113, or via email at reynoldsdescendant@netzero.com.

Places to Visit

Gettysburg Historic Train Station

The Gettysburg Historic Train Station offers free admission. This is the train station that Lincoln used in 1863 and it has been beautifully restored. Open 7 days a week from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The Mordecai Lincoln House of Berks County

The house of Mordecai Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's great-great grandfather, is now open to the public. For more information on this historic attraction, visit the [Lincoln Homestead webpage](#).

Welcomes

Judith Ann Giesberg and husband Edward Fierros welcomed daughter Marisol Aviva Giesberg Fierros into the world on January 24, 2009. "She couldn't wait 'til Lincoln's birthday," Giesberg jokes.



Farewells

We deeply regret to announce the passing of Greg Coco. Greg lost his fight against cancer at 4:00 in the morning on February 11th, 2009. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

For The Gettysburg Times obituary, [click here](#).

Special Offers

ALBC Commemorative Coin:

The ALBC Commemorative Coin is on sale now. Available for order on the U.S. Mint Web site, the pure silver coin is available as a proof coin (which has a mirror-like background) and as an uncirculated coin (featuring a more satiny background).

For the first 30 days after the coin goes on sale (beginning Feb. 12, 2009), they can be purchased for \$37.95 (proof) and \$31.95 (uncirculated) each. A \$10.00 surcharge on each coin, which is included in the cost quoted, benefits the ALBC. After the first 30 days, the coin's regular price of \$41.95 will take effect.

For details and to purchase the coin, visit the Mint's website [here](#).

To celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial, the Library of America has created five "Lincoln in America Memory" paperback readers featuring excerpts of essays, speeches, poems, plays, fiction, and nonfiction about Abraham Lincoln. This special offer is for reading groups only. For more information and to order your free copies, visit [Library of America](#).

In celebration of February's annual Black History Month, as well as Barack Obama's Presidential inauguration, the [African-American Studies Center](#) from Oxford Press has permitted free access to all. To access the material, enter "barackobama" as the username and "president" as the password.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has recently launched a new online database in honor of the 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial. The Lincoln Archives offers a massive array of documents and media related to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. A variety of documents, maps, photographs, political cartoons, articles, letters, and journals will be available. Also featured is a "Who's Who" in historians and authors, as well as Abraham Lincoln lesson plans. Additionally, Podcasts will also be available for download. Free archive access permitted for a limited

time only. After March, the website will charge \$15 a month or \$150 a year per subscription. To visit the online database, visit www.lincolnarchives.us.

The National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. will have an exhibition of Abraham Lincoln documents. Ten of Lincoln's most important documents, including the Emancipation Proclamation and several letters, will be on display until March 22, 2009. To learn more about the **America's Birth to New Freedom** exhibit, please visit the Museum's website at www.americanhistory.si.edu.



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