

For immediate release

May 8, 2001

Abraham Lincoln the focus of June event

"The Lincoln Bicentennial: Planning for and Teaching about Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday in 2009" – a symposium for Indiana's elementary and secondary educators – will be presented Wednesday, June 13, at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Lincoln City, Indiana.

Other interested individuals are also invited to attend the event that will include review of recent scholarship about Lincoln, discussion of state and national preparations for Lincoln's 200th birthday celebration, and an introduction to "Teaching with Historic Places," a program developed by the National Park Service.

Dr. Philip Shaw Paludan, professor of history at the University of Kansas, will be the keynote speaker. His topic will be "Lincoln: What We Know, What We Try to Know, and Why." The author's numerous awards include the 1995 Lincoln Prize for the best book on the Civil War era.

The daylong program also will include a guided tour of the Lincoln Boyhood National Monument as well as additional speakers. Harrison High School teacher William Bartlet, a long-time student of Abraham Lincoln and former historian on the Lincoln Boyhood staff, will discuss "Lincoln in Southern Indiana." Suzanne Stanis, education coordinator for Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, will present a "Teaching with Historic Places" afternoon program focusing on the use of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in classroom settings.

Dr. Darrel E. Bigham, University of Southern Indiana professor of history, is scheduled to participate in "Planning for the Lincoln Bicentennial: A Panel Discussion." Bigham is a member of the federal Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and serves as director of the Historic Southern Indiana Project. Other panelists will include Joan Flinspach, Indiana's other member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and president of the Lincoln Museum; James Madison, leading scholar of Indiana history; Pamela Bennett, director of the Indiana Historical Bureau; Paludan; Bartlet; and Mary Fortney, social studies coordinator for the Indiana Department of Education.

The symposium is divided into a morning session, from 8 a.m. to noon; and an afternoon session, from 12:45 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$20, including lunch; or \$10 for the morning session only. Wednesday, May 30, is the deadline for registration.

Historic Southern Indiana, an outreach program of USI, is sponsoring the event in cooperation with the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, with grant support from the Indiana Humanities Council.

For additional information or registration, call Historic Southern Indiana at 812/465-7014, e-mail hsi@usi.edu, or visit the Web at www.usi.edu/hsi.