

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

3035

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3035

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3035

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 8, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3131

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Bennett*

Minutes:

**Rick Collin:** Testimony Attached.

**Sen. O'Connell:** Testimony Attached.

**Rep. Boucher:** I think little do we sometimes that a great impact in the importance of Abraham Lincoln and his administration had on the state of ND such as the Homestead Act and the Moral Act and of course his appointment of the first two governors of the Dakota Territory. He did certainly have a great impact on what took place here in our state and it is very instrumental in laying the groundwork for what was to take place in this great state. I would also like to add that any man that can give an address that lasts less than four minutes, we should follow his example because what he did was the Gettysburg Address is worthy of our respect.

**Rep. Kasper:** Rick, your budgeting is going through the appropriations? You're not here for budget just the resolution?

**Rick Collin:** Correct, there is no fiscal note to this.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any other testimony on HCR 3035? If not we will close the hearing.

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3035

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 8, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3134

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Bennett*

Minutes:

**Rep. Froseth:** I move a do pass.

**Rep. Dahl:** I second that.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any more discussion? If not we will take a roll call vote on HCR 3035. The do pass motion on HCR 3035 passes with a vote of 13-0-0. Is there a volunteer to take this to the floor?

**Rep. Wolf:** I will.

Date: 2-8-07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number HCR 3035

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep Froseth Seconded By Rep. Dahl

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande VC	X		Rep. Louise Potter	X	
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider	X	
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Jim Kasper	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Wolf

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3035: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS,  
0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3035 was placed on the Tenth order  
on the calendar.

2007 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3035

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 3035

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/09/07

Recorder Job Number: 4794, 4795

Committee Clerk Signature

*Monica Spaulding*

Minutes:

All members of the committee were present.

Senator Dever, Chairman, opened the hearing on HCR 3035.

Senator David P. O'Connell introduced the bill. See attachment # 1.

Rick Collin, Communications Director for the State Historical Society, spoke in favor of the resolution. See attachments #2, #3, #4 and #5.

Senator Oehlke asked why the committee didn't jump on the 1 cent sales tax that they tried to get through as a possible way to fund this.

Rick said they didn't even consider it.

Senator Nelson asked why cooperative efforts with Fort Abraham Lincoln are not even mentioned in the proposal.

Rick said he has spoken to Senator Potter and mentioned that this discussion is just beginning. He is also encouraging other entities in the states to get involved.

Senator Nelson said the Peace Gardens would be another group to involve because of the efforts toward peace made by President Lincoln.

Rick said that was an excellent suggestion.

Rick received a letter from a grandson of one of Lincoln's body guards, Smith Stimmel. Mr Stimmel had published a book of his memoirs in 1928. See attachment # 5. Mr. Stimmel is buried in Fargo.

Support: -

Opposition: -

Neutral: -

Chairman Dever closed the hearing on HCR 3035.

JOB # 4795

A do pass motion was made by Senator Lee.

The motion was seconded by Senator Nelson.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: - Horne



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 9, 2007 12:08 p.m.

**Module No: SR-45-4867**  
**Carrier: Horne**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3035: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HCR 3035 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HCR 3035

HCR 3035  
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
February 8, 2007

Testimony by Rick Collin, Communications Director  
State Historical Society of North Dakota  
and State Liaison to National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Introduction

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rick Collin and I am the Communications Director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. I am here today in my role as Governor Hoeven's designated representative for North Dakota on the Governors' Council of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Next Monday, February 12, will mark the 198<sup>th</sup> birthday of our 16<sup>th</sup> President. The national bicentennial commission has been in place since 2000, established and charged by Congress to plan a fitting and proper observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of our greatest presidents. From prairie lawyer to the Presidency, Lincoln's life story represents many of the best qualities of the American character which can be celebrated during the bicentennial of his birth. These include the courage, compassion, integrity and wisdom he demonstrated during one of the most turbulent and violent periods in our history, the Civil War.

With the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition recently concluded, the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth provides an additional component to North Dakota's increasingly important emphasis on cultural heritage tourism. While Lincoln never set foot in North Dakota – what was then part of Dakota Territory – his connections to our state are many and significant. Several of them are listed in HCR 3035, and include his signing of the Homestead Act in 1862, which had a major impact in opening up the settlement of the Northern Plains, including present-day North Dakota; appointing the first two governors of Dakota Territory; signing the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad, whose construction through present-day North Dakota led to the settlement of many towns and cities; and signing the Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862, which led to the establishment of what is now North Dakota State University.

These connections and others provide us with many opportunities. As outlined in HCR 3035, the state's commemoration of the Lincoln Bicentennial would be in conjunction with the official national commemoration dates, which begin on February 12, 2008 with an event at his birthplace in Kentucky, and continue through February 12, 2010. Part of the resolution calls for a legislative committee to be appointed to plan an appropriate program to mark the actual 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, February 12, 2009, to take place that day during the 2009 Legislative Assembly. Senator Tony Grindberg of Fargo has graciously agreed to chair that committee, with

the other members still to be appointed. Our hope is to have a House Democrat, a House Republican and a Senate Democrat join him on that committee, which I and others will work with in planning that day's event.

When the opportunity for appointing a state liaison to the national commission came up in late 2005, the Governor's Office approached the State Historical Society for help in filling the position. I was honored to accept the Governor's appointment, and see my role as state liaison to work as a contact and coordinator with agencies, organizations and individuals statewide to help plan appropriate events and programs for the Lincoln Bicentennial in our state.

### Project Overview

Much planning for the bicentennial in our state has already taken place, as you can see in the Working Plan I have shared with you this morning.

The State Historical Society has been working with several other agencies and organizations in that planning. The Governor included \$50,000 in his Executive Budget for the State Historical Society as 'seed money' for programs and projects. That funding includes developing a traveling exhibit about Lincoln and North Dakota/Dakota Territory, with two copies of this exhibit produced for maximum circulation statewide, along with free handouts; developing curriculum, including web-based, for grades K-12, useable for teachers, students and other groups and individuals that would examine Lincoln and his impact on our state; an exhibit produced by the State Historical Society that would open at the North Dakota Heritage Center in February 2008 in conjunction with the official launch of the national bicentennial, exploring the impact of the Homestead Act and the coming of the railroad on our state; and working with the North Dakota Humanities Council, the North Dakota Council on the Arts and others to bring a Chautauqua living history program based on Lincoln-related characters to the public and school groups throughout the state.

Prairie Public Broadcasting is also working with the State Historical Society, the State Humanities Council and others to produce an hour-long program on the Homestead Act in North Dakota. This program will premier in the fall of 2008, a few months prior to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Many other programs and events are also being considered. As the state's liaison for the Lincoln Bicentennial, I have been encouraging North Dakotans to plan their own events as well, in addition to the ones that we have already begun to plan.

### Conclusion

I hope you will support HCR 3035 as a way of demonstrating your support for our state's participation in the national commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our nation's greatest leaders.

I will be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

# HCR 3035 Summary

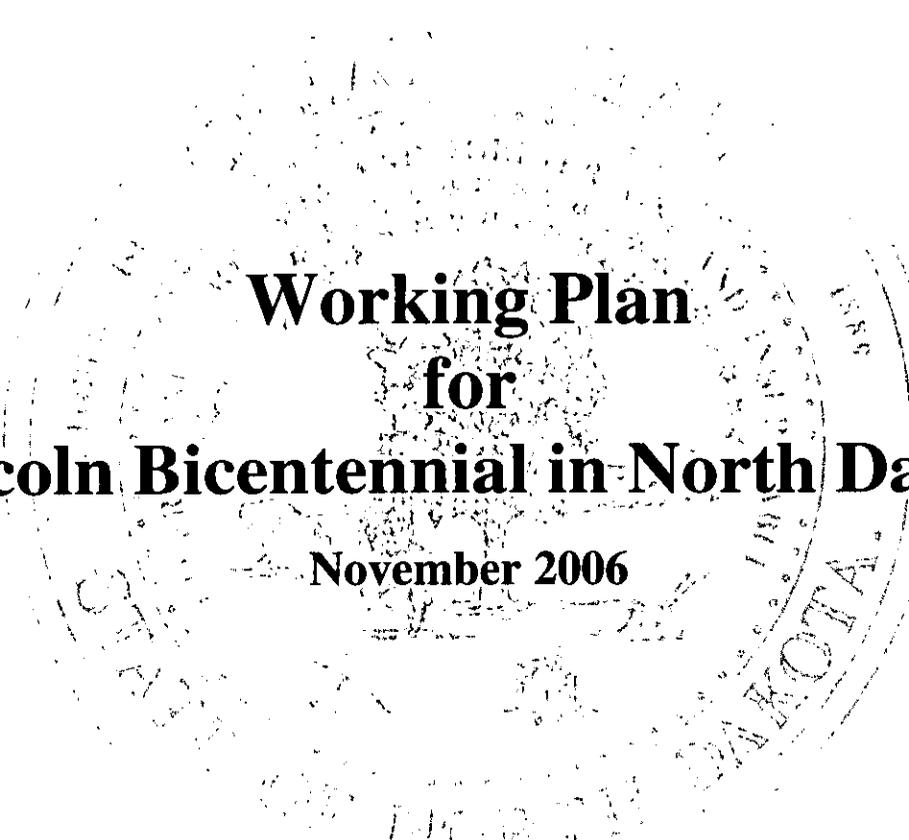
Senator David P. O'Connell

This resolution honors the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth and recognizes February 12, 2008 – February 12, 2010 as the official dates in which to observe President Lincoln's birth.

The bill's conception stems from State Historical Society of North Dakota.

## Lincoln's ties to North Dakota

- Lincoln appointed the first two governors of Dakota Territory, and signed the homestead act, which had a major impact in opening up settlement of the Northern Plains, including what is now North Dakota.
- Forts Named in Lincoln's honor.
- Signed charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad



**Working Plan  
for  
Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota  
November 2006**



# Working Plan for Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota

What follows is a brief overview of ideas and a proposed general timeline for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota and represents the genesis of a working plan for the commemoration. It is a work in progress, intended to provide initial information about program/project possibilities and other ideas being considered for the Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota. These program and project possibilities and other ideas will expand in scope as discussions continue on a statewide basis.

This working plan begins with information about the creation of the national bicentennial commission, followed by some Lincoln connections to North Dakota, a list of bicentennial project/program possibilities generated during recent discussions with the above agencies, a proposed budget for the 2007-09 biennium, and other funding and program possibilities. It concludes with a proposed basic timeline for the Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota.



Photographic print of Abraham Lincoln, seated, with his son Tad, standing, looking at album. Photograph by Anthony Berger of the Brady Studio. From the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

This working plan is based on recent discussions involving the following agencies and individuals:

**The State Historical Society of North Dakota** – Merl Paaverud, Director; Rick Collin, Communications Director/Lincoln Bicentennial Coordinator for North Dakota; Claudia Berg, Museum and Education Director; Gerald Newborg, State Archivist; Fern Swenson, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Director; Kathy Davison, Editor; Marilyn Snyder, Curator of Education; Mark Halvorson, Curator of Collections Research; Jim Davis, Head of Reference Services; Sharon Silengo, Photo Archivist; Greg Camp, Historian; and Virginia Nelsen, SHSND Foundation Executive Director.

**The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department** – Doug Prchal, Director; Donna Schouweiler, Public Information Officer.

**The North Dakota Department of Commerce Tourism Division** – Sara Otte Coleman, Director; Annette Schilling, Cultural and Heritage Tourism Marketing Director.

**The North Dakota Humanities Council** – Jan Daley, Executive Director.

**The North Dakota Council on the Arts** – Jan Webb, Executive Director; Linda Ehreth, Arts in Education Director.

# Introduction

The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln, is fast approaching. The story of Lincoln's life is one of commitment to the ideals of freedom, democracy, human rights, and equal opportunity for all. Lincoln's

unwavering support for preserving the Union and his courageous actions to end slavery are the achievements for which he is best remembered.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC), established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in January 2000, is charged with planning a fitting and proper observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The commission is a diverse group of political leaders, jurists, scholars, and collectors united by their admiration for Lincoln and devotion to his ideals. The 15 members of the ALBC were appointed by President Clinton, the Senate, and the House of Representatives to commemorate Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and to emphasize the contribution of his thoughts and ideals to America and the world. Two of the commissioners are U.S. senators and two are members of the U.S. House of Representatives who represent states where Lincoln lived, practiced law, and served in the legislature. Commission co-chairs are U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), U.S. Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL), and Harold Holzer, Senior Vice President for External Affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and one of the nation's leading

*"The struggle of today is not altogether for today – it is for a vast future also."*

Abraham Lincoln,  
December 3, 1861

authorities on Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. The other 12 commission members are Dr. Jean T. D.

Bandler of Connecticut; Dr. Darrel Bigham of Indiana; Dr. Gabor Boritt of Pennsylvania; U.S. Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY); Julie Cellini of Illinois;

Joan L. Flinspach of Indiana; Dr. James Oliver Horton of Washington, D.C.; U.S. Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL); Lura Lynn Ryan of Illinois; Louise Taper of California; Judge Tommy Turner of Kentucky; and Chief Justice Frank J. Williams of Rhode Island. Its executive director is Eileen R. Mackevich, co-founder and president of the Chicago Humanities Festival from 1989 to 2005. Prior to that, she was a broadcast journalist and talk show host for 18 years at WBEZ, the Chicago affiliate of National Public Radio, and deputy director of the Illinois Humanities Council.

In addition, there is an Advisory Committee consisting of more than 100 Lincoln students, scholars, and other interested individuals and a Governors' Council consisting of a governor-appointed representative from each state (as of November 2006, 37 states were represented). The ALBC's website address is [www.lincolnbicentennial.gov](http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov).

The ALBC adopted and presented a Report to Congress in June 2004 that outlined the general priorities and program areas for the Bicentennial Commemoration.

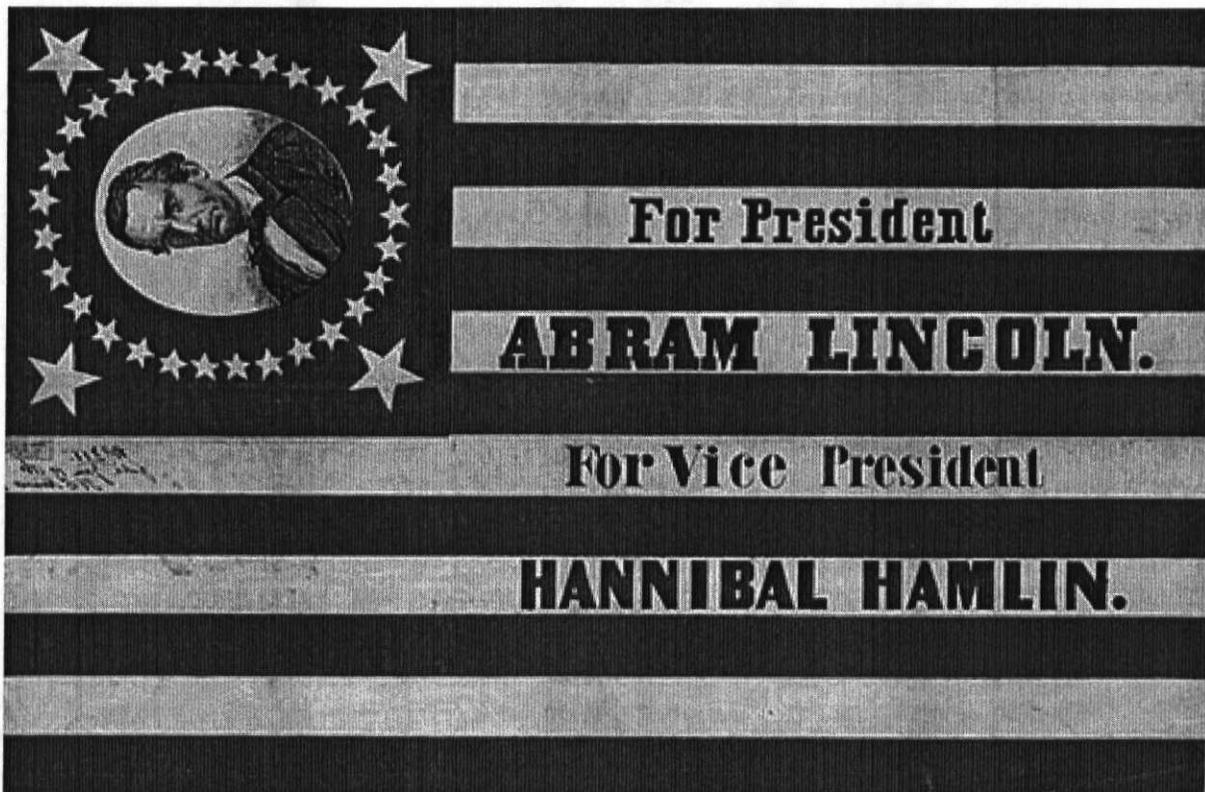
One of those priorities is the issuing of a Lincoln commemorative coin in 2009. Legislation was introduced in Congress in

2005 directing the Secretary of the Treasury to mint 500,000 one-dollar commemorative coins honoring President Lincoln. The Senate passed the measure on a voice vote September 8, 2006, two days after the House voted 401-0 to approve the bill. President Bush signed the legislation September 27, 2006 approving the commemorative coin, which will be comprised of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper. The coin's design will be selected by the Treasury Secretary in consultation with the ALBC.

With the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-06) concluding this year, the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth will provide an

additional component to North Dakota's increasingly important emphasis on cultural heritage tourism. The state's commemoration of the Lincoln Bicentennial will be in conjunction with the official national commemoration dates, which begins with a major event at his birthplace in Kentucky on February 12, 2008, continuing through February 12, 2010. The state's major focus will be during the period leading up to and including Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 12, 2009.

Although Lincoln never visited North Dakota (part of what was then Dakota Territory), there are a surprisingly significant number of Lincoln connections to our state.



A large campaign banner for Republican presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln and running mate Hannibal Hamlin in 1860. Lincoln's first name is given here as "Abram." Created c1860 by H.C. Howard. From the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

# Lincoln Connections to North Dakota

## Appointed the First Two Governors of Dakota Territory

With just two days left in his Presidency, James Buchanan on March 2, 1861 signed an act that created two new territories: the Nevada Territory, which Congress carved out of Utah, and Dakota Territory, which included what would become North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and part of Wyoming by 1890.

Lincoln took office on March 4, 1861, and soon appointed as Dakota Territory's first governor Dr. William Jayne (1826-1916), his personal physician from Springfield, Illinois. Prior to his appointment as territorial governor, Jayne had been the mayor of Springfield (1859-61). He became a member of the Illinois State Senate in 1860, and resigned in 1861 to accept Lincoln's appointment as the new governor of Dakota Territory. During his first months in the Territory's capital of Yankton, Jayne lived in a small log cabin that served as the governor's executive office. After resigning in 1863 he returned to Illinois, served as an Indiana U.S. Representative for one year, and then returned to his medical practice. He again was mayor of Springfield from 1865-80.

Lincoln also appointed the second governor of Dakota Territory, Newton Edmunds of Yankton (1819-1908), who took the oath of office on November 2, 1863, the only resident of Dakota Territory ever to hold the office. His most important contribution was participating in the 1865-66 negotiation of treaties with the Sioux and other tribal groups along the Missouri River. As territorial governor, he also served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Dakota Territory. Upon his return from a peace mission in August 1866, he was replaced as

governor, as a result of political quarreling between President Andrew Johnson and Radical Republicans in Congress.

Other officials from the Dakota Territory days who had contact with Lincoln included Alexander McKenzie (1851-1922), political agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad who was pivotal in removing the territorial capital from Yankton to Bismarck in 1883, also known as "Alexander the Great, Boss of North Dakota"; Enos Stutsman (1826-74), an elected representative to the territorial legislature in Yankton and customs agent for the federal government; and Walter Burleigh (1820-96), who represented Dakota Territory as a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1865-69. Counties in North Dakota are named after all three men.

## Signed the Homestead Act

On May 20, 1862 Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act, which had a major impact in opening up settlement of the Northern Plains, including what is now North Dakota. A total of 275 million acres, or 10 percent of the United States, were claimed under the act. Under its provisions, which took effect on January 1, 1863, anyone who was the head of a household and 21 years of age was eligible to claim 160 acres of land. The only cost to the homesteader was an \$18 filing fee, after making the necessary "land improvements" of constructing a house and plowing the ground. The homesteader had five years to make the required improvements. The act spurred a great land boom in the western United States, and was largely responsible for populating what is now the state of North Dakota. Pioneers settling in North Dakota came in two waves

as a result of the Homestead Act. Between 1879 and 1886, more than 100,000 people settled in the northern Dakota Territory, which became North Dakota after statehood was granted in 1889. The second great movement began in 1898 and continued until about 1915.

### Signed the Charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad

Congress approved a bill for a northern railroad route, and President Lincoln signed the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad (NPR) on July 2, 1864. The railroad did not attract investors, however, until 1869, when

financing was provided by the banking house of Jay Cooke and Company of Philadelphia. By 1873, track had been completed from Duluth, Minnesota to Bismarck, North Dakota, where it stopped when the NPR went bankrupt as a result of the Panic of 1873 and had to reorganize.

### Lincoln and the Dakota Conflict, Including the Siege at Fort Abercrombie

In the summer of 1862, President Lincoln sent his private secretary, John G. Nicolay, to accompany the U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, William P. Dole, on a treaty-making mission to the Chippewa nation. In preparation, Dole's party assembled in St. Cloud, Minnesota in mid-August. However, they had barely started west to Fort Abercrombie when the Dakota

Conflict broke out. Dole, Nicolay and U.S. Senator Morton S. Wilkinson (R-MN) wired Lincoln that a "wild panic prevails in nearly one-half of the state." The causes of this conflict were many and complex, including the failure of agents and traders to furnish the Dakota Sioux with their annuities. Fort Abercrombie, near what is now Wahpeton, North Dakota, was besieged by Dakota Sioux warriors for more than six weeks.

As a result of the Dakota Conflict, 393 Dakota and mixed bloods were put on trial for "murder and other outrages" committed against white settlers. Of these, 303 were sentenced to be hanged. Lincoln

*"Why, if the old Greeks had had this man, what trilogies of plays – what epics – would have been made out of him! How the rhapsodes would have recited him! How quickly that quaint tall form would have enter'd into the region where men vitalize gods, and gods divinify men! But Lincoln, his times, his death – great as any, any age – belong altogether to our own."*

Walt Whitman, 1879  
*"Death of Abraham Lincoln"*

pardoned all but 39, those convicted of rape or participating in the massacre of settlers. One of them was reprieved between the date of Lincoln's order and the actual execution date of December 26, 1862 in Mankato, Minnesota, which marked the largest mass execution in American history. Lincoln's clemency created considerable resentment, enough so that in the 1864 Presidential Election, he won Minnesota by only a narrow margin over his Democratic opponent, General George B. McClellan.

Alexander Ramsey, the new U.S. Senator from Minnesota who had been its governor during the 1862 uprising, told Lincoln he that if he had executed more Sioux, he would have won the state by a landslide. "I could not hang men for votes," Lincoln responded.

### Forts Named in Lincoln's Honor

Located seven miles south of Mandan, the U.S. Army established an infantry post on June 14, 1872 and originally named it Fort McKeen, for Colonel Henry McKeen, killed during the Civil War at the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia in June 1864. On November 19, 1872, it was renamed Fort Abraham Lincoln, in honor of the assassinated President. In 1873, it

became a nine-company cavalry and infantry post, with a garrison of about 1,000 people, including 655 soldiers.

Beginning the same year, Fort Abraham Lincoln served as the final base of operations for Lt. Colonel George A.

Custer and the Seventh U.S. Cavalry. The

flamboyant "Boy General" of the Civil War departed from the post with his troops on May 17, 1876. Six weeks later, 265 soldiers, including Custer, were killed in a battle with Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors along the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory. Fort Abraham Lincoln was abandoned on July 22, 1891. A second fort, also named after the 16<sup>th</sup> President (this one did not include the first name of Abraham), was authorized for construction in 1895, to replace nearby Fort Yates. Built south of

Bismarck, Fort Lincoln was first occupied in 1903, with facilities for four companies of infantry and supporting detachments. It was used as an active U.S. Army training base for World War I trainees. Fort Lincoln was used during World War II as an internment camp for German and Japanese military and civilian personnel. After the war, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used it as the planning center for the Garrison Dam

Project. Today, it is the campus of United Tribes Technical College, which opened in 1969.

### Lincoln's Tomb Includes Statue Designed by Sakakawea Sculptor

The sculptor of the Sakakawea statue on the state capitol grounds in Bismarck and in National Statuary Hall in

Washington, D.C., Leonard Crunelle (1872-1944), also designed a statue, entitled *Lincoln the Soldier*, that is featured inside Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, Illinois. The original statue of *Lincoln the Soldier* stands in Dixon, Illinois. The sculpture shows Lincoln as he might have looked as a soldier in the Black Hawk War of 1832. Lincoln recalled that he "went to the campaign, served nearly three months, met the ordinary hardships of such an expedition, but was in no battle."



President Lincoln, writing the Proclamation of Freedom. Based on David Gilmour Blythe's fanciful painting, filled with symbolic details. Lincoln sits at work on the Emancipation Proclamation; his left hand on a Bible that rests on a copy of the Constitution in his lap. From the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Lincoln Statue in Norway  
Funded/Dedicated by North Dakotans

In 1914, as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Syttende Mai*, Norwegian Independence Day, a group of Norwegian-Americans in North Dakota collected enough money to erect a statue of Lincoln in Oslo, Norway. The idea for the heroic-sized bust of Lincoln was inspired by a similar sculpture North Dakota Governor Louis Hanna had seen on a trip to Gettysburg to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that battle in July 1913.

A delegation traveled to Norway to present the bust as a gift from the people of North Dakota, with the unveiling taking place on July 4, 1914. Speeches were given by Governor Hanna, Editor P.O. Stromme of Grand Forks, and Smith Stimmel, a Fargo man who had once served as a bodyguard to President Lincoln. Governor Hanna's daughter, Dorothy, unveiled the statue, which still stands today in Frogner Park in Oslo. It was accompanied by two engraved bronze tablets. One featured an excerpt from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and reads "Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The other reads, "Presented to Norway by the people of North Dakota, U.S.A., July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1914."

During Germany's occupation of Norway during World War II, the Lincoln bust became the site of silent anti-Nazi protests. Each July 4 beginning in 1940 until the war ended in 1945, Norwegians turned

out by the thousands to gather around the statue, their heads bowed in silence. Typically, the Germans forbade any public gatherings or demonstrations, but did not halt this annual event.

The statue was done by 21-year-old Paul Fjelde (pronounced Fell-dee) (1892-1984), an artist living in Valley City who had a long and successful career as a sculptor and was known for his sculptures of famous Norwegian-Americans like Charles A. Lindbergh. Fjelde was selected by a committee chaired by Governor Hanna to create the bust of Lincoln, which was cast in bronze in Chicago. This is the only statue in Oslo's Frogner Park that is not the work of Norwegian sculptor Gustav Vigeland (1869-1943).

A replica of the Lincoln bronze bust is located on the front lawn of the Traill County Courthouse in Hillsboro, where it was dedicated in ceremonies on September 8, 1918. A second bronze replica, now at the Geneseo Historical Museum in Illinois, was originally located at the Union Stockyards in Chicago. When the stockyards closed in 1971, it was moved elsewhere in the state before being purchased by a former resident of Geneseo and donated to the museum in 1998. The original plaster cast of the bust is housed in the Allen Memorial Library at Valley City State University. Fjelde was a student at then-Valley City State Normal School when he created the statue.

*"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth stone all over the broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."*

Abraham Lincoln  
First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

# North Dakota Lincoln Bicentennial Project, Program Possibilities

Here is a breakdown of project and program possibilities as identified by each agency during recent discussions, followed by a proposed budget for the 2007-09 biennium that provides additional details about some of the projects listed here.

Many of the following project and program possibilities are dependent on state and/or federal appropriations. Additional funding beyond that listed in the proposed 2007-09 biennium budget included later in this report would allow many of these proposals to become a reality.

## The State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND)

- The SHSND will premier an exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center in February 2008 in conjunction with the official launch of the national bicentennial. It will explore the impact of the Homestead Act and the Northern Pacific Railroad charter on what was in Lincoln's time Dakota Territory. The exhibit will also make clear that the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War is approaching (2011), and that topic's ties to North Dakota history will be examined in detail at that time. Based on this exhibit, two user-friendly traveling exhibits will also be made available for smaller venues throughout the state, such as public libraries, county and local museums, community centers, and other public locations. These exhibits will be administered through the SHSND's Traveling Interpretive Exhibits Service (TIES) program.
- Enhance the North Dakota Heritage Center's main gallery with Lincoln-specific labels added to appropriate stories and artifacts.
- Develop curriculum for grades K-12, to also include development for posting on the SHSND website.
- Host summer teacher institutes, through what are now Lewis and Clark Teacher Institutes, to be renamed the Teacher Resource Council, to include building on themes of the Lincoln Bicentennial. These institutes involve several agencies, including the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Teaching American History program are available for such institutes. Target dates are the summers of 2008 and 2009.



Abraham Lincoln at Antietam, October 3, 1862. Lincoln with, from left: Col. Alexander S. Webb, Chief of Staff, 5th Corps; Gen. George B. McClellan; Scout Adams; Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Army Medical Director; and an unidentified person. From the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

- Work with the SHSND Foundation and Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., of Fargo to continue the *Fun Facts* series created for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, to include Lincoln and his connections to North Dakota. SHSND staff will continue working with Cass-Clay to provide images and information to feature on milk cartons. This partnership began in 2003, when the two partners announced plans to feature Lewis and Clark history items on 120 million milk cartons during 2003-07 in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. This partnership will continue, highlighting Lincoln items, as well as significant historic sites, in all three states, for the next several years. The SHSND Foundation is a private, non-profit organization which supports programs and activities of the SHSND.
- Feature as the theme of the 2007 and 2008 Governor's Conferences on North Dakota History Lincoln and his impact on the state, including the Homestead Act and the coming of the railroad. Also explore the idea of North Dakota hosting a national symposium on Lincoln.
- Consider featuring Lincoln-related articles in the quarterly journal, *North Dakota History*, addressing such issues as the coming of the railroad, Lincoln's Indian policy, the Homestead Act and other topics.
- Work with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction to identify K-12 schools statewide with the Lincoln name and develop appropriate school-based programs.
- Explore with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) the idea of republishing or posting on the SHSND's website a 24-page booklet issued by DPI in 1909 for Lincoln's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, entitled *Abraham Lincoln Centenary*. It includes a foreword by then-

Superintendent of Public Instruction W. L. Stockwell, who wrote:

"We do hope that on February 12, 1909, in every school house in the state the children will be gathered with their teachers and parents for the purpose of spending at least the afternoon of that day in contemplation of the true greatness of Lincoln and that all will drink deeply from this foundation of unselfish devotion to duty."

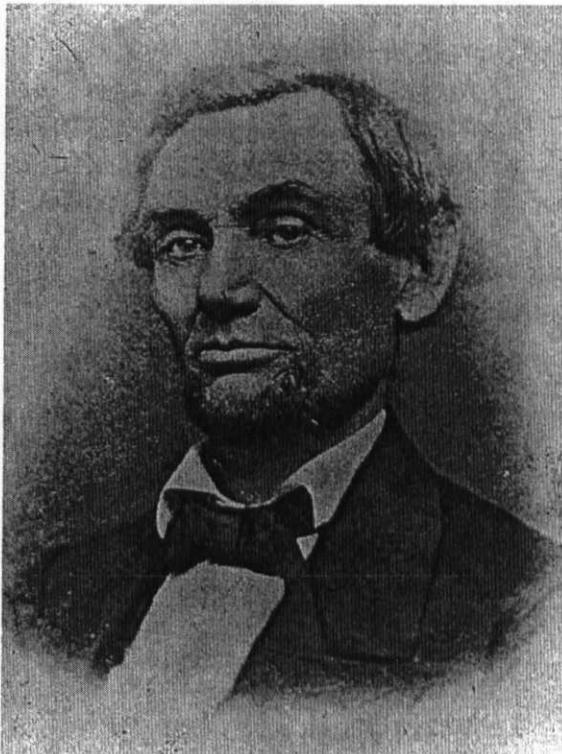
*"With malice toward none,  
with charity for all, with  
firmness in the right, as  
God gives us to see the  
right, strive on to finish the  
work we are in to bind up  
the nation's wounds ..."*

Abraham Lincoln  
Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

- Work with North Dakota's tribal communities to discuss areas of possible interest in commemorating the Lincoln Bicentennial.

### The North Dakota Humanities Council (NDHC)

- Use the *North Dakota Reads* program to generate book discussions throughout the state on books relating to Lincoln.
- Look at developing some Lincoln-related characters for Chautauqua by 2008.
- Include Lincoln-related items on the *Dakota Datebook* history series that airs daily on North Dakota Public Radio, and is sponsored by the NDHC and the SHSND.
- Look at using the NDHC Speakers' Bureau as a source for programs statewide, as well as the national Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's Speakers' Bureau.



Abraham Lincoln: President-Elect, November 25, 1860 in Chicago, Illinois, by Samuel G. Alschuler, photographer. From the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

- Submit an application to bring the *Museum on Main Street* traveling exhibit program in 2008-09 to small towns in North Dakota (specifically, six towns with populations under 10,000). The theme that year will be "The History of Transportation." *Museum on Main Street* is a partnership project of the Smithsonian Institution, state humanities councils, and rural museums nationwide. It is funded by the Congress.
- Work with speech/oratory clubs and classes to feature Lincoln speeches, such as the Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural Address.

### The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA)

- Work in partnership with others in development of website-based curriculum, including collaboration with the North Dakota Information Technology Department's EduTech program.
- Work with state symphonies/orchestras to feature music programs related to Lincoln and his times.
- Sponsor discussion groups to discuss Steven Spielberg movie, *A Team of Rivals*, featuring Liam Neeson as Abraham Lincoln, after its release.

- Support Shakespeare festivals/productions, emphasizing Lincoln's love of Shakespeare. Lincoln, said his private secretary John Hay, "read Shakespeare more than all other writers together." Hay said he would listen for hours, "evening after evening," as Lincoln read to him from his favorite plays: *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, the histories, and especially *MacBeth*.
- Sponsor an art exhibit emphasizing values symbolized by Lincoln, such as freedom, human rights, equal opportunity.
- Work with speech/oratory clubs and classes to feature Lincoln speeches, such as the Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural Address.
- Spotlight opera houses throughout the state that were constructed as a result of the influx of settlers responding to the Homestead Act signed by Lincoln.
- The NDCA has included an optional funding package in its proposed budget for FY 2007-09 for Lincoln-related programming statewide.

#### The North Dakota Department of Commerce Tourism Division

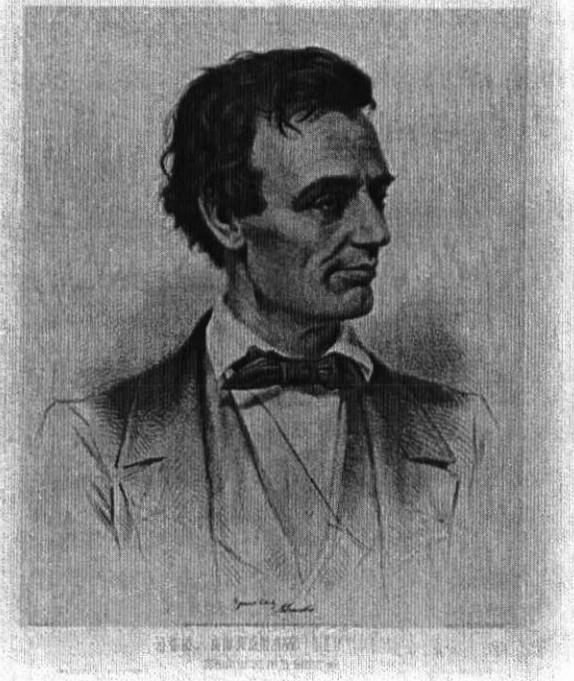
- Use the Lincoln Bicentennial as one of the vehicles of transition into cultural heritage tourism as the state moves beyond its commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.
- Emphasize and promote attractions featuring events for the Lincoln Bicentennial. While difficult to highlight Lincoln in the state, since he never visited what is now North Dakota, the bicentennial will generate programs, activities, exhibits, and more that the State Tourism Division can market and promote to North Dakota's tourists, as well as state residents.
- Use the State Tourism Division's new Learning-Based Vacation program, launched in May 2006, which creates learning-based vacations customized for people interested in combining learning with fun and adventure, as a vehicle to encourage attendance/participation at Lincoln-based programs and activities throughout the state.

*"I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. A house divided against itself cannot stand ..."*

Abraham Lincoln  
June 16, 1858

## The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

- Highlight programs/guest speakers at the state park named after Lincoln, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park in Mandan, including possibly Chautauqua.
- Research Lincoln's record as a public official to see if any possible conservation/environmental issues that could be highlighted in regard to the bicentennial.
- Work with the SHSND's quarterly journal, *North Dakota History* to feature an article or articles related to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park in 2007.
- Include an insert on Lincoln in the Dakota Explorer youth, ages 6 to 14, activity booklet for all state parks.
- Use state parks as special events sites for the Lincoln Bicentennial.



Hon. Abraham Lincoln, Republican candidate for the Presidency, 1860. Painted by Hicks; lithograph by L. Grozelier, Boston. From the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

*I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of the Divine Being, whoever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail."*

Abraham Lincoln  
Springfield, Illinois  
February 11, 1861

# Proposed Budget for Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota FY 2007-09

Here are estimated costs for some of these proposed programs and projects the State Historical Society of North Dakota and other agencies could fund with the proposed \$50,000 'seed money' that Governor Hoeven has agreed to include in his Executive Budget proposal for FY 2007-09. Specifically, this \$50,000 will be included in the State Historical Society's proposed budget for FY 2007-09.

\$15,000 -	<p><b>Traveling Exhibit</b> about Abraham Lincoln and North Dakota/Dakota Territory. Developed and produced by the SHSND as part of its Traveling Interpretive Exhibits Service (TIES) program. Two copies of the exhibit would be produced for maximum circulation statewide to public libraries, county and local museums, community centers, and other public locations, with a variety of handouts included for free public distribution. This would also include adapting the format for use on the SHSND website. Explore the possibility that the exhibit development process could also result in an article or articles for <i>North Dakota History</i> relating to these topics.</p>
\$15,000 -	<p><b>Curriculum development</b> for grades K-12, useable for teachers, students, and other interested groups and individuals, to also include development for posting on SHSND website. Examining Lincoln and his impact on the state, including the Homestead Act, the coming of the railroad and related issues. Look to work in partnership with the North Dakota Council on the Arts for development of website-based curriculum, in collaboration with the North Dakota Information Technology Department's EduTech program; and the North Dakota Humanities Council to encourage Lincoln-related reading through its <i>North Dakota Reads</i> program.</p>
\$7,500 -	<p><b>Exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center</b> about the impact of the Homestead Act and railroad on what is now North Dakota.</p>
\$5,000 -	<p><b>Chautauqua living history program</b> to present a series of Lincoln-related characters to the public and school groups statewide by 2008. This funding amount would be matched by the North Dakota Humanities Council, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. An additional federally funded match would also be possible through the North Dakota Council on the Arts.</p>
\$5,000 -	<p>Through the North Dakota Teacher Resource Council, use this as a cash match for a Teach American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education, as well as other grant resources.</p>
\$2,500 -	<p><b>National History Day 2008</b> resources applied to North Dakota students, working with the Lincoln-related National History Day theme for the year 2008 (this idea is still being explored by the National Lincoln Bicentennial Commission).</p>
\$50,000	<p><b><u>Total</u></b></p>

## Other Funding and Program Possibilities

- Prairie Public Broadcasting, to include funding partnerships to develop program(s) relating to the Lincoln Bicentennial and connections to North Dakota.
- *We the People*, a funding initiative from the NEH that explores significant events and themes in our nation's history through grants to scholars, teachers, museums, libraries, filmmakers, and other individuals and institutions.
- The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame's Center of Western Heritage and Cultures exhibit on the Homestead Act, which will include an original copy of the Homestead Act signed by President Lincoln in 1862. The exhibit is scheduled to be at the Center from May through October 2007.
- Railroads (grants)
- *Save Our History*, a grant program from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), designed to encourage collaboration between history organizations and schools or youth groups. The AASLH has partnered with The History Channel to offer grants of up to \$10,000 annually to support unique educational community preservation projects.
- Ford-Lincoln Mercury dealers
- State Bar Association of North Dakota. Explore the possibility of its annual meeting theme in 2009 to be Lincoln-related, as well as featuring Lincoln-related articles in its publications.
- North Dakota Newspaper Association

*"The greatness of Napoleon, Caesar or Washington is only moonlight by the sun of Lincoln. His example is universal and will last thousands of years ... He was bigger than his country – bigger than all the Presidents together ... and as a great character he will live as long as the world lives."*

Leo Tolstoy, 1909  
*The World*, New York

## Tentative Basic Timeline

In this age of "instant communications" via the Internet, email, conference calls, fax machines and more, staying in touch is not a problem. Because of this, and because of Lincoln's relatively limited history with the state in comparison with states like Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky, a Lincoln Bicentennial commission/advisory council for North Dakota is not necessary. Instead, as Governor Hoeven's designated representative on the Governors' Council of the national Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Rick Collin will serve as the contact and coordinator to get the word out via a statewide network that will be developed. This will include a presence on the State Historical Society of North Dakota's website that includes a schedule of events, curriculum, and other Lincoln bicentennial related activities, as well as electronic newsletter that Collin will launch in 2007. Meetings for bicentennial planning will be arranged when needed.

Efforts will also be coordinated when needed with the Governor's Office to publicize events and activities relating to the Bicentennial.

As a point of information, as of November 2006, the legislatures of the following states have approved legislation to appoint a Lincoln Bicentennial commission for their state - Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

*"... we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain ... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."*

Abraham Lincoln  
Gettysburg Address  
November 19, 1863

### Basic working timeline for the Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota

**February 13, 2006** - Initial meeting of Lincoln Bicentennial Commission state coordinators and commission members in Washington, D.C.

**Spring/Summer 2006** - Develop details of Lincoln Bicentennial budget based on

\$50,000 seed money to be included in Governor's Executive Budget for the 2007-09 biennium beginning July 1, 2007 and continuing through June 30, 2009. Work to include matches for additional funding where possible.

**Summer/Fall 2006** – Continue discussions about bicentennial with groups/individuals now involved and expand discussions to also include other groups/individuals statewide.

**January 2007** – Introduce resolution in 2007 North Dakota Legislative Assembly promoting Lincoln Bicentennial in the state.

**February 11, 2007** – Second meeting of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and state coordinators. Meeting location will be Springfield, Illinois.

**Spring 2007** – Contact appropriate leadership in the North Dakota Legislative Assembly to form a committee to begin planning the official commemoration of Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday, February 12, 2009, during the 2009 Legislative Assembly.

**Spring/Summer 2007** – Establish Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota website as part of the SHSND's website, to include a link to the national commission website. Also launch electronic newsletter to keep extensive statewide network informed about North Dakota's commemoration.

**February 12, 2008** – Official launch of the National Lincoln Bicentennial at his birthplace in Kentucky, a National Park Service site.

**January 2009** – Finalize preparations honoring actual 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Lincoln on February 12 as program at 2009 North Dakota Legislative Assembly.

**February 12, 2009** – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth, marked by nationally televised event and rededication of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The ceremony will be built around the bicentennial themes of freedom, democracy and equal opportunity and will feature fireworks, music and a Presidential Address. A program will also be featured at the North Dakota Legislative Assembly this day.

**February 12, 2010** – Official close of the National Lincoln Bicentennial.

**February-December 2010** – Bicentennial transition to 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's election as President and the beginning of the Civil War.

*This report has been compiled by Rick Collin, Communications Director for the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and chair-elect of the North Dakota Humanities Council. Collin was appointed by Governor Hoeven in December 2005 to represent North Dakota on the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He can be contacted at (701) 328-1476 or email at [rcollin@nd.gov](mailto:rcollin@nd.gov).*

11/15/06

# LINCOLN LETTERS-PRAL



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*OVER*

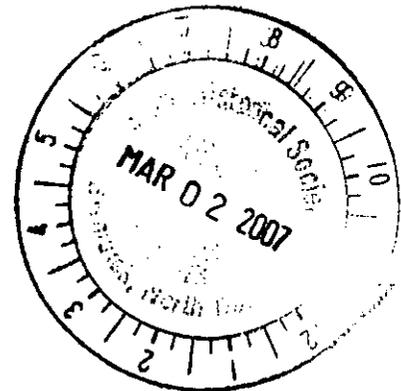


*Attach 5*

# Letters

*Personal Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*

February 24, 2007



Mr. Richard E. Collins  
Communications Division  
North Dakota Heritage Center  
612 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0830

Dear Mr. Collins:

This is a follow-up to my e-mail from my cousin, Rita Vaughn regarding the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009. Enclosed is a complementary copy of a book my grandfather, Mr. Smith Stimmel, first published 1928, and which I republished in 1997 entitled "Personal Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln". As Rita probably told you, he was from Ohio and assigned to a special mounted security company at the White House during the Civil War.

Following the Civil War he went back to school, received a Law Degree and migrated to North Dakota. He was president of the Dakota Territory Senate in 1889 when the territory was divided into North and South Dakota. After that he returned to Fargo where he practiced law, and died in 1935, the year before I was born in Fargo myself. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery along with some other family members.

When the book was republished, I made it a point to keep the original text as written, and had it reviewed by Lincoln scholars for accuracy. Other than a few punctuation corrections, and some footnotes added for clarification, the original text is unchanged. As you will note however, I did add a few photographs for family heritage purposes, dedicated it to his son Howard Lincoln Stimmel, who was still living at the time, and included an update of family history.

As Rita also may have told you I will be in Bismarck next month on March 28 & 29 attending an AARP Regional meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 605 E. Broadway. Our meetings will be over around noon on the 29<sup>th</sup>, which would be a good time for us to get together if you are available.

The book pretty much speaks for itself, and there is much more to be said. I am also a member of the National Association of Abraham Lincoln, which is a whole another story.

Please enjoy Mr. Lincoln as seen through the eyes of my grandfather. I really look forward to meeting you in person next month.

Sincerely,

*LeRoy A. Fladseth*  
LeRoy A. Fladseth

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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HON. TOMMY TURNER  
HON. FRANK J. WILLIAMS

EX-OFFICIO:

DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON

"THE FIERY TRIAL THROUGH WHICH  
WE PASS, WILL LIGHT US DOWN,  
IN HONOR OR DISHONOR, TO THE  
LATEST GENERATION." - A. LINCOLN

*Abraham Lincoln*  
**BICENTENNIAL  
COMMISSION**  
1809-2009

We hope that you will participate  
in the national celebration of  
President Lincoln's 200th birthday  
on February 12, 2009.  
THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL  
COMMISSION needs your help to plan a  
fitting and proper tribute to our greatest  
president. Please visit our website,  
[www.lincolnbicentennial.gov](http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov),  
and submit your idea for how best to  
celebrate the life of this remarkable leader.

---

ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
101 Independence Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20540-4015

Phone: (202) 707-6998  
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## HCR 3035 Summary

Senator David P. O'Connell

This resolution honors the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth and recognizes February 12, 2008 – February 12, 2010 as the official dates in which to observe President Lincoln's birth.

The bill's conception stems from State Historical Society of North Dakota.

### Lincoln's ties to North Dakota

- Lincoln appointed the first two governors of Dakota Territory, and signed the homestead act, which had a major impact in opening up settlement of the Northern Plains, including what is now North Dakota.
- Forts Named in Lincoln's honor.
- Signed charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad

*Attach # 2*

HCR 3035  
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
March 9, 2007

Testimony by Rick Collin, Communications Director  
State Historical Society of North Dakota  
and State Liaison to National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Introduction

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rick Collin and I am the Communications Director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. I am here today in my role as Governor Hoeven's designated representative for North Dakota on the Governors' Council of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

February 12 this year marked the 198<sup>th</sup> birthday of our 16<sup>th</sup> President. The national bicentennial commission has been in place since 2000, established and charged by Congress to plan a fitting and proper observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of our greatest presidents. From prairie lawyer to the Presidency, Lincoln's life story represents many of the best qualities of the American character which can be celebrated during the bicentennial of his birth. These include the courage, compassion, integrity and wisdom he demonstrated during one of the most turbulent and violent periods in our history, the Civil War.

With the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition recently concluded, the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth provides an additional component to North Dakota's increasingly important emphasis on cultural heritage tourism. While Lincoln never set foot in North Dakota – what was then part of Dakota Territory – his connections to our state are many and significant. Several of them are listed in HCR 3035, and include his signing of the Homestead Act in 1862, which had a major impact in opening up the settlement of the Northern Plains, including present-day North Dakota; appointing the first two governors of Dakota Territory; signing the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad, whose construction through present-day North Dakota led to the settlement of many towns and cities; and signing the Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862, which led to the establishment of what is now North Dakota State University.

These connections and others provide us with many opportunities. As outlined in HCR 3035, the state's commemoration of the Lincoln Bicentennial would be in conjunction with the official national commemoration dates, which begin on February 12, 2008 with an event at his birthplace in Kentucky, and continue through February 12, 2010. Part of the resolution calls for a legislative committee to be appointed to plan an appropriate program to mark the actual 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, February 12, 2009, to take place that day during the 2009 Legislative Assembly. Senator Tony Grindberg of Fargo has graciously agreed to chair that committee, with

the other members still to be appointed. Our hope is to have a House Democrat, a House Republican and a Senate Democrat join him on that committee, which I and others will work with in planning that day's event.

When the opportunity for appointing a state liaison to the national commission came up in late 2005, the Governor's Office approached the State Historical Society for help in filling the position. I was honored to accept the Governor's appointment, and see my role as state liaison to work as a contact and coordinator with agencies, organizations and individuals statewide to help plan appropriate events and programs for the Lincoln Bicentennial in our state.

### Project Overview

Much planning for the bicentennial in our state has already taken place, as you can see in the Working Plan I have shared with you this morning.

The State Historical Society has been working with several other agencies and organizations in that planning. The Governor included \$50,000 in his Executive Budget for the State Historical Society as 'seed money' for programs and projects. That funding includes developing a traveling exhibit about Lincoln and North Dakota/Dakota Territory, with two copies of this exhibit produced for maximum circulation statewide, along with free handouts; developing curriculum, including web-based, for grades K-12, useable for teachers, students and other groups and individuals that would examine Lincoln and his impact on our state; an exhibit produced by the State Historical Society that would open at the North Dakota Heritage Center in February 2008 in conjunction with the launch of the national bicentennial, exploring the impact of the Homestead Act and the coming of the railroad ~~on~~<sup>to</sup> our state; and working with the North Dakota Humanities Council, the North Dakota Council on the Arts and others to bring a Chautauqua living history program based on Lincoln-related characters to the public and school groups statewide. I encourage you to support the full funding as requested by the Governor in his Executive Budget so we can do all this and more in honoring this great and good man.

Prairie Public Broadcasting is also working with the State Historical Society, the State Humanities Council and others to produce an hour-long program on the Homestead Act in North Dakota. This program will premier in the fall of 2008, a few months prior to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Many other programs and events are also being considered. As the state's liaison for the Lincoln Bicentennial, I have been encouraging North Dakotans to plan their own events as well, in addition to the ones that we have already begun to plan.

### Conclusion

I hope you will support HCR 3035 as a way of demonstrating your support for our state's participation in the national commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our nation's greatest leaders.

I will be glad to answer any questions that you might have.