



NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099
785-272-8681

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contacts:

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org
Teresa Jenkins • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • tjenkins@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2009

PENNY DAY AT THE MUSEUM

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday, February 14, 2009

TOPEKA, KS— In celebration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, families and history buffs are encouraged to grab their Lincolns—pennies and \$5 bills—and head to the Kansas Museum of History on Saturday, February 14, for Penny Day at the Museum. Located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue, the museum is offering penny admission for all to the galleries, including the special exhibit, *Lincoln in Kansas*. Visitors can participate in Lincoln-related activities 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the lobby and classrooms, including:

- Penny pitching game and children’s craft projects
- Lincoln gallery scavenger hunt
- Costumed Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln cut-out photo opportunities - bring your camera!
- Write advice to President Obama or make a birthday card for President Lincoln
- Free Lincoln bicentennial posters (one per family, while supplies last)
- Lincoln collecting project – enter or browse database of Lincoln namesakes in Kansas

Carol Dark Ayres, author of the book *Lincoln and Kansas* will give a presentation at 2 p.m. with a book signing afterward. Her book, as well as other Lincoln books and Lincoln souvenirs and gifts are available for purchase from the Museum Store.

Visitors can also participate in the “I Gave a Lincoln for Lincoln” preservation fundraiser. Donors purchase a \$5 Lincoln stovetop hat cutout on which they can write their name. The hats will be placed in the *Lincoln in Kansas* exhibit. All funds raised from Penny Day at the Museum benefit the conservation and preservation of Lincoln-related objects in the museum collections.

A late addition to the *Lincoln in Kansas* exhibit will also be available for viewing on Penny Day. A silk gown worn to Lincoln’s second inaugural ball has recently been returned to the museum’s collections after being on loan to the Smithsonian Institution, who was exhibiting it in conjunction with President Obama’s inaugural events. The gown belonged to Margaret Usher, wife of Lincoln’s Secretary of the Interior, John Usher. After leaving the Lincoln administration, the Ushers moved to Lawrence.

About the Lincoln in Kansas exhibit: Two hundred years after his birth and 150 years after his visit to Kansas, Abraham Lincoln is the focus of the new special exhibit, *Lincoln in Kansas*, at the Kansas

--MORE--

PENNY DAY AT THE MUSEUM – Add 2

Museum of History. The exhibit, which runs through July 26, 2009, features items from Lincoln's presidential campaigns, his 1859 visit to Kansas, and his assassination.

The Kansas Museum of History is operated by the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.