

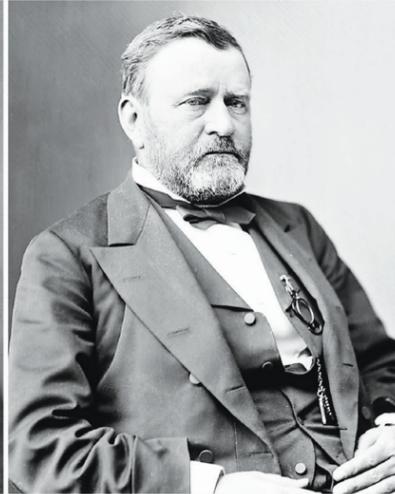
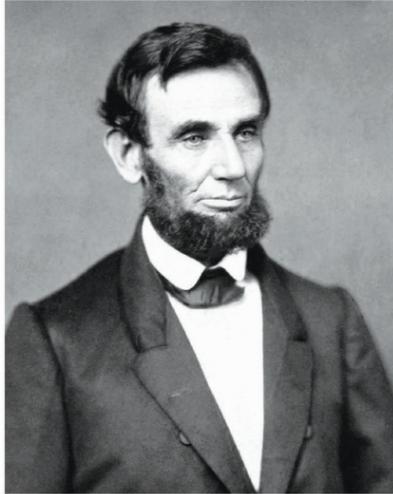
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Illinois Turns 200 years old, So Let's Celebrate!

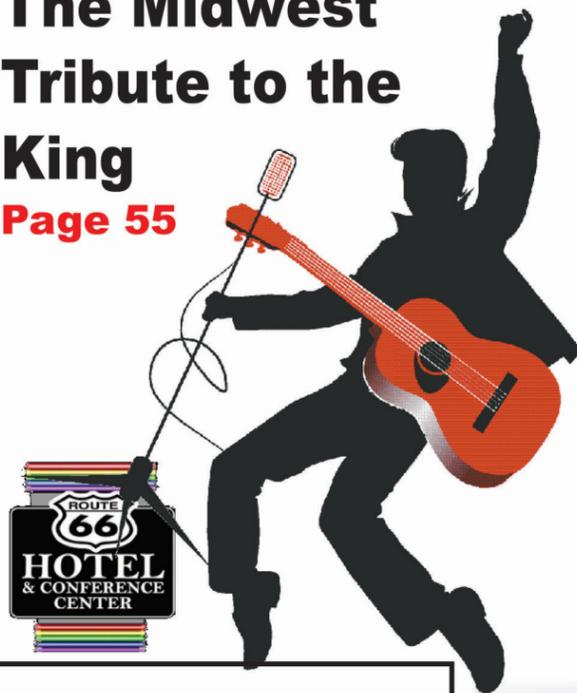


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Wednesday, May 16, 2018

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Illinois Turns 200 years old, So Let's Celebrate!



By Cindy Ladage

Illinois became a state on December 3, 1818. This coming year, the state will celebrate a milestone, a 200th year anniversary! The big anniversary will offer Illinois citizens many chances to celebrate this bicentennial. While there are lots of events planned throughout the entire year, two Springfield Museums, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library (ALPLM) and Illinois State Museum (ISM) are getting ready.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

The ALPLM is planning an exhibit that will share facts about the former Presidents of the United States that hail from Illinois. The exhibit titled, "From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama," will explore their connections to Illinois. The exhibit will open March 23, 2018 and run through the end of the year. The exhibit will be located in the ALPLM's Illinois Gallery.

Chris Wills of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum said, "This is a big milestone, it is a chance to reflect on where we are and where we will be going in the future. The Bicentennial Commission is in charge of the big picture, but the museum's exhibit will engage the public as much as possible."



While the Abraham Lincoln focus may be obvious, the other three presidents' reflection is more of a surprise. "We will look at their political battles and how did they measure up to Lincoln's legacy?", Chris Wills explained.

Visitors will view history on display. Some of the artifacts included in the exhibit include Ronald Reagan's yearbook from his high school days in Dixon, the table where Ulysses S. Grant accepted Robert E. Lee's surrender during the Civil War, an original draft of Barack Obama's speech at the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Civil Rights March, and the briefcase Abraham Lincoln used as president.

While the exhibit will focus on the four Illinois presidents, Wills also said there will be a look at the First Ladies as well. "We will look at each one (Mary Todd Lincoln, Judith Grant, Nancy Reagan and Michelle Obama). Did they take part in politics or just the social side?"

One message that Chris Wills wants to share is that the Abraham Lincoln Presidential

Library has millions of documents available about Illinois history. "These documents are a resource for people."

Aside from entry to the museum, there will be no extra fee to see "From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama."

For more information about the exhibit that highlights Illinois' 200th birthday, log onto www.PresidentLincoln@illinois.gov or follow them on Facebook.

Illinois State Museum

Like the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the Illinois State Museum is also working on a new exhibit as well, an online exhibit which tells "The Story of Illinois". The Illinois State Museum is collaborating with the Association of Museums and the new website will be in celebration of the 200th year Bicentennial.

The story will include objects and artifacts from museums and other cultural organizations that tell the history of Illinois, and it will change as new items are added by additional museums

Continued on page 4

NEW EXHIBIT

March 23 - December 31



To celebrate the Illinois Bicentennial, our next special exhibit will focus on the four presidents who have called Illinois home.



212 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, 217-558-8844
www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov



Illinois Turns 200 years old

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throughout the year long celebration.

The exhibit will include anthropology, archaeology, botany, decorative arts, fine art, geology, history, and zoology. The thing that ties them all together is that all submissions have a connection to Illinois or an Illinoisan. Karen Everingham of the Illinois State Museum shared that they will be unveiling the in-house Bicentennial exhibition in June, 2018. "The exhibition will feature items from the Museum's 13.5 million strong *Illinois Legacy Collection* that tell the Story of Illinois. Objects from the exhibition will be changing and highlighted in the Museum's lobby and in the Bicentennial Hall on the second level. The Museum will also feature Bicentennial topics for its regular programming including the Paul Mickey Science Lectures, held on the first Wednesday of the month; the Brown Bag series, held at the Research & Collections Center the third Wednesday of the month; and the Super Saturday children's program held the first Saturday of the month."

For more information, log onto <http://www.illinoisstatemuseum.org>.

Rock Springs Bicentennial Exhibit

The Rock Springs Nature Center, Decatur, IL, kicked off a Bicentennial Exhibit Open House on January 25, 2018 and the exhibit will continue through



Bicentennial Exhibit at Rock Springs opened January 25, 2018 and will continue through the end of May 2018.

May. Katherine Unruh, Marketing Specialist for the Macon County Conservation District shared the exhibit, *Celebrating 200 Years: The Illinois Bicentennial*, has artifacts on loan from the Macon County History Museum. "This should include toys, clothing and military artifacts tools from the last 200 years."

The exhibit tells stories about Illinois over the last 200 years and focuses on famous Illinoisans like Abraham Lincoln, Enrico Fermi, and many more! For more



A souvenir cloth from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

information about the event, call 217-423-7708 or www.maconcountyconservation.org.

Continued on next page

Transfer Print Plate

Depiction of Mannheim, Germany

Made by Villeroy & Boch, in Mettloch, Saar, Germany, c. 1836 to 1850

Illinois State Museum



This plate was recovered during excavations in McLean County, at a site dating from the late 1840s to 1860s. The names of the people who lived there are unknown, but this unusual find likely reveals their country of origin. The plate is one of several found in pieces at the site, each bearing a transfer print that at first glance appears typical of those produced in the potteries of Staffordshire, England, that then dominated the American market. They were instead made by Villeroy & Boch, a German pottery that had previously hired Staffordshire potters experienced in the technique of transfer printing. Decorated with depictions of towns in Germany, the plates probably were not exported for sale in the United States, so site occupants must have purchased them in Germany before moving to Illinois. So, it seems, the residents at the site were part of the great mid-19th century migration from Germany to the Midwest, people lost to the historical record, if not for the artifacts they left behind.

Pullman Car Shops

Woodworking Tool

Patent March 6, 1888

c.1900

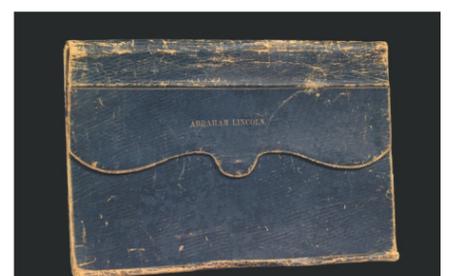
Pullman State Historic Site - Chicago



This is a specialty tool used to cut the relief inset for the frame side of a door hinge; it probably originally has a wooden handle. It was used at the Pullman Car Shops by Honus (John) Rickert (b. 1876, d. after 1927). George Pullman built the town of Pullman (1880-1886) and his Pullman Palace Car Works to build his world famous train cars.

Abraham Lincoln Briefcase

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum



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Illinois Turns 200 years old

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Signed program from the 1929 Macon County Centennial Pageant.



Native American bowl.



Bicentennial Plaza Legacy Campaign

Another special way to be part of the Bicentennial is to add your name to the brick walkway of the "Bicentennial Plaza". This is a REALTOR® Community Partnership which is creating a beautifully designed pedestrian walkway connecting Abraham Lincoln's Home to the east with the Illinois Executive Mansion and State Capitol to the west. This falls along the historic Jackson Street Corridor in downtown

Springfield. You can donate your very own personalized brick (\$500) to the REEF Bicentennial Education Fund and help fund the development of the Plaza's educational interpretive panels: "Abraham Lincoln's Vision for America dedicated to the people who lived and worked here to advance that vision."

The Illinois Real Estate Educational Foundation (REEF) is a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes. For more info, EZEngraver.com/

ReefBicentennial or call (217) 391-4840.

These are just a few of the opportunities citizens in Central Illinois have to celebrate 200 years of history. For more details on the celebration that will take place throughout the State, log onto <https://illinois200.com>. This website states, "On December 3, 2018, the people of Illinois will celebrate our state's 200th birthday. Illinois Bicentennial will be a 365-

day celebration, 200 years in the making. At the center of the celebration will be a year-long, multimedia campaign called "Born, Built & Grown." The campaign honors the tremendous people, places, and things that make Illinois so enduringly strong, kind, and beautiful. "Born, Built & Grown" is a once-in-a-lifetime invitation to fall in love with Illinois all over again. It will be big, evocative, emotional and inspiring."

So as the days come near, celebrate our state's amazing history!

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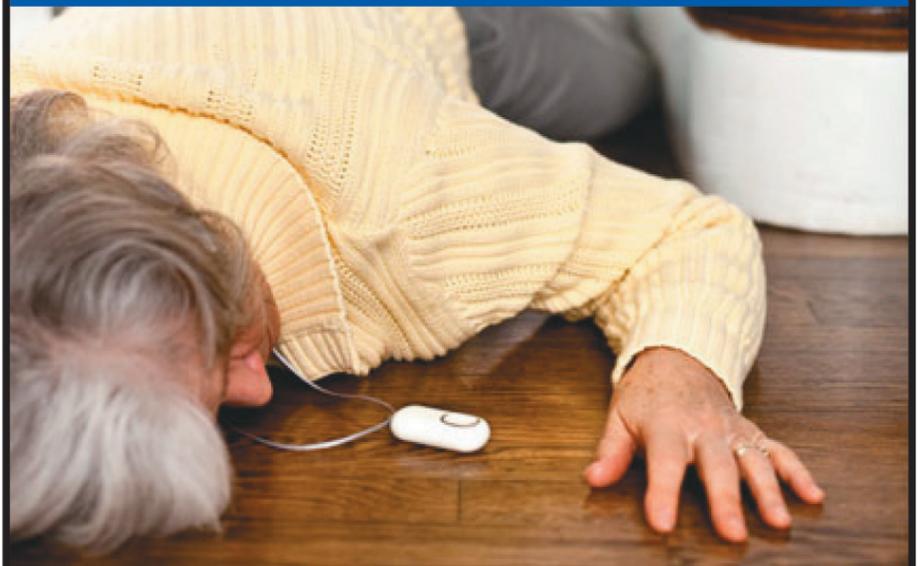
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