

Gettysburg Address and Lincoln Bust

By Cindy Ladage

Pull out your calendar because it is time to plan your next visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (APLM). On November 22nd the APLM ushered in "Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865". The exhibit is on display until February 28, 2016 and is a partnership between the APLM and the Chicago History Museum with assistance from Archer Daniels Midland. James Cornelius, curator of the presidential library collection, and Olivia Mahoney, senior curator at the Chicago History Museum, said this exhibit

"Undying Words" New exhibit at Presidential Museum

is based on five of Lincoln's speeches.

"The exhibit focuses on the ideas of slavery, racial equality, and cessation; these are the key issues," Cornelius said. Visitors get a glimpse of what Lincoln was trying to accomplish with each speech and obtain a grasp on the time and place when these speeches were delivered. You feel Lincoln's emotions and the impact of the slavery issue as time and the Civil War progresses.

The exhibit commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's end and Lincoln's Death and offers artifacts that bring Lincoln's speeches to life. You will see a copy of the constitutional amendment ending slavery, the bloody gloves Lincoln carried when he was shot, a carriage used by the president and his wife in Washington, the artifact that finalizes Lincoln's journey, and the bed where Lincoln died after lingering for nine hours after he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. The exhibit is an eve opening look into the mind and emotions of the nation's 16th president.

The exhibit opens with the 1858 speech "A House Divided Against



Lincoln Welcomes Visitors

Itself Cannot Stand" which was delivered on June 16, 1858 after his nomination by the Republican Party for the U.S. Senate seat. During this time, the question was whether slavery should be allowed in the western expansion or not. In 1858, there were nearly four million African American slaves living in the South. Cornelius said, "This made the United States, the largest slave-owning country in the world."

The curators pointed out that in 1858 Lincoln was a political moderate and occupied middle ground in the Republican Party. One idea that Lincoln held which may surprise many was "Colonization". The idea originated with Henry Clay, Lincoln's political idol, who thought that black and whites could never live peacefully together and suggested the move of black slaves back to Africa. There was a lot of support from African Americans who also never believed they would have racial equality and justice in America. This idea was put into practice in the country of Liberia.

The horror of slavery is brought home with the artifacts of slave shoes and a plantation hoe head next to a whip that belongs to the Chicago History Museum. The Southern economy depended on slave labor, so many politicians did not want to rock the boat on this ethical and economic issue. In the catalog for "Undying Words" created by Cornelius and Mahoney, they point out, "Slavery also fueled the national economy with cotton shipped to textile mills in the

Continued on next page

Abraham Lincoln Presidential LIBRARY & MUSEUM







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Toy Cannon.

On display are two slave narratives. One is written by Frederick Douglas and the other by Solomon Northrup, upon whom the movie "12 Years a Slave" was

One rare artifact is a copy of was placed in pamphlet form and is from the first printing in Sycamore,

Lincoln lost the Senate race



Bloody gloves Lincoln carried when he was shot.

book of 1860."

distance..."

attention and made him a rising

star. When he ran for president

in 1860, he took his campaign

speeches along with Douglas' and

published them as his campaign

biography. "He thought, my ideas

haven't changed," Cornelius said.

campaign poster, The Railsplitter,

portraying Lincoln according

to the catalog as, "a self-reliant

frontiersman on his way to the

Lincoln's carriage built

by Brewster of New York was

purchased on his way to the

White House. "This was used

Chicago," Mahoney added.

speech is his First Inaugural

Address in 1861. While Lincoln

by the family, and then by Mary

Todd Lincoln when she moved to

Lincoln's second highlighted

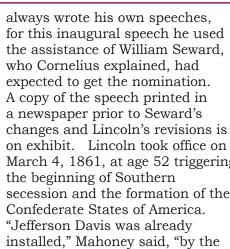
White House, shimmering in the

"This became the second bestselling

The exhibit includes a riveting



Carriage used by President Lincoln and his wife. Mary Todd Lincoln.



worded to bring the South back into the Union fold, slavery and all, with only the caveat of no expansion of slavery in the west. "Apprehension seems to exist States, that by the accession of a Republican Administration, their property (slaves) and their peace,



Bed where Lincoln died.

and personal security are to be endangered....," Lincoln stated. "I declare that I have no purpose directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so...."

Lincoln's first term started out with strife. The display shares items from Lincoln's time in the White House like a water color of Willy that Mary Lincoln commissioned soon after her son died. The painting is based on a Matthew Brady photo. The Lincolns' closest associates at the White House were African Americans according to Cornelius. "Elizabeth Keckly, Mary's dressmaker was her closest friend and for Abe it was William Johnson." The ironic fact is that Johnson, who came from Springfield with Abe and accompanied him to Antietam and

Continued on next page

Undying Words

from previous page

northeastern states or exported to England."

the House Divided speech which Illinois. Olivia Mahoney said, "Lincoln was opposed to slavery and did not want it spread, but he was not an abolitionist and would not disrupt the Union."

to Douglas, but his speeches and down home qualities attracted

on exhibit. Lincoln took office on March 4, 1861, at age 52 triggering secession and the formation of the installed," Mahoney said, "by the time Lincoln took office."

The Inaugural Address was among the people of the Southern

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Undying Words

from previous page

then died after getting Small Pox in Gettysburg, was not allowed in the White House. His presence was rejected by those in the White House who were black skinned mulattos.

Slavery was protected by the Constitution when Lincoln took office, but he began to change that with the Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. "His speech at Gettysburg reveals his change," Mahoney said. "A lot has happened. They thought the War would be over sooner and the War has been larger, deadlier and costlier than he ever could imagine. Now he took action and drafted the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves. It was a radical move from a man who said he would keep slavery intact." Freedom from slavery was achieved when the 13th Amendment passed in January of 1865.

Highlighted next is the 1865 Second Inaugural address about which Mahoney and Cornelius write, "Many people consider it to be Lincoln's greatest speech... It certainly differs from other Lincoln speeches in its religious tone and moral gravity."

The final focus is Lincoln's Reconstruction speech given three days before his assassination. This speech focused on putting the nation back together and suggested a new future with biracial democracy which so enraged John Wilkes Booth that Lincoln never got a chance to enact his kinder gentler reconstruction ideas for northerners and southerners alike. Lincoln died on April 15, 1865, in the bed that ends this exhibit. This presentation shows the man Lincoln was, and long after you leave, you will remember his "Undying words".

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Submitted by Timi's Tours

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"Over the past several years, I have known Ken Summer and watched him interact with thousands of customers- always doing so with respect, humor, and compassion when needed. He has an over the top work ethic, and an outgoing personality that values honesty and integrity. Our existing customers LOVE Ken and I'm confident our new travelers will be just as impressed with him. Ken will be involved in numerous

aspects of the business including planning exciting tours and he will also join our great team of Tour Directors. We here at Timi's Tours couldn't be more excited to welcome Ken to our team!"- Timi Kaufman, Owner of Timi's Tours

Prior to his most recent position, Mr. Summer was a coal miner at Crown III Mine in Farmersville, IL and a member of the highly respected Illinois State Mine Rescue Team. He currently resides in Girard, IL with his wife Stephenie and their two children Nicholas and Nicolle.

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Timi's Tours can be contacted at 1-800-682-8214.

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