



**Working Plan
for the
Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota**

November 2007

Working Plan for Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota

Last Updated November 21, 2007

What follows is a brief overview of ideas and a proposed general timeline for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in North Dakota (2008 to 2010) 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 agencies listed to the right, 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 200th 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 200th 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 200th 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

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 February 2007, 37 states were represented). The ALBC's website address is 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

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

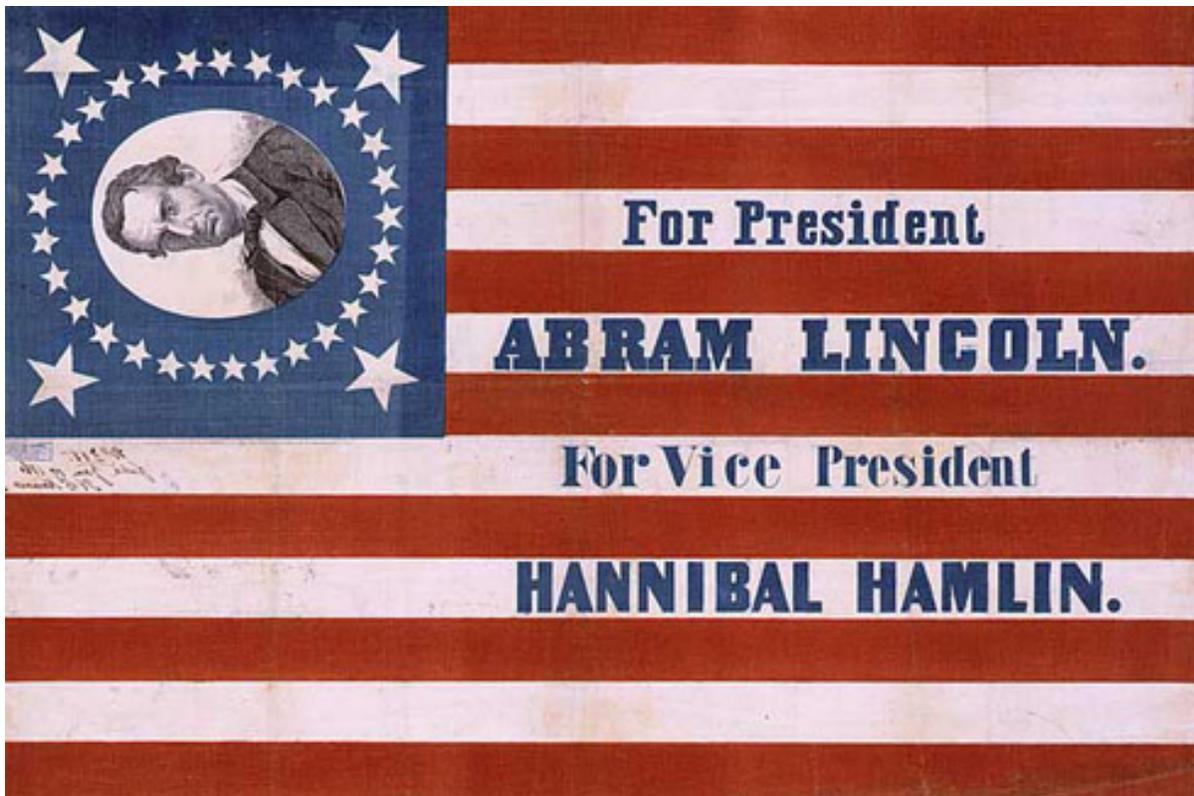
Abraham Lincoln,
December 3, 1861

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) recently concluded, 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. North Dakota's major focus will be during the period leading up to and including Lincoln's 200th 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. He resigned in March 1863 to serve as a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives until June 1864, when he returned to Springfield and continued his medical practice. He served three terms as mayor of Springfield during the period of 1865 to 1880.

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 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 both men - Stutsman County in southeastern North Dakota and Burleigh County in south central North Dakota, which includes the state capitol of Bismarck.

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 Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862

President Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Land Grant College Act on July 2, 1862, which provided grants of land nationwide for the establishment of colleges specializing in agriculture and engineering in addition to, in U.S. Representative Justin Smith Morrill's (R-VT) own words, "the higher graces of classical study." The act resulted in the establishment of what is today North Dakota State University in Fargo. At the time of its opening in the late 19th Century, the institution was named North Dakota Agricultural College. In November 1960, the citizens of North Dakota voted to officially change its name to North Dakota State University.

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"

"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"

committed against white settlers. Of these, 303 were sentenced to be hanged. 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 16th 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



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.

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."

Lincoln Statue in Norway Funded/Dedicated by North Dakotans

In 1914, as part of the 100th 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 was inspired by a similar sculpture North Dakota Governor Louis Hanna had seen on a trip to Gettysburg to attend the 50th 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 4th, 1914."

During Germany's occupation of Norway in 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), a Valley City artist who had a 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 bronze bust of Lincoln, which was cast 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.

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 150th 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 100th 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.”

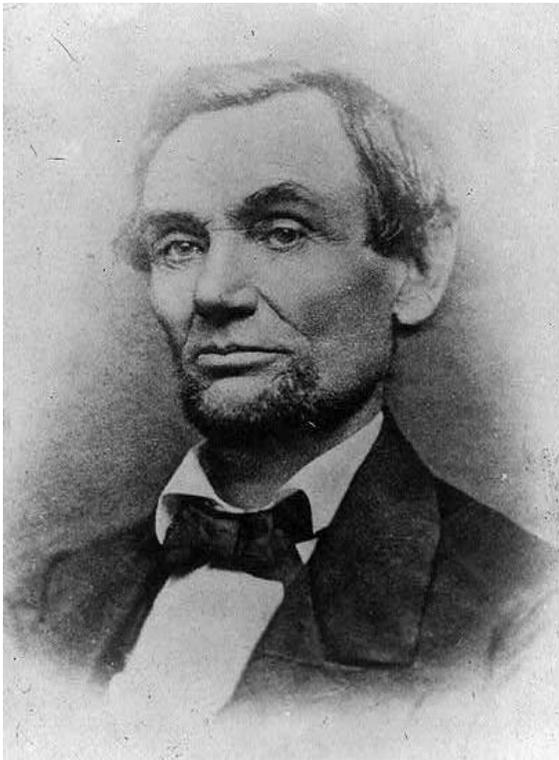
*“With malice toward none,
with charity for all, with
firmness in the right, as
God gives us to see the
right, strive on to finish the
work we are in to bind up
the nation’s wounds ...”*

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

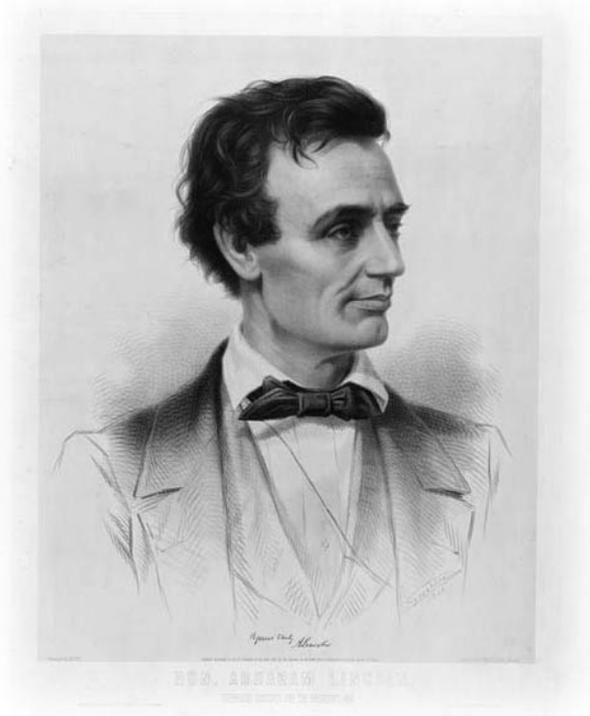
- Use the Lincoln Bicentennial as one of the vehicles of transition into cultural heritage tourism as the state moves beyond its commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.
- Emphasize and promote attractions featuring events for the Lincoln Bicentennial. While difficult to highlight Lincoln in 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 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 100th 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 included in his Executive Budget proposal for FY 2007-09. Specifically, this \$50,000 is included in the State Historical Society's proposed budget for FY 2007-09.

\$15,000 –	Traveling Exhibit 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.
\$15,000 –	Curriculum development 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.
\$7,500 –	Exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center about the impact of the Homestead Act and railroad on what is now North Dakota.
\$5,000 –	Chautauqua living history program 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.
\$5,000 –	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.
\$2,500 –	National History Day 2008 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).
<hr/> \$50,000	Total

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.
- 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 2007-08. 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 2007, 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, and Rhode Island.

"... 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.

April 15-16, 2007 – Second meeting of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and state coordinators. Meeting location in Washington, D.C.

Spring 2007 – Contact appropriate leadership in the North Dakota Legislative Assembly to form a committee to begin planning the official commemoration of Lincoln’s 200th 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, including a link to the national commission website.

February 8, 2008 – Official launch of the Lincoln Bicentennial commemoration in North Dakota. *Lincoln’s Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit opening, 10 a.m., North Dakota Heritage Center.

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

“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

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

February 12, 2009 – 200th 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 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s election as President and the beginning of the Civil War.

This report has been compiled by Rick Collin, Communications and Education Director for the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and chair 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.

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