



# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **3-D scenes of death: Stereoscopic cards of Ford's Theatre box and Lincoln's first burial site are artifacts of the month for October**

*Each month, a different major artifact from the recently acquired Taper Collection will be featured at the Lincoln Presidential Museum*

*SPRINGFIELD* – Stereoscopic cards of the box at Ford's Theatre and the receiving vault where the slain 16<sup>th</sup> President was first interred, offering an 1860s version of 3-D technology when viewed through a special device, are the artifacts of the month for October at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), the latest in a series featuring key items from the Taper Collection recently acquired by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

“Just as Mary Lincoln kept cameo portraits of her departed family members, the public also wanted to hold on to images of these final scenes,” said ALPLM Lincoln Curator James Cornelius. “Stereoscopic views became newly popular during Lincoln's time in office because they gave a three-dimensional view of such remorseful scenes as battlefields and, in this case, the presidential box at Ford's Theatre where Lincoln himself fell. The one on display is very rare – it was expensively hand-colored.”

Another stereoscopic card that will be displayed is an unusual view of the first place Lincoln was buried in Springfield. “Here he lay with son Willie while the formal Tomb was being planned,” said Cornelius, “and guards of the small private association who kept the vigil are on duty.” Mary Lincoln avoided these final scenes – she could not bring herself to visit the cemetery until the day Abraham's and Willie's remains were removed from the receiving vault, eight months later. “And,” said Cornelius, “Mary never again went to a theater.”

The stereoscopic views will be taken off display after Monday, October 31, and another key artifact from the Taper Collection will take its place.

The artifacts of the month are displayed in the central case in the Presidential Museum's Treasures Gallery and include interpretive text explaining their significance. These displays also highlight the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation's Permanent Home Campaign. The \$27 million fundraising drive, established to ensure that the 1,500-item Louise and Barry Taper Collection remains together as a collection and is preserved in perpetuity for the benefit of the public, began in 2008 and continues through 2013.

The story of the October 2011 artifact as told by the ALPLM's Lincoln Curator may be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj69-3LiFHw>. A podcast may be accessed at: <http://ow.ly/6HIkW>.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, offers monthly artifact sponsorships entitled "An Evening of Wine, a Nibble of Cheese, and A Hint of History." The private events, hosted by a Lincoln historian, highlight a featured artifact from the Taper Collection and include light hors d'oeuvres and wine for a select number of guests. For more information on how to become a sponsor or to donate to the Permanent Home Campaign, contact Phyllis Maynerich at (217) 557-6250 or [pmaynerich@alplm.org](mailto:pmaynerich@alplm.org). Event sponsorships are tax deductible as allowed by law.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation supports the educational and cultural programming of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; fosters Lincoln scholarship through the acquisition and publication of documentary materials relating to Lincoln and his era; and promotes a greater appreciation of history through exhibits, conferences, publications, online services, and other activities designed to promote historical literacy.

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