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## *A View from the Vault with*

**Dr. James Cornelius,**

Lincoln Curator,  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

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# Monuments of Lincoln, Monuments to Lincoln

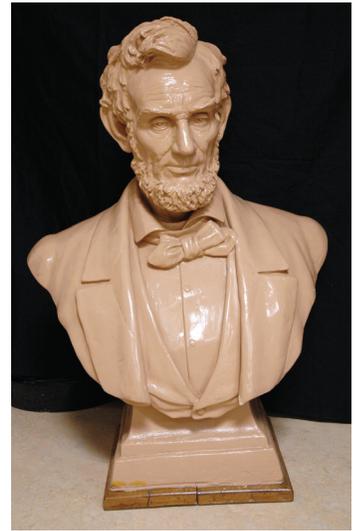


**A RAIL-SPLITTER LIKE LINCOLN WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU CANNOT BUILD PERMANENT SCULPTURE FROM PAPER. YET THAT IS WHAT HAS OCCURRED, IN A METAPHORICAL SENSE, REPEATEDLY SINCE HIS DEATH.**

There were three efforts to build a ‘National Lincoln Monument.’ All sprang from the feeling that his ‘undying words’ such as the two inaugural addresses, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address merited a solid, and outdoor, form in front of which we could all stand with reverent gaze. The first expression of this hope (April 1865) originated in Springfield, and led to Lincoln’s Tomb as dedicated in 1874. The next, spear-headed by African-Americans (May 1865), led to the ‘Emancipator’ statue by Thomas Ball in Lincoln Park, Washington, D.C. (1876). And the third (April 1867) was the Congressional effort to build something magnificent for the nation—what became the Lincoln Memorial as designed by Henry Bacon (1922).

The plaster bust here, sculpted by Daniel Chester French in 1909 and later given a warm if unusual butterscotch / tan patina, will

get its first public display in the Presidential Museum as part of the ‘Undying Words’ exhibit. That show runs from 20 November 2014 through 2015. French was commissioned to create the sculpture of a man who would live forever inside of architect Bacon’s memorial, with its 36 columns representing each of the states in 1865—the states of the Union that Lincoln preserved. French thus had in mind a Lincoln who was a little larger than life-sized. A smart teenager who has taken algebra or geometry can work out the ratio whereby this 34-inch head and shoulders, placed atop a full figure, yields a 7-foot-tall Lincoln. (In fact, that height is about right for Lincoln in his stovepipe hat.)



The scale of French’s final 19-foot-tall Lincoln, in lovely white marble mined in Colorado, works perfectly in its giant Memorial. And we would not want Memorial or sculpture in our museum on the prairie. That sculpture belongs where it is today: inspired by the paper on which Lincoln wrote his undying words; crafted by a master for the millions to see. We are fortunate to have here at ALPLM something from the same artistic mold—call it French’s first draft?

The show “Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865” will have many verbal monuments in Lincoln’s own hand, alongside some artistic monuments to and about him that date from 1860 to the 21st century. Please come listen to Lincoln speak again, in words and through art.

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## Remembering Lincoln’s ‘Undying Words’

*Chris Wills, Communications Director, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency*

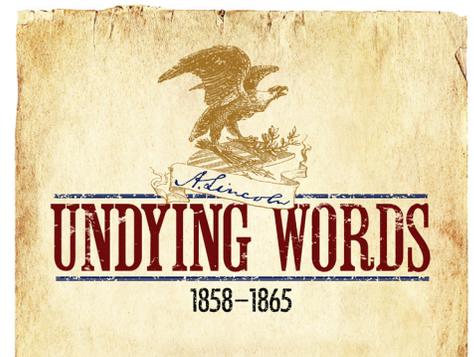
**A**braham Lincoln uttered some of the most famous words in history. He spoke out against slavery, urged his countrymen to reject war and defended “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

Now those words are the focus of a major new exhibition presented at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and mounted in cooperation with the

Chicago History Museum. The exhibition commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War’s end and Lincoln’s death.

“Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865” opened to the public on Nov. 22 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill., and runs throughout 2015.

Visitors will see more than 120 documents and artifacts related to Lincoln



and his biggest speeches. The items on display include 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 and the bed where Lincoln died after lingering for nine hours.

“Undying Words” is part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum’s celebration of its 10th birthday. More than 3.6 million people have visited the ALPLM over that time.

“The staff of the library and museum are honored that people have responded so enthusiastically to our efforts to tell the Abraham Lincoln story. We wanted to thank them – and to honor Lincoln – with an exhibition worthy of his impact on history,” said Amy Martin, director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which operates the presidential library.

Gary T. Johnson, president of the Chicago History Museum, said: “We are delighted to have contributed to this exhibition, which explores Lincoln’s ideas through five key speeches made during the most critical chapter in our nation’s history. Today, those speeches continue to challenge and inspire people everywhere.”

## Five Speeches

At the heart of “Undying Words” are five momentous Lincoln speeches: his “House Divided” speech of 1858, his First Inaugural Address in 1861, the 1863 Gettysburg Address, his 1865 Second Inaugural, and his final speech, on Reconstruction, given just three days before his assassination.

The exhibition will help visitors understand what Lincoln was trying to accomplish with each speech, what was going on in the world around him, and what impact his words ultimately had on the nation.

“Undying Words” also includes dramatic objects that have never before been seen at the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Among the highlights:

- The model for Daniel Chester French’s sculpture in the Lincoln Memorial

- Beautiful and touching letters of condolence to Mrs. Lincoln
- Items from African-Americans the Lincolns knew in Washington
- A 5-foot-tall Lincoln campaign banner from 1860
- What is believed to be the largest oil portrait of Lincoln
- A gold-headed cane the Lincolns gave to the minister who conducted their son’s funeral

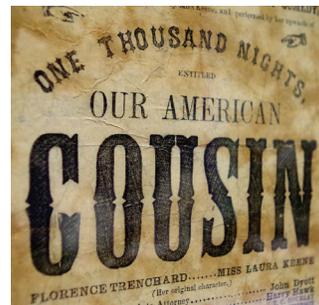
Three documents that are key to Lincoln’s legacy will also be on display when “Undying Words” opens. To minimize damage to the documents, they will be removed at different times during the exhibition’s run and replaced by a facsimile or illustration.

Visitors will get to see a handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address until Jan. 20. A signed copy of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, will be included until February 16. Lincoln signed that document below a phrase he helped fashion: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude ... shall exist within the United States.”

A signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation (which declared that “all persons held as slaves within said designated States ... are, and henceforward shall be free”) will be displayed until March 24.

Together, these speeches, documents, and artifacts illustrate the evolution of Lincoln’s ideas on equality,

from simply taking a personal stand against slavery to helping develop a national majority that favored permanently ending slavery and preserving the Union as a free republic.



Left: The bed in which Lincoln died (CHM). Above: An original playbill from Ford’s Theatre that night, for “Our American Cousin” (ALPLM/Taper Collection). Lower left: The Lincolns’ carriage in Washington, D.C., which Mary Lincoln later used in Chicago (CHM). Below: The Gettysburg Address, in Lincoln’s hand (ALPLM)



## Member Preview

# Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865

The Museum's latest exhibit, "Undying Words" opened on November 20 with a Members Only Exhibit Preview. The exhibit a collaboration of the ALPLM and the Chicago History Museum, features original versions of Lincoln's most famous speeches, the 13th Amendment, plus some eye-poppers: Abraham and Mary's carriage, his death-bed, a 8-foot-tall 'Rail Splitter' portrait, and interactives. "Undying Words" is generously sponsored in part by Archer Daniels Midland Company. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Library and Foundation would like to offer our sincere THANKS to the dedicated staff of the Chicago History Museum for their collaboration on the exhibit Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865.



(From left) Director of Membership Phyllis Evans and CEO, Dr. Carla Knorowski, both with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation welcome the honored guests of the Members Only "Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865" Exhibit Preview Thursday, Nov. 20th, including Dr. James Cornelius, ALPLM Curator; Olivia "Libby" Mahoney, Chicago History Museum Senior Curator; Amy Martin, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Director; and Russell Lewis, Executive Vice President and Chief Historian, Chicago History Museum. The exhibit held the opening for the public on Saturday, November 22nd.

Dr. James Cornelius, ALPLM Curator and Olivia Mahoney, CHM Senior Curator, assist IHPA Director Amy Martin with the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony during the opening of the exhibit "Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865".



Russell Lewis, Chicago History Museum Executive Vice President and Chief Historian, visits the "Undying Words" exhibit Nov. 20th along with approximately 400 members in attendance for the exhibit preview.



Approximately 400 members attended the exclusive Members Only Exhibit Preview of "Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865" on Thursday, Nov. 20th. The exhibit will be open throughout 2015, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's 10th Anniversary Celebration year.



Member guest Angela Mayer, from Ruesselsheim, Germany is brought to tears as she views the Gettysburg Address for the very first time...