
From Behind the Curtain with

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In observance of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, the Presidential Museum will hold an evening vigil on Tuesday, April 14 in the Union Theater beginning at 8:00 p.m. and concluding at approximately 10:15 p.m. This traditional occasion of devotional watch will mark the 150th anniversary of the Great Emancipator's death on the morning of April 15, 1865. The evening will include a series of readings spanning from Lincoln's childhood through the present day, including speeches, newspaper accounts, diary entries, poetry, and prose.

It is extremely moving to hear some of these written words aloud. This is the third evening vigil we have done in our ten years and among the list of readings we will hear passages from Carl Sandburg's six-volume *Abraham Lincoln*."

Admission is free to the public, and guests may attend any or all of the vigil.

Performances of Richard Helleesen's play *One Destiny* will return for performances in the Union Theater on April 14 at 1:30 p.m., April 15 at 3:00 p.m., and April 16 at 11:00 a.m. The Illinois College Choir from Jacksonville will perform a concert of Civil War-era music at 12:45 p.m. April 16.

Two Civil War bands will be playing here this spring: the 33rd Illinois Vol. Regiment Band will play a 1:00 p.m. concert on our tenth anniversary, April 19th. And on Friday May 1st we will host the 5th Michigan Regiment Band at 12:00 noon.



Lee Shafer as a Civil War soldier.

Hearing first-hand accounts by Civil War Soldiers & Civilians, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Louisa May Alcott, Ward Hill Lamon, and of course President & Mrs. Lincoln always adds to the experience.

Thanks to a grant from the Dr. Scholl's Foundation, we have had a good series of living history days and will continue this spring & summer. Having an historic interpreter here in period clothing to tell stories of life in the 19th century has been very popular with our visitors.



Interpreter Robert Davis as a Civil War soldier.



Donna Daniels (Mary Lincoln), Patricia James-Davis (Sojourner Truth), Pam Brown (also portraying Mary Lincoln).

DR. SCHOLL FOUNDATION: Living History Program

This support helps to make history come alive for visitors as historic interpreters in period clothing tell stories of life in the 19th century. It is extremely popular with field trip students and visitors of all ages. These first-hand accounts by Civil War soldiers, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Louisa May Alcott, and President & Mrs. Lincoln truly enhance the museum experience.

We appreciate the generous support of the Dr. Scholl Foundation, without whom we could not have presented Living History. When asked why the Dr. Scholl Foundation chose to support our institution, Foundation President Pamela Scholl responded:

"President Lincoln's message resounds to this day, maybe more so now than ever before. The Dr. Scholl Foundation is proud to help the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum share the values of our country with visitors of all ages, especially at this critical time in our nation's history."