

Lincoln Legacy Committee

*Formed
2006*





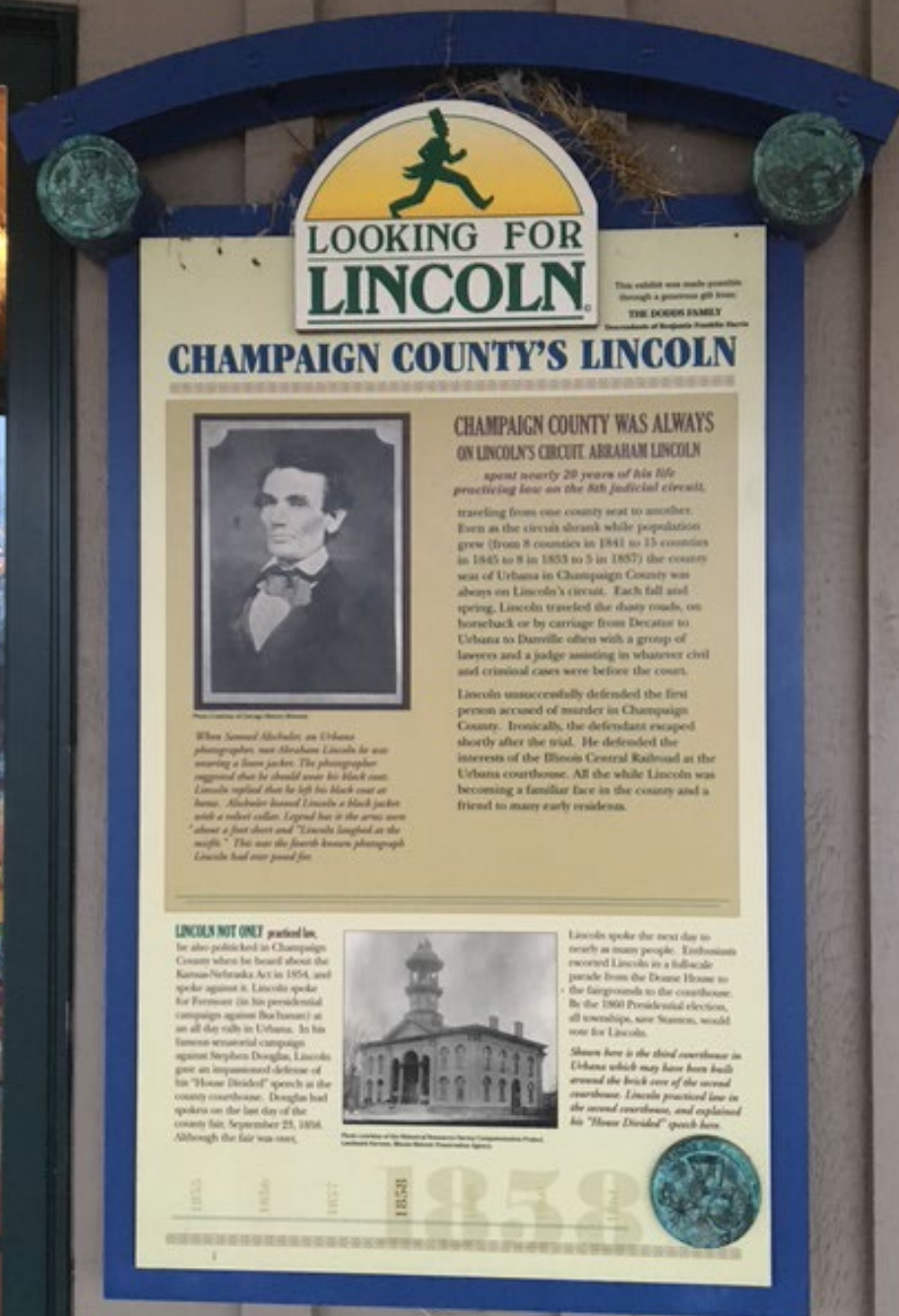
Courthouse
Exhibit
*Abraham Lincoln:
Large Presence in a
Small Town*

Museum of the
Grand Prairie
Exhibit:
*Champaign
County's Lincoln*



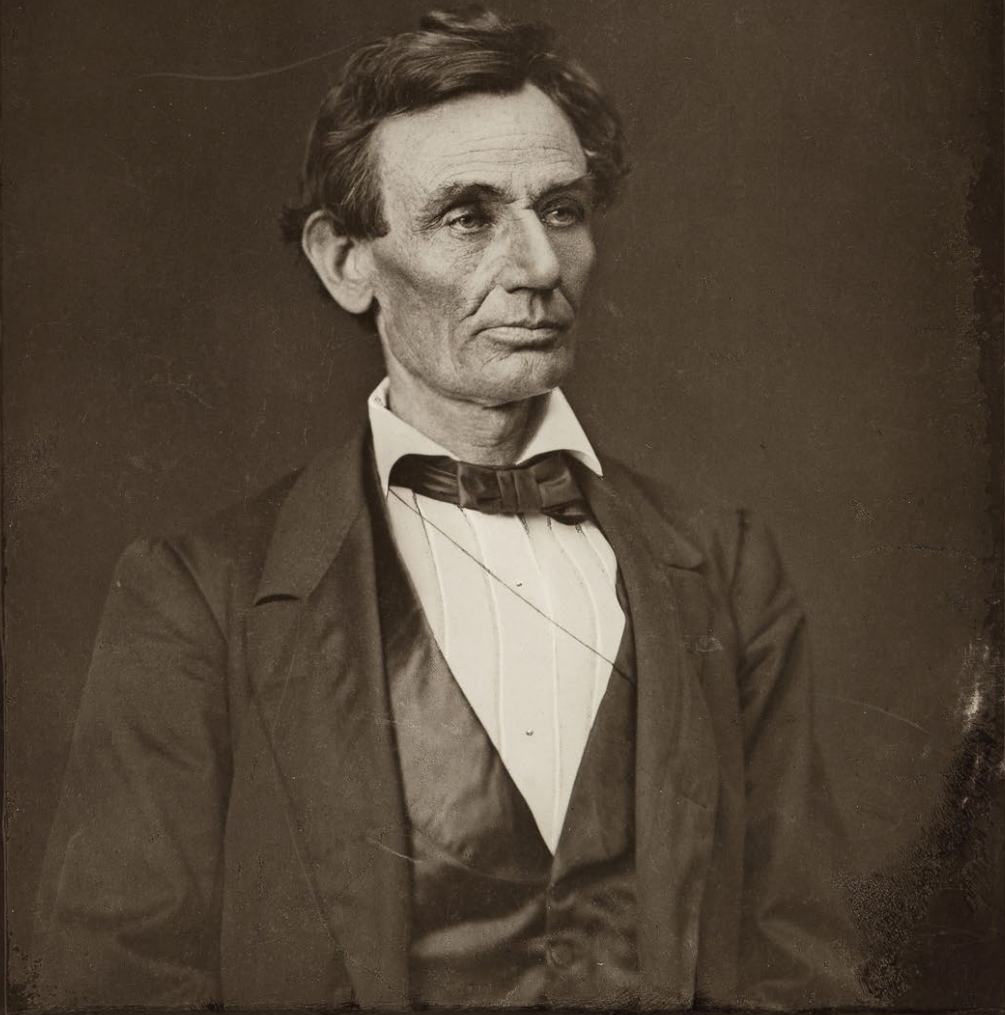
Looking for Lincoln waysides: *9 signs across the county*

Champaign
Urbana (2)
Tolono
St. Joe
Homer Lake
Mahomet
Lake of the Woods (2)



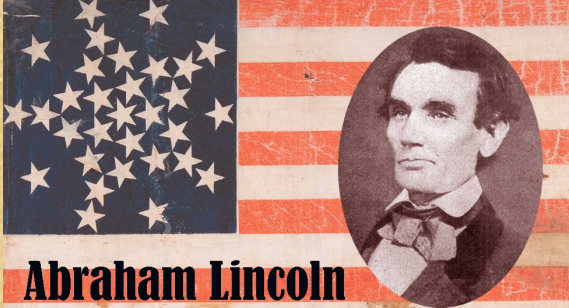
Illinois State Historical
Society Project:
Lincoln in Every Courthouse

Hesler Portrait, 2018 for the
state Bicentennial.



DAR Constitution Week, DAR Maintain markers





Abraham Lincoln

The Kansas Nebraska Act and Champaign County

On October 24, 1854, Abraham Lincoln—known to the local population as a circuit lawyer—delivered a speech in the *Urbana* courthouse.

He spoke squarely against the Kansas-Nebraska Act, signed into law by President Franklin Pierce in May, five months earlier.

In his speech, the future president condemned the act and made clear his views on slavery, which he had called “immoral.”



This map shows the Kansas and Nebraska territories in 1854. The Act would allow them to decide for themselves if they wanted slavery.

Opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Act propelled Lincoln back into national politics.

“No man is good enough to govern another man, without the other’s consent. The master not only governs the slave without his consent, but governs by a set of rules altogether different from those which he prescribes for himself.”

Lincoln, Urbana, 1854.



What was the Kansas Nebraska Act?

The Compromise of 1820, passed by the 16th US Congress, decided that slavery would not be permitted in northern states, and would be permitted in southern states, with Missouri being split. Western territories, newly acquired, were not included in the 1820 legislation.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 created the vast Nebraska Territory (comprised of current day Nebraska, the Dakotas and Montana) and the Kansas Territory.

Under the Kansas-Nebraska Act this area was subject to popular sovereignty. With popular sovereignty the citizens themselves would decide whether or not to allow slavery. Pro and anti-slavery adherents rushed to the area to sway the vote, and would engage in armed combat with one another.



Called “Bleeding Kansas” 54 people were killed in guerrilla warfare between pro- and anti-slavery factions in the state while trying to settle the question.

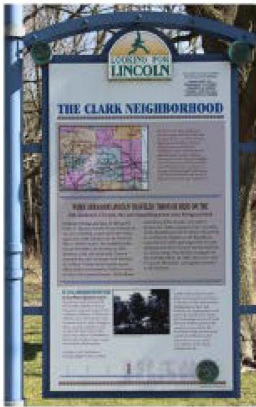


Commemoration of Lincoln’s Kansas-Nebraska Act Speech at the Champaign County Courthouse

*Program and Exhibit
October 2024*

Lincoln Story Trail

At the courthouse, at the Museum of the Grand Prairie and throughout the state you can follow the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail by finding the National Heritage Area wayside exhibit story boards. Local storyboards are listed below.



Mahomet, Museum of the Grand Prairie

950 N. Lombard, 61853, in Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Mahomet, First School

1403 East Oak St, 61853

Tolono, near Historical Marker

Southeast corner of N. Long Road and W. Austin Road, 61880

Champaign, Police Station

Southwest corner of N. First St. and E. Park Street, 61820

Urbana, Champaign County Courthouse

101 East Main Street, 61801

Urbana, Busey Bank

Northwest corner of S. Race and W. Elm, 61801

Homer Lake Road

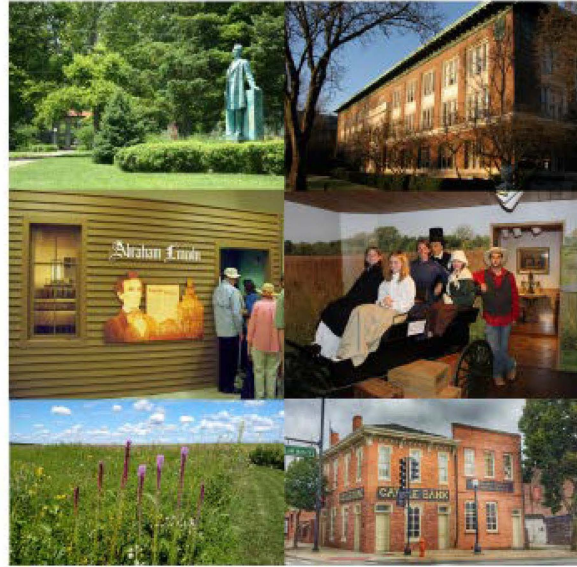
Homer Lake Road at Northern Border of Homer Lake Forest Preserve

St. Joseph- CR 2200 East and 1400 North

Northwest corner of Water Street and Homer Lake Road



Where will you find Lincoln?



Lincoln is everywhere ! Explore his legacy at Carle Park, Lincoln Hall, the Champaign County Courthouse, Museum of the Grand Prairie, Buffalo Trace Prairie, Champaign County History Museum, and more!

The Lincoln Exhibits represent a collaborative effort between the Champaign County Board and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and are being guided by the Lincoln Legacy Committee.

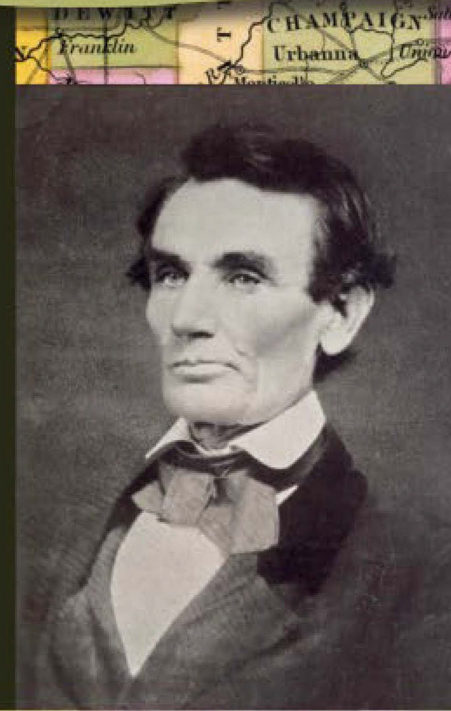
Abraham Lincoln: Large Presence in Small Town was supported in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and designed by Taylor Studios, Inc.

Champaign County's *Lincoln* was supported in part by grants from the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Illinois Department of Commerce Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism

Photos: Courtesy, Champaign County Historical Archives, The Urbana Free Library and the Homer Historical Society

Illinois

A. Lincoln



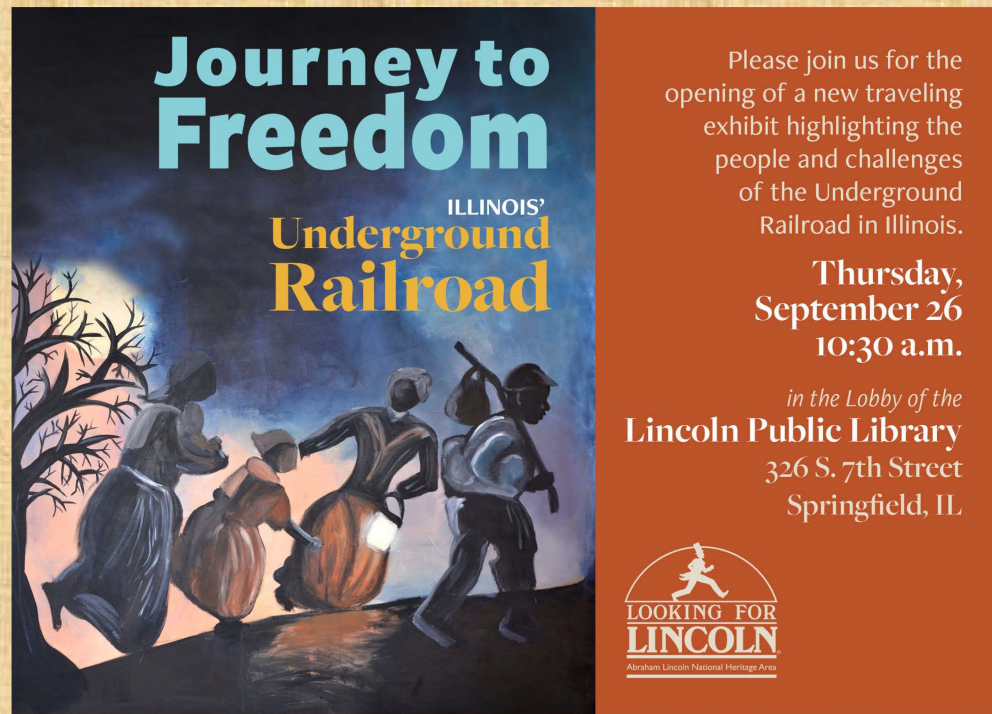
Look for Lincoln in Champaign County

*with the Lincoln
Legacy Committee*

Exhibits - Storytrail - Sites

2025 activities

- *Renovate exhibit with Taylor Studios*
- *Complete brochure*
- *Begin Website and Clio trail*
- *Participate in Archives Bazaar*



2026 projects and plans:

- *Support the UFL hosting of UGRR exhibit from Looking for Lincoln*
- *Support the placement of a new wayside sign at the Royer Hotel*
- *Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Champaign County Courthouse*





Champaign County Courthouse

*125th anniversary
celebration
2026*

*(in concert with the
US 250th).*



Long Term Goals

- *Renew/renovate the Lincoln Exhibit in the courthouse*
- *Provide for the sustainability of that exhibit*
- *Continue programming, exhibits and collaborations which promote Abraham Lincoln's legacy in the county.*