

TRAVELERS' ✓✓ by Ann Hattes

ABRAHAM LINCOLN - SPRINGFIELD, IL and BICENTENNIAL

America will honor Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday (February 12, 2009) with a bicentennial celebration (www.lincolnbicentennial.gov) kicking off February 2008 and continuing through 2010.

The opening ceremony is February 12, 2008 at the Lincoln birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky with President George W. Bush as featured speaker. The Lincoln Bicentennial year 2009 opens in the Concert Hall of the Kennedy Center with a world class concert including nineteenth century popular and patriotic music performed by military bands.

In Illinois in 2009 Ravinia, America's oldest summer music festival, will celebrate many aspects of Lincoln's life and times with a wide range of programs given under the banner "Mystic Chords of Memory," a quote from Lincoln's first inaugural address.

In downstate Illinois, Springfield (www.visitspringfieldillinois.com) has many historic Lincoln sites. At the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum all ages easily become involved in Lincoln's life and times through high-tech and multi-media displays. Television news covers the 1860 election as if it were happening today. In Mrs. Lincoln's Attic, children try on period clothing and perform chores from the 1800s.

Just blocks away from the Museum visitors discover Lincoln's home, now a national historic site, plus the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office, and the Old State Capitol where Lincoln spoke the immortal words, "A house divided against itself cannot stand...."

At Lincoln's Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery a special Civil War retreat ceremony is held every Tuesday evening in summer. The Lincoln Memorial Garden, a nature center, offers a

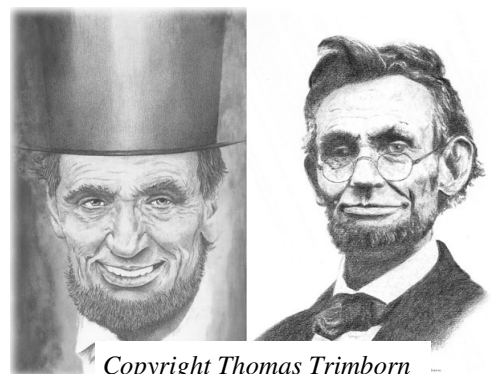
wooded landscape much as Lincoln might have walked.

In both 2008 (August 16 – 24) and 2009, there'll be the Lincoln Bicentennial Bike Tour (www.TourdeLincoln.com), following as closely as possible the pioneering route followed by Abraham Lincoln from his birthplace in Kentucky to important sites in Springfield, Illinois. The tour, limited to 150 riders, will include talks by Lincoln scholars and site demonstrations.

The states of Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana where Abraham Lincoln was born, grew up and began his journey, will join with the rest of the nation to produce a celebration of his life and contributions. For events of the Tri State Lincoln Celebration visit www.lincolnadventures.com.

Through June 13, 2008, the store in the Lincoln Museum of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is sponsoring an exhibition of a unique collection of evocative Abraham Lincoln images by Thomas Trimborn. Mr. Trimborn's work portrays Lincoln as a multidimensional man with the portraits telling his story – the melancholy Lincoln, the extraordinary thinker, the avid reader, the lonely leader, the humorous storyteller and more.

These original works reproduced in Trimborn's book, **Encounters With Lincoln: Images and Words** tell the Lincoln story anew in a way that continues to inspire.



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Ann Hattes has been published in English, Japanese, Arabic, German, and Chinese. Visit this award-winning writer at:

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