

## Lincoln Treasures

February 12 - August 16, 2009

The Chicago History Museum holds one of the foremost collections on Abraham Lincoln in the United States. The *Lincoln Treasures* exhibition highlights key artifacts and documents from the Museum's collection. This family-friendly exhibition will introduce visitors to Abraham Lincoln as not only an iconic American, but also as a real person. It will highlight Lincoln's activities as a husband, father, friend, and a leader who changed the nation. The exhibition begins with Lincoln's early political career and then moves into the White House years and his role in the Civil War.

Many artifacts will accompany these topics to help humanize this great man and show his role as a leader through his words and actions. Some of the key artifacts include:

- **Lincoln's desk**, c. 1834 that he used when studying the law in Vandalia when he was an Illinois state representative.
- **The Lincoln White House piano and stool**, c. 1861.
- **The death room furniture from the Petersen House** in 1865.
- **Assassination artifacts from Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House**.
- **Declaration of Independence**, 1776 (first printing).
- **United States Constitution**, 1787 (first printing).
- **A bound copy of Shakespeare**, given by Mrs. Lincoln to a family friend in 1871.
- **Bible**, 1852, which is believed to have been used at the 1860 Republican National Convention where Lincoln was nominated to be the party's presidential candidate.

From April 1 to May 3, a copy of the **Gettysburg Address**, only one of five copies of the Address written in Lincoln's hand, will be on display for visitors to experience. The Address and a copy of **Edward Everett's Gettysburg Speech** are on loan from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. This is the last time this copy of the Gettysburg Address will travel from the Springfield institution.

The exhibition will include interactive elements to help make personal connections for the visitor. Varied size of pennies hanging on the wall will ask visitors questions relating to key artifacts and Lincoln's leadership. Visitors will also hear Lincoln's favorite song, *Home Sweet Home*, sung by a popular opera singer of the day, recorded in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. There will be an annotated Gettysburg explaining what the words of the famous speech mean and where he drew his inspiration from. The exhibition concludes with a flip book allowing visitors to identify individuals in a painting depicting Lincoln's death, and to learn a little more about these individuals and their relationship to Lincoln.

