

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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**STATE AGENCIES, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM COLLABORATE
TO CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF LINCOLN'S BIRTH WITH
*Lincoln's Footsteps in Harrisburg, Saturday, May 23, 2009***

Harrisburg – In honor of the Bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Archives, State Library of Pennsylvania and The National Civil War Museum present *Lincoln's Foot Steps in Harrisburg*. These four institutions have scheduled a day-long series of events on Saturday, May 23, 2009 of interest to scholars, Lincoln fans and families with children.

The State Library features Dr. Judith Ann Giesberg and *Lincoln and the Widow Bixby*. The presentation, to be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 321 of the Forum Building, focuses on Lincoln's famous letter to Mrs. Lynn Bixby in 1864. Dr. Geisberg is an Assistant Professor of History

at Villanova University. Her book *Civil War Sisterhood: The U.S. sanitary Commission and Women's Politics in Transition* follows the careers of women leaders in the Sanitary Commission. She earned her Ph.D. in History from Boston College. Dr. Giesberg is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Events at The State Museum, 300 North Street, include Civil War Gallery tours scheduled at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m., noon, 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.; special Lincoln IdeaZONE presentations at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.; and Civil War dance demonstrations presented by the Civil War dance Foundation at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

The Pennsylvania State Archives sponsors a lecture by Dr. Matthew Pinsker, Associate Professor of History, Pohanka Chair for Civil War History at Dickinson College. Titled *What's Next in Lincoln Studies?*, Pinsker's lecture provides an overview of where the Lincoln field stands today on controversial topics such as the assassination or Lincoln's attitudes toward race and will explore where it will likely head in the upcoming years. Dr. Pinsker earned a bachelors degree for Harvard University and his D.Phil. from the University of Oxford. The lecture, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. will take place in Village Square, located on the first floor of The State Museum. There is no admission to the events at The State Museum, but those wishing to attend the lecture can RSVP at PABookstore.com.

At the National Civil War Museum, One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, James Hayney brings Lincoln to life as he greets visitors from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with a program scheduled for 1:00 p.m. In addition The National Civil War Museum will host a Lincoln art exhibit which includes approximately 50 works by 20 Pennsylvania State University artists. A variety of media will be represented including paintings, prints and computer graphics.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania is one of 26 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trail of History™ administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. More information on The State Museum is available by calling (717) 787-4980 or online at www.statemuseumpa.org.

The Pennsylvania State Archives, a bureau of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, collects, preserves and makes available for study the permanently-valuable public records of the Commonwealth, with particular attention given to the records of state government. The State Archives also collects papers of private citizens and organizations relevant to Pennsylvania history. The State Archives are open Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday (microfilm use only), 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and State Holidays. More information is available by calling (717) 783-3281 or online at www.phmc.state.pa.us.

The State Library of Pennsylvania, located in the Forum Building, Commonwealth Ave & Walnut St, provides information for State Government and citizens while collecting and preserving our written heritage through materials published for, by, and about Pennsylvania. The State Library is open Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Tuesdays open until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and State Holidays. General information is available by calling (717) 787-4440 or online at www.statelibrary.state.pa.us.

The National Civil War Museum is the only museum in The United States that portrays the entire story of the American Civil War. Equally balanced presentations are humanistic in nature without bias to Union or Confederate causes. The national Civil War Museum is open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors, \$6.00 for students (with current ID). A family pass is available for \$30.00. More information is available by calling (717) 260-1861 or online at www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org