



July 24, 2009

For immediate release...

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Looking for Lincoln Waysides Arriving in Decatur!!

49 Storyboards for Lincoln Story Trail, 14 for Decatur!!

Springfield—Decatur has been selected by the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition to receive a major shipment of wayside exhibits on Wednesday morning. Decatur will receive a total of 49 exhibits that will also be distributed to other nearby communities that make up part of the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail.

“Decatur will receive 14 of the 49 exhibits delivered Wednesday to complete their total number of 15 exhibits for Decatur. Once installed, Decatur will have the second largest concentration of exhibits, outside of Springfield, for visitors to enjoy. This will create a very compelling Lincoln visitor experience for Decatur and help underscore Decatur’s significant place in Lincoln history, with stories of friendships, legal work and politics. Decatur will represent a significant stop on the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail, joining the 50 communities in this collection of Illinois communities with wayside exhibits that detail solid Lincoln stories,” said Hal Smith, Director of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Coalition.

The other communities picking up exhibits from the Decatur delivery include: Bloomington-Normal (9), Clinton (8), Shelbyville (6), Danville (2), Taylorville (2), Bement (2), Monticello (2), with Champaign, Springfield, Lerna and Ottawa receiving 1 each. These communities are a part of a total of 50 communities with waysides on the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail. Together they represent a significant cluster of Lincoln stories that will be interesting to visitors to the region.

“This collection of colorful and compelling exhibits in Decatur and in the surrounding communities, will attract visitors to the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail as they all share wonderful Lincoln stories. We know these visitors are interested in Lincoln and will find these historic communities, with their unique connection to Lincoln, both entertaining, educational and fun to explore! We are grateful to the City of Decatur, and the surrounding Story Trail communities, for helping to create these exhibits for future visitors.” added Smith.

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“Wednesday’s shipment to Decatur represents 50% of the storyboards being delivered this summer, as the Coalition adds nearly 100 new waysides this year, bringing their total to 210 exhibits to be installed across 42 counties of the Abraham Lincoln National heritage Area, by the end of this summer,” according to Smith.

Wednesday’s 10 AM shipment will be delivered to the Decatur Civic Center at # 1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza.

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area is composed of the 42 counties of central Illinois where Lincoln spent 30 years of his adult life, preparing to become the most admired president in American history. The Congress designated the National Heritage Area last year and named Looking for Lincoln as the management entity for the Area. Funding for this round of exhibits was made possible by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, with strong support from Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, in combination with local and private funding sources. For more information on the Heritage Area and the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail, go to: www.lookingforlincoln.com.

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