

Lincoln Lives @ Your Library

The Rock Island Public Library

March 24, 2009

Will the Real Lincoln Please Stand Up? Program Considers Abe's Changing Popular Image

From the good (Henry Fonda in *Young Mr. Lincoln*) to the simply irreverent (wrestling Lincoln), popular culture has played all sorts of games with the image of our 16th president.

The Rock Island Public Library will consider how our view of history changes, and why, in the second of several "Lincoln Lives @ Your Library" programs. In "How We View History," Lincoln historian Ron J. Keller, of the Lincoln Heritage Museum in Lincoln, IL, will discuss the changing presidential image starting at **5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7** at the Rock Island Main Library, 401 19th Street.



Developed as part of the Illinois Humanities Council Lincoln "Road Scholars" program, Professor Keller's entertaining program uses historic images and movie clips to demonstrate how popular culture and historical events have shaped our changing perceptions. In this lighter presentation, Keller shows how that history does and does not mirror the changing perspective of one of America's greatest icons.

Keller is assistant professor of history and political science at Lincoln College, and director and curator of the Lincoln Heritage Museum. His credits include writing an essay in *Lincoln and Freedom*, a book on the 13th amendment, serving as a contributing author for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of African-American History*, Congressional Quarterly's *The Essential Lincoln*, and serving as chief editor, researcher, and writer for *The Lincoln Newsletter*. Keller is an advisor to the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and was appointed to state and city bicentennial commissions as well. He was awarded the Order of Lincoln on February 2009, the highest honor given by the state of Illinois.

The next program, "Hellgate of the Mississippi: Lincoln and the Effie Afton trial" is Wednesday, May 6, on the anniversary of the steamboat crash into the railroad bridge at Rock Island. Lincoln served as the lead attorney for the railroad interests. The program is at 6:30 p.m. in the Rock Island Main Library. Future programs will be announced as they are confirmed. All of the above events are free and open to the public, and are sponsored by the Friends of the Rock Island Public Library.

Libraries offer plenty of print, online, visual and audio resources, many of which are free with a library card. For money-saving entertainment, enlightenment and enrichment for all ages, visit the Rock Island Main, 30/31 and Southwest Branch libraries, or check the Rock Island Library online at www.ripl.lib.il.us for details about library cards, services and free events for the family.



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