

FOREVER FREE:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S JOURNEY TO EMANCIPATION

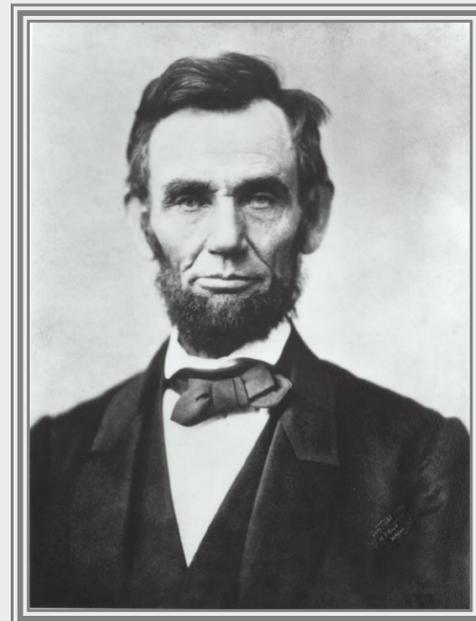


Photo: Library of Congress Collection

FOREVER FREE is a traveling panel exhibit that reexamines President Lincoln's efforts toward the abolition of slavery during the Civil War. Organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino California, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City, in cooperation with the American Library Association Public Programs office, the exhibit draws on the latest scholarship in the field.

The exhibit was made possible by major grants from the National Endowment for the humanities, promoting excellence in the humanities, and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Congress and charged with planning the national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday.

The six section exhibit contains period photographs, and illustrative material, such as lithographs, engravings, cartoons, and political ephemera. The sections of the exhibition focus on young Lincoln's America, the war for the Union, the Emancipation Proclamation, the role of black soldiers in the Civil War and the final months of the Civil War and Lincoln's life.

Abraham Lincoln is known as the "Great Emancipator" for freeing slaves in 1863. Lincoln hated slavery, but began his journey to Emancipation as a cautious moderate who was willing to allow slavery to continue if it would help preserve the Union. When this approach failed, he determined that freeing the slaves immediately was a necessity. The Emancipation Proclamation, issued January 1, 1863 was the result.

The Emancipation Proclamation settled the indeterminate legal status of tens of thousands of runaway slaves, besides declaring as free all people enslaved. It also allowed blacks to enlist in the Union army. The strength and courage of the black volunteers helped change the public's views about the character and abilities of an entire race. Nearly 40,000 black soldiers gave their lives in the Union cause.



Credit: The Strobridge Lith. Co., Cincinnati.
"Abraham Lincoln and his Emancipation
Proclamation."
c1888. Prints and Photographs Division,
Library of Congress.

The Judicial Learning Center invites you to explore Lincoln's change of mind at the exhibition - "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation." This exhibition will be on display May 1, 2008 through November 1, 2008.



The Huntington Library
San Marino, California

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

