

NEWS RELEASE

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‘Lincoln’s Journey of Remembrance’ Flatboat To Visit Southern Illinois

Ohio River, IL –A 60-foot pioneer era flatboat will travel down the Ohio River this fall in honor of President Abraham Lincoln’s upcoming 200th Birthday. Lincoln’s Journey of Remembrance sets sail September 9 from Rockport, IN and will re-trace Lincoln’s 1828 flatboat trip to New Orleans, LA., when the then 19-year-old future President transported a load of produce for a local merchant. The local people of Spencer County, IN., where Lincoln lived from age 7 to 21, will take their Lincoln heritage down river, in an effort to share the story of his formative years with the people of eight states and more than 20 towns along the way.

While sailing down the Ohio River in Illinois, Lincoln’s Journey of Remembrance will stop at Cave-In-Rock, Elizabethtown, Metropolis and Cairo. A welcoming celebration has been planned at each town to create a memorable event for area residents and visitors to celebrate Lincoln’s Legacy. On the afternoon of September 13, 2008, the Flatboat and its’ crew will arrive at Cave-In-Rock to visit the Cave. No doubt pirates will be there to welcome them and rob them of their gold! Later that afternoon, if the crew is able to escape, they will continue onward to Elizabethtown, where they will be docked for two nights. Elizabethtown’s welcoming ceremony includes B.B.Q., a quilt display, the Angel Band and then, at dark, you can watch a ‘movie on the river’ (Davy Crockett and the River Pirates). On September 16, the Flatboat will sail in and dock overnight at Ft. Massac State Park in Metropolis. Activities have been planned throughout the afternoon, which include flatboat presentations, horseshoes and washers, bobbing for apples, old-time music and Abe and Mary puppet presentations. On September 17, the Flatboat will continue down the Ohio River to Cairo, where it will dock for two nights. A welcoming ceremony is being planned at 8th Street. On September 18, there will be displays and presentations given to area school groups. Abe and Mary Lincoln will join in on the fun and Abe will give a speech at each of these events.

All the area events are free of charge and the public is encouraged to attend any or all of these activities. For a complete list of events, contact the Ohio River Scenic Byway at 800-248-4373 or email sheryld@ajinternet.net. Those interested in keeping up with the entire journey as it happens can visit www.LincolnsJourney.org where photos, video and other updates will be posted daily.

Lincoln’s Journey of Remembrance is endorsed by the United States Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Illinois Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and locally endorsed by the Friends of Ft. Massac, Ohio River Scenic Byway, Ft. Massac State Park, the City of Metropolis and the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau.