



What We Collectively Accomplished in FY2014*

***FY2014 refers to the 2014 Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014.**



FY2014 Snapshot of Looking for Lincoln Communities

There are currently twenty-three Looking for Lincoln communities in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage area. Looking for Lincoln communities include:

- Alton
- Beardstown
- Champaign-Urbana
- Coles County
- Decatur
- DeWitt County
- Galesburg
- Hancock County
- Jacksonville
- Lincoln
- Mahomet
- McLean County
- Metamora
- Mt. Pulaski
- Petersburg
- Pleasant Plains
- Pike County
- Quincy
- Shelby County
- Springfield
- Taylorville
- Vandalia
- Vermillion County



Of the twenty-three Looking for Lincoln (LFL) communities, sixteen of the communities have active LFL working groups. During FY2014 LFL staff began working with two emerging LFL communities, Atlanta, IL and Edgar County. We anticipate Atlanta, IL joining the Looking for Lincoln family in FY2015. Looking for Lincoln staff is working to re-engage existing LFL communities and establish LFL working groups.

FY2014 Snapshot of In-kind Match

Looking for Lincoln Heritage Area wide In-kind Match: \$175,671.10

(The above in-kind match was collected from ALNHA Steering Council Meetings, ad hoc committee meetings, grants, workshops, and other heritage area wide projects.)

In-kind Match from Looking for Lincoln Communities: \$160,464.10

(LFL working group meetings, volunteer time and donated goods & materials for projects and programs that fit within the goals of the ALNHA)

Total FY2014 In-kind Match: \$336,135.20



FY2014 Projects that Benefitted the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area as a Whole

- **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Marketing Plan.** A marketing plan was developed to outline how Looking for Lincoln would promote the National Heritage Area.
- ***Bring a Lincoln to Your Community grant program.*** This grant program provided funds for seven Looking for Lincoln Communities to bring a Lincoln actor to their community to enhance existing community events or programs. The Lincoln actors were used for both formal and informal educational programs in the communities including: Civil War reenactments, reenactments of speeches, special programs, and informal conversations with visitors.
- **Development of the Looking for Lincoln Community Annual Report.** Looking for Lincoln worked with an ad hoc committee to develop an annual report for Looking for Lincoln Communities to capture their accomplishments, in-kind match information, and challenges.
- **Development of the Looking for Lincoln Community Designation Program.** Looking for Lincoln worked with several ad hoc committees over a year-long period to develop the designation program which included defining the process to become a Looking for Lincoln Community and evaluating existing Looking for Lincoln Communities.
- ***History Comes Alive training workshop.*** In July Looking for Lincoln held a training workshop where participants were able to experience *History Comes Alive* programming and learn how to recreate living history programming in their communities. *History Comes Alive* is a 12-week, daily living history program offered free-of-charge to visitors at the key Lincoln sites in Springfield and throughout the downtown area.
- **Looking for Lincoln at the 2014 IL State Fair.** Looking for Lincoln brought history to life at the Illinois State Fair from Friday, August 8th to Sunday, August 17th, in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, reenacting groups, Looking for Lincoln communities and countless volunteers. Over 21 different communities were represented from throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Over 300 volunteers participated from Looking for Lincoln Communities as well as from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum Visitors to the area had an opportunity to interact with Abraham Lincoln, participate in period games, visit with Civil War and living history re-enactors, watch period demonstrations, hear period music, take a picture with a Conestoga wagon and learn about all the sites and activities in the National Heritage Area to visit. Together, we created awareness of the National Heritage Area at the Illinois State Fair.



FY2014 Looking for Lincoln Community Accomplishments

- Barn Quilt Heritage Trail, McLean County.
- Began the Hancock County LFL Working Group by merging the LFL eligibility of the Nauvoo community into a county-wide designation.
- Charleston Riot program in March which included the production of the play "A Question of Loyalty" that was then presented twice at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site and has inspired a cooperative program for Lincoln's Assassination in 2015.
- Held three events in two of our county's communities in one day.
- Identified preservation, tourism, and possible economic revitalization efforts in Pittsfield and Pike County to pursue.
- Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington (includes Civil War Days, Bloomington Library program, Encounters with Lincoln's Bloomington, McLean Museum of History programs.
- Lincoln Heritage Area Festival (Vandalia).
- Lincoln Road Trip: a day long road trip on September 6, 2014 connecting three Lincoln sites including Bryant Cottage State Historic Site, Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site and Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site.
- Nauvoo on the Road participated in the 204 Illinois State Fair.
- Pleasant Plains Historical Society added signage to all historic buildings at Clayville explaining their historical importance.
- Pleasant Plains Historical Society created a wilderness trail with signage highlighting the flora & fauna which existed in the early 1800's.
- Pleasant Plains Historical Society restored the carriage barn housing examples of wagons, carriages and large farm implements from the period.
- Preparation and dedication of "The Turning Point exhibit" in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center.
- Successful completion of several LFL/ALNHA partnership grants, the Boy Scout Lincoln Discovery Camporee, a number of Civil War-related events, and the Civil War Sanitary Fair Concert.
- Successful 6th season for Lincoln's Trial & Tribulations.
- The Decatur LFL area formed a true committee with a group of people with a vested interest. City of Decatur, Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Macon County Conservation District, Decatur Public Library, Governor Oglesby Mansion and HASC.
- The first *Lincoln in the District* festival, which included a collaboration of several community organizations and a celebration of Juneteenth and of Quincy's role the election of Lincoln as President.
- The Lincoln Heritage Committee of DeWitt County hosted the following three programs in their community.
 - April 24, 2014 - "Anxiety Presses Down: Lincoln's Birthday Month 150 Years Past" featuring Robert Crosby (February event was rescheduled due to a horrible snow storm!)
 - June 12, 2014 - "Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln in DeWitt County" A Reading of Vespasian Warner's Letters and Speeches Concerning Lincoln featuring John Warner IV



- November 13, 2014 - Thanksgiving Dinner 2nd Annual Event featuring Max & Donna Daniels as President & Mrs. Lincoln

FY2014 Looking for Lincoln Community Challenges

The greatest challenges identified by Looking for Lincoln Communities in FY2014 were:

- Limited funding
- Organizing/restructuring of Looking for Lincoln Working groups
- Recruiting new volunteers for Looking for Lincoln working groups

Training Opportunities Requested by Looking for Lincoln Communities

- Interpretation Training
- Leadership Training
- Marketing & Promotion Training