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Death of a President
140 Years After Lincoln and 60 Years After FDR

One was raised in a log cabin, the other in a stately manor; one was a Midwestern frontiersman, the other an East Coast aristocrat; one was a Republican, the other a Democrat; but both were highly effective wartime presidents, and both are highly rated for their management of the greatest crises in American history -- the Civil War and the Second World War. Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt died in office 140 and 60 years ago last week.

To recognize these two milestones, the Hauenstein Center has gathered resources from allpresidents.org and from around the web. Also be sure to watch our section on former presidents in the news, updated daily.

+ Ask Gleaves:
  Assassinations, By Gleaves Whitney
  The President's Funeral, By Gleaves Whitney
  State Funerals, By Gleaves Whitney
  Franklin Roosevelt as a leader, By Gleaves Whitney

+ Hauenstein Center features on Lincoln and FDR:
  The Most Popular President? Abraham Lincoln in the Libraries and on the Web, By Brian Flanagan
  In Search of FDR and McKinley, By Brian Flanagan
  James McPherson on Lincoln

+ Virtual Tours of Lincoln sites:
  The Lincoln Museum
  The Lincoln Memorial

+ Lincoln and FDR in the news:

At Lincoln Library Dedication, Bush Relates to an Earlier Time
"The world may little note nor long remember what George W. Bush said on Tuesday at the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. But it is not every day that the 43rd president of the United States encounters the ghostly, lifelike renditions of the 16th, managing a war from the bedrooms that the Bush family now occupies."
FULL TEXT

Bush dedicates Lincoln museum
"President Bush yesterday dedicated the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, drawing parallels between the leader who upheld the Declaration of Independence's pledge that 'all men are created equal' and his own attempt to spread freedom and democracy."
FULL TEXT

Bush Honors President Lincoln
By Michael A. Fletcher - Washington Post - (April 20, 2005)
"President Bush honored the memory of Abraham Lincoln on Tuesday, saying the courage and conviction the nation's 16th president exhibited to defend liberty has driven American history from the abolition of slavery through the war on terrorism."
FULL TEXT

Lincoln legacy
By Christopher Wills - Orange County Register - (April 20, 2005)
"Opening the Abraham Lincoln library and museum, President George W. Bush said Tuesday that its mix of showmanship and scholarship should help generations rediscover the 16th president, whose commitment to freedom for all embodies 'the meaning and promise of America.'"
FULL TEXT

Bush Harks Back to Lincoln's Example
By Warren Vieth - Los Angeles Times - (April 20, 2005)
"President Bush dedicated a presidential museum Tuesday in Abraham Lincoln's adopted hometown, and said that Lincoln's ideals were a source of inspiration for policies his own administration was pursuing."
FULL TEXT
Strumming the Mystic Chords of Memory
"It is not Abraham Lincoln's handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address that is getting all the
attention here, nor is it one of his stovepipe hats, still bearing the marks of his fingers where he
regularly reached for its brim. Not even the white gloves found in his pocket after he was shot by
John Wilkes Booth lure many viewers."
FULL TEXT

14th presidential library set to open, dedicated to Lincoln
By Steve Thomma - Kansas City Star - (April 19, 2005)
"Abraham Lincoln finally gets a presidential library and museum Tuesday, long after FDR, JFK
and Ronald Reagan, as well as such also-rans as Rutherford B. Hayes and Herbert Hoover, got
theirs."
FULL TEXT

Bush will speak at formal dedication
By Tim O'Neil - St. Louis Post-Dispatch - (April 19, 2005)
"Three days after the first visitors wandered through Illinois' new Abraham Lincoln museum,
President George W. Bush and others will dedicate it at outdoor ceremonies today in Springfield."
FULL TEXT

Was Lincoln gay? Historians argue
By Christopher Wills - Chicago Sun-Times - (April 19, 2005)
"It must have been the first conference in the history of Abraham Lincoln scholarship to call the
Great Emancipator 'a terrifically sexual guy.'"
FULL TEXT

Museum pulls no punches
By Christi Parsons and Ray Long - Chicago Tribune - (April 19, 2005)
"In a darkened gallery of this city's new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, visitors walk a
gantlet of ghostly, videographic faces, many spewing insults and hate-filled rhetoric like Lincoln
may have heard as he pondered emancipation."
FULL TEXT

Long-Awaited Lincoln Museum to Open
By Christopher Wills - AP - ABC News - (April 19, 2005)
"Abraham Lincoln is getting his own state-of-the-art showplace, a museum designed to generate
new interest in the 16th president's life through a mix of showmanship and scholarship."
FULL TEXT

A Radical in the White House
"Last week - April 12, to be exact - was the 60th anniversary of the death of Franklin Delano
Roosevelt. 'I have a terrific headache,' he said, before collapsing at the Little White House in
Warm Springs, Ga. He died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage on the 83rd day of his fourth term
as president. His hold on the nation was such that most Americans, stunned by the announcement
of his death that spring afternoon, reacted as though they had lost a close relative."
FULL TEXT

Historians defend book on Abraham Lincoln
By Christopher Wills - AP - Seattle Post-Intelligencer - (April 18, 2005)
"It must have been the first conference in the history of Abraham Lincoln scholarship to call the
Great Emancipator 'a terrifically sexual guy.'"
FULL TEXT

FDR's granddaughter: Keep 'baseline of decency'
By Lynn Sweet - Chicago Sun-Times - (April 18, 2005)
"For two grandchildren of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt -- one being Chicagoan Anne
Eleanor Roosevelt -- the current debate over the future of Social Security is personal."
FULL TEXT

With smoke and cannons, museum brings Lincoln to life
By Christopher Wills - AP - Boston Globe - (April 17, 2005)
"In most museums, Abraham Lincoln is discussed in hushed voices and illustrated with sepia-
toned photos and marble statues that give him a saintly air."
FULL TEXT

Crowds gather in Springfield, Ill., for Lincoln museum's opening
By Kate Thayer - St. Louis Post-Dispatch - (April 17, 2005)
"History buff and those looking to learn flocked to Springfield on Saturday for the opening of
the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum."
FULL TEXT

Bringing Lincoln Alive
CBS News - (April 17, 2005)
"The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, its Web site asserts, 'will not only
preserve history -- it will make history, by enabling millions of visitors from around the world to
experience the Lincoln story in its entirety, as nowhere else.'"
“The old, the young, Springfieldians, out-of-towners, those interested in history and those wanting to be part of history waited to be among the first official patrons to walk through the doors of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum on Saturday.”

Frank Delano Roosevelt was a doer, a pragmatist with a charming streak as broad as his grin. He was a man of steadfast authority. He was also a target of contempt: An aristocratic man of the people, he was seen by fellow patricians as a traitor to his class.

While television is often blamed for everything from shortened attention spans to college students who cannot name a president before Ronald Reagan, two productions this month about Franklin Delano Roosevelt suggest that television also can illuminate history through evocative storytelling.

The theater seats tremble, and cannon bursts rock the room as a Civil War battle is played out on multiple moving screens that bob up and down. Welcome to the just opened Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Ill.—or, as historian John Simon derisively calls it, ‘Six Flags over Lincoln.’ The museum, which is scheduled to have its public dedication this week, has weathered years of cost complaints, construction snafus and accusations of mismanagement. Now the museum is open for visitors—and for debate over whether it has done justice to the 16th President or turned him into a theme-park ride.

If Lincoln scholars could choose which Lincoln quote best describes their world, it probably would not be 'with malice toward none, with charity for all.'

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opens today with a silicone Lincoln posing in the rotunda and pundit Tim Russert introducing mock TV attack ads from the campaign of 1860.

"The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opens Saturday with a silicone Lincoln in the rotunda and media pundit Tim Russert introducing mock TV attack ads from the campaign of 1860."

"The director of the new Abraham Lincoln museum in Springfield would like to make one thing perfectly clear: There are no rubber Lincolns in this institution."

"They'll be 50 strong all weekend in their black frock coats and stovepipe hats, a roving mob of
Abraham Lincoln's, and please, don't say it."

Hail to the chiefly revealing bio
By Noel Holston - Newsday - (April 15, 2005)
"After the torrid first 100 days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency, during which time he bombarded Congress with legislation aimed at breathing life into the deflated U.S. economy, he sent the lawmakers a bill that would repeal Prohibition. Was this a sly politician or what? If he couldn't reverse the Great Depression quickly, he could at least give its victims the option of taking a legal drink - and collect the tax revenue the government desperately needed."

New museum brings Abraham Lincoln to life
CNN News - (April 14, 2005)
"The new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum doesn't buy into that reverence -- it brings Lincoln to life with booming cannons, holographic ghosts and latex statues so lifelike the arms have freckles. It shakes visitors up and shows them all sides of the former president."

What would Honest Abe say?
By Ray Long - Chicago Tribune - (April 14, 2005)
"A mural commissioned for the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum depicts a joyous scene in Washington at the end of the Civil War, but the faces of a few of the 19th Century revelers bear an uncanny resemblance to officials of the showcase 21st Century institution."

Mr. Lincoln goes to Hollywood
"A bloodied shirt, computer-generated apparitions, prerecorded gossip, fog machines -- organizers claim it's just an honest look at Honest Abe."

Museum Brings Lincoln to Life
By Christopher Wills - ABC News - (April 13, 2005)
"In most museums, Abraham Lincoln is discussed in hushed voices and illustrated with sepia-toned photos and marble statues that give him a saintly air."

Remembering FDR
by Ren¿e Montagne - National Public Radio - (April 13, 2005)
"President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died 60 years ago today. He had been president longer than any American. This year's debate over Social Security can be seen as a kind of tribute to the president whose administration created it."

60 years ago, Truman's life turned
Kansas City Star - (April 13, 2005)
"Sixty years ago, about 5 p.m. on April 12, 1945, Vice President Harry S. Truman was summoned to the White House from the U.S. Capitol."

400 salute FDR's commitment to Warm Springs
Associated Press - Columbus Ledger-Enquirer - (April 13, 2005)
"Nearly 400 people turned out Tuesday on the 60th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death and the 50th anniversary of the announcement of the first safe and effective polio vaccine to commemorate his efforts to combat the disease."

Mary Todd Lincoln House is a window into Kentucky's past
By Jan Shepherd - Boston Globe - (April 13, 2005)
"It's a miracle that the Mary Todd Lincoln House survives as one of Kentucky's most important historic sites. What if it had not been saved? What if the 20th century owner had succeeded in selling it in the name of progress? Without the link to President Lincoln, his wife's elegant childhood home would have been lost forever."

An almost holy quality: Lincoln's deathbed on display
By Andrew Herrmann - Chicago Sun-Times - (April 13, 2005)
"At a lanky 6 feet, 4 inches tall, Abraham Lincoln found his deathbed an ill fit in more ways than one. 'The giant sufferer lay extended diagonally across [it], which was not long enough for him,' a witness would later record."

A new focus on Lincoln's story
By Patrick T. Reardon - Chicago Tribune - (April 12, 2005)
"The opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum on Saturday in Springfield -- an institution mixing high-tech, razzle-dazzle exhibits with relics of the 16th president's life -- is the start of a decade of memorials."

Time to give Illinois a new name
By Jim Nowlan - Chicago Tribune - (April 12, 2005)
"The opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield this month can become the launch for an initiative to change the name of Illinois to that of the State of Abraham Lincoln."

Museum Brings Abraham Lincoln to Life
By Christopher Wills - Newsday - (April 12, 2005)
"In most museums, Abraham Lincoln is discussed in hushed voices and illustrated with sepia-toned photos and marble statues that give him a saintly air."

**Illinois' proud new motto: Land of Lincoln Museum**
By Mark Brown - Chicago Sun-Times - (April 12, 2005)
"Start making your plans. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opens to the public this weekend, and this is something you're going to want to see for yourself, even if you haven't been to the state capital since your grade school field trip -- maybe especially if you haven't been here since your school field trip."

**Prof Speaks on 'Complex' Legacy of Abraham Lincoln**
By Lauren Hirsch - Cornell Daily Sun - (April 12, 2005)
"President Lincoln was a 'complex man,' Prof. Margaret Washington, history, said yesterday in her lecture, Abraham Lincoln, Sojourner Truth and Race. Complex indeed, for the quest to arrive at an ultimate understanding of Lincoln and his attitude toward African-Americans seems to be one of which historians never tire."

**Warm Springs' healing therapy an FDR legacy**
By Ron Hayes - Palm Beach Post - (April 11, 2005)
"Nobody comes to this rural crossroads in the Appalachian foothills by accident. They come for the waters."

**History: A Roosevelt Mystery**
Newsweek - (April 11, 2005)
"Sixty years ago this week, when Franklin D. Roosevelt passed away in Warm Springs, Ga., his doctors attributed his death to a cerebral hemorrhage linked to high blood pressure and congestive heart failure. There have, however, long been rumors about Roosevelt's health - rumors that began during the last year of his life. In a 1998 book, 'The Dying President,' the historian Robert H. Ferrell wrote of 'talk that Roosevelt suffered from stomach cancer.'"

**FDR, Dems would be total strangers today**
Martin F. Nolan - San Francisco Chronicle - (April 10, 2005)
"Outside the cottage, violets, dogwood and honeysuckle were in riotous bloom. Inside the 'Little White House' in Warm Springs, Ga., he sat for a portrait, smiling and chatting with female friends and cousins. 'Fifteen minutes more,' he warned the artist, as he anticipated lunch. He then put his hand to his brow, saying, 'I have a terrific headache.'"

**Loud and lively, new museum brings all sides of Lincoln to life**
By Christopher Wills - Chicago Daily Southtown - (April 10, 2005)
"In most museums, Abraham Lincoln is discussed in hushed voices and illustrated with sepia-toned photos and marble statues that give him a saintly air."

**Man says piece of cloth was worn by Abe, honest**
By Jim Suhr - Chicago Sun-Times - (April 10, 2005)
"Twenty years ago, George St. Pierre handed over $10 for a framed scrap of cloth at a secondhand store."

**The Gambler and F.D.R.**
"The Fitzgerald Society is meeting next weekend, and that set me to wondering about Arnold Rothstein, the gambler who is thought to be the inspiration for the character Meyer Wolfsheim in 'The Great Gatsby.' Didn't Rothstein have something to do with Franklin D. Roosevelt's career in New York?"

**Lincoln's legacy**
By Tracy Warner - Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - (April 10, 2005)
"On the 140th anniversary of his assassination, Abraham Lincoln remains beloved and respected, the continued subject of scholarly inquiry and gossip, the presidential role model for both political parties."

**Fatal act draws tourists to Ford Theatre**
By Sylvia A. Smith - Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette - (April 10, 2005)
"On the edge of Chinatown, the Wok n Roll offers casual lunches to Washington's tourists. An observant diner may notice the plaque beneath the cobalt blue canopy: 'Suratt Boarding House & is said to have been where the conspirators plotted the abduction of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln.'"

**Letters give insight to Lincoln's life, times**
By Scott Richardson - Bloomington Pantagraph - (April 10, 2005)
"The brief telegram sent April 15, 1865, to the Bloomington home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Davis came directly to the point: 'Please come at once to Washington & take charge of my father's affairs.'"

**History lessons can be murder**
By Ariel Gonzalez - Miami Herald - (April 10, 2005)
"With the sulky, high-pitched voice of a munchkin blackballed from the Lollipop Guild, Sarah Vowell has regaled NPR listeners for years with her pulverizingly funny takes on the American scene. The incisive light she throws on our foibled past and present is undimmed on the page. Her last two books, Take the Cannoli and The Partly Cloudy Patriot, cut a wide cultural-historical swath, from the Trail of Tears to Buffy the Vampire Slayer. In these mixed bags of essays, Vowell's doggedly curious mind roams footloose and fancy free. Much the same happens in her new work, although this time she wraps her considerable talent around a cohesive theme."

**Author trains sights on presidential shooting sites**

*By Sam McManis - Indianapolis Star - (April 10, 2005)*

"High-school history class would have been way more enjoyable had Sarah Vowell been my teacher."

**FULL TEXT**

**FDR remembered after 60 years as one of America's greatest presidents**

*Column By Theo Lippman Jr. - Baltimore Sun - (April 10, 2005)*

"Tuesday is a double anniversary of note. Sixty years ago on April 12, Franklin D. Roosevelt, thought by many historians to be the greatest American president, died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 63."

**FULL TEXT**

**The Fighter Roosevelt**

*By Jill Brooke - New York Post - (April 10, 2005)*

"One look at Mount Rushmore and it's obvious Theodore Roosevelt's presence looms large in the pantheon of U.S. presidents. His elevated stature as the 26th president was earned for his many accomplishments -- creating national parks, boosting America's international prestige and fighting monopolies so that American ingenuity could flourish by everyone having a 'square deal.'"

**FULL TEXT**

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**Award-winning histories and biographies about Lincoln and FDR:**


Libraries and Museums dedicated to Lincoln and FDR:

Lincoln: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum  
         Lincoln Museum

FDR: Franklin D. Roosevelt American Heritage Center  
     Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum (NARA)

Lincoln and FDR historic sites:

Lincoln: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site (NPS)  
         Ford's Theatre National Historic Site (NPS)  
         Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (NPS)  
         Lincoln Herndon Law Office - Springfield (IHPA)  
         Lincoln Home National Historic Site (NPS)  
         Lincoln Log Cabin (IHPA)  
         Lincoln Memorial National Memorial (NPS)  
         Lincoln Tomb - Springfield (IHPA)  
         Lincoln's New Salem (IHPA)  
         Looking for Lincoln

FDR: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial National Memorial (NPS)  
     Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site (NPS)  
     Roosevelt Campobello International Park (NPS)  
     Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (NPS)

Lincoln and FDR on the web:

Lincoln: Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial 2009  
         Abraham Lincoln Online  
         American Experience: The Time of the Lincolns  
         Chicago Historical Society  
         Lincoln and the Civil War  
         The Lincoln Institute  
         Mr. Lincoln and Freedom  
         Mr. Lincoln and Friends