Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War: An Exhibition

Laura E. Ray
Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, laura.ray@law.csuohio.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/researchguides

Part of the Constitutional Law Commons, and the Legal History Commons

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Repository Citation
https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/researchguides/6

This Web Page is brought to you for free and open access by the Library at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Law Library Research Guides - Archived by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.
Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War: An Exhibition

Guide Information
Last Updated: Jul 11, 2013
Guide URL: http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/lincoln
Description: A selection of resources supplementing the traveling exhibition appearing at the C|M|Law Library January 4 - February 17, 2012.
Tags: abraham lincoln, civil rights, civil war, legal history, slavery
RSS: Subscribe to Updates via RSS

Guide Index
Home
Civil War as Constitutional Crisis
Secession
Slavery
Civil Liberties in Wartime
Lincoln's Legacy
Primary/Additional Sources

Home

About the Exhibition
January 4 - February 17, 2012, the C|M|Law Library hosts the traveling exhibition Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, an examination of how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War - the secession of Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties. The materials highlighted in this guide offer opportunities to further explore the exhibition's themes and assess how Lincoln's struggles still resonate with constitutional issues today. Please contact a research services law librarian for help with locating or using any of the resources discussed in this guide.

The traveling exhibition was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, and made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life.
Lincoln Exhibition Quiz Contest

Test yourself on your knowledge of *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, and earn a chance to win a copy of Mark Neely's *Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation: Constitutional Conflict in the American Civil War*, University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

All correct quizzes will be entered into a drawing for the prize, to be conducted on February 17, 2012.

Please turn your completed quiz into the C|M|Law Library Information Services desk.

One entry per person, please! Click [here](http://guides.law.csuhio.edu/print_content.php?pid=286868&sid=2360136&mode=g) for the quiz.

---

* The National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized the exhibit with the help of a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life. The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.
Exhibition Events at CSU

**Perspectives on Lincoln: The Constitution and Civil War Exhibition Opening**
Thursday, January 19, 2012, 4:30pm-6pm,
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Moot Court Room
1.5 hours free CLE

**MediaSite Recording of this Presentation**

- **David Forte**, Professor of Law - *The Soldier and the Negro*
  - *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896)

- **Dennis Keating**, Levin College of Urban Affairs Distinguished Professor - *Lincoln and Civil Liberty: Suspension of Habeas Corpus*.
  - *PowerPoint presentation*
  - *Lincoln's Suspension of Habeas Corpus article*

- **Lolita Buckner Inniss**, Professor of Law and Joseph C. Hostetler-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law - *Black and White and Re(a)d All Over: The Role of Early Cherokee Newspapers in Promoting the Cherokee Practice of Black Slavery*
  - *Talk Outline*
  - *Excerpt of 1866 Treaty with Cherokee Nation*
  - *Sample Cherokee Phoenix issue*

**Up Close and Personal with Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis**
Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 3:30pm-5pm, Waetjen Auditorium

A reenactment of Abraham Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address, as well as *Lincoln's Last Debate: Confrontation at Hampton Roads*, a one-act play in which Lincoln and Davis are interviewed by a Cleveland Plain Dealer reporter in 1865.

- **Mel Maurer**, Lincoln Reenactor and Past-President of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
- **William Vodrey**, Past-President of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
- **John Fazio**, Past-President of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
Civil War as Constitutional Crisis

Exhibition Theme

"In 1861 the issue of slavery precipitated a national crisis framed largely in terms of constitutional issues. The framers of the Constitution had left unanswered some basic questions about the nature of the federal Union they had created: Was the United States truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of sovereign and separate states? How could a country founded on the belief that 'all men are created equal' tolerate slavery? In a national crisis, would civil liberties be secure? ... Abraham Lincoln's election as the nation's first anti-slavery president brought the nation to the brink of war." [American Library Association Overview of Exhibition Themes]

Image

The image here is The Union is Dissolved, a December 20, 1860 Charleston Mercury Extra, and courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.
Selkected Materials in the C|M|L aw and CSU Michael Schwartz Libraries


Secession

Exhibition Theme

“Southern secessionists believed they had the right to withdraw their states' ratification of the Constitution and dissolve their connection to the Union. Northerners ... believed that when the Constitution was ratified, a united people had established an indivisible nation. Lincoln believed that state secession was unconstitutional and undemocratic.” [American Library Association Overview of Exhibition Themes]

Image

The image here is The Pending Conflict, published in Harper's Weekly in 1863, and courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.
Selected Materials in the C|M|Law and CSU Michael Schwartz Libraries


Slavery

Exhibition Theme

"Lincoln believed that slavery was immoral, but he shared many of the racial prejudices of his day. His policy preferences about slavery and abolition evolved over time." [American Library Association Overview of Exhibition Themes]

Image

The image here is *Freedom To The Slave*, an 1863 Union army recruitment broadside, and courtesy of the [Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.](http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/print_content.php?pid=286868&sid=2360136&mode=g)
Civil Liberties in Wartime

Exhibition Theme

*Lincoln claimed extraordinary powers in order to control the chaos of dissent during the Civil War. He suspended the writ of habeas corpus - the provision in the Constitution that protects citizens against arbitrary arrests. ... Lincoln was denounced as a tyrant by his political foes. He struggled throughout the war to...*
find the appropriate balance between national security and individual rights."

[American Library Association Overview of Exhibition Themes]

Image

The image here is *The Lexington of 1861*, an 1861 Currier & Ives lithograph depicting the attack on Union troops in Baltimore, and courtesy of the *Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division*. After this attack, President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and declared martial law.

![Image of The Lexington of 1861](image-url)

Selected Materials in the C|M|Law and CSU Michael Schwartz Libraries


Lincoln's Legacy

Exhibition Theme

"Lincoln's fight to save the Union transformed the nation and the Constitution. Lincoln's presidency left a legacy of ideals for our nation to live up to - equality, freedom and democracy."

[American Library Association Overview of Exhibition Themes]

Image

The image here is a November 8, 1863 portrait of President Abraham Lincoln, and courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.
**Selected Materials in the C|M|Law and CSU Michael Schwartz Libraries**


---

**Back to Top**

**Primary/Additional Sources**

**Primary Resources**

**Selected Materials in the C|M|Law and CSU Michael Schwartz Libraries:**


Northern Editorials on Secession / Howard Cecil Perkins, ed. Peter Smith, c1964.  E440.5 .P45 1964


Web-Based Materials:

Emancipation Proclamation (Proclamation 95 - Regarding the Status of Slaves in States Engaged in Rebellion Against the United States, January 1, 1863)

Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1865

Amendment XIII to The U.S. Constitution (passed by Congress January 31, 1865; ratified December 6, 1865)

Constitution of the Confederate States, March 11, 1861

Image

The image here is of The Gettysburg Address owned by John George Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary, and courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.
Additional Resources

**Civil War & Antebellum Era Web-Based Primary Materials**
Provides links to documents, reports, newspapers, journals, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, images of realia, and other primary materials from the Antebellum and Civil War era in the United States.

**Slavery & Reconstruction Law Research Guide**
Researching Slavery and Reconstruction Law can specifically help one understand a wide assortment of constitutional, sovereignty, federal executive authority, jurisdictional, civil rights, and voting rights issues. This guide discusses treatises, periodicals, interdisciplinary research, and Web resources.

**Abraham Lincoln Association**
Nonprofit organization formed "to observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and to actively encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career." Provides links to the full text of *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Association journals, and other Association publications.

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**
Nonprofit organization formed "to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the study of the life and times of Abraham Lincoln and Illinois history." Provides such information as how to interlibrary loan materials from its Library and pdf links to reference materials in its Collection.

**U.S. Library of Congress: American Memory: Abraham Lincoln Papers**
Searchable collection of approximately 20,000 documents from 1833 through 1916; most from the 1850s through 1865.

Back to Top

Powered by [Springshare](http://springshare.com); All rights reserved. [Report a tech support issue](http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/report-technical-support).