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Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War: An Exhibition

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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

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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 Video

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.csuohio.edu/print_content.php?pid=286868&sid=2360136&mode=) 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*. 

http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/print_content.php?pid=286868&sid=2360136&mode=g
Selected Materials in the C|M|Law and CSU Mischael 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=gr).
**Selected Materials in the C|M|Law and CSU Michael Schwartz Libraries**

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<td>The Dred Scott Case: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on</td>
<td>David Thomas Konig, Paul Finkelman, and Christopher Alan Bracey, eds.</td>
<td>Ohio University Press, c2010. [Law KF228 .S27 D74 2010]</td>
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**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](https://www.loc.gov/item/98507478/). After this attack, President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and declared martial law.

![The Lexington of 1861](https://www.loc.gov/item/98507478/)

**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


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.