

# BETWEEN THE STACKS

AUTUMN 2009

## *“Forever Free” Traveling Exhibit*

The New Bern-Craven County Public Library is one of only sixty-three libraries nationwide selected to host "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation."

This traveling exhibit will be on display at the library from November 15th, 2009 through January 6th, 2010.

“Forever Free” examines President Lincoln's thoughts about slavery throughout his political career and the conditions which led to the Emancipation Proclamation. It traces Lincoln's gradual transformation from an antislavery moderate into "The Great Emancipator," who freed slaves with a war-time proclamation in 1863.

Organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City, in cooperation with the American Library Association Public Programs Office (ALA), the exhibition is made possible through major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Congress and charged with planning the national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday.

“Forever Free” draws upon original

documents in the collections of the Huntington Library and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

“We are honored to have been selected as a site for this exhibition” said Librarian Joanne Straight. “People of all ages from fourth grade students to senior citizens read and study the causes and events of the Civil War.

Local history, including the development of James City, a community established for freed black slaves, will also be examined in programs and through a collection of documents and artifacts on loan from Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, New Bern Historical Society and the James City Historical.

Free tours of New Bern Battlefield Park, including an encampment, will be offered by the New Bern Historical Society from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, November 21. Battlefield Park is located off Highway 70 East in Taberna.

A series of lectures and other programs are planned in conjunction with the exhibit. See related articles in this newsletter or check the library's website at <http://newbern.cpclub.org>. Contact the Reference Desk for more information at 252-638-7807.

### **BETWEEN THE STACKS**

- ◆ Published by the New Bern-Craven County Public Library as a service to let you know what is going on @ your library.



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Lincolns to Visit</i>	2
<i>Robert E. Lee Lecture</i>	2
<i>James City Lecture</i>	2
<i>Book Sale</i>	3
<i>William Henry Singleton Lecture</i>	3
<i>Librarian's Letter</i>	4
<i>YA News</i>	5

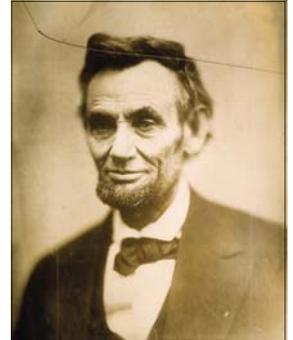
## *President and Mrs. Lincoln to Visit Library*

“Lighting the Path to Freedom”

Meet President and Mrs. Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and Aunt Rachael, a freed slave in the library auditorium at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 22. These four determined individuals, despite divergent backgrounds and opinions on slavery, became an unstoppable force for freedom. Join us as they share their thoughts and ideas that forever changed this country. We wish to extend a special note of appreciation to character interpreters Paul Switzer, Alma Gibbons,

Marshall Williams and Pamela Ward for donating their time to make history come alive. John Leys will moderate the event.

This is a Forever Free Exhibit Program.



ONE OF THE LAST PHOTOGRAPHS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN FROM LIFE, TAKEN BY ALEXANDER GARDNER IN SPRING, 1865. (COURTESY, HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA)

DID YOU KNOW...

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WAS THE FIRST

PRESIDENT TO

OBTAIN A PATENT?

[FACTS ABOUT THE

PRESIDENTS, P. 98]

## *Joseph Glatthaar to present Robert E. Lee Lecture*

Join the Friends of the Library on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. for a lecture on “Robert E. Lee, the Army of Northern Virginia and Confederate Defeat” by Dr. Joseph Glatthaar. Glatthaar, a renowned historian, is Stephenson Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is author of

numerous books and articles, including: *General Lee’s Army: From Victory to Collapse and Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and Their White Officers.*

This is a Forever Free Exhibit Program.

## *Program on History of James City*

Author and historian, Joe Mobley, will deliver a lecture on the history of James City on Saturday, December 5 at 2 p.m.

James City began as a settlement for slaves seeking freedom and protection within Union lines during the Civil War. From that time until 1900, James City according to Mobley, “remained a cohesive black community whose inhabitants struggled collectively to secure an economic and political

foothold.”

Joe Mobley, a former administrator with the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, is currently a faculty member in the Department of History at North Carolina State University. He also wrote a number of books and articles related to the history of North Carolina including *James City: A Black Community in North Carolina, 1863-1900.*

This is a Forever Free Exhibit Program.

## *Friends of the Library Book Sale*

The Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library fall book-sale returns to the Sudan Shrine Center on the corner of Broad Street and East Front Street beginning Friday, October 16th. Sale hours are Friday and Saturday, October 16th and 17th from 9 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, October 18th from 2 PM to 5 PM.

The selection of materials, which includes hard cover and paperback books for adults and children, records and videos, fills more than

twenty tables.

The library accepts donations of books and other materials in good to excellent condition during our hours of operation. At our discretion, donated items may be added to the library collection, offered to the Friends of the Library or discarded. Unused gifts cannot be returned to the donor. We are unable to accept textbooks, magazines, condensed books, or items that are soiled, torn, moldy or damp.

## *William Henry Singleton Program*

The New Bern-Craven County Public Library will present a lecture titled, "William Henry Singleton's Recollections of My Slavery Days: A North Carolina Slave's View of the Civil War and its Legacies" on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7 p.m., with Dr. Katherine Mellon Charron

In 1922, William Henry Singleton, a former slave and Union Army veteran, published an autobiography that provides a fascinating glimpse of life in a North Carolina coastal city and rural neighborhood.

Born a slave in 1843 in New Bern, Singleton grew up on a remote coastal plantation at Garbacon Creek. During a meeting with President Lincoln in the summer of 1862 he urged the president to sanction black military service. It was not until May 1863 that Singleton's dream of fighting as a Union soldier was finally realized. He enlisted in New Bern as a sergeant in the 35th United States Colored Troops.

Katherine Mellen Charron, Assistant Professor of History at North Carolina,

Proceeds from previous book-sales have funded children's and adult programs including the annual Dickens program and the summer reading program. The Friends have also purchased books and equipment including encyclopedias, computers, preservation supplies and an electronic keyboard.

Membership applications for the Friends of the Library are available at the library's main desk.

explores what Singleton's narrative reveals about a place and the people in it, about slavery and freedom, and the bridge between the two. Dr. Charron and David Cecelski edited the 1999 reissue of *Recollections of My Slavery Days*.

This program is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This is also a Forever Free Exhibit Program.

DID YOU KNOW...

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO WEAR A BEARD, WHICH HE BEGAN TO GROW JUST AFTER HIS 1860 ELECTION?

[FACTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTS, P. 99]

## From the Librarian's Desk



This is an exciting time for the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. Several special programs

are offered in conjunction with the national traveling exhibit "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation". The exhibit served as the impetus to put together programs that not only look at national events but also explore our local history. The full schedule of exhibit programs is described elsewhere in this newsletter.

We want to thank the New Bern Historical Society, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens and the James City Historical Society for their assistance with displays and exhibit programs.

A generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation allowed us to purchase several laptop computers that will be used for computer instruction and library programs. Utilizing laptop computers for instruction allows us to move the classes to a separate room which will be less disruptive for both the class members and users of the adult reading area. Additional grant funds will enable us to replace nine of the oldest public desktop computers.

The Gates Foundation Opportunity Online grant is a two year grant that requires a 50% match by the library. Craven County will provide \$5,000 of our required \$9,282 match. We will rely

on donations and fund raising to meet the balance of our obligation due by March 2010.

The Friends of the Library designated September 14-19, 2009 as Staff Recognition Week. They treated all staff members to a delicious buffet luncheon in the library auditorium on September 16. Hayden Jones was recognized for 47 years of service.

The winter newsletter will provide more details about upcoming spring programs that include North Carolina mystery

## Lincoln's Final Years

Dr. David Long will discuss "Lincoln's Approach to Immortality: The Final Years of Abraham Lincoln" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 in the library auditorium.

Dr. Long, an associate professor of history at East Carolina University, spent twelve years as a trial lawyer and prosecutor. This legal experience provides rare insight into Lincoln's development and the influence of his earlier career in advocacy.

Long is the author of *The Jewel of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln's Re-election and the End of Slavery*, which was nominated for five of the most prestigious prizes in the field of U.S. history including the Pulitzer Prize and the Lincoln Prize. He has also published articles for journals including *Civil War His-*

DID YOU KNOW...

ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS THE TALLEST  
PRESIDENT AT 6  
FEET 4 INCHES?

[FACTS ABOUT THE  
PRESIDENTS, P. 344]

## Young Adult News

The school year has begun, and the Young Adult Program at New Bern-Craven County Public Library is off and running! We've already had our first TRAIN (Teenage Readers Active in New Bern) meeting, and with both old friends and new faces, we should have a great group for this year.



TRAIN is a teen advisory board for the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. We are always looking for teens to make a difference in our library. TRAIN members help make purchasing suggestions to add to the young adult collection, provide information for the young adult Web page, and to organize special events and programs. There are very few opportunities in the community for teens to be on an advisory board for an organization. Participation in TRAIN is a good experience as well as a great way to rack up community service hours for various school requirements. Board members can include this activity on college and scholarship applications. The monthly meetings are very informal. Refreshments are provided during the discussions. The meetings are held from 10 to 11 a.m. one Saturday each month at the library. The next 3 meetings will be held October 3, October 31 and November 28. Please call and let the Young Adult Coordinator know if you plan to attend 638-7815. We can also be found online at <http://ya-train.webs.com> or on Facebook

Book Club has been meeting through September, studying C.S. Lewis and discussing both his life and work. This group meets Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 pm in the Conference Room. We read ahead and talk it out, and even occasionally watch a related movie.

Throughout October, we will be looking at Roald Dahl, his life and his works, in particular his short story collections. I'm excited to share the more diverse works for which he is responsible, and the dark comedy of his short stories fits perfectly with the spooky Halloween

season! Going into November, we will begin reading *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane, in preparation for a movie night on December 14 at 7:00 pm in the Children's Mini-Theater.

Teen Read Week is October 18-24. Drop in and check out all the new programs, events and BOOKS we have! There may even be prizes! (hint-hint!) Speaking of November, we're planning another Sleepless in the Stacks lock-in! We know you can't tear yourself away from the exhilaration of scamming candy off of unsuspecting neighbors, so instead of Halloween weekend, we're having a Masquerade Party/Lock-In from November 7 at 7:00 pm until November 8 at 9:00 am. Anyone aged 13-18 is welcome—we always have a great time! It's a costume party, with pizza, ice cream, games, crafts and spooky movies! Really, how could you even think of missing it!? Registration forms will be available in the Children's Department starting October 26, and must be turned in BEFORE Thursday, November 5.

The New Bern Craven County Public Library has been selected to host a traveling exhibit on Abraham Lincoln from November 15, 2009-January 6, 2010. In addition to a number of fantastic educational activities the library itself has planned, the Young Adult program is also planning a mock debate. We will learn about the process and hold a debate on the causes of the Civil War on Thursday, November 19 from 5-7 pm in the historic New Bern Civic Theatre. Anyone interested in participating in this program should contact Krissy Boccia at 638-7815 or [kboccia@nbccpl.org](mailto:kboccia@nbccpl.org) as soon as possible!

So from now until the new year, there are tons of things for you to do here at the library! What are you waiting for?

**NEW BERN-CRAVEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## *Schedule of Events*

400 Johnson Street  
New Bern, NC 28560  
Phone: 252-638-7800  
E-mail: nbpublib@yahoo.com

*October 3—TRAIN Advisory Board Meeting, 10 a.m.*

*October 3—“African-American Genealogy: Challenges and Rewards” a lecture by Dorothy S. Redford, 2:30 p.m.*

*October 16-18—Friends of the Library Book Sale, Sudan Shrine Temple*

*October 18-24—Teen Read Week*

*October 20 and October 22—“Researching Your Civil War Ancestor” by Victor T. Jones, Jr., 7 p.m. (Oct. 20) and 3:00 (Oct 22).*

*October 25—“Robert E. Lee, The Army of Northern Virginia and Confederate Defeat” with Joseph Glatthaar, 3 p.m.*

*October 31—TRAIN Advisory Board Meeting, 10 a.m.*

*November 7-8—Masquerade Party/Library Lock-In for YA, 7 p.m.– 9 a.m.*

*November 15—“Lincoln’s Approach to Immortality: The Final Years of Abraham Lincoln” with David Long, 3 p.m.*

*Forever Free Traveling Exhibit opens and runs through January 6.*

*November 19—“Welcome to Addy’s World...Growing Up During America’s Civil War” Children’s Story Hour, 4:00 p.m. (Mini-Theater)*

*November 19—YA Debate: Causes of the Civil War, New Bern Civic Theatre, 5 p.m.*

*November 21—Free Tours of New Bern Battlefield Park, 12-4 p.m.*

*November 22—Lighting the Path to Freedom Character Interpretations with Paul Switzer, Alma Gibbons, Marshall Williams, and Pamela Ward, 3 p.m.*

*November 28—TRAIN Advisory Board Meeting, 10 a.m.*

*December 3—“Soldiers, Spies and Angels” Children’s Story Hour, 4:00 p.m. (Mini-Theater).*

*December 5—“James City: A Black Community in North Carolina” with Joe Mobley, 2 p.m.*

*December 10—“Follow the Drinking Gourd” Children’s Story Hour, 4:00 p.m. (Mini-Theater).*

*December 14—YA Movie: Red Badge of Courage, 7 p.m. (Mini-Theater)*

*January 5—“William Henry Singleton’s Recollections of My Slavery Days: A North Carolina Slave’s View of the Civil War and its Legacies” with Katherine Mellon Charron, 7 p.m.*