

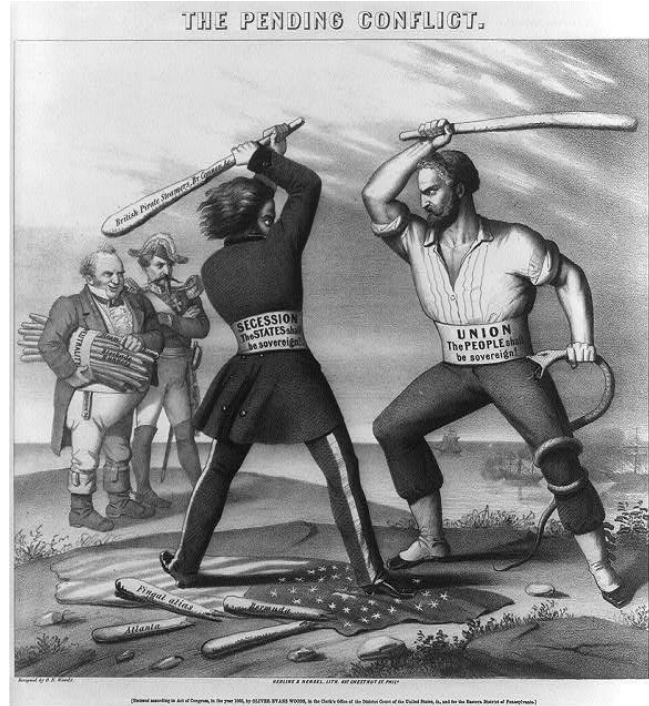
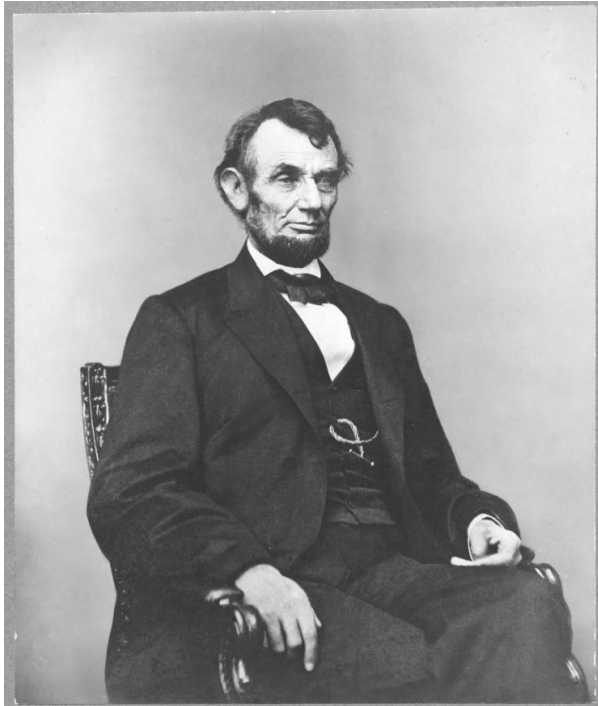
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Editor: Please do not delete sponsorship credits in paragraph four.

## Florida Keys Community College’s Library to Host Nationally-Traveling “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War”



*Images Courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division*

Left: This portrait of President Abraham Lincoln was used as a model for the engraved bust of the president that appeared on the United States five dollar bill for many years.

Right: Secession vs. Union illustration, *Harper’s Weekly*, 1863. Secession raised fundamental questions about what sort of nation the Constitution had created. Were the states sovereign, or were the people? Ultimately the war decided the question.

KEY WEST, FL, February 1, 2011—Just in time for President’s Day, Florida Keys Community College’s Library will host “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War,” a traveling exhibit that examines how President Abraham Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War—the secession of the Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. Beginning with an opening reception on February 17, the FKCC Library is sponsoring a series of free Lincoln-centric lectures and activities led by FKCC faculty, guest professors, and Monroe County Public Library representatives. Additional events will be ongoing during the exhibit’s visit through March 25.

“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” is composed of informative panels featuring photographic reproductions of original documents, including a draft of Lincoln’s first inaugural speech, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment. With help from the Monroe County Public Library, the FKCC Library will also present the local angle of this historically-poignant period with a photograph collection depicting Civil War-era Key West.

“We’re delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition,” said FKCC Library Director Juana Careaga. “This collection provides more than just a wealth of historical information about the different aspects of Lincoln’s presidency. More importantly, the exhibit helps visitors understand why Lincoln’s struggle with the Constitution still matters today.”

The FKCC Library is one of only 50 libraries in the United States that “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” will visit. The traveling exhibition was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office, and has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life. “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

The FKCC Library is located on the second floor of building A on the Key West Campus. A full list of events is available at <http://library.fkcc.edu>. For more information about the Lincoln exhibit or the programs, please call 305-809-3194. The exhibition and all programs are open to the public and free of charge.

### **LIST OF EVENTS:**

- Friday, February 11:
  - Cupcakes will be served in celebration of Honest Abe’s Birthday (Feb 12)
- Thursday, February 17 at 9:30a.m.
  - Santa Fe College History Professor David Tegeder will present a lecture on the historical context of Lincoln and his constitutional legacy
  - FKCC Student Government Association Presentation
  - FKCC College Reach Out Program (C.R.O.P.) students will present “Lincoln and the African American Dream.”
- Friday, February 18 at 10:00a.m.
  - Santa Fe College History Professor Douglas W. Klepper will speak on the exploration of the history of slavery in the Atlantic World and beyond.
- Tuesday, February 22 9:30a.m. and 6:00p.m. in room A210
  - Showing of the film “Glory” (1989), the story of a volunteer company of African-American soldiers who fought for the Union during the Civil War.
- Thursday, February 24 at 12:00p.m.
  - FKCC English Professor Pat Silcox will lead a Literary Book Club Discussion focusing on Lincoln in Literature.
- Thursday, March 3 at 10:00a.m.
  - FKCC History Professor Sharon Farrell will discuss the Abolitionist movement, along with the democratic ideologies of the era, and Abraham Lincoln’s complex and evolving stance on slavery.
- Thursday, March 10 at 5:30p.m.
  - Monroe County Public Library’s Historian Tom Hambright will present an illustrated lecture on Key West in the Civil War.
- Monday, March 21 at 5:30p.m.
  - Nancy Klingener, journalist, Assistant Librarian at Monroe County Public Library, and previous FKCC library specialist, will lead a discussion on the role of the press in the 19th century and how it compares with the media today.

## **ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:**

“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” is a traveling exhibition that examines 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.

Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of America’s greatest presidents, but his historical reputation is contested. Was he a calculating politician willing to accommodate slavery, or a principled leader justly celebrated as the Great Emancipator? This exhibition provides no easy answers. Rather, it encourages visitors to form a nuanced view of Lincoln by engaging them with Lincoln’s struggle to reconcile his policy preferences with basic American ideals of liberty and equality. This exhibition develops a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation’s gravest constitutional crisis.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in 1860, at a time when the nation was on the brink of war. Lincoln struggled to resolve the basic questions that divided Americans at the most perilous moment in the nation’s history: 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? President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront these three crises of war, ultimately reinventing the Constitution and the promise of American life.

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