

February 2011

Columbus Metropolitan Library Highlights Lincoln's Columbus Connection

By Bonnie Chandler, Manager, Genealogy, History & Travel Division
Columbus Metropolitan Library

Abraham Lincoln made several trips to Columbus throughout the course of his professional life. He came first to Columbus in 1849 as a lawyer to plead a case before the Ohio Supreme Court involving a river steamboat collision along the Ohio River. Ten years later in 1859, he campaigned in Columbus for William Dennison, Republican candidate for Ohio Governor. In 1861, Lincoln passed through Columbus on his way to Washington, DC for his inauguration. It was while he was in Columbus that he learned the electoral ballots were counted and the election was official – he had won the presidency. The saddest occasion was his last trip through Columbus when his funeral train passed through on its way to Lincoln's final resting place in Springfield, IL. On April 29, 1865 at 7:30 a.m., the train arrived at Union Depot. Lincoln's coffin lay in the rotunda of at the Statehouse for seven hours while 50,000 people paid final tribute.



Learn more about Lincoln in Columbus and what the city was like during the Civil War era through a documentary entitled "*Lincoln: the Columbus Connection.*" The presentation will be on view in the atrium of the [Columbus Metropolitan Library](#) (CML) Main Library along with a display of circulating books on Lincoln and the Civil War. This display will run in conjunction with the State Library of Ohio's *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation* exhibit, March 7-April 15.

Besides biographies of Lincoln and books on the Civil War, CML's collection includes other valuable and interesting resources from the 1850-1860s. The Main Library holdings contain three Civil War era newspapers: *The Columbus Gazette* 1856-1867; the *Crisis* 1864-1871, an Anti-Civil War paper published by Copperhead Sam Medary; and the *Ohio State Journal* 1827-1959. Maps of Columbus from 1856 and 1872 give one a feel for the scope and layout of the city.

One book of note in the collection is Whitelaw Reid's *Ohio in the Civil War*, one of the seminal works written on Ohio's involvement in the War.

Genealogists and others may be interested in information about Camp Chase, the Confederate prisoner of war camp and cemetery that resides in the Hilltop neighborhood. The collection contains several histories and the *Camp Chase registers – selected records of the War Dept relating to Confederate Prisoner of War, 1861-1865* on microfilm. The Library also has copies of the Ohio Roster of Soldiers from the Civil War and regimental histories.

Historic images of Columbus can be found on [Columbus Memory](#), a recently launched digital repository of Columbus history. This project was done in conjunction with the Columbus Historical Society and was made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the State Library of Ohio.

Photo: Bust of Lincoln housed at the Columbus Metropolitan Library by sculptor Richard Hamilton Parks in 1886.

<http://library.ohio.gov/marketing/Newsletters/TheNews/2011/February/CMLdisplay>