



150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address

Here in Gettysburg, we welcome the winter weather because it means the annual celebration of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on November 19, as well as a lavish parade of reenactors on the nearest weekend.

This year, of course, is the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's famous address, and the town is gearing up for a big celebration. For weeks before and after the dedication ceremonies, there are book-signings, special tours of Lincoln sites in town, train rides, guest speakers, living history events, special movie showings, and, of course, the reenactment of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in the national cemetery.

On November 19, there will be a reenactment of the address in the national cemetery, which is part of the Gettysburg National Military Park. Keynote speakers (besides Lincoln, portrayed by James Getty) this year are U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson. [Click here](#) for a full list of activities.

Want to celebrate along with us in November? If you can't be in Gettysburg, you can have your own party and serve some of Lincoln's favorite foods.

While his tastes were simple--fresh fruits (especially apples), nuts, cheese and crackers--Lincoln did like some cooked dishes. His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln worried that Abe did not eat enough, but she could entice him with chicken fricassee, apple pie, cornbread drizzled with honey, or oyster stew. Lincoln's favorite food, however, was gingerbread.

NOVEMBER 2013

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FUN FACTS

President Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863 at the urging of Sarah Josepha Hale, whose letters to Lincoln urged him to have the "day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival." Sarah is best known as the author of the poem, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

When we lived in Washington, we arranged a Lincoln-themed reception at the National Portrait Gallery for a preview of the Hal Holbrook television mini-series, *Carl Sandburg's Lincoln*. Trying to find foods for the party was a challenge, since Lincoln did not seek out special foods. Someone suggested we call the White House to get Lincoln's inaugural menus, so we did, only to find that they did not reflect Lincoln's tastes so much as they copied the fashionable foods of the times-mainly French cuisine. Mrs. Lincoln always wanted to show that she and the President were not back-woods folk, so she arranged elegant and lavish menus for the President's inaugural events.

It must be the cold weather making us hungry for good hot soups, homemade bread and stews. We promise that next month's newsletter will share some fun recipes from leaders we study in our programs. You can always count on General (and great chef) Eisenhower for some hearty meat dishes, and we'll see what Eleanor Roosevelt served in the White House during those tough Depression years. For our fish-loving readers, we'll pull out some Lewis & Clark recipes, too.

The Lincoln penny was first issued in 1909 to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday. It was the first American coin to bear a president's image on its face.

BACK ISSUES

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