



Kevin J. Wood
Portrayals of President Abraham Lincoln
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Lincoln as Story-Teller

Program for Libraries, Senior Residences, Community Groups, Etc.

President Abraham Lincoln shares about our nation's history and his own personal history by way of some of his favorite stories and jokes. Mr. Lincoln sometimes told these simply to entertain, but more often than not, when he would begin "That reminds me of a little story...", there were other reasons, too. He might wish to illustrate a point, to relieve tension, or to distract from the difficulties and hard realities of life, especially in the midst of the Civil War. As he told his Cabinet, "With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh occasionally I should die, and you need this medicine as much as I do".

Mr. Lincoln's stories and jokes speak to those common and everyday human experiences to which his audience can readily relate. They will make you laugh, but many will also cause you to reflect on life, people, and the world we live in.

This program is most appropriate for adults and for older youth/teenagers (recommended for 12 years old on up); younger children are still welcome, but they likely won't understand some of Mr. Lincoln's puns and jokes. It runs one hour and is followed by an additional time of Q&A, photos, and informal interaction. It is also available virtually, whether live via video conferencing (Zoom) or live-streaming (Facebook Live or YouTube Live) or as a pre-recorded video. And it is also available in Spanish (*Lincoln como cuentacuentos*).

Mr. Lincoln is portrayed by Kevin Wood, a professional Lincoln presenter who bears a remarkable resemblance to "the Great Emancipator" and who is extremely knowledgeable about his life and times. Mr. Wood has been portraying Mr. Lincoln since the year 2000, and on a professional basis since 2015. He has made over 2,300 appearances in 33 states plus Washington DC and two foreign countries: Canada and Spain. Mr. Wood also writes an occasional blog – "*Loath to Close... Still!*" – which encourages others to reflect upon and learn from President Lincoln's life and legacy. For more information, visit www.mrlincoln.com.