

# Electronic News Update from the Michigan Council for History Education February 12, 2009, Vol. VI, No. 7

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This "Special Issue" of MCHE E Notes is sent because I just learned the dates for the Michigan Humanities Council Touring Grant Application, received more great Lincoln sites from Colonial Williamsburg's E-news, learned about a fascinating MYSTERY photo from the State Archives, some updated program info. and some great material from Annenberg Media. (And a last minute promo for a Sunday, Feb. 8th, program in Lansing at end) My thanks to those of you who provided me with this information and best wishes to all.

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Editor, MCHE E Notes

NOTE: pdf attachment contains same content as message below.

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### **1. Tues., Feb. 23, "Mulling Over Michigan," Lansing**

Held at the Lansing Community College MTEC-West Campus, Mulling Over Michigan features 12 different sessions, time to visit with Michigan history exhibitors, conference materials and refreshments. Registration and exhibits open at 3:00pm and concludes at 6:30pm. "Mulling" is an educational conference of the Historical Society of Michigan. To download a schedule and description or to register online, visit [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

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### **2. Thurs., March 12, "His Soul Goes Marching On---John Brown, Frederick Douglass, Detroit, and the Path to Freedom" Seminar, Dr. Wright Museum, Detroit**

This seminar is co-sponsored by the Museum of African American History, the University of Michigan-Dearborn History Dept., and the Michigan Historical Commission. The date marks the 150th anniversary of the historic meeting between John Brown and Frederick Douglass in Detroit. For more info (After Feb. 9th), call Margaret Royal at 313.494.5813 or email [mroyal@maah-detroit.org](mailto:mroyal@maah-detroit.org) or visit [www.maah-detroit.org](http://www.maah-detroit.org)

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### **3. Thurs., March 19, "Barack Obama in History" by H.W. Brands, Hauenstein Center, *Gerald R. Ford Museum Auditorium, Grand Rapids,***

Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Ford Foundation, Library & Museum present bestselling author H. W. Brands on "Barack Obama in History." Reservations are required for this free program. As Americans watched Barack Obama take the oath of office on January 20, political commentators drew lofty comparisons between the new president and some of his most revered predecessors: Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. What is the basis for these comparisons? How does President Obama's historic moment compare to his predecessors'? Historian H. W. Brands will answer these questions and others as he considers the campaign, election, and transition of our 44th president into the White House, along with President Obama's earliest days in office. For more info or to reserve your seat, visit [www.allpresidents.org](http://www.allpresidents.org)

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### **4. State Archives posts MYSTERY image for Presidents Day.**

Our new image was selected to honor Presidents Day. I call it "Three Presidents and a Governor." For details, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/aqmlrq> This image represents a bit of a mystery. We can plainly see that it features four

prominent individuals: The Archives of Michigan, however, has no data to indicate when the photo was taken. Anyone possessing information on the photo - or who knows of any other occasion when these four men appeared together - is encouraged to contact Bob Garrett at the Archives of Michigan via e-mail at [garrettr1@michigan.gov](mailto:garrettr1@michigan.gov) or by calling 517-241-1382.

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### **5. 2009 Grants to Bring a Musician, Artist, or Exhibit to Your Community**

Some of Michigan's most talented performing and visual artists and humanities presenters are available to come to your community. The Arts & Humanities Touring Program awards grants to help support the fees and expenses of 248 performers and humanities presenters listed in Michigan's 2006–2009 Arts & Humanities Touring Directory. The next application period for Arts & Humanities Touring Programs will start on Wednesday, February 25 and end on Tuesday, March 10. For an application and details, visit [www.michiganhumanities.org](http://www.michiganhumanities.org) today!

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### **6. Teaching News from Colonial Williamsburg on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial**

Did you know that February 12, 2009 is the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth? If you're looking for information, primary sources, and instructional materials on our 16th president, try the following sites:

- Abraham Lincoln Learning Page (Library of Congress)  
[http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc\\_lincoln.php](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_lincoln.php)
- Teaching with Lincoln (Teaching with Primary Sources Consortium) [www.teachingwithlincoln.com/](http://www.teachingwithlincoln.com/)
- One Life: The Mask of Lincoln (National Portrait Gallery) [www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/lincoln/index.html](http://www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/lincoln/index.html)
- Abraham Lincoln (EDSitement, NEH) <http://edsitement.neh.gov/spotlight.asp?id=138>
- Lincoln 200 Years (C-SPAN) [www.c-span.org/lincoln200years/](http://www.c-span.org/lincoln200years/)
- Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission [www.abrahamlincoln200.org/learning-about-lincoln/teaching-with-lincoln.aspx?ekmense=c580fa7b\\_14\\_320\\_btnlink](http://www.abrahamlincoln200.org/learning-about-lincoln/teaching-with-lincoln.aspx?ekmense=c580fa7b_14_320_btnlink)

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### **7. In the Spotlight for February with Annenberg Media.**

#### **HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY TO LINCOLN AND DARWIN \*\*\***

> The Web site for American Passages: A Literary Survey offers this biographical sketch of President Lincoln as an author <<http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit07/authors-8.html>>. Search the archive to find photos and portraits of President Lincoln, as well as other Lincoln-related artifacts.

> Who freed the slaves? This question is asked and answered in Primary Sources: Workshops in American History Workshop 4, "Concerning Emancipation"

<<http://www.learner.org/workshops/primarysources/emancipation/introduction.html>>. Much focus is on Lincoln, who played a major role. Click on "Before You Watch" for links to several of Lincoln's speeches and letters.

> See the Evaluating Evidence interactive <<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/interactives/>> on the Web site for America's History in the Making. The interactive features Lincoln's first and second inaugural addresses, the Gettysburg Address, the "House Divided" speech, and Lincoln's open letter to Horace Greely, as well as other artifacts from the era.

> A Biography of America Program 11, "The Civil War" <<http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog11/>>, includes discussion of Abraham Lincoln in the context of the Civil War and its aftermath.

#### **Washington's Birthday (February 16)**

Federal law designates the third Monday in February as the official observance of the birthday of Washington, recognized as the first President of the United States of America.

> Explore Units 4 and 6 of America's History in the Making <<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/>> to gain a better understanding of the role and times of George Washington. From this page

<<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/4/addtlResources/#THist>> on the site, link to a 2005 radio program about Washington and his evolution toward freeing his slaves. Also see this teaching unit on George Washington in PDF format <[http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/pdf/GWashington\\_LOne.pdf](http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/pdf/GWashington_LOne.pdf)> from the National Center for History in the Schools.

> Read George Washington's "Letter to Thomas Jefferson"

<[http://www.learner.org/courses/democracyinamerica/dia\\_12/dia\\_12\\_readings.html](http://www.learner.org/courses/democracyinamerica/dia_12/dia_12_readings.html)> in the readings for Democracy in America, Unit 12.

## **Black History Month**

The theme for this year's Black History Month is "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas."

> Add to your knowledge of history with America's History in the Making

<<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/>>, which covers slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and 20th century developments. Program 20, "Egalitarian America," discusses efforts to end race-based discrimination.

> Learn new details about American history from A Biography of America

<<http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/>>. The series covers the periods before, during, and after slavery as well as the Civil Rights Movement and other eras. Explore the Web site for interactive activities.

> Learn how to incorporate actual documents (i.e., slave bill of sale documents) into the teaching of historical literature at the high school level. Watch Artifacts & Fiction: Workshop in American Literature Workshop 3, "Social History" <<http://www.learner.org/workshops/artifacts/sessions.php?s=3>>, and use the Web-based materials to develop lessons on the writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe and other authors.

**NOTE:** The above items are copied from the Annenberg Media free February email. Each month, subscribers receive a message highlighting the news, events, and programming of Annenberg Media, as well as ideas for using their resources in the classroom. If you wish to subscribe to this list, please send email to <<mailto:updates-subscribe@learner.org>>.

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## **8. UPDATE: Sun., Feb. 8, 2 p.m., "I've Got A Home In Glory Land" free program featuring Karolyn Smardz Frost , Michigan Historical Center, Lansing**

This fascinating book (I read it two years ago.) is an account of the experiences of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, two Kentucky slaves who made a daring escape, only to be recaptured in Michigan. Just before the Blackburns were to be returned to Kentucky, the local black community in southeastern Michigan rallied to their cause. The Blackburn Riots of 1833 were the first racial uprising in Detroit history. Mark Harvey and the Archives staff have assembled a collection of legal documents from the Blackburn case that will be on display on the first floor of the Michigan Historical Museum all weekend, Feb. 7-8. These items include copies of affidavits sworn in Louisville by those seeking to regain custody of the couple; copies of warrants issued in Wayne County for the arrest of the Blackburns under the federal Fugitive Slave Law of 1793; and documents sent to Territorial Governor Porter explaining why they were refusing Michigan's request for extradition. The Michigan Library & Historical Center is located at 702 W. Kalamazoo Street in downtown Lansing. More info at [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal)  
Info from: Chris Dancisak, Manager, Community Relations , Michigan Historical Museum