



Farmington

Derby Breakfast was a Sellout! Read Lincoln's letter to Mary Speed
Broken Wings Still Fly to be produced in September

Harold Holzer - noted Lincoln Scholar - coming to Farmington in October
The people of Farmington are its biggest asset Pollinator Prairie Premiere in July

Summer 2024
visitfarmington.org • 3033 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40205

Letter from the Managing Director

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Farmington's 65th Anniversary as Louisville's first historic home is a time to reflect on our past – and appreciate the leaders who've gone before us in preserving this hidden gem for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. One such leader is our Board Chair Bob Brand, who has seen us through difficult times more than once. Bob grew up directly behind Farmington and played on these grounds in his youth. It's a place that has always been an important part of his life.

I think of the founding committee and their reasons for saving Farmington to begin with – it's a beautiful example of Federal style architecture, the Speeds had an outsized impact on our community, and Kentucky's favorite son, Abraham Lincoln, spent time here that had a lasting impact on how he saw the nation.

I think of the previous leaders who had the difficult task of making sure that Farmington acknowledge its past as a hemp plantation, an operation that was only possible through the labor of enslaved men and women. The work to lift their stories up continues as we find new ways to use the past to help shape our future as a community.

And I think about the more recent past, like last year when a group of Board members participated in a strategic planning process to envision Farmington's future and to take concrete steps towards realizing their dreams for this campus. From the preservation work that must be done to maintain the land and the buildings, to the educational programming we hope to launch that will forge deep community connections, to the dream of new facilities and amenities for our visitors to enjoy – this Board and the staff work hard every day, giving their all to keep this special place going.

For Farmington is truly about its people – those committing their time, talent, and treasure to keep a slice of nineteenth century Kentucky history alive. We hope you'll consider volunteering at Farmington, lending your talents to further our success, and give generously to help us realize our dreams.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Aldridge
Managing Director



DERBY BREAKFAST

Farmington shone bright on Derby Day once again for the 45th annual Historic Homes Foundation Derby Breakfast! A sold out crowd enjoyed the sounds of Electria while sipping bourbon cocktails from Blade & Bow and a Bloody Mary bar provided by Tito's vodka. This Louisville tradition benefits Farmington, Whitehall, and the Thomas Edison House. It is the perfect place to show off your finery and get in the spirit before heading to the track. Mark your calendars now to join us next year. We would like to extend a special thank-you to all of our sponsors.



Lincoln's Letter to Mary Speed



Bloomington, Illinois, Sept. 27th 1841

My Friend:

Having resolved to write to some of your Mother's family, and not having the express permission of any one of them do so, I have had some little difficulty in determining on which to inflict the task of reading what I now feel must be a most dull and silly letter; but when I remembered that you and I were something of cronies while I was at Farmington, and that, while there, I once was under the necessity of shutting you up in a room to prevent your committing an assault and battery upon me, I instantly decided that you should be the devoted one—

I assume that you have not heard from Joshua & myself since we left, because I think it doubtful whether he has written—

You remember there was some uneasiness about Joshua's health when we left. That little indisposition of his turned out to be nothing serious; and it was pretty nearly forgotten when we reached Springfield. We got on board the Steam Boat Lebanon, in the locks of the Canal about 12 o'clock M. of the day we left, and reached St. Louis the next Monday at 8 P.M.— Nothing of interest happened during the passage, except the vexatious delays occasioned by the sand bars be thought interesting— By the way, a fine example was presented on board the boat for contemplating the effect of condition upon human happiness. A gentleman had purchased twelve negroes in different parts of Kentucky and was taking them to a farm in the South. They were chained six and six together— A small iron clevis was around the left wrist of each, and this fastened to the main chain by a shorter one at a convenient distant distance from the others; so that the negroes were strung together precisely like so many fish upon a trot-line— In this condition they were being separated forever from the scenes of their childhood, their friends, their fathers and mothers, and brothers and sisters, and many of them, from their wives and children, and going into perpetual slavery where the lash of the master is proverbially more ruthless and unrelenting than any other where; and yet amid all these distressing circumstances, as we would think them, they were the most cheerful and apparently happy creatures on board. One, whose offence for which he had been sold was an over-fondness for his wife, played the fiddle almost continually; and the others danced, sung, cracked jokes, and played various games with cards from day to day— Now true it is that "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," or in other words, that He renders the worst of human conditions tolerable, while He permits the best, to be nothing better than tolerable—

To return to the narrative. When we reached Springfield, I staid but one day when I started on this tedious circuit where I now am— Do you remember my going to the city while I was in Kentucky, to have a tooth extracted, and making a failure of it? Well, that same old tooth got to paining me so much that about a week since I had it torn out, bringing with it a bit of the jawbone; the consequence of which is that my mouth is now so sore that I can neither talk nor eat— I am literally "subsisting on savoury remembrances"— that is, being unable to eat, I am living upon the remembrance of the delicious dishes of peaches and cream we used to have at your house—

When we left, Miss Fanny Kenning was owing you a visit, as I understood— Has she paid it yet? If she has, are you not convinced that she is one of the sweetest girls in the world? There is but one thing about her, so far as I could perceive, that I would have otherwise than as it is— That is something of a tendency to melancholly— This, let it be observed, is a misfortune, not a fault— Give her an assurance of my very highest regard, when you see her—

Is little Siss Eliza Davis at your house yet? If she is, kiss her "o'er and o'er again" for me— Tell your mother that I have not got her "present" with me; but that I intend to read it regularly when I return home. I doubt not that it is really, as she says, the best cure for the "Blues" could one but take it according to the truth—

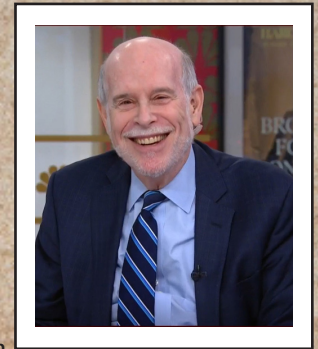
Give my respects to all your sisters (including "Aunt Emma" & A) and brothers— Tell Mrs. Peay, of whose happy face I shall long retain a pleasant remembrance, that I have been trying to think of a name for her homestead, but, as yet, can not satisfy myself with one— I shall be very happy to receive a line from you, soon after you receive this; and, in case you choose to favour me with one, address it to Charleston, Coles Co., Ills as I shall be there about the time to receive it—

Your sincere friend,

A. Lincoln

(Held at the Library of Congress)

Harold Holzer at Farmington

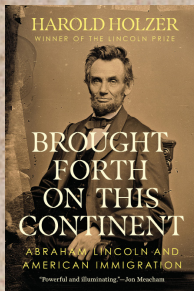


HAROLD HOLZER, winner of The 2015 Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize, is one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. A prolific writer and lecturer, and frequent guest on television, Holzer served for six years (2010–2016) as Chairman of The Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. For the previous 10 years he co-chaired the U. S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC), appointed by President Clinton. President Bush awarded Holzer the National Humanities Medal in 2008. And in 2013, Holzer wrote an essay on Lincoln for the official program at the re-inauguration of President Obama. He is now chairman of The Lincoln Forum.

In his new book *Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration*, Harold Holzer charts Lincoln's political career through the lens of immigration. He follows Lincoln's progression from his role as a member of an increasingly nativist political party to his evolution into an immigration champion; a journey that would come at the same time as he refined his views on abolition and Black citizenship.

During his time in Louisville, Holzer will speak to the McConnell Scholars at the University of Louisville, host a private dinner at the Frazier History Museum (Wednesday, Oct 23), and present a lecture on his new book and Lincoln's ties to Farmington (Thursday, Oct 24)

Harold Holzer's visit to Kentucky is sponsored by Farmington, with support from the University of Louisville History Department, The McConnell Center, The Filson Historical Society, and the Frazier History Museum.



In the three decades before the Civil War, some ten million foreign-born people settled in the United States, forever altering the nation's demographics, culture, and—perhaps most significantly—voting patterns. America's newest residents fueled the national economy, but they also wrought enormous changes in the political landscape and exposed an ugly, at times violent, vein of nativist bigotry.

Abraham Lincoln's ascent ran parallel to this turmoil; even Lincoln himself did not always rise above it. Tensions over immigration would split, and ultimately destroy, Lincoln's Whig Party years before the Civil War. Yet the war made clear just how important immigrants were, and how interwoven they had become in American society.

Harold Holzer charts Lincoln's political career through the lens of immigration, from his role as a member of an increasingly nativist political party to his evolution into an immigration champion, a progression that would come at the same time as he refined his views on abolition and Black citizenship. As Holzer writes, "The Civil War could not have been won without Lincoln's leadership, but it could not have been fought without the immigrant soldiers who served and, by the tens of thousands, died that the 'nation might live.'" An utterly captivating and illuminating work, *Brought Forth on This Continent* assesses Lincoln's life and legacy in a wholly original way, unveiling remarkable similarities between the nineteenth century and the twenty-first.

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
for the
Private Dinner with Harold Holzer
at the Frazier History Museum
Wednesday, October 23
\$500 per person;
includes a signed copy of
Brought Forth on This Continent
and
BBQ Dinner and Lecture
at Farmington
Catered by Kingsley's Meats
Thursday, October 24
\$95 per person

www.visitfarmington.org/harold-holzer

Farmington

would like to thank our event co-sponsors

"There is good in Kentucky"
frazier
HISTORY MUSEUM

THE **Filson**
Historical Society
Since 1884



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
Department of History

The People of Farmington



Name: Helen Condon Powell

Tell us about your relationship to Farmington.

My Speed grandmother Virginia and Cousin John made sure I was aware of Farmington, The Speed Museum and Collegiate. They were devoted to all three and encouraged me to do likewise. Even though I live in Boston and Charleston I can help Farmington bring the past forward into the future, so it can tell its very interesting "story." Being involved with Farmington has been a lot of fun for me!

Which of Farmington's current plans are you most excited about?

I would like to see a master plan implemented for the entire campus. It might improve the visitor experience and strengthen its educational and preservation missions. Family exposure to and enjoyment of this informative site will be its future!

What is unique about Farmington?

Farmington has managed to retain its original feel, so that visitors can see ways to apply its history and simplicity to the needs of today.

How do you think others can best contribute to helping Farmington develop over time?

People like to support specifics. Start with membership, learn about Farmington and then "adopt" some worthy cause or need. I noticed that the website needed work and found designers to improve our on-line presence. Others might give a specific amount of money toward an aspect of the house, educational programming, salaries, etc. I felt I could really make a difference at Farmington. And I think I have! You can too.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I think the past has much to teach us and should inspire as well as inform the future. Donor support will make a big difference to an intimate little site like Farmington!

Name: John Yorkilous

How long have you volunteered as a docent at Farmington?

I have been at Farmington since 2019

What led you to become a volunteer?

I am retired and wanted to volunteer for something meaningful to me.

What have you learned by being a docent?

I have always been interested in history, and it has been educational to learn the history of where I am now living.

What has been the best part of being a docent?

Best part of being a docent is meeting a wide cross section of people from all over the world and sharing information about the Speed family and life at Farmington

Why would you recommend that other people volunteer for Farmington?

Volunteering at Farmington is very rewarding and fulfilling and I would recommend that others share the same experience as I have



Name: Nancy Owen



What is your current title at Farmington?

Manager of Visitor Experience

What attracted you to the position?

I was attracted to this position for several reasons. The primary reason was the house museum and 18 beautiful acres. I have a passion for historic homesteads and the history that comes with them, and Farmington has an amazing story that I enjoy sharing with guests. Another attraction to the position was working with and growing a volunteer team. Farmington volunteers are enormously important and we couldn't do this work without them.

Where have you worked and volunteered in the past?

My past positions include the University of Louisville, Frazier History Museum, Louisville Zoo, & Blackacre Nature Preserve. I currently serve as the Vice President at the Peterson Dumesnil House and have previously served on the Conrad Caldwell Board.

Tell us about some of the activities you've developed over the past few months?

I've really enjoyed jumping in and working with school groups and visitors from all over the country.

So far, I've developed an education program for visiting school groups, organized a Volunteer Open house for new volunteers, and this summer we'll have a volunteer training day and picnic. Also, I'm planning a volunteer outing to the Mary Todd Lincoln House Museum in Lexington for the fall.

If someone would like to volunteer at Farmington, how would they contact you?

If you are interested in volunteering, we'd love to have you! Feel free to reach me by calling Farmington at (502) 452-9920, emailing me at nancy@historichomes.org, or stopping in the Visitor Center. I'd be happy to give you more information and a quick tour. Our volunteer opportunities include Docent led guided tours of the house museum, volunteering during special events, and helping maintain the garden and grounds.

... are its greatest asset



Name: Walter Crutcher and Cheryl Cooper

Walter is a descendant of Phillip Speed and has served as a consultant for the past few years, helping to plan for and implement numerous restoration and preservation projects on the Farmington campus. He has secured funding for multiple projects and coordinated contractors for upgrades to the Carriage House the Visitor Center, and the Blacksmith shop, a new gate and entry, the rebuilding of the back porch of the main house, and the overall landscape design of the campus just to name a few.

Cheryl joined the Board in 2023 and has been instrumental in refreshing our membership list, marketing Farmington events, and serving on planning committees.

Together, they are a dynamic duo dedicated to seeing Farmington flourish long into the future.

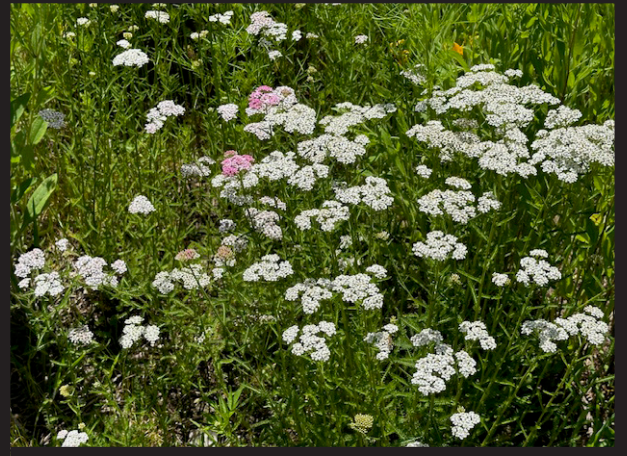


Master Gardener Classes this Summer

June 29	9-10:30 am	Edible and Ornamental Herb Gardens
July 11	6-7:30 pm	Natives for your Shade Garden
July 13	9-10:30 am	July in the Vegetable Garden
July 15	6-7:30 pm	Gardening Q&A Virtual Event - Text 502--216-8950
July 18	6-7:30 pm	Natives for your Sun Garden
July 20	9-10:30 am	Kentucky's Beautiful Butterflies
July 27	9-10:30 am	Summer in the Pollinator Garden
August 3	9-10:30 am	Let's Plant the Fall Vegetable Garden
August 19	6-7:30 pm	Gardening Q&A Virtual Event - Text 502--216-8950
August 24	9-10:30 am	August in the Vegetable Garden
September 9	6-7:30 pm	Gardening Q&A Virtual Event - Text 502--216-8950
September 12	6-7:30 pm	Ecologically Minded Gardening: Fall in the Garden
September 21	9-10:30 am	September in the Vegetable Garden
September 26	6-7:30 pm	Autumn in the Pollinator Garden

Master Gardeners provide quality horticultural education to empower gardeners through hands-on learning opportunities, volunteer leadership, green partnerships, and service to the community. At Farmington, the Master Gardeners volunteer to manage the kitchen garden, hold educational talks, and host a tip table at the annual plant sale.

Classes have been added for the Summer and Fall of 2024, and additional dates will be added for the Winter months. Descriptions of each class are included on our events calendar at www.visitfarmington.org/events. All classes gather in the Brand Pavilion.



Pollinator Prairie Premiere July 13

Farmington's Pollinator Prairie was planted in 2023 with over 40 kinds of wildflowers and 5 kinds of grass. This small patch of native plants is representative of the habitat that once covered the majority of Kentucky at the time of European settlement. Native Americans once relied on this habitat for its rich biodiversity to provide food and shelter. Native plant communities have deep roots that improve soil and water quality and store carbon below the earth's surface. Kentucky has lost 99% of the native grasslands that existed before European settlement. Our Pollinator Prairie is an example of native plant and wildlife habitat restoration.

Join us on July 13th to officially inaugurate the Pollinator Prairie at Farmington. The day is also a Cultural Pass day for youth and seniors and will also include Master Gardener activities, and a session with our beekeeper (by next year we should have Farmington honey). Watch our website at visitfarmington.org for further details.

The Pollinator Prairie is a collaboration between Farmington, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Quail Forever, Kentucky Wild, KY Quail License Plate.

It's Summertime - enjoy Cultural Pass!



Cultural Pass offers young people ages 0-21 and their families in the Greater Louisville area access to participate in arts and cultural activities provided by over 50 venues, free of charge, from June 1 through August 4, 2024. Come out to Farmington every Wednesday EXCEPT June 26 for tours between 10am -2pm, or on Saturday June 22, July 13, and August 3 from 11am - 1pm. Bring your pass to the Visitors Center to begin your explorations.



Rentals at Farmington

Farmington, conveniently located just minutes from downtown Louisville in the Highlands, offers a historic, rural space for your elegant, outdoor event or hometown family reunion.

Farmington's historic Haldeman Garden provides the perfect backdrop for your perfect day. The Brand pavilion, adjacent to the garden, is the centerpiece of your rental package. Ample dressing space for both sides of your wedding party and a staging area for your caterer are available in the nearby Carriage House. This lovely 120' x 40' pavilion can seat over 300 guests at tables. Farmington also provides 120 chairs and 10 six-foot rectangular tables for rentals.

Whether you are hosting an elegant, formal affair or a country barbeque, Farmington is the best country location in Louisville. Interested in renting? Submit the information request form through our website or email Heather@HistoricHomes.org.

Membership



Check out our membership levels and join today as a way to stay in touch and to help Farmington's operational costs.

(UN)KNOWN PROJECT

Broken Wings Still Fly

June 29, 2024 | 6:00 PM **Sept. 28, 2024 | 6:00 PM**
 Alberta O. Jones Park Farmington Historic Plantation

A raw and poignant theatrical experience about enslaved women of Kentucky, featuring motherhood, love, heartbreak, resilience, and ultimate triumph.

Free to the public, tickets are required.
www.unknownprojecttrail.com



Co-authored and directed by
Hannah Drake and Brandi LaShay



Our Resident Beekeeper

Name: Sophie Fritschner

Tell us about your relationship to Farmington and why it's important to you.

I grew up in Louisville and went on a number of grade school field trips to Farmington. I remember finding small pieces of broken family Blue Willow-style tableware. My grandmother was, I think, a docent here. My sister's daughter was married here. I moved back to Louisville in 2020 into a house in Wellington, on the original Farmington property. Since then we have often taken walks through the grounds. In 2023 I came to an agreement with Farmington to become the beekeeper here.

How did you get involved with beekeeping?

I've been fascinated with insects since I was young, especially social insects, like ants, wasps and bees. I'm now back at school (U of L) studying biology, particularly ecology. When I lived in the mountains of western North Carolina I kept bees, mostly out of fascination for them, but I gave up when bears kept ransacking my hives. When I moved to Louisville I decided to keep bees again. We started in 2022 with one hive in our back yard, but since then, by splitting and capturing swarms, have added seven more hives, all of them at Farmington.

Tell us a little about what bees add to our ecology? How will Farmington's pollinator prairie impact the hives?

Bees generally are probably the most effective pollinators; there are many food crops for which bees are the only pollinators. European honey bees, (what most of us of when we talk about bees) are not native to the Americas and can, depending on the ecosystem, be an ecological benefit, a problem, or, more often, both. In this area I believe them to be more of a help than hindrance. They're a major pollinator of fruits (any food containing seeds). The pollinator prairie, when it's fully developed, will provide a lot of food (both pollen and nectar) for the bees. The bees, in turn, will pollinate the flowering plants and help them reseed themselves.

How many hives are currently at Farmington?

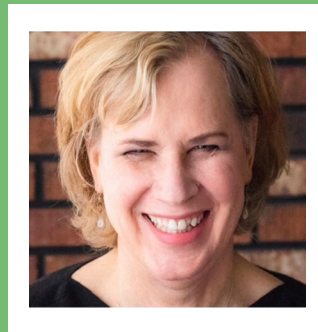
There are seven hives at Farmington. This is one more than I had planned on, but when someone calls and tells me of a swarm, it's hard to turn them down. A swarm, if properly managed, will turn into a productive hive. My strongest hive is a split from a 2023 swarm.

When can we expect Farmington honey to be available to the public in our Museum store?

Probably June of 2025. With responsible beekeeping, which is always my aim, a highly productive hive can take up to two years to go from a swarm or split to a strong honey producer.

Anything else you'd like to add?

If you're interested in pure honey, you're always taking a risk if you don't buy local. As long as I'm Farmington's beekeeper, Farmington honey will be 100% honey made by bees situated on the original Farmington grounds. As a connoisseur of honey, I can tell you that this is delicious honey.



Farmington Museum Store

Open Tuesday - Saturday




STONEWARE & CO.
est. 1815

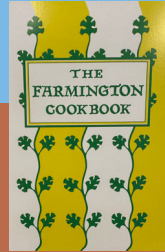
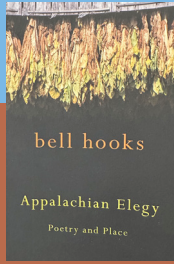
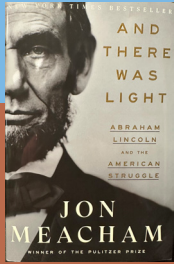
Stoneware & Co.
Farmington Mugs

Speed Family and
Farmington Cookbooks

Farmington Themed Ornaments,
mini-vases, and stationary



The Farmington Museum Store is a satellite of Carmichael's Bookstore



Farmington

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