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Third Judicial Circuit
Madison and Bond Counties

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Criminal Justice Center to Unveil Famous Lincoln Portrait

The Third Judicial Circuit will unveil a famous Abraham Lincoln photograph at the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) in Madison County. The ceremony will take place on October 3rd at 10:00 am at the CJC, 509 Ramey St., Edwardsville, IL. The public is invited to attend the event.

The photograph was taken on June 3, 1860, by Alexander Hesler, a well-known photographer of the time. Lincoln had been nominated to run for president, and Hesler traveled to Springfield to take the picture. Showing Lincoln before he grew a beard, this photograph is considered to be one of the best taken of Lincoln and was reportedly his favorite.

“We are so pleased to be able to receive this historic photograph for the Criminal Justice Center as Abraham Lincoln was well-known for his defense work in criminal cases,” noted Judge Richard Tognarelli, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division.

The presentation is a continuation of the bicentennial project coordinated by the Illinois Judges Association, the Illinois Judges Foundation, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Foundation and the Illinois State Historical Society. Their goal is to place one Lincoln Hesler photograph in a courthouse in each county in honor of the bicentennial. An anonymous donor wanted Madison County to have a second photograph for its Criminal Justice Center in addition to the one on display in the Madison County Courthouse lobby.

“Lincoln has a strong connection to Madison County as he spoke here in 1858 and visited here on more than one occasion. It is truly fitting that both of our courthouses are able to display this likeness as we celebrate Lincoln the lawyer and the President,” stated Chief Judge David Hylla.

The Illinois State Historical Society owns the glass-plate positive of the Lincoln portrait and has led the statewide campaign to place the framed 30 by 40 inch photograph throughout the State. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and to view the famous photograph.