

**THE AMERICAN VETERAN
AUGUST 2007 EDITION**

SEGMENT TITLE: LINCOLN'S COTTAGE

DANIELA MARCHUS, HOST THE SUMMER HOME OF THE NATION'S 16TH PRESIDENT IS UNDERGOING A MAJOR FACELIFT. AS REBA HOLLINGSWORTH TELLS US, PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S COTTAGE HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HISTORY----AND WITH VETERANS.

REBA HOLLINGSWORTH, REPORTER: IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL, THERE'S A PIECE OF PRECIOUS HISTORY TUCKED AWAY, AND A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR EFFORT --TO PRESERVE IT.

FRANK MILLIGAN, DIRECTOR, PRES. LINCOLN AND SOLDIERS' HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT: THIS IS NOT JUST ANY HISTORIC HOUSE.

HOLLINGSWORTH: IT WAS ONCE THE SUMMER RETREAT FOR PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, A PLACE HE CALLED HOME DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE TO NOVEMBER FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS PRESIDENCY TO THE TRAGIC END.

MILLIGAN: THE SOLDIER'S HOME AT LINCOLN COLLEGE PROVIDED THAT ESCAPE, THAT BREATHER FROM WHAT WAS REALLY THE FISH BOWL THAT WAS THE WHITE HOUSE, THAT DAMN OLD HOUSE, AS LINCOLN CALLED IT.

HOLLINGSWORTH: INSIDE THIS 4-LEVEL, 10-THOUSAND SQAURE FOOT COTTAGE, LINCOLN OFTEN FOUND A COOL BREEZE AND SOME MUCH-NEEDED PEACE. MORE THAN A 160 YEARS HAVE PASSED AND LINCOLN'S SUMMER COTTAGE STILL SITS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME. THIS IS THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE. IT WAS A PLACE MANY SOLDIERS WOULD COME TO LIVE.

MILLIGAN: IT WAS REALLY WAS AND REMAINS A RETIREMENT HOME FOR VETERANS. BEING CLOSE TO THESE VETERANS IS SOMETHING THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM. HE WOULD SIT ON THIS VERANDA BEHIND ME HERE AS THESE VETERANS WANDERED THE GROUNDS, PLAY A GAME OF CHECKERS WITH THEM, INVITE THEM IN TO HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE WITH THEM.

HOLLINGSWORTH: BUT LINCOLN'S PEACE WOULDN'T LAST TOO LONG. CHAOS WASN'T TOO FAR FROM HIS DOORSTEPS. THE COUNTRY EMBROILED IN A CIVIL WAR. LINCOLN -- TRYNG TO LEAD AND TO MEND A YOUNG NATION — OFTEN RETREATING TO HIS COTTAGE.

PROF. ALLEN GUELZO, CIVIL WAR ERA, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE: LINCOLN REALLY WAS HERE AND GREAT THOUGHTS WERE THOUGHT HERE BY LINCOLN AND GREAT WORDS WERE WRITTEN HERE BY LINCOLN. AND ABOVE THEM ALL AND THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

HIOLLINGSWORTH: IT EVENTUALLY FREED 3-AND-A HALF-MILLION SLAVES. SLAVERY AND THE LINGERING WAR MADE LINCOLN THE TARGET OF ASSASSINATIONS. APRIL 13TH, 1865 WOULD BE THE LAST TIME LINCOLN WOULD VISIT THE COTTAGE. HE WAS ASSASSINATED THE NEXT DAY.

MILLIGAN: WE'VE JUST STRIPPED AWAY 23 LAYERS OF PAINT. SO NOW WE ARE DOWN TO THE BARE WOOD WHICH OUR EXPERTS TELL US IT LOOKED LIKE IN 1862 WHEN THE LINCOLN'S ARRIVED.

HIOLLINGSWORTH: TO HELP TELL THE STORY OF THE 16TH PRESIDENT, WORK IS UNDERWAY TO RESTORE LINCOLN'S SUMMER HOME. AND A MULTI MEDIA PRESENTATION WILL HELP BRING LINCOLN TO LIFE.

MILLIGAN: WHEN YOU WALK INTO THESE ROOMS, YOU FEEL LINCOLN'S PRESENCE TO ALLOW OUR VISITORS TO SEE AND TO HEAR STORIES COME ALIVE TO THEM.

GUELZO: WHEN YOU COME HERE TO THE SOLDIERS' HOME, YOU CAN ALMOST HAVE THE SENSE THAT TIME HAS TELESCOPED, THAT 1862 IS REALLY NOT ALL THAT FAR AWAY.

HIOLLINGSWORTH: ALL THAT HISTORY IS ONLY A STONES THROW AWAY FROM THE VETERANS LIVING AT THE ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOUSE.

GUELZO: I LIVE ON THESE GROUNDS AND I RUB SHOULDERS WITH THESE MEN AND WOMEN EVERY DAY AND THEY ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF THIS HOUSE. AND FOR US IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE IT AND BRING IT BACK TO LIFE IN THE WAY THEY REALLY APPRECIATE.

MARCHUS: ALL THE VETERANS LIVING AT THE RETIREMENT HOME HAVE SERVED AT LEAST 20 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES. LINCOLN'S COTTAGE IS EXPECTED TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC NEXT YEAR ON FEBRUARY 18TH -- PRESIDENT'S DAY.

END OF VIDEO