



2019 LINCOLN ESSAY & DRAWING CONTEST



Photo of Mary Bowditch Forbes being presented with a medal for
“perpetuating the love and memory of Abraham Lincoln.”
May 30, 1928 with Captain Henry Comey and Civil War Veterans

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Release of the 2019 essay topic and drawing theme

Friday, April 12, 2019, 5 p.m.

Deadline for submissions of essays and drawings

Monday, May 6, 2019

Winners announced

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest Awards Ceremony

Sponsored by B. R. Alexander & Co.

Essay Topic for Grades 6-8

Mary Bowditch Forbes died 57 years ago, leaving behind her house, which became the Forbes House Museum, and an extensive collection of Lincoln and Civil War art, artifacts, and memorabilia. In her will, she expressed the wish that her collection be preserved for the benefit of future generations.

Clause Ten: I am providing this trust as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, in the hope that the opportunity to the public from time to time...to visit the Cabin and see its contents will help to foster a strong and active appreciation of what our nation owes to Abraham Lincoln as a man and as an inspiration to the maintenance of our ideals of citizenship.

“Citizenship” is an important concept in any community, for it refers to how an individual chooses to participate as a member of a larger group. For this year’s essay, you are asked to think about what makes a good citizen.

There are three main parts to this year’s assignment. First, explain what citizenship and being a good citizen mean to you. Second, identify something Lincoln did to model or champion the ideals of citizenship as you understand them, and explain why you selected what you did. Finally, describe someone alive today who inspires you to be a good citizen.

Drawing Topic for Grades K-5

Mary Bowditch Forbes corresponded with many Civil War veterans. Text from one of the letters she received is reproduced here:

In 1865, I was a seaman aboard the Steamship Sassacus.

After Richmond’s surrender and things got quiet, we took the lead up the James River, followed by the Flagship Melburn, which had Admiral Porter and President Lincoln. At Richmond, President Lincoln landed, stepped across the boat, which I was in, put one hand on my shoulder and one in my hand, saying, “It is all over boy. Now you can go home and see your mother.”

He was a wonderful man.

James H. Wood
Nantucket, Mass.
July 28, 1923

Lincoln was known for treating the soldiers and seamen he met with great respect and dignity. He was sympathetic to the sacrifices they made for their country, and he admired them for responding to the call of duty. They, in turn, greatly admired him. He would review troops, ride out to military encampments, and meet them in Washington on their way to or from the war front, boosting morale and eliciting cheers. Many referred to him affectionately as “Old Abe” or “Honest Abe.”

What is the Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest?

The Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest was established in 1924 by Mary Bowditch Forbes (1878-1962), granddaughter of China trade merchant, Captain Robert Bennet Forbes (1802-1889). Miss Forbes greatly admired President Abraham Lincoln, and in 1909 began collecting Lincoln and Civil War artworks and memorabilia, which are now part of the Museum's permanent collection. To promote appreciation for our 16th president, Miss Forbes requested original essays and drawings from students each year, inspired by the life and work of Abraham Lincoln.

The tradition continues today. Each year, the FHM Lincoln Committee, comprised of Museum Trustees, K-8 educators, Lincoln historians and Civil War enthusiasts, selects a question and topic. The question and topic are then released to the public, and students must use the question or topic as the subject for their essay or drawing.

Individual student submissions are encouraged. The FHM Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest was established as a civic exercise, challenging students to excellence outside the scope of their regular school work.

K-8 educators are also welcome to introduce the essay and drawing question or topic to their students as part of a classroom lesson or unit of instruction. A submission of individual essays and drawings, gathered into one package by an educator, is accepted and encouraged.

First, second and third place winners are chosen among the entries for each grade level. Essays are accepted from students in grades 6 through 8; drawings are accepted from students in kindergarten through grade 5.

Prizes will be awarded to all winners, with special first place prizes being generously sponsored by B.R. Alexander & Co.

An awards ceremony is held each year to celebrate the winning students' accomplishments. This year, the ceremony will be held at **the Forbes House Museum, 215 Adams Street, Milton.**

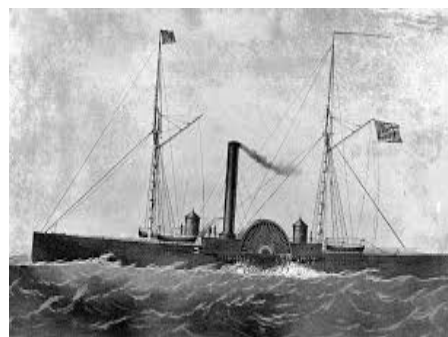


Left: USS Agawam

**Similar to the
Flagship Melburn**

Right: USS Eutaw

**Similar to the
Steamship Sassacus**



Submission Guidelines

ON THE BACK of your essay or drawing you MUST include:

Your name
Your grade
Your school
Your teacher's name
Your home address
Your home telephone number
The name of your parent or guardian
An e-mail address for your parent or guardian

Essay Guidelines for Grades 6-8:

600-word maximum

Essays will be judged on:

1. Ideas/Voice (The topic, focus, and details make the essay truly memorable)
2. Historical Accuracy/Research (The essay accurately references historical events, quotes, sources)
3. Organization (The organization makes the essay informative and easy to read)
4. Sentence Fluency/Conventions (Writing shows smooth sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar)

Drawing Guidelines for Grades K-5:

Any media is allowed

Maximum size of the drawing is 18" x 24"

Drawings will be judged on:

1. Originality (The image is clear, unique and original)
2. Artistic Merit (The composition, form and color of the art is pleasing to the eye)
3. Historical Accuracy (The art references the topic and shows understanding of who, what, where and when)

Essays and drawings can be dropped off at the Museum office or mailed to:

2019 Lincoln Essay and Drawing Contest
Forbes House Museum
215 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186

The Museum will also accept essay submissions only (no drawings) by e-mail:

The essay should be sent as a word document or PDF to info@forbeshousemuseum.org
The subject line of the e-mail must read: Lincoln Essay 2019

In the body of the e-mail you MUST include:

Your name
Your grade
Your school
Your teacher's name
Your home address
Your home telephone number
The name of your parent or guardian
An e-mail address for your parent or guardian

******Upon submission, essays and drawings become the property of the Forbes House Museum and remain in our archives at the Museum's discretion. The FHM reserves the right to reproduce essays and artworks for publicity and promotion of the Museum and its programs, which includes press releases, social media, brochures, posters and postcards.

For more information about the Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest, call the Museum at 617-696-1815 or visit our website at www.forbeshousemuseum.org and click on "Learn."