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## First Lady Mary Pat Christie Unveils Lincoln & Olden: The President and the Governor at Drumthwacket

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Tags: [First Lady](#)

### *Exhibit Provides Look at Two Influential Leaders of Their Era*

**Trenton, NJ** – Showcasing a significant era of New Jersey and U.S. history, First Lady Mary Pat Christie unveiled a new display at Drumthwacket entitled *Lincoln & Olden: The President and the Governor*. The presentation focuses on the two acclaimed statesmen, Governor Charles Olden who built Drumthwacket in 1835, and President Abraham Lincoln – both elected to office at a time when the country was on the precipice of Civil War. Part of the Drumthwacket Foundation's fine arts initiative to highlight exhibits meaningful to the Garden State's past and present, this exhibit will run through May 31,

2017.

"During my seven years as First Lady, I have had the pleasure to present a diverse array of exhibits at Drumthwacket," said First Lady Mary Pat Christie. "The donated artifacts that are on display provide a glimpse into New Jersey's storied history and that of our nation. I'm pleased the Drumthwacket Foundation has curated this incredible exhibit – one that evokes pride in both our state and our country."

*Lincoln & Olden: The President and the Governor* brings the lives of these two distinguished leaders to life through historic letters, photographs and artifacts. Together, one would steward a nation and the other a state through the deadliest war on American soil.

Governor Olden extended an invitation to President Lincoln to come to the Trenton State House to speak in front of the legislature on the way to his inauguration in 1861. On display is the letter of response by President-elect Lincoln, accepting the invitation.

Also among the collection is a letter written by Governor Olden to President Lincoln, providing his support and faith in Lincoln's abilities to lead the country. In addition, the letter informs the President that Governor Olden will send troops to defend the North in the Civil War.

Other artifacts on display include Governor Olden's signed Oath of Office; the keys to Lincoln's law office; and the veil worn by Mary Todd Lincoln to Ford's Theatre the evening of Lincoln's assassination.

A number of individuals and organizations have generously shared their collection for the exhibit, namely:

- Donald L. Ackerman
- Civil War & Native American Museum
- Historical Society of Princeton
- Private Collection
- Bette Olsen Pfeiffer
- Rail Splitter Archives, New York City
- Bruce L. Sirak

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- Morris Museum
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- New Jersey State Archives
- Kenneth and Nancy Ritchey
- The Forbes Collection

To view the Lincoln & Olden exhibit, visit

[www.drumthwacket.org/visit/reservation-form](http://www.drumthwacket.org/visit/reservation-form) to make tour arrangements. While reservations are required, admission and parking on site are free of charge. In addition, Drumthwacket is wheelchair accessible.

**The Drumthwacket Foundation** [www.drumthwacket.org](http://www.drumthwacket.org)

Founded in 1982, the Drumthwacket Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. Its mission is to increase a sense of pride in New Jersey by preserving the Drumthwacket property and broadening access, furthering awareness and support of the Foundation and its initiatives and expanding civic understanding amongst New Jerseyans. The Foundation's educational outreach to schools is the *Discover Drumthwacket* field trip program wherein children from New Jersey's less affluent school districts are provided with bus transportation to and from Drumthwacket and nutritious lunches. In the fall of 2015, the Foundation expanded its educational programming by developing a

free, on-line learning module for fourth grade teachers and students titled *"Eureka! Invention and Innovation in New Jersey."* The module was inspired by Abram Spanel, the last private owner of Drumthwacket and prolific inventor whose company won the NASA sponsored competition to design the Apollo spacesuit. Visit the Foundation's web-site to view the module and companion Eureka! student site.



**Photo Caption 1:** *First Lady Mary Pat Christie speaking at the Lincoln & Olden exhibit reception*

**Photo Caption 2:** *Portrait of President Lincoln on display at Drumthwacket*

**Photo Caption 3:** *Veil worn by Mary Todd Lincoln to Ford's Theatre the evening of President Lincoln's assassination*

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