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Life of Mary Todd Lincoln examined

The 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday last month confirmed the sixteenth president's enduring popularity. In contrast, his wife, Mary, has received incredibly "bad press" over time. In period costume, local historian and storyteller Pat Day will examine the question, "**Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln: Why is She America's Least Popular First Lady?**" on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Museum. The program is free, but seating is limited.

Learn more about the controversial First Lady's seldom-told story that is being reshaped by recent scholarly discoveries. Topics will include Mrs. Lincoln's confinement in an insane asylum, her estrangement from her only living child, Robert, who had her committed, her traipsing around Europe alone in her later years and, finally, her lonely, painful death. Whatever her flaws and foibles, Mary Todd Lincoln's energy and drive made it possible for Abraham Lincoln to make his climb to the White House. Please note, some aspects of the program may not be suitable for young children; parental discretion is advised.

"We were very pleased with the large attendance for the President Lincoln program last month," says Theresa Weaver-Basye, curator of education. "His wife also has a fascinating story and the Lincoln legacy is not complete unless it is told."

The Sioux City Public Museum is housed in the historic John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street in Sioux City. For more information, call 712-279-6174 or visit www.siouxcitymuseum.org.

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