

June is “Medill Month” at Cantigny’s McCormick Museum

WHEATON, IL, May 23, 2012 — The Robert R. McCormick Museum Lecture Series resumes in June with two evening presentations about Chicago’s famous Medill family.

The “Medill Month” lectures, on June 7 and June 14, are free and open to the public.

Joseph Medill (1823-1899), Robert R. McCormick’s maternal grandfather, once owned the farm that later became Cantigny. As editor, publisher and owner of the *Chicago Tribune*, he promoted the Republican Party’s abolitionist platform and strongly supported Abraham Lincoln’s bid for President. As one of Chicago’s most visible boosters, he ran a successful mayoral campaign following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Robert R. McCormick inherited Cantigny Farm via his mother, Katherine (Kate) Medill McCormick, one of Joseph’s two daughters. Kate and her sister Elinor Medill Patterson were strong and independent women whose sons eventually shared control of the *Chicago Tribune*.

These upcoming lectures will explore the fascinating lives of Medill family members and in the process shed light on Cantigny’s benefactor, Robert R. McCormick (1885-1955):

- Thursday, June 7, 7:00 pm
“The Magnificent Medills”
Presented by Megan McKinney

McKinney, an expert on historic Chicago families, will discuss her recent book, *The Magnificent Medills: America’s Royal Family of Journalism During a Century of Turbulent Splendor*. From Joseph Medill to Robert R. McCormick and Joe Patterson to Cissy and Alicia Patterson, this lecture will explore four generations of the Medill/McCormick/Patterson publishing family. Copies of McKinney’s book will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

- Thursday, June 14, 7:00 pm
“How Joseph Medill Made Honest Abe”
Presented by Jeffery Anderson

Anderson, who oversees the McCormick Museum’s tour program, recently received his Master’s degree for his thesis on Joseph Medill’s influence at the 1860 Republican National Convention. His lecture will examine Medill’s essential role in Abraham Lincoln’s successful 1860 presidential nomination.

The lectures will take place in the McCormick Museum’s historic Gold Theatre, with optional museum tours to follow. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Admission and parking are free. Reservations are suggested—call 630.260.8162 or e-mail register@cantigny.org.

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About the Robert R. McCormick Museum

The McCormick Museum is a historic house museum interpreting the life and legacy of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is located at Cantigny, the Colonel's 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate that he left as a gift to the public. Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, full-service clubhouse, Cantigny Golf Academy and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.

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