In honor of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine’s 90th anniversary, this year’s new exhibitions focus on the founding of the Shrine, as well as highlights from the museum’s vast collections, and Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship Fund acquisitions.

Featuring items from the Shrine’s Watchorn Collections, “Enduring Legacies: The Lincoln Shrine at 90” details the lives of donors Robert and Alma Watchorn, the origin of their gift, and the impact it has had on generations. Utilizing interactive elements and home video footage, alongside historic artifacts, the large-scale exhibition brings the Watchorns’ story to life like never before.

The anniversary also provided the perfect opportunity to accentuate some of the most beloved items from the Shrine collections. Audience favorites such as the Fisk family Sanitary Commission quilt, Benjamin Hilliker’s drum, and a letter composed by Adam Robinson of the United States Colored Troops, are on display alongside personal items from the Lincoln family, letters detailing the experiences of women during the war, and stories from this nation’s era of enslavement.

To see these exhibitions, visit the museum Tuesdays-Sundays. For additional information, please call (909) 798-7632 or visit www.lincolnshrine.org.
SHRINE’S CANNON TO BE FIRED

Join us in celebration of the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Shrine’s cannon on Saturday, August 20 at 10am in Smiley Park, between the Shrine and A.K. Smiley Public Library.

Manufactured by Trail Rock Ordnance of Tennessee and donated by the Nies family, the reproduction Model 1857 Napoleon 12-pounder field gun was dedicated in August, 2021. Overseen by the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, the inaugural firing demonstration took place in Smiley Park with over 150 spectators in attendance.

Displayed in the park for the past year, the cannon will once again be fired at this year’s celebratory program, which will also include music by the Camp Carleton Cornet Band, an appearance by President Abraham Lincoln presenter Robert Broski, and the participation of other Civil War reenactors.

This event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. Large umbrellas are discouraged. For more information, call the Heritage Room at (909)798-7632 or visit www.lincolnshrine.org.

Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association Trustee and donor Boyd Nies fires the inaugural shot on August 14, 2021.
Lincoln in Allegory: The Shrine’s Cornwell Murals

As the 90th anniversary celebration continues, the Shrine honors muralist Dean Cornwell, whose work continues to inspire admiration from long-time supporters and new visitors alike. Known as the “Dean of Illustrators,” Cornwell’s legacy is evident in the illustrations he created for books, magazines, newspapers, and advertisements, as well as the murals he painted across the country throughout his long career.

Cornwell began his life as an illustrator in the 19-teens, becoming one of the most in-demand artists in magazines and other print media. Within about 10 years, he decided to shift from illustrations to murals, apparently being drawn to the potential for immortality afforded by their longevity. Despite being relatively new to the field, Lincoln Shrine architect Elmer Grey tapped Cornwell to create the murals for the Shrine’s octagon over more experienced muralists in July of 1931.

Grey envisioned a four panel mural depicting the preservation of the United States, which he described as “possibly typified by a figure holding aloft a flag of the Union, while other figures lower down, those of soldiers, are striving to reach and destroy it”; emancipation, which he imagined as “a tall, benign figure extending a helping hand to Ethiopians below who are supplicating for help and freedom”; Lincoln’s “Pre-eminence as a Statesman [as] a predominating figure addressing a multitude all to be dressed down in the costumes of that period, the Dome of the Capitol etc. in the background”;

and “the Background of his Accomplishment [as] typified by a suggestion of primeval forest, the log cabin, and possibly the figure of a rail splitter.”

Cornwell proposed a different vision for the murals. As Grey explained in a letter to Robert Watchorn, “I had at first supposed that various outstanding achievements for which Lincoln stands could be best portrayed by more or less realistic pictures representing Lincoln actually doing those things. [Cornwell] tells me that they can better be portrayed by allegorical pictures such as were used in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington….He conjectures that this may be so because Lincoln did not actually himself go about freeing the slaves, but it was spiritual ideas of freedom for the colored race which he stood for and set in motion that finally accomplished that end. Likewise it was Lincoln’s superb qualities of character, his faith, wisdom, courage, strength, etc. which finally
resulted in the preservation of the Union—hence it is these qualities of his which he proposes to portray in allegorical form. I feel he is right about this. I feel safe in his hands and that, with his leadership in the decorating we are working toward a wonderfully harmonious final result.”

Cornwell spent the following six months working on the Shrine murals in his Los Angeles studio at the same time as he was completing a major, multi-year project for the Public Library in Downtown Los Angeles. Concerned that the library commission would learn of his second job, he asked that his work on the Shrine murals not be publicized until they were ready to be unveiled.

Painted on canvas, the murals were installed just weeks prior to the Lincoln Memorial Shrine’s dedication on February 12, 1932 and remain just as striking as when they were completed over 90 years ago.

Did You Know?

Did you know Ewart Watchorn was an artist? A graduate of Hollywood High School in 1914, Ewart illustrated the school’s yearbook, The Poinsettia, and later went on to work with Elmer Grey, future architect of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine and other significant buildings in Southern California. The Shrine’s collections include several illustrations created by Ewart, including family greeting cards, historic buildings, people, and animals. A selection of these works is currently on exhibit in the Lincoln Shrine.

Lincoln Film Series

The free bi-monthly series “Lincoln in Film” continues! Past screenings of Abraham Lincoln (1930) starring Walter Huston, Young Mr. Lincoln (1939) starring Henry Fonda, and Abe Lincoln in Illinois (1940) starring Raymond Massey, focused on his early life, while future screenings will be rooted in his time as President. Don’t miss these upcoming films:

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER**
(2012)
September 17 (Rated PG-13)

**LINCOLN**
(2012)
November 19 (Rated R)

These free screenings take place in the Contemporary Club at 2pm on the third Saturday of the month. Schedule subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit www.lincolnshrine.org.
50 YEARS OF THE
SHRINE DOCENT PROGRAM

The year of celebrations continues with the 50th anniversary of the Lincoln Shrine’s docent program! Initiated by then-Curator Larry Burgess, the program has become the backbone of the Shrine’s community outreach efforts.

The program began in July, 1972 with a call for new volunteers published in the Redlands Daily Facts newspaper. Citing an increase in visitation from locals and tourists alike, as well as the “expansion of its reference and research services to historians, students, and writers,” the article invited interested people to apply. Successful applicants trained with Dr. Burgess, learning the history of the museum, a survey of the Civil War, and the details of Abraham Lincoln’s life.

The program grew with the expansion of the museum in 1998 and today has a group of dedicated docents without whom the museum could not meet its mission of educating the public on the Civil War and the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln Shrine docents with then-Library Director Larry Burgess (far right) and then-Curator Don McCue (back row, center), June 11, 1993.
Rare Letter Shines Light on Women Soldiers

Although generally understood from a male perspective, the American Civil War had dramatic, long-lasting effects on women across the country. In four years, the war brought significant challenges to the ideals of piety, submissiveness, and domesticity that dominated societal expectations for women and brought with it new responsibilities and opportunities that were typically considered outside the accepted norms of the time.

Throughout the war, women took over running family farms, cared for children and aging parents, and found work outside the home. In addition, thousands of women served tirelessly as nurses and relief aides, stories of which received well-deserved praise during and after the war. At the same time, their more clandestine activities often went unacknowledged for decades. Spurred by the same sense of patriotism as their male counterparts, countless women are known to have worked as soldiers and spies, often risking their lives in the process.

The stories of Francis Clayton, who served as “Jack Williams” in a Missouri regiment with her husband; Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, who enlisted as “Lyons Wakeman” and whose wartime letters home were published after the war; and Albert J.D. Cashier, who was born Jenny Hodgers, but spent his life as a man, including as a soldier in the 95th Illinois Infantry, are just a few of hundreds of stories of women who enlisted as men during the war. Ill-fitting uniforms, a lack of proper documentation and physical examinations, and an acceptance of lax hygiene all contributed to women going undetected for months or even years as they joined their husbands, brothers, friends, and neighbors on the battlefield.

Military records, newspaper accounts, and private memoirs and letters reveal some of their stories. While rare, one such letter was recently added to the Shrine’s collections. Written by Sergeant Altus H. Jewel of the 77th New York Infantry in April of 1863, the letter details the story of a female soldier who gave birth at camp:

Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, seen here in uniform as Lyons Wakeman, served with the 153rd New York Infantry.
noticed anything in her countenance or appearance to make them mistrust but what she was a man. The identity of the woman in his story is unknown, but the same story is detailed in the book, They Fought Like Demons, with contemporary accounts from various soldiers. In fact, researchers have uncovered stories of several female soldiers who served while pregnant, including others who were wounded in battle during their pregnancy.

As the Civil War generation advanced in age and began to die, stories of female soldiers made for spectacular headlines. In 1909, journalist Ida Tarbell solicited information on female soldiers from Adj. Gen. Frederick C. Ainsworth. He replied, “I have the honor to inform you that no official record has been found in the War Department showing specifically that any woman was ever enlisted in the military service,” but conceded that some may have gone unnoticed. In the century since Ainsworth’s denial, scholars have unearthed both personal and military records that reveal the experiences of women soldiers, but recognize it is impossible to know how many stories will never be known.

Now I will give you a small circumstance that happened in the 31st New Jersey Regiment a few days ago...there is a person in the regiment that come out with it when it first started who went up to the Peninsula in front of Richmond, retreated back with the Potomac Army when the Seven Days was, crossed the river with them into Maryland & at the Battle of Antietam was wounded. While at the hospital it was discovered by the steward of the hospital that this person was a woman. When she got well of her wound, she returned to her regiment again. The colonel of the regiment was informed by the hospital steward of what he had discovered but the colonel of the regiment did not make it known to anyone else. A few weeks ago, they went out on picket (she was promoted to corporal) [and] while they were on picket, this corporal was taken sick. She—or he just as you may have it—went to a private house that was near & had a daughter born.... The company had noticed that she always tented with one person and many times when it was her turn to come on duty that her tent mate would take her place, but they had never

Elizabeth Niles served in the 14th Vermont Infantry as George Niles, 1862-63. (El Paso Herald, October 4, 1920)
Interested in the LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION?

If you or a friend would like to become an annual supporter of the Lincoln Memorial Association, please mail a check payable to:

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