



LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

DR. LOWE TO DELIVER KEYNOTE AT 91ST LINCOLN DINNER

The Watchorn Lincoln Dinner returns to the University of Redlands' Orton Center on Saturday, February 11, 2023. In honor of the 91st occasion of the annual event, the 2023 dinner will feature Dr. Turkiya Lowe, Chief Historian for the National Park Service, as keynote. Focusing on the 50th anniversary of the NPS designation of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the program will discuss the ways Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy have been interpreted at the site over the years.

Dr. Lowe holds a Doctorate and Master's degree in 20th century U.S. and African American history from the University of Washington, as well as a Bachelor's degree in history from Howard University. Before her current appointment with the NPS, Dr. Lowe served at historic sites across the country, including as Regional Program Manager for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, assisting communities and stewards to tell the stories of Black resistance to enslavement through escape and flight. She is distinguished as the first woman and person of color to serve as Chief Historian for the National Park Service.

Annual attendance to the Lincoln Dinner is \$65 for Lincoln Memorial Association contributors who donate or renew in January 2023, and \$75 for the general public. For reservations, please call (909)798-7632 or email heritage@akspl.org.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*A publication of the
Lincoln Memorial Shrine*

Erected in 1932 by Robert Watchorn in
memory of Emory Ewart Watchorn



LINCOLN MEMORIAL SHRINE

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

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National Park Service

The LMA Newsletter is published quarterly.
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The Lincoln Memorial Shrine, located in
Smiley Park south of A.K. Smiley Public Library,
is open to the public, free of charge.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Saturday, 1 pm - 5 pm
For more information, visit www.lincolnshrine.org

Mission Statement:

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine strives to be a sustainable community resource that provides a diverse and growing audience an opportunity to better understand today by learning about the past from expanded collections, exhibits, and programs.

DON'T MISS THE OPEN HOUSE

Commemorate Lincoln and the Civil War at the Lincoln Shrine Open House on Saturday, February 4, 2023, 11am-3pm at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine and Smiley Park in Redlands.

The popular annual event will once again feature live music, Civil War reenactors, and family activities. The ever-popular 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery will provide hourly cannon demonstrations, the 7th Michigan Cavalry will discuss the life of cavalrymen during the war, and President Lincoln presenter Robert Broski will recite the Gettysburg Address. Also on hand will be the Sons of Union Veterans, Dr. Malarkey, the Camp Carleton Band, the Inland Empire LEGO User Group with their ever-growing LEGO Civil War battle scene, and many more.

The event will be preceded by the annual Lincoln Pilgrimage, which will culminate with a program on the steps of the Lincoln Shrine at 10:30am. A Redlands tradition since 1940, the Pilgrimage is hosted by the Gray Arrow District, Boy Scouts of America and is sponsored by Redlands Noon Kiwanis.

The Lincoln Shrine Open House is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Heritage Room.



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHRINE EXPANSION

It's time to mark the 25th anniversary of the expansion of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine! On February 12, 1998, sixty-six years after its founding, the museum's two new wings were unveiled to the public. The long hoped-for expansion was the culmination of a four-year fundraising campaign by the board of the Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association (WLMA), the support organization for the museum.

Plans for an expansion date to the Shrine's earliest years when donors Robert and Alma Watchorn hoped to enlarge the building beyond the original 1,000 square foot octagonal gallery. Initially envisioned as a place to contemplate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy, the Lincoln Shrine quickly evolved into an educational space, where historic materials related to Lincoln and the Civil War could be admired by visitors. With donations of books and objects, the collections quickly outgrew the space, leaving room for only a small percentage of the museum's holdings to be displayed at one time.

While the dream of an expansion remained a constant for curators over the years, it was not until 1992 that a plan was developed. With the help of Lincoln collector Jack Whitehead, who paid the cost of the preliminary architectural drawings, and generous donations totaling over \$50,000, the fundraising campaign began in earnest in the spring of 1993 when the plan was made public. Setting a fundraising goal of February 1995, the committee sought to raise \$1 million, approximately half of which would go to construction and the rest to an endowment to care for the building.



With fundraising efforts underway, discussions turned to the museum's configuration. Designed to mimic the United States Capitol, with a central gallery flanked by two wings, an early concept with large semi-circular windows above the additions was likened to a shopping mall and ultimately rejected in favor of the structures that were eventually built. A scale model of the planned design was created to help supporters better visualize the final structure. For the interiors, the curatorial staff envisioned each new gallery would focus on one side of the conflict, with one wing discussing the

Federal government's efforts and the other the rebellion.

Privately funded, the campaign raised funds from throughout Southern California, but a majority of gifts came from Redlanders. With \$850,000 raised, construction on the two 1,250 square foot wings began in May 1997 and was projected to take nine months to be completed. Building materials were sourced to ensure a seamless transition from the original structure to the new additions, both inside and out. In an effort to protect the original structure, the expansion process required the careful transfer of the museum's Merrill Gage fountains from the courtyard to their new location just outside the building, as well as efforts to protect the original murals by Dean Cornwell from damage.

The expanded museum opened to the public on February 12, 1998, significantly enhancing the ability to present exhibitions, offer public programming, and provide guided tours. Over 250 spectators attended the reopening ceremony, which included

displays of the museum's remarkable collections created by staff with the help of students from University of Redlands. Of the remarkable achievement, WLMA President Jack D. Tompkins said, "I believe this expansion represents a rededication of the great philanthropic gifts of this century in our city," adding, "It is among the very cultural and educational institutions that is the essence of Redlands."

In the quarter century since attaining the Watchorns' dream of an expanded museum, the stewards of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine have worked to honor their legacy and fulfill their vision of sharing Lincoln's story with new generations.

To learn more about the Watchorns and to see the scale model created as part of the fundraising efforts, visit "Enduring Legacies: The Lincoln Shrine at 90", an exhibition in honor of the museum's 90th anniversary. Additional information on the family can be found in the history tab of our website, www.lincolnshrine.org.



“HARRIET”: FACT AND FICTION IN A CIVIL WAR MOVIE

As one of the most historically significant periods in American history, the Civil War era has been the subject of films from the earliest years of the motion picture industry. Depicted through the lens of the writers and directors at the helm, many films have presented skewed perceptions of that critical time in the nation’s past, often seeking to add drama to already compelling stories. Such is the case with *Harriet*, the most recent entry into the canon of Civil War-era films.

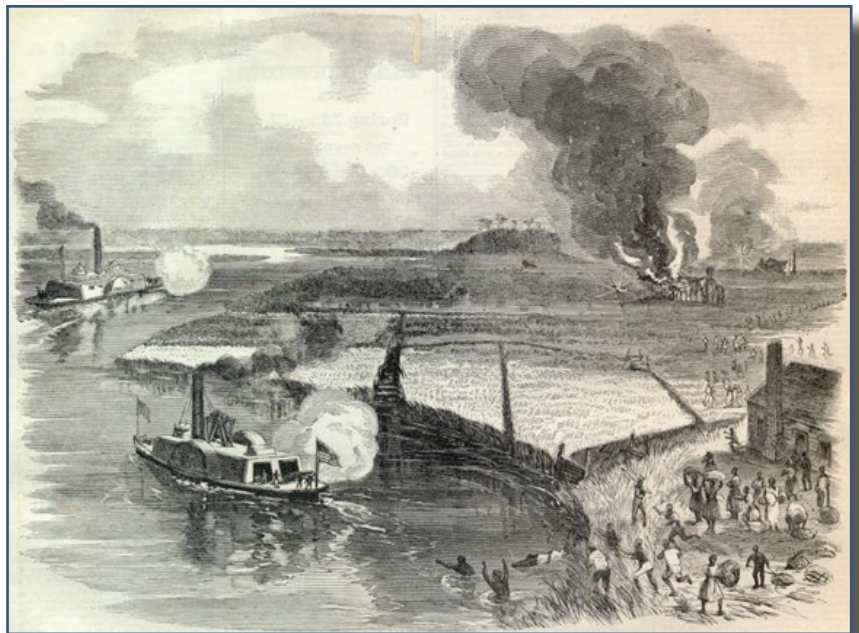
Harriet depicts the story of abolitionist and social activist Harriet Tubman, showing a woman who was a fierce, militant, radical, defiant, and deeply faithful person. While the film accurately portrayed many facets of her early life, including her enslavement, escape to Pennsylvania, activities as a conductor in the Underground Railroad, and her efforts to bring her family to freedom, it also includes many inaccuracies. With the inclusion of fictional characters and unrealistic storylines involving actual historical figures, the film veers too far away from fact to truly be an educational tool without a disclaimer.

Among the most dramatic examples of the film’s play with facts is the omission of her courageous role in the 1863 raid on the Combahee River in South Carolina, where she aided in the emancipation of hundreds of enslaved persons. Although the film ends with Tubman standing on a shoreline with several boats behind her as her singing

draws hundreds of escaped slaves out of the woods, the actual raid was not depicted in the movie.

The events that led to the raid began in the fall of 1861, when Massachusetts governor John A. Andrew asked Tubman to go to South Carolina to aid formerly enslaved persons adjust to their new freedom. Once at Hilton Head, she began her work as a spy, scout, and nurse, recruiting black scouts, riverboat pilots, and making repeated trips into the local waterways herself. She located enslaved people who knew the locations of river mines, identified the locations of plantation rice mills, storehouses, and bridges.

In May 1863, US commander of the Department of the South Major General David Hunter asked



*Raid of Second South Carolina Volunteers, Harper's Weekly,
July 4, 1863*

Tubman to guide several gunboats up the Combahee River on a military mission. She agreed and guided three gunboats manned by two companies from the 2nd South Carolina Colored Infantry and one company from Company C of the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery up the river, avoiding the mines which her scouts had located.

Troops landed and torched plantations, destroying houses, mills, and outbuildings, and taking stores of rice and cotton, as well as supplies of potatoes, corn, and livestock, leaving the plantations as smoking ruins. The fire from the gunboats, the sounding of their horns, and the alarm provided by Tubman's guides warned enslaved people of the approaching Union forces. Many of the soldiers who took part in the raid were themselves formerly enslaved and saw the burning and pillaging of these estates as an opportunity to enact revenge on the oppressive class. Hundreds of people fled down to the various plantation landings and escaped by the gunboats. By the time rebel forces learned of the raid, much of the damage had been done. A company of rebel troops was sent to challenge the raiders, but they were not successful, managing to stop only one enslaved woman from escaping by killing her, and failing to hit any gunboats.

The successful raid freed an estimated 750 enslaved people—162 of whom enlisted in the 2nd South Carolina Colored Infantry—and damaged rebel supplies and forced the abandonment of plantations which provide sustenance to their military.

The inexplicable decision to omit this exciting episode in favor of fictional additions hurts the film, but, in spite of its shortcomings, *Harriet* effectively portrays the exploits of a brave woman, the dangers she faced, and the brutality of slavery.

—Mark Radeleff is a volunteer researcher in the Archives of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine.



JOIN THE DOCENT CORPS

Are you looking for ways to give back to the community? Have you always been fascinated by Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War? Consider volunteering as a docent at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine!

Since 1972, Shrine docents have interacted with hundreds of thousands of people from across the country and around the world. By sharing the stories of the Shrine's origins, discussing the war and its impacts, and President Lincoln's legacy, docents continue the conversations of the critical moment in our nation's history. For more information, please contact the Shrine at (909) 798-7632 or heritage@akspl.org.

Did You Know?

On February 12, 1932, Robert Watchorn hosted the first Watchorn Lincoln Dinner. Presented at the Wissahickon Inn in Redlands, the program honored Abraham Lincoln's life on the occasion of the grand opening of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine. In the nine decades since, the Shrine has welcomed 88 scholars whose presentations have honored the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and the continued impact of the Civil War on the United States.

BECOME A SPONSOR

As the largest annual tradition of its kind in the United States, the Watchorn Lincoln Dinner provides a great opportunity to make a contribution for the Lincoln Shrine to acquire something new for its collections.

Through the generous support of our 2022 sponsors, the Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association raised over \$52,000 for the purchase of an item to be unveiled at the Lincoln Dinner this year. Your sponsorship will help fund the purchase of an item to be presented at the 2024 Dinner.

Sponsorships of \$2,500 include a complimentary table of eight at the Lincoln Dinner; \$1,000 includes four seats; and \$750 includes two seats. Sponsors \$500 and above will be recognized in the evening's printed program, on a poster at check-in, and on the screen during dinner. Look for a sponsorship card with your 2023 Lincoln Dinner invitation.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS PROGRAM

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine commemorated the 159th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address on Saturday, November 19. Featuring live music by the Camp Carleton Band and Mountain Fifes and Drums, the program included a presentation of Lincoln's famous speech by Abraham Lincoln presenter Robert Broski. The hour-long event drew over 150 people and was capped off with the participation of the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, who provided artillery demonstrations throughout the event.

A big thanks to everyone who joined in the special celebration. Don't miss the Open House for more opportunities to celebrate Lincoln!





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Annual support is January - December. Individual supporters may purchase one discounted ticket to the Lincoln Dinner, and Family and Sustaining supporters may purchase two.

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