



LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

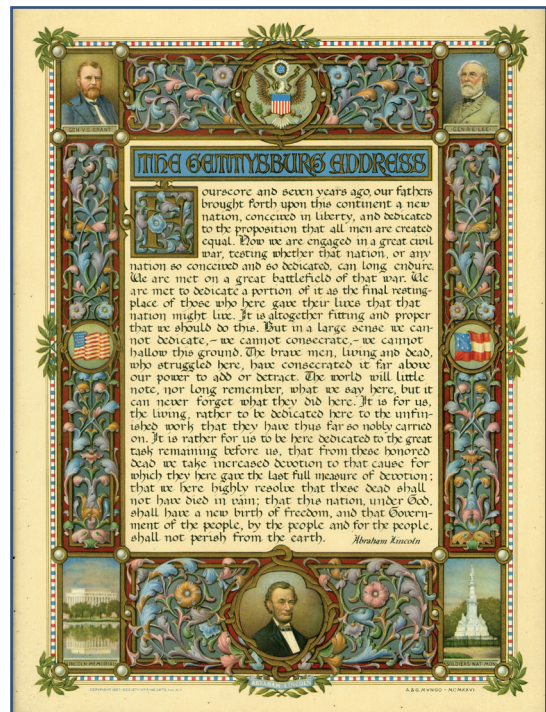
CELEBRATING THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS AT 160

Abraham Lincoln's speech at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1863 has long been remembered as his most powerful statement on the war and perhaps the greatest speech in American history. Relatively brief, the Gettysburg Address, as it is now known, brought together the principles of liberty, equality, and abolition, and venerated those who sacrificed their lives in defense of those ideals.

In celebration of the 160th anniversary of that momentous recitation, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine will host a special event on Sunday, November 19 at 1pm in Smiley Park. Featuring music by Mountain Fifes and Drums and Camp Carleton Band, as well as an artillery demonstration by the ever-popular 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, the event will include a special recitation of the famed speech by local children.

The participation of children harkens back to Ken Burns' national effort to encourage Americans to learn the speech as part of the 150th anniversary commemoration a decade ago, a project that brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate Lincoln's words and their legacy.

For additional information, please visit www.lincolnshrine.org or call the Heritage Room at (909)798-7632.



Commemorative lithograph of the Gettysburg Address printed in 1927 for the Society of Fine Arts in New York.

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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The LMA Newsletter is published quarterly.
Subscriptions are free to members of the LMA.

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 - Sunday, 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.

SHRINE BRINGS THE CIVIL WAR ERA TO LIFE

The second anniversary of the Shrine's cannon was celebrated with an artillery demonstration on August 26th! The presentation by the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery proved to be popular once again this year with nearly 200 people in attendance. The program was rounded out with music by the Camp Carleton Band and an appearance by Abraham Lincoln presenter Robert Broski.

For another opportunity to enjoy music of the Civil War era, mark your calendars for the Shrine's annual holiday singalong program on Saturday, December 23 at 11am in Smiley Park. Featuring holiday tunes from the Civil War era, the always popular program is sure to bring a large crowd, so feel free to bring your own lawn chairs. In case of rain, the event will be moved to A.K. Smiley Public Library's Contemporary Club. For more information on upcoming events, visit www.lincolnshrine.org.



Cannon demonstration,
August 26, 2023.
Photographs by
Bruce Herwig.



ULYSSES S. GRANT AFICIONADOS DONATE COLLECTION

Thanks to the generosity of long-time docent Bob D'Amato and his colleague Neil Bittenbender, the Shrine recently acquired a fantastic collection of Civil War framed artwork, pamphlets, and manuscripts. Bob has had a decades-long interest in Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant and has collected whatever he could find about the man who saved the Union. "I had a high school history teacher who inspired me to learn about Grant. I read Grant's memoirs and became enamored with the man. I wish he had been my father!" Grant is sadly underappreciated, according to D'Amato. In addition to his crucial role in winning the war, Grant's fight to protect freedmen during his Reconstruction-era presidency is now being reevaluated favorably by contemporary historians. "Grant got a raw deal", in D'Amato's estimation.

Included in the collection is a set of three Civil War-era notes, all bearing the signature of A. Lincoln, as well as more than a dozen framed Grant lithographs and images, a framed Grant presidential commission document, a William Tecumseh Sherman manuscript, and two boxes of Grant biographies. To learn more about one of these exceptional manuscripts, read "Getting the Soldiers' Vote: The 1864 Presidential Campaign" on pages 5-8.

The Grant document, signed during his presidency on March 10, 1875, appointed Civil War veteran Addison McClure as postmaster in Worcester, Ohio. Thirteen years prior, McClure had been a captain in the 16th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, serving under then General Grant during the Vicksburg Campaign. In the unsuccessful



December 1862 first attempt to storm that important rebel citadel on the Mississippi River, Captain McClure was captured at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou and spent five months as a prisoner of war before being exchanged.

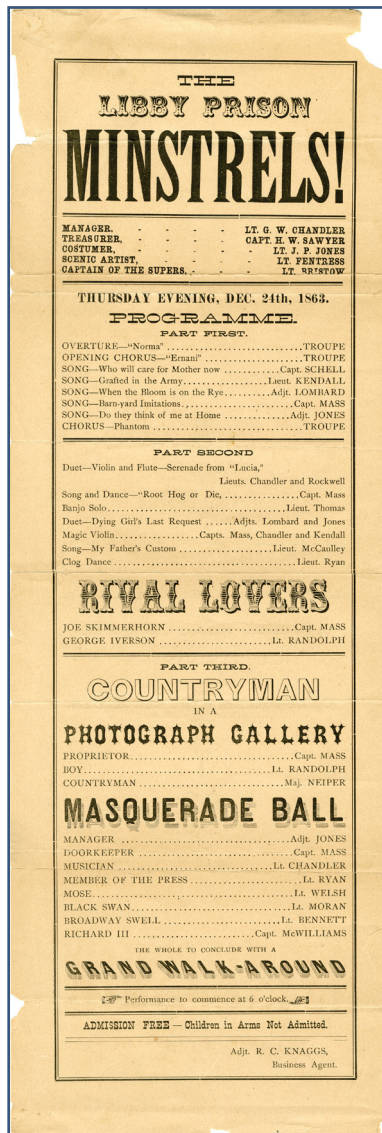
When asked about their decision to donate their collection, D'Amato replied "Neil, who was a teacher for 51 years, and I felt the time was right to share this material with the patrons of the Shrine, where it will be cared for, cherished, and appreciated."

MINSTRELSY IN A CIVIL WAR PRISON CAMP

In December 1881, *The National Tribune* of Washington, D.C. published "The Bright Side of Libby: Incidents and Humors of Prison Life." Written by one-time inmate Captain Frank E. Morgan, the remembrance sought to share an insider's perspective of life in the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia during the Civil War. Hoping to "bring light to a few of the pleasures of the place," Captain Morgan recalled an interesting array of people who came together as a "convention of men of bright and cultured minds," all of whom were imprisoned with him during his 20-month confinement, which began after he was captured during the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. Among the inmates were many performers who organized a minstrel troupe, which, according to Morgan, "could boast of talent that would compare favorably with some of the professional companies" of the day.

The "Libby Prison Minstrels" performed familiar tunes and staged variety shows that enlivened the war-weary men. Led by an exacting stage manager, the troupe only admitted the most accomplished performers. The most popular of their productions

took place on Christmas Eve, 1863, and featured a three-part program with popular and operatic tunes, musical performances, a comedy routine, and a play, all performed by the Minstrels. Some of their songs, like "Who Will Care for Mother Now" and "Do They Think of Me at Home" directly referenced their wartime experiences, and others, including "Barn-yard Imitations," were more decidedly lowbrow. Of the song list, "Root Hog or Die" was directly associated with American minstrelsy.



Recently purchased postwar production of a handbill for the December 24, 1863 performance.

While the minstrel tradition dates back centuries, 19th century American minstrelsy featured stereotypical depictions of African Americans performed by white performers in blackface. Bringing together different types of entertainment, both comedic and dramatic in nature, minstrel shows staged by soldiers during the war were often performed with faces covered with burnt cork, ash, or grease, and included exaggerated dialects, dancing, and gestures associated with enslaved people. Blackface minstrelsy was most popular between 1850 and 1870, but the use of blackface continued well into the 20th century in stage and film performances.

GETTING THE SOLDIERS' VOTE: THE 1864 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Nineteenth century political campaigns bear no resemblance to political campaigns of today. Laws implemented in the 20th and 21st centuries focused on the control and accounting of financial donations, actions by government employees performing political actions, and how candidates can use their money, all with the intent of transparency. No such laws existed in the presidential election of 1864.

During that year's campaign, many state legislators and party leaders faced the unusual dilemma of determining how to take the ballot to voters beyond state lines. With soldiers from every state spread across the continent, this problem weighed heavily on the minds of politicians, and they found themselves unprepared for the task of canvassing the troops. They knew that the soldiers' votes were crucial to winning the election and that "hard work must be done" to secure them.

While voting was restricted for soldiers in the Army based on individual state laws, some states passed bills permitting soldiers in the Army to vote and General Ulysses S. Grant issued leave to the regiments from Delaware so they could return home to vote. As early as 1862, suggestions were made regarding how to distribute campaign literature in the Army, and by 1864 both parties liberally distributed fliers to all Union camps. In order to streamline these efforts for the Republicans, Senator Lyman Trumbull and the Republican Congressional Committee developed a plan to assist in the distribution of their party's political documents.

A recently-acquired note written and signed by President Abraham Lincoln sheds light on one

of the ways the distribution was conducted. Dated September 15, 1864, the note grants permission and instructs the Army to allow George T. Brown to travel to General Grant's headquarters near Petersburg, Virginia. The reasons for granting such access are unclear in the note, but it begs the question: who was George T. Brown?



*George T. Brown with President Andrew Johnson,
Harper's Weekly, March 28, 1868*

A native of Scotland, Brown immigrated to the United States in the 1830s, living in Illinois where he studied law and eventually became a political figure. Mentored by leading Illinois politician Lyman Trumbull, Brown came into Abraham Lincoln's orbit when Lincoln supported Trumbull's Senate campaign in 1855. Brought together by their mutual distaste for the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which was designed to ease dangerous tensions over the issue of slavery, Lincoln, Trumbull, and Brown were leaders in the establishment of the Republican Party of Illinois in 1856 and continued to collaborate through Lincoln's presidential campaign four years later. As southern states withdrew their congressional delegations following Lincoln's victory in 1860, Brown decided to move to Washington.

When the Senate convened an emergency session on July 4, 1861, the Senate Republican caucus awarded choice patronage assignments to Lyman Trumbull, the then Judiciary Committee Chairman and a key party member from the new president's state. Trumbull arranged for Brown to be elected the following day as the Senate's first Republican Sergeant at Arms.

With rebel forces within easy striking distance of Washington, Sergeant at Arms Brown faced grave security responsibilities, including protection of the Capitol with the thousands of Federal soldiers camped out in its rooms and corridors in the war's early years. Throughout the war, in addition to his routine duties, Brown performed special tasks for the president and Senate party leaders. During Lincoln's 1864 reelection campaign, the Republican National Committee assigned him to distribute campaign flyers to Union Army troops. At the completion of that contest, Brown proudly reported his work to Trumbull, boasting of disbursing campaign materials to troops across the battlefields of the South.

Allow the bearer, Geo.
T. Brown, to pass, & have
transportation, to Gen.
Grant's Headquarters &
back.

Sept. 15, 1864

A. Lincoln

To travel north it was a simple matter of civil transportation on trains and public roads. But to travel south of Washington, D.C. would require special access. It was only a simple matter of requesting a pass from the president, who Brown knew personally. The result was Lincoln's September, 1864 note: *Allow the bearer, Geo. T. Brown, to pass, & have transportation, to Gen. Grant's Headquarters & back.*

Brown elaborated in a letter to Trumbull, "The Cong. Com. got me to chase the army down with campaign document...I went into it, and have distributed nearly a million documents, nearly all to the army from Maine to Louisiana."

Little is known of Brown's day-to-day activities as Sergeant at Arms. He emerged briefly from historical obscurity on the afternoon of Saturday, March 7, 1868, when he traveled from the Capitol to the White House to present President Andrew Johnson with a summons to his Senate impeachment trial.

In March 1869, the Senate elected a former House member as its new Sergeant at Arms. Nearing age fifty, Brown returned to Alton, Illinois. A biographical profile, published nearly fifty years later, contains this sad account of his final decade. In "his absence from the state, he had lost his prominence in politics and failing resources

added to his misfortunes. He was unmarried and led a rather lonely life...During his later years the journalistic instinct was still strong in him, and he was accustomed to frequent the newspaper offices to look over the exchanges and thus keep pace with the world in which he had once borne a prominent part." George T. Brown died in Alton on June 10, 1880.

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

2024 WATCHORN LINCOLN DINNER

The Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association is excited to announce Professor Christopher Oakley as the 2024 Watchorn Lincoln Dinner speaker. Professor Oakley is a graduate of Columbia University and currently serves as Associate Professor of News Media at University of North Carolina at Asheville. A fine art painter and photographer, he has worked as an animator on feature films for Walt Disney Feature Animation, DreamWorks, and Rhythm and Hues, as well as other high-profile projects throughout his career.

Fascinated by President Abraham Lincoln from a young age, Professor Oakley has spent much of his life learning about the 16th president. His undergraduate research endeavor at UNC Asheville, The Virtual Lincoln Project, has garnered national and even international attention and recognition.

Look for additional details and reservation information in January 2024.

Did You Know?

Did you know Robert Watchorn received an honorary degree from University of Redlands in 1933? A coal miner from the tender age of 11, Robert Watchorn lacked the formal continuous education enjoyed by many of his more privileged contemporaries. He persevered, attending night school as a child laborer and establishing a night school for coal miners as an adult. University of Redlands recognized his great gift of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine to the City of Redlands in February, 1932 by bestowing upon him an honorary doctorate degree in December, 1933.

HELP US REACH 1,000 FOLLOWERS!

Since 2019, the Lincoln Shrine's Instagram has amassed over 900 followers and shared over 150 posts about the history of the Civil War, public programs, the museum's collections, and exhibits. While that is impressive, we want your help to reach 1,000 followers by the end of the year.

What can you do? Follow [@lincolnshrine](https://www.instagram.com/lincolnshrine) on Instagram today and tell your friends and family to help get the word out. Make sure to post a selfie with Abe Lincoln and our reproduction cannon on your next visit!



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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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