



# LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2023

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

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## WHAT HAPPENED IN THE 2023 LINCOLN SEASON?

Each year in February, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine honors Abraham Lincoln's birthday with events that commemorate the Civil War and celebrate his life and legacy. Known colloquially as "Lincoln Season," the Lincoln Shrine Open House and Watchorn Lincoln Dinner offer the perfect opportunity to bring together Lincoln and Civil War enthusiasts in Redlands.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Open House took place on Saturday, February 4 and included the debut of new exhibits in the museum, as well as the participation of educational groups and dozens of Civil War reenactors. Nearly 800 people attended the event and enjoyed living history presentations by the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Light Artillery with their ever-popular cannon demonstration, the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry on horseback, live music by the Camp Carleton Band, and a program in commemoration of the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation by the 97<sup>th</sup> US Colored Troops and President Lincoln presenter Robert Broski.

Just one week later, the 91<sup>st</sup> Watchorn Lincoln Dinner was held at University of Redlands. Originally slated to feature Dr. Turkiya Lowe, Chief

Historian of the National Park Service, as keynote, a sudden setback resulted in her absence. Deciding to go forward with the program, Shrine Director Don McCue, Curator Nathan Gonzales, and Special Collections Manager Maria Carrillo Colato divided the time for the speaker's presentation into three segments. With nearly 300 people in attendance, the program went off without a hitch and Shrine staff hope to invite Dr. Lowe for a future event.

A big thanks to everyone who helped make the 2023 Lincoln Season a success!



# 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 - Saturday, 1 pm - 5 pm  
For more information, visit [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://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.**

# THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

Since 2017, the Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship Fund has provided an opportunity for supporters of the Shrine to contribute to the purchase of a new Lincoln related item for the collections. This year, thanks to the largesse of sponsors to the 2023 Watchorn Lincoln Dinner, nearly \$37,000 was raised. This generous amount will aid in the acquisition of a special item to be unveiled at the 2024 Dinner.

Past sponsorship acquisitions have enhanced the Shrine's collections in many ways, adding artifacts, letters, and documents written and signed by President Lincoln. Explore previous acquisitions by visiting the Collections page at [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org).

The Lincoln Shrine offers sincere thanks to this year's sponsors:

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# 2022 SPONSORSHIP FUND ACQUISITION

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the 2022 Watchorn Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship Fund, the Shrine acquired a fascinating letter written by Abraham Lincoln as a member of Congress in 1848. Corresponding with Archibald Williams, esq. of Quincy, Illinois, Lincoln writes of the upcoming presidential election, comparing the two Whig candidates, longtime political leader Henry Clay and General Zachary Taylor, the “hero” of the Mexican-American War. The insightful document sheds light on Lincoln’s views during a critical period in national politics.

Abraham Lincoln served a single term in the US House of Representatives, from 1847-1849. By this

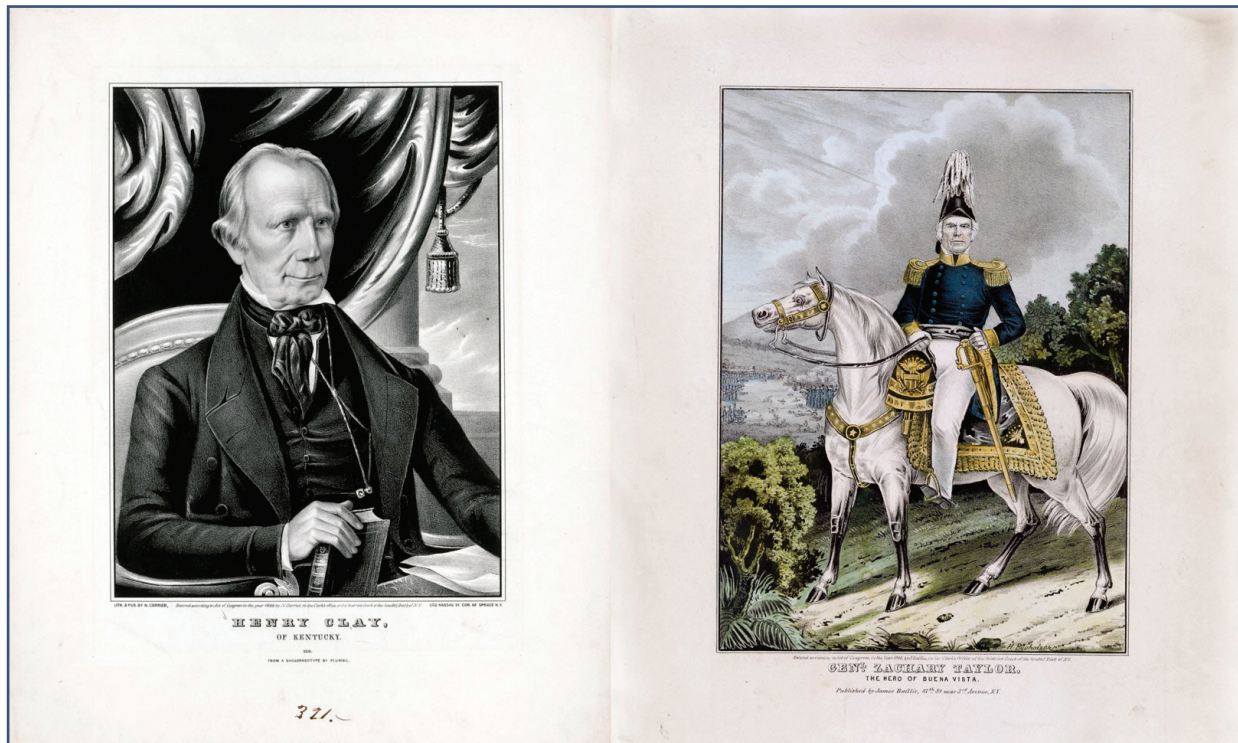
time, he was no stranger to politics, having been elected to the Illinois House of Representatives as a member of the Whig Party four times between 1834 and 1840. With his election for Illinois’s Seventh Congressional District, Lincoln was the only Whig representative for the state, the remainder being Democrats.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Congress began on March 4, 1847, but the first session did not begin until December 6, making it a year and four months between the time of his election and the time he was seated in the House in Washington, D.C. Many of his peers perceived Lincoln as an unrefined country storyteller, which he used to his advantage as a sophisticated politician. During his term, he coauthored a bill to abolish slavery and compensate slave owners in the District of Columbia, but it failed to get enough support from his own party. He also supported the Wilmot Proviso, a failed attempt to ban slavery in the land annexed by the United States from Mexico in the Mexican-American War. As the presidential nominating conventions approached in the spring of 1848, Lincoln supported the nomination of General Zachary Taylor over Henry Clay.

A native of Kentucky, Clay served numerous terms in Congress and one term as Secretary of State during the administration of John Quincy Adams. Known for his oratory skills, Clay had many supporters in Congress during his political career and was known for his work to stall dissension over the issue of slavery. Losing presidential bids in 1824 and 1832, Clay founded the Whig Party in 1834 and was nominated as the Whig presidential candidate a decade later. A divisive candidate, Clay’s







*gave should be sent - Mr. Clay's chance for an election, is just no chance at all - He might get New-*

A portion of Lincoln's letter to Archibald Williams expressing doubt in Henry Clay's chances for the 1848 presidential nomination.

defeat in that contest diminished his support among Whigs. By the time he ran for office again in 1848, members of his party expressed no confidence in his electability.

Zachary Taylor, on the other hand, was a career officer in the US Army. Born in Virginia and raised in Kentucky, Taylor served in the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, and in conflicts against the Seminole in Florida. Ordered to command a force at the Rio Grande following the United States' annexation of Texas in 1845, his troops were involved in the skirmish that sparked the Mexican-American War the following year. Winning a series of victories during the conflict, Taylor became a national celebrity and was courted by Whig political leaders as a presidential candidate once the war was over.

In his letter to Williams, written in April of 1848, Lincoln demonstrates shrewd analysis of the Whig nomination for President in the 1848 election,

writing: *Mr. Clay's chance for an election, is just no chance at all. He might get New York, and that would have elected in 1844, but it will not now, because he must now, at the least, lose Tennessee, which he had then, and in addition, the fifteen new votes of Florida, Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin... In my judgement, we can elect nobody but Gen. Taylor, and we can not elect him without a nomination...*

Taylor won both the nomination and the presidency in 1848. A resident of Louisiana, he owned a plantation in Mississippi, and enslaved 100 people, ultimately making his election during a fractured period in American history an unfortunate sign of the time. Although he died in office sixteen months after his inauguration, Taylor's brief stint was marred by dissension over the expansion of slavery in the western territories acquired during the Mexican-American War, an issue that would eventually lead to civil war.

# SHRINE DOCENT DONATES WEAPONRY COLLECTION

A docent at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine for over 20 years, Ken Jolly decided in late 2019 to generously donate his collection of Civil War weapons and artifacts to the Lincoln Memorial Shrine to contribute to the museum's educational collections. A talented craftsman and artist, Ken also created the Shrine's "Faces of Lincoln" painting and several models of ships, submarines, and even a World War I biplane, the latter of which aided in telling the story of Lieutenant Emory Ewart Watchorn for whom the Shrine is dedicated. Ken's sizeable donation allows a variety of stories to be told about the war, the experiences of the people who served, and advances in war making.

## A Soldier's Story

Among his gift are items belonging to Ohio soldier James H. Prentiss. Civil War weapons and artifacts directly identified with an individual soldier are relatively scarce, making the collection of Prentiss's canteen, Smith & Wesson 32 caliber Model No. 2 army revolver, holster and tintype that much more significant. Prentiss was 24-years-old when he enlisted as an officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment in 1861. On the second day of the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862, Prentiss and the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio were part of General Don Carlos Buell's decisive Union counterattack that drove the Confederates from the field. During heavy fighting Prentiss's regiment captured the rebel-held city of New Orleans artillery battery and three rebel battle flags. After Shiloh the regiment participated in the siege of Corinth and the battle of Perryville. Prentiss resigned in November 1862 to return home to marry and start a family. Ken purchased

these items directly from a Prentiss descendant.

## Combat by Cavalry

The Jolly Collection also includes a variety of weapons utilized by cavalry during the war, creating an opportunity to interpret their experiences throughout the conflict.

Cavalry during the war had three major roles: 1) reconnaissance, scouting for the enemy; 2) guarding the flanks of the main army; 3) conducting mobile raids deep into enemy territory. The





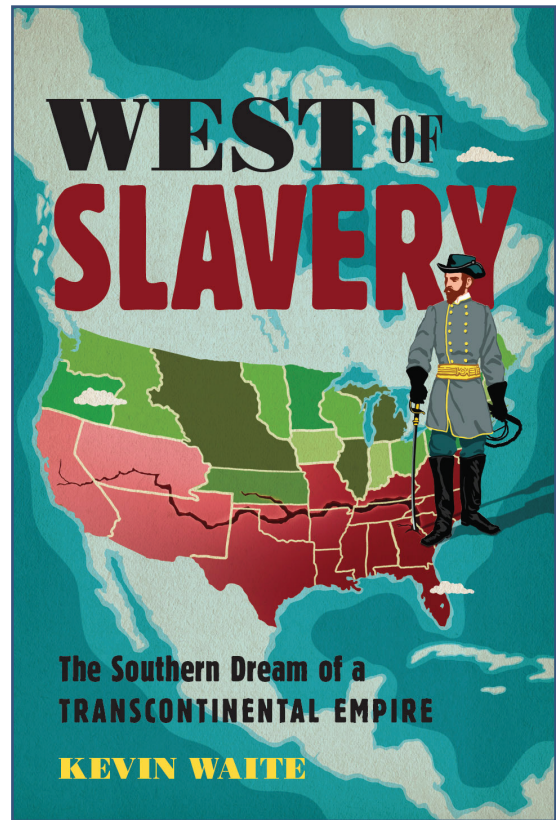
development of the rifled musket made traditional Napoleonic-era cavalry charges too costly for both men and beasts. Although there were exceptions, such as the battles of Gettysburg and Brandy Station, most Civil War cavalry battles were fought dismounted, with one quarter of the men holding everyone's horses behind the line. Cavalrymen would be armed with sabers, pistols, and carbines, which were shorter than rifles and easier to fire from the saddle. At the beginning of the war the rebel armies had the best cavalrymen, but by 1863 the US armies had caught up.

Although they most often fought on foot—particularly as the War progressed—cavalry units typically looked for firearms that would be easy to reload from the back of a galloping horse. The Jolly Collection includes more than a dozen different varieties of breech-loading, single-shot, rifle-barreled weapons known as carbines. The carbines, because their barrels were several inches shorter than the rifle-muskets the infantry carried, also had a shorter range. In addition, the cavalry weapons had a brutal recoil when fired, and—despite their advantages in loading—most still required the cavalry soldier to manipulate a tiny cap in order to fire. Rebel cavalry often brought sawed-off shotguns and cut-down hunting rifles from home. Others, such as rebel General Nathan Bedford Forrest preferred to wield as many as four fully loaded revolvers when fighting in the saddle.

### **Edged Weapons**

Up to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the sight of charging cavalrymen brandishing raised sabers would often be decisive on the battlefield. The adoption by most infantrymen of the accurate rifled musket made swords and sabers almost obsolete as a combat weapon. The Jolly Collection includes several Civil War-era examples.

Selections from the Ken Jolly Weaponry Collection are currently on display in the Lincoln Memorial Shrine. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Sunday, 1-5pm. For additional information about the museum, please visit [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org).



## AUTHOR TO SPEAK ON THE WEST

Ever wonder how California and the western United States fit into the story of the Civil War? Find out on Tuesday, May 2 as author Kevin Waite presents *West of Slavery: The Southern Dream of a Transcontinental Empire* at 7pm in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library and on Zoom. Based on Waite's eponymous book, the program will demonstrate the important role the region played in plans to expand slavery into the Far West.

A.K. Smiley Public Library is located at 125 W. Vine Street in Redlands. This program is free and open to the public. For access on Zoom, visit News & Events at [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org) or contact the Heritage Room at (909)798-7632.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that a large portion of the Shrine's collection related to founder Robert Watchorn was acquired from Watchorn Memorial Methodist Church in Alfretton, England? Donated to the church by Alma Watchorn in 1945, the collection includes artifacts and documents related to Watchorn's time in the United Mine Workers, the immigration service, his autobiography, and items related to their son Ewart. Thanks to the work of Shrine staff and supporters, the collection was purchased in 2008 and, together with the Shrine's existing Watchorn collection, created an archive that fully documents Watchorn's life. Visit "Enduring Legacies: The Lincoln Shrine at 90", currently on display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine, to learn more about the Watchorn family and see selected artifacts on exhibit.

## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

Are you one of the over 800 people following the Shrine on Instagram? Since its creation in 2019, the Shrine's Instagram has shared more than 130 posts about the history of the Civil War, public programs, the museum's collections, and exhibits.

Follow [@lincolnshrine](https://www.instagram.com/lincolnshrine) on Instagram today to keep up with the most recent information 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!

## WOMEN IN THE CW DISCUSSED

On Saturday, March 11, the Shrine celebrated Women's History Month with a program focusing on women during the Civil War. Presented by Dr. Ann Cordy Deegan, "Head to Toe and Skin Out: Women's Dress Through Photography During the American Civil War" analyzed original Civil War-era photographs and fashion illustrations to reveal what influenced dress ranging from economics and war, to technology and fashion trendsetters.

With a background in Civil War textiles, Dr. Deegan's presentation elicited interesting questions from the audience. Available in person and on Zoom, the fascinating program drew nearly 60 people in celebration of women's stories.





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