



LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

STUDIES FROM CREATION OF SHRINE MURALS ACQUIRED

Some of the most exciting recent additions to the Shrine's collections are studies for the murals in the two lunettes of the museum's octagon. Created by Dean Cornwell during the construction in 1931, the half scale charcoal on Masonite drawings are nearly identical to the completed murals. Created by Cornwell in a Los Angeles studio, the murals are representative of Lincoln's greatest accomplishments: the preservation of the Union of the United States and the emancipation of enslaved people.

When he was hired by Shrine architect Elmer Grey in the summer of 1931, Cornwell had established a reputation as a talented artist who Grey believed represented "the very pinnacle of excellence in the art world." Known primarily as an illustrator,

Cornwell's shift to murals came just a few years earlier when he won a commission to paint the murals for the rotunda of the recently completed public library in downtown Los Angeles. Still underway, that commission proved to be extremely costly to *(continued on page 2)*



Study for the Shrine's *He Freed the Slaves* mural by Dean Cornwell, 1932

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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

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.

(continued from cover page) Cornwell, making concurrent jobs, like the Shrine's murals, necessary.

Painted in the allegorical style familiar to Cornwell from his travels in Europe, the Shrine's murals, titled "He Freed the Slaves" and "He Preserved the Union," are demonstrative of Abraham Lincoln's greatest accomplishments. Accompanying a large mural depicting Lincoln's attributes through angels that circle the room, the lunettes stand apart as hopeful representations of the outcomes of the most difficult period in American history. Affixed with a concrete-like substance, the murals remain as secure as the day they were installed and continue to be well received by patrons and visitors alike.

Cornwell's work on the murals was documented in photographs showing him working from studies and live models. Available online through the Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection, the photographs show the painstaking efforts Cornwell underwent to produce the murals. The murals were eventually purchased by a Los Angeles family who kept them for over sixty years.

Used to plan and compose the finished product, art studies have been created by artists from the Renaissance era to the present. Meticulous in his craft, Cornwell often made numerous life studies and conducted historical research to ensure the integrity of his work. Despite some fading and water damage, the studies are stunning artifacts from the period of the murals' creation.

Visit the Shrine to see the originals in person, Tues-Sun, 1-5pm.



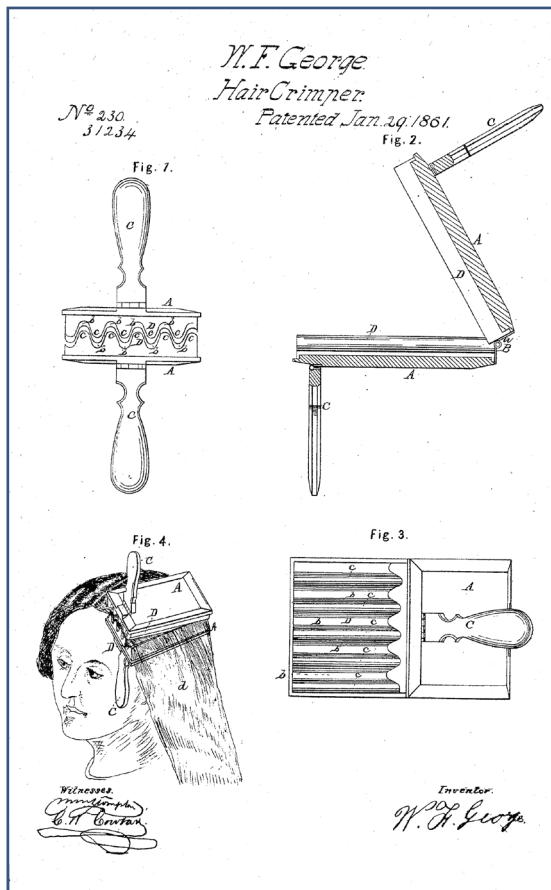
Study for the Shrine's *He Preserved the Union* mural by Dean Cornwell, 1931

NEW ACQUISITIONS TELL OF LIFE DURING THE WAR

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine's collections are growing! Ranging from new inventions to necessary tools for military use, these new acquisitions can help us better understand life during the Civil War.

Hair Crimper

Among the items acquired is a wooden hair crimper patented by W.E. George of New York City on January 30, 1861 and marketed to fashionable women of the day. By the 1860s, American women often wore their hair parted in the middle and



Hair Crimper



pulled back away from their face. More stylish looks included curls, ringlets, and crimped hairdos which were often achieved through the use of heated metal tongs and plates, leading to the invention of new tools to simplify the process.

Invented just prior to the start of the war, W.E. George's hair crimper is reflective of a trend in women's hairstyles at the time where some wore their hair with a zig zag pattern. As noted in the patent application, "This crimping of the hair now fashionable with ladies is by the unusual implement attended with considerable trouble, one fold or plait only being formed or produced at once and great care being required to perform the work neatly. By my invention it is believed that this objection is fully obviated." As he explained, his crimper used



metal plates molded to fit the wooden carriage. After heating, the plates would be placed on the carriage and applied to the person’s hair to create the crimping. According to George, the wooden carriage was essential to “prevent the radiation of heat from the backs of the plate [and to] protect the hands of the operator and render the operation throughout more agreeable.”

Burned hair, scalp, and skin was common for women who wished to curl or crimp their hair in the 19th century. This occurrence was memorialized in Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women* when Jo accidentally burns off a piece of her sister Meg’s hair when curling it with fire heated tongs. Godey’s *Lady’s Book* cautioned women to avoid heated hairstyling implements for fear of injury and instead suggested using a home-made gum solution with curling papers and pins to achieve the desired look.

Women who were unable or unwilling to attempt these options instead turned to hairpieces to instantly transform their look to conform with the fashion of the day. Carefully pinned to the hair, hairpieces gave women a variety of options without the hassle—or danger—inherent in using papers or heated tools.

Telescopic Drinking Cup

Another innovation among the new acquisitions is a telescopic drinking cup created by Peter H. Niles of Boston, Massachusetts. Made of resilient hard rubber, the Niles Drinking Cup, as it was known, was a compact and convenient tool for soldiers on campaign. Patented by Niles on June 5, 1860, nearly a year prior to the start of the war, the cup was a take on collapsible metal cups that were used by travelers at the time. Niles’ invention improved the design by adding a wider base to stabilize the cup and included a lid to allow for transportability.

Then, like today, people were attracted to the latest inventions, likely making this alluring to soldiers and civilians alike. Those who did not adopt the new innovations in folding drinkware carried reliable tin cups and canteens, along with food, a plate, eating utensils, a pocketknife, and other personal items. Sometimes marching for days, soldiers carried what they brought from home in

Telescopic Cup





Soldiers from the 71st New York Volunteers cooking and eating with tin plates and cups at camp, 1861

addition to the items issued by the military. Items like Bibles, diaries, writing tools, instruments, and games could all be found in soldiers' haversacks during the war.

Made possible by the development of vulcanized rubber by Charles Goodyear nearly two decades earlier, the hard rubber used in the Niles Drinking Cup was a game-changer in many ways. With the rubber industry in decline due to the instability of the substance in extreme weather, the vulcanization process allowed it to be useable in a variety of manufacturing areas, from horse shoes and tires to shoes and rubber bands.

Goodyear died in 1860, the year Charles Niles submitted his patent for the hard rubber telescopic drinking cup. At his death, Goodyear was deep in debt and his invention was being used in manufacturing new products in a wide-range of industries. It was only after his death that his family benefited from his innovation through royalties.

Belly Canteen

Also among the recently-acquired artifacts is a Civil War-era tin medical canteen. Containing its original metal strap and 1857 patent screw cap, this "belly canteen," as it was also known, has a curved design that would have allowed it to be filled with hot water and pressed against a person's stomach while they were experiencing abdominal pain.

With a majority of the over 750,000 military deaths during the Civil War attributed to illness, medical professionals learned a lot about treating diseases and injuries. Medical advances during the conflict greatly improved care of the sick and wounded, including the creation of specialty hospitals and the use of quarantine to prevent the spread of highly contagious diseases like yellow fever.

To learn more about the experiences of people during the war, visit the Lincoln Shrine's exhibitions on the US Sanitary Commission, surgery, and camp life or learn more online at www.lincolnshrine.org.

Belly Canteen



VIGILANCE IN THE PRE-WAR NORTH

In the years leading up to the Civil War, self-emancipated and free Black Americans lived in fear of arrest and enslavement due largely to the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. A part of the Compromise of 1850, the law made it compulsory for citizens to aid in the capture of self-emancipated individuals, denied enslaved people the right to a jury trial, and increased the penalty for aiding escapees. Intended as a stopgap to ease tensions leading to Southern secession, the law elicited strong reactions in the North where abolitionists intensified their efforts to assist fugitives in their quest for freedom. One recent addition to the Shrine's collections highlights the efforts of the New York Vigilance Committee, a multi-racial group focused on protecting the state's Black population.

Founded in 1835, just a few years after New York abolished slavery, the work of the Vigilance

Committee was spearheaded by businessman David Ruggles, a Black abolitionist who risked his safety and liberty to challenge individuals who illegally participated in the slave trade, including publishing the names of many who were complicit or active in those efforts. Ruggles's work was inspirational to abolitionists, motivating many to donate funds and to support the work of the Underground Railroad, which Ruggles himself aided as an organizer and guide. The Vigilance Committee raised close to \$840 in its first full year, all of which was allocated to aiding Black fugitives, including providing food and shelter and employing attorneys to defend them in their bids for freedom.

Ruggles served as the face of the organization, publishing anti-slavery pamphlets and editorials in newspapers like William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator*. While his fearlessness made him a target, the safety of every member of the Vigilance Committee was in jeopardy. Risking litigation, arrest, and physical assault, supporters were challenged on multiple fronts, from slave catchers to local merchants and police officers to politicians. Inspired by the work of the New York Vigilance Committee, similar organizations formed in many northern states and became instrumental in the success of the Underground Railroad.

The growing abolitionist movement in the North throughout the 1830s and 40s led to vocal opposition from southerners with interests in chattel slavery. With debates over slavery boiling over across the country, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850, which authorized slaveholders themselves to enter Free states to search for runaways. In some cases, this meant the use of bounty hunters to find and return people, at times under brutal circumstances. In response, new Vigilance Committees formed in many more northern cities and established groups were revitalized.

Fugitive Slaves **ATTENTION.**

The Slave-hunter is among us!

BE ON YOUR GUARD!

AN ARREST IS PLANNED FOR TONIGHT.

BE READY TO RECEIVE THEM,

WHENEVER THEY COME!

To the friends of the slave in
 Dear Brethren & Sisters,
 New York, September 30, 1851
 Purburne

We find it necessary again to ask your help, to enable us to aid our fugitive brethren in their flight from the land of bondage to a place of safety & rest. Since the publication of our last circular in November 1850, we have received nearly four hundred dollars from friends in the country; & have collected about three hundred dollars from our city friends, exclusive of any collections made here or elsewhere, for the purchase of individuals out of slavery. (That has been received has been faithfully & economically expended; & as our receipts from the country have been suspended for some time, we suppose that you are waiting for us to tell you that we need more. The infamous English Slave Bill of 1850 does not prevent the arrival of an occasional pilgrim direct from the South; while its evil workings are producing frequent and great alarms among those who have resided for a longer or shorter time at the North. Hundreds of families have thus been broken up, & compelled to flee to Canada, many of them in circumstances which render it obligatory upon us to aid them. (Nor can we send them more, as formerly, into New-England; for whatever may be the fact in regard to their safety elsewhere, they are unwilling to risk the chance of being again discovered by settling themselves this side of Canada.)

We feel humbled as Americans in being obliged to make such statements & appeals; but this does not alter the facts in the case. We have now several cases on our hands & have not the means to dispose of them. You have aided us in times past, we look for help to you again - confident that you will not disregard our application.

Samuel P. Jocelyn, 1st Vice Pres. Wm. Harnrod, Treas. of
 Charles B. Wiley, Secy. N.Y. State (Orig. Com. 48) Dutman St.

Circular published by the New York Vigilance Committee,
 September 30, 1851

The New York Vigilance Committee issued a notice to supporters in November of 1850, two months after the passage of the law, requesting donations, and eventually went on to raise nearly \$700 in the 10 months that followed. The group published another circular on September 30, 1851 requesting additional financial assistance to help the Committee continue their work in both helping self-emancipated people get to Canada and buying their freedom outright. Signed by three prominent anti-slavery figures, the document is just one example of the courage and dedication of abolitionists in the face of bigotry and violence. Thanks to the work of organizations like these across the North, an untold number of people were saved from bondage, but it was not until the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that African Americans could live without the fear of kidnapping and enslavement in the United States.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Lincoln Memorial Shrine was built on the original site of Smiley Park's old bandstand? Before construction of the Redlands Municipal Amphitheater in 1915, Redlanders enjoyed performances at a stage which stood where the Shrine is located today. The bandstand was soon moved across the street when the amphitheater was built to allow for larger attendance and a better experience for concert goers. Renamed the Redlands Bowl a century ago, the bandstand was replaced with the Prosellis in 1930 and remains one of the city's crowning jewels.

FIND US ON YOUTUBE

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine is on YouTube! Visit the AKSPL Special Collections channel to view webinars, videos from past events, historical vignettes, and more. Presented by staff of Smiley Library's Division of Special Collections, the channel includes content focusing on the history of Redlands, the Civil War, World War II, and the African American experience.

To access the videos, visit the News & Events page on the Lincoln Shrine website at www.lincolnshrine.org, or search "AKSPL Special Collections" on YouTube to find the channel. Contact the Heritage Room at (909)798-7632 with any questions.



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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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