



# LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

## 2024 LINCOLN SEASON DRAWS LARGE CROWD

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine honored Abraham Lincoln's birthday with the annual Lincoln Season events in February.

The festivities began with the 51<sup>st</sup> Open House, which took place on February 3 and included the debut of a large-scale exhibition, "Imitative Lincoln: Art Derived from Photos," as well as exhibits featuring the 2023 Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship acquisition (see pages 3-4) and an item focusing on wartime recruitments in California (see page 6). 1100 visitors enjoyed the new displays, along with the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Light Artillery's cannon demonstration, presentations by the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry on horseback, live music by the Camp Carleton Band, and Lincoln presenter Robert Broski reciting the Gettysburg Address.

Taking place on Lincoln's birthday, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Watchorn Lincoln Dinner was held at University of Redlands, with Professor Christopher Oakley, of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, as keynote speaker. Discussing Lincoln's visit to Gettysburg in November, 1863, Professor Oakley's program, "Placing the Platform: Using 3D Technology to Pinpoint Lincoln at Gettysburg,"

discussed the years-long project he undertook to gain a better understanding of the dedication ceremony for the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg. Nearly 270 people attended the evening program, which also included live music from the Camp Carleton Band and an impromptu performance by Lincoln presenter Robert Broski.

As always, the Lincoln Shrine Open House and Watchorn Lincoln Dinner offer the perfect opportunity to bring together Lincoln and Civil War enthusiasts in Southern California.



# 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!

Each year since 2017, the collections of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine have grown thanks to the generosity of supporters of the Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship Fund. Through the largesse of sponsors to the 2024 Watchorn Lincoln Dinner, a record \$52,000 was raised! This tremendously generous amount will aid in the acquisition of a special item to be unveiled at the 2025 Dinner.

Past sponsorship acquisitions have included objects, letters, and documents written and signed by President Abraham Lincoln. Explore previous Sponsorship 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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# NEW LINCOLN LETTER FOCUSES ON CORRUPTION IN NEW YORK

Donors to the 2023 Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship Fund made possible the acquisition of a letter written by President Abraham Lincoln to then-Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase. Written on his birthday in 1864, the angry letter focuses on a corruption scandal in New York involving Hiram Barney, a Lincoln appointee accused of corruption. The fascinating document demonstrates the role of patronage, an important facet in 19<sup>th</sup> century politics.

In one of his first decisions as president-elect, Abraham Lincoln chose New York Republican operative Hiram Barney as Collector of the Port of New York, a lucrative position with sway in the New York political machine. A great friend of Lincoln's political rival and soon-to-be Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, Barney supported Lincoln in the campaign of 1860.

Barney's appointment did not sit well with many within New York politics. The Collector was the largest dispenser of federal patronage in the State and, as a result, held significant political sway in his party. While the Secretary of the Treasury had to approve removals and appointments, in practice the Collector of the Port of New York generally enjoyed a free rein. The Auditor of the Custom House testified in 1862 that the Collector received a maximum in fees of \$7000 a year respectively. In addition, the Collector received various special fees, including a harbor master's fee from vessels that entered the port, a health officer's fee, and the Seaman's Retreat home, and for it he received a percentage of the returns, which averaged about \$300 a month.

After Lincoln's election, an especially contentious struggle arose over the Custom House. Some who had worked for Lincoln's nomination at the Chicago convention sought their own candidates for the positions in the Custom House. Many allies quickly pressured the president-elect to be allowed to provide the men they wanted appointed instead, with Simeon Draper's name being proposed by one faction, while others championed the "quiet, unostentatious" Hiram Barney. An anti-slavery Democrat turned Republican, Barney represented the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward and served on the boards of various charitable and educational organizations in New



*Portrait of Hiram Barney by Mathew Brady, c1860*

York. He first met Lincoln in 1859 and the two enjoyed an amiable acquaintance.

Barney's appointment and his hesitance to dismiss members of the Democratic Party from key positions angered many Republicans. His primary adversary, the politically prominent Republican Thurlow Weed, made his distaste for the appointee known and by September, 1861, Weed's protégé, 23-year-old Albert N. Palmer, was in place as Barney's private secretary, a position that exerted an influence on appointments.

Barney's financial position did not suffer when he took over the Collectorship, the most remunerative office in the federal government—not excluding the presidency. His stated salary was \$6,340 per year. This, however, was a comparatively minor item in his income from the post. He received 5% of the harbor master's fees, 3% of the health officer's fees, and 2.5% of the Seaman's Retreat hospital fees, all of which had to be paid by every vessel entering the port. Barney later testified before the House investigating committee that he had received \$49,976 from this source alone.

In May, 1861, Barney assigned a profitable contract to his own law firm, Barney, Butler & Parsons, for \$21,000, which led to complaints of abuses and excessive charges that reached Washington, DC. He also assigned several well-paid contracts to his son-in-law and his former law partner.

By 1863, serious accusations of corruption were lobbed at Barney, a matter that became the source of many discussions between Lincoln and Chase. Complaints of irregularities and inefficiencies in the New York Custom House led Lincoln to suggest replacing Barney, a suggestion met with fervent opposition by Chase. Worsening the situation, Joshua S. Bailey, a Special Collector of the 4<sup>th</sup> collection district of the New York State Internal Revenue Service, reported to a congressional



*The New York Custom House moved to the Merchant Exchange (pictured above) in 1863.*

committee investigating the allegations that Lincoln would “take no action” in the situation. After hearing the news, an incensed Lincoln sent Chase a letter, reiterating his concerns about Barney and condemning Bailey. He wrote, in part, “Barney has suffered no abatement of my confidence in his honor and integrity; and yet I am convinced that he has ceased to be master of his position.” He continued, writing of Bailey, “The public interest can not fail to suffer in the hands of this irresponsible and unscrupulous man.”

In his reply, Chase attempted to dissuade Lincoln from removing Barney from his post without his consent, even threatening to resign if that happened. Although he initially backed down, the president still argued for Barney's removal. After further disagreements, Chase resigned as Treasury Secretary, leaving the path open for Lincoln to seek Barney's resignation. Barney was finally replaced and Lincoln appointed Chase the 6<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court.

To read Lincoln's letter to Chase, visit Collections at [www.lincolnshrine.org](http://www.lincolnshrine.org) and find the Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship post.

*--Mark Radeleff is a volunteer researcher in the Heritage Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library.*

# EXHIBIT FEATURES

## LINCOLN IN PHOTOS AND ART

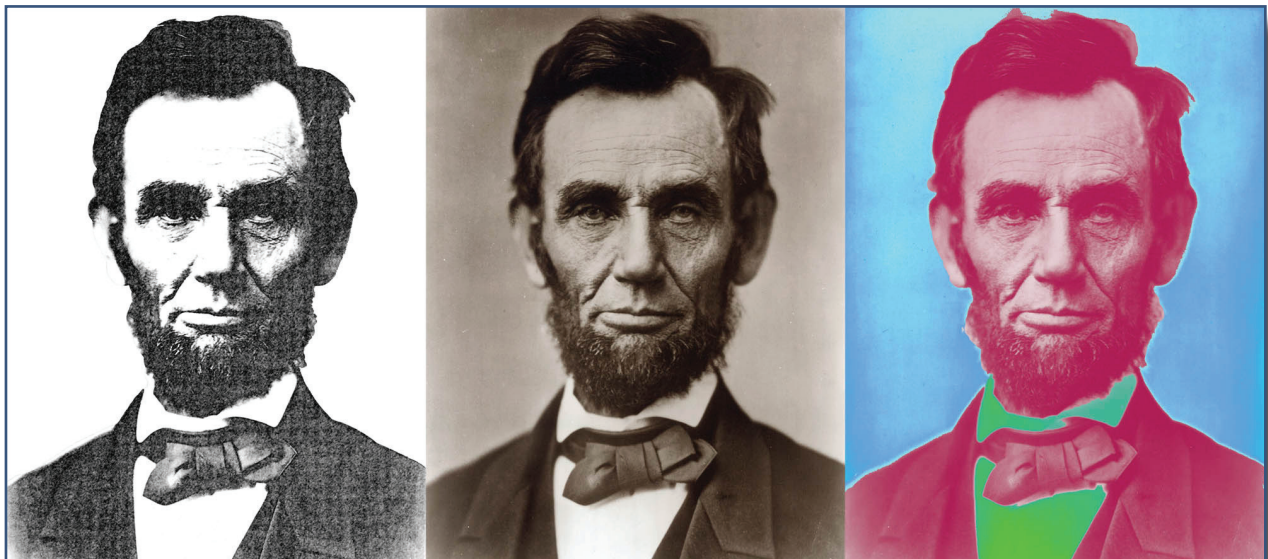
Have you seen the Shrine's newest exhibition, "Imitative Lincoln: Art Derived from Photo"? Focusing on the ways artists have recreated Lincoln's likeness from the photographs he sat for in his life, the exhibit includes a wide range of artistic techniques, from 19<sup>th</sup> century engravings to modern day mosaics, demonstrating how Lincoln has inspired artists over time.

An emerging technology, photography evolved during Abraham Lincoln's lifetime. More than 130 photos feature Lincoln. Before the advent of cheap photo printing and reproduction, and especially the half-tone image, newspapers and magazines relied on the work of artists to create engravings and woodcuts to provide imagery for publications. Artists creating new works also looked to photographs to spare subjects from lengthy sittings.

While he sat for more than two dozen different photographers in his lifetime, the most well-known

portraits were captured in four separate sessions by just four photographers, Mathew Brady, Alexander Hesler, Anthony Berger, and Alexander Gardner. Lincoln understood the power of photography and credited a portrait by Alexander Hesler for his win in the 1860 presidential election, while an earlier portrait taken by Mathew Brady was used strategically to garner support for him as a candidate.

After he was murdered, only photos and imagination remained to inspire new works featuring Lincoln as subject. Some took to creating composite images, adding Lincoln's head to the bodies of other individuals who were believed to be posed in a statelier manner. Nearly all artwork depicting Lincoln is somehow derived from photographs, including the iconic images seen on the penny and five-dollar-bill. Visit the exhibit to learn more about how artists depicted Lincoln.



# RECRUITING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

With the outbreak of the Civil War, California residents responded with the same patriotism and determination as their counterparts in the east. Recruitment efforts began across the state in the summer of 1861, with the formation of two cavalry and five infantry regiments. Among those early units, the First Regiment California Volunteers was recruited in Oakland, California in October 1861 and was soon moved to Southern California, with companies stationed at Camp Latham, near Los

Angeles, and Camp Carleton, near San Bernardino. The following year, the regiment was moved to the Southwest where it joined the California Column in protection of the region from rebel incursions.

As seen in this broadside, after the army called for more volunteers in 1863, the First Regiment recruited once again, advertising for volunteers to serve in Lower California and Arizona, the latter of which presented an especially unstable situation for federal peace efforts. The recruitment drive resulted in the creation of seven more companies, bringing the regiment to full strength, and included one battalion of Native Cavalry, which was comprised largely of Californios, as many Spanish-speaking landowners self-identified.

The California Volunteers also conducted many brutal operations against native people within California and Oregon and in the western territories within the Departments of the Pacific and New Mexico; some of the most notorious were the Snake War, Bald Hills War, Owens Valley Indian War, Chiricahua Wars, and Carson's Campaign against the Navajo.

Other recruitments took place in 1864 and 1865. The California Volunteer units ultimately recruited 15,725 volunteers for Federal service, all of whom mustered out by the end of September, 1865.

This acquisition was made possible through a generous donation from a supporter to the Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association. It is only with the support of donors that the Lincoln Memorial Shrine can continue to expand its collections and bring the history of the Civil War to California.

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Apply at once, at No.  
**1st Lieut. L. F. SAMBURN,**  
Regimental Recruiting Officer.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that the Lincoln Memorial Shrine has an international language collection? Dating back to the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and the war have elicited analysis and commentary from around the world. The collection includes a variety of newspapers, letters, broadsides, and other printed materials either published in other countries or geared toward a multi-lingual audience in the United States, both during and after the war. Lincoln's assassination sparked a variety of biographical works, with publications from Japan, Brazil, Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Poland, represented in the collection. To learn more about this collection, contact the Heritage Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library or check out the library catalog at [www.akspl.org](http://www.akspl.org).

## 1000+ FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM

Thanks to you, the Lincoln Shrine Instagram has surpassed 1,000 followers! Since its creation in 2019, the Shrine's Instagram has shared more than 170 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'S HISTORY MONTH OBSERVED

A.K. Smiley Public Library and the Lincoln Memorial Shrine honored Women's History Month with a fascinating program about Sarah Jane Rousseau, a woman who travelled overland to California during the Civil War. A British immigrant, Sarah made the journey with her family in 1864, arriving in San Bernardino, where she and many of the travelers set down roots.

Taken largely from Sarah's own diary from the trip, the story was presented by Sarah's great-great-great granddaughter Janelle Molony and drew people both in-person and online. An edited version of the diary was published last year as *The 1864 Diary of Mrs. Sarah Jane Rousseau*.





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