



LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 92ND WATCHORN LINCOLN DINNER

The Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association welcomes Professor Christopher Oakley of the University of North Carolina at Asheville as keynote speaker of the 92nd Watchorn Lincoln Dinner on Monday, February 12, 2024. Taking place at the University of Redlands' Orton Center, Professor Oakley's address will examine his work to uncover the details of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Gettysburg in November, 1863. Decades in the making, Professor Oakley's work combined print media and technology.

A life-long aficionado of the 16th president, Professor Oakley has enjoyed a varied career as an animator, director, photographer, and educator. In 2013, his interest in President Lincoln inspired him to launch an undergraduate research endeavor called The Virtual Lincoln Project, which led to the discovery of a previously unknown image of Abraham Lincoln standing in the crowd at Gettysburg.

He has worked as an animator on feature films for Walt Disney Feature Animation, DreamWorks, and Rhythm & Hues. His work includes *Dinosaur*, *Scooby Doo*, *Men in Black II*, and *Stuart Little 2*.

Attendance to the Lincoln Dinner is \$69 for Lincoln Memorial Association contributors who donate or renew in January, 2024, and \$79 for the general public. To request a reservation, call (909)798-7632. Reservations accepted until Saturday, February 3, or until sold out.



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

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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE OPEN HOUSE

The Lincoln Shrine Open House is just around the corner! Don't miss the popular event on Saturday, February 3, 2024, 11am-3pm at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine and Smiley Park in Redlands.

The annual event will once again feature new exhibits, live music, Civil War reenactors, and family activities. The crowd-pleasing 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 be on hand to recite the Gettysburg Address. In addition, the Sons of Union Veterans, Dr. Malarkey, the Camp Carleton Band, and the Inland Empire LEGO User Group, with their ever-growing LEGO Civil War battle scene, will also be on hand.

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.



15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WATCHORN BAS RELIEF

On February 7, 2009, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine unveiled the latest addition to its holdings: a bas relief of the Watchorn family. Donated by the Nies family, the bronze sculpture was installed in Smiley Park, just outside the museum, providing all visitors the opportunity to learn about the family who made the museum possible. The dedication of the bas relief came at the culmination of the year-long celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, which began in February, 2008 and included a special exhibition and a series of programs throughout the year.

An early idea for the commemoration was to erect a statue of Robert Watchorn replicating the only known photograph of Watchorn at the Shrine, showing him standing outside the front door with a cane in his hand. Instead of



Donor and WLMA Trustee Dr. Boyd Nies and then-Shrine Curator Don McCue at the dedication of the sculpture, February 7, 2009



Clay model of bas relief, created by Linda Pew, circa 2008

Robert Watchorn alone, the final work of art celebrated all three members of the family. Based on a family portrait of Robert, Alma, and Ewart Watchorn, the relief was created by Redlands sculptor Linda Pew, whose work in the city includes the bronze sculpture of Albert and Alfred Smiley in Smiley Park on the corner of Vine and Eureka Streets. As was noted at the time, the Watchorns' contributions to the city of Redlands extend beyond the Shrine, giving generously to various philanthropic efforts and donating Watchorn Hall at University of Redlands.

The Shrine continues to be grateful to the Nies family for their generosity over the years!

THE SLAVE TRADE IN VIRGINIA

The sale of enslaved labor represented an intricate and economically vital activity in Virginia from late in the 18th century through the Civil War, ending only with the abolition of slavery in 1865. The sale of enslaved laborers in Virginia exceeded those of all other Upper South states, with Richmond doing the most business of any city. The origins of the domestic slave trade date to the end of primogeniture and entail in Virginia, which broke up large estates and their often large enslaved communities. The rise of cotton production in the Lower South and the end of the transatlantic slave trade in 1808 also created a market for Virginia enslavers, who rushed to sell enslaved people to meet the increasing demand for labor. Throughout Virginia and the Upper South, a large network of traders purchased enslaved laborers and transported them to urban centers.

Between 1790 and 1860, more than 1 million enslaved men, women, and children were sold from the Upper South—mostly Virginia—to the Lower South. Two-thirds of those were the result of sales taking place in hubs such as Richmond and Alexandria.

The Lincoln Shrine recently acquired a letter written by enslaver Hugh M. Nelson to slave auctioneer Richard H. Dickinson in March, 1850 that opens a window into the profitable industry of human trafficking. In his letter, Nelson requested information on an enslaved woman he hoped to sell, suggesting a price for purchase and discussing

future transactions, writing, in part, *I like the woman I purchased from you very much and should like to get her husband. I have several servants which do not suit me whom I intended to send to you to sell for me & to purchase others in their stead but I have had so much difficulty about hearing about this one that I reckon I had better sell them up here for what I can get. I shall hope however to hear from you by the return mail.*

The letter's recipient, Richard Henry Dickinson, was a slave trader in Richmond. From the mid-1850s to the mid-1860s, Dickinson was senior partner in his own trading house, Dickinson, Hill & Co. It was reported that in 1856 their company sold enslaved people worth \$200,000.

The letter's author, Hugh Mortimer Nelson, was an educator, and an enterprising and progressive farmer, who later served as a cavalry officer for

AUCTION SALES.

BY R. H. DICKINSON & BROTHER, AUCTIONEERS.

SEVENTEEN NEGROES.

ON FRIDAY, 3rd January, 1851, will be sold at 10 o'clock, at the auction store of R. H. Dickinson & Brother, city of Richmond, five negro Men, three negro Boys, six negro Girls, and three negro Women, belonging to the estate of R. C. Harrison, dec'd of Charles City county.

JNO. S. WALKER, Com'n'r., &c. with
the will annexed of R. C. Harrison, dec'd.

Sale conducted by R. H. DICKINSON & BRO., Auctioneers.
Dec. 24—tds

FORTY-FOUR LIKELY NEGROES.

On TUESDAY, 7th January, 1851, will be sold at 10 o'clock, forty-four likely Negroes, consisting of young negro Men, Boys, Girls, and likely families, all from one plantation, and sold for no fault.

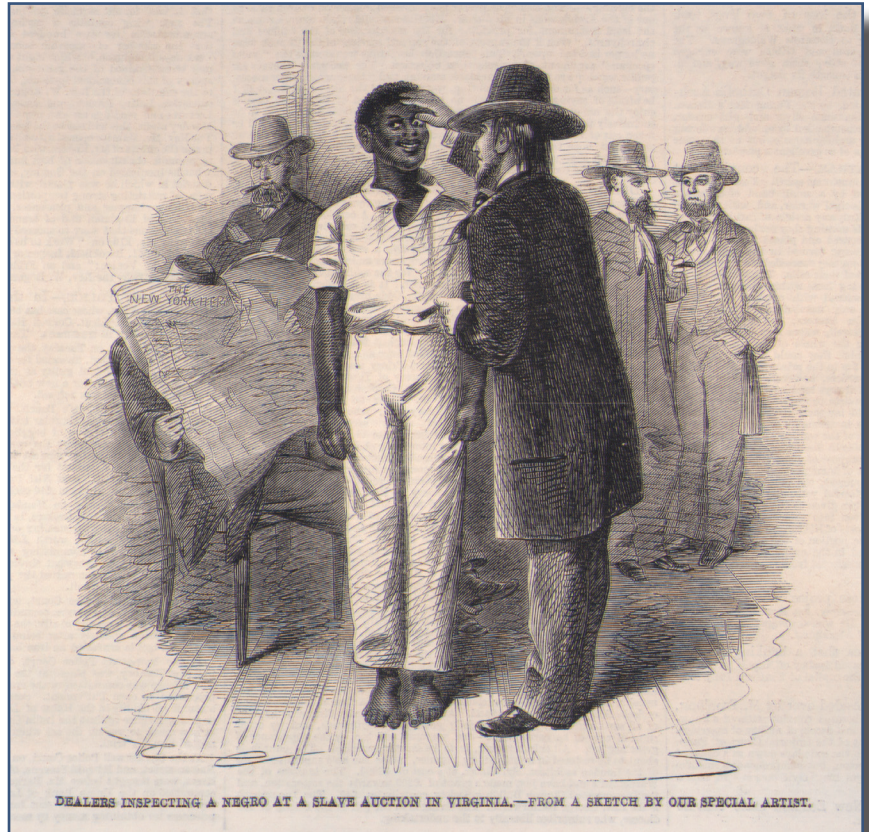
Dec. 24—tds
R. H. DICKINSON & BRO., Auctioneers.

*Sale of enslaved people listed in the
Richmond Enquirer on December 27, 1850*

the Southern armies. In the 1850 Slave Schedules, Nelson is reported to have owned 19 slaves ranging in age from 1 to 60 years old. His brother, Philip Nelson, owned as many as 35 slaves. By the 1860 Slave Schedule, Nelson enslaved 20 people, ranging in age from 3 to 70 years.

At the time Dickinson and Nelson worked together, the presence of slavery and the business of buying and selling bondsmen was an essential element in Richmond's development as one of the preeminent cities in the south during the antebellum period. The city's pivotal location in proximity to agricultural fields, the natural power source provided by the falls on the James River, and its accessibility as a shipping port, and later as a railroad hub, made Richmond an ideal place for manufacturing and exporting operations. Often overlooked in discussions of Richmond's economic success in the antebellum period is the impact of the slave trade as a commercial enterprise. By the mid-19th century, the sale of enslaved people was the largest business in the city, surpassing tobacco, flour, and iron.

Virginia was exclusively a slave-exporting state and Richmond was the best place to do this. The city was known as the greatest market for slaves in the United States, second only to New Orleans. An 1845 Richmond Directory identified nine agents associated with the trade. An 1852 directory listed 28 traders, and by 1860 it listed 18 agents and 33 auctioneers, all of whom were engaged in the business of trafficking people. Such a large increase in the numbers of those involved in the business suggests that slave trading as a commercial enterprise was viable and financially successful. In 1857, the *Richmond Enquirer* estimated that receipts for Richmond's slave auctions totaled \$3,500,000.



The Illustrated London News, February 16, 1861

Of the nearly 4 million enslaved people in the United States in 1860, half a million lived in Virginia. Growing the food, mining the salt, producing the munitions, and building military fortifications for the state, enslaved laborers provided crucial services for Virginia throughout the war. While slave trading continued throughout the war, the economic instability caused by the war had detrimental effects for the industry. The presence of federal troops and the Emancipation Proclamation emboldened many to flee their enslavers, even while the fear of a slave revolt caused many enslavers to tighten their controls. The 13th Amendment formalized the death of the slave industry in the United States, devastating the industries that relied on the sale and labor of enslaved people.

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

RESEARCHING SLAVERY IN THE US

Once relegated to the shadows of historical inquiry, the stories of enslaved people in the United States have garnered significant attention in recent decades. Scholarly works examining the legacy of American chattel slavery have revealed the experiences of the people whose labor made possible the foundation of the institutions that still reign today. From building the nation's most prestigious universities, to toiling in fields and mines to help others accumulate the wealth that elevated families to positions of power, enslaved people played a pivotal role in the prosperity this nation has enjoyed over its history.

Thanks to the work of scholars and the generosity of educational and philanthropic institutions, the stories of America's enslaved population have been brought to light in a series of free, publicly available databases. Focusing on the slave trade and enslavement in the United States and abroad, these digital archives utilize historical documents to piece together the narratives of enslaved people, their enslavers, and the individuals who worked to abolish the inhumane practice.

Among the offerings is the "Black Craftspeople Digital Archive," which documents the skills and knowledge of enslaved people in the American South, and "Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade," a repository that spans from the 15th through the late 19th centuries and covers Western Europe, Africa, and North and South America. Brown University Library has compiled a list of databases focusing on these topics titled "Researching Slavery and the Slave Trade," found at <https://libguides.brown.edu/slavery>.

Did You Know?

Did you know that California was one of the last states to ratify the 14th and 15th Amendments? California's legislature rejected the Reconstruction-era amendments that defined citizenship and extended voting rights when they were first ratified nationally. State legislators passed the 14th Amendment in 1959, becoming the second to last state to do so, and the 15th in 1962, predating only Maryland, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

SPONSOR THE LINCOLN DINNER

Distinguished as the largest annual tradition of its kind in the country, the Watchorn Lincoln Dinner offers a great opportunity to contribute toward the acquisition of a new item for the Lincoln Shrine's historic collections.

Thanks to the generous support of sponsors to the 2023 Lincoln Dinner, the Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association raised over \$37,000 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 next year.

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 2024 Lincoln Dinner invitation.

SHRINE HONORED 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

November 19, 2023 marked the 160th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's now famous visit to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to help inaugurate the new Soldiers' National Cemetery. Asked to provide "a few appropriate remarks", Lincoln's speech brought together the principles of liberty, equality, and abolition, and venerated those who sacrificed their lives in defense of those ideals.

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine commemorated the anniversary of that important moment on Sunday, November 19. Featuring live music by the Camp Carleton Band and Mountain Fifes and Drums, the program also included the participation of the

1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, who provided artillery demonstrations throughout the event.

The highlight of the day came when children from throughout Southern California joined together to present Lincoln's famous speech. Led by popular Lincoln presenter Robert Broski, the presentation proved both heartwarming and entertaining. Ranging in age from a six-year-old through high school, the participating children were a big hit with the crowd, which numbered nearly 175 people. A big thanks to everyone who joined in the celebration and a special thanks to the children who brought Lincoln's words to life.





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\$25 Individual \$35 Family

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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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