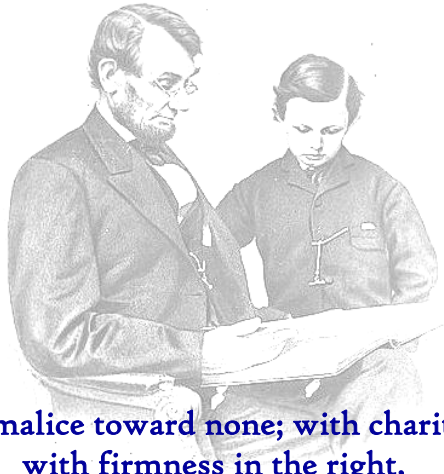


BICENTENNIAL AWARD PROGRAM

Honoring the Birth of
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
16th President
of the United States



“...With malice toward none; with charity for all;
with firmness in the right,
as God gives us to see the right,
let us strive onto finish the work we are in...”

- 2nd Inaugural Address
4 March, 1865

4 MAY, 2009
6:30 O'CLOCK PM

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REV. LYMAN S. PARKS, SR.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

PRESENTED BY:
MICHIGAN COMMANDERY,
MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION
OF THE UNITED STATES

AND

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Conducting research is something we truly enjoy, simply because reading through the old newspapers or books is like finding treasure. When preparing the ceremony for the rededication of a monument, memorial or headstone, or even an event such as today, we try to learn what was done by those who went before us. Because modern sound systems and video didn't exist, the newspapers typically published every word of the public speeches, leaving us a very detailed look at the event and the time period. We then attempt to connect our event to the past in as many ways as possible.

Our research usually begins at the Grand Rapids Public Library with their wonderful historical collections and newspaper microfilm, and the inspiration for our poster/essay contest was found in the Thursday, February 11, 1909 edition of the *Grand Rapids Herald* stated the following:

HONOR MEMORY OF EMANIPATOR
Public Schools to Observe Lincoln Centenary
in Appropriate Manner

PUPILS' PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS
Songs, Speeches, Papers, and Recitations of Lincoln
Order of Day in Class Rooms Tomorrow

The article listed in detail, the programs that were going to be conducted by various Grand Rapids public schools. Some of the schools were Central High, Central Avenue, Wealthy Avenue, Seventh Street, Union, Alexander Avenue, West Leonard, and Jefferson Avenue.

In 2009, to better connect our area students with the life, works, and ideals of President Abraham Lincoln, the **Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion** and the **Grand Rapids Public Schools** joined together to co-sponsor a poster and essay contest. Grade 5 participated in the poster contest, grade 8 could choose to create a poster or write an essay, and grade 9 could write an essay. The theme of the essay was *Lincoln's Leadership - Then and Now (How President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Inspire Me Today)*.

(We prepared educational packets with lesson plans about Lincoln and contest descriptions and rules for 85 teachers - 55 for 5th grade, 15 for 8th grade and 15 for 9th grade.)

AWARDS

Posters Fifth Grade:

First Place: Jeannette Gutierrez Lopez
Cesar E. Chavez Elementary

Second Place: Kiara M. Bonilla Molina
Southwest Community Campus

Third Place: Elizabeth Fletcher
Kent Hills Elementary

Posters Eighth Grade:

First Place: Teresa Huynh
Sherwood Park Middle

Second Place: Linh-Dan Hoang
Southwest Community Campus

Essays Eighth Grade:

First Place: Brandon Kincaid
C. A. Frost Environmental Science Academy

Essays Eighth Grade:

First Place: Ana Arvizu –
Harrison Middle

Second Place: Oscar Zegunis-Breen
Harrison Middle

Third Place: Emanuel Melendez
Harrison Middle

All other participants will receive a certificate of recognition:

Eighth Grade Essays (all from Harrison Middle):

Jessica Parsons
Jessica Gonzales
Jonathan Gonzales
Ashley Dominguez
Gabriel Arellano
Kayla Carter

Fifth Grade Posters (all from Southwest Community Campus):

Rudy Lozano
Xiola Fuentes

Central High School Jr. ROTC Color Guard (Lincoln 200th event)

Anthony Alcantar Meagan Beckwith
Devin Bradley Yunuen Rocha

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The son of a Kentucky frontiersman, Abraham Lincoln had to struggle to live and learn. Five months before receiving his party's nomination for President, he sketched his life:

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks.... My father ... removed from Kentucky to ... Indiana, in my eighth year.... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."

Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and as a lawyer rode the circuit of courts for many years. His law partner said of him, "His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."

He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but in debating with Douglas he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

Lincoln warned the South in his Inaugural Address: "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you.... You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it."

Lincoln thought secession illegal, and was willing to use force to defend Federal law and the Union. When Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and forced its surrender, he called on the states for 75,000 volunteers. Four more slave states joined the Confederacy but four remained within the Union. The Civil War had begun.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

...continued

As President, he built the new Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln won re-election in 1864, as Union military triumphs heralded an end to war. In his planning for peace, the President was flexible and generous, encouraging Southerners to lay down their arms and join speedily in reunion.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...."

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, by John Wilkes Booth, an actor who thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln's death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.

President Lincoln died at 7:22 the next morning. Following a funeral at the White House, his casket was viewed by millions as it was carried on a special train back to Illinois. He was buried May 4 in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. (Adapted from the White House biography.)

Source site: <http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/lincolns-life/bio/default.aspx>

A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM

From the 1st Inaugural Address - March 4, 1861:

Until the final draft, Lincoln's address had ended with a question for the South: "Shall it be peace or sword?" In the famous concluding paragraph, Lincoln, following the suggestion of Seward, moderated his tone dramatically and ended on a memorable note of conciliation:



"...I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Emancipation Proclamation - January 1, 1863:

By the President of the United States of America:
A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom..."

A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM

From 2nd Inaugural Address - March 4, 1865:

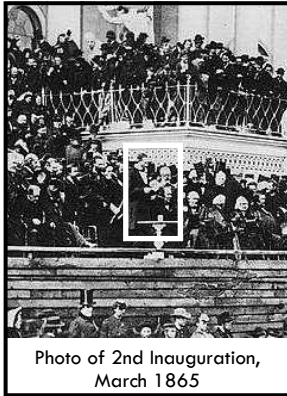


Photo of 2nd Inauguration,
March 1865

Weeks of wet weather preceding Lincoln's second inauguration had caused Pennsylvania Avenue to become a sea of mud and standing water. Thousands of spectators stood in thick mud at the Capitol grounds to hear the President. In little more than a month, the President would be assassinated.

"...With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations..."

Lincoln's Last Words - April 14, 1865:

Although some may not connect laughter with wisdom, scientific and medical studies have shown that laughing lowers blood pressure, reduces stress hormones, increases muscle flexion, and boosts immune function by raising levels of infection-fighting T-cells, disease-fighting proteins called Gamma-interferon and B-cells, which produce disease-destroying antibodies. Laughter also triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural painkillers, and produces a general sense of well-being.

As Abraham Lincoln was watching the play, *Our American Cousin*, on the night of his assassination at Ford's Theater, one of the actresses called for a shawl to protect her from the draft. One of the actors ad-libbed a reply, "You are mistaken, Miss Mary, the draft has already been stopped by order of the President!" Lincoln shared his last laugh with the rest of the audience.

Always known for his sense of humor, often directed at himself, President Abraham Lincoln truly was a man of the people.

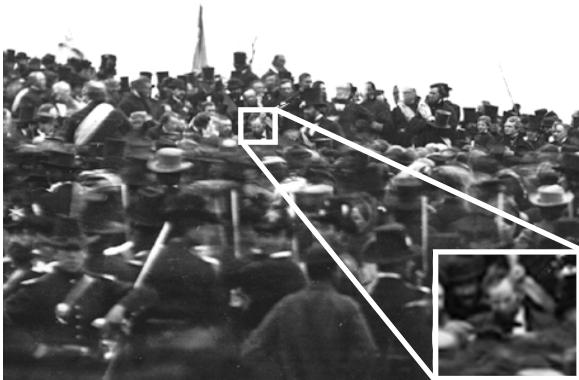
THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

The “few dedicatory remarks” made by President Lincoln at the Gettysburg National Cemetery on 19 November, 1863 that have become known simply as *The Gettysburg Address*.

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”



MICHIGAN AT GETTYSBURG

Of Historical Note:

There are 171 known Michigan soldiers buried at the Michigan section of the **National Cemetery in Gettysburg**, a number of them from the Grand Rapids and surrounding areas. (Two other soldiers from Michigan are buried in the “regular” army section.)

Annually, members of the Grand Rapids-based Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Champlin Corps No. 41, National Woman’s Relief Corps, with assistance from other Allied Orders of the GAR, place U. S. and State of Michigan flags on the graves of these Michigan soldiers who never had the opportunity to return home. For one day a year, near the anniversary of Lincoln’s famous speech on 19 November, 1863, the flags those men fought for fly above their graves.

Note: So that proper respect can be given, and a brief emotional connection made between the person placing the flag in the ground and the man buried there, the State flags bear the name, regiment, and company of each man.



THE MOLLUS

MOLLUS is the acronym for the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

A mass meeting of Philadelphia veterans was held on April 20, 1865 to pledge renewed allegiance to the Union and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements for the President. The Philadelphia officers, who served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's funeral cortege, met again after the funeral was over to establish a permanent organization of officers and former officers patterned after the Society of Cincinnati established after the Revolutionary War. The name they chose, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, first appeared in a notice calling a meeting on May 31, 1865 at Independence Hall.



The Michigan Commandery was formed in 1885. Currently, our state headquarters is Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, MI. Grand Rapids Civil War hero, Brevet Major General Byron R. Pierce (buried in Fulton St. cemetery in Grand Rapids) was also a member of the Commandery. The present Michigan Commandery has supported the restoration of the Gen. Alpheus Williams monument in Detroit, the Kent County Civil War Monument & Fountain in Grand Rapids, and other memorials in the Grand Rapids area, the State of Michigan and at Andersonville Prison National Park in Georgia.



At the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on May 30, 1922, President Warren G. Harding requested that MOLLUS perform the dedication ceremony. Ever since, MOLLUS has been responsible for planning and conducting the commemorative service to honor the 16th President on the anniversary of his birth.

<http://suvchw.org/mollus/mi/mollus.html>

SUVCW

In 1866, Union Veterans of the Civil War organized into the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and became a social and political force that would control the destiny of the nation for more than six decades. Membership in the veterans' organization was restricted to individuals who had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service during the Civil War, thereby limiting the life span of the GAR. The GAR existed until 1956.

In 1881 the GAR formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) to carry on its traditions and memory long after the GAR had ceased to exist. Membership was open to any man who could prove ancestry to a member of the GAR or to a veteran eligible for membership in the GAR. In later years, men who did not have the ancestry to qualify for hereditary membership, but who demonstrated a genuine interest in the Civil War and could subscribe to the purpose and objectives of the SUVCW, were admitted as Associates. This practice continues today.

Many GAR Posts sponsored Camps of the SV. In 1925 the SV name was changed to **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)**, under which its federal charter was issued in 1954. The SUVCW is legally recognized as the heir to, and representative of, the GAR.

Today, the National Organization of the SUVCW, headed by an annually elected Commander-in-Chief, oversees the operation of 26 Departments, each consisting of one or more states, a Department-at-Large, a National Membership-at-Large, and over 200 community based Camps.

The General John A. Logan Camp No. 1 is based in Grand Rapids and meets at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. We are active within our community and in the counties of Kent, Ottawa and Montcalm as we strive to restore and preserve Civil War memorials and headstones. We honor and support the veterans of all wars while recognizing the youth of today's ROTC and the Boy Scouts of America.

<http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp1.php>

IN APPRECIATION

The Michigan Commandery would like to thank the following for their support and participation in this poster/essay contest to honor President Abraham Lincoln on the bicentennial of his birth:

The City of Grand Rapids including -

Honorable George Heartwell, Mayor

Grand Rapids Public Schools -

Central High School, Jr. ROTC

Dr. Bernard Taylor, Jr., Superintendent

Mulonge Kalumbula, Supvr. of Social Studies Cur.

Dr. Mayda Bahamonde-Gunnell, Ex. Dir. Of Elem. Ldrshp.

The National Woman's Relief Corps, National Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic

Champlin Corps No. 41, Woman's Relief Corps

**Eva Gray Tent No. 2,
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865**

**General John A. Logan Camp No. 1,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

**Commandery of the State of Michigan,
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States**