

Banner

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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY



APRIL 15 — SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

(Cover — Top picture shows group that presented wreaths. Center picture shows Commander-in-Chief Combs at microphone, with Illinois Governor Ogilvie, seated. Bottom picture taken at luncheon seated left to right: Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation; George L. Cashman, ceremony co-chairman; Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr.; and Thos. L. W. Johnson, ceremony co-chairman. Standing left to right: Cmdr. William C. Duval, USNR (Ret), Past Commander-in-Chief, MOLLUS and William M. Coffin, Past Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW.)



(Left to right:) Illinois Governor Richard G. Ogilvie, Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr., and Ceremony Co-Chairman George L. Cashman. In the background are members of the Concordia Seminary Chapel Choir.

Under a gray but dry sky, 68 wreaths were presented at the 14th Annual Lincoln Tomb ceremony held at Oakridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 15, 1970. A first was recorded when the Honorable Richard B. Ogilvie, Governor of the State of Illinois, became the first Prairie State chief executive to attend and participate in the ceremony. As is customary at the rites, brief talks were made by C-in-C Fred H. Combs, Jr. of the Sons; Cmdr. William C. Duval, USNR (Ret), a past C-in-C of the Loyal Legion; and Governor Ogilvie.

Each of the speakers stressed the courage with which Mr. Lincoln met adversity during his presidency and each called for unity in our time. C-in-C Combs called upon his hearers to continue to build our nation so that Abraham Lincoln shall not have died in vain; Cmdr. Duval observed that our country represents the last great hope of liberty in the world; and Governor Ogilvie reminded his audience that the problems that beset our society today are dwarfed by those which confronted Mr. Lincoln.

Again this year music for the ceremony was provided by the Concordia Seminary chapel choir under the direction of Professor Daniel G. Reuning. Among the selections sung was a moving rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

A colorful addition to this year's ceremony was the presence of the 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reactivated) under the command of Colonel Julius L. Weiss. Attired in authentic Civil War uniforms, the unit formed an honor guard for Governor Ogilvie's arrival and escorted wreath bearers to their places. Taps was sounded by Private J. Stephen Hall of the 114th Regiment at the conclusion of the ceremony.

At the luncheon held at the State House Inn following the ceremony, a new weekly attendance record with 119 guests in attendance. The principal speaker was Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dr. McMurtry's talk centered on the how and why of Abraham Lincoln. He observed that Mr. Lincoln is considered our greatest national heroic figure. In his judgment, Lincoln's finest achievement was his contribution to the preservation of the Union. The Emancipator's abilities as a lawyer, orator, spiritual leader, and link between the civil and military authority were also highlighted. In view of Dr. McMurtry's recent surgery, his presence and participation in the program was especially appreciated by all.

Master of ceremonies George L. Cashman introduced among others his co-chairman, Thomas L. W. Johnson; William M. Coffin, a past C-in-C of the Sons who, together with Cmdr. Duval, are the surviving members of the original founders of the ceremony; National President Faetta Bell of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865; Past C-in-C Albert C. Lambert of New Jersey; and the members of the ceremony committee: Charles A. Brady, Jr. James M. Blackman, and Ellinore L. Konrad, special consultant to the committee.

Leslie Weiser, a member of the Concordia Seminary chapel choir accompanied by Professor Reuning, sang "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and recited the immortal "Gettysburg Address" to conclude the luncheon program.

Through the courtesy of the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion, the guests received copies of "Lincoln's Only Love" authored by Dorothy Moline Cashman. This booklet gives its readers a fresh appreciation for Mary Todd Lincoln who was often misunderstood by her contemporaries.

Departments and/or Auxiliaries of the SUVCW that participated were Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Commanderies of the MOLLUS represented were Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

**MESSAGE FROM
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF COMBS**

I am honored as the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to have the privilege of participating in this observance of the 105th Anniversary of the death of our martyred President, Abraham Lincoln.

As we meditate briefly upon the life of Mr. Lincoln today, we cannot help but think of the vast number of weighty and overbearing responsibilities he was forced to assume upon entering the Presidency and of how fate seemed to put its finger upon him as the man to meet these responsibilities and to seek solutions to the problems facing a divided Nation.

It has been written of Mr. Lincoln previously that he was everybody grown a little taller and that he was proof of our American faith that greatness comes out of everywhere when it is free to come.

Indeed, greatness came out of Springfield, Illinois on that cold and drizzly February 11, 1861. On that date, Mr. Lincoln demonstrated that greatness in his usual humility and simplicity, although sadly and sorrowfully, when he made his now famous, brief, extemporaneous farewell address. Permit me to read to you the Nicolay and Hay version of the impressive words he spoke on that day:

"No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended Him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."

When Mr. Lincoln made those remarks it seems apparent that he had an intense, if not ominous, feeling about the problems he was about to face and wrestle with, and that their complexity might be so great to prevent him from returning before solutions were reached.

His words spoken simply, humbly and clearly seem as though they were directed from his mouth by Divine Guidance and state clearly that he would be dependent upon Divine Guidance in the performance of the duties he was about to assume.

In reading and musing upon what Mr. Lincoln said that day, I find that my mind tends to turn to the current era in which we live and the vast number of problems that face our Nation. I find myself reflecting upon Mr. Lincoln's memor-

(Continued on Page Five)

AUGUST 23-27, 1970



Our 89th National Convention will be held in the fabulous Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach, Aug. 23-27. Rates are \$9.00 per person per day, two to a room. The room is \$18.00 per day whether occupied double or single. For a third occupant in a room the rate is \$5.50 daily. These rates do not include meals. These rates apply for two days prior, during the convention, and for two days following. Reservations must be made by July 27th.

**TENTATIVE PROGRAM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**

- Morning Worship — Church of your choice
- 1:00 P.M. — Registration, Hotel Lobby
- 1:15 P.M. — National Council Meeting, Headquarters Room.
- 2:00 P.M. — Meeting — Department Commanders or Representatives with National Chaplain, Sec. 1 Napoleon Room.
- 3:00 P.M. — Joint Memorial Service with Aux. Sec. 1 Napoleon Room
- 4:30 P.M. — Meeting — All Natl. Officers and Dept. Comdr. with Chief of Staff — Sec. 1 Napoleon Room
- 7:30 P.M. — Band Concert — Camp Fire — Allied Orders — Sec. 2 Napoleon Room

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- 10:00 A.M. — Joint Opening with Auxiliary — Sec. 1 Napoleon Room
- 11:00 A.M. — Business Session — Cavalier Room
- 4:00 P.M. — Recess
- 5 to 6 P.M. — Complimentary Cocktail Party — Napoleon Room
- 6:00 P.M. — Banquet — P.C. in C. & P. N. P. — Normandy Room
- 8:30 P.M. — Auxiliary Courtesy Hour — Sec. 1 Napoleon Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- 11:00 A.M. — Business Session — Cavalier Room
- 2:00 P.M. — Greetings Received
- 4:00 P.M. — Recess
- 6:00 P.M. — Banquet honoring National Officers — Sons and Auxiliary — Sec. 1 Napoleon Room
- 9:00 P.M. — Reception honoring National Officers Sons and Auxiliary — Charlemagne Room

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

NO BUSINESS SESSIONS
This is a free day for Delegates to enjoy the many attractions available.
We suggest —
The Deauville Hotel operates a Complimentary Boat Trip

on Biscayne Bay daily except Sunday. Tickets must be secured from the Social Director at the Deauville Pool.
Many fine bus and boat trips are available. To secure information and to make reservations see Tour Desk in hotel lobby.

Ocean and pool bathing is available to all hotel guests. Change to swim suits in your room. Using robe and slippers, take elevator to lower lobby.

Golf and fishing are available. See Bell Captain for information. Lincoln Road shopping center and Collins Avenue offer attractive shopping possibilities.

8:30 P.M. — Complimentary entertainment and dance — Napoleon Room

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

11:00 A.M. — Business Session — Installation of Officers — Cavalier Room

4:00 P.M. — National Council Meeting — Headquarters Room

7:00 P.M. — Dinner shows are available at the Deauville Casanova Room as well as at nearby hotels to anyone interested. Make reservations in advance with Maitre D'

To—Chester S. Shriver, National Secretary Treasurer, P. O. Box 24, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325

Kindly enter the following Civil War record on the HONOR ROLL FUND.

Name of Veteran _____

Company & Regiment _____

Enclosed find (\$10.00 or more) donation to the HONOR ROLL FUND from _____

Name _____

Address _____

(Donations, legacies, and bequests to this fund are welcome and will be preserved.)

(Contributions are deductible for Income Tax purposes — Section 170 of the Code of 1954)

The following contributions have been received since the last issue of THE BANNER:

In memory of Seaman George Brown, (U.S.S. Hartford — Adm. Farragut's Flagship) — From Albert S. Brown Jr., Camp 20 New York Department \$10.00

JUST A COINCIDENCE?

In May of 1919 at Dusseldorf, Germany, the Allied Forces obtained a copy of some of the "Communists Rules for Revolution." Nearly 50 years later, the Reds are still following the rules. As you read the first, stop after each item and think about the present day situation where you live — and all around our nation. We quote the Red Rules:

A. Corrupt the young, get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial; destroy their ruggedness.

B. Get control of all means of publicity thereby:

1. Get people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books and plays and other trivialities.

2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.

3. Destroy the people's faith in their natural leaders by holding the latter up to contempt, ridicule and obliquity.

4. Always preach true democracy but seize power as fast and ruthless as possible.

5. By encouraging government extravagances, destroy its credit, produce fear of inflation with rising prices and general discontent.

6. Form unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders and foster a lenient and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders.

7. By specious argument cause the breakdown of the moral virtues, honesty, sobriety, continence, faith in the pledged word, ruggedness.

8. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext with a view to confiscating them and leaving the population helpless.

How many of these rules are being carried out in this nation today? Or is it just a coincidence?

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General Order No. 4 Series 1969-70

Headquarters
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
Fred H. Combs, Jr.
P. O. Box 193
Lawrenceville, N. J. 08648
(Area Code 609) Phone 896-1948

- By the time this issue of *The Banner* is received Flag Day will have come and gone for another year. However, it is hoped that the objective of each of us will be to display our admiration for and loyalty to our Flag, with pride, honor and appreciation throughout the coming year.
- Where else in the world can one find a national emblem so beautiful, so fair, so rich in heritage and so representative of liberty as "Old Glory." With its beauty, greatness and grandeur, it challenges us to be loyal and supportive of our great democracy which offers us so much cherished freedom and which rings out the message that with freedom goes responsibility. In these days of turmoil and unrest, let us all grab hold of that responsibility and fulfill it willingly so that the prestige of our great nation will rise to ever-spiraling heights as envisioned by our forefathers who labored and toiled to produce the rich heritage that has been bequeathed to us.
- The 89th National Encampment will convene in Miami Beach, Florida, Sunday August 23 through Thursday, August 27, 1970. The Hotel Beauville will be the headquarters and the location of all sessions and social activities. All members are urged to attend if at all possible. Hotel reservation cards can be obtained from each Department Secretary. The Committee on Credentials will consist of the following:
Charles A. Brady Jr., P.D.C. Illinois — Chairman
George M. Satterthwaite, P.D.C. New Jersey
Willard Stephen, P.D.C., New York
George Long, P.D.C. Penna.
Fred McGowan, P.D.C. Member at large
- The appointment of the chairmen and personnel of all other committees will be announced at the opening session of the encampment. It is requested that all National Officers have their reports prepared and ready for reading and submission to the Committee on Officers Reports at the first session on Monday, August 24th. Members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve who intend to be present at the National Encampment are encouraged to take their uniforms with them. Your attention is called to other detailed information regarding the Encampment found elsewhere in this issue of *The Banner*. Sincere thanks is extended to the Encampment Committee for the careful, diligent and conscientious effort already put forth to make this, the second National Encampment to be held in Miami Beach, interesting, enjoyable and successful.
- In recognition of successful recruiting of members for our Order, it has been my honor and privilege since the publication of the last issue of *The Banner*, to designate as National Aides during my administration and to send special decorations to wear to: Sr. Vice C. in C. Geo L. Cashman, Julius L. Weiss, and Wayne T. Temple — all of Gen. John A. McClelland Camp No. 4 of Springfield, Illinois. Because of the diligent efforts of these brothers a total of 17 new members have joined our ranks.
- Any member, Camp or Department that has not sent a contribution to Natl. Patr. Instr. Edwin K. Kramer for the National G.A.R. Fund, is encouraged to do so promptly so that he will be able to submit a laudable report to the National Encampment. The goal set for this fund by the National Council of Administration is \$1,200.00. Let's all do everything possible to assist Brother Kramer in attaining, if not exceeding, this goal.
- In this, my final Order, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Sister Florence Jansson, National President

of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; to Mrs. Jose Kracht, Natl. Pres. of the Ladies of the G.A.R.; to Mrs. Faette Bell, Natl. Pres. Daughters Union Veterans of the Civil War; and to Mrs. Ruby Bragdon, Natl. Pres. of the Woman's Relief Corps, for all the fellowship, courtesies, cooperation and thoughtfulness enjoyed by me during this year. It has been a most enjoyable and satisfying experience to work with these dedicated leaders of our Allied Orders. I extend the wish that each one of them enjoys a successful, harmonious and constructive Encampment.

- Words are inadequate to express the sincere and deep appreciation that I feel for the privilege it has been to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War during the past year. It has been an honor that will never fail to have a pleasant place in my memory. I am most grateful for the assistance and cooperation that I have received from all National Officers and Committees, Department Officers, Camps and members throughout the nation. I extend my best wishes to all newly elected and appointed officers of the respective Departments for a year that will bring about growth in membership and a high degree of success and attainment in all that is undertaken as the work of our organization continues.

FRED H. COMBS JR.,
Commander-in-Chief

TO THE 1970 GRADUATE

As you leave College, you should remember some of these things. First, you owe your parents (or, if you were on scholarship, you owe Society) on average about \$15,000.

Second, you owe to your country the freedom which enabled you to attend college, and prepare for a full, happy life. If you want your children to have that same privilege you must repay that debt — by military service, or a life of political service, or an earnest, honest citizenship devoted to preserving and improving this nation.

Finally, you owe your years at college to the profit system. People first built and now maintain colleges out of profits they have made in business or out of taxes they pay from business or out of taxes they pay from business income.

Whatever glories await you, you yourself will create them. If you will repay these debts of yours, you will be building a character which will make your future very glorious indeed.

MATHIAS BIDS U.S. PAY MD. CIVIL WAR DEBT

As reported by the AP Sen Mathias (R-Md.) says the federal government owes the town of Frederick, Md., \$200,000 plus interest for delaying an attack on Washington during the Civil War.

Mathias introduced a bill in the Senate recently to direct the U.S. to pay the "debt."

He said many historians believe Lt. Gen. Jubal Early's 24-hour stay in Frederick in 1864 allowed Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to mass sufficient forces to stop a later Confederate assault on Washington by Early's troops.

Early had to wait that long for the city to raise the \$200,000 ransom he demanded in return for not destroying the community of Frederick and some Union supplies.

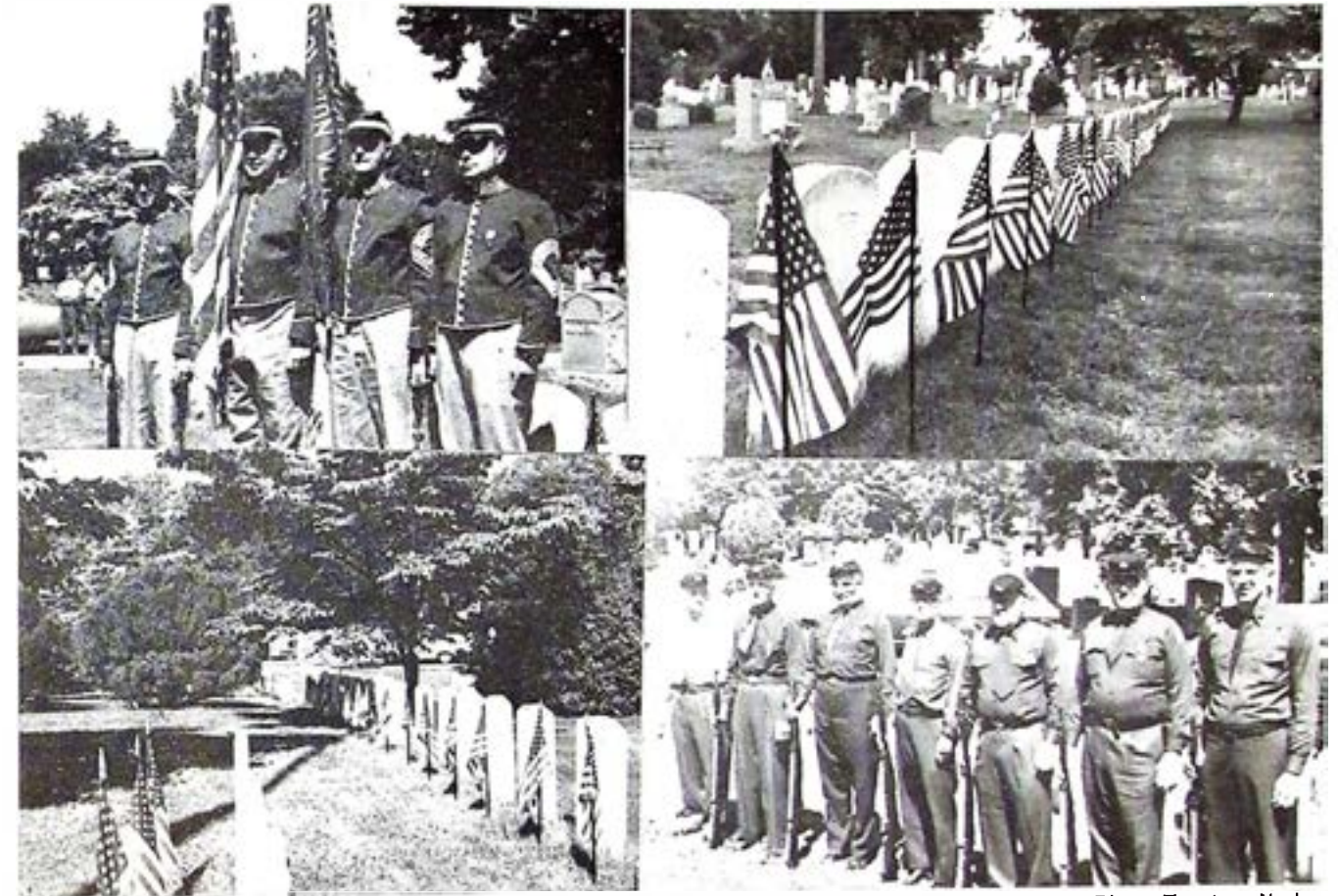
THE BANNER

Published quarterly by the National Headquarters of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This Order was founded in 1881 and is the only male organization recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic. A Congressional Charter has been granted to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

All items for publication must be received by the 15th day of December, March, June and September.

All members receive *The Banner* without charge. Other interested persons can subscribe at the rate of \$1.00 yearly. All subscriptions expire on the first day of each year.

Albert C. Lambert, Editor, P. O. Box 457, Trenton, N. J. 08603.



This Memorial Day scene taken in tranquil Riverview Cemetery, on the banks of the Delaware River, Trenton, N. J. was repeated from coast to coast as a tribute to those who wore our country's uniform. If a country can be taught to be proud of its past, it will have concern for its future.

Combs' Message . . .

(Continued from Page Two)
able life and his enormous deeds, acts and contributions to our Nation's history and to its growth and development of our Country were he living in this era and were he in a similar position of leadership.

We could never know, of course, but we can conjecture that his role would be as applicable to the times, as unselfish, as meaningful, and as effective as it was in the period of history in which he lived and that he would have faced the many existing problems with the same determination and conscientious diligence and with the same wholesome and sound leadership as was his wont to apply then.

It was Mr. Lincoln who said: "I go for all sharing the privilege of the government who assist in bearing its burdens." And it was he also who said: "There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law."

Were all persons today to muse and meditate about the strong intrinsic qualities, the great contributions and the precepts of this great man and apply them to their deeds and actions, I believe it is reasonable to assume that the status of things in our Nation might well be different from what it presently appears to be.

Doubtless, he in his day questioned, he protested certain things, he saw need for improvement, he was bent on a purpose — that of the maintenance of the unity of this Nation. His entire term of office was dedicated to winning the Civil War and maintaining that unity.

However, all that he thought, all that he planned, and all that he did was in conformity with and with respect for law and the precepts and principals of our Constitution.

In Washington recently, as I gazed upon the figure of Mr. Lincoln, in that great Memorial erected in his memory, it seemed to me that in his silent humility he seemed to be saying: "This is not quite the kind of Union I envisioned.

Get with it, folks. Do your thing in the right perspective. The Union continues to be great, but add to its strength. Don't let it be torn apart. Put your doubts, concerns, protest to work constructively so that out of it will come greater strength and still richer greatness."

I was impressed by the inscription emblazoned on the wall to the back of Mr. Lincoln which reads: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."

As we stand here today on this hallowed ground in observance of the anniversary of his death may these words and the message spoken by Mr. Lincoln on that day in 1861 here in Springfield be enshrined in our hearts. May the example of his life and deeds be deeply imbedded in our minds with God's help and guidance the problems that face the nation may, too, although massive, weighty, and overbearing, be solved effectively and in the interest of all the people and that this democratic Union of States will truly be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, as Mr. Lincoln envisioned it; and may it remain our fervent hope that Mr. Lincoln did not die in vain.

CRISIS AT THE CROSSROADS The First Day at Gettysburg

Is a new book published May 6 by Warren W. Hassler Jr., Professor of American History at Pennsylvania State University.

In it he seeks to demonstrate that the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg was largely decided on the first day of combat. The narrative is easy to read and understand, however may be classed as a "revisionist" interpretation of the battle as a whole.

It is a contribution to military research, smoothly done. Available at \$8.75 from University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama 35486.



G. L. Cashman

THOMAS LINCOLN

Father of the President

What manner of man was Thomas Lincoln, father of the sixteenth President?

A number of early Abraham Lincoln biographers, using Herndon's materials, tradition and folklore, were prone to brand Thomas Lincoln a shiftless character, even a vagabond. We must suppose that in so doing they were motivated by a desire to illustrate that Abraham Lincoln rose to greatness in spite of having been born and reared in abject poverty.

While the Lincoln family was poor, by our standards, there was never any denial of the basic necessities, and the condition of life was not less than that of most other pioneer families of the area.

There is much factual evidence which proves the fallacy of claiming that the family was poverty-stricken. Abraham Lincoln, when questioned by a friend and associate, stated that his childhood had been a happy one, that there was nothing of want and no illusion of want in any part of it.

When Thomas Lincoln was but nine years old his father was killed by the Indians on the little Kentucky farm. His father's death deprived Thomas from obtaining even the most rudimentary education, and he grew up almost illiterate. It is perhaps because of this that he encouraged the young Abraham to study, even to the extent of doing his son's work on occasion that he might have the time to read and study.

At the time of Abraham Lincoln's birth, Thomas Lincoln was a substantial citizen, owner of 530 acres of land. Six years later he purchased another farm of 256 acres. Records show him to have been a hard-working, honest, generous, hospitable neighbor. He was never delinquent in paying his taxes and many minor offices came to him.

Thomas Lincoln was an excellent carpenter and his cabin home was probably as good, if not much better, than any of his Kentucky neighbors. The quality of his workmanship as a cabinet maker is proven by a number of pieces of his work which are still preserved, and it is safe to assume that his cabin home was well furnished. The moral condition of the home can be judged by the fact that Thomas and Nancy were members of the Little Mount Baptist Church.

It is doubtful if the father of any great American has been more grossly misrepresented than has Thomas Lincoln.

THE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As these remarks are written, the controversy over the extension of military operations into Cambodia continues. Opponents of the President are loud and vocal in their criticism of his decision to flush out Communist sanctuaries along the eastern border of that country. While the Congress, and more particularly the Senate, is attempting to assert its role in the war-making process through control of the purse, legislative bodies at state and local levels have also become involved in war-related issues.

In April Governor Francis W. Sargent signed into law a measure passed by the Massachusetts General Court (legislature) which would bar Bay State service men from having to serve in foreign wars not declared by Congress. Although doubtful of its constitutionality, Gov. Sargent said he felt the issue was fundamental and deserving of a court test.

More recently, the lower house of the Illinois General Assembly had before it a bill similar to the Massachusetts statute. Referred to the House Veterans' committee, it was defeated by a vote of 15 to 4. Believing that the committee action did not reflect majority sentiment, the bill's sponsor moved reconsideration by the entire House. On May 11 by a vote of 88 to 55, the Illinois House refused to overrule the committee's decision and in effect killed the measure for this session.

In several municipalities city councils have been asked to

consider similar proposals and/or resolutions demanding withdrawal of all American troops from Cambodia, Viet Nam, and other southeast Asian countries.

Setting aside a discussion of the motives of the sponsors, and supporters of these measures — and lest anyone mistake his position, your chairman firmly believes that these proposals individually and collectively undermine our position both at home and abroad and will not contribute to an honorable cessation of hostilities — it is important to note the increasing interest in American foreign and military policies on the part of the grass roots. Not since the bitter struggle over U.S. Neutrality prior to World War II have so many people of every persuasion entered into the discussion of our proper role in world affairs.

One is reminded of the controversy in the 1930's over the Ludlow Amendment to the Constitution which would have required a referendum prior to a declaration of war by Congress except in cases of actual invasion. Introduced by Rep. Louis B. Ludlow of Indiana, it was shelved by the House of Representatives on December 14, 1937, by the unusually close vote of 209 to 188. Its defeat came after a plea by President Roosevelt that its passage would inhibit his conduct of our foreign relations. Interestingly, the vote on that measure came just two days after the celebrated Panay Incident in which Japanese planes sank an American gunboat in Chinese waters near Shanghai.

Personal feelings and emotions run high on the "peace issue." Our membership is cautioned to be wary of signing petitions and endorsing resolutions which at first glance may seem innocent enough. Often the wording of a typical proposal cites constitutional arguments, seemingly appeals to man's reason, and assumes a high moral tone. But stripped of these trappings, the net effect can only be to serve notice on Hanoi, Peking, and Moscow that Uncle Sam has lost his resolve. Thoughtful and personalized letters to the President, your Senators and Representative in Congress are far more effective in influencing policy than are mass petitions regardless of your point of view.

In an earlier column this year, we reported that the House of Representatives had passed and sent to the Senate a constitutional amendment providing for the direct, popular election of the President and Vice President. On April 23 the Senate Judiciary committee reversed its earlier stand and by a vote of 11 to 6 endorsed the proposed amendment. It is expected that Senate debate on the measure will begin in June. Prospects for passage are clouded by the requirement of a two-thirds affirmative majority and the implied threat of a filibuster by opponents of the proposal. Should it eventually pass the Senate, the legislatures of at least 38 States would be required to ratify the amendment before it could become a part of our Constitution.

Thomas L. W. Johnson
Chairman



Department News



ILLINOIS

The annual Lincoln Birthday Luncheon, sponsored by General George A. Custer Camp 1 and Auxiliary 30, was held February 14 in the English Room of Marshall Field & Co.'s downtown Chicago store. Dorothy Moline Cashman of Springfield spoke on "Mary Todd Lincoln." P.D.C. John Brooks Davis served as toastmaster. P.D.C. James M. Blackman and P.N.P. Eva B. Blackman were presented with the camp and auxiliary's Lincoln Memorial Award (an engraved plaque), and Sister Blackman also received her 50-year membership pin, which her husband proudly pinned on her. Co-chairman of the luncheon were Roland D. Persenico and his wife, Terry.

Old Glory Camp 61-65 and Auxiliary 22 held a "Veterans Memorial Night" program in the G.A.R. Memorial Hall of the Chicago Public Library building May 20. Those attending were invited to record on the camp's Honor Roll the names of their relatives who had served in any of America's wars, and these names were then read during the memorial service. Members also brought to the meeting mementos associated

with these veteran's lives for a "show and tell" session, and the various encampment badges, medals, war letters, photographs, etc., displayed that night proved highly interesting.

The annual encampment of the Illinois Department of SUVCW and ASUV was held June 5-6 at the Hotel St. Nicholas in Springfield. Dept. Comdr. Donald M. Berlin, Jr., was able to report an increase in membership for the 1969-70 term. Elected to succeed him for the new term was Dr. Julius L. Weiss. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief George L. Cashman served as installing officer. Dept. Pres. Elsie Evans presented the auxiliary's Living Memorial check to a representative of the Shriner's Children's Hospitals, and, upon her retirement from office, served as installing officer for her successor, Gertrude Smith. Natl. Pres. Florence M. Jansson attended the first day of the encampment and had the pleasure of initiating two new members for the Illinois Department.

P.D.C. James M. Blackman represented the Department Commander on June 14 at the Glenwood School for Boy's annual Flag Day ceremony, and presented the department's G.A.R. Memorial Award (a plaque and medal) to Cadet 2nd Lt. Brian Pelham.

The department welcomes the following new members: Harry J. Lessig, Robert W. Lessig and Charles L. Richey (Camp 4); Don F. Adams and Steven J. Adolphson (Camp 21); Fran Satterlee and Dorothy Weiss (Aux. 50).

TAPS — We regret to report the recent passing of these brothers and sisters: P. Jay Davis (Camp 1); Edward L. Robinson (Camp 21); Catherine Cameron (Aux. 30); Edna Soden (Aux. 32); Mabel Herbert (Aux. 60).

MASSACHUSETTS

The distance between the American Dream and American reality never seemed greater, than it does today. The ability to do something about it is not lacking. But do we, the public, have the will to narrow this distance.

The threat of rapid — even violent — change, drives one segment of our population to cling to the treasured values of the past. Such traditions must be maintained, they insist, by force if necessary, "My Country, love it or leave it."

Another segment of the populace — often highly vocal — sees archaic or unjust structures in our society and demands immediate change, by force if necessary. "Bring down the system."

In their extreme forms such attitudes pits one group against another, dissipate energies that should be fused to promote the welfare of all our citizens.

Meanwhile, let us hold more patriotic exercises expressing our loyalty to our country and OUR FLAG and our desire for PEACE. At this point let me remind each one of this passage from the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that Among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness — that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Distinguish carefully between "Dissent" and "subversion." No citizen who loves his country can be tolerant of subversion, which involves the overthrow of the government. On the other hand, dissent-provided it is non-violent and does not injure the person or property of others — is protected by the freedom of speech guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Wm. Randolph Cohen
Department Inspector

OHIO

"The Outpost" is an interesting monthly publication put out by the 19th Ohio Reg. S.V.R., with Lt. Robert J. Wolz as Editor. The Banner recommends it highly and looks forward to future issues.

We regret to report that Sylvia Litsinger, mother of Dept. Pres. Marjorie Grate passed away March 25 at the age of 85. Lisbon, Ohio will be the scene of the reenactment of the Battle of Chancellorsville on July 24-26. This will also mark the Sons of Veterans Reserve 1970 Encampment. An excellent bivouac with restrooms, running water, and first aid station will be provided. Both Union and Confederate units will participate. Contact Lisbon Commemorative Assn., 615 West Lincoln Way, Lisbon, Ohio 44432.

Dept. Commander Alan Nutt, himself a veteran of World War 2 and Korea is actively campaigning on behalf of Vietnam

War Widows and their dependents. He has been to Washington to discuss his plan with Bui Diem, the Republic of Vietnam ambassador to the U.S. He feels that the South Vietnam soldiers have shouldered the battle burden under the Vietnamization program, and that Americans should come to the relief of their dependents.

Earl Swisher, 80, Commander of Gov. Dennison Camp of Columbus and a Corporal in the SVR unit has completed another outstanding service at the G.A.R. Circle in Greenlawn Cemetery on Memorial Day. The participation of Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups is something to behold. The Columbus Evening Dispatch paid him a fine tribute with a first page story and picture.

Aux. 45 of Union port recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary with visitors from Hopedale and Bloomingdale. Bonnie Ault presided and the nine charter members and all Past Presidents were honored. Gertrude Williams, a charter member, has served as Chaplain for twenty three years.

A Mother-Daughter-Father-Son dinner was held in Alliance with several Department and National Officers in attendance. Errett and Edith Nile recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with open house at Lexington Grange Hall with a large attendance of members and friends present.

NEW YORK

Tonawanda Mayor Holst, distributed honorary mayor of Tonawanda certificates to representatives of Civil War units which took part in the Memorial Day activities in the Twin Cities. They are Col. Rueben Dunfee, commanding officer of the John C. Pemberton Light Artillery, Bridgeton, N. J.; Harry Gibbons, New York Department Commander SUVCW; and Lt. Gen. Henry C. Horn, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Congressman Henry P. Smith, a member of Buffalo Camp 223 was the principal speaker. Flags were placed on Union and also Confederate graves.

More than two hundred members and friends participated in the 148th Grant Birthday observance at the Grant Tomb in New York City on Apr. 26. The committee in charge included Chester E. Hudson, Cecil M. Baer, Vincent Edmunds, Rev. Howard Asbury, Herbert Parsons, Florence Parsons, Edith Paulding, Frances Ganley and Leila M. Kroepke.

We extend condolences to Bro. William Phillips of Rochester in the loss of his wife, Lois, and to all others who have suffered illness or loss of loved ones.

Helen Loomis recently presented a wreath at the Soldiers and Sailors monument in Troy. The Northern New York Club held services at Mt. McGregor on May 3 at the cottage where General Grant spent his last days.

Oliver Tilden Camp 26, New York City held Memorial Day services at Admiral Farragut's Monument, and at the grave of Capt. Oliver Tilden, at which time the G.A.R. Ritual Service was given.

VERMONT

It is a sad reflection on our modern news media, that the worst side of the daily events are made so prominent. There is a much brighter side; the cause of the Negro has made tremendous advances in only a comparatively few years, although much remains to be done; the man whose skin is different from the white man has a great potential to contribute to the commonwealth of our country.

The youth of the nation are not all bad, as we might sometime be led to believe. I firmly believe that our young people are basically of good report. If we of an older generation or larger experience are confused by this rapidly moving modern world, what must it seem to be, as seen by a youth just starting out in life? The youth of today needs understanding, and the trust of parents and friends not mistrust or criticism. Most of all let us teach our children and grandchildren that we have faith and a personal trust in them, and in a God who still guides the nations of the world and all that vast universe that surrounds it.

Arthur L. Ballou, Dept. Chaplain

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL

A meeting of the New England Regional Association was held March 21-22 at Montpelier, Vermont with Dept. Comdr. Louis Dubois and Dept. Pres. Amy Fancher as hosts. A large attendance from the six New England Departments enjoyed the fellowship of the meetings as well as the dinner and entertainment. Regional Commander Robert Lawrence and Regional President Francis Warner presided over their

respective meetings. Guests included Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr.; Natl. Pres. Mrs. Florence Jansson; Press. Corr. Alice Sharkey; Chief of Staff Eileen Coombs; Natl. Council member Ned Durkee; Grave Regis. Officer Arthur Ballou; P.N.P. Emma Wheeler; Dept. Pres. Marion Young of Mass.; and Dept. Pres. Nathalie Linnell of Connecticut.

OREGON

FREDERICK K. DAVIS

Past Commander-in-Chief
April 27, 1970

Past Commander-in-Chief Frederick K. Davis, 81 of Eugene Oregon died on April 27th. For a time in his youth he lived in the former Ninian Edwards home in Springfield, Ill., the house where Abraham Lincoln courted and married Mrs. Edward's sister, Mary Todd. The experience gave Davis a life-long interest in both Lincoln's life and Civil War history. He was Department Commander of the Oregon Department SUVCW in 1935-56 and Commander-in-Chief in 1952-53.

The funeral service was as Fred had planned it several years ago. The flag was draped behind his casket and he wore his beautiful Commander-in-Chief badge. The minister paid tribute to his courage, his outstanding community service, his patriotism and loyalty to his country.

To his wife Barbara, his son Navarre and his wife Martha and to his three grandchildren we extend deep sympathy in their great loss.

Fred Davis made a lasting impression on a grateful organization, and will always be remembered for the principles that he so long advocated.

NEW JERSEY



The Good Citizen Award given at our Department Encampment in Avon was presented to Dr. Franklin Moore, retired President of Rider College, Trenton. He is shown above (center) with Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr., and Department Commander Richard Hines. Commander Hines was reelected, and Mrs. Hilda Junge is the new Dept. Pres.

Memorial Day activities in Trenton and Bloomfield were headed by members of Camp No. 4., Camp No. 5, and Camp No. 12. In Bloomfield, Jr. Vice Dept. Cmdr. Edward Vay read Gen Logan's Order No. 11 at exercises on the Town Green Services by the Trenton Camps were held at Riverview and Greenwood Cemeteries.

Dates to remember — State Camp dinner meeting, Oct. 24 — Dinner and Reception honoring Dept. Commander Hines and Dept. Pres. Hilda Junge, Nov 7th — Lincoln Dinner, Feb. 13, 1971. All three events will be held in Nassau Inn, Princeton.

PENNSYLVANIA

Over two hundred members and friends attended the annual Appomattox Dinner in Reading on April 11th. Following greetings from the various Department Heads, a professional show was presented. Honorary Discharges were presented to Roy Stoudt and John Stark, both of whom have recently retired from active duty in the Sons of Veterans Reserve. Alvin Kern presided as toastmaster.

"Why do we have Memorial Day?" was the theme for prize essays written by elementary students in Carlisle, sponsored

by Camp 50 and their Auxillary. The three winners were Lauren Lightner, Michael R. Smitley and Kay Belyea. Cash prizes were awarded the top three winners, and certificates of honorable mention were given to twelve other students.

During early April, Robert Boehmler of Camp 200, Philadelphia performed a heroic act. A youth whose car plunged off a bridge into Tacony Creek was pulled from the car by Boehmler and two boys who pushed through four feet of water to reach the vehicle, open the door, and pulled the victim to the bank. Boehmler applied artificial respiration and the youth regained consciousness before being taken to the hospital. Congratulations to one that did not hesitate to become involved.

RHODE ISLAND

At the Department Encampment Apr. 10-11 the annual Memorial Services and Flag presentations were made on Friday evening. Flags were presented to various churches and boy and girl scout troops. Business sessions on Saturday saw many constructive reports made. Visitors were present from several New England Departments as well as several National Officers. Newly elected officers were installed by Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr., with P.C. in C. Haskell as Installing Guide.

The Saturday evening banquet saw many visitors including Flora Bates of Mass.; Emma Wheeler of New Hampshire; William Haskell of Mass.; Bob Lawrence of New Hampshire; Marion Young, Massachusetts; Nathalie Linnell, Conn.; Ann Willeke Conn.; Eileen Coombs; Minnie Madieros, Mass.; Alice Sharkey, New Hamp.; Commander-in-Chief Combs, N. J.; and Aux. Natl. Pres. Florence Jansson, N. J. Also Mabel Taylor, PNP, Ladies of the G.A.R., and Muriel Griffith, N. J., Editor of The Bugle, Ladies of the G.A.R.

MAINE

Commander John Osborne and Pres. Lila Paddock presided at our Encampment in Portland June 5-7. Guests present included Natl. Chief of Staff Eileen Coombs representing the Natl. Pres.; Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr., P.N.P.'s Mildred Webster, Flora Bates and Emma Wheeler. Also Natl. Press Corr. Alice Sharkey and Alice Chamberland. The Maine Auxillary has endorsed P.D.P. Eileen Coombs for the office of National President at the coming National Encampment.

Mrs. Laura Greenleaf of Bath was installed as department President, and her brother John Warner of Bath was installed as Department Commander. Our 1971 Encampment will be held in Rockland.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

A joint reception honoring Dept. Commander Robert Lawrence and Dept. President Emma Wheeler was held in the Community Building, Hillsboro on the evening of May 30th. Guests of honor were Commander-in-Chief Fred H. Combs Jr., and Natl. Pres. Florence M. Jansson. The Commander-in-Chief and the National President attended the Memorial Services at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge on Memorial Day.

CONNECTICUT

Skinner Camp 45 of Rockville held an open house Sunday, June 7 in the G.A.R. Rooms of the Rockville Memorial Building. After two years of restoration the public viewed the many Civil War memorabilia. These items are intact as they were over 80 years ago. Members of Aux. 5 served refreshments. Several Camp members received 50 year and Past Commanders Badges. Those honored included Carlton Buckmister, Charles Steppe, George Brigham and Robert Beebee.

TRUCE

The Communists have come to the truce talks in Paris acting like conquerors, seeking our surrender. If any agreement is reached, concessions will have to be made to the Communists. The sacrifices of our valiant fighting men will have been in vain.

The Communists are convinced that they can achieve victory on the American home front, forcing President Nixon to sellout to them. The Hanoi leaders know that they have tens of thousands of organized followers in our midst, who will do whatever is necessary to obstruct our war effort.

Defeat in Vietnam would not be military, but the result of subversion at home destroying our nation's will and ability to resist. The result would be catastrophic and Communism's greatest victory since the occupation of Eastern Europe.