



The Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. was designed by New York architect Henry Bacon, under the direction of a commission headed by President William Howard Taft, with work commencing on Lincoln’s birthday, February 12, 1914. The completed Memorial was dedicated eight years later on May 30, 1922—costing \$2,940,000. The exterior of the rectangularly shaped edifice was constructed of white Colorado-Yule marble in the Classic Greek-temple style, surrounded by a colonnade of 36 Greek Doric columns. Around the walls above the colonnade is a running border of 48 memorial festoons, representing the states then in the Union and inscribed with the names of the states and their dates of admission.

The structure is approximately 80 feet high, 188 feet 4 inches long, and 118 feet 6 inches wide. The entrance to the Memorial faces the Washington Monument and the Reflecting Pool. Inside is a massive 19-foot statue of a seated Lincoln, made of Georgia white marble, produced by Daniel Chester French. French’s task of creating a perfect image of President Lincoln was daunting. John G. Nicolay, Lincoln’s private secretary, who knew the intricacies and nuances of the President’s face, wrote: “[His] features were the despair of every artist who undertook his portrait....Graphic art was powerless before a face that moved through a thousand delicate gradations of line and contour, light and shade, sparkle of the eye and curve of the lip, in the long gamut of expression from grave to gay, and back again from the rollicking jollity of laughter to that far-away look. There are many pictures of Lincoln; there is no portrait of him.” But French, indeed, was able to capture the true essence of the 16th President.

The interior, made of Indiana limestone, is divided into three chambers by eight Ionic columns. On the north wall is inscribed Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address and on the south wall is the Gettysburg Address. Over each of these inscriptions are two murals, 60 feet long by 12 feet high, by Jules Guerin. Above Lincoln’s head is carved the dedicatory message: “*In This Temple As In The Hearts Of The People For Whom He Saved The Union The Memory Of Abraham Lincoln Is Enshrined Forever.*”

Beginning our 45th year, the MRRT is honored and fortunate to again have the esteemed Dr. Weldon Petz as our special guest speaker. Weldon, a long-time member of the Michigan Regimental, will present “*From Swamp to Glory*,” the story of the Lincoln Monument. As always, Weldon will show slides to enhance his amazing narrative of this magnificent structure. It’s a chronicle you won’t want to miss. Circle the date now—**MONDAY, JANUARY 31.**

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The February meeting will mark the return of our world famous **AUCTION**. Notification comes in advance so you’ll have ample time to determine what items you would like to donate. Books have been our main staple, but other auctioned items have included tokens, coins, bullets, pieces of shell, pamphlets, prints, gunpowder flasks, buttons—and other assorted articles. Great bargains are promised, but the success of such a meeting depends entirely on you. And remember, all monies accrued go into the MRRT Treasury.

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On Sunday, February 6, **Al Oakes** will again hold the “Annual History and Military Memorabilia Show.” The address is: 2299 W. 12 Mile Road in Berkley (between Coolidge and Woodward, across from the cemetery). Featured articles will include antique arms, a variety of Civil War relics, battlefield finds, Indian artifacts, swords, and much more. This show promises to be a great one. Further details will be provided at this month’s meeting. You may contact Al for more information at 248-541-8037.

Our thanks to November speaker, **Larry Hathcock**, for his outstanding program, “*Naval War on the Mississippi.*”

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**QUIZ: All questions pertain to Abraham Lincoln....**

1. Who said: “[Lincoln] is the strong man of his party—full of wit, facts, dates—and the best stump speaker...in the West”? And, who said: “Next to the destruction of the Confederacy, the death of Abraham Lincoln was the darkest day the South has ever known”?
2. A fictitious tale circulated concerning Lincoln’s so-called disguise worn in Baltimore on the way to Washington D.C. for his inauguration. What was the disguise and who used his “journalistic imagination” to make up this story?
3. At whose home did Lincoln stay in Gettysburg? And, who introduced Lincoln to the crowd before he delivered the “Gettysburg Address”? [Extra Credit: What did Lincoln wear on his hat that day?]
4. To which abolitionist did Lincoln supposedly say: “So this is the little lady who made this big war”? And, to which abolitionist did Lincoln say: “There is no man’s opinion that I value more than yours”?
5. What was the name of Lincoln family dog? And, name one of Lincoln’s horses:
6. Who were the five ex-Presidents still alive at the time of Lincoln’s first inauguration? [Extra Credit: Which one of them died first?]
7. To what was Lincoln referring when he said: “It was founded on both injustice and bad policy”? And, what did Lincoln say was “defective” in his own background?
8. Which two sculptors made “life masks” of Lincoln? And, which one made a “death mask”?
9. Which two female sculptors made busts of Lincoln?
10. Which speech did Lincoln claim was his best, stating: “I should choose that speech and leave it to the world uneraser”? And, to whom was Lincoln referring when he said: “My boy! My boy! Was it necessary this sacrifice should be made”?

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Some stories of Abraham Lincoln.....

Lincoln’s verbal duels with Stephen A. Douglas are legendary with Lincoln always appearing to have the upper hand. On one occasion Douglas sneeringly told a crowd that he once saw Lincoln retailing whiskey. “Yes,” replied Lincoln, “*it is true that the first time I saw Judge Douglas I was selling whiskey by the drink. I was on the inside of the bar, and the judge was on the outside; I busy selling, he busy buying.*”

Once during their famous debates, Mr. Douglas, in a near state of rage over Lincoln’s answers to some questions, began shouting at Lincoln: “*You’re two-faced, you’re two-faced!*” In a calm manner, Lincoln, who often poked fun at his own homeliness, turned to the crowd, pointed at himself, and stated: “*We’ll let the audience decide; if I had two faces, would I wear this one.*” An uproarious laugh ended Douglas’ commentary.

One day during the war a Congressman made his way through the halls of the White House to take up some business with the President. Passing through a crowded anteroom, he noticed a weeping, old man, crouching in a corner by himself. The Congressman paused to ask the trouble. The old man explained that his son, a private in the army of General Benjamin F. Butler, had been convicted of some crime and had been sentenced to be shot. The sympathetic Congressman took the sobbing father into the President’s office. “*I am sorry to say I can do nothing for you,*” Lincoln said. “*Listen to this telegram received from General Butler yesterday: ‘President Lincoln, I pray you not to interfere with the courts-martial of the army. You will destroy all discipline among our soldiers.’*” The old man, his hopes aroused and then suddenly dashed, wailed and writhed in grief. Lincoln watched a while, then exclaimed: “*By jingo, Butler or no Butler, here goes!*” He wrote a few words and handed them to the man, who was cheered—and then saddened when he read the note: “*Job Smith is not to be shot until further orders from me.—Abraham Lincoln.*” “*Why,*” protested the old man, “*I*



thought it was to be a pardon; but you say, 'not to be shot till further orders,' and you may order him to be shot next week." Lincoln smiled and said, *"Well, my old friend, I see you are not very well acquainted with me. If your son never looks on death till further orders come from me to shoot him, he will live to be a great deal older than Methuselah."*

An acquaintance of Lincoln, Chauncey M. Depew, remarked of the President, *"His skill in parrying troublesome questions was wonderful."* Depew then related this story. War Democrat John Ganson, a Congressman from New York, once visited Lincoln in the White House. Ganson had a bald head, a hairless face, and a forthright, aggressive manner. *"We are voting and acting in the dark in Congress,"* he told Lincoln, *"and I demand to know—think I have the right to ask and to know—what is the present situation, and what are the prospects and conditions of the several campaigns and armies."* Lincoln looked at him quizzically and then said: *"Ganson, how clean you shave!"* The meeting quickly ended.

According to George Pickett's wife, LaSalle, President Lincoln visited her home in Richmond after the collapse of the Confederacy. With the city in ruin (she likened it to a *"reign of terror"*), LaSalle with her baby in her arms answered a knock at her door. *"I opened the door and looked up at a tall, gaunt sad-faced man in ill-fitting clothes."* To her astonishment, the man announced, *"I am Abraham Lincoln."* *"The President?"* she gasped. *"No, Abraham Lincoln, George's old friend,"* he replied. Then, kissing George Jr., Lincoln declared: *"Tell your father, the rascal, that I forgive him for the sake of your bright eyes."*

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QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Stephen A. Douglas during their 1858 debates and Jefferson Davis
2. Plaid suit with a Scottish cap and Joseph Howard Jr., of the *New York Times*
3. David Wills and Ward Hill Lamon (some claim that Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin did so) [Extra Credit: Lincoln wore a mourning band in honor of his dead son Willie]
4. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass
5. "Fido" and "Old Robin" (nicknamed "Old Bob"), "Old Tom," and "Old Buck"
6. Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan [Extra Credit: John Tyler died on January 18, 1862, at 12:15 A.M. in Richmond at age 71. Van Buren died 6 months later on July 24.]
7. Slavery and education
8. Leonard Volk and Clark Mills. There were no "death masks" made.
9. Sarah Fisher Ames and Vinnie Ream
10. "A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand" made on June 16, 1858 and Elmer Ellsworth

Plan on being at the Farmington Hills Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road) on **MONDAY, JANUARY 31**, as **Dr. Weldon Petz** will present *"From Swamp to Glory,"* the story of the Lincoln Memorial—a must-see program. Meeting time is 6:30 P.M. Come early and enjoy the fellowship.

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>