

Willie Herndon, Abraham Lincoln’s law partner, once described the face of the 16th President: “*His cheekbones were high, sharp and prominent. His eyebrows cropped out like a huge rock on the brow of a hill; his long sallow face was wrinkled.*” Some would call Lincoln’s face uniquely “handsome,” while others allowed their hatred to dictate their emotions. “*If I wanted to paint a despot, a man perfectly regardless of every constitutional right of the people,*” stated Democratic Senator Willard Saulsbury of Delaware, “*I would paint the hideous, apelike form of Abraham Lincoln.*”

Wartime brought out the ugliest and most despicable commentaries by the enemy. The **Charleston Mercury**, for example, labeled Lincoln, “*a horrid looking wretch....sooty and scoundrelly in aspect, a cross between a nutmeg dealer, the horse-swapper and the nightman....He is a lank-sided Yankee of the uncomeliest visage and of the dirtiest complexion....*” Perhaps Brigadier General Alpheus Williams saw beyond the physical appearance when he described Lincoln in a letter, dated 5 October 1862, to his daughter from the battlefield of Antietam. “*The President was here a few days since. I had quite a long talk with him, sitting on a pile of logs. He is really the most unaffected, simple-minded, honest, and frank man I have ever met.*”

Of the 119 known photographs of Lincoln, 39 are beardless, 80 are with beard—covering nearly 20 years of his life. An untold amount of busts, masks, statues, and paintings also exist with individual artists often reproducing the most famous face in American History as they saw it.

This month—**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**—the incomparable **Dr. Weldon Petz** will present “*That Great Face,*” an interpretation of Abraham Lincoln’s facial characteristics. As always Weldon will show slides and render a flawless commentary pertaining to the subject. When asked about the title of his talk, Weldon stated that while in Europe, the German people invariably referred to President Lincoln as simply, “that great face.” This is a program you absolutely do not want to miss. Don’t you feel fortunate and proud that MRRT member, Dr. Petz, is one of our own.

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Our thanks to January’s speaker, **Larry Hathcock**, for his outstanding program, “*Yankee Neptune: Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.*” Larry’s presentation prompted numerous questions and responses from the audience. Thank goodness at least one of our group is proficient in the subject of Civil War Navies.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: We will again meet in the same room in the Farmington Public Library as our normal meeting, but simply an hour earlier (5:30 P.M.).

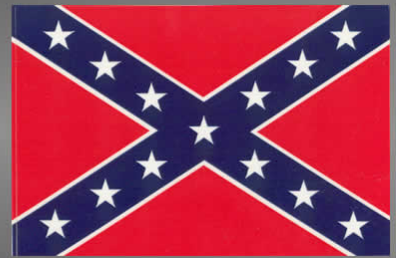
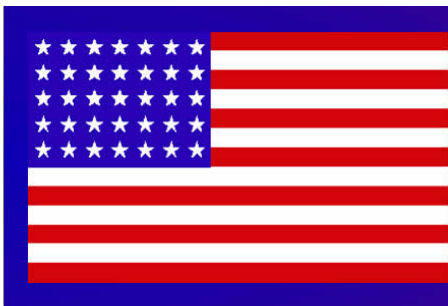
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Our recent Vicksburg Field Trip can be relived if you click on the website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/fieldtrip2008.htm/> Be sure to click on the Video Link at the bottom of that page. [Special thanks to Norm Carver for putting this outstanding show together!]

FALL FIELD TRIP: Our fall destination will be Fredericksburg/Chancellorsville set for Sat./Sun., October 17 and 18 (as mentioned at last month’s meeting). We are fortunate to have as our guide Frank O’Reilly, a renowned expert of those battlefields. It has been nearly 20 years that we’ve traversed these areas (1990). Come to this month’s meeting to hear more about this fabulous trip and to sign up for this much-awaited venture.

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Not the snow, winds, ice, nor nasty weather kept Civil War diehards from venturing to the Military Memorabilia displays spearheaded by MRRT member, Al Oakes on Saturday, January 17. Even with the wicked weather, parking spots were at



a premium....And the show was great! Our thanks again to Al for his hard work.

QUIZ: All questions/numbers pertain to Abraham Lincoln.....

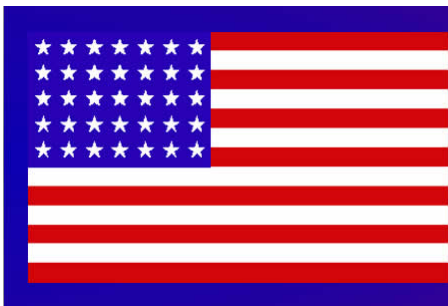
1. How many former Presidents were alive when Lincoln was inaugurated in 1861? Name them.
2. How many siblings did Lincoln have and name them.
3. How many votes did Lincoln receive for Vice President at the Republican Convention in 1856 and who won the nomination?
4. What was Lincoln's presidential salary per year and how long did Mary Todd outlive her husband?
5. How old was Lincoln's mother, Sarah Hanks, when she died? And how old was Abraham at the time of her death?
6. What percentage of the Electoral Vote did Lincoln receive in 1860? And, what percentage of the popular vote did he receive?
7. Lincoln came to Michigan only once in his lifetime—August 27, 1856. Where did he appear and why was he here?
8. Why are the following dates important in Lincoln's life—4 November 1842, 17 January 1851, and 20 February 1862?
9. Lincoln owned one house in his lifetime. From whom did he buy the house and how much did he pay for it?
10. How many appointments did Lincoln make to the Supreme Court and name them.
11. EXTRA CREDIT: Lincoln was the first of our bearded presidents. How many others were there and name them.

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On Thursday, September 26, 1901, Abraham Lincoln's body was viewed for the last time. Workmen that day, 36 ½ years after Lincoln's death, unearthed his coffin along with those of his wife, Mary Todd, his sons (Edward, Willie, and Tad), and his 16-year-old grandson Abraham III. After secretly concealing the bodies in various places, a final resting spot was made ready at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. More than two dozen people had gathered for the ceremony, but once the coffin had been pulled from its temporary spot, an argument began. Should the coffin be opened and the body viewed? After all, it had been a national scandal when thieves had tried to steal Lincoln's body back in 1876, so it might be best, some argued, that the body be positively identified. Others felt that opening a casket was macabre and an invasion of privacy. The coffin had last been opened in 1887, and the majority vote stood to open it again.

Two plumbers, Leon P. Hopkins and his nephew Charles L. Willey, were sent for to chisel an oblong piece out of the top of the lead-lined coffin just over Lincoln's head and shoulders. The same men had opened the casket 14 years before. Joseph P. Lindley, a member of the Lincoln Guard of Honor, sent a message back into Springfield for his 13-year-old son, Fleetwood, to leave school and quickly ride out to the tomb on his bicycle. At 11:45 A.M. six workmen carried the casket into the still unfinished Memorial Hall and set it on two sawhorses. The room was hot and damp—an imperfect electric fan droned and a single incandescent lamp produced an eerie light.

Now young Fleetwood arrived, rolling his bicycle right into Memorial Hall and leaning it up against the wall. Suddenly voices dropped to a low, prayer like murmur. Master plumber Hopkins made his dramatic uncovering, lifting the section of the green-colored lead from above Mr. Lincoln's head and chest. A pungent, frighteningly choking smell arose. Simultaneously all 23 persons crowded forward. The dark brown Lincoln face was covered with a distinct rubbing of white chalk, which had been originally applied in Philadelphia in 1865 when Lincoln's face began turning black from the effects of the wound and its subsequent probing by surgeons. According to Mrs. Alfred Bayliss, an eyewitness, Lincoln's face was sort of powdered bronze in color. The features were entirely recognizable and the expression was one of



sadness. The headrest had fallen away so that the neck was thrown back but the black, short chin whiskers were perfect, recalled Hopkins. The small black bow tie, the mole on his cheek, the coarse black hair, were unmistakable, although the eyebrows had vanished. The black broadcloth suit which the President had worn, new, at his second inauguration, was covered with tiny delicate stalagmites of yellow mold. There were red spots, too, and someone said there must have been a small American flag that had rotten away. Over the President's hands were a faded pair of French gloves. Although five photographers were on hand that day to take pictures of the coffin and the crowd, no photos were allowed of Mr. Lincoln.

Plumber Hopkins re-soldered the cut-out piece, and eyewitness B.H. Monroe later recalled: *"I watched the shadow of the lid fall across Lincoln's face as that face disappeared from mortal view forever."* The coffin was lowered into a cage and two tons of cement poured down over it. Fleetwood Lindley, was a spry 75 when he recalled the scene to a *Life Magazine* reporter in January, 1963. "Yes," said Lindley, "[Lincoln's] face was chalky white. His clothes were mildewed. And I was allowed to hold one of the leather straps as we lowered the casket for the concrete to be poured. I was not scared at the time, but I slept with Lincoln for the next six months." Fleetwood Lindley died three days after the interview, on February 1, 1963, the last person to have seen the face of Lincoln.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Five: Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan
2. Two: Sister Sarah and a brother Tommy
3. 110/William Lewis Dayton (VP under Republican nominee John Charles Fremont)
4. \$25,000/17 years, 92 days—dying at age 63 on July 16, 1882
5. 34 years, 242 days—dying on October 5, 1818/Abraham was 9 years, 235 days
6. 59.41 % of the Electoral vote/39.4 % of the popular vote
7. Kalamazoo/to campaign for presidential candidate John Fremont
8. Wedding date/father Thomas' death/son Willie's death
9. Reverend Charles Dresser (who had married the Lincolns)/\$1500
10. Five: Salmon Chase (Chief Justice), Noah Haynes Swayne, Samuel Freeman Miller, David Davis, and Stephen Johnson Field
11. EXTRA CREDIT: Four: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford Hayes, James Garfield, and Benjamin Harrison

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A last reminder of this month's special meeting—**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23—Dr. Weldon Petz** will present *"That Great Face."* We will start the meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). You'd better show up early to get a great seat. See you