

Every presidential election in our nation’s history brings a swarm of office seekers scurrying to Washington D.C., as the capital city fills with folks of every description. Many are honest, hard-working members of the winning political party merely trying to cash in on the results of the election. Others, whose ethics may be questionable, believe the party owes them a post for their loyalty. Still others are hangers-on, charlatans, or parasites desiring a political position to benefit their own pocketbooks and prestige. When Abraham Lincoln arrived in the capital in 1861, he soon learned that his campaign managers had promised more positions in the cabinet than could be accommodated. As the President slyly put it, *“There are too many pigs for the tits.”*

Lincoln, of course, filled the vacancies in his cabinet as well as the hundreds of positions in demand. Like all presidents he would eventually find out those who were there for their allegiance and those who desired their own personal glory. This month on **MONDAY, JUNE 29**, long-time MRRT member **Jerry Maxwell** will present a brand new program, *“Lincoln’s Cronies,”* a collage of eight of Lincoln’s friends and associates, including:

- A political diehard who admitted that his mantra was *“admit nothing and require my adversary to prove everything.”*
- One who stated of a political rival: *“His wife is not pretty—but said to have \$60,000—which, I suppose for him makes up for everything else.”*
- Still another who bemoaned at the time of Lincoln’s assassination: *“If only I had been there to protect him as I had done before.”*
- Of another Lincoln wrote, *“[He has] the best natural talent, in that department [the military] I ever knew”* and called him, *“the greatest little man I ever met.”*
- One of Lincoln’s closest friends ascribed that the President’s two strongest characteristics were *“fidelity and courage.”* When he died Lincoln sadly noted, that his death *“smote like a whirlwind.”*
- Another of Lincoln’s associates called out to the border states at the Republican convention of 1860, *“Give us Lincoln and we will unite the strength of our Union sentiment with the Union army and bring success to your legions.”* His political beliefs would lead to numerous attempts on his life.
- One of Lincoln’s strangest alliances was with a New Yorker. When the President first met him, Lincoln said, *“From what I have heard [of you], I expected you to be a giant of a man, big and broad-shouldered, tall as I am! But I would take you to be more of a scholarly kind of fellow....”* He would be a scoundrel of the highest order.
- Finally, one of the world’s most famous people who Lincoln liked to stand beside and introduce the two of them as *“the long and the short of it.”*

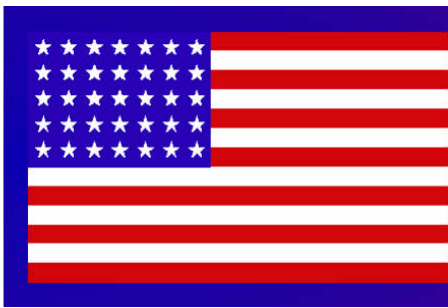
You’ll want to be in attendance when all of these unique personalities are revealed.....

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The Michigan Regimental expresses its thanks to last month’s guest speaker, **John Gibney**, for his spirited and educational program, *“Elmer Ellsworth and the Cult of the Zouaves.”* John’s exceptional power point presentation on the history of the Zouaves was followed by a lively session of questions.

The **50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** will again be in session at 5:30 P.M. before our regular meeting.

FALL FIELD TRIP: Our trip to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville is planned for the weekend of Saturday/Sunday, October 17-18. Guiding us around will be the premier expert on this area, historian Frank O’Reilly. We will visit the upper pontoon crossing of the Rappahannock, Chatham Manor, the Slaughter Pen Farm, Marye’s Heights, the



Lee/Jackson bivouac site, Jackson's Flank March and Catherine's Furnace, Hazel Grove, and Jackson's wounding site. Of special interest we will be given a Saturday night candle-light tour of Guiney Station where Jackson died.

This month Trip Chairman, Jerry Maxwell, will again be collecting checks for the bus payment. Please make out a check for \$70 to either Jerry or Carroll Tietz (absolutely no cash will be accepted). [Also, give all the checks to Jerry.] This money is non-refundable if you change your mind in the future. Remember the Motel Reservations are to be made on your own at the phone number given out at the meeting. Any questions will be answered at this month's meeting.

ELECTION COMMITTEE: At the last meeting, the Election Committee nominated long-time member Don Kadar to be our new President. The Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (Jeanie Graham, Mollie Galate, and Carroll Tietz) will remain the same. A special Thank You is afforded to outgoing President, Jim Burroughs, for his phenomenal four years in that position. Luckily, we will still have Jim serving as our Program Chairman.

QUIZ: Those Who Knew Lincoln.....

1. A Whig congressman from Georgia who bitterly opposed the Mexican War (as did Lincoln). Nicknamed "Little Aleck." Lincoln called him "the smartest man" he'd ever met.
2. An ex-slave and the first Black to enter the White House as a guest. He strongly disagreed with Lincoln's First Inaugural Address but approved the Second. "There is no man in the country," Lincoln said, "whose opinion I value more than yours."
3. Correspondent for the *Sacramento Daily Union* who became a close friend of both Abraham and Mary Lincoln. He was with Lincoln when word arrived of the Union debacle at Chancellorsville and reported he had never seen the president "so broken, so dispirited, so ghostlike...."
4. Minister of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where Lincoln worshipped in Washington D.C. He conducted the funeral service for Willie Lincoln on February 24, 1862. Of this minister Lincoln said, "I wish to find a church whose clergyman holds himself aloof from politics....I like [him]. He don't preach politics. I get enough of that through the week."
5. Editor of the *New York Tribune* who cracked down on members of the House of Representatives for receiving too much money for travel mileage, especially young Congressman Abraham Lincoln (\$676.80 too much). Years later he wrote a letter entitled "The Prayer of Twenty Millions," challenging Lincoln to move faster on emancipation.
6. Photographer from Springfield, Illinois who took the first known photograph of Lincoln at age 37, a daguerreotype, sometime in the last half of 1846, perhaps shortly after Lincoln's election to Congress. He then took a separate photo of Mary, pictures that would hang on the wall of their Springfield home.
7. A mulatto and one of the capital's most treasured dressmakers who became Mrs. Lincoln's seamstress, friend, and confidante. When she lost her only son, Wilberforce, at the Battle of Lexington, Mrs. Lincoln was "all heart" and wrote a "kind womanly letter....full of golden words of comfort." Unfortunately, the friendship ended when this lady published *Behind the Scenes*, a book Mary Todd despised.
8. Presidential candidate that Lincoln campaigned for in 1856 in Kalamazoo. Of this man's wife, Lincoln stated curtly, "[she] taxed me so violently with many things that I had to exercise all the awkward tact I have to avoid quarreling with her."
9. Lincoln called him "[my] beau ideal of a statesman" and delivered a eulogy in the Illinois state capital after this man died on June 29, 1852. Lincoln admired him for opposing "both extremes" on slavery: those who would "shiver into fragments the Union" and those who would "tear to tatters the Constitution."



10. Described as an “African prophetess,” she was born into slavery, but believed her mission in life was to help set the world “right side up.” Her real name was Isabella Van Wagener. She met Lincoln at the White House on October 29, 1864.

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During the summer of 1862 President Lincoln waited for news of a victory on the battlefield that would allow him to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. For months now, the most furious assault on Lincoln came not from Confederate troops besieging Washington, but from radical Republican senators assailing his leadership. Senators Charles Sumner and Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, along with Congressman Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, gave Lincoln no respite.

Lincoln told a visitor that he would look out the White House window and see them coming, singly, as a pair, or all together to attack him for not making a more frontal assault on slavery. In these dire days, Lincoln often found refuge in his bottomless barrel of humor. He told a friend that the visits of these three reminded him of the boy in Sunday School, who, when asked to read from the Bible the story of the three men in the fiery furnace, struggled over the difficult names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The boy read on, mortified, until he looked down the page and saw their names coming again. This time, in agony, he cried out, “*Look! Look there! Here comes them same three damn fellers again!*”

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Alexander H. Stephens
2. Frederick Douglass
3. Noah Brooks
4. Phineas Densmore Gurley
5. Horace Greeley
6. Nicholas H. Shepherd
7. Elizabeth “Lizzie” Keckley
8. John Charles Fremont (and his wife, Jessie)
9. Henry Clay
10. Sojourner Truth

Make sure you join us on **MONDAY, JUNE 29**, for **Jerry Maxwell’s** presentation of “*Lincoln’s Cronies.*” Gathering time is 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). It should be a fun night so get there early.

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