



By the summer of 1861, Abraham Lincoln's day had become a set routine. A *“light and capricious”* sleeper, he generally awakened early in the morning. Before breakfast he liked to exercise, often by walking around the spacious White House grounds. At nine he breakfasted with his family, downing an egg and a cup of coffee, and then made his way down the corridor to his office where callers had already assembled. For an hour or so he studied a digest of the day's news prepared by his personal secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay. Both young men idolized Lincoln but for Mary Lincoln, they had nothing but adamant hostility. They did not understand what pressures and hurts lay behind her temper flares, and with youthful intolerance they disparaged her as a raging “Hellcat” whose shrieks made the White House tremble.

Officially, Lincoln would throw his door open at ten and let in a river of raucous humanity—interviewers, politicians, office seekers, businessmen, and sobbing mothers who wanted their sons released from the army. Usually he would greet people with *“What can I do for you?”* Warned that the demanding crowds would tire him out, Lincoln responded, *“They don't want much, they get but little, and I must see them.”* One class of visitors Lincoln always welcomed. These were inventors and gunsmiths who came to promote some newfangled weapon. The President not only tried out the new breach-loading rifle, but helped in its eventual introduction into his armed forces.

At lunch time Lincoln generally limited himself to some bread, fruit, and milk. At four he would get away from the White House and go for a carriage ride—his only regular source of relaxation. To guard against assassination, a cavalry escort accompanied Lincoln on his country rides, although he protested all security measures as a nuisance. The story goes that Lincoln liked to prod his coachman and try to outrun the cavalry. Then it was back to the White House for dinner at six. Usually Lincoln dined with his family and a few friends or special guests.

When Mary and the boys were later asleep, he would do his late-night work by lamplight. Afterward, while waiting for sleep to come, he would read his worn copy of Shakespeare's tragedies, turning again and again to Hamlet and Macbeth. Then at last, when all was quiet, Lincoln would sink into a restless sleep.

On MONDAY, AUGUST 29, Jerry Maxwell, after a 7-month hiatus, will return to present “A Tribute to Dr. Weldon Petz” with a slide presentation/narrative entitled, “Abraham Lincoln: From Log Cabin to White House.” This will be Jerry's personal acknowledgment to Weldon, mentor and friend.

FALL FIELD TRIP: Our Annual Fall Field Trip is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, October 22-23. We will gather on Friday, October 21 at the Hilton Springfield [700 East Adams St.—217-789-1530] at 7:30 P.M. The Saturday night dinner will be at Maldaner's Restaurant [222 S. Sixth St.—217-522-4313].

Our itinerary for the two weekend days includes tours of the Old State Capital, the Abraham Lincoln House, the Lincoln-Herdon Law Office, the Lincoln Tomb/Oak Ridge Cemetery, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and New Salem.

Two separate checks (both made out to Carroll Tietz) should be brought to this meeting. One check for \$35 will cover Saturday night's *meal. The other check for \$30 will cover all entrance fees. If you are going on the trip but cannot make this meeting, please mail two checks to Jeanie Graham at 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Any other essential details will be provided at this month's meeting.

**Please let Mollie Galate or Jeanie Graham know whether you'd like a vegetarian meal for the Saturday night's meal.*



A special thank you goes out to last month's speaker, Don Garlit, for his excellent presentation, *“A Numeric and Statistical Analysis of the Antebellum Period and the American Civil War, 1790-1865.”*

QUIZ: All quotes pertain to Abraham Lincoln.....

1. Which politician said, “Next to the destruction of the Confederacy, the death of Abraham Lincoln was the darkest day the South has ever known”?
2. Which newspaperman stated, “He was not a born king of men....but a child of the people, who made himself a great persuader, therefore a leader, by dint of firm resolve, patient effort and dogged perseverance”?
3. Which friend said, “When justice, right, liberty, the government, the Constitution, the Union, [and] humanity were involved, then you may all stand aside. No man can move him. No set of men can”?
4. Which politician avowed, “I never did see or converse with so weak and imbecile a man, the weakest man I ever knew in high place. If I wanted to paint a despot....I would paint the hideous form of Abraham Lincoln.”?
5. Which ex-president stated, “[Lincoln] is to the extent of his limited ability and narrow intelligence [the abolitionists'] willing instrument for all the woe which [has] thus far been brought upon the Country and for all the degradation, all the atrocity, all the desolation and ruin”?
6. Which newspaper editorialized, “A horrid looking wretch he is, sooty and scoundrelly in aspect, a cross between the nutmeg dealer, the horse-swapper and the night man....He is a lank-sided Yankee of the uncomeliest visage and of the dirtiest complexion. Faugh! After him what white man would be President”?
7. Which newspaper stated, “We took the ground in 1860 that Mr. Lincoln was the most unfit man for the chief magistracy of this nation that any party ever put in nomination....By nature a third rate man, by growth an ignoramus, he was picked up by the Abolitionist party solely from the motives of expediency”?
8. Which Confederate general said, “We haven't taken Washington, but we scared Abe Lincoln like hell!”?
9. Which politician stated, “I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes”?
10. Which Cabinet member said of the Emancipation Proclamation, “We show our sympathy with slavery by emancipating slaves where we cannot reach them and holding them in bondage where we can set them free”?

* * * * *

On a balmy Sunday afternoon, October 20, 1861, President Lincoln sat on the White House lawn with his old friend Edward Baker, now a colonel in the Union army. As Lincoln leaned against a tree, Baker stretched out on the grass, and the two old friends talked of their days together as lawyers and politicians in Illinois. They also talked earnestly about the war—the conflict had now entered its sixth month and the Union had won no victories. Baker had introduced Lincoln at his inauguration, but other than that they had seen little of each other in recent years. Baker had moved to San Francisco in 1852, ran unsuccessfully for the Senate and then moved to Oregon in 1859, where he won election to the Senate in 1860. When the war broke out, Baker organized a California regiment. Lincoln offered to appoint him a brigadier general, but he turned it down, saying he would serve as a colonel, which would allow him to retain his Senate seat.

Presently they rose and Willie, Lincoln's 10-year-old son, ran over to them. Baker lifted him up and kissed the boy, remarking that he'd known Willie since he was a baby. Mary came out and gave Baker some flowers, and the four of them chatted intimately on the White House lawn. Then Baker mounted his horse and rode out of the gates, and the Lincolns watched him until he disappeared from view. All summer, Baker—courageous but impetuous—had had a premonition that he would die in combat. In August, he had prepared a will. Before midnight on October 20, he was ordered to prepare his men for battle. It would be a small battle on the Potomac River at a spot called Ball's Bluff.



The next day, as Lincoln was monitoring the progress of the battle in the War Department, a telegram came through announcing the death of Colonel Baker. In a bold charge Baker had been hit by four bullets, one of which penetrated his brain. Lincoln staggered from the office with his hands pressed hard against his chest, “*with bowed head, and tears rolling down his furrowed cheeks, his face pale and wan.*” He stumbled when he stepped out into the street, and returned to the White House without a word to anyone. Baker was an old, old friend and his loss, Lincoln said, “*smote like a whirlwind.*” He told Mary and the boys about Baker and then retired to his office. That night, with rain pelting against the windows, Lincoln was still there, pacing back and forth and recalling his visit with Baker only yesterday.

And in another part of the White House, **Willie Lincoln** wrote a poem on tear-stained pages, a poem about Baker that was mature and moving and deeply felt. The poem, entitled, “**On the Death of Colonel Edward Baker,**” appeared later in the **Washington National Republican**, whose readers were astonished that a ten-year-old boy could pen such lines.

*There was no patriot like Baker,
So noble and so true
He fell as a soldier on the field,
His face to the sky of blue*

*No squeamish notions filled his breast,
The Union was his theme,
“No surrender and no compromise,”
His day thought and night’s dream*

*His Country has her part to play,
To’rds those he left behind,
His widow and his children all—
She must always keep in mind.*

Edward Dickinson Baker, at age fifty, was given a hero’s burial at the Presidio in San Francisco.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

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| 1. Jefferson Davis | 6. Charleston Mercury |
| 2. Horace Greeley | 7. Detroit Free Press |
| 3. Willie Herndon | 8. Jubal Early |
| 4. Democratic Senator Willard Saulsbury of Delaware | 9. Edward Everett |
| 5. Franklin Pierce | 10. William Seward |

A last reminder for this month’s meeting—**MONDAY, AUGUST 29**—as long-time member **Jerry Maxwell** will present “*A Tribute to Dr. Weldon Petz,*” with a slide presentation entitled, “*Abraham Lincoln: From Log Cabin to White House.*” The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there! Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>

Old Sarge