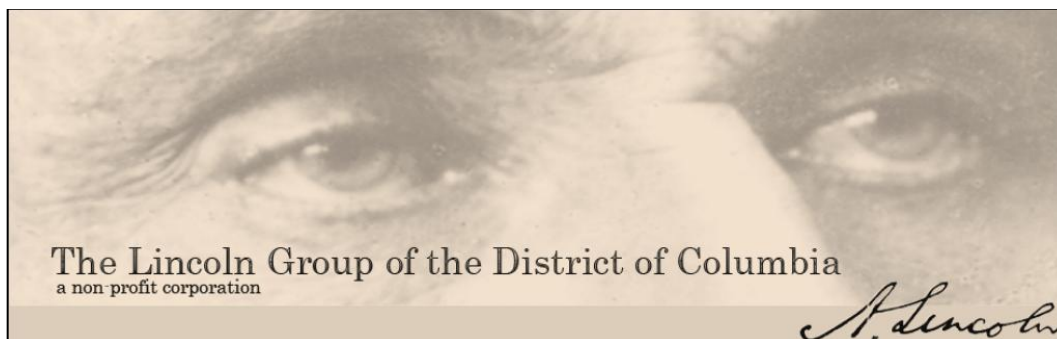


THE LINCOLNIAN



VOLUME XXXVI

Number 4



Annual Picnic/Tour Plans Announced

Join us on a scenic and historic sojourn. Above is a peaceful scene today in Williamsport, Md. but that was not quite so in July 1863 when Union troops followed retreating rebels through the area following the Battle of Gettysburg, action we will follow on our annual picnic/tour. This year's tour will take place on June 6, 2020. Save the date! Once again our tour leader Craig Howell will bring history alive for us. Turn to page 3 for more details.

The Lincoln Group Remembers



Laurie Verge

We are saddened to share the news of the recent death on February 23 of long-time Lincoln Group member, Laurie Verge, at the age of 76. A graduate of Frostburg State College, Laurie used her degree in education as a teacher of history and government at Spaulding Jr. High School in Forestville, Maryland. Subsequently, her love of history led her to become a founding member of the Surratt Society and one of the first volunteer docents at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland. In the mid-80s, she became a full-time employee of the museum under the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission. She continued her work at the museum – where she served as director – until her death. Her expertise on the Civil War, the Lincoln assassination and local Southern Maryland history was well known and she was always willing to share her knowledge. We cannot think of the Surratt Society without thinking of and remembering Laurie. For years Laurie was a regular attendee at our Lincoln Group dinner meetings (along with a group of “Surratt Ladies” who would accompany her to such events). One always learned a bit more history if seated near Laurie at one of the dinners. Our local history community will sorely miss her presence. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Diane Verge Morpew and her grandson, Aaron Brayden Alexander Morpew. The family has asked that those wishing to make donations in her memory do so to the Surratt Society.

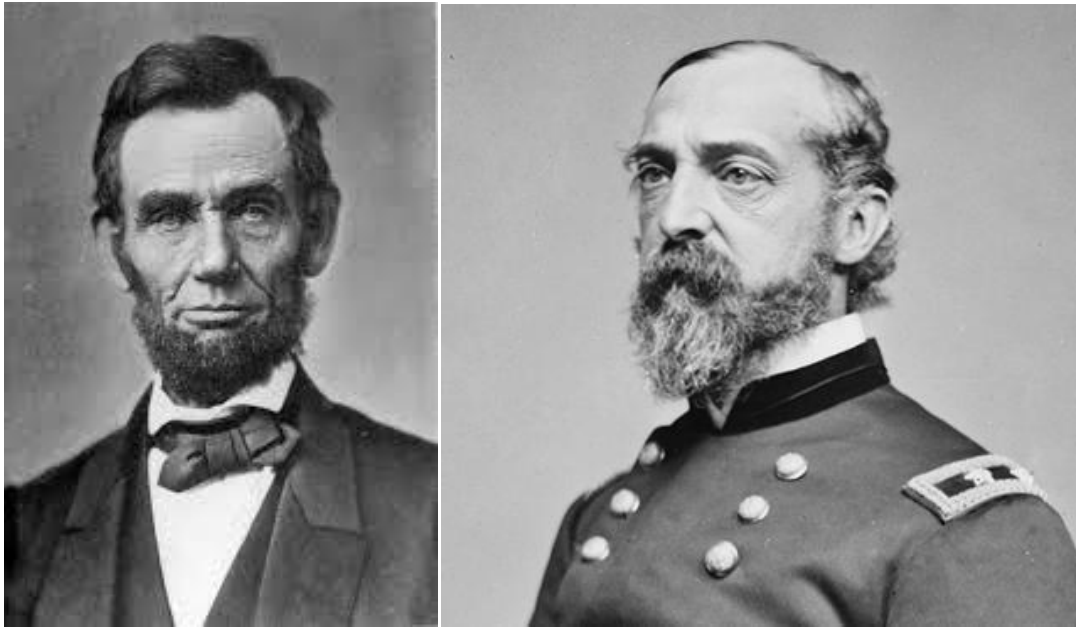
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**Lincoln Group Picnic and
Tour**

**Lincoln vs. Meade@
Williamsport**



“We had only to stretch forth our hands and they were ours”

Lincoln vs. Meade @ Williamsport
LGDC ANNUAL PICNIC & TOUR
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Battle of Gettysburg is universally remembered as a stunning Yankee victory that crippled Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and re-energized morale throughout the Union, overturning the aura of invincibility that had enhanced Confederate military prowess for so long.

Yet the nagging question has persisted: Did George G. Meade squander a golden opportunity for his Army of the Potomac to administer an even more crushing blow to Lee’s army by allowing it to slip away across the Potomac at Williamsport, MD and nearby Falling Waters virtually unmolested—despite being trapped for days against the rain-swollen Potomac?

President Lincoln certainly thought so. He and other top Administration officials had been relentlessly pushing General Meade to initiate strong action from the time the Rebels had started



The above sketches were part of *Harper's Weekly's* (August 15, 1863 edition) coverage of the Maryland Campaign following the Battle of Gettysburg. The collage of artist A. R. Waud sketches was captioned "Reminiscences of the Maryland Campaign" and depicts actions in the area we will visit on annual picnic/tour in June. The campaign had ended by the time of that issue but publishers considered the action "so recent and so eventful, that the public will be glad to see it once more described with the pencil." Pay particular attention to the top sketch which shows the view of the Potomac near Williamsport where the rebels forded with their wagons. The middle sketch shows a Union charge near Falling Waters, described by the artist as a "gallant affair." Also depicted: Prisoners – in the thousands – marching through Frederick; the burned out district of nearby Emmitsburg; the pontoon bridge at Falling Waters – "not a miserable bridge as has been reported but a well-built one of boats like ours, painted lead-color;" and New York militia hurrying home on news of the draft riots. The artist noted that "on the field of battle it was common for the rebel wounded to get up, and holding up their hands in token of submission, run into our lines to get attended to by our surgeons, which they prefer to experiencing the tender mercies of their own."

their retreat from Pennsylvania on the afternoon of July 4 right through their final escape to Virginia on the morning of July 14. But all for naught, it seemed. "We had only to stretch forth our hands and they were ours," a despairing Abraham Lincoln wrote soon after learning of Lee's escape. "And nothing I could do or say could make the army move."

Stung by his Commander-in-Chief's reaction, General Meade tendered his resignation, which the President declined. But he maintained then and for the rest of his life that launching an all-out assault on the Southern defenses at Williamsport would have been suicidal; another Fredericksburg that would have snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory. His caution, he argued, was fully justified military prudence.

Generations of historians have been debating General Meade's post-Gettysburg movements and President Lincoln's ensuing frustrations ever since. With more than a century and a half of hindsight, can we now say who had the better perspective—Meade or Lincoln?

The Lincoln Group of D.C.'s annual picnic and tour this year, scheduled for Saturday June 6, will focus on this long-standing debate, as we visit sites in or near Williamsport, Maryland associated with a few crucial days in July 1863. Our itinerary will include enjoying picnic lunches at what is now a charming State Park on the banks of Antietam Creek just north of Sharpsburg but was the scene of a crucial Council of War that Meade held with his senior commanders on July 12.

This is one tour where what **didn't** happen will draw more of our attention than what **did** happen.

Our tour director will once again be LGDC's own Craig Howell.

LGDC members and guests will carpool from the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station (where parking is free on weekends) at 9:30 a.m. on the morning of June 6. Drivers are needed for the carpool. Those who wish to skip the carpool may rendezvous with the rest of us at 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the crossing of the Appalachian Trail with Alt Route 40 at the crest of Turner's Gap near Boonsboro. (This is on the eastern side of South Mountain, just shy of the historic South Mountain Inn for those coming from Frederick and Middletown.)

From Turner's Gap we will convoy through Boonsboro to the colorfully-named Devil's Backbone State Park for lunch (participants bring their own) and an interpretive talk. We will then proceed into Williamsport with several stops en route. Our tour will end at the recently restored and re-watered Conococheague Aqueduct on the C&O Canal; free boat rides should be offered by the Park Service for anyone wishing to linger after our own tour ends. Craig promises that you should be back at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro by 4 p.m.

Recommended reading: Craig has been inspired to lead this tour by a provocative book published just last year: "*Lee Is Trapped and Must be Taken*": *Eleven Fateful Days After Gettysburg, July 4-14, 1863*," by Thomas J. Ryan and Richard R. Schaus. This work often reads more like a lawyer's brief than an historical study as the authors doggedly pursue their case against General Meade, throwing up everything against the wall and seeing what sticks. But in the process they bring valuable new insights and information into the debate forum. Craig hopes for a lively discussion of the book's case with his LGDC colleagues.

Remember to RSVP: Everyone wishing to participate should RSVP directly to Craig, preferably by email: craighowell1@verizon.net. Let him know whether you need a ride in the carpool or whether you can be one of our carpool drivers.



Before and After

We will end our June tour at the recently restored Conococheague Aqueduct (shown above on the right before restoration) where some of our party may want to take advantage of a free boat ride, as shown on the left.

**Other Upcoming Lincoln Group Events:
Dinner programs**

In April: Walt Whitman and Abraham Lincoln



Presenter: Garrett Peck, Historian and Tour Guide

Our April 21, 2020 speaker will be Garrett Peck, who will speak to us about Walt Whitman and Abraham Lincoln. Whitman was already famous for *Leaves of Grass* when he journeyed to the

nation's capital at the height of the Civil War to find his brother George, a Union officer wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Whitman eventually served as a volunteer "hospital missionary," making more than six hundred hospital visits and serving over eighty thousand sick and wounded soldiers in the next three years. With the 1865 publication of *Drum-Taps*, Whitman became poet laureate of the Civil War, aligning his legacy with that of Abraham Lincoln. He remained in Washington until 1873 as a federal clerk, engaging in a dazzling literary circle and fostering his longest romantic relationship, with Peter Doyle. Author Garrett Peck details the definitive account of Walt Whitman's decade in the nation's capital.

Garrett Peck is an author, historian, and tour guide in the nation's capital. In addition to *Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C.*, he has written several other books including *The Great War in America: World War I and Its Aftermath*. He has lectured at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian, and often speaks at literary clubs, historical societies, and trade associations. In addition, Peck leads history-related tours in the Washington area, including the Temperance Tour of Prohibition-related sites in the nation's capital, which has been featured on C-SPAN Book TV and the History Channel program "Ten Things You Didn't Know About" with punk rock legend Henry Rollins. His other tours include the Walt Whitman Tour, WWI Tour, Jazz History Tour, brewing tours of Alexandria and DC.

In May: Lincoln and His Use of the Presidential Pardon



Presenter: Burrus Carnahan, Lincoln Author and Constitutional Expert

Our May 19, 2020 speaker is a familiar face to many Lincoln Group of DC members and his topic one that is particularly timely, what with presidential power and pardons issues in the news as of late. Burrus "Buzz" Carnahan is a two-time past-president and long-time active member of

our organization as well as a senior expert on legal issues. Carnahan is a retired Judge Advocate officer for the Air Force, a former foreign affairs officer in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the U.S. Department of State, and an ongoing professional lecturer at George Washington University School of Law. He is the author of two books on Abraham Lincoln: *Act of Justice: Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the Law of War*, and *Lincoln on Trial: Southern Civilians and the Law of War*. He also has penned many scholarly articles.

For the Lincoln Group of DC, Carnahan will discuss Abraham Lincoln's use of presidential power, in particular the use of his power of pardon, which he employed repeatedly during the Civil War ("Don't Shoot That Boy!"). His presentation is not to be missed!

The Lincoln Group of D.C. will hold our biennial election of officers at this May 2020 meeting. You must be present to vote, so put the date on your calendar now.

Location, Location, Location! Dinner programs are held (unless otherwise announced) at Maggiano's - Chevy Chase, 5333 Wisconsin Ave, NW, DC. Social Hour begins at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m. and Program at 8 p.m. Cost is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members, \$20 for program only. The restaurant is metro accessible – take the Red Line to the Friendship Heights Station (once there, use the Wisconsin Avenue NW, Jenifer St NW station exit.) For those driving, the adjacent Chevy Chase Pavilion parking garage has a restaurant discount of \$3.80 for four hours. You can enter the garage from Wisconsin Ave., 50 feet north of the restaurant (between Marshalls and Cheesecake Factory) but the best garage entrance for Maggiano's is from Western Avenue. **To reserve, contact:** Susan Dennis, 703-532-6188; civilwarsusan@gmail.com; or on-line at www.lincolngroup.org.

Did you know? Consideration was given to adding a fifth face to those of Lincoln and the other American presidents on Mt. Rushmore. In 1936 a bill was introduced in Congress to include Susan B. Anthony as one of the monument's luminaries but that effort effectively died when the House Appropriations Committee required that funding would only go toward sculptures that were in progress at that time.

<p>Also in March: A Lincoln Group Special Event: Lincoln at the Movies: The Lincoln Cycle</p>

Calling all Lincoln and old time silent film aficionados – here is your chance to get your fix! Lincoln Group members have the opportunity to view showings of "The Lincoln Cycle" aka "The Son of Democracy." The films are "lost" silent movies from 1917 about the life of Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln Group is co-presenting this event with the American Film Institute (AFI) and invites all members to join us at this unique happening.

The showings will take place March 28-29 at the AFI Silver Theater in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland. The Saturday (March 28) showings will take place at 5:15 p.m. and those on Sunday (March 29) at 5:30 p.m. Both these screening sessions will last approximately two hours. The silent films, recently restored by the Library of Congress from its vast collection, the world's



A Scene from "The Lincoln Cycle"

largest, will have live organ accompaniment. The favorably reviewed films were unveiled at the 2018 Pordenone Silent Film Festival as part of an extensive John M. Stahl silent series. Originally there were ten two-reel films but two have been lost. While Episodes 8 and 9 of "The Lincoln Cycle" are the missing films, each of the surviving installments can be enjoyed on a stand-alone basis. The schedule for the two days of showings is as follows:

THE LINCOLN CYCLE (1917) Part 1 (Episodes 1–4) - Live musical accompaniment by Michael Britt - Sat, March 28, 5:15 p.m.

THE LINCOLN CYCLE (1917) Part 2 (Episodes 5–7, 10) - Live musical accompaniment by Ben Model - Sun, March 29, 5:30 p.m.

Logistics, logistics, logistics: The showings will take place over two days in the AFI Silver's main theater (considered as the best place in Washington to watch a movie), 8633 Colesville Road in downtown Silver Spring. The admission for each day is \$15. Tickets will be available for purchase at the AFI box office or in advance from the AFI Silver web site. The AFI Silver is an easy walk (about 2 blocks) from the Silver Spring metro station (on the Red Line); in addition, parking garages are plentiful in the area – and free on weekends at county-owned facilities! Those willing to dine either pre- or post- showing will find no lack of restaurants in the area from which to choose.

Here's what the AFI says about the films: "THE LINCOLN CYCLE comprises the surviving eight two-reel episodes of producer and star Benjamin Chapin's 1917 life-of-Abraham Lincoln series. While Chapin gave himself screen credit for writing, producing and directing the films and portraying the 16th President (as well as his father Thomas and his grandfather, also named Abe), Stahl credibly claimed to have been the series' actual director, and the quality of the films'

structure and performances would seem to bear that out. Episodes from Lincoln's youth are dramatized with vigor and sensitivity, and the portrayals by Charles Jackson as young Abe and Madelyn Clare as his mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln are revelatory. DIR John M. Stahl; SCR/PROD Benjamin Chapin. U.S., 1917, b&w, 217 min total (Part 1 approx. 106 min; Part 2 approx 111 min). Silent with English intertitles. NOT RATED”

Who's Who in “The Lincoln Cycle”



Chapin in “The Lincoln Cycle”

Benjamin Chapin was probably best known for his resemblance to Abraham Lincoln and, in fact, became a nationally known Lincoln impersonator. Born on August 9, 1872 in Bristolville, Ohio, he was an actor and producer. After graduating from the New Lyme Institute, he became a lecturer. By 1902 he had a new use for his Lincoln likeness – he was portraying Lincoln in one-man shows on the vaudeville route. In 1906 his sister, Lucille Ann, joined him in an expanded four-act play. Many people who knew Lincoln – General O.O. Howard; Freddie Grant, son of Ulysses S.; and Mark Twain – attested to his skill in portraying Lincoln.

John M. Stahl (picture below)



John M. Stahl (1886-1950) was a writer, producer and director. He had a history of B-movies dating back to the silent era and after making 70 talkies. He was the last executive in charge of Tiffany (the studio “imploded” in 1932 as the depression deepened and ended its days making “chimp comedies” in which chimpanzees lip-synched to actors’ voices) and later moved over to MGM. That aside, Stahl did work with some of the most notable actors of his day.

A Critic’s View of “The Lincoln Cycle:” On February 7, 2019, critic Michael Sragow penned an article on “The Lincoln Cycle” as the Film Society of Lincoln Center prepared to screen the series as part of its “Film Comments *Selects*.” The critic has previewed the series without the musical accompaniment and on a small screen. Still, he advised that the showing, “with its combination of popular myth-making and eccentric innovation held him rapt for 215 minutes straight.” He notes that the two missing reels cover the subjects of slavery and Lincoln’s growing opposition to the institution; thus, Sragow believes the series slights the story of the Great Emancipator. On the other hand, the critic finds the series to be a “gorgeous salute” to Father Abraham. The film gives much credit to the “maturing of a character who is both tough and tender” to Lincoln’s mother. Sragow opines that Lincoln “learned to be his nation’s righteous patriarch by behaving like his mother’s son.” Sragow’s describes the series “as a piece of civic art that is a tonic for our nation’s battered soul.” The Sragow review is good reading for those who are deciding whether to attend the series or for those who want to gain a feel for the series itself and for the content of specific episodes before they go. You can find his review in its entirety online. (Search for www.filmcomment.com/blog/deep-focus-the-lincoln-cycle)

Lincoln Group Activities

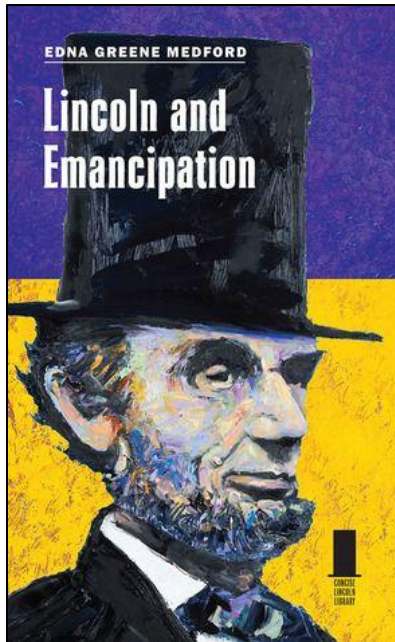
Study Group Chooses Edna Greene Medford’s *Lincoln and Emancipation* for Discussion

The Lincoln Group of D.C. Book Study Group is reading Edna Greene Medford’s book: *Lincoln and Emancipation* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2015) All LGDC members are invited to join our book discussion group. We tackle important Lincoln books chapter by chapter as a means to delve into the life, learning, and motivations of this extraordinary man.

LOCATION: Ford's Theatre Center for Education and Leadership

WHEN: The LGDC Book Study Group meets monthly in the Ford’s Theatre Center, 5th Floor. For dates and readings for our next meeting, please contact Richard Margolies (richard@maccoby.com) or John O’Brien (jobrien3910@verizon.net) and let them know of your interest.

The current topic: Southern Illinois University Press began the Concise Lincoln Library series a decade ago. Whether broad overviews or monographs on specific aspects, these brief books provide exceptional Abraham Lincoln scholarship in a succinct format. In *Lincoln and Emancipation*, Edna Greene Medford brings her unique perspective to the study of the ideas and events that shaped President Lincoln’s responses to slavery. She follows the arc of his ideological development from the beginning of the Civil War, when he aimed to pursue a course



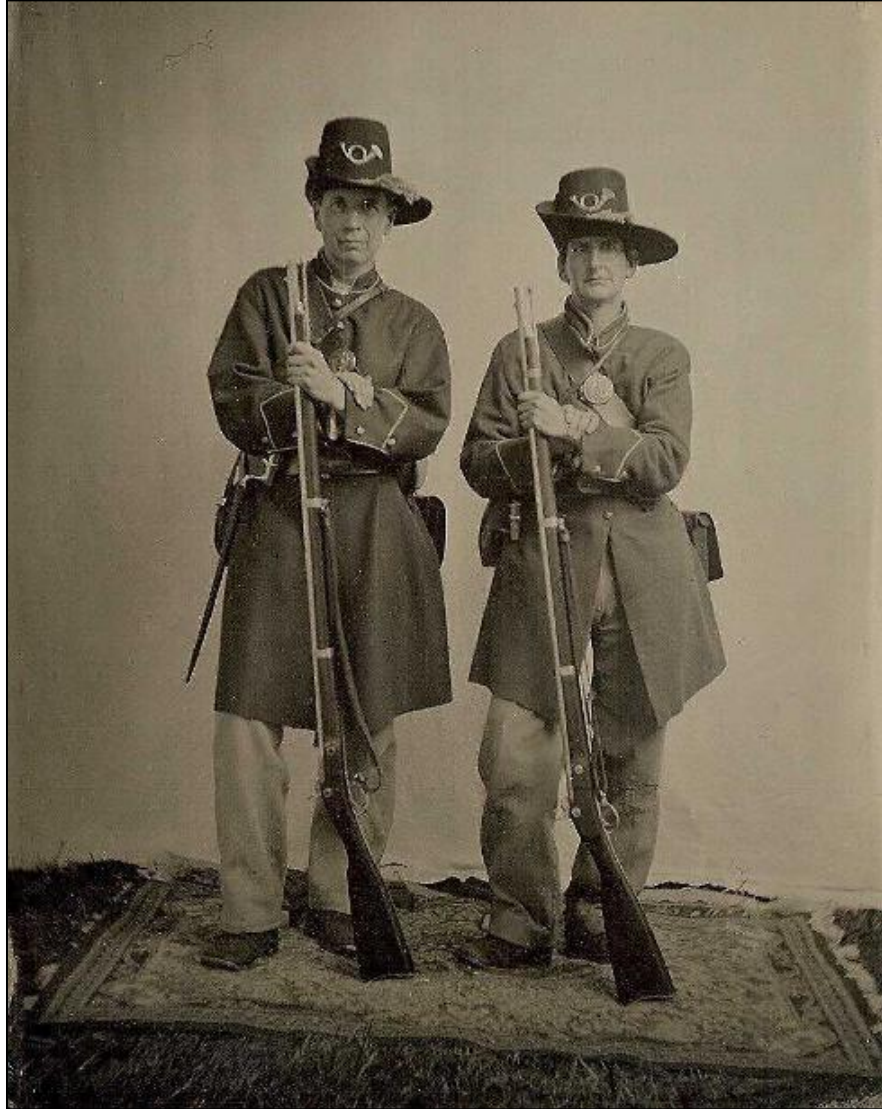
The Study Group's latest selection for discussion: *Lincoln and Emancipation*

of noninterference, to his championing of slavery's destruction before the conflict ended. Medford juxtaposes Lincoln's motivations for advocating freedom with the aspirations of African Americans themselves, restoring African Americans to the center of the story about the struggle for their own liberation. This book will both expand your views of emancipation and challenge accepted dogma. Edna Greene Medford is a professor of history and former chair of the Department of History at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she teaches courses on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and African-American History. She is highly regarded as an authority on Lincoln and the dynamics of African-American emancipation.

How the Group Operates: The Study Group meets 11 times a year, once a month on a Saturday from 10 AM - 12 noon (except August). Afterwards we have lunch together for those whose schedules permit it, usually about half the group lunches together. We read 50 or so pages a month. Participants think of questions that arise from the reading. In the week before a meeting those questions are emailed in, and they put in a common format, and emailed out to everyone on Thursday before the Saturday meeting. At the beginning of the meeting everyone indicates their top 3 questions (out of about 12 or so submitted), and we start with the 3 questions most interesting to the group. The discussion answers the questions. To not let anyone dominate the discussion and so everyone gets a full chance to speak, we more or less follow the rule used by the Supreme Court in its morning private discussions where all the justices sit around a table and discuss the case before them: no one speaks a second time until everyone has spoken a first time; no one speaks a third time until everyone has spoken a second time, etc. People can choose not to speak, of course. The other rules we follow are: the egg-timer rule, 3 minutes per speaker; and no personalizing of comments, as we are discussing the historical question before us, we are not analyzing the speakers motivations or values. We choose books democratically. Books are suggested (we have a list ongoing but new books can be added) and voted upon in the last meeting of the book we are finishing. We read the winner.

Other Events to Consider

Civil War Women's Day



Interpreters Tracey McIntire and Audrey Scanlan-Teller, portraying women disguised as soldiers during the Civil War.

In recognition of Women's History Month, Fort Ward Museum is presenting Civil War Women's Day on Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is free, and one that will be of interest for all ages.

Attend this event and you will:

- Learn about the dress, skills and contributions of women during the Civil War from historical interpreters who will present on-going talks, displays and demonstrations.
- Explore women's roles on the home front, in camp, and on the battlefield. Among the featured topics will be soldiers' aid societies and relief efforts that were typically launched by women to support both armies during the war. Women who disguised themselves as soldiers will be portrayed by interpreters in Union uniform who will share information about the challenges experienced by the hundreds of women who served in the army.
- Discover how the Civil War opened up a variety of work opportunities for women, from home and farm to city and factory.
- View a demonstration of spinning (one of the many home crafts women practiced) as well as a display of women's clothing and accessories that will illustrate garment styles for women and girls, and how Civil War-era clothing provided an important visual clue to a woman's status and how she would be treated. Find out the answer to the age-old question: "*Is a corset uncomfortable?*"

Crafts for the younger visitors: kids can make a ladies fan or a patriotic cockade ribbon, an ornament often made by women and worn by men, women and children to support the war effort on both sides.

Fort Ward is the best preserved of the Union forts that comprised the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The Museum features exhibits and special programs throughout the year. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site is located at 4301 West Braddock Road in the west end of the City of Alexandria. For more information, please call 703.746.4848.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended. To request a reasonable accommodation or an alternative format, email FortWardMuseum@alexandriava.gov, or call 703.746.4848, or Virginia Relay at 711.

An Artist of Civil War Life: Winslow Homer and the Civil War

Alexandria's Athenaeum is winding up its third annual Civil War lecture series on March 26 at 7 p.m. with a discussion of an artistic connection to this era. Susan G. Cumbey, Director of Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, will uncover the life of a renowned American artist of the time, Winslow Homer. Praised during his own time for rendering "what he has seen and known," Homer's experience as a special artist for *Harper's Weekly* early during the Civil War inspired him to begin painting scenes of army life with a realism paralleled by photographers of the day. While his finest camp life scenes serve as a pictorial record of the soldier's experience, his most powerful Civil War paintings reveal deeper meanings which provoke us to ponder the tragedy of war, and allow us to witness the emergence of one of America's greatest artists. Some of his works that will be highlighted during the lecture include:



This sketch by Winslow Homer appeared in the July 12, 1862 edition of *Harper's Weekly* (pages 440-441). The image was captioned "The War for the Union – A Bayonet Charge" In an accompanying article, page 439 of the same edition, the publication recognized, Mr. Winslow Homer, as the drawing's artist and reported that he "spent some time with the Army of the Potomac and had drawn the figures from life." The article noted that historically soldiers seldom crossed bayonets in battle. At Fair Oaks the rebels almost invariably broke and fled before the Union bayonet reached them. However, "hand-to-hand tussels (sic) developed at some points and one of these is realized in this picture".

- "Sharpshooter on Picket Duty," (<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/army-potomac-sharpshooter-picket-duty-harpers-weekly-november-15-1862-36994>),"
- "Prisoners from the Front," (<https://www.metmuseum.org/en/art/collection/search/11133>),"
- "Veteran on a New Field (<https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/67.187.131>),"
- Home Sweet Home. <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.79933.html>"

We have included links to facilitate online viewing of the works listed above. The latter painting is on display locally at the National Gallery of Art. The lecture will take place at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or call 703/548-0035, for \$15. (Members of the Athenaeum, Friends of Ft. Ward and Friends of the Carlyle House receive a discounted price of \$10).

Member Profile: Richard Margolies
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“We need a lot more Lincoln around here!”

...Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi

Meet a Lincoln Group member who is working to make that happen – specifically, more Lincoln around here, that is - both within our organization and in the national community. Many members already know Richard Margolies as the moderator of the Lincoln Study Group. Now he is expanding his Lincoln outreach activities to reach a larger audience. His background of leadership, love of history and activism makes him uniquely qualified for this role.

Growing up, Richard lived in an old suburb of Philadelphia where he attended Germantown Academy, founded in 1759, the oldest nonsectarian day school in the United States. The school building, constructed in 1761, served as a hospital for the British during the Battle of Germantown and later received visits from both Washington and Lafayette. The brass balls on the building’s weathervane contained holes, the result of target practice undertaken by Hessian troops, mercenaries for the British. Richard was a member of Owen J. Roberts (an early justice of the Supreme Court) Historical Debating Society, an activity which also fed an early interest in history as alive and relevant. The original school colors were red, white and blue, but the white was changed to black upon the death of Abraham Lincoln in 1865. According to Richard, “the sense of history was everywhere.”

His father, a cardiologist in the era before heart surgery, was a pathfinder, establishing the first clinic in Philadelphia for the then exciting new technology of electrocardiography. His mother was a “homemaker” in the day’s terminology who later in life got a degree in Fine Arts from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Richard himself is a Clinical Psychologist who did his graduate work at Yeshiva University in New York and his internship at Nassau County Medical Center. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington and Lee where in the 1960s he worked to integrate Robert E. Lee’s college. Debating in favor of integration, his team was met with cold silence as contrasted to loud applause for the opposition. Several years after his graduation, the school was integrated.

Long interested in the subject of leadership, his reading of David Herbert Donald’s 1995 biography, *Lincoln*, stimulated his study of the Sixteenth President. However, since that time, Richard has come to “disagree with Donald’s portrayal of Lincoln as passive” which in his opinion is “a complete misreading of Lincoln’s profound strategic intelligence.” He considers two works of William Lee Miller to be more timely reading for today: *Lincoln’s Virtues: An Ethical Biography* and *President Lincoln: The Duty of a Statesman*. The most moving Lincoln site he has visited is that of his birthplace in Kentucky “in a location that is still very much rural and remote.” There, he remarks, one can go down to the spring where as a boy Lincoln drew water in a wooden bucket and walk in his footsteps up the hill to the cabin in the woods. The National Park Service building there, he remembers, has “a reconstruction of the type of bed on

which he was likely born, made soft with silky corn husks.” Upon discovering the Lincoln Group (courtesy of member Bob Willard), Richard has found the organization to be an active home for his interests in Lincoln, the Civil War era and history.

As moderator of the Lincoln Study Group, his focus is on the study of the person and not just on reading books. Under his leadership, the group has relocated its meeting location to the Ford’s Center on Education and Leadership, in a conference room overlooking Ford’s Theater. The Study Group has covered a number of excellent biographies, including that of his law partner Herndon, and studies of his leadership. Richard explains that “the human being we find in these works is exemplary in how he developed his deep compassion, mastered his own feelings, and made himself into a strategic leader who is admired around the world, in all cultures, as extraordinary...extraordinary.” As William Lee Miller said, “he was great in ways that are not usually talked about as great.” (*Editor’s note: See the article on pages 11-12 of this edition for more information on the Book Study Group.*)

In his professional life, Richard provides psychotherapy to high-functioning adults and serves as a consultant to organizational leaders, a role which often has him in or facilitating meetings. In addition, for a number of years, he designed and ran the Leadership Course for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, experience which taught him how to engage adult learners. He utilized this experience to enhance the focus and structure of the Lincoln Study Group. Now he is expanding his efforts. The mission of the Lincoln Group of D.C. is to further the values and leadership of Abraham Lincoln. Richard sees “one way of doing so is to bring his (Lincoln’s) magnanimous spirit and his visionary leadership into our national life today.” Likewise, Lincoln’s ethical virtues and statesmanship should serve as models for leaders today. To accomplish this, Richard has been instrumental in creating the ***Visioning a Better America*** citizens conference in Congress. The program will be held April 6, 7, 9, and 10 in the Rayburn House Office Building. (The conference is an activity of The Common Good, a DC nonprofit with IRS 501(c) 3 tax exemption as an educational charity.)

The organization’s website www.visioningabetteramerica.com provides much information. This conference will be nonpartisan in nature (and has bipartisan congressional support) and will not allow attacks or rhetoric to demean others. The event is framed in the magnanimity of Abraham Lincoln, who in the midst of the murderous rage and overt racism of his times, said, “We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies” and “with malice toward none, with charity for all.” The event will create a public space for citizens, not politicians, in “the People’s House,” to engage about our ideal future, based in our national purpose, values, and history. Richard believes that such an approach is consistent with the Founders wishes of subsequent generations, for citizens to “make a more perfect union.” Richard notes that in this time of toxic disunity, few speak about what our country can become, or refer to our founding visionary charters, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, charters that established our national purpose and values, in aspiration. He created the conference as a means for doing so.

Speakers will: focus on a *challenge* we face as a nation; what *ideal future* will address that challenge; and *what citizens can do* to move toward that ideal future, through the political process and in civil society. Although this is not a Lincoln Group event, *Lincoln Group members may* attend the conference (if interested, registration is available on the home page of the conference website. Those registered will be alerted when tickets are available). Please

check the website for other ways those interested can assist: facilitate at the conference (assist attendees, etc.); suggest other attendees (press, elected and religious leaders, scholars, and interested citizens), donations, etc. Outcomes to be facilitated after the conference include: a book of the conference presentations, plus other authors, for a mass audience and for a college course; a college course on our founding vision and how citizens can continue to make a more perfect union; visioning conferences around the country, spearheaded by local citizens; and biannual conferences in Congress.

So many of our fellow citizens today are concerned about the divisions within our nation but don't get beyond talking about the problem. Richard has chosen to do more than just talk about our issues: he is working toward solutions. He is using his love of history and Lincoln to bring people together and to work toward a more perfect union. Hopefully, his example will inspire others to take steps – whether big or small, simple or complex – to do likewise.

At the time this edition went to print, all events listed herein were still “a go.” However, considering the current Coronavirus-related health concerns in the region and the country as a whole, this situation could change before scheduled event dates. Therefore, please check online or with organizational or sponsoring sources before events so that you will be aware of any changes made to schedules.

A couple of last reminders:

The National Archives will have the Emancipation Proclamation on display this spring, from April 17-19.

Also, don't forget the Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium at Ford's Theatre on March 21. Hear talks on such topics Charles A. Dana; Horace Greeley; Lincoln's youth and Mary Lincoln – all free of charge! Speakers will include Carl Guarneri, James Lundberg, William Bartelt and Jason Emerson. Note that Lucas Morel will be substituting for the previously announced Joseph Fry (a non-virus related change). The symposium's theme is the latest in Lincoln scholarship so plan to attend and learn the latest with what's happening in the Lincoln arena. <https://lincoln-institute.org/abraham-lincoln-institute-symposium-2020/>

The Lincolnian is a quarterly publication of the
Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia.

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Note: The Lincoln Group invites readers to submit articles for publication in The Lincolnian, articles which address today's national challenges by drawing on the wisdom, statesmanship, humanity, and leadership of Abraham Lincoln.