

THE FUGELMAN

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
ASSOCIATION**

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

VOLUME XXIV

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FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

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PASS IN REVIEW

From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad



I have just returned home from our Memorial Day Parade & Honor Guard Salute at two of La Crosse's cemeteries. It is indeed an honor to partake in these tributes to our honored dead. The flags that fly over the veterans' graves present an impressive acknowledgement that their service to our country is not forgotten.

To all the members of the 2nd Wisconsin, thank you for your attendance and contribution in all the Memorial Day Parades & services throughout the state. I can hear a silent and solemn thank you from the men that we embody: The American Civil War soldier.

IN OTHER NEWS:

On 15 May 2015, Co. B and the Poor Boys' Mess participated in the American Civil War presentation at West Salem Wisconsin. While the 'recruits' were being drilled in the school of the soldier and company, a teacher leaned over to remind me that this marked our 20th year. Wow! For twenty years Co. B, 2nd Wisconsin has been active with the school and has provided substantial support for the teachers so they may teach outside of the classroom and textbooks.

I remember sitting in the kitchen of Ms. Morgan planning our strategy. Divide the 8th grade class into North & South; have a re-enactor drill each class as a company; break into stations where a re-enactor will discuss a topic about the American Civil War; have a 'Civil War lunch'; follow with a sham battle where each army tries to out maneuver the other. Following the battle taps is sounded and all the 8th graders move into the auditorium where the band assembles and plays music from the era. The Gettysburg Address is read and the kids all still bearing their red badge of courage (bloodied bandages from the battle). At the very end have a re-enactor talk to the students.

I cannot remember what I have said over all these years. But it is close to Memorial Day and it is moving to talk to these young Americans about the sacrifices of our men and women in the Armed Forces. If only for a moment, I have their attention...and they listen.

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

2nd Wisconsin

EDITORIAL



The editor would encourage all our members to check out the facebook page for The Brady Photographic Studio—Henry Taunt, Agent. Most of you have seen the work of Mr. Taunt so it is unnecessary to tell you how talented he is. John Dudkiewicz sent along the information for our consideration and we thank him for that! Some of Mr. Taunt's photos of the Lincoln Funeral appear at the end of this newsletter.



June 1st, 1865, would mark the end of the national mourning period for Abraham Lincoln pursuant to the proclamation of President Andrew Johnson.

The following photos come from the State Journal-Register who recorded the event for posterity!









OBSERVATIONS ON THE LINCOLN FUNERAL EVENT



The tolling of a single bell, the muffled drums, the tramp of feet on the pavement, and the clomp of horses hooves marked the march from the Old State Capitol to the receiving vault at Oak Ridge Cemetery. The atmosphere dripped melancholy as the hearse carrying the body of Abraham Lincoln, late president of the United States, to its final resting place passed thousands of people who had journeyed to Springfield, Illinois, for the funeral. Friends, neighbors and admirers had gathered to mourn and say goodbye for their friend and leader. One hundred and fifty years later organizers in Springfield tried to recreate the funeral events as they occurred so long ago. The aspects of the funeral were accurately re-created in amazing detail.

It is hard to imagine the mood of the spectators at Lincoln's funeral and even harder to re-create that same atmosphere 150 years later. In the crowd observing this event the mood was one of awe and wonder, but there seemed to be no impression of the somber nature of the occasion. It proves that one can create the images of a historical event but not the mood associated with that event. With reference to the images, it appeared the observers at the event were overwhelmed by the Lincoln funeral car, the hearse and the coffin. They were indeed incredible in their beauty and artistry! Many of the spectators were complimentary about the reenactors

themselves and their contributions to the event. [Here the editor wants to note the efforts of the men of the “24th Michigan. Your lines were perfect, when you watched the unit pass their rifles were in line and held appropriately. Everyone was in step. The unit did itself proud, while that wasn’t necessarily true of the other units in the procession!—Ed.] All that being true, there was still a lack of appreciation for the nature of the event as a funeral gathering.

The pageantry of the event was first rate. Most, if not all, of the crowd surely went home with memories that will never fade. In a large part that was due to your efforts to establish as accurate a picture of the actual funeral as it was possible to do in the 21st century. Well done, fellas!

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

JUNE

5th	Trimborn Farms School Day (Co.K , BtyB.)	Greendale,WI.
6th - 7th	Trimborn Farm Timeline (Co. K)	Greendale,WI.
6th & 7th	66th NC & 2nd WI (Skirmish team)	Appleton,WI.
7th-13th	Red River Campain (Co.K)	Washington, AR.
13th-14th	Lone Rock Living History (6th WI. LA)	Lone Rock, WI.
20th & 21st	Hertiage Hill Reeenactment (Co. Level Max Effort event)	Green Bay,WI.

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES



DISPATCH FROM TOM KLAS REGARDING GETTYSBURG EVENT!

SEMINARY RIDGE MUSEUM LH AT THE BARRICADE – JUNE 26-28TH

The following information is provided on the event in Gettysburg that appeared in last month's The Fugelman. Note the extended deadline for registering for this event. The registration form can be found at the end of the newsletter for your convenience. This is a unique opportunity to camp and provide living history activities on the very same ground defended by the Iron Brigade in 1863. A thank you to Tom Klas for his efforts to promote this event and for providing the details to our newsletter.

Just an update to everyone that our registration deadline has been extended to **June 17th for this unique event.**

SEMINARY RIDGE MUSEUM. We will be camping and setting up the barricade right on the original grounds.

<http://www.seminaryridgemuseum.org/>

There is till time to portray the Ragged Rear Second at the Barricade and to do some touring of the National Military Park during down time. If anyone has some concerns on the uniform and equipage requirements just let me know and we can go over it. I might be able to pull some loaner gear together if you have couple items in question but would like to attend. Let me know and we will be happy to try to make this happen.

TOM KLAS e-mail: fallriversoldier@hotmail.com and phone 920-326-9005.

Uniform and Equipage should consist of:

**Issue Jefferson Bootees preferred, infantry boots accepted
Pattern of 1858 Dress Hat with 1st Corps Badge and minimal hat ornamentation preferred
Fatigue Blouse or Uniform Coat preferred
Sky Blue Kersey Issue Trousers
Issue Shirt preferred, Civilian Shirt accepted
Issue pattern drawers preferred, Civilian patterns accepted
Suspenders
Issue Wool Socks preferred, wool and cotton socks accepted
Pattern of 1856 Waist Belt with leather loop keeper preferred, brass belt keeper accepted
Pattern of 1858 Smoothside Canteen with leather sling preferred or cotton sling accepted
Pattern of 1851 Haversack
Mess Furniture
Cartridge Box, Cartridge Box Belt, & Cap Box
Impressions with corresponding bayonet.
Original Pattern of 1854 Austrian Lorenz Rifle Musket preferred for 2nd Wisconsin Impressions.
Pattern of 1853 Enfield Rifle-Musket, or Model of 1861 Springfield acceptable.
Two rivet "Gaylord" pattern Bayonet Scabbard preferred
Rubber Blanket preferred, rubber poncho accepted
U.S. Issue Wool Blanket
U.S. Issue Shelter Half**

**Pattern of 1855 Doublebag Knapsack preferred, Blanket Roll accepted
No modern items except for car keys, medications in a period container, and
contact lens if vision correction is necessary.**

**If you have any questions, feel free to let us know. Good attitude is the most
important item you can bring.**

**I will place the registration form below along with the contact for where to
send the \$10.00 registration to.**

**JEREMY BRANDT
620 S LINCOLN AVE
LEBANON, PA
17042**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JEREMY BRANDT.

COMPANY A & G ADOPT-A- POSITION ACTIVITIES

**In addition, for those who can arrive at Gettysburg on the morning of the
26th, - the Citizens Guard will take part in our Adopt a Position Work at
Gettysburg NMP. I have mentioned this over the years as a great project to
be involved with. If an Association member would like to come out with us,
please contact me. By e-mail fallriversoldier@hotmail.com or by phone at
920-326-9005. We have responsibility for the 6th Wisconsin's position and
marker at Culp's Hill.**

**Mike John is coordinating efforts for this outing and is always great to give
back to the park in some way. All you need is some gloves, some bug spray,
work clothes, and a positive attitude to do some landscaping work. Most of
the improvement will require removing brush, trimming pathways, and
cutting weeds. Here is an overview of the National Park Program.**

<http://www.nps.gov/gett/getinvolved/supportyourpark/adopt-a-position.htm>



We also are responsible for the care of the Company G (Wisconsin) - 1st Regiment Berdan's United States Sharpshooters Monument and Site. There are two monuments on site and the actual position marker is 200 yards from the Emmitsburg Road.



**AN ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION OF THE
RETURN HOME OF UNION
TROOPS!**

WELCOME HOME THE TROOPS! On Saturday, June 27th, Forest Home Cemetery is proud to host a celebration of the “150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War.” Come help us celebrate this historical event as “Johnny Comes Marching Home!” Civil War Reenactors march home

victorious to their families waiting to celebrate their return. Parade will begin at 12:00 Noon. Tentative plans are to have Union Soldiers and Sailors, period civilians welcoming them home, a medical field hospital for the walking wounded, an undertaker complete with field morgue, Old Abe himself, a soldiers drill demonstration, representatives from the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, food and more. The day's events will conclude with an Historical Tour of the Civil War Veterans buried in Forest Home Cemetery by historians Margaret Berres and Tom Ludka. This Tour will start at 2:00 PM and run until 3:30 PM. (<http://www.foresthomecemetery.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Spring-Summer-Newsletter-2015.pdf>)

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

REGISTRATION FOR THE WAUCONDA REENACTMENT

Members of the Second Wisconsin Regiment take notice of the following orders from Company E:

The following was posted by Scott Boesel of Co E to our facebook page:

Lads of K, Charles Bagneski of Co E has offered to take care of registration for the upcoming Wauconda event for the 2nd Wis, which is due June 1. Anyone planning on attending this association effort event should contact Charles at tomjoad1995@sbcglobal.net Charles needs your name, rank and tentage by Saturday morning.

Your servant

John Thielmann

Sec'y, Co K, 2nd WVI

ASSOCIATION COMPANY MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT FOR 2015

ALL MEMBERS OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN: Every year the Association picks a company event for a maximum effort for the membership. The companies on a rotating basis select an event for Association support. This year Company E was to pick an event and they chose their Heritage Hill event. This event is set for June 20th and 21st, 2015. It would be a significant mark to turn out large numbers for this event in support of CompanyE.

The details for the event and directions can be found under Company E in the newsletter section "From the Camps of the Second Wisconsin".

TAKE A BUS TRIP TO THE WAUCONDA EVENT

Our comrades from Company E are planning on taking a bus to the maximum effort Association event at Wauconda, Illinois. If you are interested contact Dave Sielski at dsielski@greenbay.gannett.com to make arrangements.

All,

Co.E. is looking at taking a bus for the Wauconda event, we would leave on Friday from Green Bay with a stop to pick up folks in Milwaukee. We would then stop at the CW museum in Kenosha and then on to the event. We would return right after the event on Sunday, while this might not work for our friends in the western part of the state I thought I would mention it. Cost for the trip would be \$50 per person, let me know if you think anyone in your groups would have an interest.

Thanks,

Dave Sielski
Co.E

**FROM THE CAMPS OF THE
COMPANIES OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN**

INFANTRY



COMPANY K

TRIMBORN FARM HERITAGE WEEKEND

Company K (and our comrades from Battery B) will be involved in a living history timeline event at Trimborn Farm on June 6th and 7th, 2015. In addition there will be a school day event on June 5th. The event is being sponsored by the Milwaukee County Historical Society. If you plan to attend either the school day portion of the event or the living history portion you should contact the Company K secretary, John Thielmann, to apprise him of that fact.

The Trimborn Farm is located at 8881 West Grange Avenue, Greendale, Wisconsin 53129.



Company K at Forest Hills Cemetery for Memorial Day activities—Photo from Lyle Laufenberg

COMPANY E

HERITAGE HILL REENACTMENT

The Appomattox Campaign will once again find Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee facing off in the last days of the war involving the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. This campaign will take place at Heritage Hill, near Green Bay, June 20th and 21st, 2015. Both Grant and Lee will be on the field to command their armies in the final battles of the war.

There will be two battles on Saturday and one on Sunday, so bring plenty of cartridges and caps because you will have every opportunity to use them up over the weekend. (60-70 rounds seems about right.) At 11:00 a.m. on Saturday the battle scenario will be the Battle of Five Forks. At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday there will be a second battle based on the struggle at Sayler's Creek. Both of these

fighters were fought by the Army of the Potomac. Finally, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday the battle scenario will come from the Battle of Bentonville.

Registration for the event will open on Friday, June 19th, at 3:00 p.m. Attendees can begin setting up their campsites at that time. The uniform standards for the event are late war, early 1865.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AT HERITAGE HILL EVENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2015

10:00 am - Doors open

10:15 am - 10:45 am - 1 st Brigade Band begins playing at or near the garden patio, then makes its way down to Growing Community

10:45 am - Battle narrator introduces the battle (Gazebo)

11:00 am - 11:45 am - Battle of Five Forks (Growing Community)

12:30 pm - Youth Recruitment at Hose Company

1:00 pm - Courting Etiquette

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm - 1 st Brigade Band to play at Battle Field

1:45 pm - Battle narrator introduces the battle (Gazebo)

2:00 pm - 2:45 pm - Battle of Sailors Creek

2:45 pm - Medical Presentation at Town Hall

3:00 pm - Lee farewell address @ Confederate Camp

3:00 pm - Grant @ Appomattox in Moravian Church

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm - 1 st Brigade Band plays (parade)

4:15 pm Grant addresses troops @ Union Camp

4:30 pm - Park closes

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2015

12:00 pm – Doors open, meet and greet with Grant and Sherman at the garden patio

12:30 pm – Youth Recruitment at Hose Company

1:00 pm – Medical Presentation at Town Hall

1:45 pm – Narrator introduces battle

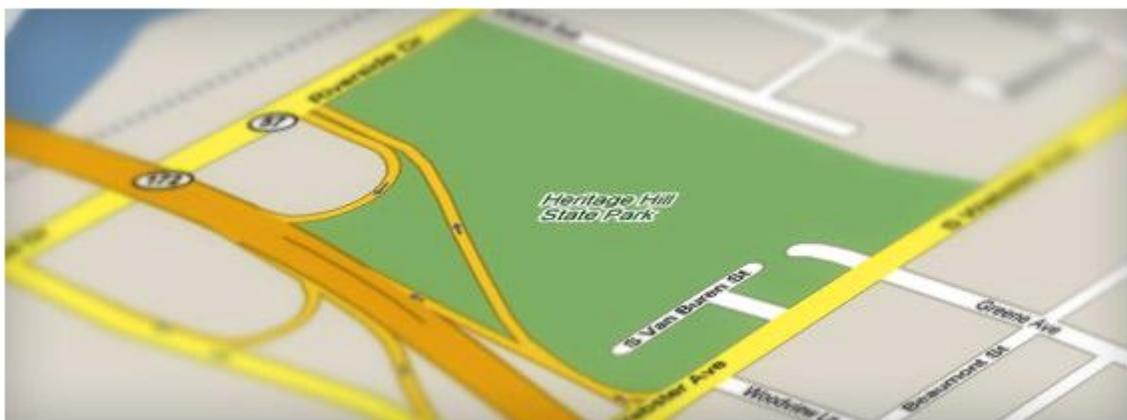
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm – Battle of Bentonville

3:00 pm – General Sherman @ Durham Station “Wisconsin in the American Civil War,” at the Moravian Church

4:30 pm – Park closes

- **Volunteer Music Group will be playing on the garden patio from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm Saturday**
- **Historical Timekeepers will be ongoing throughout the day**
- **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be ongoing**
- **Gnomes Games will be ongoing**

On behalf of the newsletter the editor would like to extend his gratitude to Charles Bagneski for providing the details for this event. This is always a wonderful event enjoyed by those who attend. Mark your calendar and join your comrades in support of the lads from Company E!



DIRECTIONS TO HERITAGE HILL

From Chicago, Milwaukee Area

**I-43 North to Hwy 172 West
Hwy 172 West to Webster Ave/Riverside Dr. exit
Turn Right onto Webster Ave
North on Webster Ave for two blocks**

From the Fox Cities

**Hwy 41 North to Hwy 172 East
Hwy 172 to Webster Ave/Riverside Dr. exit
Turn Left onto Webster Ave
North on Webster Ave for two blocks**

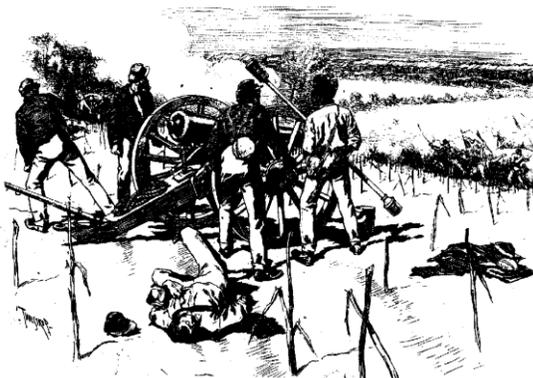
From Eau Claire, Wausau Area

**Hwy 29 East to Hwy 41 South to Hwy 172 East
Take Hwy 172 East to Webster Ave/Riverside Dr. exit
Turn Left onto Webster Ave
North on Webster Ave for two blocks**

From Marinette & Upper Peninsula

**Hwy 41 South to 172 East
Hwy 172 to Webster Ave exit
Turn Right onto Webster Ave
North on Webster Ave for two blocks**

ARTILLERY



BATTERY B, 4TH U.S. ARTILLERY

HARTLAND SCHOOL DAY EVENT

On May 8th, 2015, Battery B conducted a school day event for Hartland Elementary School students. Below are some photos from the event provided by Lyle Laufenberg. The students showed up for the event in six regiments. Three were Union regiments and three were rebel regiments. They wore uniforms for either North or South and carried regimental colors. The students were exposed to a number of stations including drills. In the afternoon there was a battle followed by a nice ceremony focusing on unity and honor reflected by the soldiers who fought the war 150 years ago!

The weather was great and the experience was greatly appreciated by the students, teachers and parents of the kids! Well done members of Battery B!



Confederate drill during the morning stations . . .



The surgeon puts a patient to sleep prior to removing a bullet from a leg wound



The ever popular cannon firing during the school day event . . .



Brandt Doty informs students about artillery actions at Delafield Civil War School Day—Photo from Lyle Laufenberg



Photo of Battery B, 4th U.S. Light Artillery at Cushing Memorial event

6TH WISCONSIN LIGHT ARTILLERY

LONE ROCK CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

The 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery will participate in the Lone Rock Civil War weekend on June 13th and 14th, 2015. The site of the event has a special meaning for the members of the Battery as denoted in the piece below. This is a small event given the information available to the newsletter, but the battle reenactment was well done according to video posted on their website. In preparing for this article the editor was able to add to his catalog of civil war history.

The 6th Wisconsin Battery was organized by Henry Dillon of Lone Rock, who was afterwards elected as captain. Most of the recruits came from Richland county though there were some from adjoining counties. It was the first to receive its full quota of men and should have been numbered the 1st instead of the 6th. The Battery left Lone Rock on September 30th, 1861, going to Camp Utley at Racine where it remained until March 1862, when it was sent south, taking part in many fierce battles.

On the monument are listed four important battles in which the 6th Battery took part: Vicksburg, Jackson, Corinth and Mission Ridge. The monument contains the names of the enlisted men as well as the officers of the Battery. It also has a metal cast of Capt. Dillon and underneath his likeness it says he died January 10, 1882, at the age of 53 years and four months.

On March 1, 1882, a GAR post was organized at Lone Rock with a membership of 22 with N. B. Hood as commander. It was given the name of Henry Dillon Post No. 24, in honor of the late captain. While the Battery Grounds has nothing to do with cemeteries it should be noted that members of the 6th Battery found final rest in many a burying ground in Richland County. Capt. Dillon is buried in the Button cemetery not far from his farm home in Buena Vista.

(<http://www.suvcw-wi.org/memorials/lonerock.html>)



ERECTED TO THE MEMORY
OF THE 6TH WISCONSIN BATTERY
LIGHT ARTILLERY
1884

REPORT ON MAY'S EVENTS FOR THE 6TH WISCONSIN LIGHT BATTERY

***The following report was submitted to the Fugelman by Shelly Hlaban.
We are indeed grateful for your submission. Thank you.***

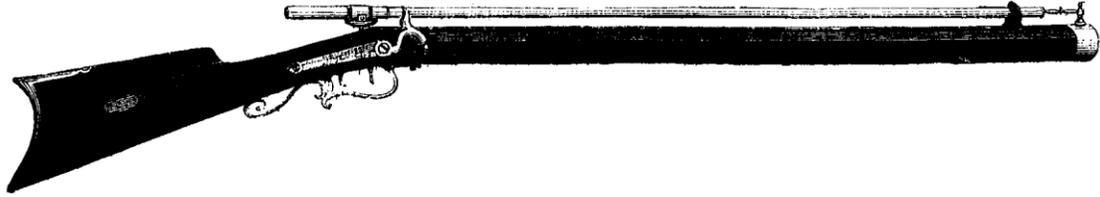
On May 1st, the battery assisted their comrades from Company E at their school day event at Erb Park. By all reports this was a successful campaign. The photo below of the students surrounding the battery comes from this event.

On May 15th the battery joined their brothers-in-arms for the Milton House School Day event. Also participating in the school day presentations were members of the 10th Wisconsin Light Artillery. The battery also participated in the Milton House living history weekend also held in Milton, Wisconsin as part of the planned events on ay 16th and 17th. The camp photo below is from Sunday morning in camp at the Milton event.

The 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery has created a new blog page. It already has developed the page to a large degree. On the site one will find links to upcoming events and a historical tribute to the original 6th Wosconsin Light Artillery. You can find the site at www.6thwislight.blogspot.com



SKIRMISHERS



APPLETON SKIRMISH EVENT SET

The Second Wisconsin skirmish team will attend an event in Appleton, Wisconsin the weekend of June 6th and 7th, 2015. The event will be held at the Twin City Rod and Gun Club located at W7832 Winnegamie Drive, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956.

To get to the site of the event travel take Highway 41 north to County road BB (Prospect Avenue). This is on the south side of Appleton. Go west on BB approximately 5 miles. The range is on the north side of BB just past the Winnegamie Golf Course which is on the south side of the road.

CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

JUNE

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| June 1, 1862 | General Robert E. Lee appointed Commander of the army of Virginia |
| June 1, 1863 | General Burnside orders the suppression of the <i>Chicago Times</i>. After strenuous complaints from local leaders Lincoln would rescind the order on June 4th |
| June 2, 1864 | The Battle of Cold Harbor |

- June 2, 1815** **General Philip Kearney, U.S., born**
- June 3, 1808** **Jefferson Davis born**
- June 3, 1863** **R. E. Lee launches his second invasion of the North, by sending men west from Fredericksburg, which will result in a collision of armies at a small town called Gettysburg**
- June 3, 1864** **The Battle at Cold Harbor**
- June 5, 1863** **J. E. B. Stuart hosts a Grand Review of his cavalry**
- June 6, 1863** **Memphis surrenders**
- June 6, 1865** **Quantril dies from wounds received on May 10, 1865**
- June 6, 1865** **President Johnson releases lower-ranking Confederate prisoners of war who take the loyalty oath to the United States**
- June 6, 1865** **Missouri ratifies a new state constitution that abolishes slavery**
- June 8, 1861** **Tennessee formally secedes**
- June 8, 1864** **Petersburg Campaign begins**
- June 8, 1865** **The Union's VI Corps, who were not present for the Grand Review, march through Washington**

- June 9, 1863** **Battle of Brandy Station**
- June 12, 1862** **Stuart begins his ride around McClelland's army**
- June 15, 1864** **Petersburg Campaign begins**
- June 17, 1861** **Thaddeus Lowe demonstrates hot air balloon**
- June 17, 1865** **Declaring his "unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule" Fire-eater Edmund Ruffin commits suicide at his son's estate in Virginia**
- June 20, 1863** **West Virginia officially enters the Union as the 35th State**
- June 23, 1862** **Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans begins his Tullahoma Campaign against Confederate General Braxton Bragg**
- June 23, 1865** **Last formal confederate surrender by General Stand Waite**
- June 24, 1863** **Robert E. Lee begins crossing the Potomac River heading north into Pennsylvania—in his last invasion of the North.**
- June 25, 1861** **George McClellan had been in Cincinnati, some 250 miles away, during the engagement at Philippi in western Virginia on June 3. On this day, he issued a pompous and self-serving congratulatory order to "The Soldiers of the Army of the West." "You are here to support the Government of your country, and**

to protect the lives and liberties of your brethren, threatened by a rebellious and traitorous foe.” it began. “No higher and nobler duty could devolve upon you, and I expect you to bring to its performance the highest and noblest qualities of soldiers --- discipline, courage, and mercy... Soldiers! I have heard that there was danger here. I have come to place myself at your head and to share it with you. I fear now but one thing --- that you will not find foemen worthy of your steel.”

June 25, 1862

Seven Days Campaign begins

June 26, 1864

Cavalry under General Stoneman begins Atlanta raid

June 27, 1864

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

June 28, 1863

President Lincoln appoints Gen. George G. Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Gen. Joseph Hooker

June 30, 1864

General Early and his rebel troops march towards Washington City

June 30, 1865

All the defendants in the Lincoln conspiracy trial are convicted—four defendants are sentenced to hang

HOW LINCOLN BECAME OUR FAVORITE PRESIDENT

Today Americans almost universally regard Abraham Lincoln as our greatest president. And yet he was not always the revered figure that he has become.

Writing many decades after Lincoln's assassination, John Hay, who served as one of Lincoln's secretaries, observed that if the president had "died in the days of doubt and gloom which preceded his re-election," rather than in the final weeks of the Civil War, he would almost certainly have been remembered differently, despite his great acts and deeds. Indeed, just months before his death, many leading members of his own political party agreed with Gov. John Andrew of Massachusetts, who found Lincoln "essentially lacking in the quality of leadership."

Though his assassination on Good Friday essentially apotheosized the martyred president, as emotions receded, the initial wave of commemorations was far from adulatory.

The first person to memorialize Lincoln officially was the celebrated historian George Bancroft. A Democrat who had served in James Polk's cabinet, Bancroft was an odd choice for the job. In his official eulogy before Congress, delivered in February 1866, he delivered a cool if polite rebuke of Lincoln's administrative skills and fitness for high office. The speech was well received in literary and political circles, though Lincoln loyalists like Hay fumed that it "was a disgraceful exhibition of ignorance and prejudice."

To Hay, Lincoln was "the greatest character since Christ." But to others, like the diplomat Charles Francis Adams, he was a kindhearted, well-meaning politician, ill suited to the challenges of the wartime presidency. "I must affirm without hesitation," Adams said in his eulogy for William Henry Seward, "that in the history of our government, down to this hour, no experiment so rash has ever been made as that of elevating to the head of affairs a man with so little previous preparation for the task as Mr. Lincoln." By good grace and fortune, Lincoln had been wise enough to make Seward the "master mind" of the administration.

Adams was not alone in this opinion. In his popular account of the war years, "The American Conflict," Horace Greeley remembered Lincoln as a hapless leader who squandered countless opportunities to end the war early, either on the battlefield or through negotiation.

Aiding this pejorative rendering of Lincoln was a strain of popular history that sought to humanize the slain president, often in the extreme. The most important figure in this movement was William Herndon, Lincoln's former law partner, who complained that Lincoln "was not God — was man. He was not perfect — had some defects & a few positive faults: [but] he was a good man — an honest man." Herndon scoured the Indiana and Illinois countryside for people whom Lincoln had known in his youth to interview, and then took to the lecture circuit in an attempt to remind his countrymen that the 16th president had been flesh and blood, and hardly without flaws.



Abraham Lincoln with his secretaries John Hay and John Nicolay
Credit Library of Congress

From Herndon's lectures and, later, from a popular biography penned by the politicians Ward Hill Lamon and Chauncey Black, based on Herndon's notes, Americans learned (incorrectly) that Lincoln's mother was a "bastard" and that she, like her own mother, had cuckolded her husband. The 16th president's father was not, they said, Thomas Lincoln but one Abraham Enlow. How else to explain the achievements of one born so low? Herndon also insisted that his former partner was an atheist or deist and not a "technical Christian," provoking a violent debate about Lincoln's religious beliefs. He portrayed him as an able country lawyer with relentless ambition for political office - not the disinterested statesman of later Lincoln Memorial fame.

"Mr. Wm. H. Herndon is making an ass of himself," Robert Todd Lincoln wrote in a blind rage, but since he "speaks with a certain amount of authority from having known my father for so long," his story, "even if it were ... all true," would do great injury to his family's reputation.

It ultimately fell to the president's former secretaries, John Hay and John Nicolay, to salvage the Lincoln legacy. Working closely with Robert, who gave them exclusive access to the president's papers (the collection remained sealed to other researchers until 1947), the secretaries spent over 20 years researching and writing a monumental, 10-volume life of Lincoln. Their work, which was widely serialized between 1886 and 1890 in *The Century* magazine, replaced the popular imagery of an ill-schooled, rough-hewn Western lawyer with the Lincoln we know today: the wise and knowing leader, the master of a fractious cabinet, the emancipator of slaves, the kind father-figure to a nation.

Most importantly, Hay and Nicolay swam against the tide of intersectional harmony and historical amnesia to place slavery - not states' rights - at the center of the Civil War, and to declare emancipation - not unionism - as Lincoln's signature accomplishment.

Though Hay's and Nicolay's biography became the standard-bearer for over half a century, many artists and writers still chose to emphasize the martyred president's human qualities, albeit more respectfully than did

Herndon, Lamon and Black. In 1917, the city of Cincinnati unveiled a new statue of Lincoln by George Grey Barnard. Barnard's work portrayed the president as a clean-shaved Western lawyer with plain clothes and a chiseled, rugged face. The sculptor intended to show "the mighty man who grew from our soil and the hardships of the earth ... He must have stood as the republic should stand, strong, simple, carrying its weight unconsciously without pride in rank and culture."

Robert was incensed. He viewed the statue as "monstrous," a "grotesque ... likeness of President Lincoln ... defamatory as an effigy." Genuinely taken aback by the family's response, Barnard explained that "your father belongs to future ages, and all sculptors of this generation and those to come, must have as their birthright, as children of Democracy and Art, full liberty to express their interpretation of the life of Lincoln." But Robert was unmoved. His opposition was so compelling that the British government scuttled plans to erect a copy of the statue in Parliament Square.

By contrast, the official keepers of the presidential flame were immensely happy with early plans for the Lincoln Memorial, with a sculpture by the renowned Daniel Chester French. Its placement on the Potomac Flats, at the western end of the Mall, pleased John Hay, who believed that Lincoln's "monument should stand alone, remote from the common habitations of man, apart from the business and turmoil of the city; isolated, distinguished, and serene."

In contrast to Barnard's rendering, French, in his own words, set out to create a statue that would "convey the mental and physical strength of the great President and his confidence in his ability to carry the thing through to a successful finish." Robert gave the final product his official endorsement when, in 1922, he attended the memorial's dedication.

Though the Lincoln Memorial quickly became an immensely popular tourist attraction and national icon, it was not until 1939 that the modern civil rights movement staked a claim on its symbolism. That year, the Daughters of the American Revolution denied Howard University permission to use Constitution Hall for a concert by the renowned black opera soloist, Marian Anderson. Walter White, the head of the NAACP, asked the National Park

Service for permission to stage the event in Lafayette Park, across from the White House. Upon learning that the park was off limits, White proclaimed, “Oh, my God, if we could have her sing at the feet of Lincoln!” He took the request to Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, who took it to Franklin Roosevelt. “Tell Oscar he has my permission to have Marian sing from the top of the Washington Monument if he wants it,” the president replied (referring to Assistant Interior Secretary Oscar Chapman).

But it was the Lincoln Memorial, not the Washington Monument, that was of the moment. There, scores of Supreme Court justices, cabinet members and congressmen – as well as the first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, who resigned her D.A.R. membership in protest – joined 75,000 attendees, most of them black, to hear Anderson sing. Ickes introduced her, calling the concert a “glorious tribute” to Lincoln’s memory, “by a daughter of the race from which he struck the chains of slavery.” Pointing both to the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, he lamented that “in our time too many people pay mere lip service to these twin planets in our democratic heaven.”

The political and emotional power of Anderson’s concert influenced the decision by organizers of the proposed Negro March on Washington in 1941 to end their protest at the Lincoln Memorial, where “Marian Anderson sang at the feet of the great emancipator.” The contrast between Lincoln, the “freer of the slaves,” and the current plight of African-Americans, had by then become painfully obvious. The Negro March on Washington never occurred. In return for Franklin Roosevelt’s promise to create a wartime equal employment commission, its organizers called off the march.



Joshua Zeitz is the author of “Lincoln’s Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay, and the War for Lincoln’s Image.”

FURTHER PHOTOS FROM THE LINCOLN FUNERAL EVENT











The following pictures come from John Dudkiewicz and were taken by Robert Taunt at the Lincoln funeral commemoration.







HOW WHITMAN REMEMBERED LINCOLN

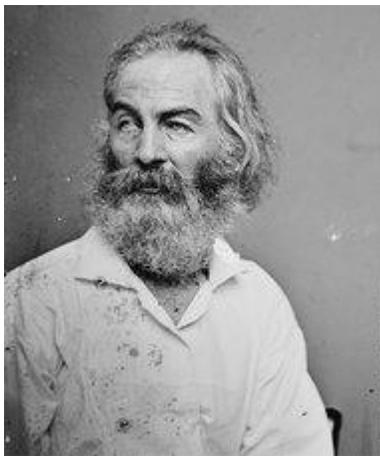
BY [MARTIN GRIFFIN](#)

MAY 4, 2015 7:00 AM MAY 4, 2015 7:00 AM

The train that brought Abraham Lincoln's body back to Springfield, Ill., took almost two weeks to complete its journey, making a long, northeasterly loop through Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Indiana. The last stretch, from Chicago to Springfield, was completed on the morning of May 3, 1865.

The journey was widely covered in the press as millions of Americans turned out to pay their last respects. Generations of historians have described, and tried to interpret the meaning of, this unique funeral procession. But no author has probed the event more deeply than Walt Whitman.

Whitman, poet, journalist and part-time civil servant in the federal government, had been preparing a volume of poetry, “Drum-Taps,” for publication when news of the president’s assassination came through. Over the summer, he wrote several new poems, including three pieces in memory of Lincoln that appeared in an expanded collection, “Sequel to Drum-Taps,” in October.



Walt Whitman, photographed between 1862 and 1865Credit Library of Congress

The poems included the long meditation “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,” which has become part of the canon of American elegies; of the shorter pieces, only “O Captain! My Captain” achieved any lasting popularity among the American public.

“Lilacs” is a poem of just over 200 lines, divided into 16 sections. It is a free-verse composition in which echoes of classical elegiac poetry and cadences of biblical prophecy jostle against images of the American landscape and the violence of the Civil War. Although Lincoln is not named in the poem, “Lilacs” is about political martyrdom. At the same time, the poem reflects much of Whitman’s earlier thinking about national identity as he had broken from traditional literary forms, experimenting in his continuing verse sequence “Leaves of Grass” from 1855 onward with a new type of poetry to capture the energies and contradictions of American life.

The early sections of the poem track the journey of the funeral train. This unique public event unfolds at all hours of the day and night:

**With processions long and winding and the flambeaus of the night
With the countless torches lit, with the silent sea of faces and the unbarred
heads**

Gradually, three images begin to form the center of the poem: the declining western star, falling to the horizon; the songbird that brings the poem to the swampland where the speaker — and by implication, the nation — must confront the destructive but also seductive nature of death; and the lilac:

**Here, coffin that slowly passes,
I give you my sprig of lilac.**

The lilac is a classical elegiac symbol cast onto Lincoln's coffin, as the poet inserts himself into the massed, anonymous crowds of mourners that line the route of the funeral train.

As "Lilacs" moves toward its conclusion, the poem opens out into a pageant of wartime casualties:

**I saw battle-corpses, myriads of them,
And the white skeletons of young men, I saw them,
I saw the debris and the debris of all the slain soldiers of the war,
But I saw they were not as was thought,
They themselves were fully at rest, they suffer'd not,
The living remain'd and suffer'd, the mother suffer'd,
And the wife and the child and the musing comrade suffer'd,
And the armies that remain'd suffer'd.**

For Whitman, the president joins the ranks of the war dead whose spirits are at rest — unlike the nation that has received a trauma to the system, the dead soldiers are peaceful, not angry or troubled.

Whitman never met Lincoln in person, but he saw him, occasionally from close quarters, many times around Washington between 1863 and 1865. Whitman had moved there from New York, initially to care for his brother George, who had been wounded at Fredericksburg and was stranded in a military hospital in the capital. But as early as 1860 Whitman had become interested in Lincoln, sensing perhaps that a national crisis can throw up unusual leaders, and that this man could be one of them.

Finding himself in the semi-organized chaos of Washington, the center of the struggle against secession, Whitman came to recognize the true burden that Lincoln carried, and was fascinated by the unique nature of the man who bore it. Lincoln was an unlikely president for a nation in crisis, as Whitman was an unlikely poet of national spiritual exploration. It was not only their similar class origins — Lincoln in Kentucky and Indiana, Whitman on Long Island — in a workingman’s America, far from any social or educational privilege, that they had in common, but also the willingness, in each case, to believe in the task that life had delivered them.

Whitman also saw a link with Lincoln in their common language. In “Leaves of Grass,” Whitman used American idiom to invoke an American democratic landscape, and in particular an egalitarian tolerance, most notably in the famous “Preface” to the first edition. He saw the same sort of skill with the same sort of language in Lincoln’s speeches.

There was a poetry to many of Lincoln’s public addresses that tried to find that place in the American psyche, that place where people would grasp the importance of his policies, and of persevering until victory, and subsequently of repairing the nation. The president was, in many ways, walking the road the same road as Whitman: a journey to find the central meaning of the United States, a journey that would shun the path of shallow boosterism, that would embrace ugly truths and hard decisions.

Although Whitman moved on, as did others, from the bloody melodrama of spring 1865, “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d” was far from his final engagement with the memory of President Lincoln. Throughout the 1880s, Whitman delivered an annual lecture entitled “Death of Abraham Lincoln” on the anniversary of the assassination. In this piece, Whitman comes back to the central implication of “Lilacs,” arguing that Lincoln’s death was in a certain sense a requirement of history.

Both Whitman’s elegy and his subsequent lecture grapple with a more difficult conundrum than the modern American reverence for Lincoln might be ready to concede. As the historian Barry Schwarz notes, in 1865 one could observe the strange phenomenon of Americans in the Northern states deeply mourning Lincoln even though the president was not especially popular or beloved at the time.

This divided response contradicts some modern assumptions about heroic leaders, but is central to Whitman's view of Lincoln as a hero — not because he led the Union to victory or because of the Emancipation Proclamation, but because his death involved the ultimate gift to the people in a mythic economy of sacrifice and power: “the grand deaths,” as Whitman calls them, are a nation's most important inheritance. The poem ends:

**For the sweetest wisest soul of all my days and lands—and
this for his dear sake,
Lilac and star and bird twined with the chant of my soul,
There in the fragrant pines and the cedars dusk and dim.**

Behind the formal elegiac poem is always a dirge of sorrow, a moan of pain and loss, as well as an assertion of the right to mourn, a right to the legacy of the deceased hero. The poet watched the political leader while he lived. Now he discharges his duty to the man who could move the nation with words. “Lilacs” is not only a ritual keening for an assassinated president: For Whitman, the poetry and the politics of Lincoln are a dynamic unity.

In later years Whitman become somewhat dissatisfied with the failure of “Lilacs” to achieve popularity, in contrast to the short lament “O Captain! My Captain!” With its spirited but highly conventional verses, it is the only one of the Lincoln memorial poems to enter popular culture. In the 1989 movie “Dead Poets Society,” John Keating, played by Robin Williams, a teacher at an elite boarding school in the early 1960s, tells the boys in his class to address him with “O Captain! My Captain!” when they have something really important to say.

In contrast, “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd” remains the property of a more specialized readership. But in its grand sweep and unapologetic belief in crisis and destiny, the elegy lays claim to the invisible brotherhood of Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman. For that reason, as much as any other, “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd” is an act of mourning by one kind of poet for another.

Sources: Betsy Erkkila, “Whitman: The Political Poet”; Allen Grossman, “The Poetics of Union in Whitman and Lincoln: An Inquiry Toward the Relationship of Art and Policy”; David S. Reynolds, “Walt Whitman's America: A Cultural Biography”; Peter M. Sachs, “The English Elegy: Studies in the Genre from Spenser to Yeats”; Barry

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I would ask that you start reviewing Chandler's Manual of Arms for the Weekend.