



THE COTTAGE COURIER

Vol. 11

www.lincolncottage.org

Fall 2010

From the Director...



Dear Friends,

The Civil War Sesquicentennial is upon us! In November we marked the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's election to the U.S. Presidency. One hundred and fifty-years ago can feel incredibly distant, especially for our youngest visitors. While it's no longer possible to meet with living witnesses to the war and emancipation, we can provide people with a tangible connection to the

past through place. Here you can walk in Lincoln's footsteps and grasp the same banister, gaze out the same windows, walk the same grounds, and look out over the same graves Lincoln did. We hope the Civil War Sesquicentennial will inspire even more people to visit and support our preservation and interpretation of this historic gem.

As we enter the Civil War Sesquicentennial, President Lincoln's Cottage continues its pace of strong programming set over the past three years. We have a new must-see exhibit, *Being Lincoln*, our Cottage Conversations program continues to feature Lincoln luminaries and draw a wonderful crowd, and we doubled the number of school groups to visit the site from the previous year. On November 19th, the Cottage hosted U.S. Mint Director Ed Moy, his colleagues, coin enthusiasts and a local group of DC students for the official launch of the Lincoln dollar coin. You can read more about the event on page 2 and view additional photos on our page on Facebook.

This quarter we are releasing another article "from the vault" for your reading pleasure, a piece on Civil War Washington we commissioned a few years ago from Jennifer Fleischer. I hope you enjoy it. In our efforts to promote Civil War Washington history, we are also co-leading the newly formed DC Civil War Commission. Now, by supporting President Lincoln's Cottage, you are also supporting the promotion of Civil War history in our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Erin Carlson Mast

Director

Erin_CarlsonMast@nthp.org



UPCOMING PROGRAMS *Cottage Conversations*

January 20, 2011

with Harold Holzer and Craig Symonds

February 9, 2011

with Kate Masur

April 14, 2011

with James Swanson

All Programs:

6:00pm Reception / 6:30pm Lecture

To purchase tickets, contact: alison_mitchell@nthp.org
or (202)829-0436 x31228

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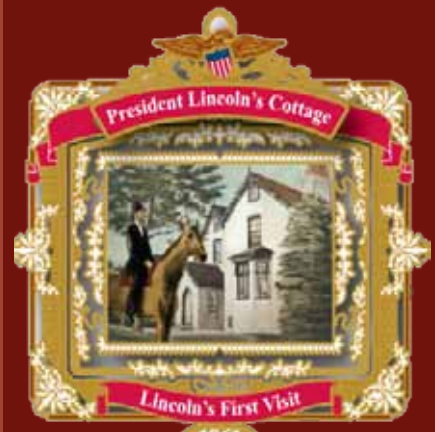
It's that time of year!

Be sure to stop by the Cottage Museum Store for your holiday shopping....three ornaments are available now, and the first Special Edition Civil War Sesquicentennial ornament is available for pre-order online! Need a gift for someone who has everything? Give them a Cottage Tour gift certificate!

Find something for every age - Lincoln Logs, T-Shirts, Civil War toys and a variety of books to choose from!

Coming Soon!

The Cottage Museum Store will release a series of Christmas ornaments to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. The first to be released will depict Lincoln's first ride to the Cottage. Collect all 5!



Available December 14

PRE-ORDER ONLINE TODAY!

Lincoln Dollar Coin Release at the Cottage

November 19, 2010, the US Mint released the Lincoln Dollar Coin with a ceremony at President Lincoln's Cottage. The Lincoln Dollar is the 16th release in the United States Mint Presidential \$1 Coin Program and the fourth and final presidential dollar to be released in 2010. Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony to celebrate the occasion and to exchange their dollars for the new dollar coin. Guests also had the opportunity to purchase additional uncirculated coins from the Cottage Museum Store, as well as packages for the Lincoln Dollar Coin and all other presidential dollars.

To view photos of the event, visit our Facebook Page!



Director Erin Mast speaks about the Cottage during the ceremony. US Mint Director, Edmund Moy. Lincoln Dollar Coins after the ceremonial coin pour.

Unique, MEMORABLE, Historic

President Lincoln's Cottage is an unparalleled setting for private and corporate events. With two beautifully restored historic buildings and a pastoral setting, this venue provides respite from the hectic pace of downtown DC. Whether you are holding an executive retreat in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center, hosting a reception in the same rooms where Lincoln himself entertained, or having a tented, seated dinner on the landscaped grounds, events staff will ensure that everything runs perfectly.

10% Off Rental Fees

for all National Trust and Cottage members through 3/31/11

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.LINCOLNCOTTAGE.ORG/EVENTS
OR CONTACT SHIRA GLADSTONE, EVENTS COORDINATOR,
AT (202) 829-0436 EXT. 31232.



Come See Where Lincoln Lives!

Education Programs at President Lincoln's Cottage are available for students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Find out more about each program by clicking the titles below.

LINCOLN'S HAT
(GRADES K-3)

I SEE THE PRESIDENT
(GRADES 4-5)

LINCOLN'S TOUGHEST DECISIONS
(GRADES 6+)

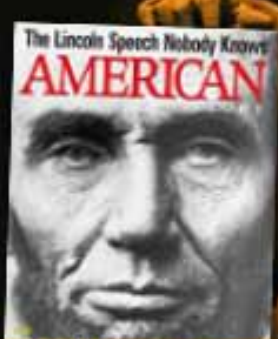
Schedule your class field trip for the spring!

To request a school programs brochure contact our Curator of Education at lincoln_ed@nthp.org

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Excerpt from...

Civil War Washington

By Jennifer Fleischer

The War Comes

The war transformed the capital from a sleepy, Southern town to a bustling city dominated by Northerners. Soldiers, businessmen, politicians, doctors, nurses, and ordinary citizens flocked from the North to become part of the war effort, while from the South came deserters, spies, runaway slaves, and—all too soon—a long, miserable line of wounded.

Within a week of the start of the war in April, Washington, in the words of Noah Brooks, “began to look like an armed camp.” Troops from Pennsylvania were the first to arrive, joined the next day by the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, and the day after that by New York’s Seventh. The sound of drums, bugles, marching, and cannon fire, originating in one of the forts, the Navy Yard, or a ship on the Potomac kept residents on edge. Gripped by a state of emergency, citizen volunteers, following General Scott’s orders, sandbagged and barricaded public buildings. “We are in a Beleagured City with enemies on every side and . . . at our doors,” wrote an alarmed Horatio Taft.

“Quartered in the White House, the Capitol, the Treasury, and the Patent Office, in the Georgetown seminary, and in tents at various points in the city, including the White House south lawn, the soldiers—untrained volunteers in uniform, really—filled the barrooms, the hotel lounges, streets, squares and every other



Civil War troops, 1861. *Library of Congress*

public space. To supply the troops with bread, the government opened a bakery in the basement of the Capitol.”

To supply the troops in other ways, General Joseph Hooker allowed a section below Pennsylvania Avenue near the Treasury (later called the Federal Triangle) to become a “colony” of brothels, whose workers would soon be known as “Joe Hooker’s Division.” The brothels went by various names, including “the Haystack, the Blue Goose, Fort Sumter, the Cottage by the Sea and Madame Russell’s Bake Oven.” The largest were Mary Hall and Maggie Walter’s establishments, offering eighteen women and fourteen women respectively. Soldiers were not the only customers for the women’s favors; in a city of transients, many of them unmarried men or married men away from their families, the capital was, in the words of one observer,

“one of the wickedest cities of its size in the country.”

At first, Washingtonians, like most everyone else, expected a short war. Battles were treated like spectator sports. In the third week in July, an eager crowd of reporters, politicians, and hundreds ordinary citizens, including ladies carrying picnic baskets, crossed the river into Virginia to get their first glimpse of some fighting along Bull Run, near Manassas, not thirty miles from Washington. Anticipating a thrilling day spent cheering their General Irvin McDowell on as he beat back the Confederates in his triumphal march to Richmond, they were shocked when all their plans went awry. Smoke blocked the spectators’ view of the battlefield, though they could hear the gunfire. While in Washington, one could hear the rumble of the guns. By the time word of the Union defeat reached the

capital, the stunned and haggard soldiers were staggering in, some simply dropping in their tracks, exhausted and worn, to sleep outside. Immediately, fears for Washington's safety circulated in the capital, while the cabinet met in an emergency session in General Scott's office.

An Embattled City

Anxiety that Confederates would besiege Washington intensified whenever Confederates pushed North, across the Potomac. In early July, 1864, as Confederate Jubal Early advanced toward Washington following his swift victory at the Battle of Monocacy, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton sent a carriage and guard to carry Lincoln and his family away from the Soldiers' Home back to the less-isolated White House. On July 12th, when some of Early's skirmishers sent bullets flying at Fort Stevens, which was on the Seventh Street Turnpike, near the Home, there on the parapet stood the President, watching the attack. Suddenly—as John Hay noted in his diary—"a soldier roughly ordered

him to get down or he would have his head knocked off." In the confusion that followed a few days later, Lincolns' military guard, Company K of the 150th Pennsylvania regiment, went missing from the Home. They had received contradictory orders to reinforce the defenses at the forts to the west of Fort Stevens—Fort Reno in the northwest side of the city and Fort DeRussy, near Rock Creek.

Sixty-eight forts encircling the city protected the capital. This design was "a state-of-the-art network" modeled on a system of small forts called the Lines of Torres Vadres that had been used by the Duke of Wellington in Portugal early in the nineteenth century. A review ordered by Secretary Stanton in 1862 after the disastrous loss at Second Bull Run stated that the weakest section in this fortress around the capital stretched along the northwestern boundary of the District, from the Potomac River to Fort Stevens. On the other side of Fort Stevens a slope of forts stretched east and southward—Fort Slocum, Fort Totten, Fort Slemmer, Fort Bunker Hill, Fort Saratoga, Fort

Thayer, and Fort Lincoln—giving protection to the northeast side of Washington.

As a Southern city that had become the hub of the Union, Washington vibrated with political tensions. Not all secessionist sympathizers had moved South, and as Unionists flooded into the capital, distrust permeated the air. When civil war broke, the government required all of its employees, civilians and military, to take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution. After the devastation of Bull Run, a loyalty oath to the Constitution and to the government of the United States was required of all government workers. Lincoln himself said that Southern sympathizers "pervaded all departments of the government and nearly all communities of people." Martial law was declared in the city, and a separate, federal police force created to control the District.

General George B. McClellan, who had replaced the defeated McDowell as commander of the Army of the Potomac, assigned Allen Pinkerton to

create a secret service. (He was the Chicago detective who had escorted Lincoln into Washington before the inauguration.) The glamorous widow Rose O'Neal Greenhow was Pinkerton's first target of investigation. She had been juggling her roles as Washington hostess, friend to Northern politicians, and Confederate spy, and in August 1861 was arrested for



Topographical Map of the Original District of Columbia, 1862, by E. G. Arnold

sending warnings to the Confederates at Manassas about the Northern advance.

She was then taken to the Old Brick Capitol, at First and A Streets N.E., which had housed a school in 1860, but by then was a federal prison for spies, conspirators, and “prisoners of state.” Sympathizing Southern ladies would show their support for the prisoners with gifts of bouquets and cake and their disdain for the guards with insults. Before her own imprisonment there, Greenhow had been a frequent visitor. By 1862 the Old Capitol building was crowded with over 110 prisoners.

Yet another transformation in the city came about when the wounded began to arrive. As the war progressed, makeshift hospitals opened up in churches, hotels, schools, social halls, and even private homes, turning Washington into a vast sick ward, filled with the stench and moans of the thousands of wounded, sick, and dying men who were carried there from nearby battlefields—50,000 men in over twenty-two hospitals at its peak. They were brought in by steamer, then loaded onto horse-drawn ambulances and driven to the hospitals and improvised spaces around the city.” The hallways of the Capitol and the Patent Office were lined with wounded men. The poet Walt Whitman wrote of the freshly injured soldiers, their “wounds full of worms—some swelled and inflamed.” Whitman came to Washington to search for his wounded brother, a lieutenant in the Fifty-first New York, and stayed on as a volunteer nurse. Indeed keen-eyed residents learned to spot the bewildered and sorrowful family members from towns and cities across the North who, like Whitman, had left home to come to Washington to find and care for their wounded men.

At the same time, thousands of paid and volunteer nurses, mostly single women out of their twenties and past marriageable age, also came from the North to contribute to the war effort. After turning thirty, Louisa May Alcott decided to enlist; she served at the hospital in Georgetown’s Union Hotel, where the worse cases were brought to the ballroom. Alcott’s first encounter with incoming wounded from Fredericksburg appalled her. “In they came, some on stretchers, some in men’s arms, some feebly staggering along propped on rude crutches, and one lay stark and still with covered face, as a comrade gave his name to be recorded before they carried him away to the dead house. . . . The sight of several stretchers, each with its legless, armless, or desperately wounded occupant, entering my ward, admonished me that I was there to work, not to wonder or weep.”

In contrast to the customary American rituals of death, Alcott wrote, “the men died, and were carried away, with as little ceremony as on a battlefield.” At night, carts loaded with corpses rumbled through the streets on their way to one of the local cemeteries at “Oak Hill, or Glenwood, or Mt. Olivet, or, after June 1864, to the newly dedicated Arlington Cemetery across the Potomac, on what had been General Robert E. Lee’s plantation.” Rotting flesh stank in the summer heat.

In 1861, civilians organized the United States Sanitary Commission to monitor health conditions of the troops. The Commission soon was coordinating efforts to raise money and supplies for the military hospitals through bazaars and “Sanitary Fairs.” “They sent bandages, socks, mittens, shirts, brandy, porter, books, puzzles, pencils, sweetmeats, pickled mangoes, tomatoes, even rocking chairs” to the

wounded men. After Bull Run, Clara Barton, a Patent Office employee from Massachusetts, advertised in the Worcester Spy for donations of supplies for the soldiers, and soon set up her own agency to distribute them. Soldiers were not the only ones liable to illness: throughout the war, outbreaks of small pox and typhoid fever from open cesspools threatened the population. Alcott had to return home to Concord, Massachusetts, after she contracted typhoid fever.

During those years it seemed that one great symbol of the state of wartime Washington was the uncompleted Capitol, which loomed over the city. Because of the war the federal government halted all non-war related construction, and the Capitol’s massive colonnade, domeless beneath black scaffolding, was a mournful sight, visible across the war torn city. Then in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln ordered construction on the Capitol be resumed in order that the Capitol might stand as a symbol of the continuation of the Union, rather than of its near-death. The day it was completed, December 3, 1863, was—in the words of Brooks—“a significant event in the history of the republic.” Here was a building “begun in the time of Daniel Webster” finished in the middle of the war that threatened to destroy the Union. Here was the twenty-foot-tall bronze statue of Freedom, which had been “designed and ordered” when Jeff Davis was Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, “placed into position on the apex of the national Capitol while Davis was in arms against the government.” At the moment that Freedom was hoisted to her place atop the completed cupola and the scaffolding removed, cannons were shot off from the East Park, near the Capitol.

Click Here to read the full essay.