



NEWS FROM

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE

LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL EDITION

Vol. 6

www.lincolncottage.org

Summer 2009

Upcoming Programs

Cottage Conversations

September 17, 2009

Ronald White

November 12, 2009

Philip B. Kunhardt III

January 21, 2010

Gerald Prokopowicz

April 15, 2010

Craig Symonds

All Cottage Conversations:

6:00pm - Reception

6:30pm - Lecture

7:30pm - Book signing

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10

SUBSCRIPTION TO ALL
FOUR PROGRAMS: \$25

LINCOLN CABINET MEMBERS: FREE

Reservations: alison_mitchell@nthp.org
or (202)829-0436 x31228

*Tickets will be sold at the door, however, space is
only guaranteed for those who purchase
tickets in advance

Personal Glimpses of the President and his Family From the Summer of 1864

AS RECORDED IN THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALBERT N. SEE

By Frank D. Milligan, PhD

In the autumn 2008 newsletter article entitled "Albert See and the Pennsylvania Bucktails" I presented for the first time extracts from the diary of Private "A.N." See, one of the 150th Pennsylvania "Bucktails" who guarded the President and his family at the White House and their Soldiers' Home Cottage. Private See's 1864 diary was brought to our attention by See's great-granddaughter Betty (See) Kessler of Wichita, Kansas. In early July, Mrs. Kessler (she prefers 'Betty') visited for the first time the place where her great-grandfather "A.N." (as he preferred to be called) was stationed during what was the arguably the most turbulent year of the war at the Soldiers' Home.



Director, Frank Milligan with Betty Kessler and her daughter, Brenda McCanon, descendants of Albert See.

Continued on page 5

In This Issue...

A CLOSER LOOK....

by Erin Carlson Mast, Curator of President Lincoln's Cottage

PAGE 2

Back To School!

PAGE 3

Debating Emancipation Online

PAGE 3

Site Rental Program

PAGE 4

Personal Glimpses of the Presidentcontinued

by Frank Milligan, Director of President Lincoln's Cottage

PAGE 5

A CLOSER LOOK...

AT *Lincoln Logs*

John Lloyd Wright, the son of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, invented Lincoln Logs in 1916 and patented the set four years later. Lincoln Logs were one of several classic construction sets to come out of the 1910s, the other two being Tinkertoys (1914) and the Erector Set (1911). All three sets enjoyed popularity as educational toys at a time when learning through play was heavily promoted by the toymakers. A 1924 advertisement for the toy in *The Youth's Companion*, announced, "The Child Builds the House, The House Builds the Child."

The design for the "Lincoln Logs" set was inspired by the earth-quake proof foundation his father developed for the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, a project on which the younger Wright had assisted. Wright reportedly chose the name "Lincoln Logs" at least in part because of the popularity of the 16th president and



**The Child Builds the House
The House Builds the Child**
Single Set of 30 logs, roof
and design book. \$1
Delivered
Double Set of 107 logs, roof,
chimney and design book. \$2
Delivered

Advertisement 2 -- No Title
The Youth's Companion
(1827-1929); Nov 27, 1924;
98, 48; American Periodicals
Series Online pg. 795



Lincoln Logs, produced between 1923 and 1947
John Lloyd Wright

This early, complete "double set" of Lincoln
Logs was originally priced in pencil at \$1.92.

The Leo Pascal Collection

the enduring association of Lincoln with log cabin life. Lincoln Logs were invented the same year President Wilson accepted the log cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky where Lincoln was said to have been born on behalf of the federal government.

In his book, *My Father, Frank Lloyd Wright*, John Wright provides a bitter description of being fired by his father and having to return to the United States. Upon returning from Tokyo, Wright finalized his design for "Lincoln Logs" and Marshall Field & Company bought as many as he could produce. The success of the project provided him with encouragement and income in the wake of having been fired.

Wright first marketed the toys under the name "Red Square Toy Company," later changing the name to the "John Lloyd Wright Toy Company." Today Lincoln Logs are produced and marketed by K'NEX, a company that specializes in toy construction sets. The connection between Lincoln Logs and the Wright family is all but eclipsed by the connection with the set's namesake, to the point where a 2009 edition of the Lincoln Logs was specially created to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.*

- Erin Mast, Curator

The exhibit "My Abraham Lincoln" is located in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center for President Lincoln's Cottage. You may view the exhibit during regular visitor hours through December 31, 2009.

*The Special Bicentennial Edition Lincoln Logs can be purchased at the President Lincoln's Cottage Museum Store.

Attention Teachers!

President Lincoln and the struggle of wartime decisions comes to life for students in education programs at President Lincoln's Cottage! Whether donning stovepipe hats, analyzing accounts of those who met Lincoln on his daily commute to the White House, or debating the role of one of Lincoln's Cabinet members, education programs at the Cottage allow students to discover Lincoln the private man and president.

President Lincoln's Cottage welcomes students of all ages, and from around the country, to participate in its school program offerings. Education programs include a specialized tour of the Cottage and an interactive program component which meet state and national standards of learning. Three school programs are offered for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Experiences for college and graduate students are also available.

Come see where Lincoln lives!

To schedule a school program contact
Education Coordinator, Callie Hawkins
callie_hawkins@nthp.org / 202.829.0436 x31223

Click here to learn more



DEBATING EMANCIPATION ONLINE!



President Lincoln's Cottage is pleased to announce the launch of Debating Emancipation Online! Debating Emancipation is an interactive program that puts you in the role of one of President Lincoln's cabinet members. As a cabinet member, discover how you will advise him on his controversial draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. This program is currently available in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center at President Lincoln's Cottage, and with a grant from the Motorola Corporation, will be available to audiences nationwide on our website beginning September 22, 2009.



Host your holiday party at President Lincoln's Cottage!

Cottage rooms glow with soft evening light during the fall and winter seasons, lending a magical quality and Victorian ambiance to any celebration. Two historic buildings and landscaped grounds offer many options for large and small gatherings, indoor and outdoor events, and formal and casual entertaining. Call now to reserve space for your private or corporate event.

To learn more visit:

[http://www.lincolncottage.org/
events/index.htm](http://www.lincolncottage.org/events/index.htm)

For questions contact

Events Manager,

Leslie Bouterie

leslie_bouterie@nthp.org

202.829.0436 x31232



Provided by Heritage Travel, Inc., a subsidiary of The National Trust for Historic Preservation, this website will be launched in September 2009.

Gozaic will feature "Circles" where people can find others with similar interests in travel such as history, architecture, etc. Be sure to check out the "Lincoln Circle" to find Lincoln related itineraries, frequently asked questions and facts about Lincoln and much more to help you prepare for your next vacation!

www.gozaic.com

Gozaic is a travel website where you can find life-enriching travel experiences, interact with those who share your interests, discover new places rich in history and culture, and build itineraries to visit the places that matter.

*President
Lincoln's
Cottage is on
Facebook
and YouTube!*



Personal Glimpses of the President and his Family From the Summer of 1864

AS RECORDED IN THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALBERT N. SEE*continued*

During her two-day visit Betty toured the Cottage and grounds, met with staff, and absorbed the atmosphere of this special place. I think I am safe in saying that she fell in love with the site. So much so that she decided, in consultation with her daughter Brenda who accompanied her, to donate to the Cottage A.N.'s diary as well as the black gloves and mourning band that he wore during Lincoln's funeral procession. These family heirlooms may form part of an exhibition in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center during the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial year.

Betty also left with us a copy of her great-grandfather's autobiography, written in 1920 when A.N. was eighty years of age, and only four years before his death. In reading through these recollections it is useful to remember that they were written years after the fact and do not in all instances reflect the content as presented in the actual diary entries. Nevertheless, these recollections do provide wonderful glimpses into President Lincoln's relationships with the soldiers and his family members. I have organized these entries under specific subject headings and present the words virtually unedited. I hope you enjoy these stories as much as I did.

ON THE RIGORS OF GUARD DUTY

The duty... was quite taxing... for we were responsible for the safety of the president, who was the Commander of all our armies and navy. Every strap, and buckle and gun, and piece of armor or clothing must be in perfect condition; rust on the gun, or inside, or in any metal, or failure to have the leather properly shined was severely punished and the least drop of rain would destroy all our work, and make us do it all over again, and our white gloves had to be cleaned every time we went on guard. It took us till near noon after being relieved from guard duty, to clean up for duty the next day.

ON LINCOLN'S OHIO CAVALRY GUARD

When we went to the soldiers home we moved our camp out there, and had fine summer quarters...but when we went to and from the White



Company K Pennsylvania Bucktail Solider Reenactors at the Cottage.

House [the President] was escorted by a mounted guard, the Union Light Guard, I believe, of Ohio Cavalry; they helped guard the grounds and were as I recollect them a fine troop...and escort for the president, though I was not personally acquainted with any of them. We regarded them as gentlemanly and efficient.

ON LINCOLN'S PERSONALITY

He was one of the most tender hearted, and considerate of the comforts of others, without regard to rank or position. A guard was walking his beat in a storm one day...and the president hailed him saying to him "Sentinel why not come under the porch out of the storm?" To which the sentinel replied, "it is contrary to orders Mr. president, at once he asked "do you know who commands the army and navy of the United States" the sentinel replied "you do, Mr. President;" the president then said "I command you to come under the porch out of the storm." He obeyed and we never walked in the storm unless necessary.

When at the soldiers home one bright moonlight night the president and Tad were playing checkers on the porch and as the sentinel passed by the president asked him if he ever played checkers and the sentinel said he did and the president said "Set down your gun and come up let us take a game." He did so and said he did his best but was badly beaten.

ON TAD LINCOLN

Tad was also tender hearted. One day he heard us complaining about our brass shoulder pieces, as we were burnishing them, for they must shine like mirrors, and he said "You don't have to wear them if you don't want to" and we assured him we did not. Next day he brought us an order to dispense with them; we threw them in the brush and never saw them afterwards.

Tad was at our camp almost every day, very frequently ate dinner at one of our tents. He would get a dish and get in line and draw his rations the same as the rest of us and seemed to enjoy it.

ON ROBERT AND TAD LINCOLN

[Tad] seemed as much at home with us as tho he was one of us, and we could not have thought more of him if he had been a brother. When with us his parents seemed to be perfectly satisfied, and if he wanted to go down town he was allowed to, if one of us could go with him, and there was always someone ready to go, with or without a pass, for he always brought his escort safely back even if he had no pass.

The Co. thought so much of him that they presented him with an Album containing a photograph of every member of the Co.... I wrote Robert Lincoln when he was minister to England, thinking he would have more relics of the family than he would care for... so he might send it to me as I would appreciate it very much, he wrote me that it was the most prized of the things concerning Tad he had, for it showed the esteem the men who knew him best placed on him. He could not think of parting with it...

ON STANTON'S ORDER TO EVACUATE THE COTTAGE

One night at the Soldiers Home, just before Early made his raid on Washington we were all pretty nervous. It was rumored that Mosby was within our lines with 500 men in disguise to take the president, we put enough credence in the report to bring the whole guard from camp and have them fully armed all night and laying close to the president's house where they could spring to action in a moment and defend the president. The guard was specially charged to be vigilant, and we were expecting an attack [at] any moment, whether by cavalry or infantry, or both, we had no idea, but we were prepared for either, and very much excited.

I was on guard in front of the house and the president and his private secretary were in earnest conversation where I almost brushed against them as I walked my beat, I heard the horsemen or man coming at a rapid gate and my uneasiness became intense, as I

realized the danger and that I was more responsible for the safety of the president than any other man, on account of my position as guard, at the president's door; I continued this "watchful waiting" till I was satisfied the horsemen had passed our picket 1-3 mile out, and I could wait no longer. I said "President step in the house and shut the door." He did at once and I called Sergeant of the guard post 1. Co. K fall in! fall in! and immediately took my place at the end of my beat nearest the approaching horseman; by this time a messenger appeared with revolver in hand, horse covered in foam, and riding at full speed; I challenged him but he did not stop; I gave a second challenge; and leveled my gun ready to fire if necessary. He saw the situation and stopped quickly as possible; and as ordered dismounted and gave the countersign and said he must see the president at once as he had a message for



Company K Pennsylvania Bucktail Solider Reenactors at the Cottage.

him. I said hand it to the sergeant and he will deliver it for you. He said he must deliver it in person that Secretary Stanton had charged him to give it to no one else; I said "You cannot see the president." He finally obeyed. [The message] was an order that he should come to the White House at once with heavy escort, as it was not safe for him to remain away. He went immediately escorted by the cavalry, and did not return until Early was driven away from Washington.

A FINAL POST-ASSASSINATION THOUGHT

If his body guard at the theater had been as careful as they should have been the nation would have been saved the terrible calamity that deprived the world of one of the ablest characters of the ages.