



ABOUT the ALCWRT

- *The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table is the oldest Civil War Round Table in Michigan, founded 1952. This year is our JUBILEE ...! Our 65th anniversary is September, 2017.*
- *Meetings are each 3rd Thursday, September through May (except December), 7:30 pm, at the Charter Township of Plymouth City Offices, 9955 N. Haggerty, in the Chamber Council Room.*
- *For more information, contact ALCWRT President Liz Stringer at stringerL@aol.com*
- *Our web site is ALCWRT.org*
- *Like us on FACEBOOK...! "Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table"*

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"THE BARREL" will be presented by Bill Christen, author and local historian, at the **November 16th** meeting of the ALCWRT.

PREVIEW -- A barrel, well over 150 years old, containing letters from the Curtis family of the 1860s came into the possession of James Bond in 2010 from the estate of his father, Milton W. Bond. The younger Mr. Bond is working to bring the contents to life through preservation, annotation and publication. Bill Christen will share with us information about the efforts to both preserve the Curtis family's personal history and to expand the knowledge of today's historians about life and events in the American Civil War era.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER -- Bill Christen and his wife, Glenna Jo Christen, live in Chelsea, MI. They are members of the Chelsea Area and Michigan Photographic Historical Societies, and Bill is the author of the biography, *Pauline Cushman: Spy of the Cumberland*, published in 2006 by Edinborough Press. Over 25 years ago, Bill began researching and collecting men's clothing (1850-1875) while building a civilian's wardrobe for living history and reenactment events. The Christen's collection of original garments, along with their period photographs for their own research, they make available to others for study. They have provided costuming and wardrobe services, and set dressing historical consulting, to independent film companies for documentaries and other Civil War films. Several years ago he and Glenna Jo cataloged, transcribed and annotated a collection of 500 documents and a dozen diaries belonging to a Connecticut family in which three of the family's five sons were soldiers for several Connecticut units. Bill has a particular interest in several Civil War regiments (Seventeenth Michigan, Fortieth Indiana, Forty-first Ohio, Twenty-third Kentucky Infantry).

BOOKS from DIRK -

Thanks to the Oltmans for bringing a cache of Dirk's books as a gift from him to ALCWRT members. The Oltmans will be back with another batch from Dirk's collection at a future meeting. It was Dirk's wish that the books be free to anyone in the group interested, but that, should anyone wish to pay for a book, the proceeds go to the ALCWRT as a donation.

Save room on your library shelves!

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ANNIVERSARY of the GETTYSBURG ADDRESS... and of EVERETT's SPEECH

This November 19th marks the 154th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

It was delivered in 1863 at the dedication ceremony of the Soldiers' National Cemetery four and a half months after the Union victory there. Lincoln's two-minute address followed a two-hour speech by Edward Everett.

WHY WAS EVERETT the FEATURED SPEAKER?

Edward Everett (1794-1865) was one of the great American orators of the Civil War era and before. A Harvard-educated pastor's son, prior to Gettysburg he had a varied career as an educator and politician. He taught ancient Greek literature at Harvard for several years, served ten years in the US Congress, served one term as Governor of Massachusetts, was Minister to Great Britain, spent four years as President of Harvard (a job he did not enjoy), was assistant to his longtime friend Secretary of State Daniel Webster and interim Secretary of State for several months upon Webster's death, and finally served a terms as US Senator from Massachusetts. In 1860 he ran for VP on the Constitutional Union Party ticket, and was a strong supporter of the Union and of Lincoln in the 1864 election.

Everett's fame as a public speaker began during his teaching years at Harvard. He took up his teaching duties in 1819, after a four-year sojourn in Europe where he earned a Ph.D at the university in Gottingen, and where, in England, he met William Wilberforce, the noted abolitionist. At Harvard, his students included future Speaker of the House Robert Charles Winthrop, future US Representative and president's son Charles Francis Adams, and future philosopher-essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emerson described Everett's voice as "of such rich tones, such precise and perfect utterance, that, although slightly nasal, it was the most mellow and beautiful and correct of all instruments of the time." By the 1850s, he was traveling the country giving speeches, and donated several years' worth of his fees in that timeframe to the preservation of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. Add to this his editorship and contributions to the *North American Review*, a magazine with a nationwide readership, and his reputation as one of the great orators of his day was cemented.

Everett was quite impressed with Lincoln's address at Gettysburg. The day after the dedication ceremony he wrote Lincoln: "I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes." The following year, Everett asked Lincoln for a copy of the address to benefit Union veterans.

FIVE MANUSCRIPT COPIES of LINCOLN's GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

There are five known copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's handwriting, and each is named for the person to whom it was originally given. The Bliss copy is the version we see reproduced on the Lincoln Memorial; it hangs today in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House. The **Everett copy** is the third manuscript copy. It was acquired by the State of Illinois and is preserved today at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. This month, from November 13th to November 26th, the Everett copy will be on view to the public, in commemoration of the 154th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address... and of Everett's Speech.

ANNUAL ALCWRT ELECTION of OFFICERS --

Election of ALCWRT officers for the coming year will take place at the November meeting.

Here's the slate, but note that other nominations will be accepted at the meeting:

- * President: Liz Stringer
- * Vice-President: Brian Mayer
- * Treasurer: Worley Smith
- * Secretary: Pam Burkhart

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

THANKS to Professor Abel for a particularly enlightening talk at our October meeting on the medical aspects of the Lincoln assassination. Here's a **SHORT QUIZ** about his presentation. **Answers below under This and That **

- (1) Who were the Lincolns' guests at Ford Theater on the night Lincoln was shot?
- (2) What type and caliber of gun did Booth use to shoot Lincoln?
- (3) Why do some believe the brain was not in Lincoln's embalmed body?

GINGERBREAD NUTS

To get everyone in the mood for the holidays, here's a seasonal recipe from the copy of Eliza Leslie's *Directions for Cookery* that was owned by Mary Lincoln, which included some handwritten conversion notes in pencil.

1 cup butter	2 cups molasses
6 cups sifted flour	1 lemon, zest and juice separated
1/2 lb. brown sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
2 TB. ground ginger	2 tsp. warm water
1 tsp. ground cloves	
1 tsp. ground cinnamon	

Cut butter into flour. Mix in brown sugar. Add ginger, cloves, and cinnamon.

Stir in molasses and grated zest.

Dissolve baking powder thoroughly in warm water, and add.

HINT: Baking powder must dissolve thoroughly, else it destroys the lemon juice and other acids.

Add lemon juice.

Bring dough together in a ball.

With well-floured hands, pinch pieces of dough and roll into balls.

Place on a buttered baking pan, then flatten each ball with the bottom of a cup or glass.

Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes.

THIS and THAT --

* **REMINDER:** No December meeting. Best wishes, stay warm, and see you in January..!

* **REFRESHMENTS for FUTURE MEETINGS** – Let Liz know if you're interested in bringing refreshments for a future meeting.

* **ANNUAL DUES** -- Worley is always happy to collect your dues.

* **ANSWERS to the SHORT QUIZ** --

- (1) Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris, whose future marriage would end tragically.
- (2) Booth used a single-shot 40-caliber derringer.
- (3) Because there appeared to be no odor of deterioration as Lincoln's body toured the country on its way back to Springfield, it's believed that the brain was not in the embalmed body.