



LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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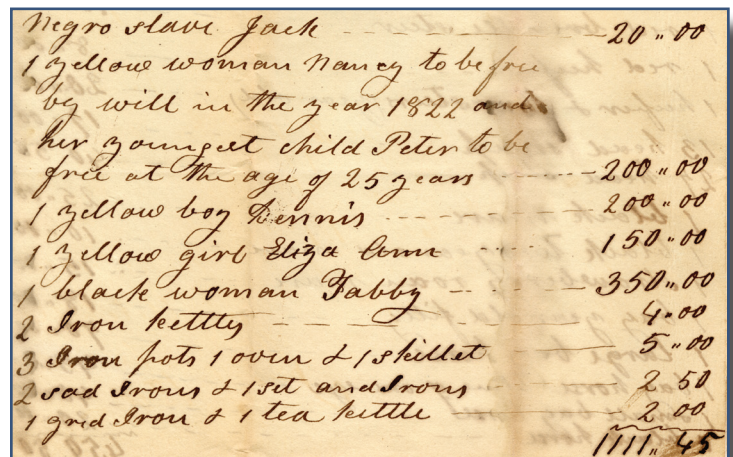
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

NEW COLLECTION DOCUMENTS AMERICAN SLAVERY

Thanks to a generous donation from Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association Trustee Boyd Nies, MD, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine purchased a substantial collection documenting slavery in the United States from the late 18th century through the Civil War. Ranging from legal documents and receipts to postwar aid documentation, this collection more than doubled the Shrine’s holdings related to slavery, ensuring that it will continue to be a significant repository in the western United States for the study of American chattel slavery.

With work underway to create a detailed inventory of the collection, the ultimate goal for staff is to make the materials available digitally to ensure accessibility. “Providing an understanding of the inextricable link between slavery and the Civil War is an important part of the work we do to interpret that era,” said Shrine Curator Nathan Gonzales. “We are fortunate to enhance our collections with such a rich archive of materials and look forward to making them available to researchers, both in person and online, in the near future,” he concluded.

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine is eternally grateful for the generosity shown by Dr. Nies and his family over the years. Their previous gifts include the bas relief of the Watchorn family on display in Smiley Park and the reproduction cannon installed on the exterior of the museum in 2021. It is only with contributions from donors like Dr. Nies that the Lincoln Shrine is able to fulfill its mission to deepen the understanding of the Civil War era through educational exhibits and research opportunities. See pages 3-5 for additional information.



Portion of an estate appraisal listing multiple enslaved persons, c1820.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*A publication of the
Lincoln Memorial Shrine*

Erected in 1932 by Robert Watchorn in
memory of Emory Ewart Watchorn



LINCOLN MEMORIAL SHRINE

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ■ RESEARCH CENTER

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The LMA Newsletter is published quarterly.

Subscriptions are free to members of the LMA.

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine, located in
Smiley Park south of A.K. Smiley Public Library,
is open to the public, free of charge.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Sunday, 1 pm - 5 pm

For more information, visit www.lincolnshrine.org

Mission Statement:

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine strives to be a sustainable community resource that provides a diverse and growing audience an opportunity to better understand today by learning about the past from expanded collections, exhibits, and programs.

DON'T MISS THE SHRINE'S FALL EVENTS

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine kicks off a season of fall events on Saturday, November 16 at 11 am with a celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Taking place in Smiley Park, just outside the Lincoln Shrine, the program will feature music by the Camp Carleton Band and Mountain Fifes and Drums, and will include a recitation of the address by popular Lincoln presenter Robert Broski.

For another opportunity to enjoy music of the Civil War era, mark your calendars for the Shrine's annual holiday singalong program on Saturday, December 14 at 11 am in Smiley Park. Featuring holiday tunes from the Civil War era, the always popular program is sure to bring a large crowd, so feel free to bring your own lawn chairs. In case of rain, the event will be moved to A.K. Smiley Public Library's Assembly Room. For more information on upcoming events, visit News & Events at www.lincolnshrine.org.



Abraham Lincoln presenter Robert Broski with the Mountain Fifes and Drums, 2022.

A LOOK AT THE AMERICAN SLAVERY COLLECTION

From very early in its history, the Lincoln Shrine's research collections have included materials related to the experiences of enslaved people in the United States. As the root cause of the Civil War and the single most important national issue during Abraham Lincoln's life, slavery must be addressed in order to gain a full understanding of the causes and consequences of the conflict. The recent addition of 87 slavery-related items ranging from 1772 to 1868 not only significantly enhances the size of the Shrine's existing collections, but also provides the resources to examine the experiences of enslaved populations in a variety of circumstances.

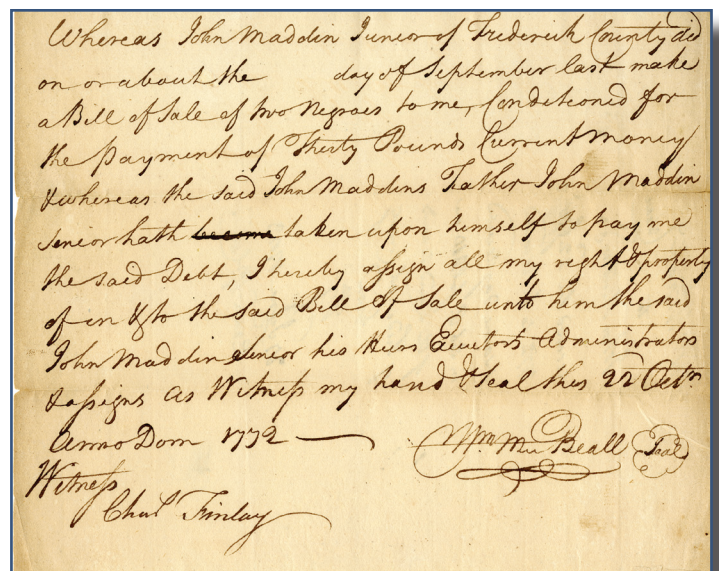
Largely originating in the American South—with Kentucky represented more than any other state—the collection also includes pre and post state abolition documents from the free states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Ohio. With topics covering legal matters, valuations (including in pounds rather than dollars), the sales of enslaved people, and manumission, the new collection demonstrates how engrained the practice was in the United States in the decades before the war.

Explore the stories found within the collection...

A large proportion of the collection focuses on the value of enslaved people, including several bills of sale. The earliest such document, a 1772 bill of sale from Frederick County, Maryland, details the sale of two unnamed enslaved people from a father to his son for thirty pounds. The only item in the collection that predates the American Revolution, the receipt was produced in a period when slavery was practiced legally in all 13 colonies. Within a few

years of the receipt's creation, the Pennsylvania Abolition Society was founded to advocate for the emancipation of enslaved Black and Indigenous people in the colonies, planting the seed of the abolition movement in the United States.

Estate records are well represented within the collection, including appraisals, wills, and bills of transfer. Spanning several decades, from 1803-1864, these documents are demonstrative of the incessant nature of the practice that kept generations of men, women, and children in bondage. Among these materials are several from the Garrard family of Kentucky, who had a long history in the state dating back to the end of the American Revolution. Several estate documents relating to the death of James Garrard, Jr. in 1838 name at least 32 enslaved people, valued from \$1,000 each for two

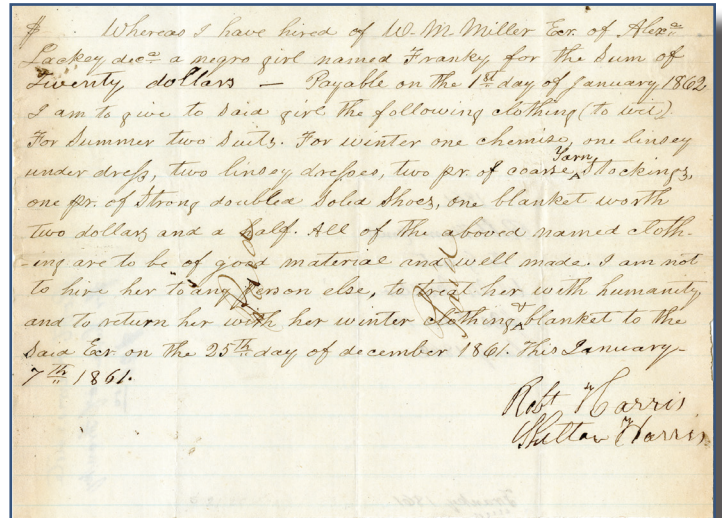


Bill of Sale for Temp and Cato, Maryland, October 22, 1772.

men named Henry and Tom, to \$100 for a young girl named Susan. While many were bequeathed to his nine children in a will written a year and a half prior to his death, many enslaved persons were divided among his heirs in a drawing that grouped people together by value, with each lot valued at or around \$1,000. Commonplace in the decades leading up to the Civil War, the breadth of these documents brings to life the inhumanity of the system that listed people alongside animals, furniture, and other assets.

The collection also includes items from northern states that precede abolition laws, one of which was created in Connecticut in 1790. Drafted at a time when the state was in the process of gradually abolishing slavery, the document transfers possession of enslaved people, Temp and Cato, to a creditor to satisfy a debt of 300 pounds owed by the estate of the enslaver's father. Over 2,000 people remained enslaved in Connecticut by the first federal census in 1790. The state did not fully outlaw the practice until 1848, becoming the last state in New England to do so.

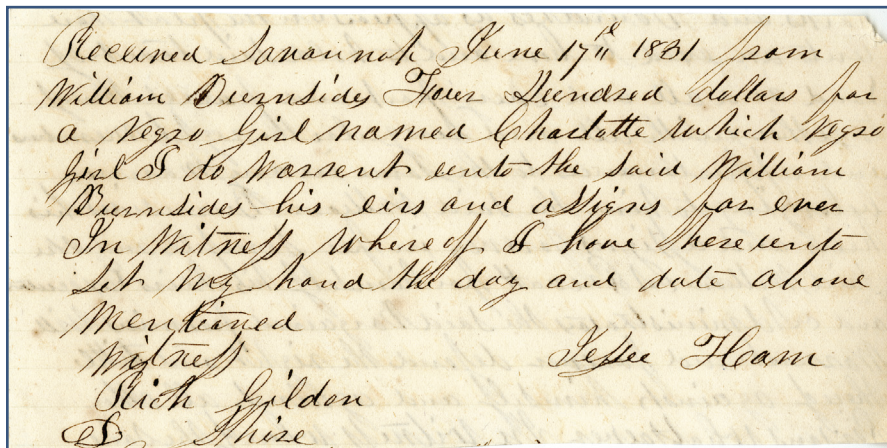
Various documents discuss the experiences of people in slavery, including those who were loaned out by their enslavers. Three documents from Bourbon County, Kentucky detail the separate rental of two enslaved women, Franky and Mary Jane, by the same enslaver. The detailed agreements



War date agreement to hire an enslaved woman named Franky, Kentucky, January 7, 1861.

list the items that were required to be provided to the women, including specific clothing, “double soled shoes,” and good quality blankets, as well as an acknowledgement that the women would be “treated with humanity.” The descriptions of the items being provided to the women during the rental period appear to indicate their placement within a home, rather than outdoors.

The heartbreaking plight of enslaved children is well-represented within the collection. From an 1810 appraisal that lists seven-month-old Zach, three-year-old Julia, four-year-old Green, and six-year-old Henry, to an 1854 bill of sale for four-year-old Morris who was sold alone, the devastating effects of slavery on children bears additional research. While children were often given a value that was less than adults, one 1846 receipt records the sale of a boy named Edmond for only \$40, significantly less than other children identified within the collection whose perceived value was several hundreds of dollars.



Bill of sale for a girl named Charlotte for \$400, South Carolina, June 17, 1831.

The collection also includes materials focusing on the health of enslaved people. One item, an 1852

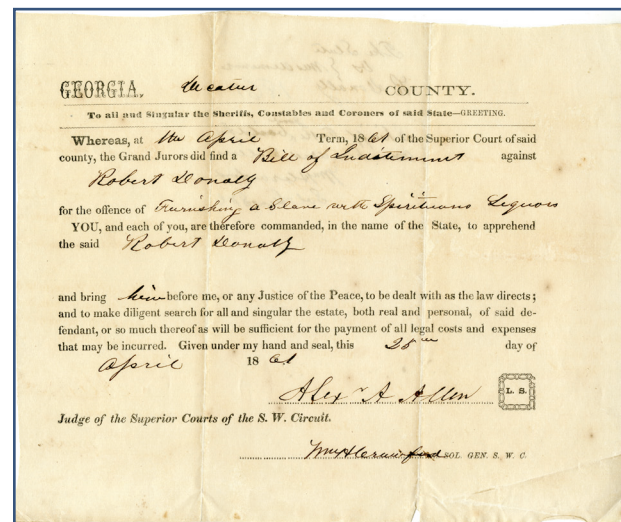
bill of sale from Savannah, Georgia, details the sale of an enslaved woman named Betsey who was described as being “in bad health and not warranted as sound” for the sum of \$150. The receipt notes that failure to pay would result in Betsey being sold at auction to the “highest bidder.” Although Betsey’s ailment is not noted, the ruthlessness of the document’s author is clear.

Less numerous are documents that dictate the manumission of enslaved people. One early estate appraisal provides for the emancipation of several enslaved individuals who are described as “yellow,” a term denoting a mixed-race person, including a woman named Nancy and her youngest son whose freedom is guaranteed after his 25th birthday. The document also includes other enslaved people not described as mixed race for whom emancipation is not provided. A similar document from 1826 Virginia provides for the emancipation of Sally, an 18-year-old woman who is described as being “of a very light complexion, with blue eyes, and light hair.” Her enslaver cites her “faithful service” and “considerations of humanity” as the reasons for her liberation and dictates that she seek the aid of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, who were vocal anti-slavery advocates. Although specifics of these relationships are not known in this case, children born as a result of sexual abuse of enslaved women by enslavers are well-documented.

A later deed of manumission provided for the emancipation of an enslaved man named Allen in Bourbon County, Kentucky on Independence Day 1850. Citing the “valuable services” provided by Allen, the document was produced in early 1847, but does not grant him full freedom until three years later. The irony of granting an enslaved person freedom on a day celebrating national independence shines a bright light on the hypocrisy of slavery in the United States.

The collection’s war date materials document both the experiences of African Americans, enslaved and free, and the attitudes toward slavery of the time. Of particular note is a document

acknowledging the hire of an enslaved man named John to work for “The Confederate States” as a wagoner for three months at a cost of \$46.50, most likely to be paid to John’s enslaver. An 1861 arrest report from Decatur County, Georgia details the indictment of Robert Donally for “furnishing a slave with spiritous liquor.” Georgia law forbade enslaved people from buying, selling, or receiving beer or liquor and it was illegal for retailers to sell alcohol to people in bondage. Donally was fined \$100 for the offense, but it is unknown how the enslaved person fared.



Arrest warrant for Robert Donally, Georgia, April 25, 1861.

Two post war documents from Kentucky detail the purchase of basic needs items for formerly enslaved people by Bourbon County. Billed to the county Treasurer George W. Williams, the items, which included a bed, bed sheet, and sack, were paid for through a “Negro Fund” established by the state in 1866 to provide assistance to newly emancipated people, many of whom found themselves destitute. The law also subsidized the creation of schools for African Americans, but none were established before the fund was dismantled in 1871.

To learn more about the collection or to make a research appointment, contact the [Heritage Room](#).

CIVIL WAR-ERA LETTERS TO 49ER ACQUIRED IN REDLANDS

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine recently acquired a collection of Civil War letters in Redlands. Consisting of letters written to California residents Harriett and Lysander Sackett between 1856 and 1864, the archive provides interesting content from the home front in the antebellum and Civil War eras.

Harriett “Hattie” and Lysander A. Sackett moved west from Ohio not long after their marriage in July of 1856, arriving in Moores Flat, California. Hattie Colton was a native of Ohio and Lysander was born in Connecticut. The pair likely

met in Nelson, Ohio where Lysander served as a school teacher at Nelson Academy in the 1840s.

Lysander was familiar with California prior to his marriage. Like many men of his generation, he first moved west in 1849 during the California Gold Rush, arriving in Nevada County, which was a major mining center of the era. Lysander was eventually joined by his twin brother, Augustus, and the pair went into business together, operating a saw mill near the mining and lumber town of Snow Tent, CA. The business was lost to creditors in 1853 and Lysander remained in Nevada County, serving as a Justice of the Peace until he returned to Hattie in Ohio in 1856.

The newlyweds moved to California after their marriage, arriving in Moores Flat, Nevada County, where Lysander had a home. Two of their four daughters were born there between 1860 and 1865. Operating a boarding house for travelers in Snow Tent, the couple had a good life in California until their home and business were lost in a fire in 1866. They moved to Iowa the following year where they remained until 1884 when they moved west once again, arriving in Oregon. It was there that Hattie passed away in 1899 and Lysander in 1908. They are buried in Portland, Oregon.

How the letters made their way to Redlands is unknown to Shrine staff, but we are fortunate they did. Touching on family matters, political issues, business, race, and the war, the Sackett archive demonstrates the effects of the war across the country.

If you are looking for a home for your family treasures, contact the Heritage Room, (909)798-7632 or heritage@akspl.org.



Did You Know?

Did you know that the Lincoln Memorial Shrine has nearly five dozen items signed by Abraham Lincoln? From an 1846 legal document, through his time as a member of the House of Representatives, to letters written less than a month before his death, the Shrine's collection of Lincoln materials provides a wide-ranging representation of his life's work. Acquired over the years through donations and acquisitions, the collection has grown significantly over the past six years thanks to the Watchorn Lincoln Dinner Sponsorship Fund, which has made possible the purchase of six documents since its inception in 2017.

To learn more about the sponsorship fund acquisitions, visit Collections at www.lincolnshrine.org.

2025 LINCOLN DINNER SPEAKER

The Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association is excited to announce Jonathan White, PhD of Christopher Newport University as the 2025 Watchorn Lincoln Dinner speaker. Professor White is the author of 17 books that focus on a variety of topics, including the Civil War.

The Lincoln Dinner will take place at University of Redlands on Wednesday, February 12. Look for additional details and reservation information in January, 2025.

SHRINE'S CANNON FIRED IN AUGUST

The third anniversary of the Shrine's cannon was celebrated with a special artillery demonstration on August 10th in Smiley Park.

The presentation by the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery proved to be popular once again this year with nearly 150 people in attendance. The program was rounded out with music by the Camp Carleton Band and an appearance by Abraham Lincoln presenter Robert Broski.





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