

The Grand Review of 2011

Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance Newsletter

June 2011 - Vol 2, Issue 2

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Dear Friend,

Welcome to the June 2011 edition of the Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance (known as LATCRA or "The Alliance") Newsletter, ***The Grand Review of 2011.***

We are excited about the activities we have already held this Civil War Sesquicentennial year as we continue to work towards the November 2011 re-enactment of Lincoln's Grand Review of 1861 at Bailey's Crossroads.



U.S. Army Brass Quintet performing during dedication

We have included some photographs from the [February Symposium](#) that were taken by photographer Bruce Guthrie.

If you missed our previous newsletters, you can read them by going to [this page of our website](#) and selecting the newsletter you wish to read.

The Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance is totally dependent on your generous support. Please help us do our small part to preserve our history for future generations by donating as much as you can. Information about making donations can be found at our website, <http://latcra.org/textpages/cause.htm>.

We encourage you to visit our frequently updated website, www.latcra.org for additional information about our organization.

Maria Elena Schacknies
President

Exciting Events Planned

All the years of planning and hard work will culminate during the weekend of November 11 - 12, 2011 with our celebration of the Sesquicentennial of President Lincoln's review of the troops which took place on November 20, 1861. We've included a list of events and descriptions below:

Upcoming Events

"At the Crossroads of History: Baileys Through the Centuries," NOVA Community College Conference, November 11, 2011, 8:30a.m. - 3:30p.m.

"Grand Concert featuring music of the Civil War," Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at NOVA Alexandria Campus, November 11, 2011, 7p.m. - 9p.m.

"Period Grand Civil War Ball," Hilton Hotel Mark Center, November 11, 2011, 10p.m. - 12midnight

"Re-enactment Parade," Staging at NOVA Alexandria Campus, November 12, 2001, 9a.m. - 12p.m.

First, on Friday, November 11, during the day, a symposium, "At the Crossroads of History: Baileys through the Centuries," will be held at Northern Virginia Community College's (NOVA's) Alexandria campus on the past, present and future of Bailey's Crossroads. As Dr. Jean H. Braden, Assistant Dean, Division of Liberal Arts, has indicated, the symposium expects to present papers, panels and presentations on the native population, the Quakers, Barnum and Bailey Circus, the history of education in Northern Virginia, Abraham Lincoln and his relationship with Northern Virginia, fortifications of Washington, African-Americans in Northern Virginia, the influx of immigrant populations and the redevelopment of the region. LATCRA appreciates the efforts of Dr. Braden, Dr. Jimmie McClellan, Dean of the Division of Liberal Arts and Dr. Wendy Matthews, Director of the NOVA Alexandria Campus Band

Later that evening, from 7p.m. to 9p.m., NOVA's Alexandria Campus Band will offer a special concert. Dr. Wendy Matthew will lead the Alexandria Campus Band, the Mount Vernon Swing Band and the Arlington Children's Chorus in a concert at the Schlesinger Center for the Performing Arts featuring music that was composed for the regimental bands of the Civil War.

After the concert, from 10p.m. to midnight, there will be a Period Grand Ball at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel at 5500 Seminary Road, Alexandria, for re-enactors and participants. If you are interested in attending this event, please make your reservations at www.latcra.org. Check [below](#) for costs and for additional hotel information. LATCRA has signed a contract with the hotel to host the out-of-town guests during the weekend of November 11 - 12 and to hold the Period Grand Ball there.

On Saturday, November 12, between 9a.m. and 12p.m., LATCRA will hold a re-enactment of Lincoln's Grand Review of Union troops at Bailey's Crossroads. This review was the largest formal military review in American history. Thousands watched the parade of 70,000 troops under the leadership of General George B. McClellan.

Our review will include approximately 5,000 participants including members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Virginia National Guard, patriotic organizations, service organizations and others divided into five marching divisions. Each division will be headed by a ceremonial detachment and marching band representing each of the five uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard). We will be using the NOVA Alexandria Campus as the "staging" ground for the parade.

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Important registration and hotel information

Registration forms for Civil War re-enactors and others who would like to participate in the parade are now available! Please visit the re-enactors page at www.latcra.org for more information.

The official hotel is the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA 22311. Reservations must be made no later than October 1, 2011 to obtain the discounted price for a room of \$100, including tax. The reservation number is 1-877-783-8258.

The conference and concert at NOVA and the parade are free to all participants, but reservations for the Period Grand Ball cost \$26.25 per person with payment required by September 15, 2011. Check at www.latcra.org for reservation and payment details. Payment can be made through PayPal or credit cards.

For additional information contact Maria Elena Schacknies at meschacknies@latcra.org or 703-820-1904.

Successful 2011 Allance Sponsored Events

Earlier this year LATCRA sponsored and presented two events that are important to the Sesquicentennial Commemoration.

More than 180 enthusiastic attendees gathered at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, DC, on February 11, 2011, to participate in a successful symposium that commemorated the Washington Peace Conference of February 1861. LATCRA, co-sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and the endorsement of The Lincoln Forum, and in partnership with the Willard InterContinental Hotel, sponsored the symposium that was held at the very same site where the Peace Commissioners met 150 years ago.

This Sesquicentennial event, "The Peace Conference at 150: A Call to Compromise," examined the issues, intrigues and the opportunities lost in a first ever effort to re-examine and reinterpret the conference that almost saved the Union.

You can view a synopsis of the event through a two-minute video at:

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/house-divided/2011/02/video_remembering_the_civil_wa.html.

We especially thank all the speakers who did a superb job of bringing history to life. Stephen Lang gave an awesome performance as Mr. Lincoln delivering his First Inaugural Address at the luncheon. Kim Holien was outstanding as master of ceremonies. Special thanks to Harold Holzer who not only spoke at the symposium but was instrumental in making the symposium possible through his tireless efforts and guidance. We gratefully thank James Veil, Steele Stevenson and Barbara Bahny of the Willard InterContinental Hotel for their warm hospitality and fabulous support.



María Elena Schacknies, James I. Robertson, Jr., Oliver T. Carr, Jr., and Harold Holzer unveil the plaque during its dedication

After lunch, conference participants met outside for the dedication of a 150th anniversary commemorative plaque. During the dedication, attendees, some dressed in authentic 19th century costumes, and bystanders enjoyed music played by the U.S. Army Brass Quintet. At the left you can see the Plaque as it was unveiled at the dedication.

The previous week, on February 5, a free concert was held at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church's Meletis Charuhas Community Center in Falls Church, Virginia. Elizabeth Smith Brownstein, a noted pianist, and violinist Sargeant Major Laura Knudson presented a musical performance, "Lincoln's Life in Music." Ignoring the cold, rainy February day, 65 people attended the

concert and were transported into the past while learning about Mr. Lincoln's broad taste in music through an engaging and delightful program.

We are most grateful to the Parish Council of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church for their generous contribution of donating their beautiful community center for the performance. We also appreciate the work done in preparation for the concert by Mr. Roberto Medina-Valdez and his staff.

Our heartfelt thanks to the performers who donated their time and special musical talents for an enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

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Catching up on Other LATCRA News

On March 5, 2011, we participated in the 150th Anniversary of President Lincoln's First Inauguration, a event that was organized by the Lincoln Group of DC, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, the Lincoln Archives Digital Project, the Willard InterContinental Hotel and the Lincoln Forum.

The first part of the commemoration was held at the Auditorium of the U.S. Capitol where renowned actor Sam Waterston delivered Lincoln's First Inauguration Address.

Following the opening event a banquet was held at the Willard InterContinental Hotel's Ballroom where Ronald C. White, Jr., the author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography* (2009) and other books about Lincoln, was the keynote speaker.

In other news, our partner, the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation (BCRC), submitted an application that was approved to the Virginia Sesquicentennial Civil War Commission to host the Virginia HistoryMobile for two days (November 11 - 12) which will coincide with the events surrounding the re-enactment of the Grand Review. The HistoryMobile will be an interactive and immersive experience that will help visitors better understand the challenges faced during the Civil War by soldiers, civilians, and slaves, and will present the losses, gains, and legacies of the Civil War in Virginia. You can read about the HistoryMobile at http://virginiacivilwar.org/historymobile_news.php.



Members of the Victorian Society

At the invitation of Mr. Kurt Waters, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) high school social studies specialist, Kim Holien, Gretchen Anderson (LATCRA's School Coordinator Volunteer) and María Elena Schacknies met on April 13 with the chairs of the FCPS social studies departments. We introduced our efforts and asked their support in helping to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Grand Review of the Troops. Response from the participants was positive, and we are hopeful that high school students will be able to assist with the parade, become involved in special projects of their

choosing, participate in the parade and be inspired to learn more about the history of their communities. A meeting is planned for August 31 with elementary school teacher specialists.

We have signed a contract with the Alexandria Mark Center Hilton Hotel, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA, to host the out-of-town guests during the weekend of November 11 - 12, and to hold a Grand Ball on November 12 following the morning re-enactment.

In our previous newsletter (January 2011) we talked about the educational and promotional video that was prepared covering LATCRA's history and plans and its association with the Bailey's Crossroads area and was funded by BCRC. The video was prepared by Kramer Communications, an Emmy award winning company. Since early this year the video has been used for presentations, distributed to key organizations and has been sent to potential business donors. You can see it on our website at www.latcra.org and on the FairfaxCounty150's Channel.

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Civil War Photographic Exhibition at Willard InterContinental Hotel



FForStephen Lang and
Lincoln Replica

For our readers who live in the Washington, DC, area and for others who will be traveling here in June and July, consider stopping at the Willard InterContinental Hotel's Peacock Alley area to view a three-dimensional photographic exhibition of Civil War images. The exhibit is being presented by the Civil War Trust and the Hotel and is part of a year long commemoration of Civil War-related events. The free display is open to the public every day, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., June 24 - July 15, 2011.

The exhibition has been developed in association with the Center for Civil War Photography and HISTORY Television and will include a multimedia documentary-style program focusing on the Civil War's first battle, Fort Sumter. From secession to civil war, from Abraham Lincoln to Jefferson Davis, and from Fort Sumter to Bull Run, you will have the opportunity to see the Civil War in depth and how the art of photojournalism was born.

In addition, on June 24 at 2:30 p.m., a free-admission presentation, *Civil War Washington in Pictures*, will take place in the hotel's Peacock Lounge. Historian Garry Adelman, the author, co-author or editor of more than 30 books and articles concerning the Civil War, will provide a unique glimpse into Civil War Washington from 1861 to 1865.

The Willard was a center for political and social life in Washington, D.C., throughout the Civil War. Located close to the White House, the six-story building, upon which the New Willard Hotel was built in 1901, was at the crossroads of society and politics.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds.

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Transportation Committee Work Continues

In our last newsletter we spoke about the formation of the Transportation Committee last December to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to handle the coordination that will be necessary to effect the road closures on November 12.

Since then the committee has been working hard. Robin Antonucci and Larry Sefcik of Wells and Associates are developing on a *pro bono* basis the road closure map that is a critical item of the VDOT road closure application. To be able to close the roads LATCRA must meet all the requirements from the Fairfax Police Permits Department as well as the requirements from the City of Alexandria and Arlington County Police Departments. Businesses and homeowners' associations affected by the planned road closures must be notified. The route that has been selected for the parade starts at NOVA's Alexandria Campus, Dawes Street, turns left onto Leesburg Pike, loops around at S. Jefferson Street and returns back to the staging area starting point.

We at LATCRA especially appreciate VDOT's support and responsiveness as we work together on the important road closure project for the success of the Grand Review in November.

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Bailey's Cross Roads in 1861

Bailey's Cross Roads in 1861 was a mixed-use agricultural area of pastureland, orchards and crops. The soil had been played out in the 18th and early 19th centuries by tobacco farming, forcing most native Virginia farm families to sell their properties to Northern families most of whom were moving down from New York.

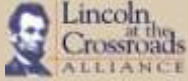
This rural region was crisscrossed by two major all-weather crushed stone roads known as "pikes." These were the Alexandria-Leesburg Turnpike running from the old port town of Alexandria northwest to Leesburg and eventually to Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley. It was crossed by a local Columbia Pike running from the base of today's 14th Street Bridge westward to intersect the Little River Turnpike at the village of Annandale in central Fairfax County. All of these roads had as the basis for their location and construction the purpose of rapidly moving grain from the Loudoun and Shenandoah valleys to the ports of Georgetown, Washington and Alexandria.

Following their victory at the battle of 1st Manassas (Bull Run), the Confederate forces moved into Northern Virginia building a fort on top of Munson's Hill astride Route 7 just west of Bailey's Cross Roads. Light skirmishes occurred throughout the Bailey's Cross Roads area. The Confederate flag at the top of Munson's Hill could be seen from the White House some six miles away.

Then, early in October 1861, the Confederates vacated Northern Virginia and retired back to Centreville. Following the Confederate evacuation, President Lincoln had General McClellan hold a Grand Review at Bailey's Cross Roads on November 20, 1861. This review was held along Route 7, basically from the NOVA Alexandria campus westward to Culmore Shopping Center on approximately 200 acres of ground. The Grand Review of 70,000 soldiers took 10 hours to complete and was viewed by 30,000 civilian spectators who had journeyed out from Washington, DC, and other areas. The sight was so inspiring that the poet, Julia Ward Howe, returned to Willard's Hotel that evening and awoke to write the immortal "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*."

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**"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives
I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."
–Abraham Lincoln**

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