

1809

1909

“ Savior of this Nation.”

“ With malice toward none, with Charity for all.”



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

George H. Thomas Post No. 13, Grand Army of the Republic.

CINCINNATI, OHIO,

BY

COMRADE THEO. F. BROWN.

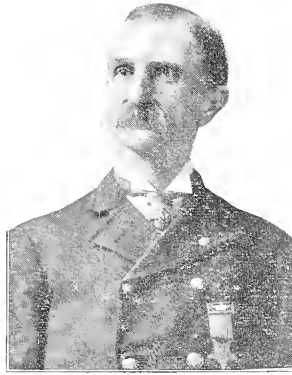
FEBRUARY 8, 1909.

COMPLIMENTS

LOUIS MUND, COMMANDER,

George H. Thomas Post, No. 13, Grand Army of the Republic,

CINCINNATI, OHIO.



THEO. F. BROWN.

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,
Grand Army of the Republic.

... OFFICE OF ...
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

HARRIMAN, TENN., Feb. 4, 1909.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Comrade Theo. F. Brown, of Mission Ridge Post, No. 45, is hereby detailed to represent the DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE at the Centennial Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln, to be observed at Hodgenville, Ky., February 12, 1909.

(Signed) S. W. TINDELL,
Department Commander.

*Commander, Comrades and Ladies of Woman's Relief Corps, of
George H. Thomas Post, No. 13, Department of Ohio,
Grand Army of the Republic :*

At request of your commander I meet with you to-night and speak to you on the life of one of the greatest Presidents of this Nation. When I look around the Post Room I see many veterans who served in that old Union Army, and was the young manhood of this country, and when I take another look I see ladies who were young American womanhood. Some of those present were your wives, sweethearts and sisters who bade you an affectionate farewell and wished you a safe return.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was born on February 12, 1809, one hundred years ago, in Hardin County, now Larue County, in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, three miles east of Hodgenville. His father's name was Thomas Lincoln: his mother's name was Nancy Hanks Lincoln. His parents were not blessed with wealth, but were blessed with sense of human kindness, and he had an Angel mother, who believed in Almighty God, and when her heart was throbbing with sorrow she would take it to the Lord in prayer, when she would be answered. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother, died when he was in his tenth year. His father married some two years after her death, to Mrs. Sarah Bush, a Christian Kentucky woman. When she came to live with them, Abraham and his sister were delighted: she did everything a Christian mother could do, and encouraged "Abe," as she called him, to read and learn; to make something out of himself,

When Abraham Lincoln's mother died it was very discouraging to him: it seemed at times as though his future was blasted. His step-mother took upon herself with a great Christian heart to advise and teach Abraham everything to help the impression that was made upon him by his own mother. Abe never forgot the advice of his mother and his step-mother, and throughout his life, from boyhood to manhood, and when he became President of this great Nation, his every act in public services as a war President, was tinged with human kindness. He loved the common people of his country, for they were with him and he was with them, as President from 1861 to 1865, and when he made his first call for seventy-five thousand volunteers in April, 1861, how quickly they responded, and the next call, for three hundred thousand, how quickly it was filled, and that grand old song, "We are coming, Father Abraham, Three Hundred Thousand More," was taken up as if by magic, and resounded throughout the

country, and re-echoed back, "We are coming, Six Hundred Thousand More." That song became a household word.

The name of Abraham Lincoln was inspiring; he had the patience of a Job, and how it was tested during those dark days of war: his great heart of kindness expanded within him, and every act at the Capitol, as President, or on the battle-field, looking after the soldiers wounded or sick, only showed that it was not only the dictates of his own conscience, but of One higher than Human. He was criticised and condemned by individual statesmen of high standing in this Nation, by the Clergy, and by the Press. At a prominent conference held in 1862, with some noted Clergymen, they insisted upon his issuing a proclamation to free all the slaves and end the war, to which he refused, and told them that the time had not yet come, and to go back to their people and tell them he would save the Union with slavery, or part of slavery, and when that failed he would save the Union without slavery. He said to them, "Don't spare me;" he awaited the time to come; many are the hours and days and months and long nights he worked and prayed, and God answered that prayer, "Fear not, I will be with you until the end."

Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest Presidents this Nation ever had. "Face to Face" were Lincoln and Washington: in history they stand, to be remembered by future generations. I would inscribe above the name of Washington, "Father of his Country," "First in War and First in Peace." Above that of Lincoln, I would inscribe, "Savior of this Nation," "With Malice toward None, With Charity for All."

Comrades, what an example Lincoln has left us; let it be our highest ambition from now on until we answer the last roll-call to our "Great Commander," to point with pride to the men, yes, the young men, to look upon and search history's pages of the life of Abraham Lincoln, and to be honest, firm, loyal and create a heart of human kindness, love your fathers and mothers.

Abraham Lincoln filled that measure, which was spoken of from the Book of books, "The Bible," "An honest man is the noblest work of God."