

MARY CHESEBRO LEE

DETACHED TENT #23

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Lincoln's draped home in Springfield

LINCOLN'S FUNERAL

President Lincoln's body and that of his son, Willie, left Washington, D.C. just 6 days after his death on April 15. Over 12 days, the funeral car traveled through 160 communities and over 1,600 miles before bringing their bodies back home to Springfield, Illinois on May 3. A procession brought the President's body from the train station to the Old State Capitol where it laid in state overnight. On the following day, May 4, Lincoln was brought to Oak Ridge Cemetery where he was interred in the receiving vault after a ceremony and cannon salute.

TENT 23 SISTERS PARTICIPATE IN LINCOLN FUNERAL RE-ENACTMENT

Several of our Sisters attended the Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment in Springfield, Illinois on May 1-3, but two, Charlene Staples and Susan Fallon, actually participated in the events as re-enactors. Here they are shown in the procession that brought Lincoln's hearse from the train station to the Old State Capitol the day before the funeral in the cemetery. They describe the experience in their own words:

"It's hard to put into words, the feeling that prevailed in my thoughts most was the honor I felt being a part of it all. One of the major memories I hope I never forget was when the commander of the USS Abraham Lincoln walked up to us, shook our hands (my husband Brian and friend Vivian Murphy) and said thank you for keeping history alive. For that is what we try to do. By the way bag pipers were playing in the background as he did that."

~Charlene Staples

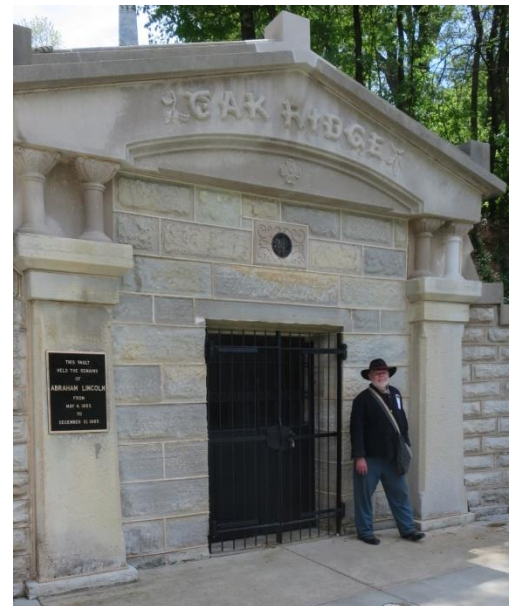
"It was an honor to walk both Saturday and Sunday for the Lincoln Funeral. Sunday was a three hour walk. It was very slow and solemn and 86 degrees out. It was rewarding to walk through the gates of the Cemetery. I got chills from the experience."

~Susan Fallon



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at the
Delavan Community Centre at
6:30pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2015



(clockwise from top left) Pam J., Judy, Pat, Pam W., and Zoe in downtown Springfield; the replica hearse during the procession from the train station to the Old State Capitol; Pat, Pam W., Judy, and Zoe in front of the Old State Capitol; replica of Lincoln's casket; the receiving vault that originally held Lincoln's body (renovated for the event); the hearse as it prepares to make the turn through the arch into Oak Ridge Cemetery; soldiers and Civil War era band in the procession. For more information and photos of the events, visit https://www.facebook.com/lincolnfuneral2015/photos_stream



FUNERAL TRAIN DINNER

On Saturday evening, Sisters Pam Wanasek, Judy Manning, Zoe Woelky, Pat Blackmer, and Pam Johnson, along with Dan Richardson, Brad Johnson and Sarah Meyers, from a Tent in Georgia, and her husband Dave, enjoyed dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel before touring the funeral car. David Kloke, a master mechanic and builder of the replica funeral car and Leviathon locomotive that pulled it, was present and spoke briefly. Although originally the Leviathon was supposed to take part in the Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment, only the funeral car, named The United States, was present. On display were beautiful authentic Civil War era dresses & accessories.



The Lakes Region Historical Society will present the dresses and accessories that were displayed at the Funeral Train Dinner in an exhibit titled "Ladies Attire of the Civil War: A Nation Mourns". They will be on display at The Meeting House, 977 Main Street, Antioch, Illinois 60002, Thursday through Sunday from July 16 through September 6 from 11:00am – 4:00pm. Admission is \$7.00, parking is free. Call 847-395-4912 or visit lrhs@sbcglobal.net for more information.