LINDCOLN IN OUR STARLIGHT

By

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This may be given under order of business, "Good of the Order", or immediately after the close of the chapter.

If given after the regular meeting, the Bible will be removed from the altar so the Log Cabin may be placed there. A rail fence constructed from small rails -- pieces of branches of trees, cut in uniform lengths, will be built around it. You may use a Log Cabin syrup can for the cabin, or it may be made out of paper or wooden box; or someone in your town may have a miniature log cabin which you can borrow. The size of the yard and the fence to be constructed will depend on the size of the cabin you use.

If you do not care to use the altar for the log cabin scene it may be constructed on the Secretary's desk, or on a table provided.

The WORTHY MATRON arises and says:

Sisters and brothers: - We shall devote a short portion of time to the honor and memory of the sixteenth president of the United States of America.

At this period in our history, when the newspapers are filled with articles about grafters, murderers, and the depraved type of manhood which seems to have no respect for any law save the lawlessness of its own selfish disregard for the lives and property rights of others, it must do us good to turn our thoughts away - to the contemplation of a grand, good man. To a man who achieved success and enduring honor because he fulfilled the First, Great Commandment that he - "Love his neighbor as himself."

It mattered not to him, whether that neighbor be black or white, rich or poor, bond or free, he fulfilled the law of love which says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

I wish to say in my official capacity as Worthy Matron of this chapter that I am glad to have this opportunity to honor Abraham Lincoln, because he is the type of manhood which the great Masonic Fraternity and the noble Order of the Eastern Star seek to honor and to emulate. He is my idea of a true gentleman.

She turns towards the Worthy Patron and addresses him.

Worthy Patron, what can you give as a tribute from one gentleman to another?

The WORTHY PATRON arises when addressed by the Worthy Matron (who is seated as soon as he has addressed her) and responds as follows:

Worthy Matron, sisters, and brothers: One definition of a gentleman has been given as follows:
"A man who is clean both inside and outside; who neither looks up to the rich nor down to the poor; who can lose without squealing and win without bragging; who is considerate of women, children, and old people. Who is too brave to lie, too generous to cheat, and who takes his share of the world and lets other people have theirs."

Such a gentleman, I consider Abraham Lincoln, and as a representative member of the Masonic Fraternity, and in my official capacity as Worthy Patron of _______ Chapter, I am glad to have this opportunity of paying tribute to Lincoln - the perfect gentleman. (He is seated.)

The WORTHY MATRON then addresses the Secretary.

Sister Secretary, will you read the brief biography?

The SECRETARY arises, responds to the Worthy Matron, and reads the following:

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States, was born in Harding County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809.

In the year 1816 his parents crossed the Ohio River and moved to Spencer County, Indiana, near the present village of Gentryville. Two years after taking up their residence there, the mother of the future president died; but in 1819 his father married Mrs. Sarah Johnson, the stepmother to whose influence he was very largely indebted for the formation of his youthful character.

In 1830, Abraham Lincoln being 21 years of age, the family moved to Illinois, settling on a small farm near Decatur.

In 1831 he made a trip to New Orleans on a flatboat built by himself and two relatives.

The sight of the slaves in that city, chained, flogged, and otherwise maltreated, made a deep impression on his mind and was no doubt the origin of the firm antislavery convictions that controlled his future life.

Returning from his Mississippi voyage, Lincoln settled at New Salem, a village on the Sangamon River, where he successively served as a clerk in a store, village postmaster, and surveyor until the year 1834 when he was elected as a member of the state legislature. He served in this capacity until 1842, when he declined further renomination.

During this period he diligently applied himself to the study of law, and in 1837, being then 28 years of age, he was admitted to the bar. He also became an influential leader of the Whig party; and when the state capital was moved from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839 he took up his residence in that city.

In 1846, Lincoln was elected to Congress; and in 1854, against his wish, he was again elected to the legislature.
In the National Republican Convention in 1856, his name was presented by the Illinois delegation for the Vice-presidency, but he received 110 votes against 259 for William L. Dayton.

In 1858 occurred the famous campaign between Lincoln and Douglas for the United States Senate. Seven public debates took place between the two candidates, in all of which Lincoln sustained himself with such ability and skill that his party had a majority of over 4,000 on the popular vote, but the legislative districts of the state were so arranged that Douglas had a small majority in the legislature and was reelected to the Senate. Lincoln's speeches in the canvass, however, gave him a national reputation; and in 1860, at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, he received the nomination for President.

The election was held in November and Abraham Lincoln was elected.

He was re-elected in 1864, but before he had fairly begun to study the many problems presented to him by the overthrow of the rebellion, he was shot by J. Wilkes Booth, in a Washington theatre, April 14, and died April 15, 1865. (She is seated.)

The WORTHY MATRON addresses the Treasurer.

Sister Treasurer, why should we treasure the name and memory of Lincoln?

The TREASURER arises, faces the Worthy Matron and answers:

Because he gave to his country — during the four years of dreadful strife - loyal, unswerving, unselfish service - service which money cannot buy and which was of inestimable value to his country. It was the nature and character of the man himself which caused him to give of himself so freely, and to pay so dearly, in the service of his country. Because he gave so freely, we treasure him greatly, and we give to him gladly this period of time. (Sits.)

The WORTHY MATRON calls the Marshal and says:

Sister Marshal, as Abraham Lincoln was always ready to assist those who called upon him for aid, so shall you be, ever ready.

The Marshal bows to the Worthy Matron and turns to face West. She remains standing in front of her chair.

The ASSOCIATE MATRON then arises and says:

Sisters and brothers, "Great oaks from little acorns grow". So — in a tiny log cabin began the growth of a young American boy who grew and developed into such greatness of mind and grandeur of character, that his home, keeping pace with his mental and spiritual development, changed gradually from a log cabin to the palatial home of the President of the United States.

Dear to the heart of every true American is the small log cabin which we associate with the boyhood of Lincoln. (She reaches for it and holds it in both hands before her. It has been in the Associate Matron's chair by her side, or has been on the floor near her chair.) Dear
because, in this country, to us, it stands as a typical representation of the type of pure democracy upon which our government was founded.

It has given hope and encouragement to those in humble stations, and it has stood as an enduring challenge to those who have been born and reared in affluence.

Sister Marshal, bear this carefully to the altar and place it squarely there, with our hope that it may continue to mean as much to the future generations as it has to us in the present, and to those in the past.

Marshal leaves her station and goes to in front of Associate Matron in the West. The Associate Matron gives the log cabin to the Marshal who takes it in both hands, turns towards the East and proceeds to behind Esther's station, turns south to side and then east on south side of the altar. Music while Marshal is carrying the cabin, and at all other irr.es when officers are walking.

As soon as the Marshal turns from the Associate Matron to go to the altar, the ASSOCIATE PATRON and CONDUCTRESSES arise. They each carry four miniature rails which are to be used in building a fence around the cabin. The sticks may be split like rails, or they may be notched near the ends so they will remain in place when the fence is built. The rails have been by the side of the chairs of the Associate Patron and the Conductresses.

They walk directly from their stations to the altar, arriving about the same time as the Marshal. The Associate Patron stands on the West; the Marshal, on the East; the Conductress, on the South; and the Associate Conductress, on the North.

As soon as the LOG CABIN is placed, the ASSOCIATE PATRON speaks:

Sister Marshal, we have brought some rails with which to build a fence around the cabin. Let us build it correctly, so it may be a symbol of the future, that the Truth and the Realities of the past, and the enduring Principles which governed Lincoln still exist, in the present, to protect the American home and to govern the American people.

While he is speaking each gives the Marshal a rail, so each of the four at the altar will have three sticks or rails.

The ASSOCIATE PATRON places the first rail on the West, and as he does he says: This rail stands for "Charity for all".

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS, places first rail on the North and says: And this for "Malice towards none".

CONDUCTRESS places her first rail and says: This stands for the honesty of "Honest Abe".

The MARSHAL, placing first rail on East says: And this stout rail for a brave boy's love for, and appreciation of, his Mother.  

ASSOCIATE PATRON (second rail): "For firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right,"


ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS (placing second rail): "For a desire to be true citizens of our great country and to show love for her by our works."

CONDUCTRESS (second): "For God hath made of one blood all nations of men, and we are all His children, brethren, and sisters."

MARSHAL (placing her second): And this for a desire to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

ASSOCIATE PATRON (placing third rail): In honor of the first typical American.

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS (third rail): The first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness of this republic.

CONDUCTRESS (third rail): Friend of the slaves, true patriot, noble martyr, and national hero, to honor him we build.

MARSHAL (third rail): And because of him, we continue to build our high ideals and our hopes for the future.

The four return to their positions and are seated. As they start to leave the altar the WARDER starts from her station to the altar. She places a small flag in or on the chimney of the cabin and says:

Lincoln saved for us our flag -- this flag in which three of the colors of our Order shine in glorious splendor when it is unfurled to the breeze.

I place it here with the hope that every home in our land, humble or grand, may always dwell in everlasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

She turns and returns to her station. As soon as she has finished speaking and leaves the altar, the STAR POINTS arise simultaneously and face the altar.

ADAH speaks first:
The sword of Adah's station has its counterpoise in the axe of Lincoln, "The rail splitter".

He had one resolve to send the keen axe to the root of wrong.

Adah gave her life for her father's honor. He gave his for his fatherland.

May the blue in our flag, whenever we see it waving, remind us of the FIDELITY which governed a young maiden, and a strong, brave man. (All remains standing until all have spoken.)

RUTH reads from a paper she holds in her hand.

Being very strong and vigorous, the boy Abraham" was very useful in assisting his father to clear the small farm on which they had settled, and he also occasionally hired himself out to neighboring farmers.
She speaks:

As representative of the humble gleaner, Ruth, I speak in honor of him who also worked in the fields and gathered the golden grain.

He, too, loved a foster mother; for he said, "All that lam, I owe to my Mother".

May his memory and example ever shed an influence, as bright as the yellow rays from the stars and moon, which on a bright, clear night must have bathed the humble cabin in a glorious, golden, mellow light.

ESTHER speaks:

Because, like Esther, he too, risked his life to save an oppressed race, his name lives in history.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend."

MARTHA speaks: (She holds in her hand some strips, or bits, of green paper. Something which represents grass.)

Green must have been the grass which grew around the cabin where Lincoln played with his sister. The Spirit of Faith was there too, just as it was in the home of Martha, sister of Lazarus.

As a symbol of the fraternal love which remained alive in our hearts - the hearts of his sisters and brothers I sow this green in the yard which surrounds the cabin. (She goes to the altar and scatters it gently, speaking as she does.) Trusting that ever green may remain our FAITH in our country, in our national heroes and in our God. (She returns to her station.)

ELECTA then says:

In loving remembrance of another martyr for the right, I, Electa's representative, speak in appreciation of the zeal which has given strength and courage to such as He. As it governed HIM during the dark period of the Civil War, so may it guide us and our country, through and out of this period of stress; and cause us to "love one another", to "despair not of the final triumph of Truth". (She remains standing.)

CHAPLAIN arises and standing in front of her station speaks:

"The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord be merciful unto us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and give us strength and peace, forever. Amen."

ALL:

So may it ever be. (Chaplain and Star Points are then seated.)

MUSIC BEGINS AND ALL OFFICERS arise simultaneously. Each has a flag which has been by her station all evening. If you do not have enough flags for all, and do not wish to buy, you may have long paper streamers of red, white, and blue, and fasten to the end of 24 inch sticks. The Officers will leave
stations and proceed to the altar to positions as given below. They carry
the flags over their right shoulders as they leave their stations.

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**FLAG DRILL.**

(4 Counts to each movement.)

1. All flags on right shoulders.
2. Raise flags and extend forward.
3. Swing right hand in circular movement across front and rest flag on
   left shoulder.
4. Flag held straight in front.
5. Bring flag to the body, holding stick in both hands, to center of
   face - flag being held above the head.
6. Flags swing towards the right - even with the right shoulder.
7. Flags back to center.
8. Flags to left - even with left shoulder.
9. Flags back to center.
10. Face partners.

The partners shall be as follows: Conductress and Worthy Matron; Worthy
    Patron and Associate Conductress; Marshal and Adah; Secretary and Ruth;
    Esther and Warder; Associate Patron and Associate Matron; Martha and
    Chaplain; and Electa and Treasurer.

11. Partners cross flags overhead.
12. Flags back to rest on right shoulder.
13. Flags to front and crossed overhead.
14. Flags to left - to rest on left shoulder.
15. Flags back across front to rest on right shoulder.
16. Face Altar.
17. Outside persons in brackets advance toward the center and form a wheel. Right arms extended. Left arms at sides and the right arms inside touching. (This makes four wheels.)

The following shall form the brackets: -- Conductress, Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, and Associate Conductress; Marshal, Adah, Secretary, and Ruth; Associate Patron, Associate Matron, Esther, and Warder; and Electa, Treasurer, Martha, and Chaplain.

18. Wheels turn slowly to the right. Twice.
19. Wheels turn slowly to the left. Twice.
20. Wheels break formation and return to positions in the square.
21. All turn towards the right and march around the altar twice observing square corners. Marshal leading.
22. Back in place. Again face partners. (Same as before.)
23. Forward march going to the right and left around the square, twice, before stopping in place.
24. Back in position - facing the altar.
25. The Conductresses leading their lines move towards each other until in front of the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron (who shall follow next). Face west in double file and advance west to the east side of the altar; part; back-to-back to the north and south sides of the altar; west to the west side; face each other, come together in the center on west; double file for three steps; then on a diagonal line out of the room.

Lines, led by the Conductresses, will be as follows:

1. Conductress 1. Assoc. Conductress
2. Worthy Matron 2. Worthy Patron
3. Electa 3. Marshal
4. Treasurer 4. Adah
5. Martha 5. Secretary
6. Chaplain 6. Ruth
7. Assoc. Patron 7. Warder

The End
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NOTE: -- After the speaking parts were finished and before the "Flag Drill" begins you may lengthen the program by having all present sing "America", or any other patriotic song, or songs. You may have someone read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, or anything you wish to make it as long as you desire.