

**2009**  
The 200th Anniversary of the Birth of  
**Abraham Lincoln**

The fifes and drums of the Menotomy Minutemen present their 2009 standpiece, *Honors to Abe*, in commemoration of the bicentennial Lincoln's birth. The Civil War was the defining struggle of Lincoln's presidency, even as emancipation was the defining event.

We have, therefore, chosen tunes reflective of the era. Our going-on tune, *We Are Coming Father Abraham*, reflects Lincoln's early call for 300,000 volunteers to help suppress the rebellion. They came -- and were followed by many more.

We are coming, Father Abraham, 300,000 more,  
From Mississippi's winding stream and from New England's shore.  
We leave our plows and workshops, our wives and children dear,  
With hearts too full for utterance, with but a silent tear.  
We dare not look behind us but steadfastly before.  
We are coming, Father Abraham, 300,000 more!

CHORUS:

We are coming, we are coming our Union to restore,  
We are coming, Father Abraham, 300,000 more!

Our standpiece starts with *Tenting Tonight*, written by Walter Kittredge upon receiving his draft notice in 1863. It epitomizes the weary bivouacked soldier, thinking of home, and wishing for peace. The fife solo was arranged by John McDonagh in four part harmony.

This is followed by George Root's *Rally 'Round the Flag* a most stirring battle song.

*Golden Slippers*, though associated with the era, was actually written after the war by an African American musician, James A. Bland, who also wrote *Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny*, and *In the Evening By the Moonlight*.

At the end of the war, Lincoln requested that the band play *Dixie*. He said we had won it in the war, though, of course, it was written by a Northerner, Dan Emmett.

Henry C. Work's *Marching Through Georgia* commemorates Sherman's march through the Southern heartland, while his *Kingdom Coming* is the celebration of the suddenly freed slaves, poking fun at their former masters.

We go off Bruce & Emmett's *Girl I Left Behind Me*, a tune traditionally played when leaving camp.