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And



**National Association of Colored Women's Clubs,  
Inc. & Youth Affiliates (NACWC)**

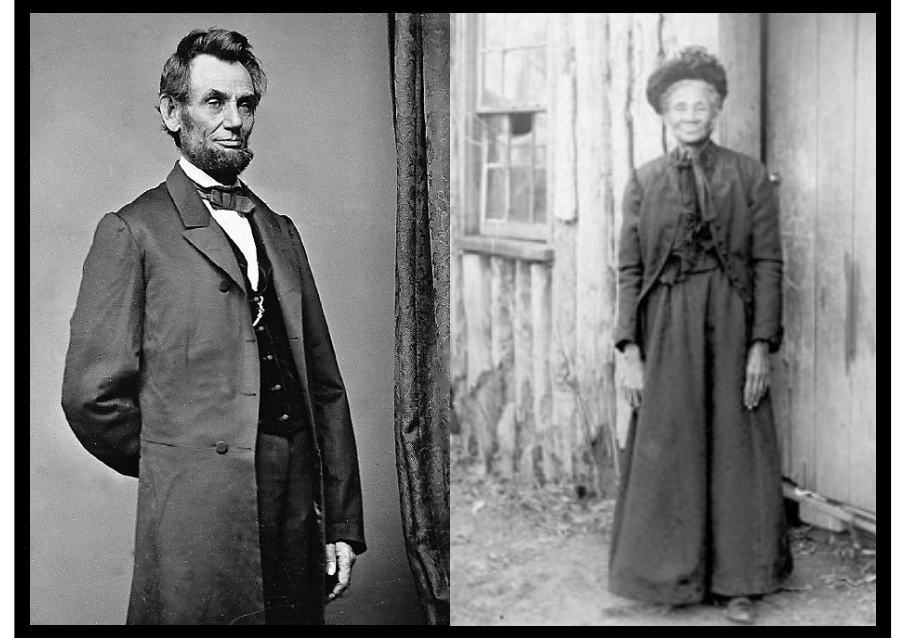
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America's Oldest Women of Color Organization  
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# Lincoln-Thomas Day

**100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary!**



**SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

**SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**FORT STEVENS: 13TH & QUACKENBOS ST., N.W.**

**WASHINGTON, DC**

The initial Lincoln-Thomas Day, established by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs was observed nationally on September 22, 1924, to honor individuals of the Civil War-era who came from very different backgrounds but shared a profound connection to Fort Stevens. Their mutual alliance presented unique challenges for both in balancing necessity with sacrifice; and although historical accounts provide a range of interpretations with respect to some specifics of that alliance, the Federation deemed a President, known as The Great Emancipator, and an ordinary citizen, known as "the owner of Fort Stevens" to be worthy of national recognition.

### **President Abraham Lincoln**

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary proclamation ordering the emancipation of all slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union control by January 1, 1863. No states returned; and the order, which was signed and issued January 1, 1863, became effective, except in locations where the Union had already mostly regained control. Thus, the date of September 22<sup>nd</sup> was forever etched in American history; and more than 150 years after the President issued his Emancipation Proclamation, it is still considered by many to be the most defining act of his presidency. Ft. Stevens was Washington's only defense where President Lincoln directed the Union Army, the only time as Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States personally took charge of the army, and the only time in the history of the U.S. that a sitting President has ever been under fire while in office.

### **Elizabeth Proctor Thomas**

Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor Thomas was born July 11, 1821, in Charles County, Maryland, to Walter and Betty Proctor. The family moved to Washington, D.C. and she was raised in the District in an area called Brighton, now known as Brightwood. During the Civil War, the decision to enlarge Fort Stevens (originally named Fort Massachusetts) displaced Mrs. Thomas and her husband, who owned approximately 11 acres of land, and lived on the site on which Ft. Stevens was built. The house was torn down; however, the cellar was enlarged for a magazine portion of the Fort that is still visible today. It was there in 1864 that the Confederate soldiers fought the famous battle at Ft. Stevens in an effort to take the city for the South. Nevertheless, in spite of being displaced, it has been recounted that Mrs. Thomas helped prepare food and did laundry in support of the Union Troops, as well as helped with the ammunition that was stored in the stone basement of her old home. Each year after the War, members of the Grand Army of the Republic, whom Mrs. Thomas reportedly fought alongside, held their reunions on her porch and about the house, recounting stories of the battle. Known as "Aunt Betty" Mrs. Thomas was a great civic leader and as president of the Elizabeth Thomas Citizens' Association, organized in 1909, she did much to help shape the civic

### **Elizabeth Proctor Thomas continued...**

affairs of the District of Columbia. The renaming of the block of Quackenbos Street (adjacent to Fort Stevens) to Elizabeth P. Thomas Way, in 2012, denotes the immeasurable contributions during and after the Civil War of this ordinary citizen.



**Mrs. Thomas is seated on the right surrounded by Civil War Veterans.**

