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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Pilgrim Church, Cleveland, 1935.



# Pilgrim Church Messenger

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February 13, 1935.

## If Lincoln Came Back

Three score and ten years ago next April, Abraham Lincoln, fell in Ford's Theater at the hands of an assassin. Born 126 years ago, he was 56 years old at the time of his death. Born during the sanguinary struggle of Europe in the Napoleonic wars, he was a small boy in the war of 1812, and the Indian Conflicts at Vincennes and Tippecanoe, not far from his father's home. He was in his sturdy youth when the Mexican war was waged, helped to fight an Indian war in Iowa and became the great leader in the bitter Civil War, and fell when it had come to a conclusion successful for his cause. His life was begun and ended in times of strife and carnage.

America's supreme hero, grows in the estimation of men the world over. A graduate of Oberlin standing near the wailing wall in Jerusalem, spoke to a native officer detailed to keep the peace among the fanatical sects that claimed the right to shed tears and wail at the sacred wall. He asked the officer who spoke good English if he was a Mohammedan. "No," he said. "Are you then one of these various Christians?" "I am not," he said. "Then what is your religion?" he was asked. "I have none," was the reply. "I worship neither Mohammed or Moses or Jesus. But if I were to worship anyone, I would bow the knee to that American, Abraham Lincoln."

The close of the war turned loose four millions of negro slaves in the Southern States, no longer chattels of their white masters, but without definite status before the law, without property, without education, without opportunity. The land upon which they were distributed like wandering sheep had been ravaged by contending armies for four desperate years. They were no longer tenants of the humble cabins they had occupied; no longer entitled to till the little patches of garden furnished by their former masters. To them freedom meant poverty. They had no rights even to bare citizenship, and whatever meager privileges that they had formerly enjoyed from their owners, who had at least the interest in their welfare that a man would have for his cow or horse, had been wiped out by the bloody outcome of battle. They were orphans in a strange land, of which they owned no single acre. That was 70 years ago.



If Lincoln should come today and visit the grand-children of the slaves whose freedom he had decreed in the Emancipation Proclamation, he would find that the years had increased their numbers three-fold. He would find them owning and tilling millions of acres of the best land in America. He would find them enjoying the full privileges of citizenship in two thirds of the 48 United States, and partial protection under the law in all the other States. He would find them going to school from the Primary classes to the University in special schools of high standing for themselves in the former slave States, and in all schools public and private in the free States. He would find them established in impressive numbers in the great cities of the nation occupying positions of influence and political power, and in some instances controlling the political development of the city. He would find them organizing great churches, crowded with worshippers and controlling them without the advice or consent of white men. He would find them owning banks and industrial plants and acquiring billions of dollars of property of every sort under the protection of the flag.

But Lincoln had a broader conception of national welfare than the single item of slavery. In his administration, beset as it was by a terrific war, whose outcome was quite uncertain, there were started great national and civic social movements. Beyond the Mississippi and the Missouri were vast regions occupied by the bison and the wild Indian marked on the geographics as the "great American desert."

The great statesman at the helm of Government was not unmindful of the vast region east of the great mountains and west to the Coast where by the discovery of gold in California and Nevada, the nation had been financially saved.

Lincoln signed bills to assist in settling those territories, providing land grant Colleges for training students in agriculture and mechanics, providing for the homestead of 160 acres, and additional 160 if 10 acres were planted with trees. And the great transcontinental railway from Omaha to Sacramento was charted and started on its way, by the granting of each alternate section of land to the Railway Company and a substantial subsidy besides. If he should return, he would count ten states flourishing in that region because of his far-seeing laws. Lincoln signed laws establishing a protective Tariff to make profitable industries that had been impossible here in the face of European competition, thus creating a great industrial development which the close of the war made possible, resulting in huge industrial centers where millions of men and women earn a comfortable livelihood, in great centers like Pittsburg and Cleveland and Detroit, and his own Chicago.

If he were here today and on a Sunday morning enter a church, he would think of those old days of his manhood when he could not unite with the church, because of the intolerance of its creeds and the puerilities of its requirements. He would find a church with a door open to such as he was, with a welcome such as he could not receive, a church joyous instead of gloomy, hopeful instead of fearful, liking God and worshipping a God who was honest, kindly and respectable.

D. F. B.



AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT in our printing office is the Addressograph. Our machine is an ancient model rescued from the junk pile of a neighboring office several years ago. With much exertion, and at the expense of considerable time, one thousand copies of the "Messenger" are addressed each week. It has now reached the stage where much damage is done to our plates, some addresses are blurred or missed and some folks therefore fail to receive their "Messenger." At present we are using a rebuilt electric machine through the courtesy of the Agent and we hope to be able to purchase it. We have one thousand subscribers. If each took one share at twenty-five cents it would more than pay for the machine. How many shares will you take at twenty-five cents each? That's fine! Send in your money, or put it on the plate, but be sure to mark it - "For the Addressing Machine."

**CHILDREN'S WASHINGTON SUPPER:** One hundred children from the club work will have a special treat on Thursday, Feb. 21st, at 5:00 o'clock when they are to be guests of the Mothers' Club at Supper. Admission is by ticket to the children who are active, helpful members.

**THE DEACONESSES ARE CALLED** to meet at 5:00 p. m., on Tuesday, to make plans for organization, the purpose being a larger service in the church and community.

**THE PULPIT FLOWERS** for Sunday are in memory Mr. Conrad Reutener and Mrs. Matilda Nickel Reutener, placed by the family; and Mr. William Schmitt, placed by the family.

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### HOME NIGHT

Rabbi Silver will be with us. Pilgrims are particularly fortunate in the privilege of hearing Cleveland's great Rabbi Silver on Tuesday, at the Home Night Meeting. To care for the catering it is very necessary that we know who will be present. Be sure your reservation is in by Monday at 10:00 a. m., tickets 35 cents if reservations are made; 40 cents if not. Hostesses: Brooklyn Group; Sponsors: Hannah Hadlow Group. Note that this meeting is on TUESDAY not Wednesday.

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**THE KENILWORTH GROUP** Card Party, Thursday, Feb. 21st, at 1:30 p. m. Buffet Tea will be served, tickets 25 cents. Table prizes and door prize.

**THE MEN'S CLASS** will greet Christian Bannick on Sunday, at 9:30, in the Kate MacInnes Room. His subject will be: "Opportunity." On Feb. 24th the Young Men will have charge, and on March 3rd former Mayor Ray Miller will speak.

**COUNTY POOR RELIEF LEVY** will be decided at the polls on Tuesday. There are no political issues so no one will ring your doorbell to have you vote. If you realize the seriousness of the present situation you will exert yourself in the interests of the blind, the feeble minded, the widows, the tubercular, and others who will be without care if this levy does not carry.

**THE FEDERATED CHURCHES** will solicit your pledge to help support the work of the Churches of Cleveland.



## SUNDAY

- 9:30 A. M. - The Sunday School and Men's Class.  
10:45 A. M. - Morning Service, Sermon by Dr. Dan F. Bradley, Subject: "The Sacred Scriptures." (7th of series.)  
10:45 A. M. - Ukrainian Service in the Parlor.  
3:00 P. M. - Polish Service.  
6:00 - 9:00 - Young People's Meeting. Social hours 6:00-7:00 and 8:00-9:00; discussion hour 7:00-8:00.  
7:30 P. M. - Fellowship Forum.

## MONDAY

- 8:30 A. M. - Kindergarten daily. (Children 4-6 years.)

## TUESDAY

- 12:30 P. M. - Fairfield Group will meet with Mrs. George L. Bruehler, 4110 Harvard Ave. Luncheon served, followed by cards.  
12:30 P. M. - The South West Group meets at the home of Mrs. John Bunting, 3338 W. 84th St. Luncheon will be served.  
12:30 P. M. - Denison Group will meet at the home of Mrs. Lillian Klomfas, 3409 Walbrook Ave.  
1:00 P. M. - Clifton Group meets with Mrs. V. C. Lucas, 17879 Lake Ave., Lakewood.  
1:30 P. M. - Brooklyn Group will meet at the church.  
1:30 P. M. - Josephine Branch Group meets at the home of Mrs. Howell Wright, 1416 Mentor Ave. Dessert. Bring your own sewing.  
3:30 P. M. - The Bradley Club. (Boys and Girls 9-11 years.)  
4:00 P. M. - Hannah Hadlow Group will meet at the Church.  
4:00 P. M. - Mary Stuart Group meets at the Church.  
5:00 P. M. - Deaconesses Meeting.  
6:30 P. M. - HOME NIGHT SUPPER.

## WEDNESDAY

- 3:30 P. M. - Sewing School. (Girls 8-12 years.)  
6:15 P. M. - TEACHERS' SUPPER and Meeting.  
6:30 P. M. - Pilgrim Daughters. (Girls 12-15 years.)

## THURSDAY

- Kenilworth Group all day meeting at the Church. Box luncheon, everyone come. Cards at 1:30.  
5:30 P. M. - CLUB CHILDRENS' SUPPER.  
7:30 P. M. - Choir Rehearsal.

## FRIDAY

- 7:30 P. M. - Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98.

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## MARRIED

- Feb. 10 - Gordon B. Britcher and Mary J. Tobias, of Ashtabula, O.

## DIED

- Feb. 2 - Theodore Schmitt, beloved husband and father. Services were held from his home in Clifton Park, February 5th.  
Feb. 10 - Chauncey H. Kieffer, venerable husband and father, and one of our most faithful members, uniting in 1930. Services were held on February 13th.