**AzFRW Americanism: Winter Meeting, February, 2017**

There are so many possibilities for Americanism topics in February: Black History Month, Presidents’ Day, and the birthdays of 3 of our greatest U.S. Presidents, including Lincoln’s birthday tomorrow.

Even Valentine’s Day can suggest a lighter, romantic side of American history.

For instance, did you know that **John Adams**, in his *Autobiography*, described himself as having, in his words, **“an amorous disposition”**? (I doubt that many in the Continental Congress would have agreed with that). But certainly, the loving and affectionate relationship between John Adams and his wife, Abigail, is unmistakable in their many letters to one another.

There is one particular letter that he wrote to Abigail during their courtship, in which he addresses her as **“Miss Adorable”**, and then he writes:

**“By the same Token that the Bearer hereof satt up with you last night I hereby order you to give him, as many Kisses, and as many Hours of your Company…as he shall please to Demand and charge them to my Account…I presume I have good Right to draw upon you for the Kisses as I have given two or three Millions at least, when [only] one has been received,… [so] the Account between us is immensely in [your favor].”**, (signed John Adams).

Fortunately, this same man who successfully pursued, and was devoted to, Abigail, also became fervently devoted to, and successfully pursued, the cause of American independence –and for that we can all be grateful during this month and every month that we are blessed to live in this country.