

EMBALMING

DRAWER 15

DEATH

71 2008 OCT 22 19

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Embalming

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

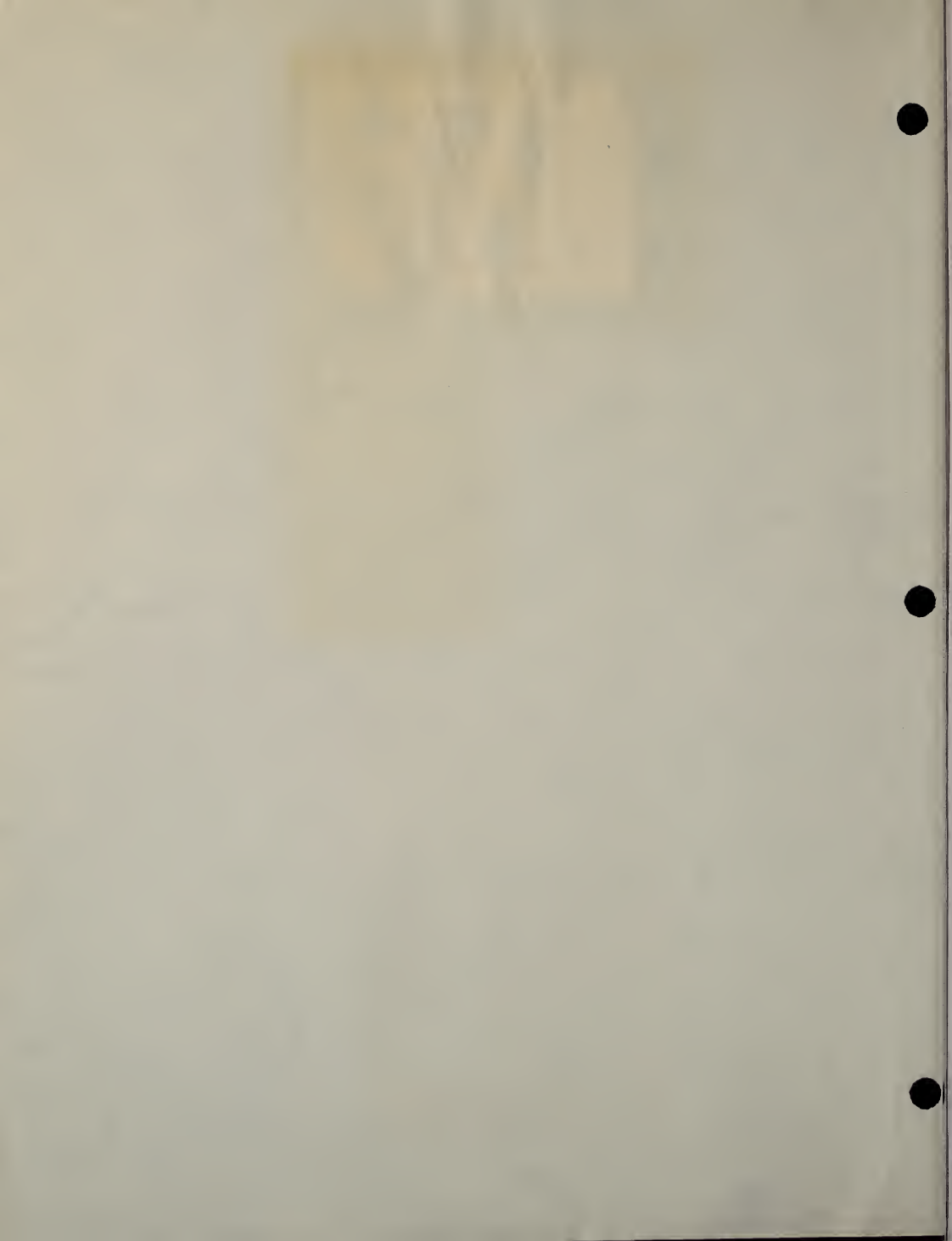
From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



THE PRESIDENT'S REMAINS in the course of Saturday, were removed to the White House. The body was dressed in the suit of plain black worn by him on the occasion of his last inauguration. Upon his pillow and over the breast of the corpse were scattered white flowers and green leaves, offerings of affection. It was proposed to remove the discoloration from the face by chemical process, but the Secretary of War insisted that that was a part of the history of the event, and it should be allowed to remain as an evidence to the thousands who would view the body when it shall be laid in state, of the death which this martyr to his ideas of justice and right had suffered.

1865

No banner or
date.



THE REPORT ON LINCOLN'S AUTOPTSY.

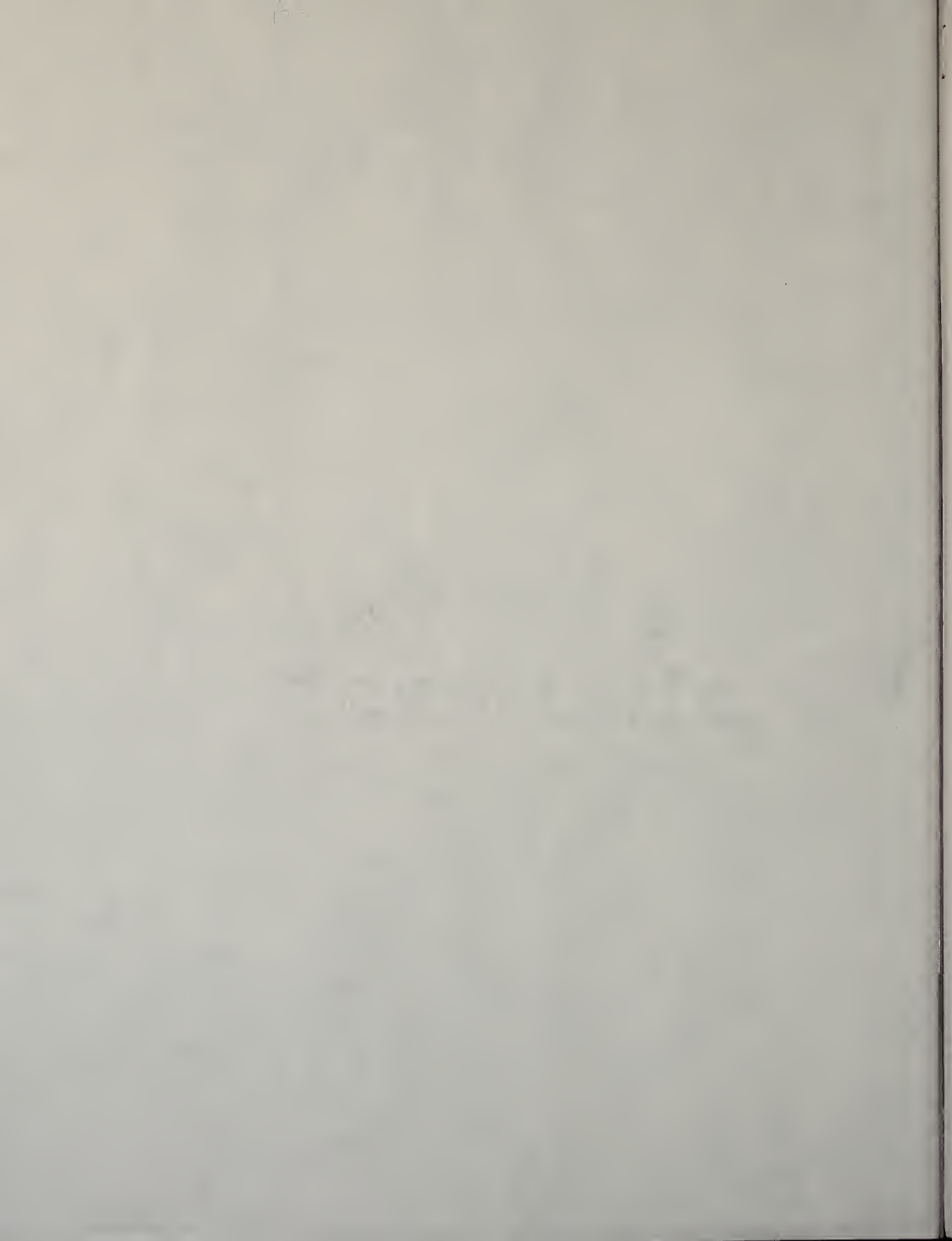
From The Washinton Post.

One of the assistants to Chief Clerk Sylvester, of the Metropolitan Police Department, is Mr. Harry P. Cattell, who has charge of the property room. In his younger days Mr. Cattell was an embalmer, and at the time of President Lincoln's assassination he was in the employ of Brown & Alexander, embalmers, who had their establishment on Pennsylvania-ave., near Eleventh-st., Northwest. On Saturday morning, April 15, a few hours after the death of the President, Mr. Cattell was directed by his employers to go to the Executive Mansion and embalm the body. It was 9 o'clock in the morning when he reached there with his instruments and embalming fluid and proceeded to work.

It is nearly thirty years ago since the assassination, which excited profound horror in all civilized portions of the globe, and while every reader knows how the beloved Chief Executive met his death, comparatively few people of this generation know just where the fatal bullet entered his body or what course it took. Mr. Cattell showed a "Post" reporter a verbatim copy of the original autopsy report, written by an assistant to Surgeon-General Barnes, who made the autopsy. The following is an exact copy of it:

"Yesterday Surgeon-General Barnes, assisted by Drs. Stone, the late President's family physician; Curtis, Woodward, Crane, Taft, and other eminent medical men, made an autopsy in the presence of President Johnson, General Augur and General Rucker. The external appearance of the face of the President presented a deep black stain around both eyes. The fatal wound was on the left side of the head, behind and in a line with and three inches from the left ear. The course of the ball was obliquely forward toward the right eye, crossing the brain in an oblique manner and lodging a few inches behind that eye. In the track of the wound were found fragments of bone, which had been driven forward by the ball, which was embedded in the anterior lobe of the left hemisphere of the brain. The orbit plates of both eyes were the seat of communicated fracture, and the eyes were filled with extravasated blood. The serious injury of the orbit plates was due to the centre-coup, the result of the intense shock of so large a projectile fired so closely to the head. The ball was evidently a Derringer, hand-cast, and from which the neck had been clipped. A shaving of lead had been removed from the ball in its passage through the bones of the skull and was found in the orifice of the wound. The first fragment of bone was found two and one-half inches within the brain; the second and larger fragment about four inches from the orifice of the wound. The ball lay still further in advance. The wound was about one-half inch in diameter. The autopsy fully confirmed the opinion of the surgeons on the night of the assassination that the wound was mortal.

"Yesterday morning Drs. Brown and Alexander were sent for to embalm the body of President Lincoln. The embalming process was performed by Mr. Harry P. Cattell, an employe of the above-mentioned firm, who also embalmed little Willie Lincoln, son of the President, in February, 1852. The body was embalmed in the late President's own bedroom in the west wing of the Executive Mansion, fronting on Pennsylvania-ave. Among those in attendance during the process were Vice-President Johnson, General Augur, General Rucker and the attending physicians of the lamented deceased."



METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

~~First Precinct Station~~

Washington, D. C.,

June 11,

1909

E. St. Blair Thompson, Esq.,

Dear Sir and Bro.;

In reply to your suggestions as to my
past life I offer the following:

Was born Sept. 7, 1838 at Blackwoodtown, Camden Co.

N. J.

Name of father, Samuel F. Battell, born in Gloucester Co., N. J.

Name of mother, Batharine Pratt, born in Camden Co., N. J.

Occupation of father; owner and captain of a sailing
vessel engaged in the merchant marine service.

Attended the public schools until 12 years of age at
Blackwoodtown, N. J. after which I was engaged in various
pursuits until April 26, 1861, when I enlisted in Co. F,
20th Reg. Pa. Vol. Inf. (Scott Legion Reg.) and served until
discharged on account of expiration of term of enlist-
ment.

At the close of the war learned the trade of lithograph-
ing and worked at same until Sept. 21, 1877 when I
became a member of the Met. Police Force, D. C., of which
I am still an active member.

Was married in the year 1858. Wife died in
August 1884.



METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

~~First District Station~~

Washington, D. C.,

190

Have six children living, five daughters
and one son.

Fix this up to suit yourself and if there is anything
further you wish to know notify me and I will try
to furnish the information.

Yours Respectfully

H. P. Batteil

2300, 18th St. N.W.



HENRY P. CATTELL DEAD.
Dec. 8-1915
Was a Retired Member of the Police Department.

Henry P. Cattell, a retired member of the police department, died at his home at the Madrid this morning about 11 o'clock. Arrangements for his funeral have not been completed.

Mr. Cattell, who was a native of New Jersey, was born September 7, 1838, and was appointed a member of the police force September 17, 1883. He served as station clerk in several precincts and later was placed in charge of the property room at headquarters, where he handled thousands of dollars' worth of lost, stolen and abandoned property.

A number of years ago he did duty at the Baltimore and Potomac depot, and his last assignment was at Union station, where he was in charge of the police room. He was retired from the force March 1, 1912.

Mr. Cattell is survived by five daughters and one son. His daughters are Miss Fannie Cattell, Mrs. F. J. Mersheimer, Mrs. William Barclay and Mrs. Elizabeth Wood of this city and Mrs. Harry Ritner, Rocky Mount, N. C. The son is William Cattell, who is in the Philippines in the service of the Agricultural Department.

CLAY, BARACK, THE





New Light on the Embalming of President Lincoln



"AS I SEE IT" . . . By Seabury Quinn

*from Dodge Chemical Co.
Publication*

FROM TIME immemorial it has been the tendency of every one who does business with the Government to charge all the traffic will bear—and even a little more, if such a course seems possible. So that when we find an instance of business or professional conduct deliberately restrained in their charges for work to be paid for out of public funds, we are wont to pause and catch our breath in admiring astonishment.

How many instances of that kind could be adduced, there is no way of knowing. But we do know that credit is an historic example of such practice belongs to the Funeral Profession. The story, in itself, is of decided background interest to anyone engaged in Funeral Service; and especially so since the facts come to light from the official records of almost thirty years ago.

In the first place, this is a belated tribute to the men who embalmed the body of *Abraham Lincoln*. In the second place, it is a reference to a matter which has much practical bearing on the affairs of the Profession today—*tomorrow*.

The man who actually embalmed President was *Harry P. Cattell*, an employee of the firm of *Alexander & Brown*. Beyond that fact, we know little of the man. The *Washington City Directory* for 1865 tells us that he lived somewhere on "C Street South," and that he was an "embalmer of the dead" by profession.

The "*National Intelligencer*," (then the capital's leading newspaper), in its issue for April 16, 1865, says that "Drs. *Alexander & Brown* were summoned to embalm the body of Mr. Lincoln, the operation being performed by *Harry P. Cattell* . . . who had also embalmed the body of *Willie Lincoln* in 1863."



THE results of Embalmer *Cattell's* work, we find in the "*National Intelligencer*" for the following day, (April

17, 1865), that "*The President's face was exceedingly natural, with a slight smile on the features.*"

Unwittingly, perhaps—but nevertheless most clearly!—the newspaper paid Mr. *Cattell* the highest technical tribute. For his task was one which might well give pause to a thoroughly trained and well-equipped Embalmer of our own time. Consider these technical facts:

The bullet fired by John Wilkes Booth was about the size and shape of a small marble. It had pierced the left occiput, in line with and three inches to the right of the left ear. It had driven obliquely forward, lodging about three inches under the right eye. A portion of the missile had chipped off while crashing through the skull; and this, together with two fragments of bone, was lodged in the brain, directly behind the wound. Both eyes were heavily discolored by extravasated blood, and the area of ecchymosis extended down the cheeks and along the nose. Rendering these conditions still more difficult, some Army Surgeons had performed a far reaching autopsy. The brain had been removed and the circulation to the head had been almost if not totally destroyed.

The conditions would present something of a task for a modern Operator, equipped with all our knowledge and facilities of 1943. Yet we have the report of an eye witness, writing in the leading newspaper of the day, that "*The President's face looked exceedingly natural.*"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Without in any way detracting from the remarkable results achieved by Mr. *Cattell's* historic work, it should be noted that the comparison with modern-day Embalming is not chemically exact. For, at the time of Mr. *Lincoln's* death, the use of arsenical chemicals was legally permissible; and those chemicals were undoubtedly used by Mr. *Cattell*. If any Embalmer used arsenical preservatives to-day, he would, of course, be guilty of a serious offence, and would doubtless lose his license.

Whether Mr. *Cattell* received any special compensation from his employers, we do not know. The War Department's files disclose simply that the following bill was rendered by *Brown & Alexander*:

"TO embalming remains of Abraham Lincoln, lately President of The United States	\$100.00
"TO 16 days' services for self and assistant, at \$10 per day	\$160.00"

Whether the "self" mentioned in the bill was Dr. *Brown* or Dr. *Alexander* does not appear. All we know is that the "assistant" was *Harry P. Cattell*.



IT IS worth noting that this firm of *Brown & Alexander* is listed in the *Washington City Directory* for 1865 as follows: "*Charles D. Brown, M.D., and Joseph B. Alexander, M.D., embalmers and surgeons, 323 D North.*"

(Continued on page 41)



SEABURY QUINN
Distinguished Lawyer and
Writer on Funeral Service



THE EMBALMING OF MR. LINCOLN

(Continued from page 5)

Embalming, as we know it today, was then just beginning to attract public notice. Dr. Thomas Holmes of Brooklyn, New York, had been engaged in experiments in preserving the human body with injections of arsenical mixtures into the arteries, and had achieved considerable success.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, he had been commissioned to go to Washington and prepare the bodies of officers and soldiers dying in hospitals or killed in battle while serving with the Army of the Potomac. His practice had increased so rapidly that he determined to establish permanent offices in Washington. While he lived there, he imparted knowledge of his technique to several Funeral Directors and Physicians.

My friend, Archer L. Haycock, manager of the hundred-year-old establishment of Joseph Birch's Sons, has shown me a portrait of Dr. Holmes, presented by him to Joseph Birch while he was living at his house as a guest and, incidentally, making use of his establishment as a class-room for his students.



AS A matter of interest, I have made some search in an effort to find out whether Mr. Cattell had been a student of Dr. Holmes . . . or whether Dr. Brown or Dr. Alexander, or both, had learned the art from the Civil War Embalmer and then passed on the knowledge to their "assistant". But, of this, there seems to be no record.

In collaboration with *Frank T. Sanders*, "undertaker", the Messrs. M. E. & G. W. Harvey, (also "undertakers"), were busy designing and making a coffin while Harry P. Cattell was engaged in his professional work. This "coffin", (it was not a casket), was as typical of its day as Mr. Cattell's work was in advance of it.

According to the Washington "*Evening Star*" for April 17, 1865, this coffin was "*a magnificent coffin, indeed, costing above \$1000 . . . of mahogany, lined with lead and covered with the finest broad cloth.*"

Thus, the "Star's" opinion of "magnificence"! Judged by the standards of that time, it is probable that almost all the newspaper's readers agreed. But, according to our standards of today, that coffin in which so good and great a man was laid to rest would seem most certainly to be not beautiful, nor to have any attributes of true "magnificence". You may judge for yourself, from the detailed description of the coffin, as reported in the same edition of the "*Evening Star*".

The outside of the coffin is festooned with massive silver tacks repre-

senting drapery, in each fold of which is a silver star. There are eight massive handles to the coffin, four being placed on each side. The outer edge is tastefully scalloped with silver braid, to which are attached five tassels of five inches each in length. A row of silver tacks encircles the entire top of the coffin, being placed two inches from the outer edge. A silver plate, encircled by a shield formed of tacks of the same material, occupies the central position on top of the lid, with stars on the head and foot of the coffin on the outside.

The inside of the face lid is raised with white satin, the entire face being trimmed with black and white braid, fastened down with sixteen silver stars, four to each corner. The face lid and top of the coffin are fastened together with five silver stars.

The inside of the coffin is superbly lined with box pleated satin, the bottom and pillow being of the finest white silk, while rich three inch wide chenille satin fringe encircles the entire inside. ★

FOR THIS remarkable piece of merchandise, the Government received, the following bill:

"To coffin covered with fine Broad-cloth lined with White Satin & Silk trimmed with heavy Bullion fringe and tassels, lead inside lining, fine silver plate & walnut outside Box for Abraham Lincoln, late President of U. S. - - \$1,500.00"

Other incidentals in the bill included such items as "700 yards of white silk @ \$3.75; 257 yards of black silk @ \$3.50; 132 yards of white cambric @ \$1.00; 90 boxes of fine crape @ \$7.50; 24 yards of white swiss @ \$1.50; 158 pairs of black kid gloves @ \$3.00; 126 pairs of white silk gloves @ \$1.00; 84 pairs of black silk gloves @ \$1.00; 170 boxes of white thread @ \$3.25." * * * The total bill was \$7,459.00.

In addition, John Alexander, upholsterer, (no relation to Dr. Alexander, the "embalmer and surgeon"), received \$290 for "draping the East Room of White House with black and white crepe, silk and alpaca, covering walls, windows, pictures and mirrors in the process, and festooning streamers of black silk down from ceiling."

George P. Hall, carriage maker, charged \$350 for making the special hearse body in which the remains were conveyed from the White House to the Capitol for public services, and Mr. Alexander received an extra \$75 for upholstering the catafalque on which the coffin rested during the lying-in-state.

ALTOGETHER, the United States Government paid out for "funeral merchandise" and tradesmen's services a total of \$8,389. It was a very moderate expenditure in the circumstances—and it certainly represented good-value-received for all the merchandise listed. *But notice now the following fact!*

It is worthy of our very special notice, particularly in these times of merchandise-shortages. For the kind of thinking which this fact brings to light is *still* with us. And, until it is considerably *modified*, to say the least, the full scope of the Funeral Profession's functions—as a *professional service!*—will in my judgment never be achieved! Here is the fact:

Altogether, as we have seen, a total of \$8,389 was paid for Mr. Lincoln's funeral. It was, as we have also seen, a very moderate, reasonable expenditure. *And yet, of the total of over \$8000, only a bare \$260 was charged for Professional Services! And, even then, the only reason that this Service Charge was not still lower—at a scant \$100—was that two Embalmers were in constant attendance during a period of 16 days! (At \$10 per day for the two.)* ★

HERE WAS surely the prime, historic example of "placing the burden on the casket"—the unfortunate tendency to consider the *Services* of the Funeral Director, (as distinct from the *merchandise* he sells), in terms of "secondary" and of hardly more than merely "incidental" value.

It is a tendency which, unfortunately, has come down through the years as a traditional custom. In recent times, it is true, a good many members of the Profession have modified the practice in some measure—to the extent, at least, of indicating clearly to their patrons that the casket and other merchandise, while absolutely essential, are nevertheless but secondary to the *Service* rendered. (Embalming, Funeral Direction, Personal Services, Use of Establishment, Facilities and Equipment, etc.)

But a great deal more towards this end remains to be accomplished. And the truth of that plain fact, I venture, will become more and more apparent in the months immediately before us. For the necessary restriction of merchandise, while not nearly as drastic as could have been decreed, will nevertheless place more and more increasing emphasis on the *Service* of this profession, purely as such. And, from the competitive viewpoint, *the Service that each individual Funeral Director renders will be more important to his "business" progress than it has ever been before!*



from
Lincoln Funeral director

Feb. 1943

Incarnate



Abraham Lincoln's Funeral Train photographed on May 1, 1865, as it passed through Chicago

A Funeral That Lasted Thirty-six Years

• The Strange Story of the Burial of Abraham Lincoln

THE LIFE of Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States whose birthday anniversary we celebrated this month, was filled with strange highlights, as fanciful as a romantic novel or fairy tale. Every American boy has thrilled to the story of his rise from a log cabin to the White House; every adult American has found equal inspiration in his immortal Gettysburg address, in his inflexible pursuit of the things he thought right and just, in his steadfast patriotism.

Lincoln's death and funeral, even as his life, were equally dramatic. When at the age of 56 his career was abruptly terminated by an assassin's bullet, there began a strange series of events unparalleled in the annals of our country. From April 15, 1865, when death occurred, until Sept. 26, 1901, when final burial was made, the name of Lincoln was perpetuated by unusual happenings, fact and myth.

The body of Lincoln was prepared for burial by the funeral firm of Alexander & Bryan, in Washington, D. C. Under direc-

tions of Secretary of War Stanton, they were forbidden to remove the discoloration of the eyes and upper part of the cheeks caused by the bullet wound which were to remain "as part of the history of the event."

Disputes and altercations

marked the entire funeral ceremonies. Congress proposed that the body of Lincoln be placed in a vault in the Capitol which had originally been prepared for Washington, but the Illinois delegation insisted upon its return to Springfield, Ill. Final



This great arch was erected in Chicago to do honor to the remains of the martyr President

Lincoln Funeral Firm To Mark Centennial

C. H. Jordan & Co., undertaking firm that looked after President Lincoln's body here after his assassination in 1865, will observe its 100th anniversary Thursday.

The company was founded by Collins H. Jordan, who died in 1897, according to Earl E. Darr, president.

Two of Jordan's descendants still are officers.

They are Mrs. Scott Jordan,

vice-president, and Mrs. Cady M. Jordan, treasurer.

THE FIRM'S records reflect some of Chicago's great tragedies.

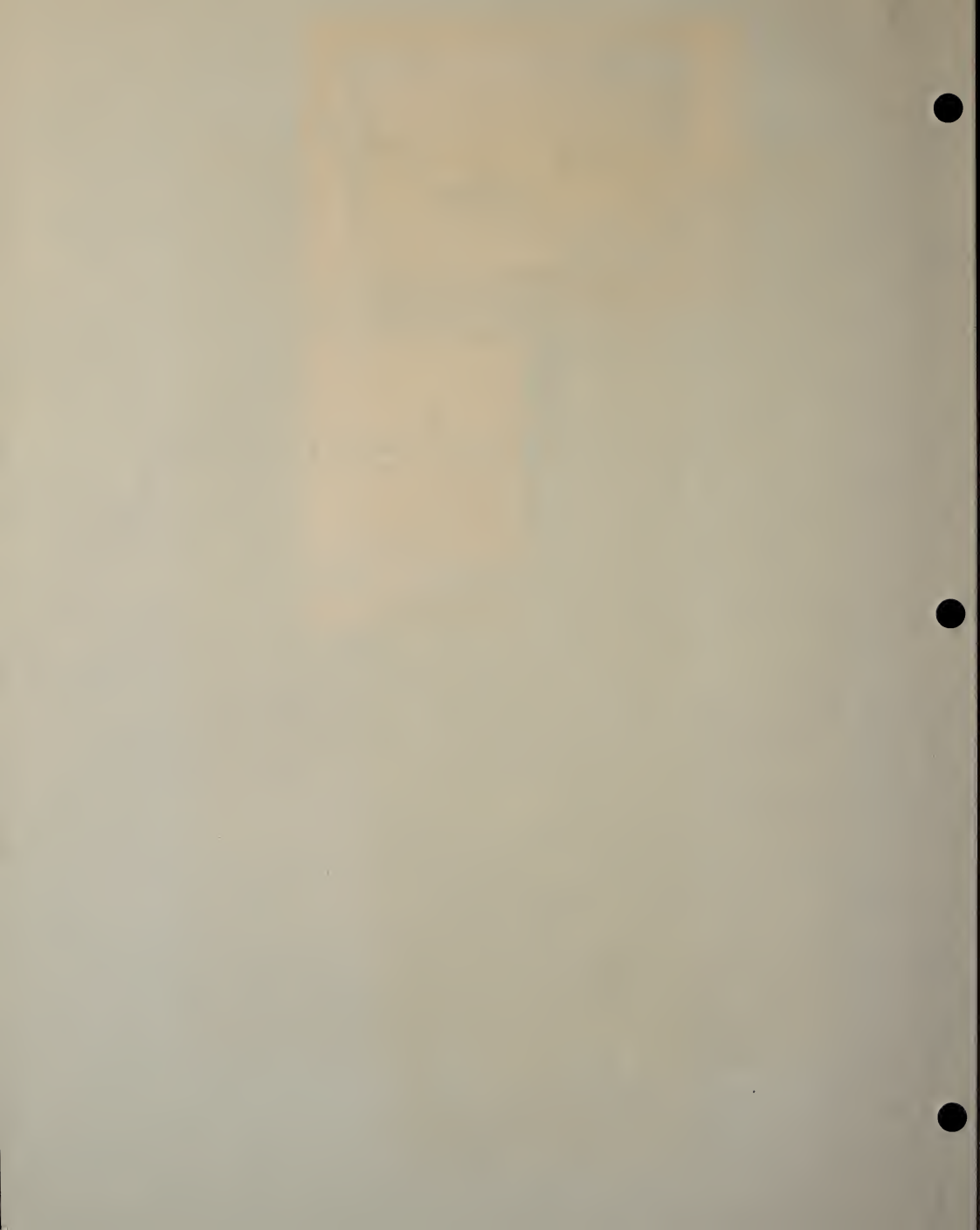
The company made the arrangements for Lincoln's body when it paused a day here en route to Springfield for funeral services.

Jordan's also handled many of the victims of the Iroquois theater fire (Dec. 30, 1903) and the Eastland ship disaster (July 24, 1915).

It also arranged the funeral of Sen. Stephen A. Douglas in 1861.

The company's first establishment was at 134 N. Clark. That was burned in the Chicago fire of 1871.

It now is at 221 E. Erie, where it has been since last May. For 27 years before that it was at 200 E. Erie, Darr said.



LIBRARY

Boston Society of Natural History

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston 14, Mass.

December 11, 1957

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

A reference question which I
have been unable to answer is the name of
the undertaker who embalmed President Lincoln,
and where his office was.

The Boston Public Library reference
librarian was unable to find the answer and
suggested that I write you.

If you are able to help me I would
appreciate it very much.

Sincerely yours,

Genevieve M. Scully
Genevieve M. Scully
Librarian

December 24, 1957

Miss Genevieve M. Scully
Librarian
Museum of Science
Science Park
Boston 14, Mass.

Dear Miss Scully:

The name of Abraham Lincoln's undertaker was Dr. Charles D. Brown who was also the embalmer who prepared "Willie" Lincoln for burial, in February, 1862.

I do not think Dr. Brown had an office. There is a letter in The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln Vol. VI, 1862-1863, pages 421-422 as follows: "Executive Mansion, Hon. Sec. of War: - Washington, Aug. 29, 1863. Dr. Brown, the embalmer, who has so long gone with our Armies, says he is now prevented in consequence of the loss of a paper. I suppose he should be given another, unless there be some reason to the contrary unknown to me. Yours truly, A. Lincoln."

Trusting that this information will be of some value to you, I remain

Yours sincerely,

RGW:sh

R. Gerald McMurtry

P.S. At the request of the Secretary of War Dr. Brown traveled with Lincoln's remains to Springfield, Illinois.

2004

2004-05-01
2004-05-02
2004-05-03
2004-05-04
2004-05-05

2004-05-06
2004-05-07
2004-05-08
2004-05-09
2004-05-10

2004-05-11
2004-05-12
2004-05-13
2004-05-14
2004-05-15
2004-05-16
2004-05-17
2004-05-18
2004-05-19
2004-05-20
2004-05-21
2004-05-22
2004-05-23
2004-05-24
2004-05-25
2004-05-26
2004-05-27
2004-05-28
2004-05-29
2004-05-30
2004-05-31

2004-06-01
2004-06-02
2004-06-03
2004-06-04
2004-06-05
2004-06-06
2004-06-07
2004-06-08
2004-06-09
2004-06-10
2004-06-11
2004-06-12
2004-06-13
2004-06-14
2004-06-15
2004-06-16
2004-06-17
2004-06-18
2004-06-19
2004-06-20
2004-06-21
2004-06-22
2004-06-23
2004-06-24
2004-06-25
2004-06-26
2004-06-27
2004-06-28
2004-06-29
2004-06-30

2004-07-01
2004-07-02
2004-07-03
2004-07-04
2004-07-05
2004-07-06
2004-07-07
2004-07-08
2004-07-09
2004-07-10
2004-07-11
2004-07-12
2004-07-13
2004-07-14
2004-07-15
2004-07-16
2004-07-17
2004-07-18
2004-07-19
2004-07-20
2004-07-21
2004-07-22
2004-07-23
2004-07-24
2004-07-25
2004-07-26
2004-07-27
2004-07-28
2004-07-29
2004-07-30
2004-07-31

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

STATE OF ILLINOIS v WILLIAM G. STRATTON, GOVERNOR v SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



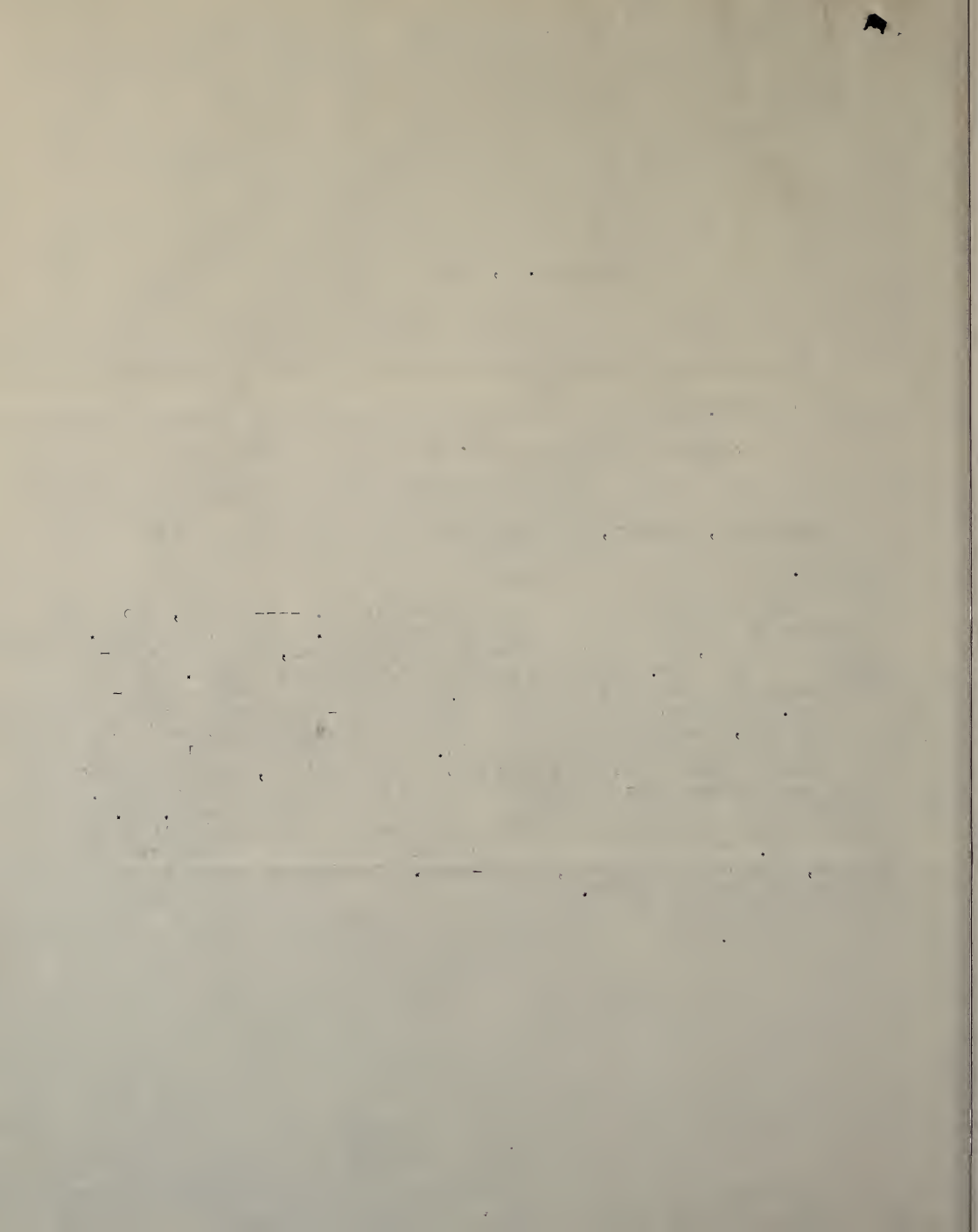
Jan. 2, 1958

Reference
Report

Enclosed are copies of three references to the embalming of Lincoln's body.

In a scrapbook of clippings about Lincoln in the Historical Library is the following information taken from an unidentified clipping which, however, has been describing the obsequies in Chicago.

"The embalmer of the late President is Dr. ---- Brown, who holds the right for the United States from Prof. Succuet, of Paris. By this process, unlike that used by the Egyptians, nothing is removed from the body. The brain and viscera are left intact. The Doctor claims to be able absolutely to arrest the process of dissolution. He cannot restore a body to its life-like appearance before death, but he does claim to be able to preserve it in just the condition in which he receives it. What is the material used by the embalmer we are not informed; but whatever it is, the antiseptic fluid is injected into the carotid artery by means of a force pump. The effect of this substance is to make the body like marble. Dr. Brown informs our reporter that the body of the President will never know decay. After a time it will lose its marbleized appearance and become, to a certain extent, mummy-ized. It will not perceptibly change for several months."





ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

STATE OF ILLINOIS , WILLIAM G. STRATTON, GOVERNOR , SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

January 6, 1958

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

In reply to your recent inquiry
I am enclosing a photo print of material concerning the doctor who enbalmned Lincoln. I hope this will be of some value to you, and if we can be of further service, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely yours,

Clyde C. Walton
Clyde C. Walton

CCW:nj
Encl.



CLARENCE P. MC CLELLAND
NEWTON C. FARR
RAYMOND N. DOOLEY
Trustees

CLYDE C. WALTON
State Historian

MARGARET A. FLINT
Reference Librarian



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1900

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
1900

1900

IV.

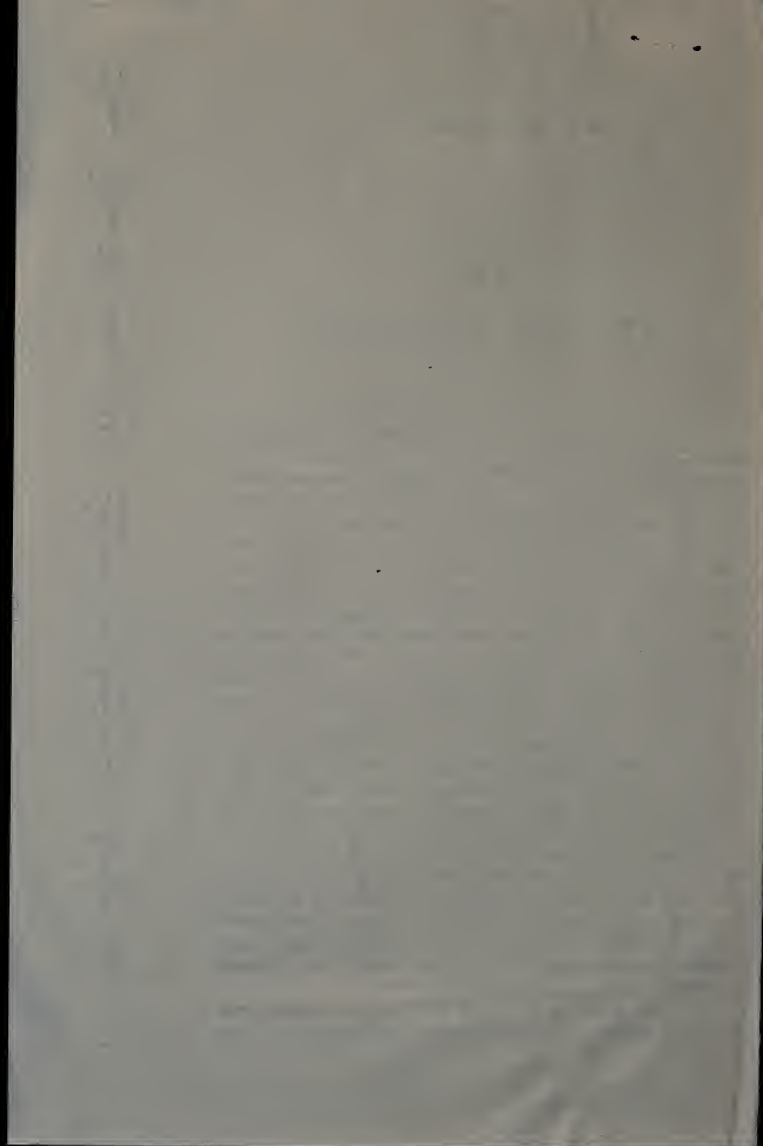
THE FUNERAL AT WASHINGTON

Mr. A. M. Lincoln's body had been removed to the President's residence, and the undertakers proceeded to prepare it for the funeral. Mr. Lincoln's body was placed in the company of Doctors Brown and Edwards, who were both in the presence of the body. The body was placed in the company of the late President's body, and the funeral was performed in the President's own residence. The body was placed in the presence of the President's body, and the funeral was performed in the President's own residence. The body was placed in the presence of the President's body, and the funeral was performed in the President's own residence.

The funeral was held in the presence of the President's body, and the funeral was performed in the President's own residence. The body was placed in the presence of the President's body, and the funeral was performed in the President's own residence. The body was placed in the presence of the President's body, and the funeral was performed in the President's own residence.

The Green Room, in which the body had been placed, was dark and a shade of light seemed to hang over it. The

From *Samuel May, Shea, & Lincoln* (New York, 1865), 111.



LINCOLN AND THE DOCTORS

The for- called aut-scoop is still the best explanation for that remarkable double fracture.

Following the army during the war was a skillful embalmer named Charles D. Brown, whom Mr. Lincoln had had occasion in 1863, to refer to as Dr. Brown. This man was of the well known firm of Brown and Alexander. The New York Herald for February 22, 1865, contains the following information: The body of Willie Lincoln was embalmed today by Doctors Brown and Alexander, assisted by Dr. Wood, in the presence of attending physicians, Doctors Stone and Hall, Senator Browning and Isaac Newton. The method of Sagnet of Paris was used and the results were entirely satisfactory to the attendant friends of the family. Thaddeus, the youngest son of the President, is still dangerously ill and fear is entertained that his disease will assume the type which proved fatal to his brother. Who has the title of doctor was by courtesy or degree. This Dr. Brown had gained prominence by law and was assigned by Secretary Stanton to embalme the President's body and to care for it on the long rough journey back to the shores of Illinois, where, with reverence and state ceremony it was interred in the side of a hill near a peaceful brook. Soon a beautiful pile of bronze and granite grew on the crest of that grassy slope, the mausoleum of which stood a marble

From *Frederick D. Shuster*
Lincoln and the Doctors (New York, 1932), 119

[The text is extremely faint and largely illegible. It appears to be a historical account, possibly a chapter or section heading followed by a detailed narrative. The text is organized into several paragraphs, with some lines indented. The language is formal and archaic, typical of 18th or 19th-century historical writing. The content seems to describe events, possibly related to a specific location or institution, but the details are too faded to transcribe accurately.]

January 8, 1958

Mr. Clyde C. Walton
State Historian
Illinois State Historical Library
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Walton:

Thank you for your letter with enclosures relative to
Dr. Charles D. Brown, the doctor who embalmed Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry left the office yesterday for a
month's speaking trip in Texas. Upon his return I will bring your
letter with its enclosures to his attention. I know he will be
happy to hear from you and receive this valuable information.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Mcellering

MM:hw

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

1896

COIN BANKS

COIN FOLDERS

BRONZE SIGNS

NAMEPLATES

Banthrico *International*

ack
4/7/58

17 N. DESPLAINES ST., CHICAGO 6, U.S.A. • FINANCIAL 6-4560

April 4, 1958

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

I ran across something about your undertaker friend, Charles D. Brown, which you may or may not know about. He is mentioned in The Collected Works, Volume 6, page 421 in a letter from Lincoln to Stanton and also appears in Tracy--Uncollected Letters of Lincoln, page 231 and page 232. I also ran across his name in Lincoln Lore but I don't have the reference here in front of me.

Kindest regards,

Joe
Jos. L. Eisendrath, Jr.,

jlejr/gp

ack
4/7/58



Banthrico International

17 N. DESPLAINES ST., CHICAGO 6, U.S.A. • FINANCIAL 6-4560.

April 7, 1958

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

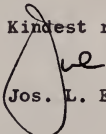
Dear Gerald:

I have found two interesting bits of information that you might like to know about--if you don't know already^{ent} on your undertaker friend, Brown.

There is a reference to him and his process of embalming in a book by Lester "Life and Public Services of Charles Sumner" described on page 475 and the following page.

The other item is the recollections of a little boy named George O. Gitt, who hid under the speakers' platform at Gettysburg. That's found in Rufus R. Wilson's "Intimate Memories of Lincoln" on page 476.

kindest regards,


Jos. L. Eisendrath, Jr.

jlejr/gp

1871

1871
1872
1873

1874

1875
1876
1877
1878
1879
1880
1881
1882
1883
1884
1885
1886
1887
1888
1889
1890
1891
1892
1893
1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900

1901

1902

1903

to

(7)

Dr. Charles R. Brown, Embalmer

Frank T. Sands, Undertaker

Capt. Charles Penrose - Quartermaster and
Commissary of Subsistence

Note: The three gentlemen whose names are
annexed accompanied the escort

Power — 125



JOHNSON MORTUARY



Edward C. Johnson

Gail R. Johnson

813 DIVERSEY PARKWAY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

472-5051 472-5214 348-9406

July 19 - 1969

Editor - Lincoln here -
Lincoln Life Ins Co.
Ft. Wayne - Ind -

Sir:

I am a member of the Chicago Civil War Round Table and a life long student of embalming practices during the Civil War. My friend Pete Long has suggested I write to you and ask a few current questions.

1 - I have been advised that Samuel Wilkenson - a NY Journalist (don't know Newspaper) while reporting battle of Gettysburg found body of his son and wrote of his experience. Can you identify the Newspaper?

2 - I have searched for years attempting to locate
biographical data on - Drs. Joseph Bell Alexander
and Charles O. Brown - embalming Surgeons -
who embalmed Pres & Willie Lincoln and countless thousands
of others during the War. Very little has ever turned up
about them and I am amazed that the men who became
so famous - as the embalmers of the greatest man of
his age - could just disappear.

any assistance or advice would be most
deeply appreciated - cordially yours -

Edward C Johnson -

P.S. Pete Long says I should apply for a place on your
Lincoln lore mailing list. —

July 22, 1969

Mr. Edward C. Johnson
813 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I cannot help you identify the newspaper that carried the story by Samuel Wilkerson (a New York journalist) regarding his experience of finding his son on the battlefield of Gettysburg. I have never heard of such a story before.

I have a little information on Charles O. Brown. Please note in LINCOLN LORE #1443 (pages 2-4) an article titled "And so they buried Lincoln." I enclose the above mentioned publication.

We will be happy to place your name on our LINCOLN LORE mailing list. Under separate cover I am sending you the 1969 issues.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrv
Enclosure

THE
OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR
OF THE
BUREAU OF
LANDS

WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1900

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
J. M. Smith

THE
DIRECTOR

JOHNSON MORTUARY

Edward C. Johnson
GRaceland 2-5051



Gail R. Johnson
GRaceland 2-5214

813 DIVERSEY PARKWAY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

24-July-1969

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

I sincerely thank you for your letter of the 22nd and its contents.

On Page 2 - Col. 2 - 3rd Para. appears the classic & traditional error of failing to spell

Dr. J. P. SUCQUET's name correctly

and trying to manufacture another name Sagnet ?.

As a student of embalming history I assure that the correct name is SUCQUET - and I can

send you a photocopy of the Front Cover of his "Traité de Visage dans l'Embaumement"

Paris - 1862 - further Chas. Edw. Lester in his "Light & Dark of the Rebellion"

Phila - 1863 - page 144 - correctly spells

it SUCQUET in referring to Dr. Brown's

process origin.

Hope this will clarify an obscure point.

Cordially - E.C. Johnson

(over)

I do know that the N Y Herald -
2-22-62 states "the method
of Sagnet of Paris was used" etc

ecj

July 28, 1969

Mr. E. C. Johnson
Johnson Mortuary
813 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have your letter of July 24th. I regret that I misspelled "Sugnet." I had only the newspaper (NEW YORK HERALD) to rely on and the name was spelled "Sagnet."

Many thanks for the references that you have sent me and I will be glad to have the photocopy of the book with the name printed "Sugnet."

I hope that your research will provide you with new information on Brown and Alexander.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RG4/cvrw

1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949
1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949

1947, 1948, 1949

JOHNSON MORTUARY

813 DIVERSEY BLVD.

CHICAGO 14, ILL.

29-July-1969

Dear Dr. H. S. Murray -

Please accept my apology for seeming to imply that you were the person responsible for the typographical (error) misspelling of Sraquet's name - I intended to place the blame on the contemporary reporter (1862).

A representative of Dr. Sraquet is said to have visited New York City about 1840-45, demonstrated the process and sold the rights (franchise) for USA (?) to Drs. Brown & Alexander then of New York City. The chemicals were sold to them by Dr. Sraquet & shipped from France as ordered. This comes from 2 sources -

1 - published about Dr. Holmes -

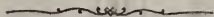
2 - a statement by Harry P. Catell - about 1960 who was the actual embalmer of A. Lincoln - in 1900 was a Member of Wash-DC Police Force.

DE LA CONSERVATION
DES
TRAITS DU VISAGE
DANS L'EMBAUMEMENT

PAR

J.-P. SUCQUET,

Docteur en médecine, lauréat de l'Académie des sciences,
chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.



PARIS

ADRIEN DELAHAYE, LIBRAIRE ÉDITEUR,

PLACE DE L'ÉCOLE-DE-MÉDECINE.

1862

from my private collection —
E. O. Johnson —



Embalmng

July 31, 1969

Mr. Edward Johnson
813 Diversey Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Many thanks for the title page of J. P. Sucquet's
book, 1862. I will file this along with your let-
ter for future reference.
f

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGH/cvrvw

The Man Who Put Abe Lincoln Away

By Dr. Maggie Ballard

Jesse Arnott, who has a place in history because he buried Lincoln, was born in Monroe County, Virginia (now West Virginia), November 15, 1812, the son of William Truesdale and Mary (Garten) Arnott. He married Mary Elizabeth Handley, a sister of his stepmother who was Lucinda Handley.

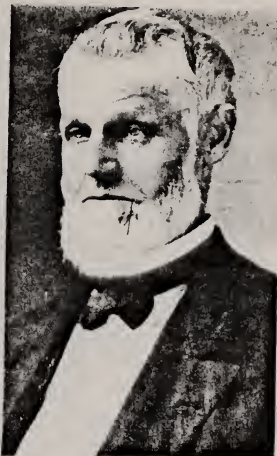
Mr. Arnott was a deeply religious man as an article written for the Monroe County Watchman at the time of his death will attest. Mr. Asbury C. McNeer was a friend of Mr. Arnott and had seen him shortly before his death; we believe his statements are correct. Quote: "He was converted, to use his own words, 'from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet,' when about 16 years of age, at a camp meeting held on the Centerville (now Greenville) Methodist church lot. His whole life was in exact harmony with his professed conversion. He said to the writer last New Year's morning that family devotions had never been neglected in his house during all the long years of his married life. As a hearer of the preaching of the Word of God, he seemed to drink it in as a most refreshing draught from the pure living fountain. His conversations were of the most entertaining character and on religious topics were simply soul thrilling. His love-feast talks were a spiritual benediction to all who heard them. He prayed as one walking and talking with his nearest and most confidential friend. Praying in the public congregation, he led the worshippers right up to the throne of grace.

"He removed from the place of his nativity to Missouri, where he did a large and successful livery and undertaker's business (associated with Mr. Lynch also from Monroe County). Upon him was conferred the honor of burying President Abraham Lincoln.

"Mr. Arnott died May 11, 1896, at the home of his sister, Martha (Mrs. Jesse Jones), on Wolf Creek, Monroe County, being far advanced in his eighty-fourth year. His body was taken by his daughter,

now lies with friends and relatives in Bellefontane Cemetery to await the resurrection of the just."

Mr. Arnott was a staunch Democrat and when first approached about the burial of President Lincoln, he refused. However, he reconsidered and accepted the honor as a true gentleman.



LINCOLN'S UNDERTAKER
Jesse Arnott

In a small volume entitled "Abraham Lincoln, His Life, Public Services, Death and Great Funeral Cortège With a History and Description of the National Lincoln Monument" by John Carroll Power, Springfield, Illinois, 1875, we read of the final stage of the funeral cortège: "As soon as the funeral car came along side of the depot (this was in Springfield, Illinois), the coffin was transferred to the beautiful hearse which had been tendered for the occasion by

Messrs. Lynch & Arnott of St. Louis through Mayor Thomas of that city and accepted by Mayor Dennis of Springfield. The hearse was built in Philadelphia, at a cost of about six thousand dollars, and was larger than the ordinary size. It

had been used at the funeral of the Hon. Thomas H. Benton. After the offer was accepted, the proprietors had it additionally ornamented with a silver plate engraving of the initials 'A.L.' around which was a silver wreath, with two inverted torches and thirty-six silver stars, representing the States of the Union. It was

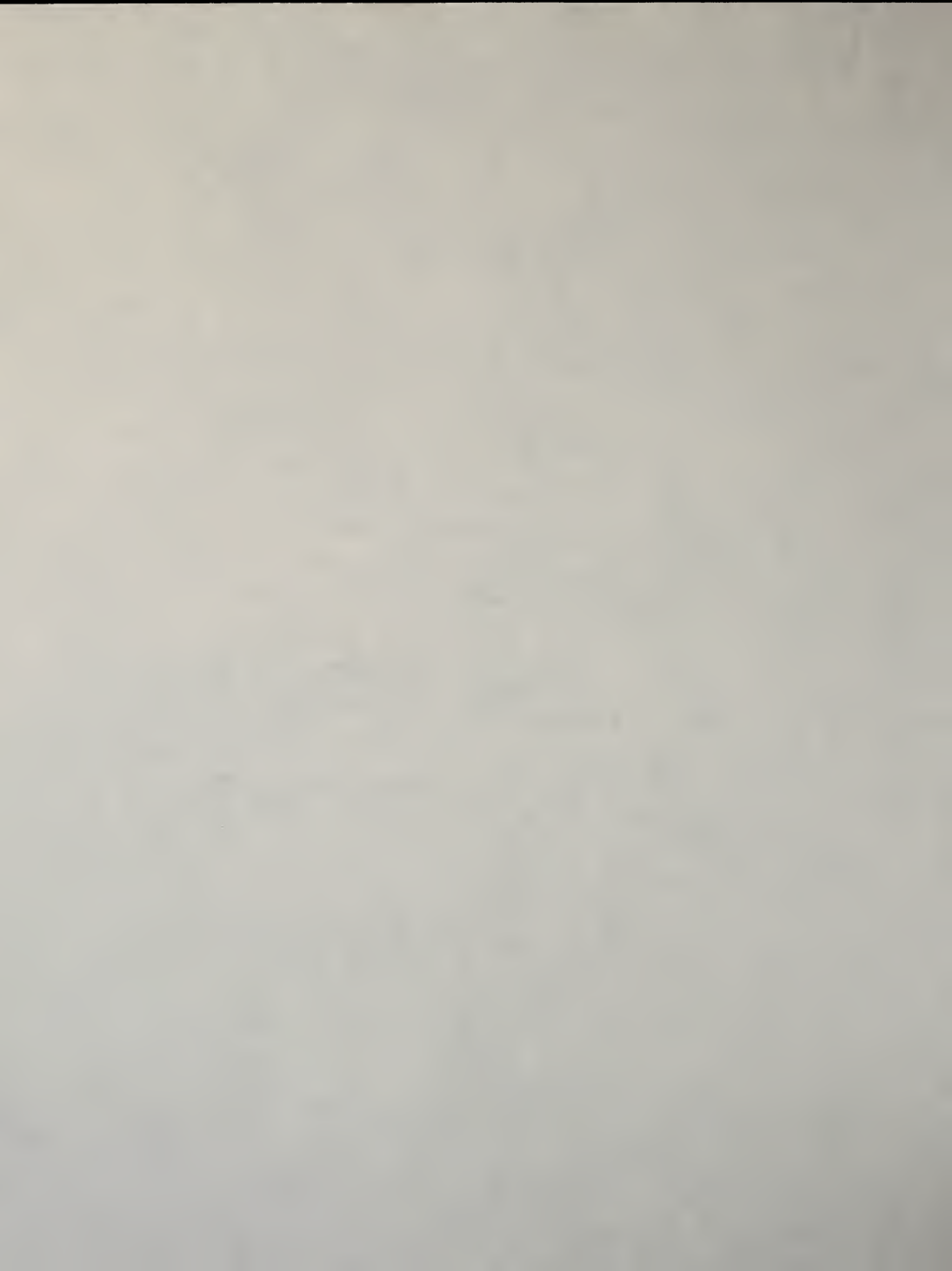
drawn by six superb black horses, draped in mourning and wearing plumes on their crests. The horses belonged to Messrs. Lynch & Arnott also and were driven on this occasion by Mr. A. Arnott without the aid of grooms. The possession moved in the following order: . . . "

Mr. Jesse Arnott drove the horses and not Mr. A. Arnott as

the statement above says. The confusion is understandable as Mr. Anderson Arnott, a brother of Jesse Arnott, had his own livery business in the same area.

We are indebted to Ruby Arnott Beard (Mrs. Mitchell Beard) of Silver Spring, Maryland, for verifying this record and for supplying the photo-

graph of Jesse Arnott. Mrs. Beard is several years past the century mark. Her mental faculties are clear, and she remembers her Uncle Jesse Arnott well.





1440 Monument Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702

Henry P. Cattell (1838-1915) embalmed President Lincoln while employed in the firm of Brown & Alexander, Embalming Surgeons. He served for three months in the Union Army in 1861 before joining Brown & Alexander. After his stint as an embalmer, Cattell became a lithographer after the war and then joined the Washington, D.C., police in 1880 from which he retired in 1914.

The Embalming Of President Lincoln

April 15, 1865





The news of Lincoln's assassination stunned the country. People throughout the North, and even some in the South, banded together like never before to mourn the loss of their President. Cities, large and small, made plans for official mourning, draping buildings and appointing officials to attend the funeral, the first great state funeral in America.

Lincoln died at Peterson's Boarding House at 7:22 a.m., on April 15, 1865. Soon after death was officially pronounced, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and the military took over preparations for the funeral. Stanton arranged to have the martyred President embalmed and would eventually create a train schedule for Lincoln's final trip home. A detachment of soldiers placed the President's body in a coffin and then in a hearse and escorted him to the White House. With a small group of mostly medical men observing, two pathologists from the Army Medical Museum performed a cranial autopsy, recovering the fatal bullet.

Embalming immediately followed the autopsy. To perform the actual operation, Stanton called upon the firm of Brown & Alexander, Embalming Surgeons. They sent one of their employees, Henry P. Cattell. Cattell first positioned the body, closed the eyes, arched the eyebrows, and set the mouth in a slight smile. He also shaved the face

except for a short tuft at the chin. After closing the cranial incision, he began the arterial embalming. Cattell used the femoral artery (in the thigh) to inject the embalming fluid. The main preservative chemical in the solution was zinc chloride, extracted by dissolving sheets of zinc in hydrochloric acid. The embalming solution and method were both of a French nature, adopted by Brown & Alexander before the war. Lincoln did not receive any cavity treatment, as it was not a common practice at the time. Soon, Lincoln's body hardened to a marble-like state, ready for the amazing journey in store for it.

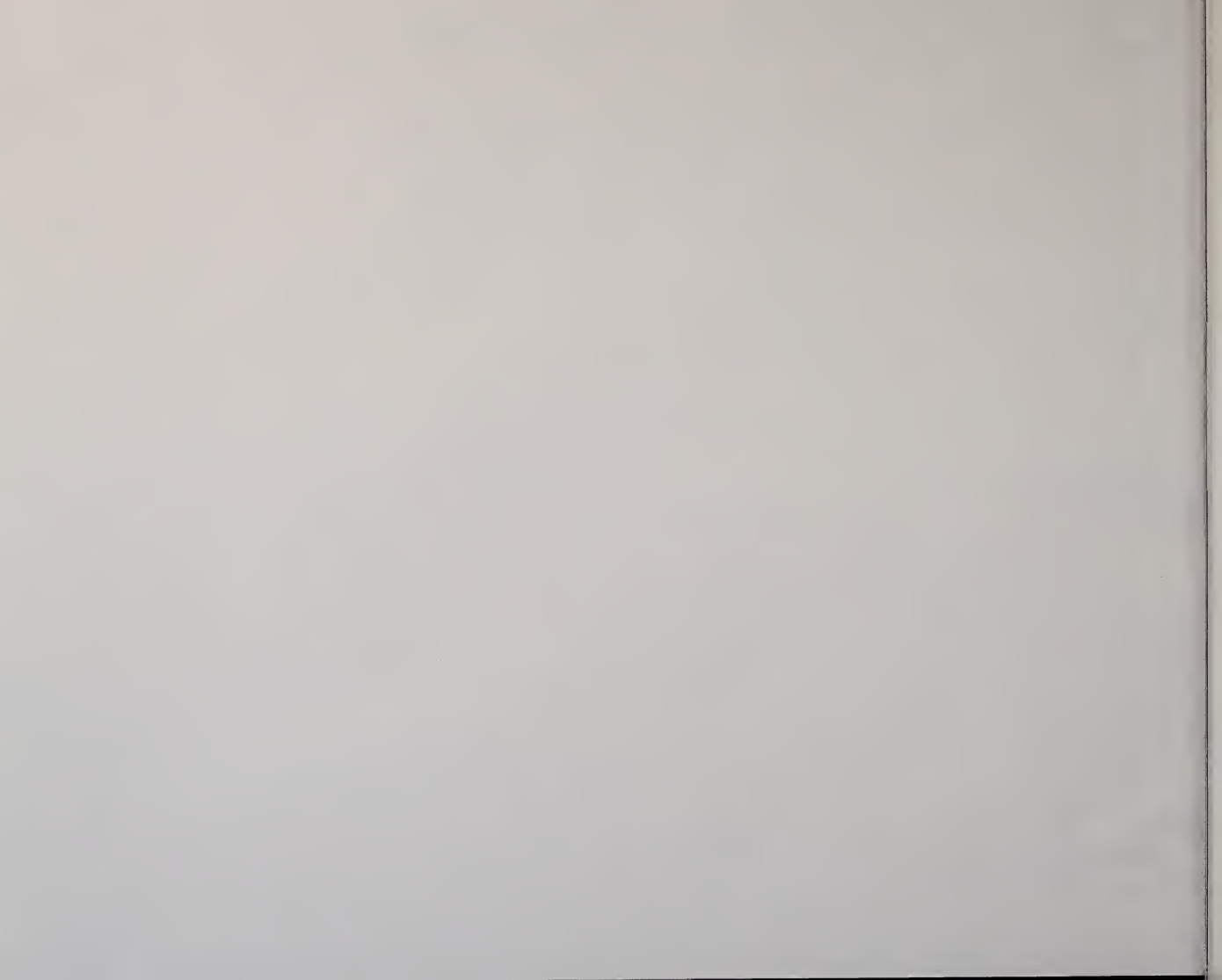
Persistent problems with skin discoloration around the eyes resulted from the grim nature of the murder. Due to a phenomena called transmitted force, the bullet's impact as it entered the back of the head cracked both of the skull's orbital plates in the front bruising the skin. With constant, but simple, cosmetic attention, the staff of Brown & Alexander, who traveled with the body, were able to keep Lincoln in a presentable viewing condition with the help of local embalmers and undertakers along the way. Though often noting these discolorations, newspaper accounts generally reported favorably on the president's appearance.

During the journey from Washington, D.C., to his final resting place in Springfield, Illinois, an estimated one million citizens

viewed Lincoln's body as it lay in repose in twelve cities along the funeral train's route. Lincoln's dramatic and spectacular funeral journey introduced embalming to a broad audience and popularized the procedure. With so many people viewing first-hand the benefits of embalming for both funerary and sanitary purposes, it began to earn a newly found acceptance. Within the next few decades, undertakers and families would adopt embalming on an increasing scale, until it finally became an established social, and in some cases religious, custom for Americans, especially of the Christian faith.

Cities where Lincoln lay in state:

Washington, DC
Baltimore, MD
Harrisburg, PA
Philadelphia, PA
New York, NY
Albany, NY
Buffalo, NY
Cleveland, OH
Columbus, OH
Indianapolis, IN
Chicago, IL
Springfield, IL





Henry P. Cattell
Assisted in
embalming Lincoln's
body

October 16 1969

Statement of Bert Sheldon 3315 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington DC regarding the small K&W photo
accompanying this page; (at top of page)
I do Certify that the above small Black
and white photo is - I believe - unquestionably -
a photo of Henry P Cattell who died in this city in
Dec 1915 and is Buried in Congressional
Cemetery in this Washington DC - City. Look
on the back of the above photo for my hand-
written Indorsement and Certification of the
authenticity of the likeness of Henry P Cattell; Copies
from an original Photo in the archive of
the K&W French Masonic Lodge; By Name Photo Co
Wisconsin av near Albemarle NW
Bert Sheldon

Handwritten note in margin:
This was
Photo



This photo was
Copied from a
4 1/2 x 5 1/2 Photo
Portrait of Henry
Caldwell made 1909
by Sam Houston
Photographer
this (SC) City
Beth Shellen

Oct 1969

2017

of the 1905

(Xerox Copy)

← This is the reverse side
of the 1905 photo-portrait
of Henry Cattel, which
I borrowed from the
archives (I borrowed the
original photo not this Xerox
Copy) of the B.K. French N.F.M.
Fraternal Lodge of Free Masonry.
I made this Xerox Copy
in Oct 1969. as you may
notice Mr (Cattel's) signature
is on the back of his photo
and that is his signature
certified to as the true copy
Best Sheldon 3315 Wisconsin
Avenue Washington DC
Oct 1969

CREDIT LINE MUST BE GIVEN
David B. Edmonston
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REC JUL 28 1969

← This is the Xerox Copy of the
Back of Cattel's photo.

23 Oct 69

Dear Doctor McMurtry
at the last meeting of the L.G. I sat
a chair removed from Josephine
Cobb, when she had no memory
that I do "record searching" for
a Chicago Tribune director (who
writes well and has published
historical articles on the various
-and many- Ceremonies rituals
and Customs practiced at death and
at funerals etc etc) - She spoke
up and mentioned that she and
MNT Paul Service had an Employee
Josephine Allen who is a US
Govt warehouse ("storehouse") in
Nearby Va and that then

23 Oct
Lg McMillan
(Cousins)

23 Oct

(and that they) were Examining a
tool (a device) used in the Embalming
of Lincoln. When I arrived home I
wrote a letter asking about the

tool (a instrument) and she was kind
enough to write back ~~stating~~ telling
me all about it - a box with a glass
front "like a Picture frame" that
was built to go on Lincoln's coffin.

That too was absolute news to me!!

So: on 23 Oct = I wrote for a 2nd little

Box: when Miss C. spoke up at

Lg meeting she said Josephine ^{Allen}

mentioned that "she ^{misheard} was going to
throw it out as it was dirty" !!

her
sister !!

1000

1. The purpose of this permit is to allow the holder to engage in the following activities:

2. The permit is valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue.

3. The holder must comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

4. The permit is subject to renewal upon application.

5. The holder must provide a valid identification document.

6. The permit is not transferable to another person.

7. The holder must maintain accurate records of all activities.

8. The permit is issued by the relevant authority.

9. The holder must pay the required fee.

10. The permit is subject to inspection at any time.

Doctor Mc Murtry [continued]

I'm not going to get into

23 Oct 69

any war of words over Josephine
Allen's threatening to "throw the thing out-
because it's dirty" I undertook that

one because - the Nat Episcopal Cathedral

guides when they take tourists past

the kneeling Lincoln statue tell the

tour-group that "He tumbles down

off his horse onto his knees in the

weeds leaves and trees to pray".

[15000 People were there, nobody saw him
do the "kneel into weeds and leaves" business]

But the Cathedral Guide says 70 Kyr

the statue and ^{did} have Mc Tumbling off

his Horse - So I gave up any more

Fighting Spirit. (It doesn't pay)

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

1891

Doch Rg Murly [continued]

P4

So! I'm not going to cause any tension
or Embarrassment for Josephine ^{Allen} ~~any~~ ch
way this is tough with NAT Park
Service history office I don't know if she
resigned or 'retired'; I do not know)

But - ~~and~~ I do not expect very much
from Josephine Cobbs, I suspect she
will want to protect Miss Allen.
Miss Cobb need not fear - I make
no attack. I'm reasonably ~~sure~~ ^{sure} Co Co
will cover up for Miss Allen. (^{same} ~~can~~)

On the other hand the device (tool)
may be still there! I wonder ??

And!

Doc. McMurry [continued]

5

23 Oct 69

Ques, I wonder how they knew it
was "an instrument used in
Embalming President Lincoln".

I have written the Nat. Park Service history
div. asking about the alleged
(and perhaps missing) "thing" I
shall of course keep you informed.

The case I'm working on now for
E.C. Johnston of Chicago is the
(865) 27 1/2 old Henry Cottrell who actually
(He was not the firm he was merely the
employee ^{who} ~~who~~ happened to do the job)
Embalmed Willie Lincoln. I have a good
deal of data on Cottrell, so far. But

2000-2001
The following is a list of the names of the students who were present at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the University of California, Berkeley, on January 10, 1901.

Dr. J. D. Cooper, President
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Secretary
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Treasurer
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member

Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member

Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member

Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member

Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member
Dr. J. D. Cooper, Member

addenda

Dochter McMurry [continued]

6

23 Oct 69

PS

But -- then, I'm not thru with Brother
Cecil. ~~with~~ The I do have quite a lot on
him.

Cordially and with sincere Best
wishes to you and your family

Cordially always, Herb Sheldon

File under death
of Lincoln

23 Oct 69

Dear Mr Josephus Cobb

Thank you so very much for your
answer to my recent inquiry
about the tool (a instrument) for
And Josephine Allen Examined in
a US Government warehouse in
nearby Virginia

Also I am very sincerely and extremely
appreciative of your good favor in
answering my letter! I understood =

"That the instrument was used in
embalming the Civil War President"
(That what I very clearly understood
you to say)

P₂
Mr Josephine Cobb: (continued)

23 Oct 1966

I certainly don't wish to. I certainly do not
intend to cause any uneasiness, or
controversy or any embarrassment to
anybody. Please not accused of that. In
fact other no do I have any
complaint.

This is merely a cordial, sincere quest
for information submitted in a
friendly, and very cordial spirit.

Do you have any information or any
recollection of the device I understand
you to say was used to Tubalim
President Lincoln?

Mr. Stephen Cobb [Continued]

23 Oct 65

When I wrote my previous letter asking
about 'the Embolizing instrument'
You wrote back and mentioned a
flat wood & glass front that resembles
a Pelius frame and some tools that has
been used in that construction. I am
still very respectfully eager to know more
about 'the Embolizing instrument'
You and Miss Allen observed in
the warehouse over in Virginia.

Please do keep me on this.

June 20, 1891

Dear Mr. [Name]

I have just received your letter of the 19th inst.

and am glad to hear that you are well.

I am well and hope this finds you the same.

I have not much news to write at present.

I am, however, very much interested in the

work of the [Organization]

and hope to be able to do something for it

in the near future.

I am, very respectfully,

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Address]

[City, State]

[Post Office]

[Country]

[Additional Information]

[Closing Remarks]

Mr Joseph Cobb (Continued)

P4

23 Oct 1969

I certainly am obligated to You for Your
important and Generous Cooperation.

Perhaps - some day - I can do You a
favor - I'd like to - Call on me anytime
I can help.

Respectfully, Cordially, and Most Gratefully
Red Sheldon

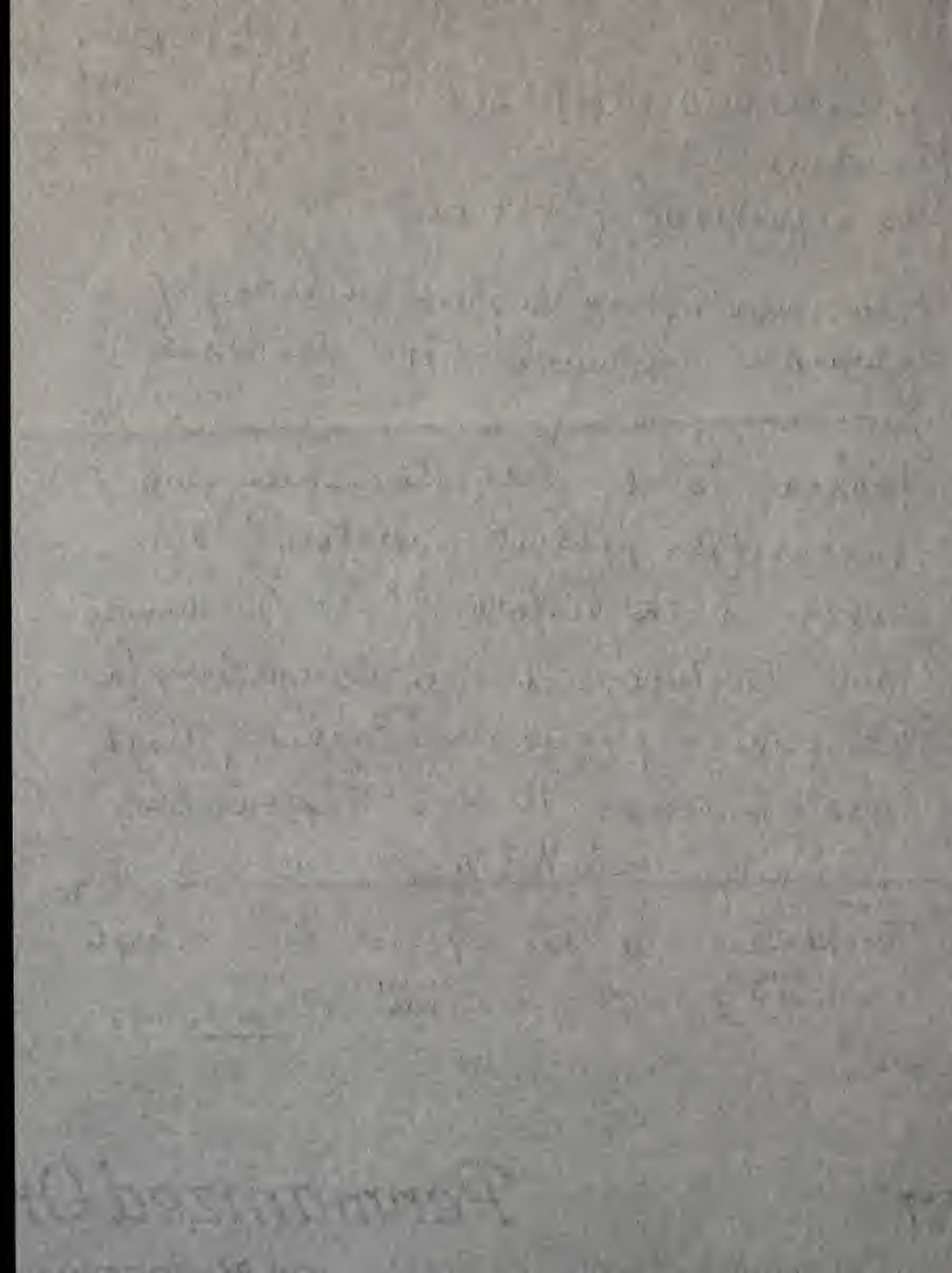
NOVEMBER
1969

Honorable Mr. Walter Hirsch
Secretary
US Department of Interior

I am making my inquiry on behalf of
Edward C. Johnson 813 Deering
Parkway Chicago 60614 Illinois. Mr
Johnson is a very busy and quite
successful funeral director whose
hobby is the history of all Ceremonies
and Customs in all Countries, for
all time - practices at times of death
and funerals. He is a responsible,

Extremely well-informed, and absolutely
^{COMPETENT} historian in the special field. Simply
an 'old school' searcher. Please do keep
me.

Permanized



General Keese do - on ?
two then up to a kite light

Honorable Secretary
US Dept of Interior,
Walter J. Hickel

8 NOVEMBER
1965

Although I very foolishly did not keep a
copy of my handwritten letter of inquiry,
I'm certain it went to Mr. George Olin,
Chief Interpreter, Visitor Services, Natio-
nal Park Service.

My letter to Mr. Olin was an inquiry
requesting any - and all - data
or information his office could
give me about any "Tubalmin
Instrument used to Tubalmin the
Civ in Pendens April 1865"

He hasn't answered my letter, and
approximately two weeks have gone by

8
7001

[illegible][illegible]

The letter to the Clerk was on Wednesday
 regarding my - and - date
 a information in office
 was in about "Indo-
 Chinese and to be submitted
 (in the form of April 1927

one, etc. in answer to the A
it was well seen out platonically

8 NOVEMBER 2

1965

Honourable Mr Walter Haller
Secretary; and Cabinet Office
U.S. Department of Interior

This report is a comment about the 'device'
a tool: used to embalm President
Lincoln's body April 1865 first came
to me at a luncheon at the Federal
Bar Association Building on W 21st Ave
where a person sitting on my
left told the story: --

And said: that as a guest of Joseph
Allen of National Park Service: -
that Mrs Allen took the two of
them (Mr Allen and one other person)
two warhorses in nearby Virginia
where - in storage - was the Embalmment

8 NOVEMBER 1969

1969

Secretary; and Cabinet Officer
 U S Department of Interior
 Hon Mr Walter J Hickel

I most certainly do not wish to intrude
 into any Hush-Hush, Top-Secret, Classified
 area; and, I Hope I'm not doing so.

If the "device" or "tool" has been so
 characterized, - I definitely have not
 been so informed.

I wonder if you could get the correct
 date on this Embalming instrument
 used on the deceased Civil War
 President? Please do Help me.

I would like to see the "device"; - if I may
 be allowed to do so - I should like
 to get a snapshot-photo (also I have a
 an inexpensive "Instamatic") - Please - May??

I am not writing this letter to
cause anybody any headache
or inconvenience; and, I hope
that will not be the result of this
letter.

I certainly will be very sincerely
grateful indeed for your generous
and important help -- Please do
help me.

Respectfully, Bert Sheldon.

at the old quarry can now be
 about 1000 pms. about 1000
 of the C. and C. and C. and C. and C.
 and C. and C. and C. and C. and C.
 and C. and C. and C. and C. and C.
 and C. and C. and C. and C. and C.

Quarry now is very small
 and is not of the same
quality -- and is not of the same
 as the old one.

and is not of the same

8 November
1969

Honourable Secretary
Mr Walter J. Hickel
U.S. Department of Interior, Sir

I am very eagerly hoping that I may have
your Sympathy, and ^{your} very generous help
in this matter.

It is not my Purpose in writing this
letter to have an Embarrass anybody;
and I Hope that that result does not
Happen.

I shall be enormously grateful, and
appreciative of your kindness,
respectfully, Bert Shelden

8 rows
1271

the Department of
the State of New York
at Albany

no very large deposit was
seen, but a few small
ones were seen in the
wall.

[illegible]

Mr. Augustus Lawrence at Adelphi
Lawrence at Adelphi
Adelphi Adelphi

9 November 1969
3315 Wisconsin Ave
Washington 16 DC

Honorable Doctor Ernest A. Connelley
Chief; Office of Archeology
and History; Room 618
U.S. Department of Interior,
Washington DC.

Dear Doctor Connelley; Sir

About two or three weeks ago, while
attending a lunch at the Federal Res Building
the Person seated on my left spoke
of having been a Guest of Josephine
Allen and having visited a
storage-warehouse located in
nearby Virginia. and while in
the storage-warehouse Mrs Allen

1892
The undersigned
do hereby certify that
the within and foregoing
is a true and correct
copy of the original
as the same appears
from the records of
the Board of Education
of the City of
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Witness my hand and
the seal of the Board of
Education of the City of
Cincinnati, Ohio, this
10th day of May, 1892.
Attest:
J. H. HENNINGSON, Secy.

1892
The undersigned
do hereby certify that
the within and foregoing
is a true and correct
copy of the original
as the same appears
from the records of
the Board of Education
of the City of
Cincinnati, Ohio.

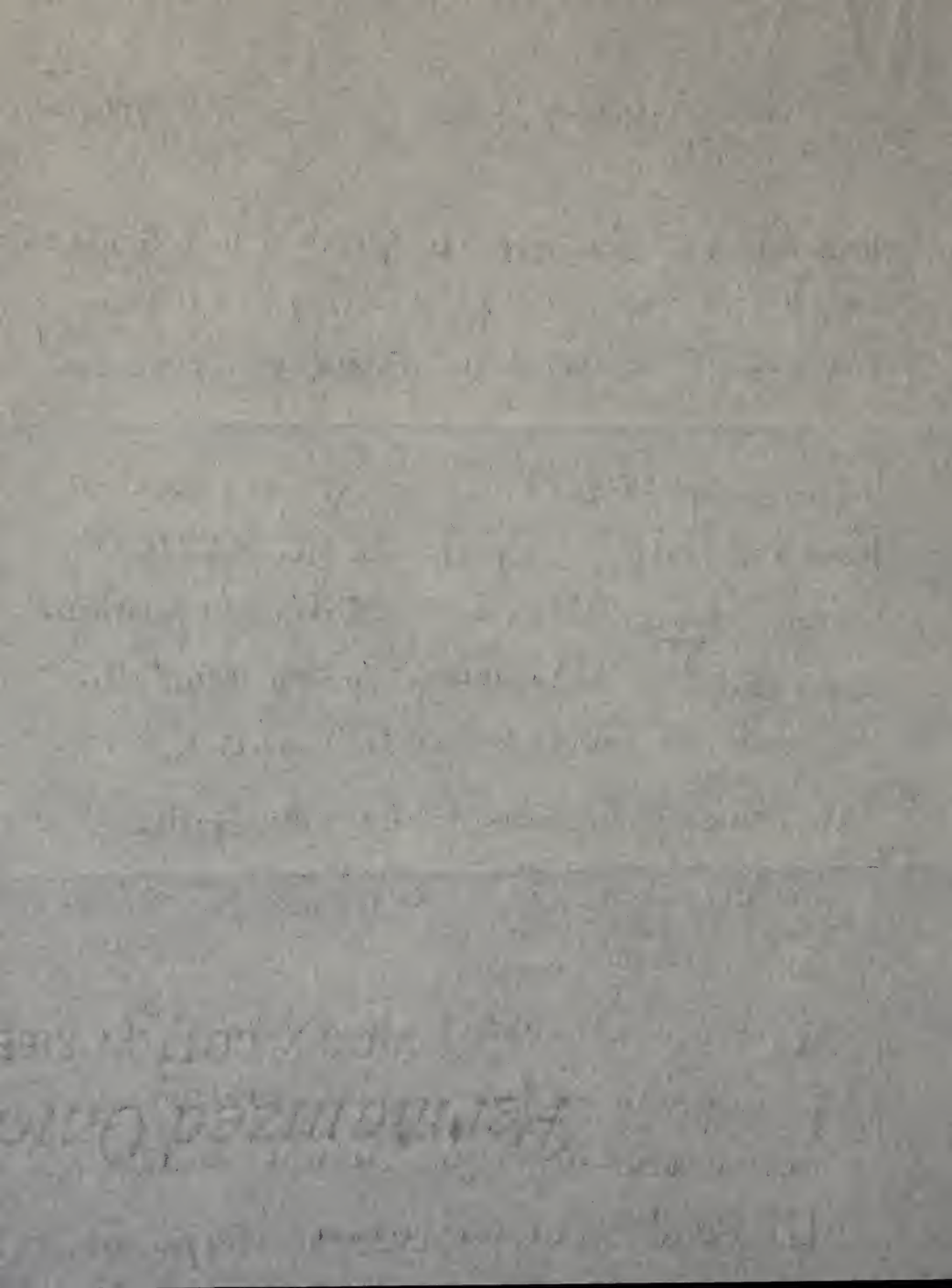
DOCTOR CONNOLLY:-
CONTINUED,

P2
JAN-1969

(Mrs Allen) showed her guest an instrument which 'was used to Embalm the deceased Civil War President, April 1865'!

A few days later I called in person at Ford's Theatre, spoke to Mr Colbert about How I could obtain 'information on this "Embalming instrument"; Mr Colbert advised me to write to Mr George Olin, "Chief Interpreter Visitor Service", - and I did, - about two weeks ago.

Mr Olin has not replied to my letter of inquiry about the "Embalming instrument-used to Embalm Mr Lincoln" I am terribly disappointed.



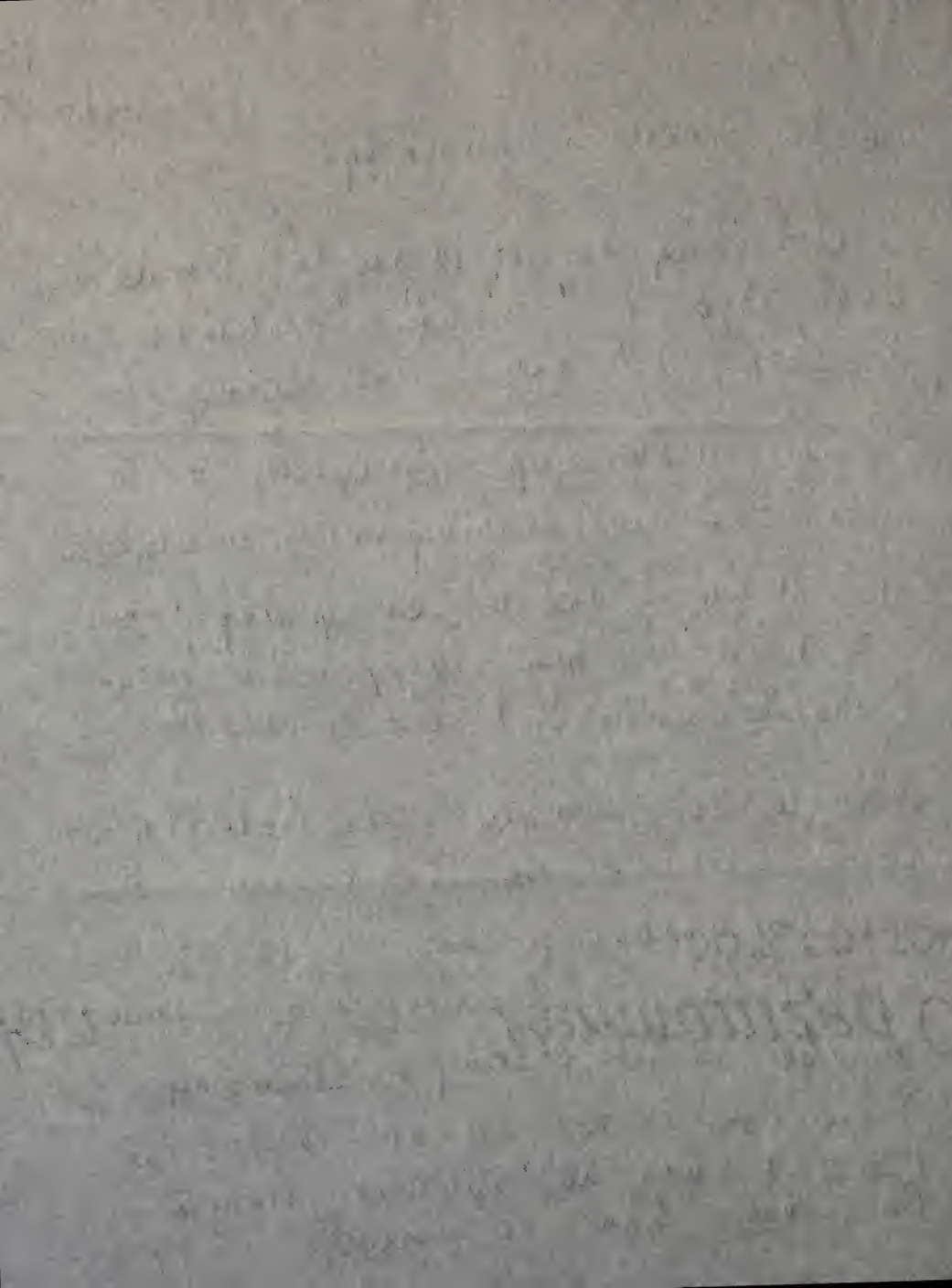
9 November '68

Doctor Ernest A. Connolly:

I certainly do not mean to intrude into any area of 'classified' material, and I hope I am not doing so.

May I very respectfully Asc: (A) to see the embalming instrument; and (B) may I take a snapshot-photo of it (with my inexpensive Instamatic camera)? Please do help me.

Mrs Allen is now retired from National Park Service, the last known local address was a P.O. Box^{#1} at Post Office 20044, the last known local telephone number is now being answered by people who do not speak English. the office that sends the retirement checks to her should have her address.



9 November 1967

Doctor Ernest A. Connolly

I recently had a photograph of Henry P. Catell, who embalmed the remains of the Civil War Presidents.

If you'd like to have the Catell's Photo, and a photo of his grave along I'd be pleased to present both to National Park Service with my compliments.

Catell was Employed By "Brown and Gleason", Embalmers.

I would what authentic data is available to clearly establish the fact that the "instrument" was so used. Have you access to any information on "that"? May I see the corroborative data that verify the story?

12 mmc Keep ch 3
Inclosure letter for you
been

3 Decmber 1969

Edward Thoron

I am sending you first copies of the letter I
have received from persons in
Hart Paul Service; [which is copy of US Dept. of Justice]

My reply to the letter - a conversation - directed to me, at
the last meeting of the Lincoln Group in which the
statement was made; - that in a Government-occupied
warehouse, in nearby Virginia - was "an instrument
which was said to have been used to Embalm the
deceased Civil War President April 1865"

My own, very definite feeling is that; we very probably will
never see see, or verify, or handle or photograph or otherwise
to our own satisfaction determine that that actually
was such a device; so used in the ^{manner} ~~was~~ it was said to
have been used.

I hardly know how ^{to} ~~to~~ - we stand on this matter. I know how
I personally feel. It is not quite clear yet what you
want to do. Do you want to aggressively "Hammer
away" at the misdeeds persons in Interior; Or shall we drop it?
I am sending Tucker way; to no.

Σ άλλα σημεία

van der Aa

2. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of rain for 7 days in 2

7-11-1914
 7-11-1914
 7-11-1914

The first of the three - the "Cathedral" - is the most important
 and is the most beautiful. It is the most important and is the most beautiful.
 The second of the three - the "Cathedral" - is the most important and is the most beautiful.
 The third of the three - the "Cathedral" - is the most important and is the most beautiful.

[illegible]

well want? ^{all} ~~that~~ it no such as - ~~advice~~ want, Pearl C
 set like for all camp for in - ^{all} ~~advice~~ Pearl C
 small" ~~advice~~ at house set for, at at house

Tigard as well as; several in answer, and some
'un' do' at; now what gives no C

3 Dec 69

Edward Johnson

The reason I feel that we probably "all washed up" on the matter is

when Mrs Allen showed the "instrument" to Miss Cobb. Mrs Allen is said to have remarked that she was thinking of "drowning it out".

When Go Cobb's remarks - the statement was directed at me - that she had been shown the device by Mrs Allen ^{her remark} it was in response to: - Somebody asks me "what are you working on now Ken?" and I mentioned my record searching for data on Henry Calles who personally Tutelined President Lincoln. whereupon Mrs Cobb spoke up telling about the "Tuteling instrument". I could have possibly have been mistaken, it was a dramatic statement, it was made in a situation where it was clearly pertinent. So I am arbitrarily completely convinced ^{entirely} without any reservation doubt, or hesitation I know what she said. But!

4

20 Dec 5

London 20 Dec 5

My dear Mr. [Name]
I have just received your letter of the 18th inst. and am glad to hear that you are well. I am also well and hope this letter finds you the same. I have not much news to write at present, but I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
[Name]
[Address]
[City]
[Country]

3 Dec 69

To Johnson

(Bar!) When I wrote Mrs. Goo asking for further information on the Embalmung device, she wrote back telling me about a "Box with a glass top on it" that was made to go on Lincoln's coffin.

I wrote to G. again, asking her about the Embalmung instrument. She waited several weeks before she replied. I feel sure she Phoned Mrs. Allen in that period of time. Her next (Her second letter to me) letter is Enclosed herin.

She's "Backing off" from the original Postcard she took in this matter, she has "changed her tune".

We haven't got a leg to stand on. Her sister has retired, and her life was short, the only answer we have on her is a Post office Box #.

3 Dec 62

at Portman

(and) when I was with the group for some time
 information as to the situation of the group
 was given. It was said that the group was
 in a very bad way and that it was
 necessary to take action.

It was said that the group was in a very bad way
 and that it was necessary to take action. It was
 said that the group was in a very bad way
 and that it was necessary to take action. It was
 said that the group was in a very bad way
 and that it was necessary to take action.

The "Lancashire" group was the only group
 in the area. It was said that the group was
 in a very bad way and that it was necessary
 to take action.

It was said that the group was in a very bad way
 and that it was necessary to take action. It was
 said that the group was in a very bad way
 and that it was necessary to take action.

3 Dec 69

Exophoron

when a man from Texas would make us to
compare a soldering iron with an
Embalmers instrument (Dr. Connolly) it looks
to me as if we'd better give up. His attempt to
substitute an argument - a suggestion that
could it perhaps have been a soldering iron?
See York? and how high high up in
Parish's importance as Interior.

Dear little ignores several things and takes
about dumping off to archiver, For Heaven's sake?
The context from validity of some such meaning.

He however is by far the best most sensible little,
and yet he misses the mark - I wonder if he
does it deliberately? Bob Dean and Connolly

Bob (quar?) was often in charge of these things?
did she have a helper or assistant or was she
the assistant, How did anyone ever know
that the device was used to Embalm A.L.?

Wanted to see

I have been thinking of you a great deal lately
 and wondering how you are getting on.
 I hope you are well and happy.
 I have been very busy lately
 but I will try to write to you more often.
 I am your affectionate friend,
 John Doe

Don't you quite remember where the
Pond was? Not, certainly it is not there now.
The pond has been filled up with earth.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been
 named in the above mentioned cases - and the names of the persons
named in the above mentioned cases - and the names of the persons

What the above was used to transfer A.T. to
Chambers, then the answer was known
and the above steps is considered to be the
best answer; was given in charge of them though.

3 Dec 69

To Johnson

was the artifacts^{or} memorabilia inventoried,
 after all he was He assistant (to the Don)
 was the person who then, was the person

interrogated, the any inquiry been directed
 (by me) to him then. why does (Don

completely ignore the warehouse and darkly
 warehouse? the thing happened (if it did happen)
in the warehouse. How did anybody know that it

was an "Incubating instrument" (I wonder)
 (isn't that the report?)

I wonder are they going with 'run around'?

what is your judgment, what do you

think we ought to do. In as to dropping
 it then if we keep keeping on it. In

absolutely sure we are going to locate

the alleged incubating device. By the way, what

the thing look like is a pump, a pump
 about size of a spoon is the most like

Have you a picture of one, circa 1965
 or two? Best

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408



November 13, 1969

NNSA

Mr. Bert Sheldon
3315 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Bert:

I cannot recall to whom I was talking in the Lincoln Group when I mentioned the work done on Mr. Lincoln's coffin by a local welder. Nor have I been able to recall his name. The box of tools used by the welder is among the properties of the Ford Museum, whether or not it is on display there. In the absence of Mrs. Allen, there must be someone who is familiar with accessioning procedures there who could show you the item. You might enquire of Mr. Harris.

If I were not on another assignment this year, I would be happy to relocate the tools and the box in which they were displayed. It will be several months before I can take up items of Lincoln interest again.

Sincerely,

Josephine Cobb

JOSEPHINE COBB
Specialist in Iconography

*Dear Bert - I hope I didn't say
"embalming" because I would be mistaken -
Thanks for writing.
Jo*



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS - CENTRAL

1100 OHIO DRIVE, S. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

November 20, 1969

Mr. Bert Sheldon
3315 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.
Apartment 302
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Sheldon:

We apologize for the delay in answering your recent letter concerning the embalming instruments supposed to have been used to embalm President Lincoln. At the time your letter arrived, I was on vacation and did not return until November 12. As the letter was addressed to me personally, it was not opened during my absence.

In pressing a search for the instrument of which you speak, we have been unsuccessful in finding any such artifact in the Lincoln collection. The records hold no mention of such an instrument ever being in the collection. After ascertaining that we do not have such material, our next endeavor was to contact the Medical Museum, but they too reply in the negative.

Mr. John Lissimore, the present park Historian at Ford's Theatre has been assigned to this project and a short report from Mr. Lissimore is attached. In the progress of this investigation, he has searched the library of the theatre and contacted several other sources. As you might know this has taken time.

About all that we can furnish concerning your inquiry is that embalming was practiced at the time of the Civil War; that the President's body was embalmed; and that it was performed by a Washington firm. No trace of the instruments used in this operation has been discovered as far as can be ascertained.

We are sorry that we cannot be more helpful in this matter, however, we will continue to be on the look-out for these artifacts. If you should happen to learn of their whereabouts, we would appreciate hearing about it also.

Sincerely yours,

George Olin
George Olin
Chief, Interpretation &
Visitor Services

Embalming of A.L.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS - CENTRAL
1100 OHIO DRIVE, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 21, 1969

Mr. Bert Sheldon
3315 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.
Apartment 302
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Sheldon:

Your letter to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, has been referred to this office for reply.

After due investigation, it has been established that Mr. Olin was on vacation at the time that your letter addressed to him personally was received. It was opened upon his return and turned over to the Historian at Ford's Theatre for research. After a thorough search by the Historian, no artifacts of the type you describe have been found.

It is regretted that we have been unable to help you in this matter and we apologize for the delay incurred. If in the future any information concerning your inquiry is discovered, we will see to it that you are advised.

Sincerely yours,

William R. Failor
Superintendent

Embalming Equipment

Here up to Rio Lige

Copy to Doc McMurtry

Dear So & Sharon

15 Dec 1969

I have your last recent letter in which you requested me to do some reading in Marcelino (Marcello) Patricio MSS Material at the Library of Congress; I am not ignoring your request, I am merely slow in getting started. I went to Patricio MSS one before for you, I can't use the penmanship now; I'll try again. However: I doubt very much that I shall do any 'Patricio-Hunting' before 1970 - Then I'll get started on General P. H.?

I am definitely of the opinion that getting anything away from US Government is entirely outside the realm of the possible. If you want to try it; and have any

Political records of contributions ^{made} if GOP write Percy of Democrats ^{identify and select} ~~find~~ some good Chicago Demo ^{Congressman} and ask some political ^{friend}

12 Dec 1941

now 50 years

I have been in the army for 12 years and I have been in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

in the army for 12 years

To Johnson:

15 Dec 69 - (P2 -

Re some Chicago mortician - for whom you
do work to Bill Little writes requesting
loan of ch tools incidentals (German) to Al's
Coffin - closing - and - sealing for Tom Funerals
Director's Museum. But: It is necessary
that (A) the funeral director have good "IN"
"Communication Lines" to the Congressman;
in other words, The Funeral director should (A)
have made political contributions (A2) to
a Congressman of the same Party as to
which said mortician gave his Political ^{Contribution}.
On: Tues. 10th; a petition from the President
and Secretary and U.P. and Treasurer
of "his mortician Association". In affairs
you will have out in the end; But, if
you want to try to ahead, and, Good Luck.
(I'd make no be responsible for what happens)

Ed Johnson;

15 Dec 1969

(P.3)

I have your letter in which you seem to be quite
tolerant (and perhaps, most generous) in your
judgment of Miss Coto and Mr Allen when you

state Mrs Allen must - very probably have

been mistaken in her judgment as to who
the instrument ^{really} was. My thinking was that

surely it must have been tagged on; Allen
would not know how to speculate that

"it was an imbolwing instrument; it

has to be tagged & Mrs Allen would not

have ventured such a guess she would not have

'Known-How' ^{to make cert. guess} unless she was born and reared

in a family of imbolwers and even then

how come she is alleged to have used

that it was used to imbolw deceased lives. To

be more charitable must make it more than

realistic, I think. The thing has to have a tag

on it; & we couldn't have this incident. Happened
therefore it must have happened. St Colum has also

34

7001 2.4.11 - 1

1. *manuscript* 185

These two letters were written to the first
and second (unpublished) editions of the

[illegible]

It never will be the same again

What was Green named - and what was he called?

There is no change in position

and was grounded till new snow came etc

Handwritten: on paper and not on leaf

Now we know how to operate the bar

1. monoculture power lost and new is

the water will be good at least

enthalten die nach dem ersten und

persons and we the nation will remain

not used as amount of time of 3 in

Best result at 10-12% N⁺ with over 1000

It is not possible to find a single word in the dictionary.

was about 1000 ft. long

Martine & John

...which will be as a gift to

• संस्थागत अर्थ सिद्धांत है संस्था (1)

To Johnson

15 Dec '69

p 4

You are kind, and very generous to Mr Allen.
I am more cynical. I do not G. Allen did not
grow-up in a family of Embalmers - of
course, maybe she did. (I doubt it very much)

unless the device was tagged to Allen would he
have known it from an officer - Gough
"Key" to the Parade Grounds? (in a circle is
the "Key to the Centre Pole" or "Key to the House?")

However, in Glad you feel the way ^{you do} do. It
can ~~give~~ give ^{us} a more pleasure, a

more kind, a more friendly incline to our
inquiry. I had to hammer at, ~~the~~ 'nay'

People. But, - unfortunately, I find myself
in position occasionally when that
seems the only thing to do. However, I

find, - in the long run, it doesn't pay it
to be too successfully, usually. That reminds
us: I'm still corresponding about that tiny
Patent-office model-copies. More about that ^{Best} ^{Sheldon}

12 June 1944

For the time being, we are
in the same position as we
were in the last year. The
situation is still the same.
The only change is that the
situation is still the same.

When the time comes, we
will have to face the fact
that the situation is still
the same. The only change
is that the situation is still
the same. The only change
is that the situation is still
the same.

When the time comes, we
will have to face the fact
that the situation is still
the same. The only change
is that the situation is still
the same. The only change
is that the situation is still
the same.

When the time comes, we
will have to face the fact
that the situation is still
the same. The only change
is that the situation is still
the same. The only change
is that the situation is still
the same.

12 June 1944

John C. Brennan
33 Main Street
Laurel, Maryland 20810

7-27-79

Mr. Neely:

This letter is to the Grand Secretary (or something) of the Masonic Order in Virginia.

If you have any idea as to what happened to the "good" doctors Brown & Alexander, please by all means send the information by next stage to

V t y

JOHN C. BRENNAN

513 Main St.
Laurel, Md. 20810
July 27, 1979

Mr. John Powers Stokes
P.O. Box 27345
Richmond, Va. 23261

Dear Mr. Stokes:

During the Civil War a funeral director firm named BROWN AND ALEXANDER operated in Washington, D.C.

When the President's boy "Little Willie" Lincoln died in 1862 "the body was embalmed on February 22 by Doctors Brown and Alexander," and later when the President expired on April 15, 1865, the same firm took care of the President himself.

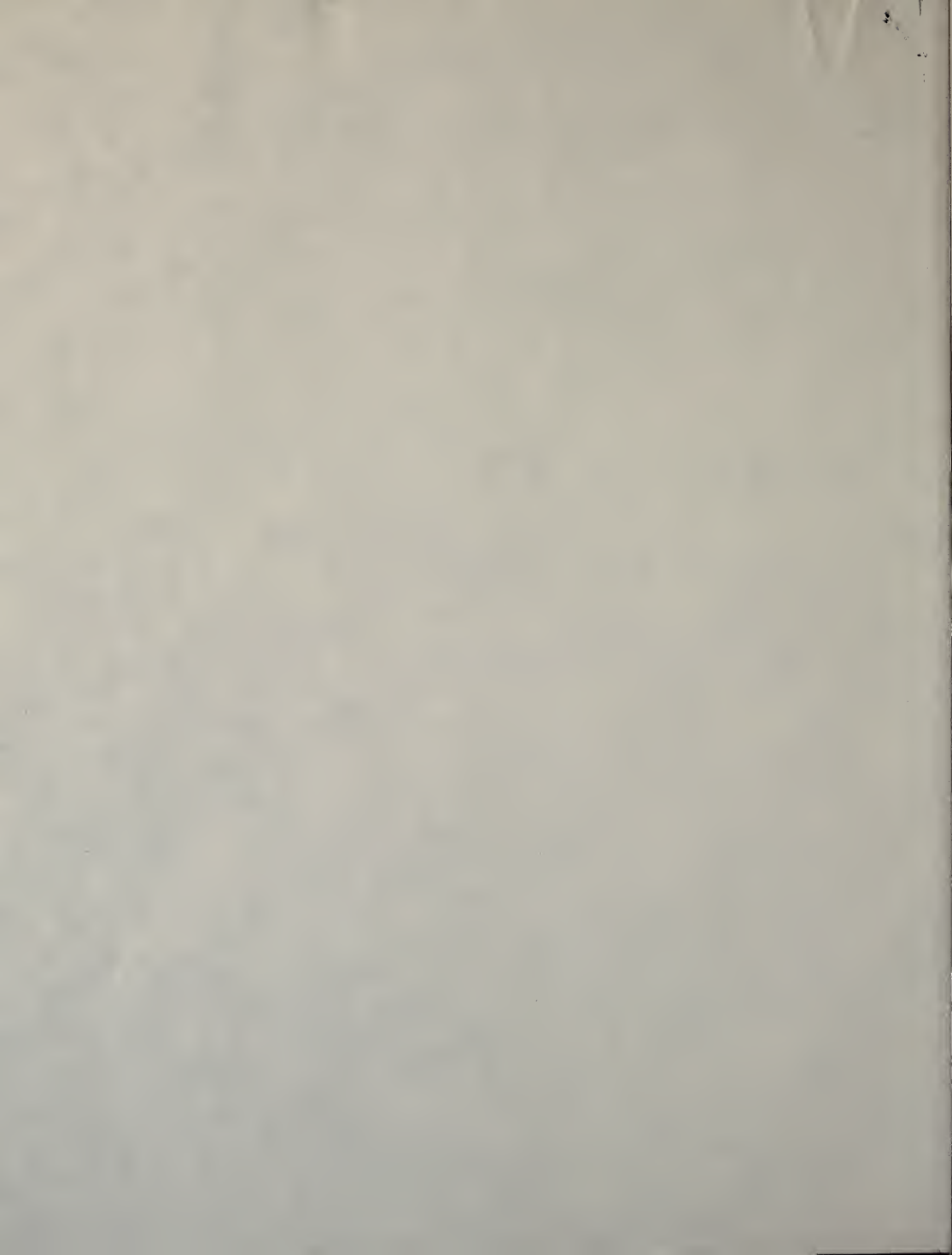
Dr. Joseph B. Alexander of New York, and Dr. Charles DeCosta Brown of New York, were Masons who "in the Mystic Bond", wrote a letter to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the District of Columbia offering to embalm the body of any Brother Mason without charge when recommended by any Lodge of the District. (Dec. 27, 1861.)

At the conclusion of the War, the firm moved away from the District and is believed to have resumed their business in Norfolk, Va.

Several people interested in the details of the Lincoln assassination would like very much to know what happened to these two medical embalmers, especially Dr. Brown. Would there be any Masonic rosters available for Norfolk that might list either or both names and give us a clue as to their ultimate destinies?

Very truly yours,

John C. Brennan



On the same day, a letter was read to the members of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the offer accepted, and a unanimous vote of thanks tendered by them:

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27, 1861.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master Officers and Brethren of the Dist. of Col.
MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN: We the undersigned, R. W. Charles DeCosta Brown, M.D., of New York, and P.M. Joseph B. Alexander, M.D., of New York, would most respectfully inform this Grand Body of the District of Columbia, that through the solicitations of many prominent Masons of the State of New York, viz: R.W.P.C.M. John J. Crane, M.D.; R.W. James M. Austin, M.D. G. Secretary of the city and State of New York, and many others, we have opened an office, No. 410 Seventh Street, Washington, for the purpose of embalming and preserving the bodies of such brother Masons, citizens or soldiers who may be so unfortunate as to die or be killed, while at the seat of war and away from their families and friends.

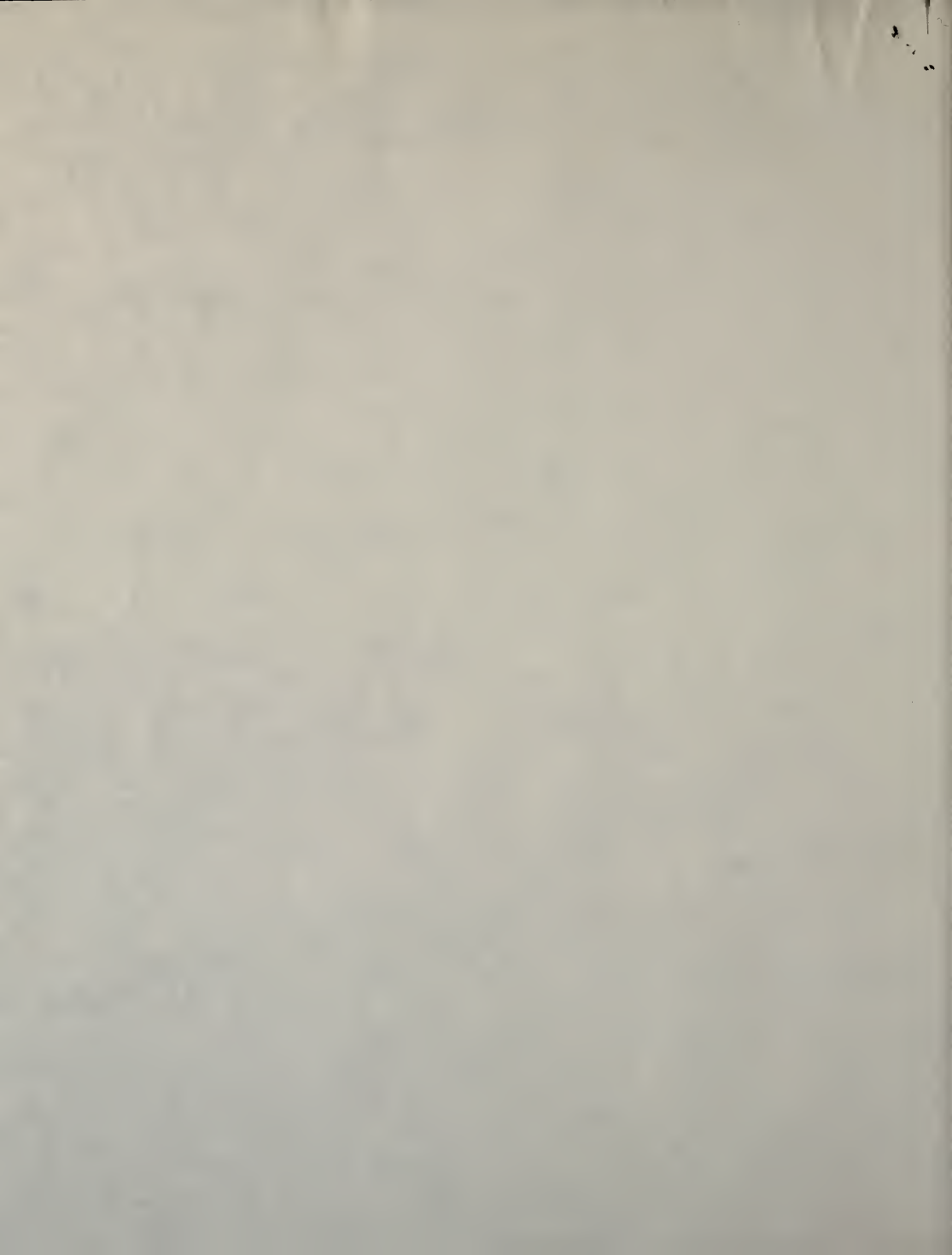
Our process is that of the celebrated Professor Brother Sucquet, of Paris, by which all the distinguished personages who have died in France for a number of years past have been preserved, and is now endorsed by the whole medical faculty of New York, as the only method by which a dead body can be perfectly preserved with life-like expression for all time, and without change of color or feature. The process is simple -- powerful antiseptic fluid which contains no arsenic or other poison, and which instantly arrests decomposition and gradually hardens the body into a marble like mass.

The truly sympathetic heart must immediately appreciate the advantages of having the body of a deceased friend or relative returned to its sacred home free from the taint and ghastly discolor of a decaying corpse.

By our system persons dying away from their homes can be returned to the bosom of their friends in as perfect condition as at the day of their death, and can be thus retained for months or years without the necessity of immediate burial, as a corpse embalmed by us presents all the appearance of sleeping life, rather than the gloom of death.

We therefore humbly pray that this Grand Body will take cognizance of that fact, and all Subordinate Lodges to whom this shall become known, and that they with Masons generally will notify us immediately of the demise of any brother Mason, whose body they may wish to preserve by embalment, and such bodies we pledge ourselves to embalm and preserve free of cost and without other charge, or professional fees, when recommended by any Lodge of the District.

Yours in the Mystic Bond,
DR. JOS. B. ALEXANDER,
CHARLES DECOSTA BROWN
No. 410 Seventh Street
Washington, D. C.





THE LOUIS A. WARREN
LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

1300 SOUTH CLINTON STREET / FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801

MARK E. NEELY, JR.
Director

Telephone (219) 424-5421

August 1, 1979

Mr. John C. Brennan
513 Main Street
Laurel, MD 20810

Dear Mr. Brennan:

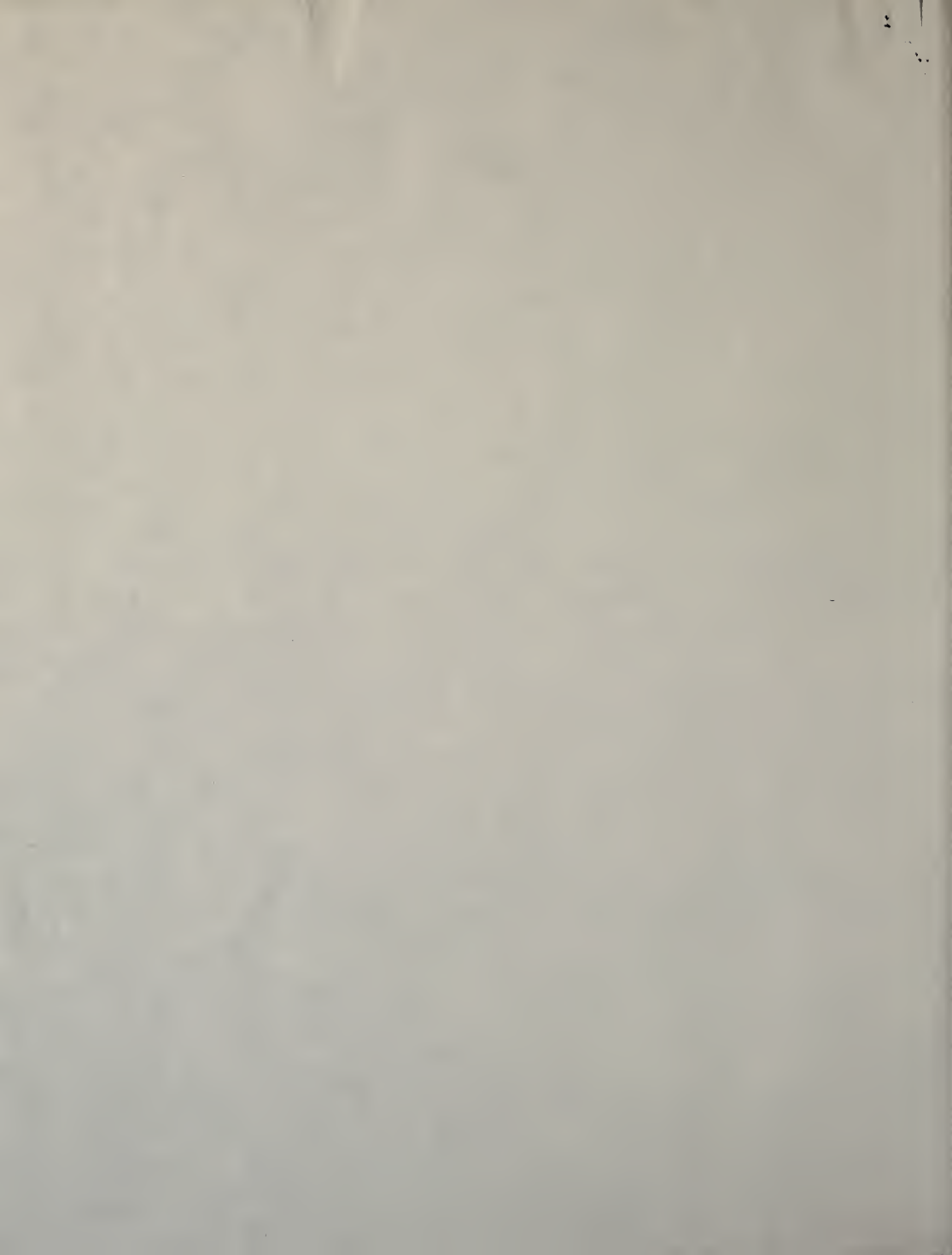
Our files contain no information on the fate of Brown and Alexander after the Lincoln funeral. I thought we were doing well just to have information identifying the embalmers, but the curious Lincoln student can always find a way to exhaust the information available even in very good collections. I'm sorry I cannot help.

I thank you, too, for your very interesting letter about Augustus Clark. I flatter myself now with the memory that I had some doubts about that letter at the time the MHS released it, inasmuch as our files contained information on William but not Augustus. However, I certainly did not have anything like the careful research you and Bert Sheldon put together on the question to add conviction to my hunch.

Sincerely yours,

Mark E. Neely Jr.
Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/jaf





RETURN to the SCENE OF THE CRIME

OVERVIEW

AN EVENING AT FORD'S THEATRE
VIGIL AT THE PETERSEN'S HOUSE
THE EARTHLY REMAINS

TABLE OF CONTENT

CONSERVATION LABORA



Dr. Charles Brown was called to the White House to embalm Lincoln's body. The preservation of Lincoln's corpse promoted new commercial process, revolutionizing American funeral practices.

Embalming was an exotic procedure in the mid-nineteenth century primarily known as an ancient Egyptian custom. American doctors began embalming casualties on Civil War battlefields for shipment to distant family burial grounds, using a technique patented by Dr. Brown. The *Chicago Tribune* reported in amazement that "the Doctor claims to be able absolutely to arrest the process of dissolution."

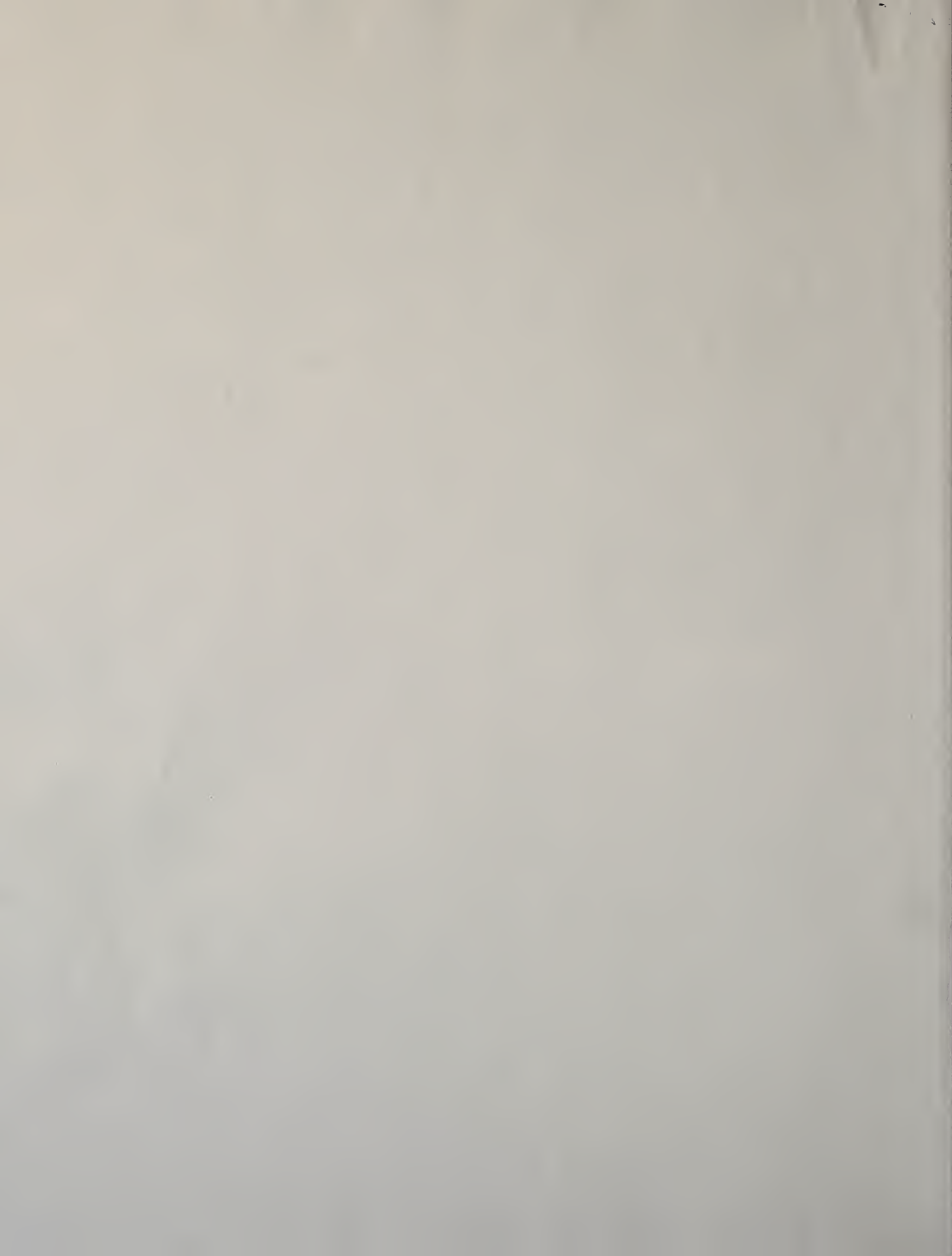
"President Lincoln's Funeral-Citizens Viewing the Body at City Hall, New York" *Harper's Weekly*, May 6, 1865 (ICH1-30935).

Lurid descriptions of the embalming process appeared in the popular press:

Three years ago, when little Willie Lincoln died, Doctors Brown and Alexander, the embalmers or injectors, prepared his body so handsomely that the President had it twice disinterred to look upon it. The same men, in the same way, have made perpetual these beloved lineaments. There is now no blood in the body; it was drained by the jugular vein and sacredly preserved, and through a cutting on the inside of the thigh the empty blood vessels were charged with a chemical preparation which soon hardened to the consistence of stone. The long and bony body is now hard and stiff, so that beyond its present position it cannot be moved any more than the arms or legs of a statue... He lies in sleep, but it is the sleep of marble. (TOWNSEND 14)"

The Coffin of A. Lincoln," *The Trial and Execution of the Assassins and Conspirators at Washington City, DC, May & June, 1865, for the Murder of President Abraham Lincoln, 1865.*





Americans were fascinated by Lincoln's preserved body. More than a million and a half mourners stood in line to view his remains, and frequently had to be restrained from touching or kissing his face as they passed alongside his casket.



Chicago's memorial services were among the most elaborate in the nation. The president lay in state in Chicago's courthouse, where 125,000 viewed the remains at a rate of 7,000 an hour. Dr. Brainerd and undertaker Frank Sands accompanied the body on the long train journey to Springfield, reembalming the body several times en route.

Mourners in line to view Lincoln's remains at the Chicago Courthouse, May 1865 (ICHi-22122).

Francis Owens, a Chicago schoolteacher, sang at Lincoln's funeral and recorded the event in her diary.

We sang "Happy are They"... and Geo. F. Root's new song, "Farewell Patriot, Friend, & Brother"... The thousands and thousands who marched through were disappointed in not seeing the remains. They were not quite ready for view and so the whole mass went off dissatisfied. We staid till the embalmers had prepared it, and so had a good view of it before the crowd came in. It looks better than I supposed Mr. Lincoln looked. The light shines on his face through silver stars... [my young student] Mary Brown said she did like to look at dead folks so much. She wished she was the embalmer, so she could look at him all she wanted to.
(OWENS)

Listen to Farewell Father, Friend & Guardian

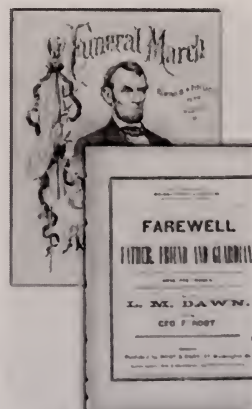
George F. Root's tribute to Abraham Lincoln ~ composed, published, and performed in Chicago for Lincoln's funeral.

Choose the option below that matches your Internet connection:

Dial-Up Modem
(28.8, 33.6, or 56K)

Direct Connect
(Cable, T1, Ethernet)

You will need QuickTime to play music and videos on this site. [Click here to download](#)



"Farewell Father, Friend, and Guardian," George F. Root and "Funeral March, Composed and Dedicated to the Memory of the Pure and Noble Patriot Abraham Lincoln," 1865.



Map

Planning a Visit

Support the Cemetery

Events

Collections

Photos

Menu

Assassination & Murder

Murder of Philip Barton Key, February 27, 1859



Shooting of Philip Barton Key

K1	Rezin Arnold , Foreman of the jury that found Gen. Daniel Sickles innocent of murder by reason of temporary insanity.	d. 25 Jul 1871	I
----	--	----------------	---

Assassination of President James A. Garfield, July 1, 1881

G1	Henry Jackson Bright , Member of the jury that convicted Charles J. Guiteau of murder.	d. 4 Jun 1906	I
G2	James Croggon , Present at the train station. Reported the assassination for The Star.	d. 22 Aug 1916	I
G3	Thomas W. Heinline , Member of the jury that convicted Charles J. Guiteau of murder.	d. 7 Jan 1883	I

Obituaries & Notices

Association for the Preservation
of
Historic Congressional Cemetery
1801 E Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 543-0539

CongressionalCemetery@mail.org

Assassination of President Lincoln, April 14, 1865

L1	Dr. Joseph Bell Alexander , Co-owner of the undertaking firm of Brown & Alexander which prepared Lincoln's body for his funeral tour.	d. 12 Jul 1871	I
L2	Dr. Charles E. Allen , Testified for Dr. Samuel Mudd.	d. 27 Dec 1908	I
L3	George M. Arth , Musician in the Ford's orchestra the night of the assassination.	d. 4 Mar 1886	
L4	George A. Bohrer , Member of the jury that tried John Surratt.	d. 23 Nov 1896	
L5	John E. Buckingham, Sr. , Doorkeeper of Ford's Theater. Last one to speak to Booth.	d. 29 Mar 1909	I
L6	Henry Pratt Cattell , Embalmer for the firm Brown & Alexander who embalmed the body of Abraham Lincoln.	d. 8 Dec 1915	
L7	John A.W. Clarvoe , Detective who went to the Surratt House	d. 4 Feb 1879	
L8	James Croggon , Reporter who viewed Booth's body at the U.S. Arsenal.	d. 22 Aug 1916	
L9	Dr. Clarence W. Davis , Witness for David Herold.	d. 14 Nov 1870	
L10	Charles Forbes , Lincoln's Valet, present at Ford's Theater.	d. 11 Oct 1895	
L11	Dr. Charles M. Ford , One of 16 doctors	d. 19 Feb 1884	

	to attend Lincoln on his deathbed.		
L12	Dr. James Crowhill Hall , One of 16 doctors to attend Lincoln on his deathbed. Testified for Lewis Powell/Paine.	d. 7 Jun 1880	I
L13	Simon P. Hanscom , Editor of the Daily National Republican and friend of Lincoln. Delivered telegraph message to Lincoln at Ford's Theater.	d. 24 Nov 1876	
L14	Emerick W. Hansell , State Department messenger wounded by Lewis Powell/Paine at Secretary Seward's home.	d. 14 Feb 1893	I
L15	David Herold , Escaped with John Wilkes Booth. Captured, convicted and hung.	d. 7 Jul 1865	
L16	William Easby Hutchinson , Present at Ford's Theater and viewed Booth's body at the Navy Yard where he worked.	d. 17 Feb 1907	I
L17	William H. Kielholtz , Trial witness for David Herold.	d. 14 Jun 1900	R
L18	Margaret Laurie , With her daughter (Belle Youngs) the Lincoln's favorite spiratulists. Received blood-stained lock of Lincoln's hair from Mary Lincoln.	d. 8 Feb 1873	
L19	Dr. Samuel A.H. McKim , Trial witness for David Herold.	d. 30 Jul 1900	
L20	Maj. William G. Moore , War Department clerk (later Superintendent of Police) who attended the Booth's inquest on the Montauk.	d. 17 Jul 1898	I
L21	Capt. Frank Munroe , Marine officer who took Atzerodt's confession on board the Saugus.	d. 18 Nov 1877	I
L22	Seaton Munroe , Attended the Booth's inquest on board the Montauk.	d. 6 April 1896	I
L23	James Nokes , Trial witness for David Herold.	d. 2 Sep 1875	I
L24	Salvadore Petrola , Musician (cornet) in the Ford's orchestra the night of the assassination.	d. 17 Jan 1916	
L25	Joseph T.K. Plant , Testified about the condition of the locks on the President's box in defense of Edwin Spangler.	d. 7 Mar 1881	
L26	James W. Pumphrey , Owner of the livery stable where Booth rented his horse.	d. 19 Dec 1871	I
L27	Frank T. Sands , Undertaker. Provided the coffin and accompanied the funeral train on its trip to Springfield, Illinois.	d. 30 Aug 1868	I
L27	Joseph Sessford , Treasure of Ford's Theater and acquaintance of Booth's. In the box office the night of the assassination.	d. 8 Mar 1901	
L28	Joseph G. Shelton , Policeman and Lincoln's body guard. Helped to carry his body to the Peterson House. Present at his	d. 26 Oct 1907	



	death.		
L29	James Henry St. Clair , Usher at Ford's Theater the night of the assassination.	d. 19 May 1873	
L30	Francis Maria Scala , Leader of the Marine Band during Lincoln's administration.	d. 18 Apr 1903	
L31	Peter Taltavul , Owner of the Star Saloon where Booth had his last drink before assassinating Lincoln.	d. 8 Apr 1881	I
L32	William P. Wood , First head of the Secret Service. Obtained statements from Dr. Mudd, Mrs. Suratt and Lewis Powell/Paine.	d. 23 Mar 1903	I
L33	Hon. Henry Gaither Worthington , Pall-bearer at Lincoln's funeral. See U.S. Congress and U.S. Diplomats	d. 29 Jul 1909	
L34	Mary (Belle) Youngs , With her mother (Margaret Laurie) the Lincoln's favorite spiratulists. Received blood-stained lock of Lincoln's hair from Mary Lincoln.	d. 11 Mar 1882	

Murder Victims

M1	Thornton Avery , Shot by W.W.B. Edwards who was convicted of manslaughter in March 1856	d. 3 Oct 1855	I
M2	Andrea DeFrouville , Killed by her estranged husband who then committed suicide.	d. 4 Apr 1883	
M3	Francis M. Doyle , Policeman shot in the line of duty by Mrs. Shea.	d. 29 Dec 1871	I
M4	John H. Fowler , Policeman shot in the line of duty by John Langster	d. 9 Sep 1884	I
M5	Kan Ya Tu Duta (Scarlet Crow) , Indian delegate. Kidnapped and killed when ransom was not forthcoming.	d. 13 Mar 1867	
M6	Sarah J. Shipley , Killed by a stray bullet at the backdoor of her house on Christmas Day. Gave birth to her 3d child an hour before her death.	d. 25 Dec 1880	I
M7	Charles A. Stockett , Killed by a burglar while at work in his hardware store.	d. 4 Dec 1913	
M8	Lt. Col. Gustav VonGerber , Army officer, killed by thugs while defending the honor of a lady.	d. 14 Nov 1861	



**SUBSCRIBE
AND
SAVE**



**washington
DC**

SAVE ON SUMMER FREEdom PACKAGES TODAY
Special values at leading DC hotels, tours and attractions
[Learn more](#) 

Smithsonian.com

Air & Space
magazine

goSmithsonian
Visitors Guide

Smithsonian
Channel

Smithsonian
Store

Smithsonian
Journeys

Smithsonian
Institution

Search... 

Subscribe

Home

History & Archaeology

People & Places

Science & Nature

Arts & Culture

Travel

Photos

Videos

Games & Puzzles

Blogs

Blogs

[Art](#) | [History](#) | [Food and Travel](#) | [Science](#)

Around the Mall
Scenes and sightings from
Smithsonian museums and
beyond

DESIGN DECODED
Sketching the blueprints
behind everyday things

threaded
Your go-to fashion blog for
all things historical and
sartorial

SMART news

Keeping You Current

August 13, 2012 10:07 am

How Lincoln's Assassination Launched the Funeral Industry



After this fatal blow, Lincoln's body had to be preserved somehow. Image: Currier & Ives

In 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater, no one expected that one of the longest lasting effects of that day to be a boom in the funeral industry. The blog Providentia explains how it happened.

Lincoln's body had to make the trip from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois for burial. Along the way, millions of mourners would see his corpse at planned stops along the route. The nation wanted to mourn their dead president, and they wanted to see his body. But keeping a corpse presentable for that long wasn't exactly common practice at the time.

This is where Thomas Holmes, a surgeon who is now known as the "father of American embalming," comes in. Holmes was fascinated with embalming, but he thought that the standard American way of doing it – with harsh chemicals like arsenic and mercury – were too toxic and dangerous to medical students. In Europe, they were experimenting with something called "arterial embalming," flushing out the blood and filling the arteries with a preservative like alcohol.

When the Civil War broke out, Holmes had plenty of bodies on which to test this arterial embalming idea. During the fighting the bodies were generally buried at the battle field, but families often wanted their sons sent home for a proper burial. Providentia explains:

Setting up battlefield embalming stations, Dr. Holmes trained numerous embalmers in his new technique and a new profession, the “embalming surgeon” quickly sprang up. It is hard to say how many corpses Dr. Holmes and his assistants prepared for shipping, (he later claimed to have personally embalmed more than 4,000 bodies but this is probably an exaggeration). The demand for embalming services became so great that some unscrupulous embalmers actually competed for corpses on the battlefield (the army offered an \$80.00 fee for the embalmed body of an officer and \$30.00 for a soldier). By 1865, the problem had become so bad that the War Department put out General Order 39 to ensure that only properly licensed embalmers would be allowed to offer services to the families of the war dead. Once the war was over, Dr. Holmes’ numerous trained assistants returned home and put their skills to good use.

So, fast forward again to the assassination. Mary Todd Lincoln had seen Holmes’s work on the soldiers during the war, and asked for him personally to handle her husband’s body. Now, at the time, there wasn’t a funerary trade like there is today. Embalming was generally done by the undertaker and bodies that weren’t embalmed weren’t exactly open casket material. But after Lincoln’s body made its farewell tour, Holmes’s techniques sparked a country-wide trend in embalming. Whereas before people buried bodies as quickly as possible before they could decay, funerals and wakes became events; things for people to gather at and view their deceased loved ones. Providentia sums up:







While not as well known as other scientific pioneers, Dr. Thomas Holmes helped launch the funeral industry and, in turn, helped change attitudes concerning death. He may have also created one of the first industrial hazards of the modern era considering the popularity of his arsenic-based embalming fluid. As embalming became increasingly affordable and popular, the demand for embalming fluid and its principal ingredient, arsenic, meant a steady rise in arsenic contamination of local water supplies as decaying coffins (whether made of wood or metal) allowed embalmed remains to leak into the groundwater.

For Dr. Holmes, death was both his trade and legacy, in more ways than one. But for millions of Americans who got to see Lincoln and their own family members after their deaths, perhaps it was worth it.

More at Smithsonian.com:
 Unexpected Considerations for the Home Funeral
 The Funeral Parade for the Last Veteran of the War of 1812

 Share/Save

Posted By: Rose Eveleth — American History,Deaths | Link | Comments (1)

 Share/Save  Submit  Like 30  submit  Tweet 23  Digg ?

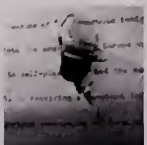
More From Smithsonian.com



500-Year-Old Sword Gets A Facelift



World's Coolest Animal Bridges



Theodore Roosevelt's Life-Saving Speech



In Scotland, Two Mix-and-Match Mummies Contain Parts of Six...



Providentia

A biased look at psychology in the world

[Home](#) | [Archives](#) | [Profile](#) | [Subscribe](#) |

[« Can Motivation Prevent Dementia? | Main | How Dangerous is the Night Shift? »](#)

August 12, 2012

* Abraham Lincoln and The Embalmer

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 15, 1865 shocked a nation still recovering from four years of bloody civil war. Along with the hunt for his killers and the uncovering of the assassination plot against the President and several other members of his administration, there was also the logistic nightmare of his funeral and the need to transport the President's body by train from Washington D.C. to his final resting place in Springfield, Illinois. Since the funeral train would retrace the route that Lincoln had traveled to Washington following his election, the body would be viewed by millions of mourners along the way during the numerous planned stops. All of which raised the question of how to keep the body preserved long enough to reach its destination. Considering the fact that funeral embalming was a relatively new development at that time, some very special arrangements needed to be made.

Enter Thomas Holmes, the "father of American embalming"...

After graduating from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1845, Dr. Holmes developed a keen interest in the proper preserving of cadavers for dissection. He was also openly critical of the chemical preservatives that were commonly used and the possible health risks that they posed to medical students. Considering that many of the popular preservatives used arsenic and mercury, he was likely right. In searching for a better way to preserve bodies, he discovered that European anatomists had already begun experimenting with arterial embalming, i.e., opening up an artery in the cadaver, flushing out the blood with water and replacing it with a preservative (typically alcohol). Through his research, Dr. Holmes developed a more practical embalming solution that he patented and sold commercially.



Still, it was the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War and the problem of preserving the corpses of thousands of soldiers to allow them to be sent home for burial that gave Dr. Holmes the chance to test out his improved preservation methods on a broad scale. Although the corpses were typically buried at the battlefield sites where they were killed, families often demanded that the corpses be disinterred so they could receive "proper" burials. Considering the lack of proper refrigeration or hermetically sealed coffins, the delivery brigades charged with shipping the bodies turned to Dr. Holmes and his embalming methods to keep the bodies from decaying long enough to be reburied by their families.

After receiving a commission as a captain in the Army Medical Corps, Dr. Holmes was assigned to Washington, D.C. and managed to impress President Lincoln enough that the Quartermaster Corps was mobilized to use embalming on a wide scale to return the corpses of Northern soldiers to their homes (the Confederate army never adopted embalming for their soldiers). Setting up battlefield embalming stations, Dr. Holmes trained numerous embalmers in his new technique and a new profession, the "embalming surgeon" quickly sprang up. It is hard to say how many corpses Dr. Holmes and his assistants prepared for shipping, (he later claimed to have personally embalmed more than 4,000 bodies but this is probably an exaggeration). The demand for embalming services became so great that some unscrupulous embalmers actually competed for corpses on the battlefield (the army offered an \$80.00 fee for the embalmed body of an officer and \$30.00 for a soldier). By 1865, the problem had become so bad that the War Department put out *General Order 39* to ensure that only properly licensed embalmers would be allowed to offer services to the families of the war dead. Once the war was over, Dr. Holmes' numerous trained assistants returned home and put their skills to good use.

Following President Lincoln's assassination, Mary Todd Lincoln personally requested that Dr. Holmes be placed in charge of her husband's embalming. She had been familiar with his work after seeing how effective he was in preparing the body of Colonel Elmer Elsworth, the first casualty of the U.S. Civil War. The Lincolns had been impressed enough to have Dr. Holmes embalm the body of their son, William Wallace Lincoln, when he died in 1862. Embalming the President's corpse for the long funeral train was probably the best possible advertisement for the new arterial embalming technique since thousands of mourners were able to see for themselves how effective it could be.

Not that there were any actual "embalming surgeons" left for long. Within just a few years after the end of the Civil War, embalming was largely left up to professional undertakers. There was not much of an organized funerary trade at first (many new embalmers gained their skills from correspondence courses and conducted

About



[Email Me](#)

Subscribe to Feed



[ADD THIS](#)

Your email address:

[Get email updates](#)

Powered by [FeedBlitz](#)

[Add me to your TypePad People list](#)

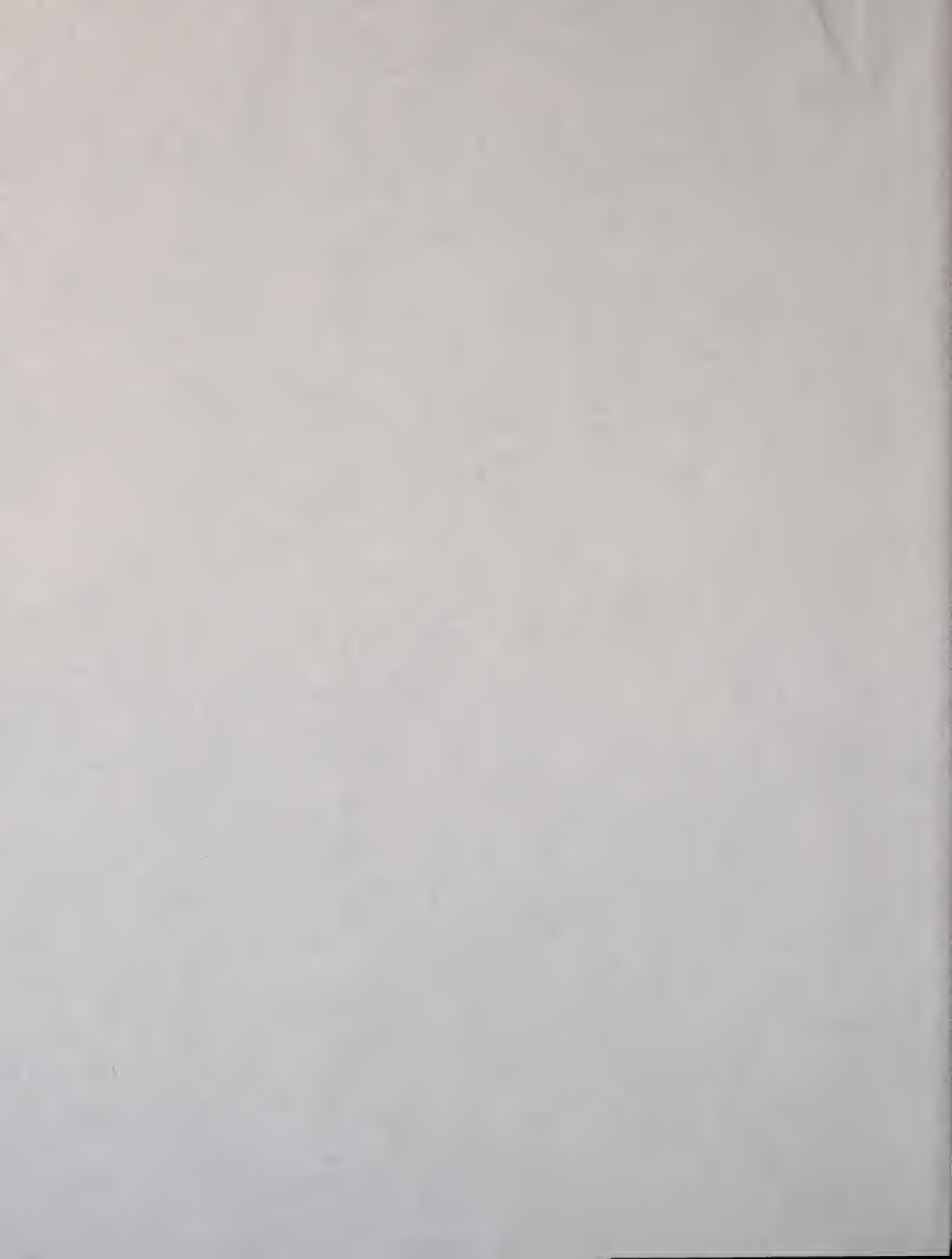
[BOOKMARK](#)

Categories

[Books](#) [Chronic Pain](#) [Current Affairs](#) [Dealing With Stigma](#) [Film](#) [Food and Drink](#) [Forensic Matters](#) [HIV/AIDS](#) [Living History](#) [Neuropsychology](#) [Psychology Fun](#) [PTSD](#) [Rants and Musings](#) [Religion](#) [Research in the News](#) [Science](#) [Sexology](#) [Skepticism](#) [Substance Abuse](#) [Suicide](#) [Travel](#) [Web/Tech](#) [Weblogs](#)

Recent Posts

[Down on the Heebie-Jeebie Farm](#)
[Social Media Depression and Young Adults](#)
[How Dangerous is the Night Shift?](#)
[Abraham Lincoln and The Embalmer](#)
[Can Motivation Prevent Dementia?](#)
[Police Crack Down on Cannibal Vigilante Cult in Papua New Guinea](#)
[The Fruit Machine Saga \(Part 3\)](#)
[Remembering the Antelope](#)
[Can Increasing Cognitive Ability Make](#)



funerals out of their own homes). Still, the next few decades saw a tremendous rise in the funeral industry including the use of open-casket funerals and "wakes" (as opposed to burying the body as quickly as possible). Dr. Holmes' embalming fluid and his patented fluid pump were in high demand as more and more people began demanding that their loved ones be embalmed prior to burial. There were still health risks involved since even the Holmes embalming fluid contained dangerous levels of arsenic (which continued to be used for embalming corpses until well into the 20th century when formaldehyde was adopted). As for Dr. Thomas Holmes himself, his role as the "father of American embalming" didn't provide him with much success in life.

Although Dr. Holmes tried to distance him from the embalming trade after the war, the money that he made from selling his embalming fluid was likely the only real business success he ever had. According to Mary Roach and her excellent book *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, Dr. Holmes tried different ventures including opening a drugstore, running at health spa, and launching a root-beer business although he eventually managed to exhaust all of his savings. He also became, well, *strange* in his old age (possibly due to the effects of long-term arsenic exposure gained from his embalming experiments). Not only did he never marry or have children, but he filled his Brooklyn home with some graphic examples of his embalming skill.

Those few visitors with the nerve to enter his home often encountered preserved bodies in closets and heads sitting on tables in the living-room (he was also a fan of [phrenology](#)). Perhaps not surprisingly, he spent a considerable amount of time in and out of asylums while continuing to research new and better ways of preserving corpses. He was also determined to profit from the funeral industry any way that he could. Just a few years before his death in 1899, Dr. Holmes took out ads in mortuary trade journals with his latest invention: a canvas body bag that could also double as a sleeping bag. Sadly, this last innovation never really caught on (why there was no eBay back then) and the "father of American embalming", for reasons known only to him, specifically requested that his body not be embalmed before burial.

While not as well known as other scientific pioneers, Dr. Thomas Holmes helped launch the funeral industry and, in turn, helped change attitudes concerning death. He may have also created one of the first industrial hazards of the modern era considering the popularity of his arsenic-based embalming fluid. As embalming became increasingly affordable and popular, the demand for embalming fluid and its principal ingredient, arsenic, meant a steady rise in arsenic contamination of local water supplies as decaying coffins (whether made of wood or metal) allowed embalmed remains to leak into the groundwater.

In many cases, the presence of an old cemetery often endangered the health of people living in the surrounding area. Although arsenic was eventually phased out in favour of formaldehyde (which was already available in Dr. Holmes's time), the thousands of embalmed corpses still remaining in cemeteries across the country have been shown by researchers to carry dangerous amounts of arsenic. Since arsenic exposure can enter the bloodstream in different ways, people working around old burial sites need to take special precautions to prevent health problems.

Which is probably not the lasting legacy that Dr. Thomas Holmes had in mind.

[Older Adults More Open to New Experiences?](#)

[Psychologist Suicide Linked to Sex Offender Release](#)

Blog powered by [TypePad](#)
Member since 01/2007



?

?

[Psychology Tidbits](#) | [Add your site](#)

Shared Items

[The Shock of Modern Slavery](#)

[Katharine McCormick's Crusade \(Part 2\)](#)

[Solar-Panel Researchers Need Your Computer](#)

[Ontario Physicians Poised To Promote Quackery](#)

[Neuropsychological Assessment Need Tool \(NANT\)](#)

[View all »](#)



Romeo Vitelli
@rvitelli

rvitelli @atavistian It's keeping it up 24/7 that's hard.

11 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

rvitelli @joe_hill That's for us to decide. Bring on the sundaes and don't skimp the caramel sauce.

11 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

rvitelli @danspeerin Beats me. Has Stephen Harper stopped blaming the Liberals for Canada's problems yet?

11 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

rvitelli @BoraZ @edyong209 If it were a British coyote, it would know enough to walk the right way up the street.

12 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite



Join the conversation

Posted at 08:00 AM in [Living History](#), [Science](#) | [Permalink](#)

Reblog (0)
 Favorite
 Digg This
 Save to del.icio.us
 Tweet
 +1
 0

TrackBack

TrackBack URL for this entry:

<http://www.typepad.com/services/trackback/6a00d834523c1e69e20176786fb605970b>

Listed below are links to weblogs that reference [Abraham Lincoln and The Embalmer](#):

Comments

