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# The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Funeral Train – Fort Wayne,  
Indiana

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



## FORT WAYNE NOT ON LINCOLN FUNERAL ROUTE

Following the death of Abraham Lincoln on April 15, 1865, several days elapsed before it was definitely known that the remains would be brought to Springfield, Illinois, for interment. Considerable pressure was brought to bear on the Lincolns to use the empty crypt in the basement of the United States Capitol that had been constructed, apparently without family authority, for the remains of George Washington.

Once Springfield was decided upon by the Lincoln family as the city where the president's remains were to be entombed, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton immediately began working on a schedule and itinerary with the numerous railroads that would be required to convey the body back to the Illinois capital.

Many people were of the opinion that the funeral cortege would follow the inaugural route of 1861 when President-elect Lincoln journeyed from Springfield to Washington. Wild rumors, completely unfounded, had the funeral train visiting practically every midwest village and town located on a railroad. Even federal and state officials were often confused by conflicting orders and misleading information.

The citizens of Fort Wayne, Indiana, were perhaps surprised and pleased to read a *Gazette-Extra* handbill dated Thursday, April 20th, 1865 announcing that "President Lincoln's Remains to Stop at Fort Wayne." Fort Wayne citizens were much more kindly disposed toward Lincoln the martyred President in 1865 than they had been toward Lincoln the politician on October 2, 1860 when he was hanged in effigy within the city limits.

An original copy of the *Gazette-Extra* for April 20th, 1865 has been acquired by the Foundation from the Margaret J. Smith Estate, through the courtesy of F. A. Schack, formerly trust office, for the Fort Wayne National Bank, the Executor. While Lincoln's remains were not brought through Fort Wayne, this is, nevertheless, a prized item of Lincolniana of local interest.

Once Secretary Stanton worked out the funeral route he altered Lincoln's inaugural itinerary by omitting Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and by detouring by way of Chicago, instead of going direct to Springfield from Indianapolis.

Lincoln's remains reached Indianapolis from Columbus, Ohio, by way of the Columbus and Indianapolis Central Railway, which is now a part of the Pennsylvania road. The first Indiana city to be reached enroute to Indianapolis was Richmond. All day Sunday, April 30, the body was on public view in the Indiana State House.

About midnight the coffin was closed for the next journey by way of a special train enroute to Chicago. Three different railroads were utilized, "the Lafayette and Indianapolis to Lafayette; the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago from Lafayette to Michigan City; and thence the Michigan Central into Chicago." The "Special" enroute to Chicago was made up at Indianapolis and consisted of five cars of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, and two that had come through over the entire route. All of the cars were most appropriately and lavishly draped. Of the two cars named, one was the superb railway "carriage" built at the government railway shops in Alexandria, and intended as the president's private car. It was in this car that the president's remains were placed.

Throughout the entire trip the funeral train was preceded by a pilot engine and at every town and village along the Indiana route the grieving people gathered to watch the train go by. In many instances buildings and railway depots were decorated in somber black, salvos of artillery were fired, circulars of a memorial nature were distributed, choirs chanted, torches were lighted, evergreen arches were constructed, logs were burned, flags were draped, and mourning badges were worn to express the grief of the country and townspeople who knew in advance that the train would not stop at their station.

The Indiana cities, towns and villages along the funeral route were Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge City, Dublin, Lewisville, Coffin's Station, Ogdens, Raysville, Knightstown, Charlottville, Greenfield, Cumberland, Indianapolis, Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Clark's Hill, Stockwell, Lafayette, Battle Ground, Rey-

(Continued on page 4)

## GAZETTE-EXTRA.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20th, 1865.

### President Lincoln's Remains to stop at Fort Wayne.

Our Citizens to Receive them on behalf  
of the State.

Official from Adjutant Gen. Terrell

## MEETING TO-NIGHT.

The following dispatch from Adjutant General Terrell announces officially that the remains of the lamented late President Lincoln will pass through Fort Wayne on their way to Springfield, Illinois. As Fort Wayne is the only large town in the State through which they pass, we are called upon to exhibit on behalf of the State, as well as our own city, the respect and reverence we all feel for our illustrious dead. We therefore urge upon the citizens of Fort Wayne to meet at the Court House this evening at seven o'clock to make suitable arrangements for the occasion. Let our manifestation of respect be worthy the State of Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 20

Secretary Stanton telegraphs that the remains of President Lincoln will go direct to Springfield via Fort Wayne, on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad of course. The cortege cannot stop only for a few minutes in your city.

But it would be highly proper for your citizens to manifest their respect for the lamented Chief of the nation by a general turnout with emblems of mourning as the remains pass. As Fort Wayne is the only prominent town in this State that will be thus honored timely arrangements should be made.

The remains will pass through Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg, and you can ascertain in due time their arrival in your city.

W. H. H. Terrell,  
Adjutant General







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KARL W. KRUDOP

#575

LUTHERAN HOMES, ROOM 126

6701 SO. ANTHONY BLVD.

FORT WAYNE, IN. 46816-2012

TEMPORARY ADDRESS

----- CHARIOT STANDING BY

STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

The train, re-routed  
Through Indianapolis,  
On its way to Springfield.

No matter. Crowds  
Still assemble  
at trackside and station.

Tad, only eight, wonders  
Why grown-ups spoke  
In whispers.  
Uncle Hiram, dressed  
In black, could have  
Been an undertaker.  
A high pitched voice  
"Listen, Its coming  
I hear the whistle:  
Whooo-aah, whooo whoo, whoo,

The steam locomotive,  
Both somber, dignified,  
Approaches, slowly now.  
Spheee-ah, Spheee-arah;  
Timed to the strokes  
Of push rods : :  
Hooked to six  
Driving wheels:  
Spheee-eech, spheee-etch,  
clank.

Handkerchiefs appear  
As each black draped  
Car passes.  
The women's sobs  
Are audible, though  
Men suppress theirs.  
Those who disagreed  
With his policies  
Were there, Others,  
remembered a tall,  
gaunt man, arising  
From behind the  
President's desk  
With a handshake  
And midwestern greeting.

The engine is relentless,  
Spheee-isch, spheee-sh, clank.

Malinda, tugged on  
Mommy's dress:  
"Mommy, what should I do  
With the flowers  
We brought?"  
Mommy's thoughts are  
Elsewhere, of a  
Tall, gangling son:  
"I'm off to the war, Mom!"  
Off to the war,  
Never to return.  
"That these honored dead - - - "  
"Sweetheart," Mommy didn't  
quite hear, but through sobs,  
"We'll place flowers  
On Albert's grave".

There it goes,  
Taking with it the  
Lament, Spheee-esh, clank.  
Indiana citizens  
Had paid their reverent  
Respects. Smaller, smaller.  
Again, fingers touched  
The cord: Whoooo-ah, Who, who.

As a boy you remembered,  
Lazing away  
A warm, languid, Sunday  
Afternoon. On your bed.  
How quiet! Then, from a  
distance, there came  
that haunting, plaintive  
sound, that only the whistle  
On a steam locomotive  
Could do: muffled through  
Thick summer air:  
Whoooo-ah, whooo-ah whoo, whoo.

Farewell, Mr. Lincoln!  
Truly, Abe, you belong  
To the ages!







