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The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Press Notices

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The Death of President Lincoln.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN died at twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock Saturday morning. Shot through the head by the assassin, he instantly became unconscious, and remained so until he ceased to breathe. Almost all our columns are this morning devoted to accounts official and unofficial of his assassination, and of events growing out of the change in the head of the Government.

All persons will desire to read the full particulars, and we must refer them to our telegraphic dispatches, which contain all that has reached the public.

There seems to be no doubt remaining that J. WILKES BOOTH is the murderer of the President, and that he had, at least, one accomplice—the man who attempted the assassination of the Secretary of State. The theory, at first somewhat credited, that one individual did all the mischief, in a freak of theatrical madness, does not stand the test of the accumulating evidence.

Secretary SEWARD was reported dead Saturday morning, but was not so seriously injured as reported, and bids fair to recover. His son, FREDERICK, is most dangerously hurt.

Up to the hour of this writing, there is no authentic announcement that BOOTH has been captured, but certain circumstances give the impression to many that he is actually in custody, and that the fact is not made known, because it is feared he would be destroyed by a mob.

Every intelligent person will recognize the importance of preserving him for trial, that the extent of the conspiracy may be exposed.

The bullet that pierced the head of President LINCOLN touched the heart of the nation. No event since the death of WASHINGTON has so filled the land with sorrow.

Added to the grief that would have been felt at the death of one so well respected as President LINCOLN, is the unspeakable indignation and horror at the manner of his taking off, which we can not help ascribing to a fanatical sympathy with the blackest and bloodiest treason that the world ever saw.

Then it is a reflection, full of mournfulness that words are weak to tell, that after a life of such hard labor, and years of such harassing anxieties, seasons of the deepest gloom, and no intermission in the heaviest cares, President LINCOLN should be struck down just as he had gained the public confidence and appreciation—in the blaze of victory and the dawn of peace.

We can only trust that in his case, as in that of the assassination of WILLIAM OF ORANGE, the passionate grief of the people will strengthen their public spirit, animate every bosom to serve the country with a higher devotion than ever; and that thus, under Divine Providence, whose mysterious ways to perform wonders the ages testify, as the poet sings, good may be wrought out of a calamity, that, to the finite senses, seems almost unbearable.

DAILY COMMERCIAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
M. D. POTTER & CO.
COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING,
N. E. COR. FOURTH AND RACE STS.

MONDAY, APRIL 17.

The capture of Mobile is announced.

The first of the official bulletins relative to the assassination and death of the President will be found on the first page.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

It is but seldom that a Masonic journalist feels called upon to refer to events of a political bearing. It will ever be the aim of all true Masons to

controversies of a nature external to the objects of the institution. During the past month, however, an event has happened so terrible in its nature, and yet so general in its bearing upon every citizen of the United States, regardless wholly of his political affiliations, calculated indeed to fill with abhorrence of the crime every good man throughout the civilized world, that not even the strictest rendering of any Masonic doctrine can preclude us from referring to it, or blame us for giving utterance to the sentiments which true Masons everywhere must entertain concerning it.

"A Mason is a peaceable subject to the civil powers wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the Nation." Such is the language of the Ancient Charges, to which Masons universally pay reverence and obedience. The chief civil magistrate of a nation is the representative of its majesty, the representative of its unity, which is its life. A blow directed by political animosity against his life is a stab aimed at the vitality of the nation. In the maintenance of his authority, as the emblem of all that is great, good or honorable in the nation, the interests of every citizen in the land—the humblest no less than the loftiest—are concerned. In the assassination of Abraham Lincoln the entire

refrain from uttering a single word, or performing a single act, calculated to associate Freemasonry with politics, or with any party to political or other

nation was wounded. Every loyal citizen himself felt the blow. The heart of the nation had been stabbed, and the whole people recoiled with horror from the contemplation of the atrocity. It was not so much that Abraham Lincoln was no more—and yet there are few who have not since his death, felt that he was nearer and dearer to them as a man, so honest and yet so modest, and to every appearance so conscientious in the discharge of the duties of the elevated position to which he had been raised in this most trying time in the nation's history,—it was that in his death every inhabitant of the land was attacked. It was that he was the President of the United States, the highest officer under the government, that added to the horror which thrilled through this nation, combined with the instinctive abhorrence of mankind of the crime of assassination.

This great crime which has been perpetrated in our midst, is one which all mankind will unite to condemn in the severest manner. No differences of religious creed or of political opinion, no differences of nationality, step in the way to palliate the offense. And considering the circumstances under which we are now situated as a people it seems most fitting that as Masonic journalists we should give some utterance to the universal sentiments.

ED.



Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (March 7, 1863) carried a Delaware news item to the effect that Mr. Lincoln asked: "Well, General, what is your opinion of the war, as a military man? My opinion is that my friend Barnum would settle the whole affair in a month!"

When refreshments were being served, Tad, the president's young son was very gracious in aiding the diminutive couple to take their ice and cake off a chair. Mr. Lincoln from his expression, seemed amused at Tad's reaction to a gentleman and lady, grown up and married, yet lacking even his boyish height. "Later," according to Grace Greenwood, "while the bride and groom were taking a quiet promenade by themselves up and down the big drawing-room, I noticed the president gazing after them with a smile of quaint humor; but, in his sorrow-shadowed eyes, there was something more than amusement—a gentle sympathy in the apparent happiness and goodfellowship of this curious wedded pair—come to him out of fairyland."

The Strattons remained at the White House until half past nine o'clock. According to the *Daily Morning Chronicle* (Feb. 14, 1860) "they were compelled to decline the pressing invitations of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln to remain longer, by reason of a private reception of his own, to which the General had invited the members of the press and a few select friends." This was a busy night socially in Washington as a reception was also held at the home of the Speaker of the House, Galusha Grow, while a small group gathered at Mrs. Bacon's and a large party was given by the Russian Minister. John Nicolay attended all four. Perhaps many of the White House guests also attended other parties that evening.

Aside from the news reports the White House reception for Tom Thumb occasioned little comment. However, a cartoon entitled "The Coming Men" published in the February 28, 1863 issue of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* appears to be a timely sketch of the reception, but it relates in no way to the event, the subject being an attack on the military and naval commanders of the Civil War. This cartoon shows P. T. Barnum presenting General Thumb and Commodore Nutt, also a midget, to the president. The dialogue of the cartoon is as follows:

The Great Showman: "Mr. Lincoln, since your military and naval heroes do not seem to get on, try mine."

Lincoln: "Well, I will do it to oblige you, friend Phineas, but I think mine are the smallest."

The reception for Tom Thumb and his wife at the White House will truly remain one of the most unusual affairs ever held in the nation's capital. This event can also be credited as another great publicity achievement of Phineas T. Barnum, who always claimed to have "the greatest show on earth."

Contemporary Newspaper Accounts Following the Death of Lincoln

Editor's Note: A careful reading of the newspapers immediately following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln reveals many little known topics of fact and fiction. Undoubtedly some of these short articles were used as filler. Only occasionally do they yield information of any importance. Nevertheless they reflect the hysteria that followed the great calamity of 1865.

A FRIEND OF THE ASSASSINS TARRED AND FEATHERED AT SWAMPSCOTT

"On the reception of the news this morning (Lincoln's assassination) one George Stone of Swampscott said in public it was the best news we had received for four years, and gave three cheers. The citizens and soldiers of Swampscott took him by force, tarred and feathered him, dragged him through the town in a boat, compelling him to hold the American flag over his head, and upon promising to buy an American flag and keep it up during the mourning for the president at half mast he was then set at liberty."

Boston Daily Journal
April 15, 1865

ERRONEOUS CONJECTURE

"The Funeral of the President: It is expected, though nothing has been decided upon, that the funeral of the late president Lincoln will take place on or about Thursday next. It is supposed that his remains will be temporarily deposited in the Congressional cemetery."

Springfield (Ill.) *Daily Republican*
Extra. April 15, 1865.

A CURIOUS INCIDENT

"To the Editors of the *Evening Post*:

"On Wednesday night preceding the president's assassination, a little deaf and dumb girl in our institution got up in her sleep, went to a classmate, and after rousing her, spelt with the manual alphabet, 'Lincoln is shot.' In the morning the somnambulist knew nothing of the circumstance till informed of it by her friend in the presence of others.

"The incident would probably never have been recalled but for the sad emphasis which after events gave it.

"It now seems one of those cases of prescience which so often arises to puzzle mental philosophers.

"Institution for Deaf and Dumb, April 18"

The Evening Post, New York, N. Y.
April 21, 1865.

A NEW PROOF OF THE PREMEDITATION OF THE MURDER

From the *Cincinnati Gazette*, April 20

"One of the most remarkable circumstances connected with the assassination is that all the private boxes in the theatre had been engaged by unknown parties on the morning of Friday. They were unoccupied during the night, so that when Booth jumped on the stage after the commission of the act he did not fear arrest from any parties who might have occupied them. This is but another, and one of the strongest evidences going to show the premeditation of the murder. The question now arises, who rented the boxes, and did it not naturally arouse suspicion on the part of somebody connected with the theatre to know that all the boxes were rented and yet not occupied? Events will soon determine these mysteries."

New York Daily Tribune,
April 24, 1865

THE REPORTED SEIZURE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

"The reported seizure of the photographs taken by Gurney & Son, the photographers on Broadway, during the lying in state of the remains of President Lincoln at the City Hall, is entirely without foundation, the rumor being based on the fact that the Secretary of War, on hearing that Gurney had taken a series of pictures of the catafalque and the lineaments of Mr. Lincoln, as he lay in state, together with other accessories of the funeral, telegraphed to Gurney, at the request of Mrs. Lincoln, to destroy the presentiment of Mr. Lincoln's face, the features being in a distorted condition, which request was immediately complied with by Gurney & Son on receipt of the telegram from the Secretary of War."

The World, New York, N. Y.
Saturday, April 29, 1865

A NATIONAL MONUMENT TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

How shall the people of the United States testify their admiration, sorrow and honest feelings? A good President who serves out his term with honor and retires, is certain of the esteem and gratitude of his fellow-citizens during life and of their respect to his family after death.

But the sudden taking off of Abraham Lincoln requires a different testimonial. We therefore suggest that subscriptions be taken up in every city and town by the Mayor or chief officer, for a national monument to Abraham Lincoln, and a nation's gift to his family.

This would be a noble tribute, shall it not be commenced at once?

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Monday, April 17, 1865





Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1430

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

April, 1957

ERRONEOUS ASSASSINATION REPORTS

While the account of the assassination of the Sixteenth President and the conspiracy to eliminate certain officials of the Lincoln administration may have been one of the most sensational news stories ever printed, it was also one of the most garbled.

The suddenness of the events caught most newspaper editors flatfooted and the wire service out of Washington was terribly jammed with startling reports which were hurriedly compiled and inaccurately prepared. Then, too, harassed editors often read into local events a certain cloak-and-dagger significance, which for a time would share the national spotlight, only to fade into insignificance later on.

One newspaper even enjoyed the dubious distinction of making no mention, whatever, of Lincoln's assassination or death, which undoubtedly indicates that the April 15, 1865 issue of the *New-York Times* was printed in advance of the tragic events.

A casual reading of approximately fifty newspapers featuring the assassination reveals considerable misinformation. Some newspapers were quick to condemn the Confederacy, and even a Spanish firm and a French desperado were accused of being implicated in a deep-laid plot. Some reports erroneously stated that an attempt was made on the life of Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, and a great many newspapers stated emphatically that Secretary of State, Seward, was dead. Booth was reported captured alive in about a dozen different places, and John Surratt was generally accused of being Seward's assassin.

Later editions of newspapers often corrected earlier issues, but even then many minor details which were inaccurately reported were allowed to be accepted as facts, and some readers likely never got an accurate newspaper account of the tragedy.

Some of the more glaring errors follow:

Hour Lincoln Died

"One dispatch announces that the president died at 12½ p.m. Another an hour later, states that he is still living, but dying slowly. We go to press without knowing the exact truth."

New-York Tribune
April 15, 1865

Midnight

"Who the assassins were nobody knows, though everybody supposes them to have been rebels."

Boston Evening Transcript
April 15, 1865

More Evidence That The Act Was A Conspiracy

"During a conversation yesterday among the members of a Spanish firm in this city (New York) it was stated that to-day the greatest news would be received that had yet been made known to the public."

Boston Sunday Herald
April 16, 1865

Rumored Attempt On The Life Of Mr. Stanton

"Reports have prevailed that an attempt was also made on the life of Mr. Stanton."

The New-York Times
April 15, 1865

The President Dead

"The President Dead: Probable Attempt to Assassinate Sec'y. Stanton."

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier
April 17, 1865

9:30 This Morning

"Dispatches just received from Washington say that Secretary Seward died at 9:30 this morning."

The Saint Paul Press
April 16, 1865

Latest Afternoon Dispatches

"The attempted assassin of Mr. Seward named John Surritt. (sic)"

Buffalo Morning Express
April 17, 1865

Heart-Rending Intelligence

"Another patriot has fallen a victim, Secretary Seward, like the President, lies a corpse."

The Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle
April 15, 1865

Latest

"Secretary Seward has just expired."

Daily Milwaukee News
April 16, 1865

Special Dispatch

"The president died at 7½ o'clock this morning. Secretary Seward is just reported dead. His son Frederick is dead."

The Boston Herald (Third Evening Edition)
April 15, 1865

Death of Seward

"He (Seward) died at 9:45 o'clock this morning."

Cleveland Morning Leader
April 15, 1865



THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

At Ford's Theatre, Washington, on the night of Friday, April 14, 1865.

PERMITTED BY A PHARAZYN AND SUTHERLAND PUBLICATION

An inaccurate and crudely drawn assassination print published by A. Pharazyn, 229 South Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Messenger of State Department Died

"Mr. Hansell, messenger in State Department, who was with Mr. Seward at the time of the assassination has died."

Herald Extra. Newburyport
April 15, 1865

Seward's Assassin Named Thompson

"New York:—The Commercial's special says: 'The name of the assassin who entered Mr. Seward's house is Thompson.'"

Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch
April 18, 1865

The Supposed Assassin and the French Lady

"It was stated in a former dispatch that the person arrested this morning as the party who attempted to take the life of the Secretary of State was supposed to be SURRAT. But there is reason to believe that the desperado is no other than THOMAS, the so-called French lady, who, it will be remembered, captured the steamer St. Nicholas in 1861, and was subsequently apprehended, tried, convicted, and sentenced to the penitentiary, from which by some means he was released. Nothing positive, however, is known on the subject."

The New-York Times
April 19, 1865

Pennsylvania Offers a Reward

"Gov. Curtin has issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$10,000 for the arrest of Booth, who is reported to have been seen in this state, if arrested in Pennsylvania."

New York-Tribune
April 21, 1865

Taken Near Fort Hastings

"It is reported by a private dispatch, believed to be authentic, that Booth, the assassin of the president, was taken, Saturday afternoon, near Fort Hastings."

Springfield Daily Republican
April 15, 1865

The Assassin Arrested

"Booth is in custody. The other assassin not yet arrested. The detectives are on his track."

Dayton Daily Journal
April 15, 1865

Booth Captured

"It is reported that Booth was captured this morning. The story is that his horse threw him and injured him so severely that he was obliged to seek relief in a house on the Seventh Street road (Washington)."

The Indiana State Sentinel
April 17, 1865

The Herald's Special

"Booth has been captured near Baltimore, and will be placed on board a monitor anchored in the Potomac, off the Washington Navy Yard."

The Indianapolis Daily Journal
April 17, 1865

Booth, The Assassin Arrested

"The Merchants' Exchange has a dispatch that Booth, the assassin of the President, is arrested, and is safe in prison in Washington. The dispatch is dated 12 M."

Boston Daily Journal
April 15, 1865

Arrest of J. Wilkes Booth

"Tribune special from Washington says J. Wilkes Booth was arrested at 9 o'clock A.M. on the Bladensburg

road. He boldly approached our pickets, and was arrested, and has just been brought to this city."

Boston Daily Evening Transcript
April 15, 1865

Boothe Captured

"A man who answers the exact description given of Boothe, the assassin, was arrested this morning on the accommodation train between Altoona and Greenburg."

The Pittsburgh Gazette
April 18, 1865

Booth Caught

"Booth, the murderer, was caught this morning, near Fort Washington."

The Pittsburgh Commercial
April 18, 1865

About Thirty In Number

"A gentleman who was at Point Lookout yesterday A. M., was informed by an officer of one of our gunboats, that Booth and the other conspirators, about 30 in number, were in St. Mary's County, heavily armed, and endeavoring to make their way across the Potomac."

Galena (Ill.) Weekly Gazette
April 25, 1865

Surratt's Brother

"Today, it was confidently stated that Surratt, the supposed assassin of Mr. Seward, was captured. It is now reported to be his brother."

New-York Tribune
April 18, 1865

A Prediction

"Sometime during last March the *New York Journal of Commerce* stated upon what authority we know not, that the Confederates were about to do something that would astonish the nation. Little was thought of it at the time, but since the assassination of president Lincoln more than one has had his mind turned towards this prediction and wondered if it did not refer to the murder of our president."

LaPorte (Ind.) Herald
April 22, 1865

Oddities In The News Concerning Lincoln's Death and Funeral

Further Details

"For hours after the removal of the President's body from the house opposite Ford's, the building was regarded by thousands with the greatest curiosity."

"Later in the day a little boy was discovered rubbing bits of white paper on the steps, and afterwards carefully placing them in his pocket."

"On being asked to explain the reason for this singular proceeding, he said, with childish simplicity, 'Don't you see those dark stains on the board? It is the blood of the President,' and I want to save it.' In years to come how priceless will be those scraps of paper, darkened by the heart's blood of the great emancipator."

New-York Tribune, April 17, 1865

The Dog Mourner

"Under the car (hearse) there is walking a dog, though invisible from the outside. It is 'Bruno' the great Saint Bernard dog belonging to Edward H. Morton, Esq. He was standing with his master at the corner of Broadway and Chambers-street, as the car passed by, when suddenly, without warning, and in spite of his master's call to him to return, he sprang into the street, passed beneath the car, followed its motions, and is still there. By what instinct was this? For 'Bruno' was a friend and acquaintance of Mr. LINCOLN'S, and had passed some time with him only a few days before his death."

The New-York Times, April 26, 1865



EXTRA.

SPRINGFIELD:

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1865.

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND SECRETARY SEWARD DEAD.

The Murderer of the President Arrested.

J. Wilkes Booth the Assassin.

&c. &c. &c.

**WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, April 15, 1865.**

Major General Dix:

Abraham Lincoln died this morning at 22 minutes after 7 o'clock.

E. M. STANTON,

Sec'y of War.

**WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, April 14—10 A. M.**

To Major General Dix:

The president continues insensible and is sinking. Secretary Seward remains without change.

Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe cut on the head. The attendant is still alive, but hopeless. Major Seward's wounds are not dangerous.

It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime—Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the president, and the other a companion of his, whose name is not known, but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape.

It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk, that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from.

Chicago, April 15.—President Lincoln was shot through the head last night, at Ford's Theatre, and died this morning.

The assassin is supposed to be J. Wilkes Booth the actor.

About the same time a desperado called at Secretary Seward's, pretending to be a messenger from his physician, being refused admittance, he attacked Fred Seward, son of the Secretary, knocking him down and then passed on to the secretary's room, where, after cutting down two male attendants he cut Mr. Seward's throat. The wound was not at last accounts considered fatal.

Letters found in Booth's trunk, show that this assassination was contemplated before the fourth of March, but fell through from some cause.

The wildest excitement prevails at Washington. The vice president's house and the residences of the different secretaries are closely guarded.

Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at 6 o'clock last evening and left there with their horses about 10 o'clock or shortly before that hour. It would seem that they had been seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason it was not carried into effect until last night. One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore, the other has not yet been traced.

E. M. STANTON.

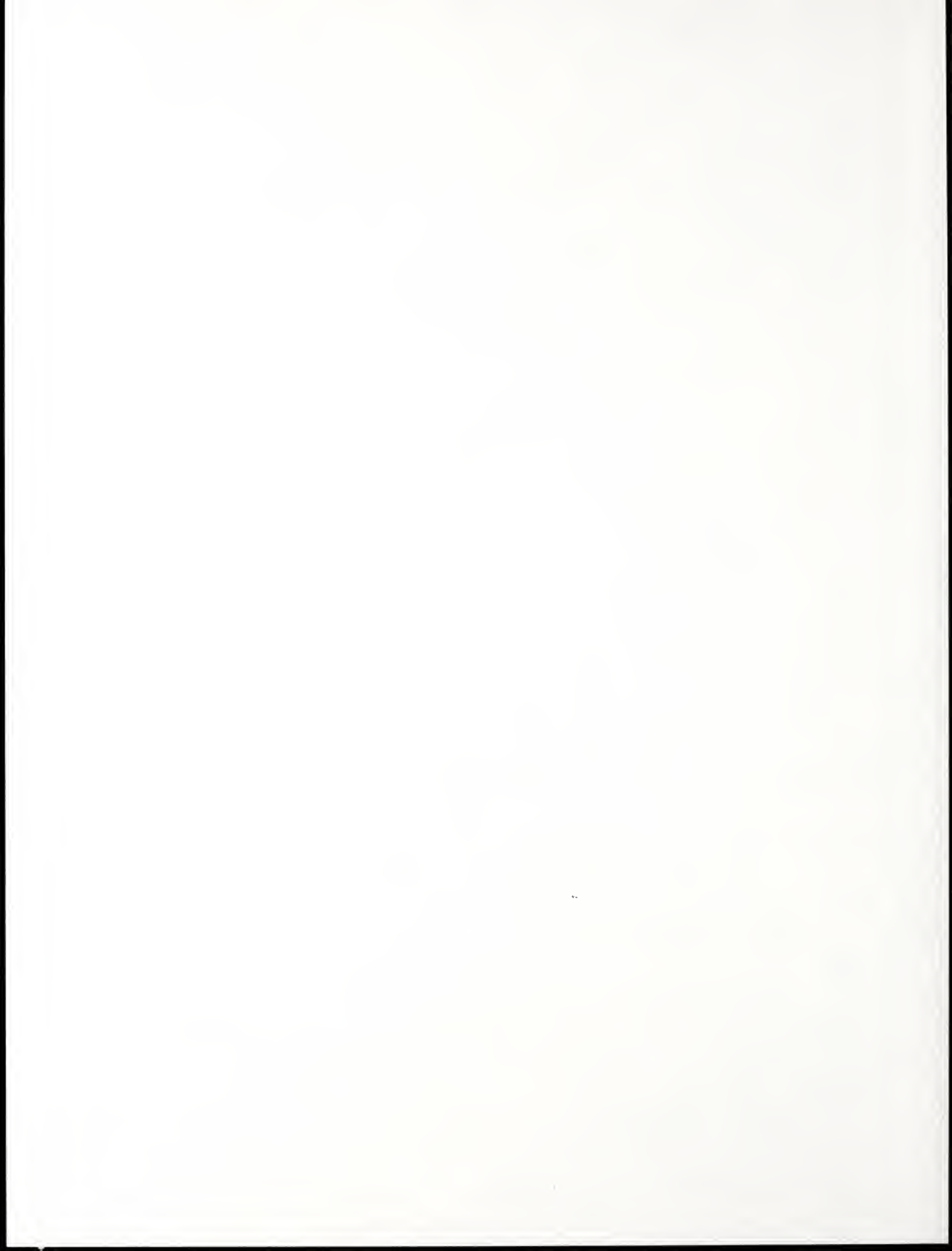
Secretary Seward is dead.

Booth is arrested.

(Signed)

RANKIN.

Ill. State Register Centennial, 1936



A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Intelligence has been received of the DEATH,
BY ASSASSINATION, of

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States, and also an attempt to de-
stroy the life of

W. M. W. SEWARD,

Secretary of State, with the view, no doubt, of depriving the
Nation of its leading rulers, in the hope of producing
general anarchy,

And whereas, for the purpose of more fully and promptly and in accordance
with my own feelings, I request the citizens of this city to assemble in the

CITY HALL,

AT 3 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON -- APRIL 15th.

To take and give expression to their sentiments, as may seem proper on
the occasion, and to render aid and comfort, regarding the event, especially to the
cause of our Republic, and which has caused or induced a transaction of such
importance to deep and unending grief and lamentation.

Therefore, I respectfully request that all persons of business be closed their doors at 12 o'clock P. M.
and remain closed until 3 o'clock P. M., and that the citizens of this city, and especially the
loyal friends of the cause, and those of the cause, who are so near.

The City and County of the City will be held between the years of 1861 and 1865.

D. D. T. MOORE, Mayor.

APPROVED: 1861, 1862, 1863.

COURIER---EXTRA.

National Calamity!

Lincoln & Seward Assassinated!!

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1865.

President Lincoln was shot through the head last night, and died this morning. The Assassin is supposed to be Wilkes Booth the Actor. About the same time a desperado called at Secretary Seward's, pretending to be a messenger from his physician. Being refused admittance, he attacked Frederick Seward, son of the Secretary, knocking down the male attendant he cut Mr. Seward's throat, the wound was not at first considered fatal. Letters found in Booth's trunk shows that this assassination was contemplated before the fourth of March but fell through from some cause or other. The wildest excitement prevails at Washington. Vice President's and residences of the different Secretaries are closely guarded.

LATER—Seward died this A. M. 9:45. E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

This sad intelligence falls like a dark pall on the hearts of the people so joyous and hopeful yesterday, so terribly overwhelmed to-day. What rebels in Richmond dare not do, their accomplices and sympathizers have accomplished in our own capital.

NOTICE

All who abhor an assassination deplore murder, and detest the "deep damnation" of the taking off of our Chief Magistrate and Secretary of State and who sincerely grieve for the great and good men gone are called on to meet

ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE,

AT

3 O'clock, this afternoon, April 15, 1865.

Washington Courier carried official news of the assassination of Lincoln and of Seward's son, 1865.

SPLENDID GROUP OF PAPERS ON LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION

77. Boston Post, Boston, Mass., April 17, 1865. Elephant Folio. Fine. Columns headed "The Nations Grief", "the Great Tragedy". Also inauguration of Pres. Johnson. \$6.50
78. Daily Advertiser - Supplement, Boston, Mass., April 17, 1865. Pages 1 and 2 only. Many dispatches. \$2.00
79. The Press, Philadelphia, Pa., April 17 to April 24, 1865. Six papers in fine condition covering assassination, bulletins on Seward, obsequies, etc. A nice lot. \$21.50
80. Boston Semi-Weekly Courier, Boston, Mass., April 18, 1865. Entire paper has mourning slugs. News of the tragedy is carried on all pages but front page. Fine. \$5.00

81. THE FAMOUS NEW YORK HERALD ACCOUNT

The New York Herald, New York, N. Y., April 15, 1865 to April 26, 1865. Ten issues of this important paper with the best coverage of the tragedy. All are originals in fine state, except that of April 15, 1865 which is a reprint. Originals of this issue are extremely scarce. This was such a splendid run of this fine paper I felt the reprint should be included until an original could be obtained. Every Lincoln Collector knows of these papers so a detailed description is not necessary. All issues have black mourning slugs on each column. Lead columns of successive papers are headed, Our Loss, Our Grief, Mourning, Sadness, The Rites, In State, The Funeral Train, The Funeral, Honors To The Martyr President, Our Tribute.

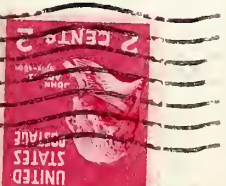
The Group \$67.50

82. New York Tribune, New York, N. Y., April 18, 1865 to April 29, 1865. Seven issues (2 daily editions, 4 evening editions and 1 weekly edition). Nice lot with good coverage including news on the War and personal reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln. \$21.00

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Dir., Lincoln Nat'l Life Foundation
Fort Wayne,
Indiana.



DON E. BURNETT
P. O. BOX 178 EAST GREENWICH
RHODE ISLAND
AMERICAN HISTORICAL MATERIAL



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83. St. Louis Price-Courant, St. Louis, Mo., April 20, 1865. Inside pages only bear mourning slugs. Concerned mostly with effect Lincoln's death has on prices. Unusual. Scarce. \$4.50
84. The St. Louis Journal Of Commerce, St. Louis, Mo., April 20, 1865. This issue does have black mourning borders on front page with news of Lincoln in one column in center of page. Large Folio. Fine. Interesting. \$4.50
85. The Burlington Weekly Sentinel, Burlington, Vermont, April 21, 1865. All columns have black mourning slugs. News of Lincoln is on inside pages. Large Folio. \$4.50
86. Montreal Herald, Special Edition, Montreal, Canada, April 21, 1865. Good coverage on front pages which is more than some of our own papers carried. Large Folio. Fine. \$5.00
87. New York Dry-Book, New York, N. Y., April 22, 1865. Headlines: "A Terrible Crime, etc." Excellent coverage. Fine. \$4.50
88. The World (Weekly Edition), New York, N. Y. April 26, 1865. Obsequies of President Lincoln. Full front page coverage. Fine. \$4.50
89. New York Weekly Times, New York, N. Y., April 29, 1865. Entire paper's columns in black mourning slugs. Good coverage as weekly review. Fine. \$4.50
90. The Weekly Herald, New York, N. Y., April 29, 1865. All Columns in mourning slugs. Very good detailed report on obsequies to Lincoln and Funeral. Fine. \$4.50
91. The New York Mercantile Journal, April 19, 1865. U. S. Economist and Dry Goods Reporter, April 22, 1865. The Commercial Bulletin, Boston, Mass., April 22, 1865. The first two papers have had two pieces cut out and the last has frayed edges. Lincoln material not affected. The 3 pieces. \$3.50

List #16. Don E. Burnett East Greenwich, R.I.

Madison Woman Has Old Paper Telling of Lincoln's Death

President's Broken Promise to Save Friend of Booth From Death Cited

[Editor's Note.—A seldom told version of the reasons back of the slaying of President Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth is contained in the following story taken from the faded front page of *The Peoples Tribune* of Jefferson City, Missouri, dated April 26, 1876. The story was reprinted in *The Peoples Tribune* from *Pomeroy's Democrat*, and *The Capital Times* is indebted to Mrs. Albert F. Krapfel, 916 E. Gorham st., who kindly loaned us the old copy of *The Peoples Tribune* from which this story was taken.]

ANOTHER of the characters of the war time was a wild, dashing, bee-brained young man named John Wilkes Booth. From his father he inherited a certain taint of frenzy under excitement that was cousin-germane to insanity. This Booth was a reckless, handsome fellow, whose delight was to dress well, feed upon female hearts, and in mimicry mouth the utterances of men of creative genius. His blood was hot and passions quick to kindle. In his loves and friendships he was erratic and peculiar. He did not try to study himself, and grew up wild and tumultuous.

Among the chosen friends of his boyhood was a dashing, chivalrous young man named John Y. Beal, whose home was in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, not far from Winchester, as we know from having been there. Damon and Pythias were not more attached to each other than were Booth and Beal. They rode, walked, dined, drank, and was to a certain extent as much a martyr and was erratic. John Brown, who was taken in a raid, hung in the jail-yard at Charlestown, Virginia, by order of Gov. Wise, and whose scaffold as we write this is now in our office. Beal planned raids on Northern cities, and at last was captured at or near Buffalo, tried for piracy on Northern lakes, and sentenced to be hung on Bedloe's Island, in the harbor of New York. In prison, waiting his doom, we leave him for a time.

Sought to Save Beal

One afternoon, in the city of Washington, while Beal was under a sentence of death, there alighted from a carriage two men who walked into the room occupied by Washington McLean of Cincinnati, who was at that time in Washington in the interest of his business. These men who called were Sen. Hale, from New Hampshire, and John Wilkes Booth, with whom through the Morgans of Kentucky, McLean had become quite well acquainted.

Their errand was briefly told. Both was anxious to save the life of Beal, his chum and confidential personal friend. He had interested Mr. Hale in his behalf, who, from his former identification with the political movement that had grown into the elevation of Lincoln to the Presidency, had come to ask of the Executive the favor of mercy for a brave enemy who had in defense of his friends in the South, done no more than people in the North

applauded their scouts and adventurers for doing or attempting.

They importuned McLean to go with them to the President as a Democrat—as a friend of Booth—as a man who had much influence with Mr. Lincoln and to vouch, with Mr. Hale, for any promises Booth might make in return for this great favor to him. After a protracted interview, McLean accompanied Hale and Booth in a carriage to the residence of John W. Forney, who was then in bed, the hour being late. Forney was awakened from his sleep and told the object of the call. His sympathies were enlisted, as he was always ready to serve his friends.

It was an hour or more past midnight when Hale, Forney, McLean, and Booth were driven to the White House. The guard, at the request of Forney, admitted the carriage to the grounds. Mr. Lincoln was called from his sleep, and there, in the dead of night, he sat and listened to the prayers of Booth and the indorsements of those who came with him to ask the favor of Executive clemency.

The interview lasted till 4 o'clock in the morning. It was one of tears, prayer, and petition. There was not a dry eye in the room as Booth knelt at the feet of Lincoln, clasped his knees with his hands, and begged him to spare the life of one man—a personal friend who, in serving the ones he loved, had come to the door of death.

Confesses All

Booth told all. He told how, long before, in a fit of passion to do some bold deed, he had joined in a conspiracy to abduct the president and to hold him as a hostage for the release of certain military prisoners who were Booth's friends, and who it was thought were to be shot. He told of the meetings they had held at the house of Mrs. Surratt, and that all of the plan had fallen to the ground long before.

He offered his services at any time, and in any place or capacity, free of cost or fearlessness of consequences. The eminent gentlemen who were there with him joined in the request that the prayer of Booth be granted, and that Beal should be pardoned.

At last, Pres. Lincoln, with tears streaming down his face, took Booth by the hands, bade him rise and stand like a man, and gave him his promise that Beal should be pardoned. He asked the party to depart that he might gain rest for the work for the morrow, and said that the official document they asked for should be forwarded at once to United States Marshal Robert Murray, in New York, and through him to the officers charged with the execution of Beal.

After breakfast, Lincoln informed Seward, Secretary of State, what he had done or promised to do. Seward said that it must not be; that public sentiment in the North demanded that Beal should be hung.

He declared that to pardon Beal would discourage enlistments, lengthen

the war, and insult the sentiment that called for blood. He chided Lincoln for making such promises without asking the advice of his Cabinet, or advising with himself, Seward, on State policy. As the argument grew contentious, Seward declared that if the conduct of the war was to be trifled with by appeals for humanity, he should go out of the Cabinet and use his influence against the President, and should charge him with being in sympathy with the South.

Beal Executed

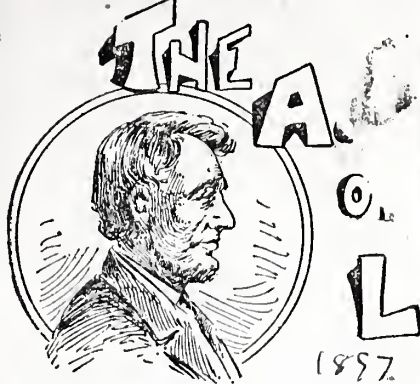
Lincoln yielded, and Beal was executed in accordance with the sentence of the Court. The reaction to Lincoln's nervous system was such that for days he was far from well.

The effect on Booth was terrible. He raved like a madman, and in his frenzy swore that Lincoln and Seward should both pay for the grief and agony he had been put to. From the death of Beal, Booth brooded vengeance for that which he considered a personal affront. His rage took in Seward, and he engaged Harold, Azterodt and others to avenge Beal's death by killing Seward, while he (Booth) wreaked human vengeance on the President.

At last came the hour. Booth killed Lincoln. His friends and the relatives

or avengers of Beal, tried their best to kill Seward, and when they left him stabbed, bleeding, and limp as a cloth, as he rolled over behind the bed whereon they found him, they supposed their work was completely done.

Our story is told. We have given the truth of history, and told exactly why Abraham Lincoln, the humane President of the United States, was killed.



IN connection with the celebration of Lincoln's birthday it will not be out of place to reproduce from the New York Herald a part of the description of his assassination given by the poet, Walt Whitman, who was present in Ford's Theater when the foul deed was done:

"There is a scene in the play ('Our American Cousin') representing a modern parlor, in which two unprecedented English ladies are informed by an impossible Yankee that he is not a man of fortune, and, therefore, undesirable for marriage catching purposes; after which, the comments being finished, the dramatic trio make 'EXIT,' leaving the stage clear for a moment.

"At this period came the murder of Abraham Lincoln. Great as was all its manifold train circling round it, and stretching into the future for many a century, in the politics, history, art, etc., of the New World—in point of fact the main thing, the actual murder, transpired with the quiet and simplicity of any commonest occurrence—the bursting of a bud or pod in the growth of vegetation, for instance.

"Through the general hum following the stage pause, with the change of position, came the muffled sound of a pistol shot, which not one-hundredth part of the audience heard at the time, and yet a moment's hush, somehow, surely, a vague startled thrill, and then, through the ornamented, draped, starred and striped space way of the President's box, a sudden figure, a man raises himself with hands and feet, stands a moment on the railing, leaps below to the stage, a distance of perhaps fourteen or fifteen feet, falls out of position, catching his boot heel in the copious drapery—the American flag—falls on one knee, quickly recovers himself, rises as if nothing had happened (he really sprained his ankle, but unfelt then).

"And so the figure, Booth, the murderer, dressed in plain black broadcloth, bare headed, with full glossy, raven hair, and

his eyes like some mad animal's, flashing with light and resolution, yet with a certain strange calmness, holds aloft in one hand a large knife, walks along, not much back from the footlights, turns fully toward the audience, his face of statuesque beauty, lit by those basilisk eyes, flashing with desperation, perhaps insanity, launches out in a firm and steady voice the words, 'Sic semper tyrannis,' and then walks, with neither slow nor very rapid pace, diagonally across to the back of the stage, and disappears.

"A moment's hush, a scream, the cry of murder, Mrs. Lincoln leaning out of the box with ashy cheeks and lips, with involuntary cry, pointing to the retreating figure, 'He has killed the President!'

"And still a moment's strange, incredulous suspense—and then the change!—then that mixture of horror, noises, uncertainty—the sound somewhere back of a horse's hoofs clattering with speed—the ~~people~~ burst through chairs and railings and break them up; there is inextricable confusion and terror; women faint; quite feeble persons fall and are trampled on; many cries of agony are heard; the broad stage suddenly fills to suffocation with a dense and motley crowd, like some horrible carnival; the audience rush generally upon it; at least the strong men do; the actors and actresses are all there in their play costumes and painted faces, with mortal fright showing through the rouge; the screams and calls, confused talk redoubled, trebled, two or three manage to pass up water from the stage to the President's box; others try to clamber up.

"In the midst of all this the soldiers of the President's guard, with others suddenly drawn to the scene, burst in—some 200 altogether; they storm the house, through all the tiers, especially the upper ones, inflamed with fury, literally charging the audience with fixed bayonets, muskets and pistols, shouting 'Clear out! Clear out!'

"Such the wild scene, or a suggestion of it rather, inside the playhouse that night. * * * And in the midst of that pandemonium, infuriated soldiers, the audience and the crowd, the stage and all its actors and actresses, its paint pots, spangles and gas lights, the life blood from those veins, the best and sweetest in the land, drips slowly down, and death's ooze already begins its little bubbles on the lips."



LINCOLN'S DEATH AS TOLD IN IOWA

THE DAILY CAPITAL
DES MOINES, IOWA

Reproduction of the "The Dubuque Daily Times" Carrying the Story of the Crime, 2, 12, 1865

William Meyer, 1816 Woodland avenue, cashier at Lederer & Strauss, has a copy of the Dubuque Daily Times telling the story of the assassination of President Lincoln and the details of the complicated plot that was aimed to overthrow the nation.

A reproduction of the lead story printed on April 15, 1865, shows the almost frantic horror the news excited even in the newspaper offices.

Every word on the first page is devoted to the news of the assassination and the outside pages are printed with "turned rule," the newspaper mourning.

The lead story heading the seven columns of matter follows:

BY TELEGRAPH
TO THE DUBUQUE DAILY TIMES.

HORRIBLE NEWS!!

**CULMINATION OF SOUTHERN
FANATICISM AND BAR-
BARISM.**

**LATEST AND MOST HELLISH
EXHIBITION OF PRO-SLAVE-
RY SPIRIT.**

**President Lincoln
Assassinated.**

**Attempts to Assas-
sinate Sec. Sew-
ard and his At-
tendants.**

**HE IS SEVERLY INJURED, BUT
MAY RECOVER.**

**A PLOT TO ASSAS-
SINATE OTHERS.**

**Death of the Pres-
ident.**

**Full Particulars of the
Terrible Tragedy.**

ESCAPE OF THE ASSASSINS.

**The Whole Nation in Deepest
Mourning.**

**ANDREW JOHNSON INAUGU-
-RATED AS PRESIDENT.**

**No Change to be Made in Cabinet
Officers.**

**PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR
STONE, OF IOWA.**

War Department, April 15, 4:10 a.m.—Maj. Gen. Dix: The President continues insensible and is sinking. Sec'y Seward remains without change. Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe contusion on the head. The attendant is still

It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime—Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President, and the other, a companion of his, whose name is not known but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape. It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond would be heard from. Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at 6 o'clock last evening and left there with their horses about 10 o'clock, or shortly before that hour. It would seem that they were seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason wasn't not carried into effect until last night. One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore. The other has not yet been traced.

(Signed.) E. M. STANTON.

LATER.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 15.—Major General Dix: Abraham Lincoln died this morning at twenty-two minutes past 7 o'clock.

(Signed.) E. M. STANTON.

LINCOLN AND BOOTH

The Inner Story of the Great Tragedy of
FIFTY YEARS AGO

By WINFIELD M. THOMPSON

No. 6.

Death of the Emancipator.



THE HOUSE ACROSS 10TH ST FROM FORD'S THEATRE IN WHICH
LINCOLN DIED. IT IS NOW A LINCOLN MUSEUM.

Bohemian globe 4-15-15



AS Lincoln lay dying in the little bedroom of a lodging house across 10th st from Ford's Theatre, where he was struck down by John Wilkes Booth on the evening of April 14, Washington passed through such a night of terror, of sorrow and of anger as had never before stirred the people of an American city.

Crowds cried for vengeance on the assassin, and on the South, for wild rumor soon spread a report that the striking down of Lincoln was but part of a widespread Confederate conspiracy to kill all the Government heads and establish Jefferson Davis as President in Washington. A murderous assault upon Sec of State Seward by Booth's dupe, Lewis Payne, at the hour of Lincoln's fall, gave color to these exciting rumors. When it became known that Lincoln's assailant was an actor, there were cries of "Burn the theatre!"

That mob violence did not break out was due to the good sense of the majority and to the fact that Washington was a garrison city, in the strong hands of military authority.

Before the dying President had been long in the little house on 10th st, cavalry patrols arrived and swept back the excited crowd that filled the street between the house and the theatre, establishing a cordon at each intersecting street.

Messengers had driven rapidly to the White House to bring Lincoln's eldest son, Robert, and to the homes of officials needed to assume authority, and of physicians to give aid to those already beside the dying President. One messenger, seeking Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes of the Army, found him at the bedside of the Secretary of State, whom he left to hurry to the dying President.

Stanton Calm and Strong.

Within half an hour of the President's fall prominent men were crowding the little ground floor room in which he lay—Cabinet members, Senators, Generals and heads of departments. One of the first to arrive was Sec of War Edwin M. Stanton, who, in the midst of great excitement, showed himself calm and strong, taking up the reins of government as if the act were a matter of course. While others stood mute beside the President or in nervous silence in the hall, this short, florid, bearded man sat at a little table in the back parlor and dictated orders and dispatches to a stenographer. Before him were brought the actors and actresses of Ford's Theatre, fresh from the comedy that had so suddenly turned into the darkest of actual tragedy.

They thought they recognized the assassin as John Wilkes Booth, but in their horror they dared not swear so monstrous a crime upon a well-loved member of their profession. Before morning other persons were found who had recognized the assassin as Booth, and at 3 a m Sec Stanton named him as the man who struck down Lincoln.

In the Death Chamber.

Those persons granted the privilege of standing beside the dying President found him stretched diagonally on a bed too short for his great length, in a room 9 by 17 feet at the rear of the front hall. It was the room of a young soldier (William T. Clark, Co D, 13th Massachusetts Infantry). Only Lincoln's great strength kept life thus long within his big frame, for the assassin's bullet had coursed his brain. He was unconscious, his body rigid and his breathing at times stertorous, with automatic moans.

There was no hope that he would ever regain consciousness, although the doctors at first had covered his body with mustard plasters, and had administered brandy, in hope of increasing vitality. The wound bled freely, and some of the brain mingled with the blood. The bullet had entered behind the left ear and lodged back of the right eye. The wound was kept free of coagulation, as it was found he was easier with it open.

While the doctors worked over the President—there were three, Surg Gen Barnes, Dr Robert King Stone, the family physician, and Dr Charles H. Taft, an Army surgeon, who had been one of the first to reach Lincoln after the shooting—Mrs Lincoln, distracted and unable to control a grief destined eventually to unbalance her reason, sat

on a sofa in the front parlor of the house, a few feet from the death chamber. Her son Robert sought in vain to comfort her.

How the End Came.

At intervals in the night Mrs Lincoln was led to the bedside of her dying husband. She remained with him from 1:45 to 2:10, and at 3 o'clock again visited him.

Before she entered the room the surgeons spread clean napkins to hide the crimson stains on the pillow; yet when she saw how distorted and how plainly marked with death's seal was her husband's face she fell in a swoon to the floor.

When she had been restored and was led to the bedside she addressed her dying husband with the words: "O, love, live but for one moment to speak to me once—to speak to our children!"

In compassion she was led away. At 3:35 the pastor of Lincoln's church (Rev Dr Phineas D. Gurley) knelt at the bedside and offered prayer.

Lincoln was then very quiet, his respiration being regular. At 6 his pulse began to fall, and at 6:30 the loud, labored breathing was resumed. His pulse was failing fast. At 7 o'clock the doctors noticed symptoms of immediate dissolution.

As the dawn of a lowering, rainy morning paled the lamplight in the little room, revealing the sorrowing faces of the group about the bed, scarcely less haggard than that of the dying man, Lincoln's breathing grew fainter and fainter, his pulse weaker and weaker, until at last by a sign the doctor holding his hand (Surgeon Gen Barnes) indicated that the end had come. It was then 7:22.

In that solemn moment, amidst a stillness broken only by repressed sobs, Sec Stanton said, "Now he belongs to the ages."

"O, That Dreadful House!"

Dr Gurley knelt beside the bed and offered prayer. Then the widow was brought into the room supported by her son. With a heart-rending cry she cast herself upon the body.

Silently and weeping, the men who had crowded the room withdrew, leaving her there with one or two whose restraining and soothing hands led her at last away from the room.

As she entered a carriage to return to the White House, she looked for a moment at the theatre across the street and moaned, "O, that dreadful house! that dreadful house!"

At the White House the tears of the widow were mingled with those of her little son "Tad." The boy had heard the awful news of his father's assassination announced at Grover's Theatre the night before. A kindly doorkeeper at the White House had soothed his grief and put him to bed.

Johnson Becomes President.

Vice President Andrew Johnson, who was to succeed Lincoln as President, was not at his dying chief's bedside. Although notified shortly after the shooting of Lincoln's condition, he did not leave his chamber, in a hotel three squares away. There in the morning he was sought, and there the oath of office was administered to him by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, in the presence of only one or two other persons.

President Johnson then rode in a closed carriage to the White House. That day at noon he met the Cabinet members for conference at the Treasury Building, and that afternoon at the White House he received his first official callers.

Meanwhile the body of Lincoln, placed in a temporary coffin and draped in the American flag, was borne by six soldiers from the house on 10th st, placed in a hearse, and with a small cavalry escort was taken to the White House.

In the dull morning Washington's bright hunting of the day before, spread in glory of the end of war, hung limp and dripping, and men went about the work of taking it down and putting crepe in its place.

Tomorrow: The escape of Booth.

(Copyright, 1915, Winfield M. Thompson.)

This series, in 30 chapters, began April 10. Back numbers may be obtained.



The Lincoln extra reads:

HERALD EXTRA.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN ASSASSINATED.

OSKALOUSA **ATED. JUNE 11**
TOWNS **HE IS DEAD. 1815.**

SEWARD ASSASSINATED

Chicago, April 15th.

President Lincoln was shot thro' the head last night at Ford's theatre and died this morning.

The assassin is supposed to be J. Wilkes Booth, the actor. About the same time a desperado called at Secretary Seward's, pretending to be a messenger from his physician, being refused admittance he attacked Fred Seward, son of the secretary, knocking him down and then passing on to the Sec'y's rooms when cutting down two male attendants he cut Seward's throat. The wound was not at last accounts fatal.

Letters found in Booth's trunk show that this assassination was contemplated long before the 4th of March, but fell through from some cause.

The wildest excitement prevails in Washington. The Vice-President's house and the residences of different secretaries are closely guarded.

War Department,

Washington, April 15,

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

Abraham Lincoln died this morning at 22 minutes after seven o'clock.

(signed) E. M. Stanton,

LINCOLN BURIED

IN SPRINGFIELD

John W. Wright of Knoxville, Ia., directs our attention to the fact that Abraham Lincoln lies buried in Springfield, Ill. Our versatile correspondent Joe Flynn, expressed his opinion last week that President Lincoln is buried under the Lincoln memorial in Washington. *1824*

This reminds us that N. H. Adams of Decorah was a guard over the body of the martyred president at one of its stops in Ohio on its journey from Washington to Springfield.



58 YEARS AGO TODAY BOOTH'S SHOT FELLING LINCOLN STAGGERED NATION

By PETE HOYT.

APRIL IS an eventful month in United States history. War with Germany, war with Spain and war between the north and south plunged the country into a state of extreme excitement on April days, but there is one date, April 14, which will always be remembered for a different reason. Fifty-eight years ago tonight Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and not only the United States, but the entire world was saddened.

To read the account of the tragedy published in the New York Herald reveals the effect of Lincoln's untimely death on the nation. A copy of this newspaper is owned and carefully preserved by Mrs. James Brodie, 221 West Fourth street, Kenwood. The story of the shooting is enthralling even today, for the crime, coming as it did when the Civil war had just ended successfully for the United States and when Abraham Lincoln was at the height of his career, is without equal in effect on the modern world.

The main army of the Confederacy had surrendered five days before. In the elation of the moment it was arranged to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the fall of Fort Sumter on April 14. Accordingly, on that day, the identical flag which had been hauled down at the start of the war was again unfurled over the fortress. That evening, the mission of the great president practically completed, he sought relaxation by attending a performance of "The American Cousin," at Ford's theater in Washington.

How the Herald Told It.

The details of the assassination as told in the Herald are as follows: "At the close of the third act, a person entered the box occupied by the president and shot Mr. Lincoln in the head. The shot entered in the back of his head and came out above the temple. The assassin then jumped from the box on the stage and ran across to the other side, exhibiting a dagger in his hand, flourishing it in a tragical manner, shouting 'Sic semper tyrannis! The South is avenged,' and then escaped from the back entrance to the stage, but in his passage dropped his pistol and his hat.

"Mr. Lincoln fell forward from his seat and Mrs. Lincoln fainted."

He was carried to a residence across the street where surgeons announced that he could live only a few hours. Meantime the audience at the theater was in a turmoil. The streets became filled with surging crowds and when it became known that Secretary of State Seward had been attacked and stabbed, and that the lives of other cabinet officers had been saved only through the downfall of a preconcerted plan, the excitement increased as indicated by the following excerpt:

Streets Densely Crowded.

"The streets in the vicinity of Ford's theater are densely crowded by an anxious and excited crowd. A guard has been placed across Tenth

street and F and E streets, and only official persons and particular friends of the president are allowed to pass.

"The popular heart is deeply stirred, and the deepest indignation against leading rebels is freely expressed.

"The scene at the house where the president lies 'in extremis' is affecting. Even Secretary Stanton (of the war department) is affected to tears. When the news spread through the city that the president had been shot, people, with pale faces and compressed lips, crowded every place where there was the slightest chance of obtaining information in regard to the affair."

The assassin was identified as J.

Wilkes Booth. Cavalry officers pursued him and he was fatally shot when trying to resist arrest in a barn across the Potomac river. It was discovered that he had suffered a fractured leg when he jumped from the president's box to the stage, but he was able to reach his horse at the rear of the theater before any one could stop him.

News of the assault was printed in the paper in the order that it was received from Washington and in contrast to the manner in which it would be "played up" today, a bulletin announcing that the president died at 7:22 a. m. of the day following the shooting, is placed at the end of the account in a comparatively inconspicuous place.

The column rules of the front page of the edition are heavy black lines indicating the mourning of the nation. Other items of interest in the paper are; Jeff. Davis' last proclamation as president of the confederacy, details of the surrender of the southern army to General Grant, and comments on problems of the reconstruction period.

1925

60 YEARS AGO TODAY

APRIL 25, 1865.

WASHINGTON.—It is an important fact to be considered in estimating Gen. Sherman's conduct that he was informed of President Lincoln's assassination two days before he entered into the disgraceful agreement with the rebel Gen. Joseph E. Johnston for a suspension of hostilities and signed a memorandum for a basis of peace. The terrible blunder by which Gen. Sherman has dimmed his laurels is still the theme of constant comment. Cabinet members, congressmen and high military officers are unanimous in condemning his action. A major general in Sherman's army wrote: "The terms agreed upon between the rebels and ourselves are disgraceful and degrading to this army." Friends of Gen. Sherman express the hope that there may be something back of what appears on the face of the documents which may constitute a partial justification for the general. There is a hint that he was out of ammunition and had to do something to secure delay.

WASHINGTON.—Secretary of War Stanton announced: "This department has information that the President's murder was organized in Canada and approved in Richmond."

WASHINGTON.—President Andrew Johnson in a proclamation named May 25 to be observed as a day of humiliation, mourning and prayer throughout the United States in memory of Abraham Lincoln.

NEW YORK.—The morning papers editorially speaking of Gen. Sherman's armistice with Gen. Johnston are severe in condemnation of the former. The Tribune says: "We can hardly guess whether Johnston was to surrender to Sherman or Sherman to Johnston."

NEW YORK.—President Lincoln's funeral train reached New York on schedule time. The Hon. Chauncey M. Depew received the remains of Mr. Lincoln on behalf of the state of New York and they were taken to the city hall, where they lie in state.

25 YEARS AGO TODAY

*funeral in capital
free description
by
space reserved
March 6. 114*

FOUNDED IN 1857—

SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR

SIXTY YEARS 'AGO

Sol. Records the Death of Abraham Lincoln.

(This week Mr. Miller had the sad misfortune to chronicle the death of Mr. Abraham Lincoln. He ran two columns of matter relative to the assassination and turned the column rules upside down, to make mourning appearance in honor of the martyr President. The first and last paragraphs of his writeup follow.—G.)

On Saturday morning, the country was astounded and enraged by the intelligence, flashed over the telegraphic wires, that President Lincoln and Secretary Seward had been assassinated the night before! From the wildest joy over the recent glorious Union victories, the nation was plunged into the deepest grief, at this terrible event. Sorrow overcast the land; the insignia of triumph gave way to badges of mourning, and the nation was in gloom.

Neither of the murderers has been arrested, and there are various conflicting rumors as to their whereabouts. One person, suspected of being in the conspiracy, has been arrested, but his confession amounts to but little.—Very truly, J. R. Gibbins.

Ransom chief 4-20-22 25

Took Word of Lincoln's Death

T. F. Rochford of Brooklyn Recalls Delivering Message to New York Papers.

When life has turned on a man, when he has grown too old to make his own way in the world, then it is that his memory turns back to his youth and the events of his early career.

So, to Thomas F. Rochford, formerly a prominent citizen of Brooklyn, the night he, as a messenger boy, delivered the telegram announcing Abraham Lincoln's assassination to the New York newspapers stands out in his memory above all else. Seated in a chair at his home, before a picture of Lincoln given to him by a friend of the martyred President, he told the story to-day, his white head back, his eyes almost closed, his voice broken and faltering.

"On the night of April 14, 1865, I was a messenger boy in the old Western Union office at 145 Broadway. About 11:30 I was sitting next to the operator—I don't remember his name; he's dead; they're all dead—when the message came over, 'Lincoln is assassinated.'"

His words cease for a moment, and he sits there dreaming, as if living the scene over.

Took Message to Papers.

"I took the message and started over for Newspaper Row. When I got outside two men grabbed me. 'Is Lincoln dead, sonny?' one of them asked. I didn't know who they were and wouldn't tell, but they hung on to me, so I hollered for a policeman. Then they ran. I have always believed those two knew of the plot and were waiting there for the news.

"After that I went straight to the Tribune office on Nassau street and gave the telegram into Horace Greeley's own hands. From there I went on to the other offices and when I got back to the Western Union they had put up a bulletin and the street was full of people."

From that point Mrs. Emma Bush, his adopted daughter, took up the story and told THE SUN reporter how Mr. Rochford had advanced in the telegraph business, become associated with John W. Mackay, founder of the Postal Telegraph, and had been sent by Mr. Mackay to start the Postal Telegraph in Brooklyn. He became wealthy, she said, and built a mansion at 857 St. Marks avenue, the most exclusive residential street of old Brooklyn. He was for many years a member of the Riding and Driving Club and several times secretary of the Emerald Ball, Brooklyn's annual charity fete.

His Health Began to Fail.

About ten years ago, she declared, his health began to fail and business reverses set in. He lost large sums of money in various ways. He now has two court actions pending, by means of which he hopes to recover several hundred thousand dollars. Finally because of these reverses and

There is one other event that he recalls vividly, besides Lincoln's assassination, and that is the famous Brooklyn Theater fire of 1876, when three hundred persons were burned to death. At that time Mr. Rochford was an usher in the theater, besides holding a telegraph job, and at the fire he smashed open a door with a fire hook, which he still possesses, permitting numbers to escape to the street. In failing health, he was forced to live with his daughter at 1010 Avenue N, Brooklyn.

But the stories of his later years hold no interest for Mr. Rochford. To recall the days of his boyhood, just after he ran away from home in County Limerick, Ireland, is what brings the light back into his eyes.

New York Sun 2-12-1926

Shooting of Lincoln Described in Paper Found in Old Desk

Musty Records Yield Faded
Copy of Edition Issued
Morning After.

Mumma Tribune 2-12-16

A faded yellow newspaper, fragile with age, discovered a few days ago in Minneapolis in an old writing desk, recalled the sorrow that swept the American nation early on an April morning in 1865, a few hours after President Abraham Lincoln had fallen before an assassin's bullet.

The first telegraphic dispatches printed in this old copy of the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette, reveal in what manner the news was first received in those parts of the nation that still were classed as the backwoods and the edge of the frontier.

Paper Found in Cleaning.

The copy of the Gazette, dated April 15, 1865, was found by George F. Moseley, 1335 La Salle avenue, while he was cleaning out the old desk he had brought from his former home in Janesville.

The dispatch, dated at Washington, April 15, 1865, read:

"President Lincoln and wife with other friends this evening visited Ford's theater for the purpose of witnessing the performance of 'Our American Cousin.' It was announced that General Grant would also be present, but that gentleman took a late train of cars for New Jersey. The theater was densely crowded and everybody was delighted with the scene before them, till the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard which merely attracted attention, but suspected nothing serious until a man rushed to the front of the President's box waving a long dagger in right hand and exclaiming: 'Sic semper tyrannis,' and immediately leaped from the box, which was in the rear of the stage, and ran across to the opposite side of the stage, making his escape amid the bewilderment of the audience from the rear of the theater, and, mounting a horse, he fled.

"The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet and rushed toward the stage, many exclaiming, 'Hang him!' The excitement was of the wildest possible description and, of course, there was an abrupt intermission of the theater performance. There was a rush towards the President's box when cries were heard of 'Stand back and give him air,' and 'Has anyone stimulants?' On a hasty examination it was found that

the President was shot through the head, above and back of the temporal bone.....

"It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible."

Seward Reported Shot.

The dispatch also describes a reported assassination of Secretary of State Seward and his son, Fred Seward. At the end of the Washington dispatch appeared the following brief bulletin:

"Chicago, April 15, 11 a. m.—A dispatch just received here says Secretary Seward died at 9:30 this morning."

The column rules of the front page of the Gazette of this edition were turned to give heavy black lines of mourning. The first column was devoted to an editorial on the assassination.



Lincoln Urged Moderation

On the afternoon of the fatal 14th of April there was a Cabinet meeting in which Lincoln again counselled moderation in dealing with the South.

Dinner that evening at the White House was arranged for the family only, and it was necessary to call Lincoln several times, as he was absorbed in reading a humorous book. As the family sat down for their last meal together they discussed a theater party that had been arranged for that evening at Ford's Theater. The party had been planned for General and Mrs. Grant, who had just arrived from City Point, but as they were anxious to proceed to Burlington, N. J., to see a daughter in school there, Lincoln had graciously excused them. He did not want to go to the theater himself, but rather than disappoint the public, it having been announced that he would attend the evening performance, he consented to go.

Robert was not included in the party, and as Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln left the White House for the theater he had his last view of his father until he was to see him, dying, on a bed in the house opposite Ford's Theater.

On Lincoln's removal to the little hall bedroom of a tailor's home, Robert Lincoln had been hastily sent for, to comfort and sustain his mother.

Within half an hour after the President was shot the house was crowded with prominent men—members of the Cabinet, generals and heads of departments. Surgeons who attended the stricken President saw at once that his wound was fatal.

Those persons who were granted the privilege of standing beside the dying President found him stretched diagonally on a bed too short for his great stature, in a room 9 by 17 feet, at the rear of the front hall, the bedroom of a young soldier. He was unconscious; his body was rigid, and his breathing was stentorous, with frequent moans. In the front parlor sat Mrs. Lincoln, unable to control a grief that eventually was to unseat her reason. Here her son Robert found her, and vainly sought to comfort her.

W. G. Herbert Journal 7-1-26

LINCOLN'S DEATH TOLD IN OLD PAPER

T. S. Dunn of Lincoln High School Owns Copy of New York Times of Sunday, April 15, 1865.

The tragic assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator; the manifestations of the people of the north which turned to joy because of the end of the civil war to sorrow; and the torn and distracted conditions in both north and south, are the main events related in the "story" of the assassination of the sixteenth president of the United States which is recounted in the New York Times for Sunday, April 15, 1865.

An original copy of this issue of the Times, which is sixty-two years old, is possessed by T. S. Dunn, 2525 D street, who teaches history and English and coaches debate at the Lincoln high school.

The first or left-hand column of the first page, carrying the headline, "Our Great Loss," is an article composed of three dispatches by Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, the first of which, issued on April 15, at 4:10 a. m. by the war department, declares that "the president continues insensible and is sinking.

"Abraham Lincoln died this morning at twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock." This message is the context of the second official dispatch of the war department at Washington. The third and last dispatch is also from the war department issued at 3 p. m., which tells of the official notification of the death of the president and of the inauguration of Andrew Johnson. It also tells of the arrangements for the funeral and of an announcement by the the new president retaining the present cabinet officers.

A few of the headlines are "The Songs of Victory Drowned in Sorrow", "Closing Scenes of a Noble Life," "John Wilkes Booth Believed to Be the Assassin," "The Great Sorrow of Public Grief."

There are six pages in this issue of the Times of which the entire first page is devoted to an account of the assassination and the other five contain other news of the day. Each page has six columns while on the first page heavy black rules indicate the mourning and grief.

MAN WHO SET LINCOLN'S OBIT STILL ACTIVE

Veteran Racine Printer Handled Murder Story as Cub.

Wisconsin Sentinel 12/25/29
PUBLISHED NEWSPAPERS

High Speed Methods of Press Today Rankle Vet- eran of Craft.

RACINE, Wis., Dec. 24.—(Special)—In late afternoon, when the room is dim and the rush of traffic outside is hushed, you may find Henry Bonn smoking his pipe in his little printing shop here.

Then, if the tobacco is right, and Bonn is in the mood, you may hear a craftsman's tales of a colorful business as it was in the purple seventies.

One of the oldest active printers in Wisconsin, Bonn, at 80, works ten hours every day in his little shop high above Main street. Daily for more than half a century he has walked downtown, up the steep flight of stairs to the crowded little shop, rolled up his sleeves and gone to work.

New nations were moulded while he set back his cuffs. Presidencies changed hands as he bent over his flat press.

Veteran of Old School.

The changing times have left him regretful. Today presses roar out newspapers by the millions. Hundreds of publications of every kind flood the news stands. Huge rolls of paper, vast vats of ink, tons of type, go into their making every day.

To Henry Bonn's ears the roar of the presses is an unharmonious bel-lowing. In his day printers did all their work by hand. They handled each unit that went into the mak-ing of a publication. They were craftsmen.

But these days people think of printing only in terms of machinery and speed.

"Sometimes," said Bonn, and his eyes sparkled with indignation, "folks come in and tell me to hurry up a job, and I tell them to get out of the shop."

Such heresy, indeed, is enough for an old printer to invoke the names of Hulett, and Harrison, and Strong, and James, and Flitch, and Korizek. They were all newspapermen of the old school. They not only wrote their papers; they helped put them into type. Alas, if they could but know, sighs Bonn, how the business has degenerated.

When Lincoln was assassinated, the old man was only a printer's devil, but he knew enough to put the announcement into type, run it off on the old flat press, and then distribute the handbills through the streets.

After the civil war Bonn published two papers of his own—the Omnibus in 1869 and the Racine Correspondent from 1883 to 1918. The Correspondent was by far the most successful of the dozen or more Ger-man papers published here at vari-ous times.

The day the first linotype came to Racine marked, perhaps, the ar-rival of the new era, and Bonn may have divined this as he listened to the glib chatter of the salesman.

"Aye, I looked at it, saw the point and the beauty of it, but had a hard time bringing myself to be-lieve my eyes. It looked mighty new fangled to me."

As for the realists, they say the linotype was a great blessing to humanity. But Bonn only knows that the old mellow color has gone out of the game.

Regrets Passing of Old Press



One of the oldest active printers in Wisconsin, Henry Bonn, 80, works every day in his little shop on Main street in Racine, Wis. A newspaperman of the old school, when editors not only wrote their copy but set it up in type themselves and pulled it off the press, Bonn is still a tiny bit bewildered and not a little annoyed by the present era of thundering presses, speedy news transmittal, and efficient organization of the newspaper business. One of Bonn's early duties as a combination cub and printer's devil was to write and set the announcement of Lincoln's assassination.

LINCOLN'S MURDER NOT 'PAGE 1' NEWS

Quicker and Better Presentation
Marks Modern Handling of
Roosevelt Attack

PUBLIC ONCE HAD TO WAIT

BY LAURA LEE

AN attempted assassination of President-elect Roosevelt on the evening of Wednesday, February 15.

Within a matter of minutes, facts about the shooting, quickly assembled by newspaper men, were broadcast over the country by radio.

The morning newspapers carried "streamline" heads—some papers up to 15 columns. Half the front page was devoted to this news.

In its Sports Extra edition, The Evening Bulletin printed pictures taken on the scene and flown by airplane to Philadelphia—incidentally, the first shown in Philadelphia.

By Friday, news-reel and sound pictures just before and after the shooting were ready for release in Philadelphia.

Things were not always so.

"Restraint" in 1865

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on the night of April 14, 1865. Newspapers in the larger nearby cities—Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore—carried the news the very next morning. Some went so far as to publish it on the front page.

No editor was so "bold," however, as to use large type. Headlines discreetly extended across one column only, as usual.

The New York Tribune, on April 15, carried the news of the assassination on page 4, column 3, most of the first page being filled with letters from Confederates and others, and the other two pages with advertising.

On the 4th page at the top of column 3, under the heading "Highly Important," comes the announcement of the assassination of the President of the United States in letters an eighth of an inch high. Details of the assassination occupy all of two-and-one-half columns, at which point the news settles down

to the siege of Mobile and billiard champions.

"Who Did It?"

There was no printed speculation or rumor as to the identity of the murderer or his motives, with the exception of a simple sentence buried in the story: "Laura Keane claims to have recognized the assassin as the actor, J. Wilkes Booth."

There was considerable restraint in announcements of all newspapers in those days.

The front page of The Evening Bulletin of April 15, after a column of "Married," "Died" and "Religious Notices," carried "The News in Town—The City Draped in Mourning—Tolling of Bells—Special Meeting of City Council"—and finally broke the news, with "The intelligence of the murder of the President of the United States fell like a pall over the people of Philadelphia this morning . . ."

Assassination Called "Decease"

Restraint in expression was not peculiar to newspapermen alone. The public liked euphemisms. Spades were not called spades if they were unpleasant. For instance:

"A special meeting of both branches of City Councils will be held at 4 o'clock this afternoon to take action concerning the melancholy event."

"The Corn Exchange Association met this morning at 11 o'clock and was called to order by George Cookman, Esq., the Vice President, who in a few appropriate remarks announced the decease of President Lincoln."

News gathering, even by the middle of the 19th century was by no means standardized or easy. While the larger city newspapers had begun to use the telegraph, there was still considerable prejudice against it (because of electrical shocks, etc.), and it was so expensive it was used only for emergencies and told in as few words as possible.

"Telegraphic" Bulletin in 1847

James K. Polk's inauguration as President in 1845 was made more notable through the fact a description of the ceremony was sent from Washington to Baltimore, 40 miles

away, by Professor Morse's new-fangled "magnetic telegraph."

Two years later, April 10, 1847, appeared the first specimen issue of "Cummings' Telegraphic Evening Bulletin," which is the same newspaper that you are at this moment reading (it dropped its "telegraphic" title some years later).

In its very first appearance, The Bulletin performed a noteworthy journalistic feat by giving Philadelphia their first news of the capture of the Mexican stronghold of Vera Cruz by the Americans under General Winfield S. Scott, on March 27.

This issue of The Bulletin may be said to mark well the transition period between slow and speedy news-gathering. The important news from Mexico was "rushed" here by ships, horses and railroads in two weeks' time, to rub shoulders in the same columns with almost instantly transmitted telegraphic news. Alexander Cummings, founder of the newspaper, was a pioneer in utilizing the new and faster method of gathering news for his readers.

Waterloo News 47 Days Late

Receiving foreign news before ocean cables were laid was naturally a pretty haphazard affair.

The Battle of Waterloo, marking the close of the Napoleonic drama, resulting in Napoleon's retirement from European affairs, and playing a big part in deciding the fate of nations, was fought on June 18, 1815.

But two weeks later, on July 1, Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, published in Philadelphia, reports:

"Latest Intelligence from Europe—The New York Evening Post reports receiving London papers dated the 13th of May. It does not appear that any blow has yet been struck . . ."

Finally, on August 4, 47 days after the battle, the first despatches arrived from London, dated June 18.

Ponies, Boats, Pigeons Used

A thrilling story can be reconstructed of the resourcefulness of editors of the first American newspaper—how they rushed news between Philadelphia (the home of the first daily newspaper) and New York by "Black Ponies," eight re-

lays of horses spanning the distance.

Editors hired rowboats to meet ships before they docked. One used winged reporters—carrier pigeons, smuggled to the ship, returned to their newspapers hours before the rowboats arrived, and had the precious messages tied to their feet.

The local "news" of the earliest papers consisted mostly of essays on such topics as "An Inquiry into the Nature of the Human Soul" and opinions on political matters, often eccentric.

The general attitude toward news as we understand it may be illustrated in the following apology by the editor of the Pennsylvania Gazette, December 24, 1738 (not trying to be funny):

"We have little news of consequence at present, the English Prints being generally stuffed with Robberies, Cheats, Fires, Murders, Bankruptcies, Promotions of Some and Hanging of Others, nor can we expect much till vessels arrive in the spring, when we hope to inform our Readers what has been doing in the Court and Cabinet, in the Parliament . . ."

March 1, 1933 - Philadelphia Bulletin

WASHINGTON Post

Classi
Co

5, 1935

Prized Papers Found, D. C. Resident Joyful



Post Staff Photo.

Robert Fitzhugh scanning the Washington Chronicle of 70 years ago.

Progenitor of The Post Tells of Lincoln's Assassination.

Edward Fitzhugh's lost papers turned up yesterday and were brought to The Post Building.

And that was fitting and proper, for Edward Fitzhugh's lost papers were none other than copies of the Morning Chronicle of 1865. And the Morning Chronicle was none other than the Civil War progenitor of The Washington Post.

Edward Fitzhugh has been a collector of things since he was 12 years old. He began with stamps. Now he's going in for old newspapers. But as long as he's been in the collecting business, he's never been able to accept losses. He takes them hard.

But to lose the Morning Chronicle went particularly hard with Edward Fitzhugh, who is an engineer at the Wheatley School. For the Chronicle he lost recorded the surrender of Gen. Lee, which was a very sad event to Fitzhugh (though the Chronicle said there was great joy throughout the Capital), for Lee was his great uncle.

That was the Chronicle of April 10, 1865. The issue of April 15 recorded another event of great moment, and on this the tone of the Chronicle's writings and the feeling that arises in the breast of Fitzhugh at the reading of them are in sympathy. For the chronicled event was the assassination of President Lincoln.

The Chronicle was found yesterday in an old trunk by Fitzhugh's son, Robert. Fitzhugh was away attending a meeting of the engineers union at the time and Robert, in his joy, ran straight to The Post.

The Chronicle describes the Lincolns at the play in the Ford Theater. Mrs. Lincoln is laughing. Then there was a shot * * * "Sic semper tyrannis." And the Capital, the Chronicle says, was rife with rumors, revolt, anarchy.

But on another day the Chronicle turns to happier news. For example, the things people were reading in those days—Dumas, Mrs. Southworth, Ellen Wood's "East Lynne," G. P. R. James, Reynolds and the Brontes—to all-but-forgotten names of an all-but-forgotten past, remembered mostly by Edward Fitzhugh and the Chronicle.

Big News of Apr. 15, 1865

IMPORTANT

ASSASSINATION

OF

PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The President Shot at the
Theatre Last Evening.

SECRETARY SEWARD

DAGGERED IN HIS BED

BUT

NOT MORTALLY WOUNDED.

Clarence and Frederick Sew-
ard Badly Hurt.

The assassination of Pres. Lincoln swept all other news off the front pages of newspapers published Apr. 15, 1865. Above is shown a copy of the New York Tribune of that date. Note the extravagant use of headlines, occupying almost an entire column.

Newspaper Heirloom Tells of Assassination of Lincoln

Possession of Madisoni- ans Gives Account of Shooting

"Abraham Lincoln died this morning at 22 minutes past 7 o'clock." That was the graphic dispatch which Secretary of war Edwin M. Stanton sent to Maj. Gen. Dix in New York on April 15, 1865—a message which hurled a nation in to the depths of despair.

The story of the fatal shooting of the beloved president was told in detail in the New York Herald, a copy of which was brought to Madison by the late Mrs. Breese Stevens and is now in the possession of her daughters, Miss Amelia Stevens, and Mrs. Reginald Jackson.

The newspaper, a section of which is being reproduced by The Capital Times, carried wide black mourning lines between the columns. The newspaper is a single sheet about half the size of present day newspapers and was printed with much smaller type.

Result not yet known. Mr. Seward's throat cut, and his son badly wounded. There is intense excitement here.

Details of the Assassination.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1865.

Washington was thrown into an intense excitement a few minutes before eleven o'clock this evening by the announcement that the President and Secretary Seward had been assassinated and were dead. The wildest excitement prevailed in all parts of the city. Men, women and children, old and young, rushed to and fro, and the rumors were magnified until we had nearly every member of the Cabinet killed. Some time elapsed before authentic data could be ascertained in regard to this affair.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln were at Ford's Theatre, listening to the performance of the American Cousin, occupying a box in the second tier. At the close of the third act a person entered the box occupied by the President and shot Mr. Lincoln in the head. The shot entered the back of his head and came out above the temple.

The assassin then jumped from the box upon the stage and ran across to the other side, exhibiting a dagger in his hand, flourishing it in a tragical manner, shouting the same words repeated by the desperado at Mr. Seward's house, adding to it, "The South is avenged," and then escaped from the back entrance to the stage, but in his passage dropped his pistol and his hat.

Mr. Lincoln fell forward in his seat and Mrs. Lincoln fainted.

The moment the astonished audience could realize what had happened the President was taken and carried to Mr. Peterson's house in Tenth street, opposite to the theatre. Medical aid was immediately sent for, and the wound was at first supposed to be fatal, and it was announced that he could not live, but at half-past twelve he is still alive, though in a precarious condition.

As the assassin ran across the stage Colonel J. B. Stewart, of this city, who was occupying one of the front seats in the orchestra, on the same side of the house as the box occupied by Mr. Lincoln, sprang to the stage and followed him; but he was obstructed in his passage across the stage by the flight of the actors, and reached the back door about three-

Repeat Dispatch

First official notification of the assassination of the president was contained in the following dispatch to Gen. Dix:

"This evening about 9:30 at Ford's theatre, the president, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Maj. Rathburn, was shot by an assassin, who suddenly approached from behind.

"The assassin then leaped to the stage, brandishing a large dagger and made his escape.

"The pistol ball entered the back of the president's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound is mortal.

"The president has been insensible since the wound was inflicted and is now dying.

Seward Attacked

"About the same hour an assassin, whether the same or not, entered Mr. Seward's apartments and under pretense of having a prescription, entered the sick chamber. The assassin rushed to the bed and inflicted two or three stabs on the throat and two on the face.

"It is not probable that the president will live through the night."

At 6:10 a. m. on April 15 a second despatch was sent to Gen. Dix. It included the following:

"The president remains insensible and is sinking. The condition of Sec. Seward is unchanged.

"It is now ascertained that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime. Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the president, the other an accomplice, whose name is not known.

Murder Planned

"It appears from papers found in Booth's trunk that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until 'Richmond could be heard from.'"

All the official despatches concerning the shooting of Lincoln were carried in full by The Herald in addition to war news.

The next despatch was very brief and contained 11 words telling of the president's death.

The president and Mrs. Lincoln went to the Ford theatre to view the performance of "The American Cousin." After Booth shot the president he jumped to the stage and shouted: "the south is avenged."

Pres. Lincoln fell forward in his seat and Mrs. Lincoln fainted.

A story in The Herald, headed "Details of the Assassination," told of the wild excitement which prevailed in Washington, and stated that rumors were being spread that the entire cabinet would be wiped out.

Describe Bed Scene

The scene at the president's bedside was described as being most affecting. The bed was surrounded by cabinet members all of whom were bathed in tears, according to the Herald. Both Sec. Stanton and Sen. Sumner cried.

Other headlines on the front page included "Jeff. Davis' last Proclamation"; "The Evacuation of the Rebel Capitol"; "Lee's Army Supposed to Be in Sad State"; "Rebel Particulars of the Battle of Petersburg," and headline telling of high prices on an overstocked market.

A liniment ad said the mixture was good for the family or for animals. "It makes the strong weak. It disappoints none." The liniment was guaranteed to cure dandruff or chapped hands.

Local Man Has Copy of Gazette Extra on Lincoln Assassination

FW Gazette 4/15/65
A copy of the Fort Wayne Gazette extra issued at the time of Abraham Lincoln's assassination is owned by C. J. Worden of 1022 Wildwood avenue.

The extra differed widely from an extra of today. It was printed on a piece of paper a single column wide and less than a foot in length.

A reproduction of the issue follows:

GAZETTE - EXTRA

FORT WAYNE, APRIL 15, 1865

ASSASSINATION

OF

President Lincoln

AND

Secretary Seward

Our citizens were startled this morning by the terrible announcement in the following dispatch from Secretary Stanton, that President Lincoln and Secretary Seward were assassinated last evening at Washington. We cannot now comment on this dreadful calamity to the country. Every loyal heart is bowed in sorrow, and a profound gloom envelops the land.

Washington, April 14—8 P. M.

This evening President Lincoln and wife were at Fords Theatre occupying a box in second tier, listening to the play of Our American Cousin, when a man came into the box and shot Mr. Lincoln in the head, the ball entering the back of the head coming out over the right temple. The assassin then jumped on the stage and flourished a dagger and shouted the motto of Virginia, "Sic Semper Tyrannis" and then left the stand. Mr. Lincoln fell forward, and Mrs. Lincoln fainted. Mr. Lincoln was carried to a house opposite the Theatre, and when the Surgeons came they pronounced the wound fatal. He was alive at 3 o'clock, but would not live an hour.

LATER.

Mr. Lincoln died at 7 o'clock this morning.

Secretary Seward had his throat cut and Frederick Seward had himself stabbed in the neck and breast while defending Secretary Seward has since died.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON.

Local Man Has Paper

(Continued from page one)

Assasination of the President

Official Announcements

BULLETIN NUMBER ONE

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON

April 15—1:30 a. m.

To Major General Dir:

This evening at about 9:30 p. m. at Ford's Theater, the President while sitting in his private box, with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Major Rathburn, was shot by an assassin, who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theater.

The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound is mortal. The president has been insensible ever since it was inflicted. About the same hour, an assassin entered Mr. Seward's apartments, and under pretense of having a prescription was shown to the Secretary's sick chamber . . .

BULLETIN NUMBER TWO

April 15—4:10 a. m.

The President continues insensible, and is sinking . . . It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime, Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President, and the other a companion of his whose name is not known, but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape.

It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from. Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at 6 o'clock last evening, and left there with their horses about 10 o'clock or shortly before that hour. It would seem that they had for several days been seeking this chance, but for some unknown reason it was not carried into effect until last night. One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore, and the other has not yet been traced.

BULLETIN NUMBER THREE

Abraham Lincoln died this morning at twenty two minutes after seven o'clock.

BULLETIN NUMBER FOUR

CIRCULAR, WAR DEPARTMENT

Provost, Marshal General's Bureau

April 15—9:40 a. m.

It is believed that the assassins of the President and Secretary Seward are attempting to escape to Canada.

You will make a careful and thorough examination of all persons attempting to cross from the United States into Canada, and will arrest all suspicious persons. The most vigilant scrutiny on your part and the force at your disposal is demanded. . . .

BULLETIN NUMBER FIVE

April 15—3 p. m.

Official notice of the death of the late President, Abraham Lincoln, was given by the heads of the Departments this morning to Andrew Johnson, vice-president, upon whom the Constitution devolved the office of President. Mr. Johnson, upon receiving the notice, appeared before the Hon. S. P. Chase, Chief Executive of the United States, and took the oath of office as President of the United States and assumed its duties and functions. . . .

Old Journal Tells Of Lincoln's Death

Writer Portrays Reaction of People to Assassination of President

Many Toledoans yesterday took a thought of Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday anniversary was observed as a legal holiday.

An old journal kept in fine Spencerian hand by the late C. L. Vaughan, who moved from Springville, N. Y., to the village of the same name in Michigan, in the Irish Hills region, and written when he was about 20 years old, graphically portrays the feelings of the people of that day when they heard the news of the assassination of President Lincoln.

"We received news today that President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and shot through the head last night while attending a theater at Washington," records the journal.

"It was thought that his recovery was impossible and he is probably dead ere this. Sec. William H. Seward was also attacked in his bed and stabbed three times about the same time and his recovery is considered doubtful. The assassins were not caught at last accounts. No torture would be too severe for the punishment of such villains.

Our 'Darkest Day'

"This is the darkest day that our Nation ever saw."

The few sentences are bordered in black. That was included in the account of daily doings for Saturday, April 15, 1865. Next day more detailed accounts came to the folks in the country districts. In the journal is this account:

"President Lincoln was attending a theater at Washington when the assassin entered his private box and shot him through the head. The assassin then rushed to the front of the box exclaiming 'Sic semper tyrannis!' After which he leaped upon the stage, and escaping through the back side, mounted his horse and rode away.

"President Lincoln remained insensible, the blood and brains oozing from the wound, until 22 minutes past 7 o'clock this morning when he quietly expired.

Murderer Identified

"The murderer of President Lincoln has been identified as John Wilkes Booth who formerly played at that theater and well understood the means of ingress and egress connected with it. At last accounts he had not been arrested but every precaution was being put forth for that purpose. Human ingenuity will fail to devise a punishment sufficient for the cowardly, black-hearted villain."

There is a description of the mourning and special funeral services in Springville for the martyred president.

On the day of the funeral of Lincoln at Washington came news of the surrender of Gen. Joe Johnston and his last rebel army to Gen. Sherman and also surrender of Mobile to Gen. Canby.

News of the shooting of Booth by a soldier attempting to arrest him was recorded on April 28, 1865.

The journals were presented to Dr. R. Lincoln Long by Frederick Hewitt, who owns the Walker Taverns, at the intersection of M 50 and U. S. 112 near Brooklyn, Mich., in the Irish Hills. They were found in some neighborhood effects turned over to the museum there.

Buffalonian Has Rare Copy Of Lincoln Death Sketches

Buffalo Evening News 2/15/39



Mrs. Abraham Fernandez.

Illustrations Include Secretary of War Stanton, Who Was Attacked at Same Time as President.

Today the nation pauses to observe the anniversary of the birth of the great emancipator in a log cabin in Hardin county, Kentucky, 130 years ago Sunday.

But Buffalonians—among them Mrs. Abraham Fernandez of 746 Humboldt parkway—who would pay homage to Abraham Lincoln's humble origin, quickly span the 56 years to that tragic morning of April 15, 1865, when Honest Abe's great and kindly heart was stilled forever.

Mrs. Fernandez owns a rare copy of the April 29, 1865 edition of Frank Leslie's Illustrated newspaper containing Albert Berghaus' sketches of the assassination of President Lincoln.

The yellow sheets include a double page sketch of Lincoln on his death bed, surrounded by the members of his Cabinet. Prominent among them is his secretary of war, Edwin M. Stanton, who was attacked on his sick bed about the same time John Wilkes Booth leveled his gun at Mr. Lincoln's head, in Ford's theater in Washington, April 14, 1865.

Relegated to the back page is a two-column sketch of "the unhappy wretch, whose mad and wicked hand has struck down the foremost man in all the realm."

Mrs. Fernandez was 2 years old when the paper was published. While a young girl, she came upon it in a chest in her Brooklyn home and put it in her scrapbook inscribed "The Property of Emily Elizabeth Eames."

"This is my dearest and most treasured keepsake," Mrs. Fernandez said today. "I have kept it with me in all my travels."

Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez were married April 23, 1882. Herself the great-granddaughter of a Revolutionary war soldier and the niece of a Civil war veteran, Mrs. Fernandez has been a life-long admirer of the Civil war president.

10 f 100
ASSASSINATION, '65

THE headline in *The New-York Times* of Saturday April 15, 1865, was "AWFUL EVENT. President Lincoln Shot by an Assassin." Therein lies the reason why that particular issue of the *Times* is sought by collectors. We offer it now in company with all subsequent issues of the *Times* through May 10, the twenty-two numbers comprising a singular and absorbing news-history of a crisis in American annals. Here you learn, in exactly the words and form the New Yorker of that day learned, of the assassination in Ford's Theatre, the death of Lincoln in the house across the street, the attempted assassination of Seward, the funeral in Washington, the departure of the funeral train, the burial in Illinois. And, concurrently, you read of the inauguration of Johnson and the closing moments of the war—the capture of Mobile, the surrender of Johnston, the flight of Jefferson Davis, and the proclamation of Amnesty, and, in

THE the *Times* for May 2 you see the happier headline, "DAWN
MONTH OF PEACE." Concurrently also you read of surmises as
May 1939 to the nature and extent of the conspiracy, the pursuit of
Booth, the arrest of his accomplices, the death of Booth and
Herrold in the barn, and the offering of the \$100,000
reward for the "conspirator," Jeff Davis.

The twenty-two consecutive numbers of *The New-York Times*, April 15–May 10, 1865, have been bound in black cloth with red leather label, making a convenient folio volume of about 175 pages that belongs in any Lincoln collection. \$50.



William H. Wanamaker reads copy of Daily Evening Bulletin recounting the death of Abraham Lincoln

THE ASSASSINATION --AS WE TOLD IT

Wm. Wanamaker Finds Old Bulletin Story Of Lincoln's End

BY CARL W. McCARDLE
(Of The Bulletin Staff)

William H. Wanamaker had had the box for a long time. It was a very old box. It had belonged to his grandmother, Mrs. Charlotte Neill.

The other day Mr. Wanamaker decided to open it. The first thing he saw was a \$500 Confederate bond. Mrs. Neill had not bothered to clip the coupon. Next there was some Confederate money. And next was a newspaper.

It was a two-page paper, folded.

Mr. Wanamaker unfolded it, and his eye fell on this despatch from Washington, which began:

"A stroke from Heaven, laying the whole of the city in instant ruins, could not have startled us as did the word that broke from Ford's Theater a half hour ago that the President had been shot . . ."

The despatch was dated Friday, April 14, 11.15 P. M.

The newspaper was the Daily Evening Bulletin, and was the issue of Saturday, April 15, 1865.

'Further Accounts'

The Washington story was under this headline: "The Assassination—Further Accounts of the Terrible Scene—Aspect of President Lincoln's Murderer."

It was near the top of the fourth column, and ran for less than a column.

A bigger display was given to "The News In Town," the first paragraph of which started off:

"The intelligence of the murder

of the President of the United States fell like a pall over the people of Philadelphia this morning."

Then there followed this announcement of S. G. Ruggles, police chief: "The recommendation of a general illumination of the city on Monday evening next is hereby countermanded."

After that was the news that the Corn Exchange Association had met at 11 o'clock. George Cookman, vice president, told of the death of the President. E. Harper Jeffries offered a resolution calling for the hall to be draped in mourning.

Then came the report of the closing of the stores, and there was this paragraph: "Along Chestnut and Market streets, as indeed most other business streets the stores were draped in black with wonderful celerity. By ten o'clock thousands of yards of mourning stuffs were festooned along the miles of closed stores."

Only in this last item in this column is it revealed at what time the President had died. Charles Giloin,

U. S. District Attorney, appeared before the U. S. Circuit Court, with Judges Grier and Cadwalader on the bench, and said: "May it please the court, it is my sad duty to announce to the court the death of the President of the United States. Abraham Lincoln died this morning at 22 minutes past 7 o'clock."

"Four years ago yesterday our flag was stricken down at Sumter by the hands of national assassins; yesterday Abraham Lincoln fell by the hands of assassins, actuated and impelled by the same unholy purpose."

"For four years, and upwards he guided and led a loyal but afflicted people through the wilderness of rebellion and brought them within sight of the promised land. From Pisgah's top he saw, but was not permitted to enter it, with the people whom he loved. Would that he could have been spared; but it has been ordered otherwise."

The court was adjourned for a week.

Tribute In Court

In the Quarter Sessions Court "notice was taken of the national calamity," and it adjourned. In the Common Pleas Court, "Judge Allison, after an affecting speech, referring to the national loss, also adjourned the Court."

Then there was news of the calling of a meeting of the Bar, the closing of the theaters, the fact that at the Doubleday court-martial, the Judge Advocate opened court with the tidings of the President's death "in choice language and feeling terms" and an account of the services at a synagogue on 7th st. above Arch.

The Washington despatch notes that "it is impossible to get at the full facts of the case, but it appears that a young man entered the President's box from the theater during the last act of the play 'Our American Cousin' with pistol in hand."

Lincoln's assassin was not then

known to be John Wilkes Booth, the actor.

"He shot the President," the account goes on, "in the head and instantly jumped from the box upon the stage and immediately disappeared through the side scenes and rear of the stage, brandishing a dirk-knife and dropping a kid glove on the stage."

"The audience heard the shot, but, supposing it fired in the regular course of the play did not heed it till Mrs. Lincoln's screams drew their attention. The whole affair oc-

cupied scarcely half a minute and then the assassin was gone. And he has not been found.

"The President's wound is reported mortal. He was at once taken into the house opposite the theater.

"As if this horror was not enough, almost the same moment the story ran through the city that Mr. Seward had been murdered in his bed."

The reference was to William Henry Seward, Lincoln's Secretary of State.

Seward was not murdered but was wounded by one Lewis Powell, a fellow conspirator of Booth. The Secretary's son and three others who came to his rescue were also wounded. Seward recovered, and served in the cabinet of President Johnson.

A despatch dated 1 o'clock said: "The President is perfectly senseless, and there is not the slightest hope for his recovery."

Next to the Washington despatch, at the top of the page, is a poem, commemorating the death. It is called "Dirge" and there is the notation that it was written for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin by Richard Coe.

THE EVENING BULLETIN
PHILADELPHIA

February 1, 1940

Local Man Has Newspaper Telling of Lincoln's Death

North Side Topics ★

2-7-41

A heavy black-bordered Indiana American of 1857 in the possession of Stoddard C. Hamilton, 3228 Ruckle street, tells of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

On the front page, evidently printed first, is an article on how to tell good from bad calico. Inside, under a modest headline, is the bulletin telling of the assassination of the President.

An editorial in the paper says "Words are inadequate to express the deep sorrow that fill the hearts of the people at this great bereavement. Of Abraham Lincoln it could be said more truly than of any man since the days of Washington that he was 'first in the hearts of his countrymen.'" But an editorial on the previously printed front page is evidence of the constant criticism to which the

President was being growingly subjected:

"That loyal papers should persistently poison the public mind with the impression that the President is reluctant or obtuse in the matter is most unfortunate," the editorial said. "To destroy public confidence in the chief executive by incessant complaint that he does not act wisely; to insinuate that peace is at every moment possible if only the President chose; to declare that the rebels are merely waiting for a kind word from him before laying down their arms, is to be guilty of the greatest injustice to him and the gravest injury to the country.

The news which was shaking the entire country was presented in the following manner:

(Continued on page six)

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1905.

A NATION MOURNS

1 TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

The Nation in Mourning

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
LINCOLN!

Sec. Howard Stabler

Escape of the Murderers

Still Later!

The Young Detective

GOING TO THE PRESIDENT

He Died at Half Past 7
this Morning

Gen. of the Assassins
Freed to Baltimore

THE MURDER PLANNED ON
SHOOTING OF KANSAS

Under Death for
act of them

THE AGENTS OF BOTH
PRESIDENCY

LATER

STIMULATED BY THE

Old Newspapers Give Graphic Account Of Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Eighty-one years ago today, Abraham Lincoln observed his 56th birthday.

Sixty-two days later he died, the victim of the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, while watching a performance of "Our American Cousin" in Ford Theater, Washington, D. C.

Between the time of Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12, 1865, and the day of his death, April 15, the Confederate forces crumbled and Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox.

The surrender took place on April 9, six days before Lincoln's death.

Lincoln was shot by Booth shortly after 10 on the evening of Good Friday. The exact time never was established. The president was removed to a house near the theater. Physicians battled to save his life, but he died at 7:22 on the morning of April 15.

Ohio newspapers carried stories of the assassination several days after it occurred. A bundle of these papers was found recently in Mt. Vernon by a Columbus man, Harry R. Fletcher, 220 Wetmore-rd. Mr. Fletcher, a tile setter, found the papers while working in Mt. Vernon. One, dated April 21, gives an account of the assassination; "Booth was observed working his way through the crowd to the box occupied by the presidential party. No suspicion was excited by the circumstances."

No one suspected Booth, for he was accepted as an actor, and he was a familiar figure at Ford Theater.

The newspaper account continued:

"When he reached the sentry at the box, he was, of course, refused admittance. In a whisper he announced himself as a senator and said the President had sent for him.

"He was allowed to pass, but Maj. Rathbone confronted him.

"You mistake, sir", said Maj. Rathbone, "This is the President's box."

"Booth graciously begged pardon. Then he struck at Maj. Rathbone with a knife as the latter turned.

"He then stepped out of the box, passed on to the second door, fired through it, stepped back again in the box at the first door and in an instant had sprung out upon the stage.

"The whole affair was the work of less than 30 seconds.

"Mr. Lincoln made no outcry when hit and Mrs. Lincoln discovered it when she turned to him. The President, sitting in an easy chair, threw his head slightly forward and seemed to crouch down in his chair—but his consciousness departed forever.

"It was but 64 feet from the President's box to where Booth had left his horse in the alley. The horse's hoofs might almost have been heard amid the silence that dwelt in the interior of the theater for a few seconds.

"Then Mrs. Lincoln screamed."



Harry R. Fletcher, 220 Wetmore-rd, looking at the old paper accounts of President Lincoln's death.

Another account of the assassination told of the actions of Miss Laura Keane, an actress.

"Miss Keane was behind the scenes waiting to come on the stage. She paused a few seconds before the footlights to entreat the audience to be calm.

"She then ascended the stairs in the rear of Mr. Lincoln's box, entering it and taking the dying President's head in her lap, bathed it with water she had brought."

It was first thought that Lincoln had been shot in the chest. Finding no wound there the examiners noticed that Miss Keane's dress was stained with blood where the President's head had rested.

While the President's body lay in state in Independence Hall in Philadelphia the pursuit of Booth continued southward. Later the 27-year-old assassin was cornered in a barn by soldiers. The barn

was set afire and Booth was fatally shot while he stood at bay.

Later testimony by those who assisted Booth in his effort to escape disclosed that he complained that men did not praise him as they had praised Brutus and Cassius for their part in the assassination of Julius Caesar in the Shakespearean play, named for the Roman emperor.

Close friends of Lincoln recalled then that the President had quoted Shakespeare, too. The quotation, given by Lincoln to them six days before his tragic end, was from "Macbeth":

"Duncan is in his grave;
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;

Treason has done his worst; nor
steel, nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy,
nothing
Can touch him further."



The tanyard was an important industry in early days, and Mrs. Horace Hurst of Connersville, on the occasion of a recent visit to her old home at Centerville, told Harry D. Bertsch some of her recollections of the Savage tanyard. "The deep vats in which the hides were soaked during the many months then required to make good leather were described to the children as pits of horror and danger, always to be avoided, and they generally kept away from them. The big noisy bark crusher with its great wooden cylinder, which was turned by a large white horse which walked around and around in a seemingly endless journey greatly fascinated the children of the neighborhood. Mrs. Hurst recalled that she and her brother were frequently lifted to the back of this animal by Mr. Savage and permitted to take long rides."

"Mrs. Hurst recalls the somber funeral train which bore the body of Abraham Lincoln back to its final resting place at Springfield, Ill., as it passed through here on the night of April 30, 1865. Most of the people from Centerville and surrounding territory were awaiting the train when it arrived here. Mrs. Hurst says she still has a vivid recollection of the casket which stood in the center of the heavily draped baggage car, although she was but 6 years of age. She says her father picked her up and held her so that she had a good view of the interior of the car, the doors of which were open on each side.

"Mrs. Hurst says that her father, who was agent and telegraph operator here, received the first dispatch telling of the assassination of Lincoln. About 4 o'clock in the morning of April 15, she says, her father had gone to the office—much earlier than usual—and the message telling of the tragedy at Washington came over the wire soon afterward. Mr. Commons (her father), as soon as he recovered from the shock of the news, closed the office and went uptown. Here he met Judge Bleckel, and after talking over the news with him returned to the station and it was not long until a great crowd gathered. Mrs. Hurst says she

heard this story innumerable times, and is sure she can not be mistaken as to any of its details. At that time Robert Underwood Johnson, later to make a name in the literary world, was a student of telegraphy in the office, and in his book, 'Remembered Yesterdays,' he says that he recalled receiving the message telling of the assassination of Lincoln. Mrs. Hurst thinks that Mr. Johnson must have referred to a later message giving some details of the tragedy."

+ + +

A display advertisement in the Vincennes Saturday Gazette for May 18, 1944, sent to this column by Karl W. Fischer of this city, is as follows:

"Six days shalt thou work and do all thy labor."

"Our customers will please take notice that after this our office will not be open on Sundays as heretofore; we will receive customers, however, until 11 p. m., on Saturday evening. Our reason for adopting this course is, that for the last three months we have been deprived of the pleasurable duty of attending public worship on that day, and also of lending our services to our Sunday school. We hope that our patrons will excuse us when they recollect that we have cut, curled and shaved their hair and beards for the last ten years without regard to Sundays. Allison and Burgess."

+ + +

The season of county fairs has suggested to Clarence Wolfe of the New Harmony Times some of the old premium lists of the Posey county fair. The following might easily have been the list for a decade earlier. It is dated 1876.

Premiums were given for the "best hand-made split basket, the best hand-made willow basket, the best sign painting, the best drain tile, the best hair flower, the best collection of tombstones, the best soft soap, the best hand-woven coverlet, the best five yards of jeans, the best five yards of linsey, the best five yards of flannel, the best blanket, the best collection of cooperage, the best collection of harness, the best six ax handles and the best wheat cradle and flail. "How obsolete the articles exhibited now seem, as well as the industries, which no longer exist in our community," comments Mr. Wolfe.

Study 1921
When Lincoln Died—

Shock To People Reflected In News

By CHARLES F. STUTZ

When President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's theater in Washington on the evening of April 14, 1865, the news had a paralyzing effect all over the country.

Examination of the files of the St. Paul Pioneer and the St. Paul Press, forerunners of the Pioneer Press, indicate clearly what a staggering blow it was.

The Pioneer, a Democratic newspaper often opposed to the policies of the president, was about as eloquent as it was possible to be in expressing the shock and sorrow of the people, as may be seen from the facsimile of its editorial.

The opening phrases of Mr. Wheelock's panegyric, not reproduced in the facsimiles, went as follows.

"Oh! horror! horror! horror!"

"The saddest word that ever fell on the ears of living mortals sobbed through the wires yesterday and died

broken-hearted in its flight. A huge eclipse has struck the nation down from its high noon of joy to a chaos of thick darkness.

"Weep, orphaned people of America, bereaved of your deliverer.

"Weep, Liberty, widowed in your bridal hour; for Abraham Lincoln, the wise, the good, the great of heart, the Savior of the Republic, the type and pillar of its cause, the man in whom was centered all the hopes and affections of the nation—is DEAD—yes, God help us, dead—stricken down—

"O, horror! horror! horror! Tongue nor heart

"Cannot conceive or name thee.—"

The handling of the news story did not differ too much from the way it would be done today although the styles of the writers seem to be more informal and discursive.

Students of history will note that both papers carried the false rumor that Secretary of State William H. Seward had also been assassinated.

Actually a confederate of Booth's managed to get into the sick room where Seward was recuperating from injuries suffered in a carriage accident and stabbed him several times.

The secretary of state recovered from the wounds, however.

To add to the difficulties of the editors of the two papers, the lone telegraph wire that connected them with the outside world broke near Winona just after the news was received, and there was some delay before the original story could be clarified.



WHEN LINCOLN DIED—The above facsimiles show how the St. Paul Press and the St. Paul Pioneer, ancestors of the Pioneer Press, handled the news of Lincoln's assassination. Left above is the Pioneer's story. To the right is the Press' effort. Note that the reader doesn't learn what happened until the second headline. At the lower left is the first part of the Pioneer's editorial.

Saint Paul Pioneer
ST. PAUL SUNDAY, APRIL 16
The National Calamity—President Lincoln no More.

Like a clap of thunder from a clear sky, last yesterday morning upon this community the intelligence that Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. Every man stopped, staggered, and turned pale as though some overwhelming personal calamity had suddenly overtaken him. The full flood tide of his life and large language failed, and men's tongues forgot their accustomed office. For a time the eyes of people seemed to search and rove around, as though to assure themselves that they were not in the midst of some horrid nightmare. But along with the intelligence of the assassination of President Lincoln came also that of the assassination of Secretary Seward. Soon to be confirmed by the positive announcement that both of these great men were no more.

President Lincoln is dead, and a nation weeps. His voice is forever hushed, but the lamentations of thirty millions of sorrowing people are heard. Soldiers have the grief of a people for the death of their leader; but more sincere; more probably more universal.

Whatever differences of opinion may have obtained as to the policy pursued by Mr. Lincoln, whatever errors may have

EXTRA Edition of Intelligencer Told of Lincoln's Assassination



A history course in one easy lesson. Dorothy Lyon (left) and Susan Chew read the EXTRA edition published by The Intelligencer in 1865 carrying the news of the assassination of Lincoln.

Rare Copy of Intell Describing Lincoln's Death Is Discovered

By PAUL BURIG
Of The Intelligencer Staff

Co-incidental with the observance today of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln is the finding this week at the Ohio County Public Library of probably the only existing copy of the EXTRA edition of The Wheeling Intelligencer, which carried an account of the president's assassination.

INTELLIGENCER
EXTRA.

WHEELING, VA. MARCH 25.—1865.

A NATIONAL CALAMITY
President Lincoln and Sec-
retary Assistant.

On the morning of Monday, April 14th, a man named John Wilkes Booth, a native of Maryland, but who had been living in London, England, for some time, entered the theatre where Lincoln was to appear, and with a pistol in his hand, he fired a shot which struck the president in the back of the head. The wound was mortal, and the president died a few hours later.

The news of the assassination of the president was received with great surprise and sorrow throughout the country. The Intelligencer, in its EXTRA edition, carried a full and accurate account of the event, and the story was printed as pictured.

The EXTRA edition published by The Intelligencer in 1865 telling the story of the assassination of Lincoln was little more than a leaflet. The news, reached Wheeling after the usual edition had been published and the story was printed as pictured.

The EXTRA edition published by The Intelligencer in 1865 telling the story of the assassination of Lincoln was little more than a leaflet. The news, reached Wheeling after the usual edition had been published and the story was printed as pictured.

The EXTRA edition published by The Intelligencer in 1865 telling the story of the assassination of Lincoln was little more than a leaflet. The news, reached Wheeling after the usual edition had been published and the story was printed as pictured.



On April 14, 1863, in a crowded Washington, D. C. theatre an assassin's bullet was fired which snuffed out the life of one of the most venerated leaders of the American people the next morning.

That night The Intelligencer published its regular edition without knowing that the President lay near death. At 1:30 a.m. on April 15 the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Staunton issued a statement on the incident that was carried across the nation by telegraph.

The next morning The Intelligencer carried the news to the people of Wheeling with a miniature EXTRA edition that was no more than a leaflet.

A copy of this rare edition was discovered recently by Miss Virginia Ebeling, librarian, while she was inspecting some old newspaper files in the county library. The copy was lying loose under the cover of a large bound volume.

The shooting took place at about 9 p.m. in the Ford theater while President Lincoln and his wife, and a Mrs. Harris and a Major Rathbourn were sitting in his private box.

The story soberly told of the assassination and how the assassin made his escape through the

rear of the theater. It said that the bullet passed nearly through the head and announced that the wound was mortal.

At about the same time an attack was made on Secretary Seward, while he lay sick in his home.

The same edition carried subsequent statements from the Secretary of War concerning the President's condition and at the end in a few words simply announced that "Abraham Lincoln died this morning at 22 minutes after seven o'clock."

The next edition of The Intelligencer published on the following Monday was devoted exclusively to the story of the assassination including every possible detail of the shooting, the reaction of other national figures and the search for the assassin.

One of the strange aspects of the extra edition is that in the haste to have it published a mistake was made in setting the date and it appeared as March 15 instead of April 15.

In the edition that followed with the full details the inside pages carried heavy black lines between the columns of type instead of usual hair-lines to signify the mourning of the nation.

Treasured Paper Relates Abe's Death

*I with mournful tread,
Walk the deck my captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.*

With those words, Poet Walt Whitman captured the feeling of a nation in mourning for the leader who had been struck down by an assassin's bullet a little more than a month after his 56th birthday.

Thursday, on the 144th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Americans paid tribute to not only the Civil War President and his deeds, but to his goal of preserving the union. Whitman said of that:

*O Captain! My Captain! our fearful trip is done!
The ship has weathered every wrack. The prize we sought is won.*

A Dayton woman, Mrs. Golda Snoots of 302 Campbell st., this week took another look at one of her most prized possessions—a faded and yellowed copy of a newspaper which reported the news that the "ship," having been brought safely within sight of port, had lost the captain who guided it.

THE APRIL 15, 1865 edition of the New York Herald, carried the first news under a one-column, one-word headline: "IMPOR-TANT."

The paper told its readers in the language of the day:

"This evening at about 9:30 p. m., at Ford's theater, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Maj. Rathbone, was shot by an assassin who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President . . ."

In a later dispatch, carried under the subhead, "The President Dead," the paper reported additional details of "The Great Crime."

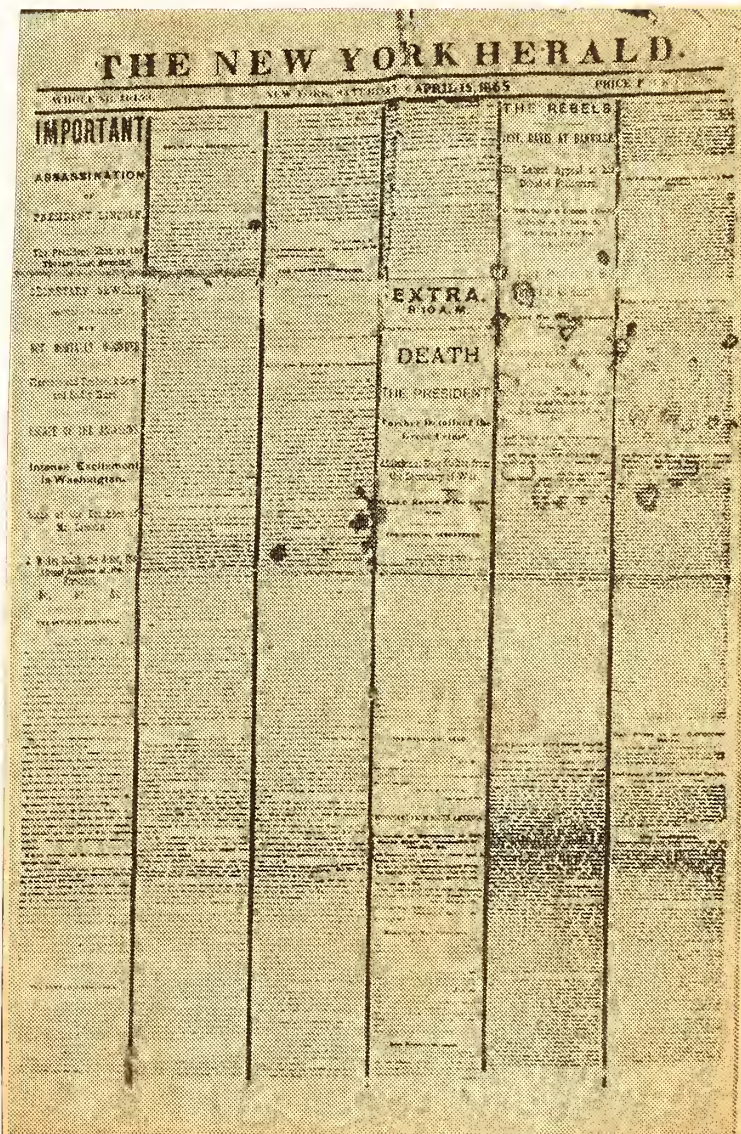
"Abraham Lincoln died this morning at 20 minutes past seven o'clock."

The dispatch informing the paper of Lincoln's death was signed by Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's controversial secretary of war, who the night before had denied the President the bodyguard he had requested.

Mrs. Snoots found the paper recently in an old trunk belonging to her father, Aaron Miller, who died July 20, 1952, at the age of

76. She said she had no idea where her father got the paper.

She added, however, that he must have cherished the paper because it was neatly wrapped and placed securely in the bottom of the trunk.



This copy of a New York paper which reported the assassination of Abraham Lincoln is the possession of Mrs. Golda Snoots of 302 Campbell st.

Dayton Daily News 2-12-53

'Important' Item—

Brief Headline But Much Detail In 1865 Lincoln Tragedy Report

(Editor's Note: The following story concerning Abraham Lincoln's assassination was compiled from an old newspaper by Doris Winkler, Emmaus correspondent for the Call-Chronicle Newspapers).

Abraham Lincoln died at 22 minutes past 7 o'clock on the morning of April 15, 1865.

It was a tragedy beyond any imagining and yet the headlines were not as large as those the Evening Chronicle uses to feature a baseball game. There were more of them though.

The New York Herald of that day — its editor was James Gordon Bennett, one of the early so-called "penny" editors who sought to utilize new fast presses and cheaper paper to market newspapers among the working men on the street — called the item "Important" in a one-column head. Under it were subheads — eight of them.

"Assassination of President Lincoln" was followed in turn by "The President Shot at the Theatre Last Evening", "Secretary Seward Dagered in his Bed but not Mortally Wounded", "Clarence and Frederick Seward Badly Hurt", "Escape of the Assassins", "Intense Excitement in Washington", "Scene at the Deathbed of Mr. Lincoln", "J. Wilkes Booth, the Actor, the Alleged Assassin of the President."

Having told the whole story in headlines the paper goes into details and the melodramatic writing is in strange contrast to our modern reportorial style.

Official Dispatch

Under the lurid headlines appears the official dispatch of Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war. Dated 1:30 a.m. April 15 it begins: "This evening at about 9:30 p.m. at Ford's Theatre, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Major Rathburn, was shot

(See LINCOLN—Page 21)

by an assassin, who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President.

"The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre.

"This pistol ball entered the back of the President's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound is mortal."

More Details

Other dispatches followed. Under "Details of the Assassination" we read that after the shot was fired, "The assassin then jumped from the box upon the stage and ran across to the other side, exhibiting a dagger in his hand, flourishing it in a tragical manner, shouting the motto of the State of Virginia, "Sic Semper Tyrannis", adding to it "The South is Avenged" and then escaped from the back entrance to the stage, but in his passage dropped his pistol and his hat. "Mr. Lincoln fell forward in his seat, and Mrs. Lincoln fainted."

No Hope for Survival

In an item dated "One O'Clock a.m." it is stated, "The President is perfectly senseless, and there is not the slightest hope of his surviving. Physicians believe he will die before morning. All of his Cabinet, except Secretary Seward, are with him. Speaker Colfax, Senator Farwell, of Maine, and many other gentlemen, are also at the house awaiting the termination.

"The scene at the President's bedside is described by one who witnessed it as most affecting. It was surrounded by his Cabinet ministers, all of whom were bathed in tears, not even excepting Mr. Stanton, who, when informed by Surgeon General Barnes that the President could not live until morning, exclaimed, "Oh, no, General; no—no," and with an impulse natural as it was unaffected, immediately sat down on a chair near his bedside and wept like a child.

"Senator Sumner was seated on the right of the President's couch, near the head, holding the right hand of the President in his own. He was sobbing like a woman, with his head bowed down almost on the pillow of the bed on which the President was lying."

The President's death by no means took up all the space in that day's Herald. Under a heading entitled "The Rebels" was news of the fall of Richmond. Jeff Davis made an "appeal to his deluded followers," this Yankee paper says, adding "he vainly promises to hold Virginia at all hazards."

Lee's Surrender

A description of Lee's surrender

was also given. "As Lee rode up the hillside (at Appomattox) on a gallop, General Grant stepped his horse forward two or three rods to meet him. Lee rode squarely up, saluted in military form, and wheeled his horse side by side to the left of General Grant. The two chieftains then entered into a conversation which lasted nearly two hours, until the officers appointed on both sides to carry out the terms of the surrender had reported for duty."

After the conversation ended the report reads: "Within half an hour thereafter the officers designated by General Lee to carry out the stipulations of surrender arrived, and were accompanied by a large number of noted rebel officers. The large veranda and yard in front was soon filled with groups of Union and rebel officers in earnest conversation. Half the 'regulars' on either side found some old acquaintance or West Point classmate among the others, and in many instances the greetings were warm and unaffected. The men who but the day before were seeking each other's destruction now chatted quietly together, recalled the incidents of the past and gave in their open countenances, evidences of honest respect."

Under a heading "Souvenirs of Freedom" is a list of rebel souvenirs abandoned during one of the battles. Among them were "a surgeon's sash, letters, pistols and sabres, and the most stupendous story of all is finding a twenty dollar gold piece. If the confederacy is not ruined one man in it certainly is by the loss of this much of auriferous metal."

Evening Chronicle

Allentown, Pa., Friday, February 12, 1954

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

ORRAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1865.

VOL. XIV.

THE NEW YORK HERALD.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1865.

IMPORTANT.

ASSASSINATION
OF
PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The President shot at the Theatre
last Evening.



THE REBELS.

SELF-DENYING BY DANVILLE.

His Letter Offers to the
General's Parole.

THE REBELS' PROPOSAL TO SEND US
TO THE FRONT.

THE REBELS' PROPOSAL TO SEND US
TO THE FRONT.

THE REBELS' PROPOSAL TO SEND US
TO THE FRONT.

THE REBELS' PROPOSAL TO SEND US
TO THE FRONT.

THE REBELS' PROPOSAL TO SEND US
TO THE FRONT.

THE REBELS' PROPOSAL TO SEND US
TO THE FRONT.

EXTRA.
8:10 A. M.

DEATH

OF
THE PRESIDENT.

Further Details of the
Great Crime.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FROM THE
SECRETARY OF WAR.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTS.



Vivid accounts of assassination of Abraham Lincoln in old Deseret News and New York Herald have haunting ring in view of recent tragic events. Photograph of Lincoln was taken one week before his death.

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 15, 1865: THE TRIBUNE today presents a remade edition labeled "Postscript, 4 a. m." The headlines tell the story: "Terrible News. President Lincoln Assassinated at Ford's Theater. A Rebel Desperado Shoots Him Through the Head and Escapes. Secretary Seward and Maj. Fred Seward Stabbed by Another Desperado. Very Latest: The President Is Dying." In the text: "At the close of the third act a person entered the box occupied by the President and shot him, the bullet entering the back part of his head and coming out above the temple. The assassin jumped from the box upon the stage and ran across to the other side, flourishing a dagger and shouting, 'The south is avenged.' He then escaped from the back part of the theater, but in passing dropped his pistol and his hat."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 16, 1865: THE TRIBUNE's Washington correspondent sends more on the Lincoln assassination: "The impression which prevailed last night that the murderer of President Lincoln is none other than the actor J. W. Booth, has been reduced to a certainty. Papers found in his trunk prove that the assassination has been in contemplation for some time. The hat left in the theater was identified as Booth's. The pistol, also dropped while he was making his exit, is an old fashioned derringer of French manufacture. Preparation has been made to lodge Booth, when caught, in one of the monitors at the navy yard, to guard against popular violence. An autopsy was held over the late President's body. The remains have been embalmed. A few locks of hair were removed for the family."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 17, 1865: THE TRIBUNE advocates severity for the south: "Yesterday we were, with the late President, for lenity; today we are with the people for justice. Henceforth let us treat this hell-born outbreak of slaveholding fiends as a rebellion. We ask not vengeance but the justice which Abraham Lincoln's clemency would have withheld. They have slain their mediators, their best friends; now let them feel the force of righteous retributive justice. They have massacred our troops after surrender, starved our prisoners, and broken their paroles. They have laid plots to burn and plunder our cities. They have sunk to every depth of meanness. There is no manliness, no chivalry, no honor in them."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 18, 1865: Lincoln's assassination was the main point in a widespread conspiracy, THE TRIBUNE reveals: "It has been ascertained that here was a regular conspiracy to assassinate every member of the cabinet, together with the Vice President. Booth sent his card to the Vice President at the latter's hotel, but Mr. Johnson could not conveniently see him. In the assault on Secretary of State H. W. Seward, the latter's face and throat were frightfully cut. The soldier on guard being wounded, Mr. Seward threw himself from his bed onto the floor. When the struggle was over, he lay in a pool of blood. His son, Frederick, still is unconscious; the assailant struck him with a very heavy pistol. The criminal's name is given as Thompson."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 19, 1865: The war department issues a circular: "The murderer of our late beloved President is still at large. A \$25,000 reward will be paid by this department for his apprehension. The same amount will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, one of Booth's accomplices. All persons harboring or secreting the said persons, or either of them, or aiding and abetting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President, and shall be subject to trial before a military commission and the punishment of death. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 21, 1865: THE TRIBUNE recalls that John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, appeared on the stage in Chicago: "While here, he allowed his intense passions to harry him almost to the verge of madness and the most reckless desperation. These traits were manifest in his acting. He delineated the most powerful passions with nervous expression, wonderful subtlety, and close similarity. His representations of passion were representations of his own character. Study alone could never familiarize him so intimately with the impulses which lead to crime. It was in him, a part of his being. In portraying Richard, Macbeth, and Iago, he was portraying himself."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 23, 1865: THE TRIBUNE reports the arrest of Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, as keeper of the boarding house at 541 H st., Washington, in which the plot against Lincoln was hatched. With her were arrested her daughter, Kate, and two nieces. Shortly thereafter Lewis Paine [or Payne] was arrested at the same place. THE TRIBUNE continues: "Paine was confronted by Maj. Fred Seward, by Miss Fanny Seward, by the nurse who was so severely wounded, and by another colored servant who saw him, and they all promptly recognized him as the assailant of Secretary of State W. H. Seward. The evidence against Paine is now regarded as conclusive beyond a doubt."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 20, 1865: THE TRIBUNE prints the formal statement to the Washington police of Ruth Harris, one of the four persons in the box where Lincoln was shot: "About an hour before the commission of the deed, the assassin came to the door of the box and looked in to take a survey of the position of its occupants. It was supposed at the time that it was either a mistake or the exercise of impudent curiosity. Upon his entering the box again, Maj. H. R. Rathbone rose and asked the intruder his business. He rushed past the major without making a reply, and placing his pistol close to the back of the President's head, actually in contact with it, fired. He sprang upon the baluster of the box and made a backward plunge with his knife aimed at the face or breast of Mr. Lincoln. Maj. Rathbone, stepping forward to protect the President, received a stab in the arm. The rapidity with which all was committed was astounding."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 22, 1865: THE TRIBUNE gives details of the Lincoln funeral route: "The railroads over which the remains will pass are declared military railroads subject to the orders of the war department. The funeral train will not exceed nine cars, including baggage and hearse car, which will proceed over the whole route from Washington to Springfield. The remains left Washington at 8 a. m., April 21, and will proceed, in order, to Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York, Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, Chicago, and Springfield. The train should reach its destination at 8 in the morning of May 3."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 24, 1865: THE TRIBUNE roundly scolds Gen. W. T. Sherman: "The agreement made between Sherman and the rebel commander, J. E. Johnston, rouses in us sensations of amazement and mortification. We are relieved to learn that President Johnson promptly and unhesitatingly repudiated it and instantly dispatched Gen. Grant to command the army in North Carolina and close out the war in that state. Sherman's action was disapproved not only by the President, but by Gen. Grant, by the secretary of war, and by every other member of the cabinet. Sherman was ordered to resume hostilities immediately. Every one of Sherman's propositions is inadmissible. We should not be surprised to learn he has been superseded for making this shocking blunder."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 25, 1865: THE TRIBUNE publishes a letter, dated April 15, from Edwin Booth, famous actor and brother of John Wilkes Booth, to H. C. Jarrett, manager of the Boston theater: "With deepest sorrow and great agitation, I thank you for relieving me from my engagement with yourself and the public. The news of the morning has made me wretched indeed, not only because I have received the unhappy tidings of the suspicions of a brother's crime, but because a good man and a most justly honored and patriotic ruler has fallen in an hour of national joy at the hands of an assassin. While mourning in common with all other loyal hearts the death of the President, I am oppressed by a private woe not to be expressed in words."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 27, 1865: THE TRIBUNE gives details of the death, the day before, of John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, and the capture of his accomplice, David E. Herold: "In John Garrett's barn near Port Royal, Va., Herold professed himself willing to surrender to the troops surrounding them, and so he was taken. Booth proposed that he would fight the whole detachment. The barn was then set on fire. When the roof was about to fall in, Booth, with a revolver in one hand and a carbine resting on the floor, made a demonstration as tho to break thru the guard. To prevent this, Sgt. Boston Corbett fired, intending to cripple Booth, but the ball struck a little too high and resulted fatally. Booth lived for more than three hours. His last words were: 'Tell my mother that I died for my country.'"

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 28, 1865: THE TRIBUNE, after publishing the official telegram from Gen. U. S. Grant announcing the surrender in North Carolina on April 26 of Confederate Gen. J. E. Johnston to Gen. W. T. Sherman, comments on War Secretary E. M. Stanton's order to other commanders to disregard Sherman: "The inevitable inference is that Sherman has been suspended or that the secretary of war means to compel him to resign. It is plain that a commander in the field whose subordinates were publicly notified to disregard his orders cannot long remain with self-respect or even be retained in his present position."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

April 30, 1865: THE TRIBUNE prints the text, dated April 10, of the farewell message of the commander of the Confederate army of Northern Virginia to his troops after the surrender at Appomattox: "I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past valor has endeared them to their countrymen. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consequence of duty faithfully performed. I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend you His blessing and protection. With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell. R. E. Lee, General."

100 YEARS AGO

from The Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

May 9, 1865: THE TRIBUNE suggests that on Inauguration day, March 4, Andrew Johnson, then Vice President, was not drunk but poisoned: "It is in proof that the assassination was to be on March 4. While Booth was killing President Lincoln, it was expected that the new Vice President would have expired in the capitol from the effects of the potion he had taken. The instructions distributed among the assassins, that they were at liberty 'to use the blade, the pistol, or the bowl, but they must bear in mind that the last had once failed,' seem to be conclusive upon this point. We are gratified in the conviction that one who always has been a sober, self-respecting statesman is now providentially relieved from even a passing cloud on his career."

1965?

Lincoln Death Story Holds Haunting Ring

By MAXINE MARTZ
Deseret News Staff Writer

The assassination of a President of the United States, which held the world in shock for four days just three short months ago, had much the same effect on the nation nearly 100 years ago.

Abraham Lincoln, one of the nation's great presidents, is remembered now on his birthday. Details of his assassination have dimmed as the years have given the tragic event its proper place in the Lincoln legend.

To read of his assassination,

before meant little. Now the words from old newspaper accounts have a haunting ring.

From The New York Herald
April 15, 1865:

"This evening at about 9:30 p.m. (April 14) at Ford's Theater, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Major Rathburn, was shot by an assassin, who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theater."

"The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound is mortal."

"He was removed to a private house opposite to the theater and the Surgeon General of the Army was sent for to attend to his condition."

"Abraham Lincoln died this morning (April 15) at twenty-two minutes past 7 o'clock."

'News' Excerpts

Excerpts from The Deseret News, April 19 and 26, 1865:

"Upon the reception of the horrifying intelligence business was suspended, flags were draped at halfmast and stores and public buildings closed."

"... deep gloom palpably rested upon the minds of the citizens."

"On Sunday the stand and organ in the Tabernacle were clad in the habiliments of woe, as were also many of the congregation. . . ."

"Alas, for the times, when our CHIEF MAGISTRATE can be thus dastardly stricken down by the hands of an assassin!"

Wrapped In Flag

"The President's remains were removed from the private residence opposite Ford's Theater, to the Executive Mansion, at half-past 9, in a hearse wrapped in an American flag and escorted by a small guard of cavalry. . . ."

"A dense crowd accompanied
See LINCOLN on Page B-12

LINCOLN

Continued from Page B-1

the remains to the White House. . . ."

"The oath of office was administered at 11 o'clock in a solemn and impressive manner. Mr. Johnson received the kind expressions of the gentlemen present in a manner which showed his earnest sense of the great responsibility so suddenly devolved upon him."

Solemn Rites

"Solemn funeral rites were held at noon in ceremonies in the East Room. . . . At 2 p.m., the remains were taken to the Capitol by a procession of over three miles in length and placed in the rotunda to lie in state the remainder of the day. Tomorrow they will be conveyed to Springfield, via Philadelphia, New York, Buffalo and Chicago. . . ."

"A constant stream of people are passing through the room where the President lies in state at the rate of 80 per minute. An estimated 120,000 viewed the remains."

Further reports state "The people grieved as they would have grieved at the loss of a parent."

Funeral Train

From Washington, the funeral train bearing his body started west by slow stages. Across the country mourners lined the tracks. In cities where the opportunity was given, thousands wept as they looked upon his face for the last time. On May 3 his body was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Springfield, Ill. The monument that marks his grave is a place of universal pilgrimage.

Last year on Lincoln's birthday, a wire story from Springfield, Ill., told how more than a million persons paid homage to Lincoln by visiting his tomb.

"The year-long line of visitors included President Kennedy," the story noted.

Historical Society Preserves Newspaper Records of Grief Felt Here When News Arrived

Rochester citizens who read the morning papers of April 15th, 1865, were shocked by the following bulletin which appeared in the Daily Democrat of that date: "Washington, April 15th, 12:30 A. M. The President was shot in a theater last night and is perhaps mortally wounded." Beneath this bulletin was a later one which said that the President was not expected to live through the night.

What actually happened the world knows now only too well but the press sixty years ago was not equipped as it is to-day to handle quickly and efficiently news of such importance and magnitude. Anxious citizens were kept in suspense for many hours before the actual facts became known.

The Rochester Historical Society has preserved at the Municipal Museum, of which Edward D. Putnam is curator, the daily papers printed at the time of President Lincoln's assassination and the photographs which accompany this article are of papers and circulars of the society on file at the museum.

First Reports Arrive.

The first account of the assassination to reach Rochester, as published in the Daily Democrat, follows:

"The theater was densely crowded, and everyone seemed delighted with the scene before them. During the third act, while there was a pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waved a long dagger in his right hand and exclaimed 'Sic Semper Tyrannis!' and immediately leaped from the box, which was in the second tier, to the stage and ran across to the opposite side, making his escape amid the bewilderment of the audience, in rear of the theater and mounting a horse, fled.

"The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet rushing toward the stage, many exclaiming 'Hang him! Hang him!'

Wild Excitement.

"The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and of course, there was an abrupt termination of the performance.

"On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head above and back of the temporal bone. He was removed to a private house opposite the theater * * *

Rochester shared the bereavement and indignation of the whole country. The feeling of Rochester citizens when it became known that President Lincoln had been assassinated may best be seen from the following proclamation issued D. D. T. Moore, mayor of Rochester at that time. It read as follows:

Mayor's Proclamation.

"Whereas, intelligence has been received of the death by assassination of Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States, and also an attempt to destroy the life of William H. Seward, secretary of state, with the view, no doubt, of depriving the nation of its leading rulers, in the hope of producing general anarchy. Now, therefore, at the suggestion of many

influential citizens and in accordance with my own feelings, I request the citizens of Rochester to assemble in the City Hall at 3 o'clock this afternoon, April 15th, to take such action and give expression to such sentiments as may seem proper on the extraordinary and mournful occasion, regarding an event unparalleled in the history of our republic and which has caused so sudden a transition from triumphant rejoicing to deep and unavailing grief and lamentation. Furthermore, I respectfully request that all places of business be closed from 12 o'clock M. until 3 o'clock P. M., thus recognizing the dispensation of Providence and honoring the patriotic, honest, faithful ruler of the people and lover of his country who is no more. The City Hall and other bells of the city will be tolled between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock. D. D. T. Moore, mayor, Rochester, April 15, 1865."

Large Rewards Offered.

On April 20th the War Department at Washington sent out circulars offering rewards of \$100,000 for the apprehension of the men who were believed to have perpetrated the crime. The largest amount, \$50,000 was offered for the capture of Booth, who was identified as the man who actually killed the President. Two other rewards of \$25,000 each were offered for the apprehension of his accomplices, who attacked Secretary of State Seward at the same time. Their names were given in the posters as Harold and Surrat. The circular gave a description of the men and called attention to the fact that another \$100,000 was offered by State and other authorities for the capture of the criminals.

The death of President Lincoln, in the moment of the great national victory that he had done more than any other to gain, caused a movement of sympathy throughout the entire world. The newspapers of Rochester, preserved at the Municipal Museum by the Rochester Historical Society, will show to future generations how Rochester was shocked by the news and also the great love Rochester's citizens had for their president and fellow countryman.

When Rochester Mourned Lincoln's Death

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865.

\$100,000 REWARD!

THE BIBLE

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln.

RENTAL LANE

\$50,000 REWARD

\$25,000 REWARD
 Whomsoever will give information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who have committed the above named crime, will be paid the sum of \$25,000.

\$25,000 REWARD

[illegible]

Fin. Den. 1.

<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</p> <p>CHICAGO, ILL.</p> <p>1911</p>	<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</p> <p>CHICAGO, ILL.</p> <p>1911</p>	<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</p> <p>CHICAGO, ILL.</p> <p>1911</p>	<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</p> <p>CHICAGO, ILL.</p> <p>1911</p>
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RARE COPY COMES TO LIGHT

Old Fort Wayne Sentinel Tells Story of Lincoln Assassination

By DONALD WEBB

The year was 1865.

"Last evening President Lincoln and his wife were at Ford's Theatre, occupying a box in the second tier listening to the play of 'American Cousin,' when a man came into the box and shot Lincoln in the head, the ball entering the back of the head coming out over the right temple," reported the Fort Wayne Sentinel.

"The assassin then jumped on the stage and, flourishing a dagger, shouted 'sic semper tyrannus,' then left the stand."

THE NEWSPAPER was an extra edition and only as big as a piece of note paper. It was captioned, "Horrible Tragedy! . . . Lincoln Assassinated . . . Sec. Seward Murdered." The news continued:

"Mr. Lincoln fell forward, and Mrs. Lincoln fainted. Mr. Lincoln was carried to a house opposite the theatre and when the surgeons came they pronounced the wound fatal. He was alive at 3 a.m., but would not live an hour.

"Mr. Seward, secretary of

state, had his throat cut. Maj. Seward was stabbed in the neck and breast while defending the Secretary. Seward has since died.

"Later, Mr. Lincoln died at 7 o'clock," the account concluded.

LAST WEEK Gerald McMurry, director of Lincoln National Life Foundation, offered \$12.50 to Dr. and Mrs. Dudley E. Murray, Roanoke, in exchange for the 102-year-old newspaper.

"I'll have to think about it for awhile," said Mrs. Murray, explaining the April 15, 1865, edition had been in the family the past three generations.

She said the early newspaper was passed down from Dr. R. Y. Murray, Sr., Zanesville physician, to his sons, Drs. L. E. Murray and Julian Murray, also Zanesville doctors, and then to his grandsons, Dr. R. V. Murray and Dr. Dudley Murray, both of whom also were Zanesville doctors for a time.

"The paper is in fairly good

condition," Mrs. Murray observed. "The printing is very good and the paper quite durable. I've kept it in a frame after it was torn in two, to save wear and tear."

McMURTRY said the news was printed on rag paper.

"Outside of a marginal tear it's in good condition," he remarked. He said the Lincoln Library in Fort Wayne has a similar extra printed the same day by the Fort Wayne Gazette.

"There are rare copies," he added. Then he pointed out, "The man who cut Secretary Seward's throat was Lewis Paine, who actually didn't succeed in killing him. Seward was the man who purchased Alaska in 1867 under the administration of President Andrew Johnson.

"Seward escaped death because Paine's knife hit a plaster cast. He was wearing the cast because a carriage accident broke his collar bone."

Aside from that inaccuracy, the early newspaper gives a valuable picture of the assassination.

Of all the stories of that battle-scarred generation, none equalled for horror or hysteria the shooting in Ford's New Theatre in Washington on the evening of April 14, 1865. So confused were early reports that the *Tribune*, like many another paper, could think of nothing better to do than print the flashes as they came off the wire:

Washington, April 14, 1865

First Dispatch

To the Associated Press:

The President was shot in a theatre to-night and perhaps mortally wounded.

Second Dispatch

To Editors:

Our Washington agent orders the dispatch about the President "stopped." Nothing is said about the truth or falsity of the report.

Third Dispatch

Special to the New York Tribune:

The President was just shot at Ford's Theatre. The ball entered his neck. It is not known whether the wound is mortal. Intense excitement.

Fourth Dispatch

Special to the New York Tribune:

The President expired at a quarter to twelve.

Fifth Dispatch

Washington, April 15, 12:30 a. m.

To the Associated Press:

The President was shot in a theatre to-night and perhaps mortally wounded.

The President is not expected to live through the night. He was shot at a theatre.

Secretary Seward was also assassinated. No arteries were cut.

Particulars soon.

THE ASSASSINATION.

How General U. S. Grant Received The Tragic News.

General Grant and his staff left Appomattox Court House immediately after the surrender of Lee's army and arrived in Washington on the morning the April 13, 1865.

General and Mrs. Grant had been invited to accompany President and Mrs. Lincoln to the theater the next evening and the invitations had been accepted, but because of Secret Service rumors of an attempt to kidnap the President, Secretary Stanton urged General Grant to withdraw his acceptance. Accordingly the General informed the President that he found it necessary to take Mrs. Grant to Burlington N. J. at once to see their daughter, Nellie, attending a school there, instead of remaining over for the theater performance.

On the afternoon of Friday, the 14th, while lounging around in Willard's hotel, General Rawlings, Grant's chief of staff, came to me and told me of the changed plans and directed me to hurry to the train that was due to start in thirty minutes and accompany General and Mrs. Grant to Burlington.

No incident of note occurred until we reached Philadelphia and were seated in Bloodgood's restaurant on Walnut street, eating a hasty meal before crossing the ferry to Camden. A telegraph operator, George W. Porter, a long-legged man on crutches, entered the room and handed the General a dispatch announcing the shooting of the President and the attack on Secretary Seward. The General handed the dispatch to Mrs. Grant at his left, and she in turn handed it to me, no word being spoken.

A moment later the operator's hand was raised, to attract my attention, and I was called out to receive the special order from the Secretary of War directing me to see that a pilot engine be put in front of our train to Burlington and return to Washington with Mr. Grant.

I passed a sleepless night in the dingy telegraph office at Burlington, then returned to Nellie Grant's boarding house for breakfast.

Our train was a special to Washington, and I accompanied General Grant in a closed carriage to the War Department, where he was closeted for a long time with Secretary Stanton. We then started for Willard's hotel on foot.

In front of the White House I delivered to General Grant an urgent request from General Halleck, chief of staff of the army, to avoid Willard's hotel.

With a quick glance he said, "Well Beckwith, I reckon if they want me they will find me wherever I am. We'll go to Willard's." On parting from him at the hotel he asked me to telegraph his wife, which I did in the following words:

War Department, Washington, D. C.

April 15, 1865

Mrs. U. S. Grant, Burlington, N. J.

I am requested by the Lieutenant General to inform you of his safe arrival. Please inform Mrs. Dent.

The President died this morning. There are still hopes of Secretary Seward's recovery.

S. H. Beckwith.

n-d.

The Assassination of Lincoln.

(W. H. Taylor in Leslie's Weekly.)

About the middle of the third act a shot was heard and immediately thereupon rang out John Wilkes Booth's cry, "Sic semper tyrannis;" not after he reached the stage, as had been stated in some accounts; neither did he jump from the box full height, with arm outspread and upstretched, as we often see him in illustrations. On the contrary, he placed both hands upon the rail of the box and swung himself over in that manner, thereby lessening the fall by the distance of his height. One of his spurs caught the American colors with which the box was draped, and he probably landed his whole weight on one foot. On striking the stage he pitched forward on all fours, and I then saw the blade of a long stiletto or dagger glisten in the footlights as his hand lay on the floor. He quickly rose to his feet and took one or two uncertain steps, then, turning to face the audience, drew himself up in theatrical attitude, and swinging his arm in a half circle, made a grand flourish with the dagger and was off the stage in a flash. Next came the piercing and horrifying shrieks of Mrs. Lincoln, and then arose a fearful commotion. Directly efforts were made by some parties to get into the box from the outside, but the door was barred from the inside. I next noticed a military officer standing on the shoulders of another man and endeavoring to climb up to the box from the stage. Meantime, the president had remained sitting in his chair with his head bent forward, but I distinctly saw him rise once to his feet and a dazed sort of way attempt to take a step or two. He was not upright, but half erect. Just then Major Rathbone came to his assistance and supported by the latter he sank back into the chair. About this time I noticed Miss Laura Keane, who had reached the box from the private way back of the stage, and who was said to have brought a glass of water which might refresh the president. The bar against the door having been removed from the inside, several people went into the box from the dress circle, and little more could be distinguished thereafter.

Strangely enough, an assassination plot seemed to have been understood at once, for word was passed around that the place would be blown up. There was a general rush to vacate the theater, and from our position we were necessarily about the last ones that could possibly leave the place. On nearing the doorway we saw men approaching from the passageway back of the box with the form of the president, carried on an improvised stretcher—as it now seems to me a window shutter or something of that nature—and we stopped to let them pass. They were hastening from the building as well as they could, and the president's head was thrown back and hanging somewhat down. He was quite unconscious, seemed perfectly limp and was bleeding slightly from the wound in his head. Just as they passed by I glanced on the floor, and seeing a crimson blotch on the piece of paper herewith illustrated, I picked it up. That the marks thereon are the life-blood of Abraham Lincoln is as certain as that he was shot on the date and in the place mentioned.

