

LINCOLN LORE

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Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the
LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Nearly twenty-five years ago, Mr. Arthur F. Hall was granted permission by Robert Lincoln to use a portrait of his father, Abraham Lincoln, as the insignia of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of which Mr. Hall is now president.

In appreciation of this favor, and as an expression of gratitude for the use of so illustrious a name, the Company from time to time has made definite contributions to the memory of Lincoln. Its most recent effort has been the establishment of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, which it wholly maintains.

The bulletin in hand aspires to serve as a medium through which some of the findings of this foundation may be released. It will try to anticipate the needs of authors and students of Lincoln's life; collectors and librarians who are gathering Lincolniana; and editors of newspapers, magazines, and house organs who find frequent need of short Lincoln items for their publications.

These broadsides hope to serve as a supplement to the excellent publications now being issued by The Abraham Lincoln Association, with headquarters at Springfield, Illinois. The President, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, as well as the Director of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, are all members and loyal supporters of this association.

Some of the Lincoln items, which one may expect to find in these columns, are suggested by the following captions: New Book Lists, Book Reviews, Citations to Magazine and Newspaper Articles, Bibliographies on Phases of Lincoln's Life, Suggestions for Programs, Historical Discussions, Genealogical Contributions, Poems, Sayings and Stories of Lincoln, Queries, etc.

We trust that we may have the sympathetic interest of all admirers of Abraham Lincoln in this effort to honor the memory of "The Man for the Ages."

APRIL FIFTEENTH

The first issue of Lincoln Lore bears the exact date of the month of Lincoln's death. It is timely that the subject matter should consist of items which touch upon Lincoln's assassination.

LINCOLN'S WEARING APPAREL

One of the most valued treasures presented to the Chicago Historical Society is a coat which affidavits attest is the garment worn by Abraham Lincoln on the night of his assassination. Five years ago, there came to light in Philadelphia several pieces of wearing apparel said to have been worn by Lincoln on the fateful night. The items displayed were: "An old black suit, the collar stained with the life blood of the martyred President, the trousers wrinkled, a badly torn overcoat, and a faded silk stock. The clothes were sold for \$6,500."

A few weeks ago there were exhibited in New York City the gloves and handkerchief which Lincoln is said to have had with him on the night of April 14, 1865.

There appeared an article in the "Superintendent and Foreman" in 1895, setting forth the story of how a man in Lynn, Massachusetts, had come in possession of the socks and boots Lincoln wore at the time of the assassination. It is claimed they were left in the room where Lincoln died. William Clark, the tenant, turned them over to his friend from Lynn, to whom he was indebted. The blue worsted socks were destroyed by moths many years ago. As late as 1895 the No. 12 boots were in good condition. If the hat that Lincoln wore that night could be located, we would have nearly his complete wardrobe and one extra coat.

QUERY

Is there any authority for the statement that shortly after the death of President Lincoln the Jewelers' Association of America met in convention and decided that all clock faces used for advertising purposes should be set at the hour of Lincoln's death? Most of the signs bearing the likeness of clocks, some of which still stand before jewelry stores, mark the hour at 8:20. Lincoln died at 7:22 a. m., April 15, 1865, according to the notes of Dr. Abbott, who kept accurate data about the President's condition throughout the night.

LINCOLN'S LAST WRITING

For many years it has been understood that Lincoln's last writing was on a card and inscribed as follows: "April 14, 1865. Allow Mr. Ashmun & friend to come in at 9 a. m. tomorrow. A Lincoln." Mr. Emanuel Hertz, Lincoln collector, believes he has discovered a later writing in the form of a pardon to which Lincoln put his signature. This valuable document reads: "Let the prisoner be released on taking the oath of Dec. 8, 1863. A. Lincoln. April 14, 1865."

AT LINCOLN'S BEDSIDE

There have been many lists made of those present at the bedside of Abraham Lincoln during the final hours of his life, and various paintings have been attempted to portray the death scene with the distinguished guests present. While the following list may not include all of those who entered the chamber in the Peterson House, to which Lincoln was removed after the assassination, it gives the names of those generally mentioned. Mrs. Lincoln, and her son, Robert T. Lincoln, were in and out of the room many times during the night.

All of Mr. Lincoln's cabinet were present with the exception of Secretary Seward, who was also a victim of the same plot, and who was at that time in a dangerous condition at his own home. Stanton, Welles, Usher, McCullah, Speed and Dennison were all there.

The Generals present were: Halleck, Meigs, Farnsworth, Augur and Todd.

These physicians were in attendance: Barnes, Crane, Stone, Abbott, Hall, Gatch, Leiberman and Taft.

There were also several other officials and friends of President Lincoln there: Secretary Hay, Speaker Colfax, Rev. Dr. Gurley, Senator Sumner, Governor Oglesby, Ex-Governor Farwell, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Field, Judge Carter, Judge Otto, R. F. Andrews, and Justice Chase.

A Mr. Kenny and a Miss Kenny, as well as Miss Harris, were in an adjacent room most of the evening; and, possibly during the night they were admitted for a moment to the death chamber. Some writers have held that Vice-President Johnston was also present at one time; but, this fact is not generally accepted.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF LINCOLN'S DEATH

The first person to announce that Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated was Miss Clara Harris, daughter of Mr. Ira Harris, the New York Senator. She and Major Rathburn were guests of President and Mrs. Lincoln at Ford's Theatre on Friday evening, April 14, 1865. Two days later, she subscribed to an affidavit before A. B. Olin, Justice of the Supreme Court, in which she set forth her observations of the tragedy. She said that she heard the discharge of a pistol and turned about to see Major Rathburn spring from his seat and grapple with the intruder. The assassin broke away and leaped to the stage, as Major Rathburn shouted "stop that man." A moment later someone from the stage asked, what was the matter, or what is it, and Miss Harris replied: "The President is shot."