



Lincoln Lore

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EULOGIES ON THREE MARTYRED PRESIDENTS

The assassination of a president of the United States was a factor perhaps remotely considered by the founding fathers when they drafted the Constitution. Their lack of concern was justified in that from the George Washington administration through that of James Buchanan such dangers were negligible. When one attempt was made on the life of President Andrew Jackson the culprit was considered mentally unbalanced and was placed in an institution.

The idea of "presidential assassination" was first introduced into United States history by one Cypriano Ferrandini, an Italian by birth or descent and a barber by trade. This fanatic was accused of master-minding the Baltimore plot to assassinate president-elect Lincoln while he was enroute to Washington to be inaugurated.

Fortunately, the plot was discovered and effectively thwarted but the threat of assassination, heightened by the Civil War, hovered over Lincoln throughout his administration and he received thousands of death threats from ugly clubs and oath-bound brotherhoods.

With the assassination of Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865 virtually every president of the United States, since that date, has been faced with the impending danger. While many presidential assassination plots have failed, and they have been encountered as late as the Harry S. Truman administration, Charles J. Guiteau was able to assassinate President James A. Garfield on July 19, 1881 in a Washington railway station and Leon Czolgosz shot President William McKinley, wounding him fatally on September 6, 1901, in the Temple of Music at Buffalo, New York.

Little did the citizens of the United States realize, as they mourned the death of Lincoln, that within a period of less than forty years, two other presidents would suffer the same fate. At the turn of the century the threat of presidential assassination was one of major concern.

The deaths of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley set the stages for official eulogies in the halls of Congress by George Bancroft in 1866, James G. Blaine in 1882 and John Hay in 1902.

Bancroft's eulogy

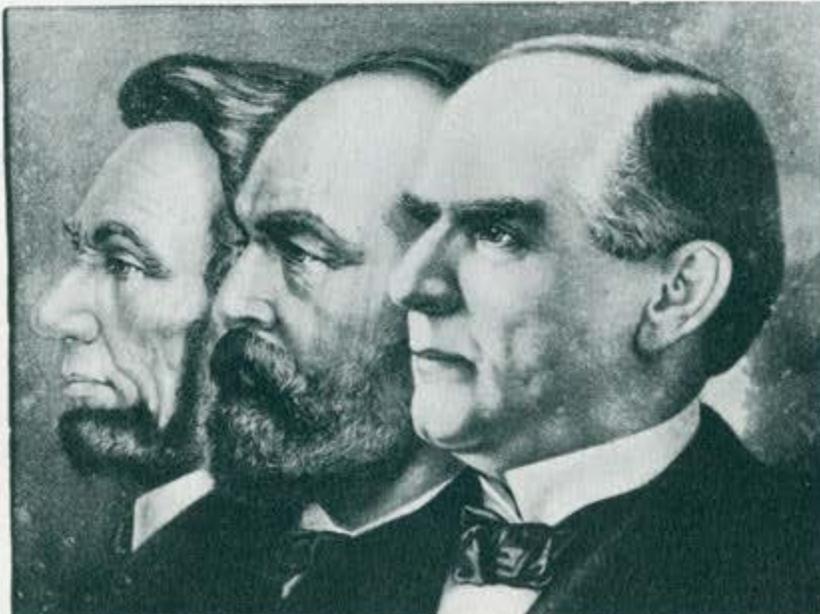
of Lincoln delivered on February 12, 1866 has been described as historical and political rather than biographical—"remarkable both for what it contained and for what it omitted." The distinguished audience consisting of the president, members of both houses of Congress, cabinet officers and members of the diplomatic corps heard Bancroft excoriate the policies of European governments, the Vatican, and the political situation in Mexico. He also compared Lincoln with the late Lord Palmerston greatly to the disadvantage of the British statesman which seemed quite inappropriate for that occasion.

A typical excerpt from Bancroft's eulogy follows:

"Where, in the history of nations, had a chief magistrate more sources of consolation and joy than Lincoln? His countrymen had shown their love by choosing him to a second term of service. The raging war that had divided the country had lulled. His persistent gentleness had conquered for him a kindlier feeling on the part of the South. His scoffers among the grandees of Europe began to do him honor. The laboring classes everywhere saw in his advancement their own. All people sent him their benedictions. At the moment of the height of his fame, to which his humility and modesty added charms, he fell by the hand of the assassin; and the only triumph awarded him was the march to the grave.

"Not in vain has Lincoln lived, for he has helped to make the republic an example of justice with no caste but the caste of humanity. The heroes who led our armies and ships into battle—Lyon, McPherson, Reynolds, Sedgwick, Wadsworth, Foote, Ward, with their compeers—and fell in the service, did not die in vain. They and the myriads of nameless martyrs, and he, the chief martyr, died willingly that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The eulogy on Garfield was pronounced by Secretary Blaine on February 27, 1882. The gathering was as distinguished as that of sixteen years before. However, in 1866 only twenty-five states were represented. Now there



LINCOLN-GARFIELD-McKINLEY—Three Martyred Presidents

were thirty-eight. Some of the statesmen present had been prisoners of war in 1866, now they were members of Congress. President Chester A. Arthur, Cyrus W. Field, George William Curtis, Henry James, William E. Chandler, Stephen B. Elkins, William B. Allison, John Sherman and William McKinley among others were in the audience.

Secretary Blaine allowed one controversial note to crowd into his eulogy—yet one writer has said that "it would have been a miracle, almost, if Mr. Blaine had succeeded in avoiding it." The discordant note was that while General Garfield was with the Army of the Cumberland he "found various troubles already well developed and seriously affecting the value and efficiency of the army." General William S. Rosecrans immediately challenged this statement the following day in the newspapers.

A portion of Blaine's eulogy which portrays the speaker as a master of oratorical art is as follows:

"Great in life, he was surpassingly great in death. For no cause, in the very frenzy of wantonness and wickedness, by the red hand of murder, he was thrust from the full tide of this world's interest, from its hopes, its aspirations, its victories, into the visible presence of death—and he did not quail. Not alone for the one short moment in which, stunned and dazed, he could give up life, hardly aware of its relinquishment, but through days of deadly languor, through weeks of agony that was not less agony because silently borne, with clear sight and calm courage, he looked into his open grave.

"What blight and ruin met his anguished eyes, whose lips may tell? What brilliant broken plans, what baffled high ambitions, what sundering of strong, warm manhood's friendships, what bitter rending of sweet household ties? Behind him a proud, expectant nation; a great host of sustaining friends; a cherished and happy mother, wearing the full rich honors of her early toils and tears; the wife of his youth, whose whole life lay in his; the little boys not yet emerged from childhood's day of frolic; the fair young daughter; the sturdy sons just springing into closest companionship, claiming every day and every day rewarding a father's love and care; and in his heart the eager, rejoicing power to meet all demand. Before him desolation and great darkness. And his soul was not shaken.

"His countrymen were thrilled with instant, profound, and universal sympathy. Masterful in his mortal weakness he became the center of a nation's love, enshrined in the prayers of a world. But all the love and all the sympathy could not share with him his suffering. He trod the wine press alone. With unfaltering front he faced death. With unflinching tenderness he took leave of life. Above the demoniac hiss of the assassin's bullet he heard the voice of God. With simple resignation he bowed to the divine decree."

Again the month of February (27), 1902 was chosen as the most appropriate time to eulogize a martyred president. John Hay's eulogy on McKinley was temperate and dignified, and no criticisms were taken of the dead president's foreign policy. The audience was one of great distinction with President Theodore Roosevelt and Prince Henry of Prussia in attendance. Three paragraphs of the eulogy follow:

"For the third time the Congress of the United States are assembled to commemorate the life and the death of a President slain by the hand of an assassin. The attention of the future historian will be attracted to the features which reappear with startling sameness in all three of these awful crimes: the uselessness, the utter lack of consequence, of the act; the obscurity, the insignificance, of the criminal; the blamelessness—so far as in the sphere of our existence the best of men may be held blameless—of the victim.

"The man who fills a great station in a period of change, who leads his country successfully through a time of crisis; who, by his power of persuading and controlling others, has been able to command the best thoughts of his age, so as to leave his country in a

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FIRST LINCOLN POSTAGE STAMP

The first Lincoln postage stamp was designed to be used in the mailing of newspapers and periodicals. It was issued in the September quarter of 1865 and was terminated about February 1, 1869.

This series appeared in the 5 (blue), 10 (green) and 25 (red) cent denominations which are all alike in general style, being 2 and 3/4 inches in dimensions. The five cent stamp features George Washington in a circular medallion, the ten cent Benjamin Franklin is an ellipse, while the twenty-five cent Lincoln is a parallelogram with clipped corners 7/8 by 1 1/8 inches.

The 25 cent stamp has in the upper corners and along the sides Arabic numbers. The letters "U. S." appear near the top in a horizontal line. Immediately below appears the word "postage" in a curved line. The lathe work around the medallion portrait has been described as a "misty style of engraving."

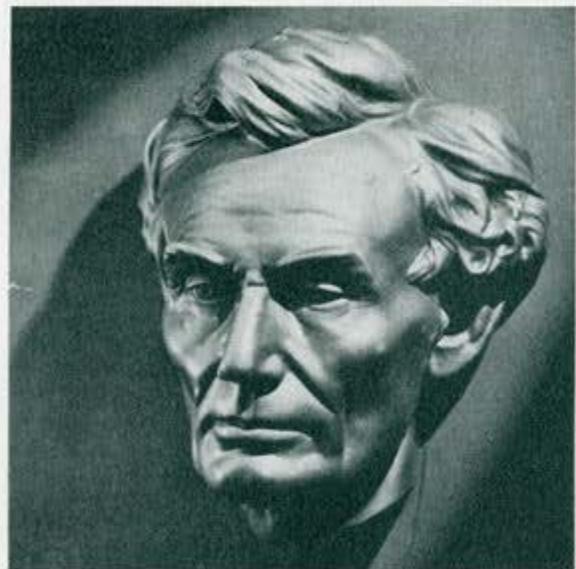
Below the tablet are the words "Twenty-Five Cents" representing the denomination, and the words "Newspapers and Periodicals" in three lines. Following this is "Sec. 38, Act of Congress Approved March 3d 1863." Below the border line is a heavy white line and at the bottom in very small type, are the words, "National Bank Note Company, New York."

These stamps were issued to be purchased by publishers so that they could mail their publications where payment in money could not be transacted and the postage could not be collected at the point of destination. (See "A Description of United States Postage Stamps", Post Office Department, Washington, 1937, pages 5 & 7).



U. S. Periodical 25c

THE VOLK HEAD OF LINCOLN NO. 2



With the completion of the Lincoln mask Leonard W. Volk immediately proceeded to sculpture a head. Both ears were perfectly taken in the making of the mask and Volk added eyes and hair to give the study a life-like appearance. All the while Lincoln continued to visit the studio for sittings.

With considerable progress being made in sculpturing the head, Lincoln asked Volk if he could bring some of

(Continued on page 4)

LOCOMOTIVE MEDALLIONS—"OLD ABE"

Abner T. Ingles, engineer, and Bill Faulkner, fireman, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad trainmen, were exceedingly proud of their Perkins ten wheeler locomotive. Known as 117, it was the very last word in design and it was considered by all trainmen to be a beautiful engine.

Ingles and Faulkner were strong Union men and staunch admirers of Abraham Lincoln. As railroad men some times think of their locomotives as personalities, they called 117 "Old Abe." To add to the attractiveness of their locomotive as well as to give it personality, they hit upon a capital idea—the attachment of large Lincoln medallions to the sides of the engine.

Ingles had a Martinsburg, Virginia, foundry make the medallions. He described the procedure as follows: "I had a circular board turned about 12 inches in diameter, and fastened a bronze bust of Lincoln (flat thereon) and when the board was placed in the sand the bronze bust was unscrewed from the back. The babbit metal was poured in, filling up the mould, and then when it was cold, the bronze bust was hard and fast. From this first medallion the three others were cast. . . ."

The four medallions were cast at the expense of Ingles and Faulkner and two of them were put on the sides of the engine cab under the windows, the one with the bronze bust being placed on the engineer's side. The other two were placed on each side of the tender. With the four Lincoln medallions attached to the locomotive and tender, the people of Martinsburg and other towns along the B & O route were not long in calling 117 by its new name—"Old Abe."

Abner T. Ingles was a skilled engineer and during his long tenure with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company he achieved a remarkable record. Advancing through the ranks from an apprentice mechanic he was made engineer of a yard engine at the Mt. Clare shops in Baltimore in 1854. In 1861 he was an engineer of important main line trains running between Baltimore and Cumberland, stopping occasionally in Martinsburg, Virginia, which was an important railway center. It was at Martinsburg that "Old Abe" was to experience a thrilling adventure.

Late in May, 1861 when "Stonewall" Jackson was engaged in his Western Virginia campaign rumors were heard at 8 o'clock one morning that the Confederates were approaching Martinsburg. This was a most inopportune time for "Old Abe" to be in that yard. With no hope of escape, Bill Faulkner immediately removed the four medallions from the locomotive with a screw-driver and took them to the home of a friend who lived on the Winchester Pike. By 9 o'clock advance Confederate troops arrived, and by 11 o'clock they came in force.

Then they bottled-up fifty-six locomotives and more than three hundred cars. They also seized the railroad shops at Martinsburg with all their costly equipment. A few weeks later, Jackson, under orders was required to burn this railroad property, however, a considerable amount of rolling stock was salvaged after the fire.

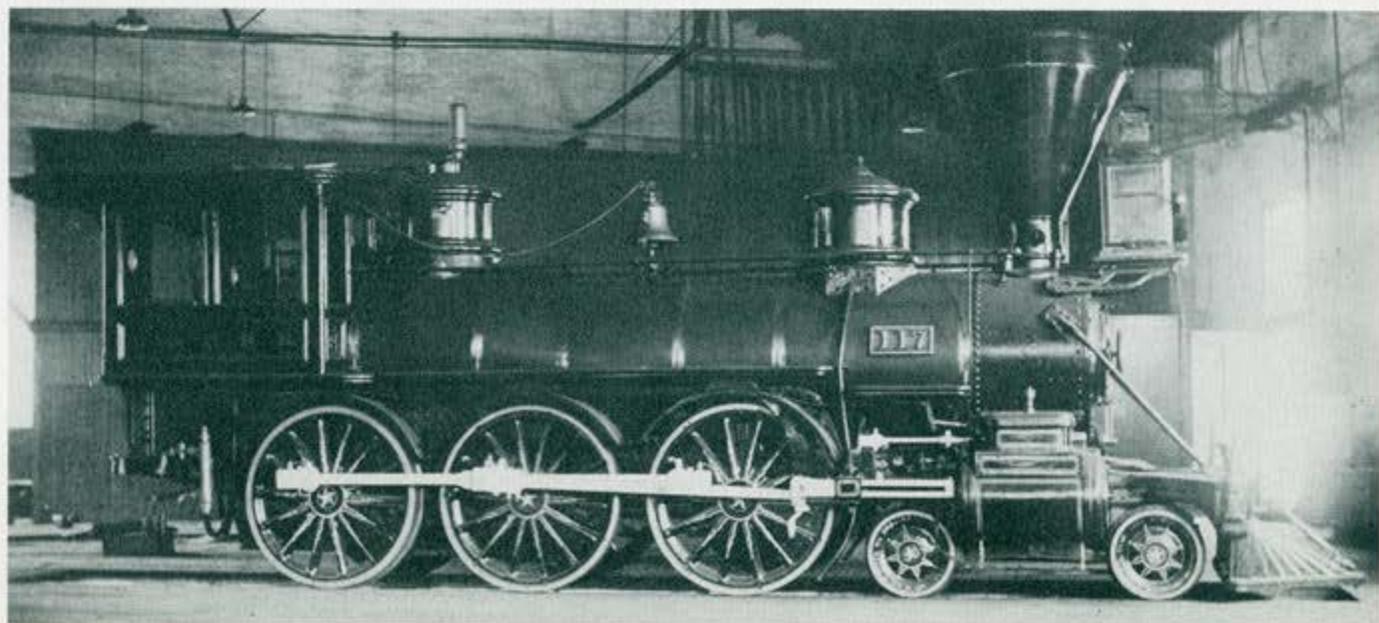
Shortly after the arrival of the Confederates, an officer demanded that Ingles and Faulkner surrender their locomotive. Ingles stated years later: "I never obeyed an order quicker." The fires were then drawn and the steam was released from the boiler. With bars they pushed the engine to "The Five Points" which was a junction of five country roads. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon "Old Abe" with its tender uncoupled had been completely turned and was ready to start down the pike to Winchester, twenty miles away. The little Winchester & Potomac Railroad tied in with the B & O and was in territory held by the Confederates. However, its road-bed was too light to carry the heavy locomotives. Four or five other B & O locomotives were seized at this time in a similar manner and were hauled from Martinsburg to Winchester or to Strasburg, a distance of thirty-eight miles.

In all, fourteen locomotives were taken from the ruins of the Martinsburg yards and were hauled over dirt roads and were finally pressed into Confederate service. One of the larger and better passenger engines among the fourteen was fitted out with a walnut cab and highly ornamented. It was named the "Lady Davis" in honor of the wife of the President of the Confederacy.

Several of the Confederate soldiers had been trainmen and they supervised the unusual operations of moving "Old Abe." Recruiting every "man, woman, child, horse and mule" they dragged 117 to Winchester, jacking it up around the curves and letting it go on straight grades. The last of the locomotives sent to Winchester arrived about a week after they started over the turn-pike.

Number 117 (by this time "Old Abe" had lost its identity) was put into operation on the Richmond & Danville Railroad, which is now a part of the Southern Railway system. While Jackson was unable to salvage all the rolling stock that he had seized at Martinsburg, what he did get served the southern armies well until the war closed. Some of the locomotives, including 117, were returned to the B & O by way of Harper's Ferry when the war came to an end. "Old Abe" was reconditioned and was put back into service without its medallions and without its famous name.

In the meantime, Faulkner who had hidden the medallions in 1861 failed to tell Ingles of their hiding place



"OLD ABE"—B & O LOCOMOTIVE No. 117



"Old Abe" Medallion

Obv., on a very heavy planchet, with raised rounded rim, a nude bearded bust of Lincoln facing right in a plain field; screw holes on either side of head. Rev. blank. Spelter (bust bronze). Size 240 mm. King No. 730. *THE NUMISMATIST*. Vol. XXXVII. February 1924, No. 2.

and when the fireman was killed in the war, all hopes of their recovery was gone.

About 1915, E. L. Bangs, who was in charge of the Baltimore & Ohio historical exhibits which were stored at Martinsburg, learned the story of the lost medallions. A Mr. Z. T. Brantner had once seen the medallions and he drew a sketch of them for Bangs. Fortunately, Bangs found all four of the medallions in a Martinsburg junk shop on Queen Street.

According to the junk man the four medallions and some Springfield rifles were found under the floor of an old house which had been demolished on Myrtle Avenue. They had been purchased as junk metal. The total weight of the four medallions amounted to sixty-four pounds.

Bangs shared his good fortune with three other collectors. Retaining the master medallion with the bronze head and spelter disk for himself, he allowed Robert P. King of Erie, Pennsylvania; F. Ray Risdon of Los Angeles, California; and J. W. Wright of Knoxville, Iowa to acquire the spelter medallions for their own private collections.

At the present time the Lincoln National Life Foundation has in its collection the medallions once owned by E. L. Bangs and J. W. Wright.

LINCOLN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO August 1856

Visited: Paris, Grand View, Charleston, Shelbyville, Polo, Oregon, Kalamazoo (Michigan) and Petersburg.

Political Activities: Worked to promote Fremont-Dayton campaign.

Political Issues: Extension of slavery and presidential election of 1856.

Political Wisdom: In the interest of the Fremont ticket, presents the argument "that a vote for Fillmore is really a vote for Buchanan."

Apt Expressions: "They (Buchanan men) knew where the shoe pinches." Lincoln to Bennett, August 4, 1856, "With the Fremont and Fillmore men united, here in Illinois, we have Mr. Buchanan in the hollow of our hand; but with us divided, as we now are, he has us." Lincoln to Wells, August 4, 1856. "I will strain every nerve to be with you and him (Trumbull)." Lincoln to Dubois, August 19, 1856.

EULOGIES—(Continued)

moral or material condition in advance of where he found it—such a man's position in history is secure. If, in addition to this, his written or spoken words possess the subtle quality which carry them far and lodge them in men's hearts; and, more than all, if his utterances and actions, while informed with a lofty morality, are yet tinged with the glow of human sympathy, the fame of such a man will shine like a beacon through the mists of ages—an object of reverence, of imitation and love.

"It should be to us an occasion of solemn pride that in the three great crises of our history such a man was not denied us. The moral value to a nation of a renown such as Washington's and Lincoln's and McKinley's, is beyond all computation. No loftier ideal can be held up to the emulation of ingenuous youth. With such examples we cannot be wholly ignoble. Grateful as we may be for what they did, let us still be more grateful for what they were. While our daily being, our public policies, still feel the influence of their work, let us pray that in our spirits their lives may be voluble, calling us upward and onward."

In all likelihood, Senator William B. Allison of Iowa, in the audience that day found more meaning in Secretary Hay's words than any other person present. He took part in all three ceremonies, as a Representative in 1866 and as a Senator in 1882 and 1902.

THE VOLK HEAD OF LINCOLN—(Continued)

his friends, who were stopping at the Tremont, to see the work. The friends who accompanied Lincoln in early April 1860 to the studio were General William A. Richardson, Ebenezer Peck and ex-Lieut.—Governor William McMurtry.

All present after looking at the clay model stated it was "just like him." Then the four visitors began to reminisce and tell stories and the sculptor never forgot their laughter as they left the only studio in Chicago devoted to sculptural art.

YOUNG MEN FOR LINCOLN

It is an encouraging indication of the Campaign that the Young Men are rallying, in great numbers and with unbounded enthusiasm, to the support of "Honest Old Abe." Thousands who, in 1856, were deluded into the belief that Millard Fillmore could be elected, are no longer willing to support a decoy ticket; besides, the Young Men have every confidence in the Illinois rail-splitter, knowing that one competent to raise himself from the humblest and most obscure, to the most elevated and influential position in society, is fit to be entrusted with the reins of the government, and will not hold them amiss. Lincoln is, emphatically, the choice of the Young Men, and their earnest enthusiasm will contribute largely to his inevitable success.

Lincoln and Liberty
Tract No. 2, New York,
June 26, 1860. M. 62

WIDE AWAKES

Can obtain the necessary information about uniforms, & etc. by applying to E. A. Mann, 659 Broadway.

Lincoln and Liberty
Tract No. 4 New York
July 11, 1860 M. 63

The many expressions of good will which have reached me since my retirement should be acknowledged, and I take this occasion to thank each and every one who has extended best wishes.

LOUIS A. WARREN