



Lincoln Lore

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Lincoln's Funeral In Cleveland

Editor's Note: The recent acquisition of two original photographs of the "Remains of President Lincoln lying in State at Monument Square and Pavillion, Cleveland, Ohio" has prompted the publication of this article. These two photographs by Sweeny have likely never before been published. In addition, two other photographs (one by Ryder) have been selected to illustrate this topic. For minute details regarding the route of the funeral procession in Cleveland, the editor relied heavily upon an article by S. J. Kelly which appeared in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, February 10, 1938.

It was on a special train furnished by the *New York Central Railroad* that Abraham Lincoln's remains were transported to the Euclid Avenue (and

E. 55th Street) Station (Cleveland & Erie Railroad) in Cleveland, Ohio. The train arrived on Friday morning the twenty-eighth of April at seven o'clock. At 6:20 that morning at Wickliffe, Ohio, Governor John Brough and his staff had received the funeral party. Also at Wickliffe Major General Joseph Hooker, commanding the Department of Ohio, came aboard the train with his staff. Under General Orders No. 72 he took chief command of the funeral escort. Also at this point some twenty-five citizens of Cleveland joined the funeral cortege

and rode the train along the shore of Lake Erie to the station.

On this day (just one week since Lincoln's remains left Washington) Cleveland was drenched in a heavy rainfall, but its citizens contended that "tears were falling for the great, good man."

As the train moved slowly into the station, Governor Brough and General Hooker could see through the windows vast crowds of people on the green hillsides along the track of the railroad. The depot was heavily draped with mourning cloth and flags,



Photo by Sweeny

MONUMENT SQUARE & PAVILLION
CLEVELAND, O.

Remains of President Lincoln lying in State.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This photograph by Sweeny may have hitherto been unpublished. It depicts in excellent detail the plumed hearse with its six white horse hitch.

and over Euclid Avenue a large flag was suspended. However, the attention of those passengers on the train was first attracted by "a magnificent arch, bearing in large letters, the inscription: 'Abraham Lincoln'. Immediately under the arch was a female, dressed to represent the Goddess of Liberty. She held in her hand a flag, and this, together with her cap, was braided in mourning."

Once the train stopped, Governor Brough and General Hooker with their staffs, the Veteran Reserve Guard, the Guard of Honor, leading Committee Members and pallbearers took their positions about the cars. As the train arrived, a national salute of thirty-six guns was fired, and half-hour guns from then on until sunset, boomed.

By half-past seven an immense crowd had formed at the depot. The military and civic associations formed themselves into six divisions, each led by a band. By this time, bells throughout the city tolled and "the shipping in the harbor and all the hotels and other public buildings displayed the American flag at half-mast. All business houses, (including the saloons), were closed and remained so throughout the day."

A Camp Chase band stood before the depot while a plumed hearse drawn by six white horses was only a few yards away. On the shoulders of eight of the Reserve Guard the casket was borne from the railroad car to the hearse where with drawn swords others of the guard marched at either side, attended by the pallbearers.

The funeral cortege marched south on Willson Avenue and was saluted by the Twenty-ninth Ohio National Guard. At Prospect Avenue, the guard of honor met the cortege and returned with it to Euclid Avenue, where the

procession was forming. Then down the long vista of the avenue, marching to the steps of dirges, went the six great divisions of Lincoln's funeral.

The chief marshal that day was Colonel James Barnett, assisted by many aids. The hearse with its high plumes was in the first division. The six white horses were decorated with crepe, and each was attended by a colored groom.

The streets were crowded with people to the curbs, and many residences were decorated in mourning. Following a regiment of soldiers led by the Camp Chase band, were national, state and city officials, generals, admirals, and companies of cavalry, infantry and artillery. It was estimated that some 6,000 members of organizations, societies, orders, leagues and brotherhoods marched to the music of the six different bands.

After rounding the corner of Erie (E. 9th) Street, the great funeral procession turned again at St. John's Cathedral into Superior Street and proceeded to the eastern entrance to the Monument Square. Here a beautiful temple had been erected. It was a Chinese pagoda-type of temple that Cleveland's citizens had constructed between dusk and dawn. Those people who traveled with the funeral cortege expressed to the eager citizens their belief that this temple was the most magnificent that they had encountered on the tour. However, word had come to Cleveland that the display being planned in Chicago would stagger the imagination.

The Cleveland pagoda measured twenty-four by thirty-six feet, and fourteen feet high to the cornice. John Carroll Power, in his book concerning the "Death and Great Funeral Cortege" of Abraham Lincoln, has provided a detailed description of the in-

terior of the temple: "Within this temple was a gorgeous catafalque. The coffin was laid on a dais, about two feet above the floor of the catafalque. The columns were wreathed with evergreens and white flowers, and trimmed with mourning. Black cloth fringed with silver, drooped from the corners and the centre of the canopy, and looped back to the columns. The floor and sides of the dais were covered with black cloth, bordered with silver fringe. The cornice was brilliantly ornamented with white rosettes and stars of silver. The inside of the canopy was lined with black cloth, gathered in folds, and black and white crape. In the centre of the canopy was a large star of black velvet, ornamented with thirty-six silver stars, representing the States of the Union. The dais was covered with flowers and a figure representing the Goddess of Liberty was placed at the head of the coffin. The ceiling of the temple was hung with festoons of evergreens and flowers. Lamps were attached to the pillars of the catafalque, and the columns of the temple, that the remains might be viewed at night as well as by day."

Powers commented: "This temple seemed, in daylight, as if it was a creation of fairy land, and when lighted up with all the lanterns, and standing out amid the surrounding darkness, looked more like the realization of an enchanted castle than the work of men's hands."

The cost of the pagoda must have been great, and Powers described it minutely because there was nothing comparable to it in any other city on the whole journey. Truly, Cleveland had solved the problem of excessive crowds who flocked into the city from all over northern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and eastern Michigan, while boatloads of people had used the lake to approach the city from Detroit. As one observer put it, "the size of the crowd was only limited by what all outdoors could hold."

To control the movement of the vast multitude, the streets leading to the pagoda were fenced, and gates were placed in the center. The gates were guarded by soldiers, and the people were admitted no faster than they could view the remains and then move out. This procedure prevented crowding about the temple which the original photographs so aptly illustrate.

Right Rev. Bishop McIlvaine, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, conducted the religious exercises. He, of course, used the Episcopal service that was suitable for that occasion. With the conclusion of the service, columns of spectators, unhampered by walls, doors and inner obstructions, began filing past the corpse. It has been estimated that eighty (some authorities say one hundred and eighty) persons per minute passed by the opened casket despite the rain which at times came down in torrents. Perhaps the lines were better formed because all women had been requested to leave their hoops at home. Despite the constant drenching, there were no signs of disorder.

At frequent intervals fresh flowers were placed at the coffin by the ladies



MONUMENT SQUARE PAVILION

Remains of President Lincoln lying in State.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This photograph by Sweeny may have hitherto been unpublished. The photograph may have been taken when Lincoln's remains were transferred from the hearse to the pagoda temple.

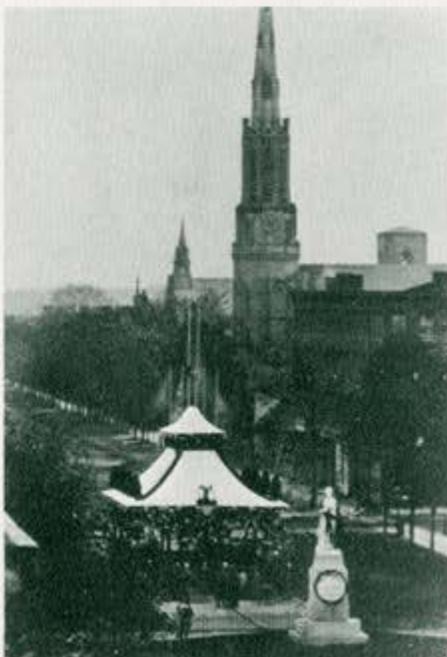


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This original photograph by Ryder is titled "Catafalque. Remains of President Lincoln lying in State, Cleveland, O." This scene depicts the orderly way the crowds were handled by not allowing them to crowd the area immediately adjacent to the pagoda-temple.

in attendance. It was estimated (according to Powers) that more than fifty thousand persons viewed the remains. Later estimates indicate that as many as 100,000 persons filed silently past the coffin. Apparently it is true that when the casket was closed about ten P.M. there were still hundreds of people waiting in line to look on the face of the dead President.

Most of the notable people who attended the Lincoln funeral in Cleveland, and who were guests of the city,



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This photograph by an unknown artist provides an elevated view of the pagoda-temple.

had rooms at the Weddell House. One of the most prominent visitors was Charles L. Wilson, the editor of the *Chicago Journal*, who was designated by the City Council of Chicago to head the "Committee of One Hundred Citizens" who were to receive the remains at Michigan City (see *Lincoln Lore* No. 1491) and to escort them to Chicago. In fact, it was Mr. Wilson who had related to the people of Cleveland the fabulous plans of Chicago for conducting Lincoln's funeral. He stated that up to the time of his departure, forty-one organizations and societies, representing twenty-five thousand men, had reported to the Chief Marshal their intention to form part of the procession.

About ten o'clock in the evening the people who made up the procession began to take their respective places in order to escort the remains back to the depot. At midnight, the funeral cortege left the Euclid Avenue station to continue its course westward. The sadness of the throng was unabated, and the rain continued to fall. The next city on the itinerary was Columbus, and the *Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad* would carry Lincoln's remains to the Capital City.

Accouterments For Lincoln's Funeral

As Abraham Lincoln's funeral was such a solemn and sorrowful event in our history it is easy to understand how certain commercial interests would become involved in selling their services and in profit making enterprises that would enable the people to show the proper respect for their fallen leader. Mercantile establishments did render a service in supply-

ing funeral accouterments that the people wished to purchase and hawkers of novelty funeral items hovered around the edges of the great crowds selling their photographs, badges, ribbons, flags, jewelry and mementoes to the thousands of mourners who attended Lincoln funeral services in the different villages, towns and cities throughout the United States.

Undoubtedly, the cotton textile industry, with its bolts of black and white cloth, received the lion's share of the profits, as these products were in great demand. Entire buildings were enshrouded in mourning cloth, and by May 4, 1865, the date of the final Lincoln funeral service, it was said that not a yard of black or white cloth could be found on the shelves of any dry goods merchant.

Florists' supplies were also widely used, not only for Lincoln's casket, but also for the huge floral arches that were constructed at railway depots and in the streets of some of the larger cities on the funeral route.

Great quantities of wood and tar barrels, which must have entailed considerable expense, were burned in the mammoth bonfires that were lighted along the railway tracks over which passed Lincoln's funeral train. Cannons boomed, and a sizeable amount of money must have been spent for black powder and, in some cases, for fireworks which may have been used to express the grief of the American people.

Certainly, flag manufacturers must have reaped a harvest for their thirty-six star flag, now that the war had ended and the great leader had fallen. In the 1860s it was not thought to be a desecration of the flag to border it with black crepe and to attach to it designs in black that might fulfill the mourner's desire in the expression of his own personal sorrow. (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 1522, page 3.)

Photographers had a field day in the sale of carte-de-visite photographs of the dead president and members of his family. Some even found a ready sale for photographs of the assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Photographs of Lincoln's hearse also sold readily to those who wished to retain some memento of the sad event. Miniature photographs of Lincoln were also used as badges, being attached to rosettes of black and white cloth worn in place of mourning bands. Other mourning badges contained eagles and flags as patriotic motifs.

The jewelry industry encased Lincoln photographs in attractive assimilated gold rectangular frames, and star frames. Even a mourning ring was manufactured for sale in black, except for the silvered front which bore the name "Lincoln."

A mourning badge of which we have some record of its history is in the Foundation's collection. It is made up of an encased Lincoln photograph which is attached to a rosette of black cloth with a white silk ribbon. A label provides the following information: "This badge was worn by J. M. Leighton of Manchester, Illinois, while attending the funeral service of Abra-

ham Lincoln at Springfield, Illinois, May 1865."

Silver fringe, metallic braid and tassels were in great demand; even black bow ties were on sale for those who sought to make a respectable appearance as they passed by Lincoln's bier.

Perhaps it was the printing industry that issued the greatest number of items, with its paper and silk badges, paper flags and memorial cards bearing such sentiments as:

A Nation's Loss
Our Martyred Father!
We Mourn His Loss
In Victory We Mourn
We Mourn A Father Slain

In Memoriam. He Still Lives
We Mourn The Nation's Loss
In the Midst of Life We Are In Death
God's Illustrious Servant
Faithful To The End
A Nation Mourns for an Honest Man
We Mourn A Martyred Father
His Monument Is In The Hearts
of His Countrymen

Broadsides or posters also enjoyed a good sale. Even though they appeared in smaller quantities than the badges, they were widely distributed. They carried in much larger letters, in most cases, the same sentiments expressed on the funeral badges.

While all of these enumerated items appeared in great quantities in 1865,

today such ephemera is exceedingly rare and commands a very high price when offered for sale by antique dealers, second-hand book firms and auction houses.

True in 1888

"Lincoln was the first President of the United States who wore a beard. Both General Taylor and Van Buren sported small side whiskers. All Presidents since Lincoln, except Johnson, have worn their beards. Cleveland, however, only sported a mustache."

(Unidentified newspaper clipping dated 1888.)

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Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 Hyde Park Road, Garden City, New York; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louis Avenue, Northridge, California; E. B. Long, 708 Kenilworth Ave. Oak Park, Ill.; Ralph Newman, 18 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, Boston, Mass.; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Centennial Bldg., Springfield, Ill.; Judge Warren L. Jones, U. S. Court of Appeals, Jacksonville, Fla.; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 636 Union Arcade, Davenport, Iowa. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

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