

Buffalo, NY

Drawer 15

Service Enroute

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# The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Funeral Train Route  
Buffalo, New York  
April 27, 1865

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL CORTEGE.

*Buffalo, N. Y., 27th.* As erroneous statements have been made by the press, it is necessary to say, on the authority of the embalmer and undertaker, that no perceptible change has taken place in the body of the late President since we left Washington. The Washington physicians removed a part of the brain only for an autopsy, but this was replaced, so that no part of the body whatever is now deficient.

The remains were visited through the day, from 9 1-2 o'clock this morning until 8 this evening, by an immense number of persons. The arrangements are generally pronounced better than elsewhere on the route. Hospitalities are everywhere liberally extended both by the corporate authorities and individual citizens.

During the morning was placed at the foot of the coffin an anchor of white camellias from the ladies of the Unitarian Church of Buffalo. A cross of white flowers was also laid upon the coffin. At the request of Maj.-Gen. Dix and other officers, the St. Cecilia Society this afternoon repeated the dirge with, if possible, more solemn and touching effect than in the morning.

The procession with the remains left St. James Hall about 8 45 this evening, and were escorted to the depot by the military, followed by a large crowd. The depot was surrounded by persons anxious to get a last view of the coffin. The train left at 10 o'clock for Cleveland.

Meriden was next passed, and a bonfire threw a glare of light on the whole surrounding scene.

Fairport, 2:50 a. m. The people with lighted torches, banners, badges and mourning inscriptions were assembled in large numbers, to view the funeral train.

Rochester, N. Y., 3:20 a. m, Thursday, April 27. Here there were assembled an immense multitude, numbering many thousands. The Mayor, City Council, military and civic organizations were out in full force. The depot was draped in mourning, and inscriptions and mottoes were displayed, expressive of the sorrow of the people. From the time the funeral cortege arrived until it passed out of hearing distance, minute guns were fired, bells tolled and bands performed measured and mournful music.

The towns, Coldwater, Chili, Churchville, Bergen, West Bergen and Byron were passed. At all of these the people were gathered in groups around bonfires, and some were carrying lighted torches, all eager to obtain a view of the funeral cortege of Abraham Lincoln.

Batavia, N. Y., 5:18 a. m., April 27. A large number of citizens were assembled at the depot, which was richly draped in mourning. A choir of male and female voices were singing a requiem. Minute guns were firing and bells tolling from the time the cortege arrived until it passed out of hearing.

At Crofts, Corfu, Alden, Wende and Lancaster, the depots were draped, flags displayed and the people stood in groups with uncovered heads, as the funeral cortege glided by. Soon after daylight, in passing a farm house, a group of children were seen in a wagon waving flags trimmed with mourning, towards the train.

→ Buffalo, N. Y., 7 a. m., Thursday, April 27. The following editorial appeared in the *Buffalo Daily Express*, a few days after the assassination :

“How reverently Abraham Lincoln was loved by the common people; how much they had leaned upon the strength of his heroic

character, in the great trial through which he led them; how perfect a trust they reposed in his wisdom, his integrity, his patriotism, and the fortitude of his faithful heart; how great a sphere he filled in the constitution of their hopes, they did not know before. The shock of consternation, grief, and horror, which revealed it to them, was undoubtedly the most profound that ever fell upon a people. It shook this nation like an earthquake. The strong men of the nation wept together like children. Never, do we believe, was there exhibited such a spectacle of manly tears, wrung from stout hearts, by bitter anguish, as in the streets of every city, town and hamlet, in these United States, on Saturday last. Ah! there was a deep planting of love for Abraham Lincoln in the hearts of his countrymen! Noble soul, honest heart, wise statesman, upright magistrate, brave old patriot, the nation was orphaned by thy death and felt the grief of orphanage.

It would be natural to expect that where such noble and sympathetic sentiments were expressed, the remains of Abraham Lincoln would receive a tender greeting. An extensive military and civic funeral procession turned out on the nineteenth, the day the obsequies took place at Washington. For this reason there were no preparations for any such demonstration on the arrival of the funeral cortege, but it was met at the depot by a large concourse of people. An impromptu procession was formed by citizens, headed by the military. The coffin was taken to a fine hearse, which was covered with black cloth, and surrounded by an arched canopy tastefully trimmed with white satin and silver lace. The coffin was elevated so as to be seen at a long distance. The procession moved along the principal streets to the sound of solemn music, and reached St. James Hall about half past nine o'clock. The body was conveyed into the Hall and deposited on a dais, in the presence of the accompanying Guard of Honor and the Union Continentals. As the remains were carried in, the Buffalo St. Cecilia Society sang, with much feeling, the dirge, "Rest, Spirit, Rest;" after which, the

Society placed an elegantly formed harp, made of choice white flowers, at the head of the coffin, which was overshadowed by a crape canopy, and the space lighted up by a large chandelier in the ceiling. Ex-President Fillmore was among the civilians composing the escort to St. James Hall. Large numbers of Canadians came over to Buffalo during the day, to manifest their sympathy by taking part in the procession and viewing the remains. The funeral party being the guests of the city, were quartered at the Mansion House. All kinds of business was suspended, and it was estimated that between forty and fifty thousand persons took a parting look at the remains. At eight o'clock in the afternoon the coffin was closed; about nine it was taken back to the depot, and at ten p. m. the train resumed its journey.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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HIS

LIFE, PUBLIC SERVICES, DEATH

AND GREAT FUNERAL CORTEGE,

WITH A HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE

NATIONAL LINCOLN MONUMENT,

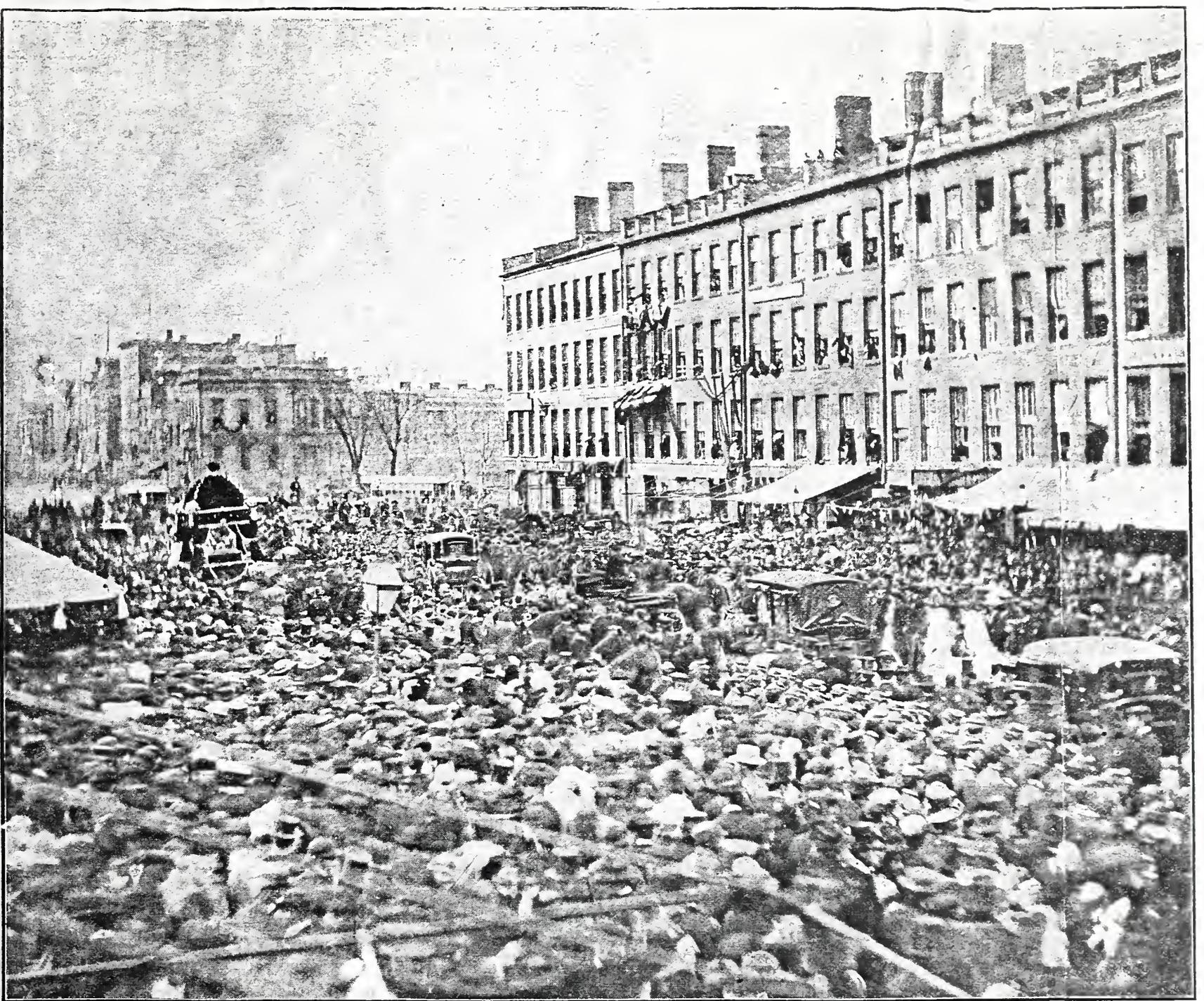
By JOHN CARROLL POWER.

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MONUMENTAL EDITION.

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SPRINGFIELD, ILL.:  
EDWIN A. WILSON & CO.  
1875.



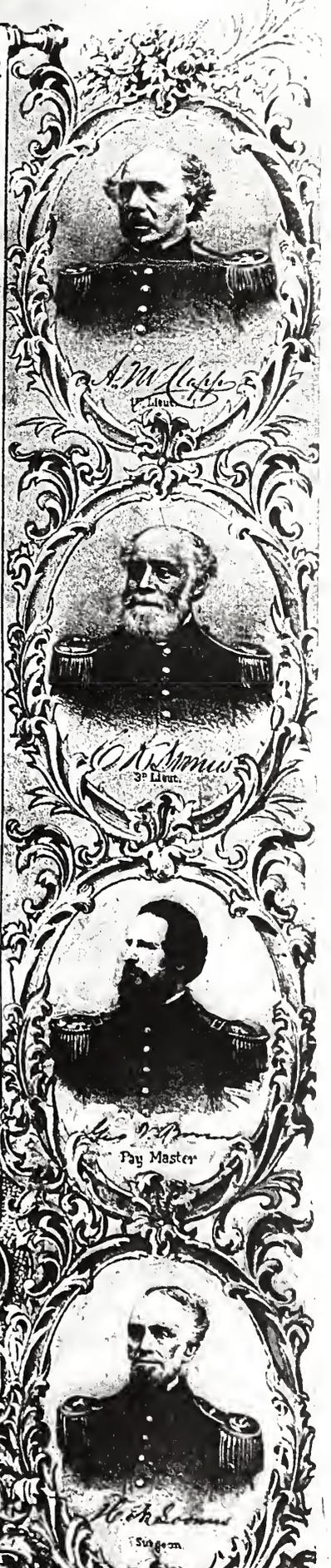
**WHEN THE BODY OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN WAS BORNE THROUGH THE STREETS OF BUFFALO TO SAINT JAMES HALL.**

When the body of the dead President reached Buffalo on its way to the West, it was taken from the train and borne up Main street to Saint James Hall, where it lay in state and where multitudes passed in review taking their last look at the features of Lincoln. The picture (from negative owned by Frank H. Bliss) is one of the most interesting pieces of Lincolniana in Buffalo. It shows the great throng on Main street, and the funeral procession. The photograph gives a view down Main street, toward Shelton square, from an upper window near Eagle street.

# MUSTER ROLL OF THE UNION COMPANY OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

ACTUALLY PRESENT  
**GUARD OF HONOR OVER THE REMAINS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN**  
 AT ST. JAMES HALL, APRIL 27 1865.

Rank	Name	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	First Residence in Buffalo	Rank	Name	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	First Residence in Buffalo
Capt.	NATHAN K. HALL.	SKANEATELES, N.Y.	MAR. 28 - 1810	MAY 1 - 1830		HENRY D. FARWELL	ELMORE, VT.	APR. 4 - 1826	AUG 21 - 1844
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut.	ALMON M. CLAPP	KILLINGLY, CONN.	SEPT. 14 - 1811	NOV. 10 - 1828		SAMUEL H. FIELDS	LITTLE BEAVER, PA.	MAY 22 - 1815	MAY 20 - 1836
2 <sup>d</sup>	GEORGE O. VAIL	DANBY, VT.	FEB. 1 - 1817	FEB. 3 - 1848		WILLIAM FISKE	WESTMORELAND, N.H.	JAN 12 - 1806	JUNE 2 - 1837
3 <sup>d</sup>	CHARLES K. LOOMIS	BROWNVILLE, N.Y.	SEPT. 7 - 1815	DEC. 27 - 1856		WILLIAM GALLIGAN	CLINTON, Dutchess Co. N.Y.	" 11 - 1808	SEPT. 15 - 1826
Dr. Master	SAMUEL C. CORNELL	BROOKLYN, "	JULY 28 - 1808	MAY 1 - 1852		OBADIAH J. GREEN	CAZENOVIA, "	MAY 7 - 1810	DEC. 16 - 1858
Pay Master	GEORGE V. BROWN	ALBANY, "	APR. 23 - 1823	SEPT. 20 - 1836		CHARLES W. HARVEY	ALBANY, "	MAR. 17 - 1811	AUG. 10 - 1836
Chaplain	R. JOHN C. LORD, DD	WASHINGTON, N.H.	AUG 9 - 1805	" 1 - 1825		FREDERICK C. HILL	FROOME, ENG.	" 12 - 1817	FEB. 8 - 1835
Surgeon	HORATION L. LOOMIS, MD	FRANKLIN, CONN.	MAR 25 - 1807	DEC. 25 - 1835		JOHN T. LACY	HUDSON, N.Y.	NOV. 15 - 1803	NOV. 15 - 1820
Dr. M. Serg.	VALORUS HODGE	RICHFIELD, N.Y.	" 26 - 1800	JUNE 20 - 1806		HENRY LOVE JOY	NEREDITH BRIDGE, N.H.	MAR. 29 - 1800	FEB. 22 - 1811
Stead. Serg.	JAMES P. SHOECRAFT	PENFIELD, "	AUG. 17 - 1827	APR. 1 - 1854		HARRY H. MATTESON	MANCHESTER, VT.	DEC. 18 - 1807	MAY 1 - 1843
Ord. Serg.	OLIVER H. P. CHAMPLIN	LEBANON, CONN.	NOV. 25 - 1818	MAY 27 - 1833		JONATHAN MAYHEW	EOGARTOWN, MASS.	JUNE 11 - 1789	" 10 - 1827
2 <sup>d</sup>	HENRY CLIFTON	LIVERPOOL, ENG.	AUG 20 - 1820	FEB. 20 - 1849		ORLANDO M. CUMBER	BETHANY, N.Y.	FEB. 5 - 1825	SEPT. 7 - 1846
3 <sup>d</sup>	JOHN SAGE	NORTHAMPTON, MASS.	SEPT. 11 - 1805	MAR. 15 - 1826		GEORGE METZGER	LEWISBURG, PA.	NOV. 15 - 1798	MAY 1 - 1828
4 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTOPHER LONGSTREET	MONTAGUE, N.J.	JUNE 1 - 1801	MAY 29 - 1826		JULIUS MOVIUS	KINGDOM OF HANOVER	" 14 - 1813	MAR. 15 - 1852
5 <sup>th</sup>	JASON SEXTON	WORTHINGTON, MASS.	JULY 12 - 1808	APR. 1 - 1835		WILLIAM C. OLIVER	LONDON, E. ENG.	" 1807	JUNE 17 - 1837
1 <sup>st</sup> Corp.	JAMES F. PETER	GEORGETOWN, D.C.	MAR 2 - 1820	MAY 15 - 1840		JAMES H. PALMER	SCHENECTADY, N.Y.	OCT. 8 - 1812	SEPT. 20 - 1855
2 <sup>d</sup>	HENRY A. WHITE	LIMA, N.Y.	APR. 29 - 1814	SEPT. 20 - 1829		WILLIAM B. PECK	NEW HAVEN, CONN.	AUG 24 - 1816	MAY 12 - 1831
3 <sup>d</sup>	AUGUSTUS F. TRIPP	NEW HAVEN, VT.	SEPT. 30 - 1822	MAY 15 - 1847		LUMAN K. PLIMPTON	STURBRIDGE, MASS.	SEPT. 4 - 1809	OCT. 10 - 1830
4 <sup>th</sup>	SAMUEL ELDRIDGE	WASHINGTON CO. N.Y.	JUNE 6 - 1810	MAR. 5 - 1834		HENRY RUMRILL	WINDSOR, VT.	" 16 - 1812	MAR 20 - 1835
PRIVATE	AARON AARONS	AMSTERDAM, HOLL.	JULY 4 - 1805	JULY 4 - 1857		GEORGE W. SCOTT	CONCORD, N.Y.	" 11 - 1822	" 4 - 1840
"	CARLISLE T. ALLEN	PLATTSBURG, N.Y.	AUG 17 - 1806	MAY 18 - 1831		FREDERICK SHADRAKE	LONDON, ENG.	" 28 - 1801	JULY 29 - 1833
"	GEORGE W. ALLEN	" "	SEPT. 8 - 1802	OCT. 16 - 1826		CHARLES T. SHATTUCK	WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.	FEB 25 - 1811	NOV. 18 - 1836
"	LEWIS F. ALLEN	WESTFIELD, MASS.	JAN. 1 - 1800	APR. 8 - 1827		EDWIN A. SHAW	OXFORD, ME.	SEPT. 11 - 1829	MAY 4 - 1851
"	GEORGE R. BABCOCK	HOPEWELL, N.Y.	SEPT. 20 - 1807	APR. 12 - 1825		JACOB M. SMIT	AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND	MAY 7 - 1811	MAR. 4 - 1860
"	ROBERT M. BINGHAM	NOTTINGHAM, ENG.	DEC. 5 - 1813	JUNE 10 - 1836		ROBERT SKILLINGS	BELFAST, IRELAND	MAR. 6 - 1803	OCT. 19 - 1837
"	WILLIAM A. BIRD	SALISBURY, CONN.	MAR. 23 - 1797	APR. 4 - 1819		OLIVER C. STEELE	NEW HAVEN, CONN.	DEC. 16 - 1806	APR. 15 - 1827
"	BENONI S. BROWN	PAWLET, VT.	JUNE 13 - 1820	MAY 1 - 1844		LUCIUS STORRS	MANSFIELD, "	JUNE 23 - 1789	AUG 28 - 1811
"	DANIEL BROWN	CANAJOHARIE, N.Y.	DEC. 10 - "	APR. 1 - 1856		EMORY TAUNT	CANTON, MASS.	MAR 5 - 1804	OCT 20 - 1836
"	CHARLES CALIGAN	BILLERICA, MASS.	MAY 4 - 1824	AUG. 8 - 1864		CALVIN F. S. THOMAS	NEW YORK CITY	MAY " 1808	MAY 1 - 1836
"	GURDON C. COIT	NORWICH, "	AUG 24 - 1803	SEPT 10 - 1832		LEVI A. TOOLEY	MARSHAL, N.Y.	SEPT 8 - 1814	MAR 15 - 1852
"	ZENAS CLARK	ROYALTON, VT.	JAN. 28 - "	APR. " - 1847		THOMAS TRUEMAN	ARGYLE, "	" 13 - 1809	JULY 24 - 1851
"	HORACE M. CONGER	ATTICA, N.Y.	APR 15 - 1809	MAY 1 - 1843		CORNELIUS A. WALDRON	NORTHUMBERLAND, "	APR 16 - 1800	SEPT. " - 1834
"	GEORGE DAKIN	CONCORD, MASS.	JAN 10 - 1815	APR. 29 - 1861		JOHN W. WALLACE	NIAGARA, C.W.	SEPT 8 - 1810	" 15 - 1861
"	NOYES DARROW	STONINGTON, CONN.	" 1 - 1800	FEB. 4 - 1817		RICHARD H. WELLS	CANANDAIGUA, N.Y.	APR. 26 - 1815	" 5 - 1845
"	FREDERICK A. DAVIS	WESTMINSTER, MASS.	JULY 27 - 1821	JULY 17 - 1856		NATHANIEL WILGUS	LANSINGBURGH, "	JULY 24 - 1794	AUG. 14 - 1818
"	EBENEZER P. DORR	HARTFORD, VT.	MAR 13 - 1817	MAY 1 - 1838		JAMES G. WYNHAMER	AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND	" 27 - 1812	MAY 28 - 1850



# Deep Sorrow Pervaded Buffalo At News of Death of Lincoln

Express referred to it as "the awful, terrible announcement we have to make"

Buffalo received the news of President Lincoln's assassination with expressions of horror and deep sorrow, according to newspapers of the time, now owned by Roy Nagle, local historian.

## Express Story Quoted

The Buffalo Express of Saturday morning, April 15, 1865, headed its dispatches about the assassination with the words: Terrible Tidings. The same day the Evening Courier and Republic had a headline which read: An Unspeakable Horror and Calamity.

"The awful, terrible announcement which we have to make this morning to our readers—would that our type would refuse to set it forth," said an Express editorial. "We cannot speak of it. We are too sick with the shock of horror and grief and apprehension. We are too stunned and bewildered. The dreadful tidings have reached us at a very late hour, but a little before going to press. God pity our poor country! Its head, its chief, its hope, so terribly cut down in an instant! God pity it! God pity us all!"

Buffalo received the news of the President's shooting early on a Saturday morning and the city was thrown into a turmoil. Business halted almost completely, although Saturday was the busiest day of the week. Throngs milled around newspaper offices awaiting dispatches from Washington. Main Street was draped in black bunting and yard goods. The demand for black cloth of any kind exhausted the supplies in the city. In many places householders ripped black clothing into strips and draped the fronts of their homes with them. Men and women cried openly in the street.

## Mobs Attack Homes

In fury some small mobs attacked homes which did not display flags at half mast or other signs of mourning. The home of former President Millard Fillmore was without any sign of mourning. A mob gathered in front of the house which occupied the site where Hotel Statler now stands. After several hours of grumbling protest the doors of the house were smeared with black paint. Later it was learned that Fillmore had sorrows of his own, for there was grave illness in his house and he had overlooked draping the house.

Men who were known to have Southern sympathies and were called "copperheads," did not make appearances on the streets when sorrow for the martyred President was at its height.

The deep mourning of Buffalo continued through April 27th, when the body of Lincoln came through the city on its way to Springfield, Ill. The newspapers reported that although thousands of Buffalonians and others who flocked into the city

to see the dead President's face were eager to enter the funeral train the crowds were "quiet, decorous and unexceptionally consistent with the solemn and sorrowful feelings which pervade the city."

A prophecy was made that morning by the editor of The Buffalo Express.

"Today is one that will be marked to the end of life in the memory of

every man, woman and child who witnesses its event in Buffalo. Half a century from now, the patriarchs of that time—the children of this—will be telling to the little ones at their knees, with a never forgotten sadness, how they looked upon the dead face of Abraham Lincoln, and how they saw him borne upon his funeral way through the land, amid the tears of sorrowing millions, with such a following of love and reverence, and with such majesty of honors paid to the unconscious clay, as never before attended the corpse of man to its final resting place. To the end of time, in every quarter of the globe, generation succeeding generation, will read with ever renewing interest, the story of this journey of the dead."





