

# THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

APRIL 22, 1865

## ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

**W**ASHINGTON, April 15—1:30, A.M.—  
MAJOR-GENERAL DIX:—This evening,  
about 9:30 P.M., at Ford's Theatre, the  
President, while sitting in his private box with  
Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, and Major Rathbone,  
was shot by an assassin who suddenly entered the  
box and approached behind the President.

The assassin then leaped upon the stage brand-  
ishing a large dagger or knife, and made his es-  
cape in the rear of the theatre.

The pistol ball entered the back of the Presi-  
dent's head and penetrated nearly through the  
head. The wound is mortal. The President has  
been insensible ever since it was inflicted, and is  
now dying.

About the same hour, an assassin, whether the  
same or another, entered Mr. Seward's house,  
and, under pretence of having a prescription, was  
shown to the Secretary's sick chamber. The Secre-  
tary was in bed, a nurse and Miss Seward with  
him. The assassin immediately rushed to the bed,  
inflicting one or two stabs on the throat and two  
on the face. It is hoped the wounds may not be  
mortal. My apprehension is that they will prove  
fatal.

The noise alarmed Mr. Frederick Seward, who  
was in an adjoining room, and hastened to the  
door of his father's room, where he met the as-  
sassin who inflicted upon him one or more dan-  
gerous wounds. The recovery of Frederick Sew-  
ard is doubtful.

It is not probable that the President will live  
through the night.

General Grant and wife were advertised to be  
at the theatre this evening, but he started to Bur-  
lington at 6 o'clock, P.M. At a cabinet meeting,  
at which General Grant was present, to-day, the  
subject of the state of the country and the pros-  
pects of a speedy peace were discussed.

The President was very cheerful and hopeful.

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He spoke very kindly of Gen. Lee and others of the Confederacy, and the establishment of the government of Virginia.

All the members of the Cabinet, except Mr. Seward, are now in attendance upon the President. I have seen Mr. Seward, but he and Frederick were both unconscious.

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2:30 A.M. The President is still alive, but is growing weaker. The ball is lodged in his brain, three inches from where it entered the skull. He remains insensible, and his condition is utterly hopeless. The Vice President has been to see him, but all company except the Cabinet, his family, and a few friends, are rigidly excluded.

Large crowds still continue in the street as near to the house as the line of guards will allow.

## SECOND OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 15, 3 A.M.

MAJOR-GENERAL DIX, New York.—The President still breathes, but is quite insensible, as he has been ever since he was shot. He evidently did not see the person who shot him, but was looking on the stage, as he was approached behind.

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Mr. Seward has rallied, and it is hoped may live. Frederick Seward's condition is very critical. The attendant who was present was stabbed through the lungs, and is not expected to live. The wounds of Major Seward are not serious.

Investigation strongly indicates J. Wilkes Booth as the assassin of the President. Whether it was the same or a different person that attempted to murder Mr. Seward remains in doubt.

Chief Justice Carter is engaged in taking the evidence. Every exertion has been made to prevent the escape of the murderer. His horse has been found in the road near Washington.

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

### THIRD OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 4:10, A.M.  
MAJOR-GENERAL DIX, New York.

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 upon 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, J. Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President. The other is a companion of his, whose name is not known. The deception is so clean 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 six o'clock last evening, and left there about ten o'clock, or shortly before that hour. It would seem that for several days they have 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.

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

# ASSASSINATION

WASHINGTON, APRIL 15, 1865.

MAJOR-GENERAL DIX:

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

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

## ASSOCIATED PRESS ACCOUNT.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—President Lincoln and his wife, together with other friends, this evening visited Ford's Theatre for the purpose of witnessing the performance of the "American Cousin."

It was announced in the papers that General Grant would also be present, but that gentleman instead took the late train of cars for New Jersey.

The theatre was densely crowded, and every body seemed delighted with the scene before them.

During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, the 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 waving a long dagger in his right hand and exclaiming, "*Sic Semper Tyrannis!*" and immediately leaped from the box, which was of the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, thus making his escape, amid the bewilderment of the audience, from the rear of the theatre, and, mounting a horse, fled.

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

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

There was a rush towards the Presidential box, when cries were heard, "Stand back!" "Give him air!" "Has any one stimulants?"

On a hasty examination, it was found that the President had been shot through the head above and back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out.

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He was removed to a private house opposite to the theatre, and the Surgeon General of the Army and other surgeons were sent for to attend to his condition.

On an examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking-chair on which the President had been sitting, also on the partition and on the floor. A common single-barreled pocket pistol was found on the carpet.

A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed.

An immense crowd gathered in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible.

At midnight the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Colfax, and Farnsworth, Judge Carter, Governor Oglesby, Gen. Meigs, Col. Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon General Barnes and his medical associates, were around his bedside.

MIDNIGHT.—The President was in a state of *syncope*, totally insensible and breathing hardly, the blood oozing from the wound at the back of his head.

The surgeons were exhausting every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone.

The parting of his family with the dying President is too sad for description.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln did not start to the theatre till fifteen minutes after 8 o'clock. Speaker Colfax was at the White House at the time, and the President stated to him that he was going, although Mrs. Lincoln had not been well, because the papers had advertised that General Grant and they were to be present, and as General Grant had gone north, he did not wish the audience to be disappointed.

The President went with apparent reluctance, and urged Mr. Colfax to go with him; but that gentleman had made other engagements, and, with Mr. Ashmun, of Massachusetts, bade him good-bye.

The entire city to-night presented a scene of wild excitement, accompanied by violent expressions of indignation and the profoundest sorrow.

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Many shed tears.

The military authorities have despatched patrols in every direction, in order, if possible, to arrest the assassin, while the Metropolitan Police are alike vigilant for the same purpose.

The attack both at the theatre and at Secretary Seward's house took place at about the same hour, (ten o'clock,) thus showing a preconcerted plan to assassinate those gentlemen. Some evidences of the guilt of the party who attacked the President are in possession of the police.

Vice-President Johnson is in the city, and his hotel quarters are guarded by troops.

We learn that General Grant received intelligence of this sad calamity soon after midnight, when at Walnut street wharf, Philadelphia, on his way to Burlington, N. J.