



## The Death of Abraham Lincoln in the Newberry Collection

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### Contemporary Elegiac Writing about Lincoln

*Abraham Lincoln. Eulogies* **Call #: E 5 .L63993**

A bound collection of 22 pamphlets in 2 volumes, with the text of eulogies, addresses, orations, etc., given by religious and civic leaders across the United States in the months after Lincoln's death. The majority of the pamphlets are from New England, especially Massachusetts, and New York.

*Abraham Lincoln. Funeral sermons.* **Call #: E 5 .L63994**

A bound collection of 50 pamphlets in 2 volumes, with the text of sermons and addresses given in churches across the United States in the months after Lincoln's death. The majority of the pamphlets are from churches in New England, especially Massachusetts, and New York.

*The divinely prepared ruler, and, The fit end of treason : two discourses delivered at the First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois, by invitation of the session, on the Sabbath following the burial of President Lincoln, May 7, 1865,* by Rev. Henry A. Nelson, Pastor First Presb'n. Church, St. Louis. **Call #: Case E457.8 .D22 1865**

The text of two discourses given at the church Lincoln and his family attended while living in Springfield, Illinois. From "Sermons on the death of Abraham Lincoln," a bound collection of nine pamphlets.

*The victorious. A small poem on the assassination of President Lincoln.* By M.B. Bird. **Call #: Case Y 274 .09**

Poem written by Mark Baker Bird, a Methodist missionary in Haiti, with an introduction describing the grief felt in Haiti at the news of Lincoln's assassination, connecting it to Haiti's history of slavery and revolution.

### Manuscripts with Reactions to Lincoln's Assassination

Edward A. Barnes Papers, 1865-1893. **Call #: Midwest MS BarnesE, folder 3**

A pocket diary in which Barnes, a Chicago-based songwriter, mainly recorded the weather. He adds "The Death of Abraham Lincoln" on April 15, 1865.

John V. LeMoyne Papers, 1851-1889. **Call #: Midwest MS LeMoyne, folder 4**

A letter, written on April 24, to LeMoyne, a Pennsylvania lawyer, from his sister Jane. She writes "Were you all not shocked at Lincoln's murder? It seems so horrible to have such a thing happen in this century." She then describes the general dislike of Lincoln's "mild" treatment of the rebels hopes that Andrew Johnson will be "more likely to give them their due."

Eugene E. Prussing papers, 1928-1957. **Call #:**

**Midwest MS Prussing, folder 1**

A manuscript autobiography in which Prussing recalls his father telling his family the news of the “awful event” and going to see Lincoln’s body twice while it lay in state in Chicago’s City Hall, joining the line that stretched three blocks along Washington Street.

Robert Leslie Wiles journal, 1862-1865. **Call #: VAULT Case MS 10022**

A pocket journal in which Wiles, a Union soldier from Missouri, describes a “great day of mourning” for President Lincoln on April 17, 1865.

*The Civil War diary of James Bennington Irvine of Florence, Alabama*, written at Fort Delaware, Pea Patch Island, near Wilmington, 1864-1865. **Call #: Midwest MS 184**  
Typed transcription of Irvine’s diary, written while he was a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware. It offers a Southern soldier’s opinion on Lincoln’s death. He writes “what a terrible crime & how useless...assassination simply for revenge is horrible.”

## Sheet Music about Lincoln’s Death, Published in 1865

*Our Noble Chief has passed away. Elegy on the death of Abraham Lincoln.* Geo. Cooper & J. R. Thomas

*Rest, Noble Chieftain. Song on the Death of President Lincoln.* C. Archer.

*Rest, Spirit, Rest. Grand Requiem March to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln.* E. Hoffman

*In Memoriam. In honor of President Lincoln.* Dr. F. Haase

*Oh! Speak to Me Once More! (The exclamation of Mrs. Lincoln, as she bent over her dying husband),* W. Dexter Smith Jr. & Henri Cromwell

*A Nation Weeps: or The Death of President Lincoln,* J. W. Turner

*Saule-Plenreur (Weeping-Willow). Marche Funèbre du President Lincoln,* B. A. Whaplen

*Little Tad,* J. W. Turner

*President Lincoln’s Funeral March,* E. Mack

**Call #: Driscoll Box 150**

## Other Resources

The Newberry also owns over one hundred modern transcribed editions of Civil War letters and diaries, many of which contain soldiers’ reactions to Lincoln’s death. **Call #s: \*E 600s**

Newspapers, either in bound volumes or on microfilm, microfiche, or microcard, cover April 1865 from cities including Chicago, Washington DC, Boston, New York, Baltimore and others. **Call #s: A6...**

Search related subject headings for more materials about Lincoln’s assassination and public reaction to it:

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination--Public Opinion.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Death and Burial.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Correspondence

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal Narratives.

This Quick Guide was created for the program “**Farewell, Father, Friend**”: *Lincoln's Death in Music and Letters*, held at the Newberry on February 15, 2017.