

LAST BIRTHDAY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MAJ. H. A. LONDON EATS GROUND HOG

And It Was Donated By Wife of One of Raleigh's Prominent Citizens

“Major Gen. Hooker, Cincinnati, Ohio: Is it Lieut. Samuel D. Davis whose death sentence is commuted? If not done, let it be done. Is there not an associate of his also in trouble? Please answer.”

“A. LINCOLN.”

This telegram was sent by Abraham Lincoln from the White House on his last birthday alive. It typifies the spirit of the man in the last days of his life, and is exemplary of the attitude he took, not only toward individuals, but toward the peoples and the States who were opposed in arms to the Union, according to an article in the Washington Post.

Military Rigors of Closing Days.
The military rigors of the closing days of the war compelled harsh measures, not only in dealing with the enemy, but in dealing with those within the forces of the North who were guilty of desertion, neglect, or treachery, and the columns of the daily papers of the time were replete with paragraphs headed, as a rule, “Execution of the Conspirators,” “The Spies Shot,” or “Execution of the Deserter.”

Naturally there was a great outcry in the North from relatives and political friends of the men condemned by military courts. Continual pressure was brought to bear upon the President throughout the war in this respect, but he left these matters to the discretion of the generals in the field for the most part.

Many Pardons Issued.

A perusal of his papers during the weeks preceding and following his birthday anniversary, February 12, 1865, show that he was giving especial attention to these matters. In the month of February alone he sent at least ten telegrams suspending or delaying executions or asking for full reports of the trials for his personal examinations.

In some cases he upheld the decree of the military courts, in others he issued pardons, and it is said that in at least one case the man who had been convicted was in reality a government secret service agent unknown to the military authorities who had convicted him for the very acts he committed in the service of the Union.

Felt Premonitions of Death.

It has been asserted by some biographers of Lincoln that he felt premonitions of his death in the months following his second election and if this be true it is possible that the shadow over his soul may have caused him to be more clement than was his rule. All are agreed that he was always compassionate and slow to condemn, but he was sensible of the necessity for stern justice and was not given to mock mercy of the weak-kneed, sentimental kind.

The President's birthday itself had no special significance in 1865. It is doubtful if many outside his immediate family realized when the day occurred. It would be a small percentage of Americans today who could state the date of President Wilson's birth and in the last stages of the civil war the nation was too sorely beset by pressing, vital problems, sorrow and anxiety to recognize the birthday of the man who himself was the vortex of all the maelstrom of political, military, and executive activities.

More Cheerful and Hopeful.

It is known, however, that Lincoln's last birthday season saw the President more cheerful, more hopeful of a peace which should save the Union than he had been at any other time during the war.

He had recently met commissioners of the Confederate government on a steamer at Hampton Roads and although the interview had led to nothing, the President felt that the disension evident between the commissioners from the South meant a speedy conclusion of the conflict.

This feeling throughout the country and in Congress was becoming evident to the President on his last birthday, so much so that he commented on it to his friends and advisers. It showed him that the nation was behind him, and that he would be supported to the completion of his work of cementing the Union.

Electoral Votes for Lincoln.

Almost in the nature of a birthday gift came the formal announcement to President Lincoln that he had been elected President of the United States. The electoral college met and voted, and on February 8 the two houses of Congress assembled in joint convention. The Vice-President announced that he had in his possession returns from the States of Louisiana and Tennessee, but in obedience to the existing law he held it to be his duty not to present them to the convention.

There was no demand to have these returns opened as they could in no possible manner affect the result, and therefore only the returns from the United States, including West Virginia, were counted, showing 212 electoral votes for Lincoln and 21 for McClellan.

The usual committee was appointed to wait upon the President, who received them with a short formal ad-

dress which was followed by an informal one.

On the very day of Lincoln's birthday the first of the cotton ships Sherman had sent from Savannah put into New York and Newport, R. I. The newspapers of February 13 featured the dispatches announcing the arrival of the vessels and commenting with favor on the prospects of getting great cargoes of cotton from the newly opened ports of the South.

The dailies were also filled with dispatches telling of the progress of Grant's campaign against Lee, which was beginning so to formulate itself that Appomattox should end the war, and that Sherman had completed his march to the sea. None viewed the approach of peace with greater gratification than did Lincoln, and it was with the spirit of this period of his last birthday upon him that he wrote his second inaugural address, which is fraught with human sympathy, so expressive of the character of the man.

The sad story of the great President's death is familiar to all. That it was to follow so closely on his last birthday, so lightened by hope and gratitude for the success of the Union cause, none could foresee, unless, as some writers declare, the President himself had forebodings of it.

“With Malice Toward None.”

If there were any thoughts of death in his mind on this, his last birthday, however, it is more than likely that they were due to a consciousness of having labored under too terrific a strain for any man to survive, especially with four years more of vexatious problems and unceasing labor ahead.

In all events, it is pleasant to contemplate that the closing months of Abraham Lincoln's life were gifted with a feeling of peace which for long he had not known. It was during these months that he conceived that closing paragraph of his second inaugural address:

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

LINCOLN ANECDOTES

There were many who tried to make political capital out of Lincoln's religious beliefs or the alleged lack of any such beliefs. On one occasion an Illinois clergyman asked the President if he was a Christian. The reply is as full of pathos as are so many of Lincoln's saying full of humor:

“When I left Springfield I asked the people to pray for me; I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg, and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ. I do love Jesus.”

In a Predicament.

The usual droves of office-seekers beset Mr. Lincoln after his first inauguration. He was fairly besieged by them, and at the same time important news came hourly from the South. He had no time to give to politics, yet he realized that he must give attention to his appointments, or the administration would suffer. Speaking of the situation to a friend, he said:

“I am like a man so busy letting rooms in one end of his house that he cannot stop to put out a fire that is burning in the other.”

Their Last Ride Together.

On the afternoon of April 14, 1865, a few hours before he was shot, President Lincoln was driving with his wife. He was in unusually good spirits; so much so that his wife said: “You almost startle me by your cheerfulness.”

“And well I may feel so, Mary,” he replied, “for I consider this day the war has come to a close. We must both be more cheerful in the future. Between the war and the loss of our darling Willie we have been very miserable.”

He Gave It Away.

Mr. Herndon, once Lincoln's law partner, frequently related that on one occasion a man with a case, the merits of which Lincoln did not appreciate, requested the future President to try it in court. Mr. Lincoln thought for a moment, and then said: “Yes, there is no reasonable doubt that I can gain your case for you. I can set a whole neighborhood at loggerheads; I can distress a widowed mother and her six fatherless children, and thereby get for you \$690, which rightfully belongs. It appears to me, as much to them as it does to you

I shall not take your case, but I will give a little advice for nothing. You seem a sprightly, energetic man. I would advise you to try your hand at making \$600 in some other way.”

A Use for Everything.

A friend of Mr. Lincoln's directed to his attention that a certain member of his cabinet was seeking to be nominated for President, although Lincoln himself was a candidate for re-nomination. The President seemed to be rather amused at the announcement and told this story:

“My brother and I were once plowing corn on a Kentucky farm. I driving the horse and he holding the plow. The horse was lazy, but on one occasion rushed across the field so that I, with my long legs, could hardly keep pace with him. On reaching the end of the furrow I found an enormous chin-fly fastened upon him, and I knocked it off. My brother asked me what I did that for. I told him that I didn't want the old horse bitten in that way.

“Why,” said my brother, “that's all that made him go.”

“If Mr. — has a presidential chin-fly biting him I'm not going to knock it off, if it will only make his department go.”

HER DREAM HALTS WEDDING

Bride-Elect Announces at the Altar That She Must Be a Missionary.
Elgin (Tex.) dispatch to New York World.

Firm in the conviction that a dream she had a few nights ago was a vision from heaven telling her she must not marry, but that she should consecrate her life to the saving of souls, Miss Ethel Bell Sowell, of this town, is about to enter Baylor University, a Baptist institution at Waco, to prepare for mission work in foreign fields.

It was the night before the day set for her wedding that Miss Sowell had the remarkable dream, and it was before the assembled crowd of relatives and friends in the Baptist church here, gathered to witness the ceremony that was to make her the wife of Ernest Byars that Miss Sowell announced in trembling words her decision not to marry.

“Last night I had a dream,” she said, “so clear it was like a vision, and I am not going to marry. I dreamt that it would be a terrible mistake to listen to what the selfish heart in me has been wanting. I was told by a voice that went through and through me that my life must be given to bringing light to the ignorant and the darkened. Oh! I know God spoke to me. He calls me to the missionary field. I will not marry, and I am going at once to school to prepare to spread the gospel and make Christians of those who do not believe.”

In front of her sat her affianced, Ernest Byars, who, when he realized the meaning of the girl's words, bowed his boyish head in grief. She looked at him and for the moment wavered, apparently, in her determination. She repeated in a low voice:

“I cannot marry—now.”

Later, Mr. Byars said he would study for them inistry. He has not given up hope of winning Miss Sowell to his views.

CHICKEN SQUAKS SAVE TOWN.

They Rout Out Sleeping Village To Fight Fire In Zero Weather.
La Cross (Wis.) dispatch to Milwaukee Free Press.)

Frightened chickens gave the alarm which awakened the entire village of Stoddard to fight a fire which destroyed two barns and a henhouse belonging to Alvin Gretsch and Will Brook. It was supposed that it started from an over-heated stove.

The noisy squawking of the chickens in distress awakened the villagers, who sounded a general alarm, bringing out everyone in the village, all the men, even the guests at the hotel, assisting to fight the fire, which had gained considerable headway before the frozen pumps were operating in smooth style. With the mercury below zero mark, the men worked desperately and put out the fire before other buildings could be ignited.

TO CHANGE NAME UNNEUTRAL

So Rules Court in Denying Petition of Katzenberger.

New York Sun.
Justice Cohalan denied yesterday a petition filed by William Katzenberger, a broker, of 1 West 94th street, and his son, William De Young. Katzenberger, who wanted to change their name to Kaye, because they travel in England and France, and would “be subject to insults, impediment, and annoyance.”

“It would be highly inappropriate,” said the justice, “for a court in a neutral nation to approve a change of name of account of a war being waged among belligerent powers. The courts are not disposed to take cognizance in any way of the war.”

A Raleigh woman has sent Maj. H. A. London of the Chatham Record some very fine sausage. It was sent on February 2 and was labelled “Ground Hog.” Here is the story as Major London tells it in his own paper, the Chatham Record.

What do you think? The Record's groundhog has been eaten. It happened thus: Late on the 2nd of this month (too late for mention in last week's issue) a pastboard box was brought to The Record office in a very mysterious manner. Carefully opening the box there was found in it snugly lying among some evergreens an object that closely resembled a groundhog. The object did not move and did not seem to be alive. Lying on it was a beautifully written note, which being opened was found to read as follows:

“With the day's greetings and apologies for the merry sunshine!

“A fond adieu, Mr. Chatham editor, my friend of yesterday, today and tomorrow. I'll call some other sweet day ‘when the robins nest again.’
Yours,

“MR. GROUNDHOG.”

The mysterious object was taken up and examined, and it was found to be a ground hog sure enough, for it was sausage (which of course is ground hog) artistically moulded into such a shape as to resemble a small animal such as the noted groundhog is said to be. It was certainly an unique and clever idea successfully carried out.

And thus it was that The Record's ground hog was eaten, for of course that sausage met that fate!

Although the author of the above mentioned ingenious imitation of The Record's groundhog does not wish her name published, yet we cannot refrain from saying that she was one of the loveliest maidens ever reared in Pittsboro and is now the wife of one of Raleigh's most prominent citizens.

FORTUNES IN WHEAT.

Baltimore Grain Exporters Have Made Large Profits.
Baltimore Sun.

While Baltimore has secured the distinction of being one of the largest grain exporting ports on the Atlantic seaboard during the period of the active foreign demand for all kinds of foodstuffs, it has remained with perhaps three of the exporting firms here to have done the bulk of this business.

These were Gill & Fisher, who are easily the accredited leaders; John T. Fahey & Co., and the Louis Muller Company. In the beginning of the export movement of last year these firms did practically all of this trade, though for the last two months the business has been divided when other firms have come into the field.

When the question is asked who has made the most money out of this business the answer will invariably be that the three firms first mentioned have obtained the lion's share and are still getting it. The further question as to what has been their possible profits will be met with a shrug of the shoulders and frequently a knowing wink.

This, as a matter of course, is only known to those directly concerned. With the others it is a hazardous guess, though the guesses are many and frequent. They will range all the way from \$1,000,000 to \$4,000,000 between the three firms, and some do not hesitate to say that the profits before the present grain season is over will exceed the last-named figure.

It was common gossip on the floor of the Chamber of Commerce last fall, after the exports became free and the payment for the shipments assured, that some of the exporting firms would be able to retire with comfortable fortunes after the season's business had ended. That was altogether idle gossip, but it was believed by those who knew in a general way what the leading firms were doing and who had information as the urgency of the European demand.

Before the close of 1914 it was declared the three leading exporting firms could easily have divided \$1,000,000 between them out of the profits they had made on shipments up to that time. Since then these shipments have continued in even greater volume, though the increased expense of doing business, including the high rate of insurance, the sharp advance in ocean freight rates, the excessive rise in grain prices and other collateral but important factors, have brought down the profits to a much smaller minimum than prevailed at the beginning of the export season.

Of French invention is a rubber stopper with a flexible projection which can be folded down around the neck of a bottle for added security. It is 14 in.