

RICHMOND

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TOWNS - LINCOLN INTEREST

71.2009 08S. 05 11 7



Indiana

Cities & Towns

Richmond

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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RICHMOND, IND., April 30th, 3:10 A. M.—The scene here was not only imposing but magnificently solemn. From twelve to fifteen thousand people were assembled. As we approached the city, the bells on the engines on the Air Line Railroad were tolling, and all the engines were out, lit up with revolving lamps and tastefully decorated in mourning. A gorgeous arch was constructed, twenty-five feet high and thirty feet wide, under which the train passed. On both sides of the structure were the American flags, wrought into triangles, down the sides of which were suspended, at equal distances, transparencies of red, white and blue, alternating with chaplets of evergreens, which clambered up the sides of the triangles and centered at the summit in velvet rosettes. Across the structure, at about eighteen feet from the base, was a platform carpeted with black velvet. On the ends of this platform were two flags in drooping folds. In the center of this upper work was a young lady in sitting posture, representing the Genius of Liberty, and weeping over a coffin. On one side was a boy soldier, and on the other a boy sailor, both acting as mourners. Above this group was reared another triangle, which was studied with roses and rosettes. Linked wreathes of green again clasped about the flag-staff, and folded themselves gracefully around the already wreathed triangle. In the center of this net-work of nature's embroidery, was Mrs. Mary McClelland, as the Genius of Liberty, Henry Cull, as soldier, and Chas. Zimmerman as sailor.

CENTERVILLE, IND., 3:41 A. M.—The depot was splendidly robed in mourning. At each end of the platform were two chandeliers, brilliantly lighted. The people seemed anxious that the cortege should stay, but of course their wishes could not be complied with.

GERMANTOWN, IND., 4:05 A. M.—A number of splendid bonfires were built, flags draped, and the usual evidences of grief exhibited.

CAMBRIDGE CITY, IND., 4:15 A. M.—As the train reached this place, it was received with salvos of artillery, and a very tasty arch had been thrown across the track. The darkness was turned into a solemn glare by the burning of bengal lights, and as the red shadow met the first streak of gray in the east, the effect was very impressive and solemn. It was the unanimous verdict of those who had traveled all the journey with the train, that this and the display at Richmond far exceeded in solemnity and impressiveness any thing that had been witnessed. There was a solemn earnestness depicted on every face as the train passed, and the sentence was written upon every feature, as if in burnished rows of steel, that though Lincoln has died, the republic shall live. This was the observation of all on the train, as they looked upon the stern yet sorrowful countenance of Indiana patriots.

DUBLIN, IND., 4:30 A. M.—The platform and side tracks were lined with a people whose looks and actions bespoke their deep grief. Their floral offerings to the dead gave evidence of their refined sensibilities. A neat and handsome arch of entwined evergreens was erected for the funeral to pass under. On the right was a large drooped flag. The depot was artistically draped. On the outer walls was a fine steel portrait of our murdered president, shrouded in evergreens, vases and velvet lengthenings.

Sunday, 30th of April, was spent at Indianapolis. May 1st the journey was resumed to Chicago. The 2d was spent at Chicago, and on Wednesday the 3d, the escort, with its loved remains arrived at Springfield, Illinois, having been twelve days traversing a distance of seventeen hundred miles, and stopping at almost every station, that the millions of freemen might pay such honors to the dead, as were never paid to mortal man before, neither in ancient or modern times, either among plebians, princes, kings or emperors. On Thursday, May 4th, the body was deposited in its resting place in Oak Ridge Cemetery

*NEWS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION REACHES RICHMOND INDIANA
AT LEAST 10,000 IN ATTENDANCE AT DEPOT*

“When the sad news of the assassination of President Lincoln reached Richmond, all business was suspended, stores and shops were closed, flags displayed at half mast, bells tolled, and doors of business places and of dwellings draped in mourning. Crowds appeared on the streets, and the deepest feeling was manifested. Men of all parties lamented as if it were a personal affliction. In the afternoon a large meeting assembled in Starr Hall. Speeches were made, and expressive resolutions adopted. Similar meetings were held at Hagerstown and other places.

The train bearing the remains of the President, passed through Wayne county on the morning of April 30th. (*apx 3:00 am*) A train containing state officials, citizens of Indianapolis and others, came to act as escort. It met the funeral cortege at the state line, and together they came through Richmond at two o'clock in the morning. An arch of mourning spanned the track near the depot; and amid the tolling of bells and dirges of music, the trains passed. An immense crowd was present, notwithstanding the early hour.

At Centerville a large concourse of people awaited the cortege; and the depot was draped in mourning. Salvoes of artillery paid homage to the dead at Cambridge City. There and at Dublin were arches over the track, through which the slow moving trains passed in the dim light of morning.

The war was now ended. During its continuance considerable activity was manifested in the towns. Hundreds of families moved into the larger towns to be within the reach of assistance if needed. Especially was this true of Richmond; hence the calling for those large donations which were made at that place. The surviving soldiers returned to their former occupations in the summer of 1865, and gradually the entire community resumed the ways of peace.

Source: History of Wayne County Indiana, by Andrew Young – 1872

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Article published Mar 18, 2008

Add Clinton to the list ... of presidents who visited Richmond
PALLADIUM-ITEM

Today's visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton -- here to promote his wife's presidential campaign -- is part of a more than 160-year history of presidential stops in the community.

1842

President Martin Van Buren -- The eighth president was the first U.S. President to deliver an address in Richmond. He visited the city on June 9, 1842, just after completing his term of office in 1841. He was journeying through Wayne County to promote a future presidential bid.

1861

→ President Abraham Lincoln -- The 16th president visited Richmond by train more than once.

Mitchell's Coronet Band, a Richmond band, played for President-elect Lincoln during his trip from Indianapolis to Washington on March 4, 1861. Impressed by the musicians, he invited them to dinner.

A band member recalled Lincoln's words: "I have often heard of Richmond. I have passed through Richmond on the train and have always thought it a pretty place."

On April 30, 1865, a nine-car train carried Lincoln's body, stopping for ceremonies at Greenville and New Paris, Ohio, and in Richmond, Centerville, Germantown, Dublin and Cambridge City. Mitchell's Coronet Band played taps.

1871

President Ulysses S. Grant -- The 18th president stopped at Richmond on Sept. 30, 1871, and told a small crowd at the train depot that he realized some of his cabinet appointees were a disappointment but that he always had the people's interests at heart.

1877

President Rutherford B. Hayes -- The 19th president visited Richmond on Sept. 13, 1877, to visit a dying friend, Sen. Oliver P. Morton. Morton, Indiana's former Civil War governor, was lying seriously ill at his brother-in-law's house at 115 N. 12th St. Residents lined the streets and remained subdued during Hayes' visit.

1888-1892, 1895

President Benjamin Harrison -- The 23rd president, elected in 1888, often paused his train in the city on the way to his hometown of Indianapolis.

After a 1892 stop when 4-year-old girl visited him, he sent her a Christmas letter and a doll.

Harrison spoke from his train on March 4, 1893, as he returned home from the presidency.

In 1895, Harrison spent months in Richmond as a lawyer representing the plaintiffs as the heirs of Richmond banker James L. Morrisson fought over his estate.

During the trial, Harrison planted a tree near the Glen Miller Park pond April 25, 1895. For the city's bicentennial, a new plaque was put at the tree.

1900

President Theodore Roosevelt -- The 26th president visited Wayne County at least six times.

His first appeared in Richmond on Oct. 11, 1900, as Vice President. Campaigning for President William McKinley, he spoke to 15,000 from the bottom of a Glen Miller Park hill now known as Roosevelt Hill.

Roosevelt's train stopped on Nov. 25, 1904, and again on Oct. 13, 1910. He spoke briefly.

On June 1, 1916, Roosevelt's train stopped in the city, but only his shoes were seen, being polished by a porter while he slept.

His last visit was on June 12, 1918, when residents begged him to appear on his train platform.

1908

President William Howard Taft -- The 27th president stumped for the presidency at the Pennsylvania Depot on Oct. 23, 1908, after visiting Cambridge City.

Taft mounted the platform, saying, "From my earliest boyhood, I recollect this place as one of the earliest homes of abolitionism. My father was an abolitionist and regarded Richmond as the most important place in Indiana."

1916, 1919

President Woodrow Wilson -- The 28th president saved a man's life at the railroad depot on Oct. 11, 1916, by holding the man's hand, which he had begun to shake, and helping him as the train backed up.

Wilson also stopped on Sept. 14, 1919, again shaking hands from a train's platform.

1922-1939

President Herbert Hoover -- The 31st president visited Richmond on June 6, 1922, while serving as Secretary of Commerce. He spoke before a crowd of 500 at Earlham College's Diamond Jubilee luncheon.

After serving as president, he spoke at Earlham's June 12, 1939, commencement.

1926

President Calvin Coolidge -- The 30th president was passed through Richmond with his wife, Grace, on Nov. 10, 1926, on the way to Kansas City.

When their train stopped at the depot, the president and first lady stood on the observation platform, acknowledging a gift of flowers with smiles.

"Silent Cal" did not speak, but his wife talked a boy near the train about the dog he carried.

1937

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt -- The 32nd president visited Richmond via train on May 13, 1937. He waved through the window of his private car.

FDR hoisted his little granddaughter, Ruth, up to the window so she could wave to the crowd.

1945

President Dwight D. Eisenhower -- The future 34th president and his wife, Mamie, visited Richmond on June 24, 1945. The World War II general signed an autograph for a boy in the crowd.

He became president in 1953.

1948, 1953, 1956

President Harry Truman -- The 33rd president visited Richmond during his "Whistle Stop" tour to defeat Republican nominee Thomas E. Dewey, stopping on Oct. 12, 1948.

Truman also made a stop and speech at the depot on June 17, 1948. He made additional visits in 1953, including lunch at The Leland Hotel, and 1956.

Truman also was instrumental in the 1920s site choice for the Madonna of the Trail at the entrance to Glen Miller Park.

1949

President Richard Nixon -- The 37th president addressed the Foreign Affairs Institute at Earlham College on May 14, 1949.

At the time, he was a California congressman. His speech addressed the evils of communism.

1960

President John F. Kennedy -- The 35th president appeared in Richmond during his presidential campaign on April 29, 1960, but was unable to speak because of an attack of laryngitis.

Kennedy visited downtown and Earlham College before arriving at Holy Family Church for a Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. A staff member delivered his prepared address.

His brother, Robert Kennedy, visited Richmond during his presidential campaign on April 29, 1968. He complimented the community for working together during Richmond's devastating April 6 downtown gas explosion.

1966

President Gerald Ford -- The 38th president made one visit to Richmond. He came on March 3, 1966, for the Republicans' annual Lincoln Day Dinner. At the time, he was minority leader of the U.S. House.

Photographer Ralph Pyle made his portrait. It was a standard part of most dignitaries' visit here. Ford used that portrait in his 1968 campaign.

1974

President Ronald Reagan -- The 40th president visited Richmond while serving as California's governor.

On Sept. 12, 1974, Reagan was promoting the campaign of Rep. David W. Dennis, R-Richmond. Dennis was seeking a fourth term in the U.S. House.

Reagan charmed crowds at the downtown Promenade and at the Forest Hills Country Club.

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