



Ostendorf collection
Variant O-93

VARIANT BY
W. L. GERMON

A MYSTERY PORTRAIT of uncertain date and ascribed to several cameramen, including Brady, is this pose of the new President. Lincoln's round-tipped collar is different from that in any other picture. The length and intimacy of the inscription are unique also, for Lincoln seldom wrote more than a word or two on a photograph. Presented to the mother of Joshua F. Speed, most intimate of Lincoln's early friends, the original oval photograph, about 9 by 12

inches, is preserved in a gold frame. It is badly faded and shows evidence of slight retouching, but the inscription is clear and bold.

The portrait was long thought to date from about September, 1861, near the time of Lincoln's inscription, but printed on the back of one carte-de-visite reproduction, on a souvenir ticket to an Independence Day celebration, is this: "1776-1861 / Exhibition of Fireworks at the City Hall / (cut of flag) / July 4 -Admit the bearer-July 4." Thus the sitting definitely took place before July, 1861. Since Lincoln's hair was unusually long at his Brady sitting of February 24, 1861 (see O-53), but was cut before the "Speed" pose, the sitting was *after* February 24.

The attribution to Brady is based upon a letter of James B. Speed, grandson of Mrs. Speed, claiming that Lincoln had a special sitting for this photograph. The earlier date now established indicates that he presented the portrait to Lucy Speed as an afterthought and rules out Brady as photographer.

There are copies of the photograph which bear the imprints of C. D. Fredricks & Co., 587 Broadway, New York; W. L. Germon, 914 Arch Street, Philadelphia; and James E. McClees, 910 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Any of these men might have taken the photograph, but the recent discovery of a lithographic reproduction with the imprint "W. L. Germon Photo" indicates that Germon may have gone to Washington to take the picture.



Lincoln Memorial University Variant O-93

VARIANT WITH FANCY BORDER