



Springfield State Historical Library O-119

THE LAST PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE FLESH, a multiple-lens photograph by Jeremiah Gurney, Jr., City Hall Governor's Room, New York, Monday, April 24, 1865.

THE PRESIDENT LIES IN STATE, flanked by Admiral Charles H. Davis (left) and General Edward D. Townsend. The cameraman, Jeremiah Gurney, Jr., took two exposures, one with a multiple-lens camera. As soon as Secretary of War Stanton heard of the photographs, he ordered their destruction. General John A. Dix reported that he had confiscated and destroyed the larger negative and the sole print from it. He sent Stanton a print from the four-lens plate, with a request that the negative be spared. Stanton at once issued orders to destroy the remaining plate and all the prints. The sole print sent to him by General Dix was preserved by Stanton and was given by his son to John G. Nicolay. It remained forgotten until 1952 when Ronald Rietveld, a fifteen-year-old student, discovered it among the Nicolay papers in the Illinois State Historical Library.