



Head detail O-93

LINCOLN AND TAD

Ostendorf collection

THE FACE OF LINCOLN in the “shawl” portrait was evidently based on the famous photograph of Lincoln and Tad looking at a Brady album (O-93). No history of the “shawl” picture has come to light and no unretouched print has turned up—additional evidences that it was fabricated.

“THE ONLY PHOTOGRAPH OF LINCOLN WEARING A SHAWL” is what Meserve called this spurious photograph (M-126) in his *Supplement Number Four*. First published as an illustration in Doc Aubery’s *Recollections of a Newsboy in the Army of the Potomac, 1861-65*, the portrait then revealed far less detail than in this retouched version. In his book Aubery relates how, as a boy, he gave a newspaper to Lincoln, then watched him read it. No doubt some imaginative artist created this portrait to dramatize Aubery’s story, embodying in it the apparel so often associated with the Civil War President—the stovepipe hat, the steel-rimmed spectacles, the shawl, and the big boots.