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EDITORIAL

Number 2, of Volume 9, is devoted entirely to the diary of Mrs. W. D. Chadick, which was published in the *Huntsville Times* through the courtesy of her grandson, Col. John R. Fordyce, of Little Rock, Ark. The date of the newspaper was omitted from the copy of the section carrying the diary but was some years ago. The family of Col. W. D. Chadick was residing in Huntsville at the time the diary was written giving a vivid picture of the years in that city when it was occupied by Federal troops from 1862 to 1865.

One of the divisions of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History is devoted to manuscripts and maps and from that collection much valuable material of Alabama history not connected with the State's official documents is to be found. Some of this material has already been reproduced in the *Quarterly* and much more will follow through the years. The Editor of the *Quarterly* is anxious to bring into the Department as many old diaries, County histories, old letters and old maps as people possessing them are willing to give to the State for permanent preservation. The great tragedy of the destruction of material of this character is made manifest when descendants of our pioneers or early historical characters destroy such items at the breaking up of homes or of families. A vast collection of correspondence in the hands of the descendants of Dixon Hall Lewis, consisting of letters from many of our great National leaders and giving fine pictures of the history of our early period, nationally as well as local, were carried into the back yard and burned by a person recently coming into the family and without any knowledge or appreciation of the value of the contents of the many boxes and trunks that were burned. The same fate has befallen other valuable collections until the present time. It is therefore of great importance to the history of our war period of the sixties to reproduce Mrs. Chadick's diary for the information of the present generation.

Editor.

steps towards Mrs. Carter's, and from there to Mrs. Elgin's. While out, heard that Gen. Lee and staff and Gen. Grant and staff were gone to Washington. Came home heartsick and thoroughly disgusted with everything.

(Saturday, April 15.) All quiet today. News came that Ridgely Cruse had been killed in a skirmish near Mobile.

Went to the provost marshal (Capt. Moore) this evening to get three letters approved. While examining them, he remarked to me, "We have just got news that I fear will be worse for you Southern people than anything that has yet happened. President Lincoln was shot last night, at the theatre in Washington, and died this morning. Seward was stabbed, but it is thought will recover."

I asked him if it was supposed that a Southern man had done the deed.

"O, no," he replied, "it was done by Booth."

I was exceedingly shocked, as might well be supposed, and felt in my heart that it must be bad news for the South, if Andrew Johnson was to succeed him. What startling events have crowded fast upon each other within the last few days! I little apprehended that the last page of my journal would record the death of President Lincoln.

Mrs. Robert Fearn died today.

(April 16.) Gen. Grainger has issued an order to the effect that all persons exalting the death of President Lincoln shall be summarily punished. Mr. Parker was seen standing on the porch of his brother's house, laughing and talking with some young ladies, which excited suspicion that they were rejoicing in regard to the above. The house was searched, and last night some of the furniture was moved out with a threat to burn the house.

Gen. Grainger's order follows:

"The same diabolical spirit which attempted the life of Mr. Lincoln in 1861, which organized expeditions for the burning of our towns upon the Northern frontier, and the assassination of thousands of women and children, organized under the auspices of the Confederate government, has at last culminated in the fiendish murder of the President of the United States by the hand of the assassin. It is hoped that this act, so savage and so brutal, will find none in this community who in any manner shall express approbation or approval of this most foul murder, they shall be immediately arrested and tried by a military commission, and if found guilty, they will receive the most summary punishment. Such treason shall have no home in the district of Northern Alabama."

Some further particulars have been received of the death of President Lincoln. It appears that the assassin stood behind the box in which he was seated, and shot him through the head. He was then seen to leap upon the stage, exclaiming "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" in front of the actors, and to then disappear, thus making his escape.

An assassin entered the house of Secretary Seward and, rushing past the servants and those in attendance, made his way to the bed, where he was confined from his late injuries, and stabbed him, but it is hoped that he will recover. His son was knocked down and mortally injured. Mrs. Lincoln was in the box beside her husband when the shot was fired. Gen. Grant had been urged to go to the theatre that night, but declined and took the train for New York instead.

(April 17.) This morning, Miss Ella Scruggs and Miss Edmonia Toney were arrested and taken to the courthouse on a charge of having rejoiced at the late news. Col. Horner read them a lecture and dismissed them.

(April 18.) Today was set apart by the Federal authorities as a day of mourning for President Lincoln. A cannon was