

# Baltimore Woman Says Lincoln Died In Her Bed In Washington

## Mrs. Pauline L. Wenzing Disputes Claim Of New York Pauper—Tells How Wounded President Was Carried To Her Home.

Thomas Proctor, a pauper on Blackwell's Island, New York, who claims Abraham Lincoln died in his bed in Washington, is mistaken, according to Mrs. Pauline Louise Wenzing, 70 years old, 1933 West Fayette street, Lincoln, she says, after being shot in Ford's Opera House, in Washington, was carried across the street to the home of her father, William Peterson, and placed in her bed, where he died next morning. She still has a blood-stained pillow, the one, she says, on which his head rested, and the cover of the bed where he lay.



Mrs. Wenzing

No one so young as Proctor, who would have been 17 at that time, was in the room, Mrs. Wenzing declares. Even the President's younger son was not admitted, she says. Mrs. Wenzing says she has letters and affidavits to prove her statements, and that they are now in a safe deposit vault, together with a pin that the President's wife gave her.

### Home Alone With Servant.

Mrs. Wenzing is a remarkable woman for her age, and talks freely of the night when Lincoln was shot. It was Good Friday, April, 1865. She was a girl of 14 at the time, and had retired, her room being on the first floor of the house. Her father had gone out and she was alone with a servant.

She was awakened by shouting and a disturbance in front of the theatre, which was directly across Tenth street from her home. She heard someone call out that the President had been shot, and she left her bed. Then she saw the injured man carried into her

home, which was the only residence in the block.

President Lincoln was placed on the girl's bed, because to avoid carrying him upstairs. The bed was a short one, and the foot of it was broken off so that the tall man could lie on it comfortably. The bed was sold, along with the house, after Mr. Petersen's death.

There was so much uproar, Mrs. Wenzing says, that she does not remember clearly everything that happened. She and the servant got towels and bandages and heated water, with which physicians bathed the wound. She got a pair of scissors, she says, with which a doctor cut away the hair from the injury on the left side of Lincoln's head. Soldiers came to guard the house, being stationed at all the doors and windows and even on the roof.

### Has Pin From Mrs. Lincoln.

Mrs. Lincoln and the President's two sons, with many Government officials, were at the bedside. During the night Mrs. Lincoln gave her the pin, which she still has a keepsake. Lincoln died shortly before 7.30 A. M. Saturday.

The house was sold after Mr. Petersen's death and is now used as a memorial and relic house. A pair of rubber overshoes which the President wore were sold later by her sister, Mrs. Wenzing says, for \$500. She has been offered that much for the bedspread, but has refused to part with it. She also has a number of pictures that hung on the walls of the room.

Mrs. Wenzing objects to the statement that Lincoln died in a lodging house. Her father, she says, was one of the most prosperous merchant tailors in Washington at the time and owned his home. The President and many State officials came to him for their clothes, she says. Mrs. Wenzing moved to Baltimore shortly after her marriage, 50 years ago. She lives with her son, Otto Wenzing. Another son, Charles H. Wenzing, lives at 1807 North Monroe street.