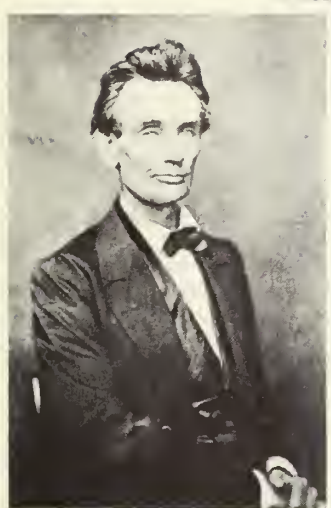


*A "Thatch of Wild Republican Hair"*



Ostendorf collection  
Variant O-21



Chicago Historical Society O-21

HE LOOKS STRAIGHT INTO THE CAMERA. A second pose at the same sitting by William Marsh, Springfield, Illinois, May 20, 1860. Between exposures Lincoln used his fingers to comb what Sir William Howard Russell called his "thatch of wild Republican hair." In both pictures Lincoln's spectacles cord is visible across his white shirt.

The previous attribution of this and its companion pose to an imaginary William Church was perhaps caused by the misreading of an early identification. When written in the florid script of the last century, a capital "M" closely resembles "Ch," and after this alteration, it would be easy to read a "u" for an "a" and a "c" for an "s" to turn the name "Marsh" into "Church."