



Herbert Wells Fay collection O-40

“BILLY, let’s give them a chance to grow,” said Lincoln to his barber, William Florville, who was sharpening his razor to shave off the newly sprouted whiskers.

A little girl named Grace Bedell had urged Lincoln to “let your whiskers grow,” to which the President-elect had answered, “Do you not think people would call it a piece of silly affection?” Probably he decided on a beard partly as a concession to the new fashion and partly to save himself the trouble of shaving each morning. Quipped a newsman, “Old Abe is . . . puttin’ on (h)airs.”

*Right:* RESULT: A NEAT BEARD. Unretouched photograph by C. S. German, Springfield, probably taken on Sunday, January 13, 1861. This first portrait of Lincoln with a full beard was made at the request of Ohio sculptor Thomas D. Jones, who had come to Springfield to make a bust of Lincoln from life.

*Left:* THE FIRST WHISKERS SPROUT. Photograph by Samuel G. Alschuler, Chicago, Sunday, November 25, 1860. Picturing the President-elect with a half-beard, this unique portrait was preserved by Henry C. Whitney, a youthful attorney who had traveled the Illinois circuit with Lincoln. Some thirty years later it turned up in the files of Chicago photographer C. D. Mosher, and was saved from destruction by Herbert Wells Fay, a custodian of the Lincoln tomb.



Meserve collection O-41