A Frenchman with a decided accent, Brady's operator, Thomas Le Mere, told Lincoln that there was a "considerable call" for a full-length standing photograph of him.

"Can it be taken with a single negative?" asked Lincoln, jesting.

After Le Mere's reassurance, the President explained that he had seen a very wide landscape photograph which, on inspection, proved to be a neatly joined series of photographs. "I thought perhaps this method might be necessary for my full-length landscape."

The carefully posed photograph opposite (O-69A), an enlargement from the original glass negative, was taken with a multiple-lens camera by Le Mere at Brady's gallery in Washington on or about Friday, April 17, 1863. When Lincoln saw the uncut glass negative, he exclaimed: "They look about as alike as three peas!"

To an early acquaintance, Lincoln penned a facetious reference to his height: "Don't you remember a long black fellow who rode on horseback with you from Tremont to Springfield...?"



Meserve collection O-69A

Ostendorf collection O-60B

Lincoln Memorial University O-690