

0. ASSASSINATION of PRESIDENT GARFIELD - Story
Preface

1. CHARLES GUITEAU: ERSTWHILE LAWYER

2. PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT GARFIELD

3. ASSASSINATION of PRESIDENT GARFIELD

4. WHERE IS THE BULLET?

5. DEATH OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD

6. MURDER TRIAL of CHARLES GUITEAU

7. GUITEAU: WAS HE INSANE?

8. GUITEAU'S SENTENCE: DEATH

9. EXECUTION BY HANGING

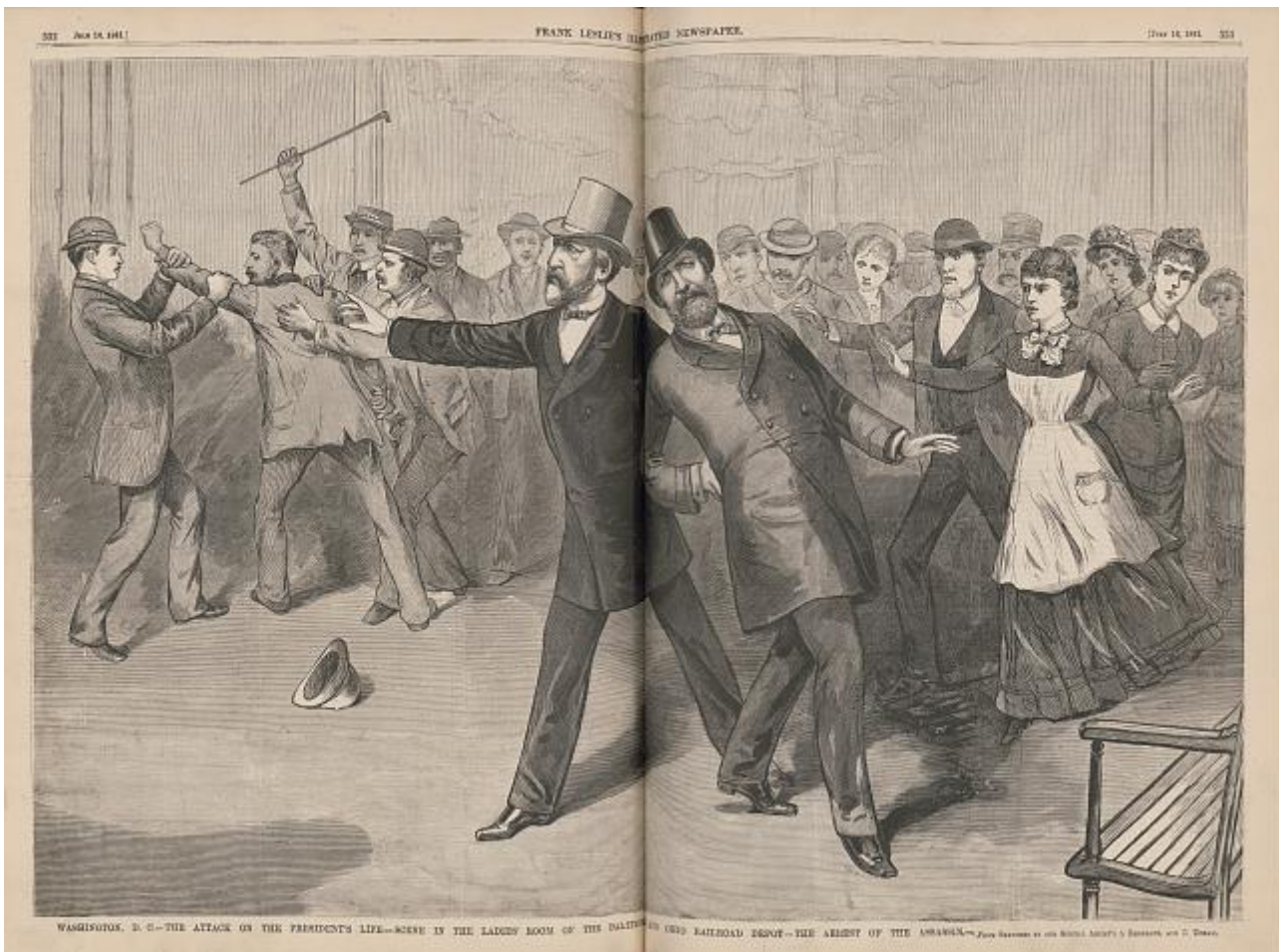


W.A. Rogers created this pencil-on-paper illustration: "The Tragedy at Washington. July 8, 1881." The work was later colorized and is maintained at the Library of Congress. Despite its beautiful detail, this depiction is not totally accurate because Garfield was shot in the ladies' waiting room at the rail station.

The President had arrived at the rail station with his Secretary of State, James G. Blaine. Six weeks before, on meeting Guiteau at the State Department, Blaine had instructed Guiteau:

Never bother me again about the Paris consulship so long as you live.
(*The Trial of the Assassin Guiteau*, by Charles E. Rosenberg, 1976 edition, page 39.)

As the President and his entourage passed through the station's waiting room, Guiteau approached Garfield from behind. He fired two shots. One was inconsequential, grazing the President's arm. The other, sending a bullet into Garfield's back, was serious but not necessarily fatal.



This illustration, maintained at the Library of Congress, appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, on July 16, 1881 (at pages 332-333). Its description: "The attack on the President's life--Scene in the ladies' room of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad depot--The arrest of the assassin / from sketches by our special artist's [sic] A. Berghaus and C. Upham."

Garfield sank to the floor, allegedly falling on a floor tile which is now housed at the Smithsonian Institute. He was initially examined at the station by Dr. Smith Townsend, the first doctor to reach him.

Frail and in poor health, Lucretia ("Crete") Rudolph Garfield, the First Lady, was not with the President at the train station. Recovering from a serious bout of malaria, she was at a resort in New Jersey. She quickly returned to the White House.

Garfield's wound was initially 3.5 inches long. But as one doctor after another poked and prodded the President, looking for the bullet, Garfield's condition worsened. His pus-oozing wound eventually measured 20 inches!

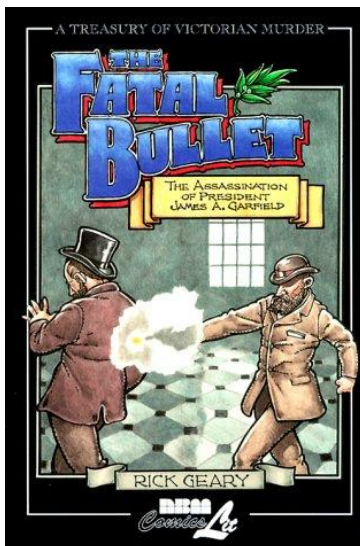
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ASSASSINATION-of-PRESIDENT-GARFIELD-Guiteau-and-the-Assassination-of-President-Garfield>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ASSASSINATION-of-PRESIDENT-GARFIELD-Guiteau-and-the-Assassination-of-President-Garfield>

Media Stream



The Fatal Bullet - by Rick Geary

Image online courtesy, [Graphic Novel Resources](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Fatal-Bullet-by-Rick-Geary>



Illustration - Caring for Garfield after the Shooting

Image online, courtesy the printsoldandrare.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Illustration-Caring-for-Garfield-after-the-Shooting>



President Garfield After the Shooting

Image online courtesy, [The White House Historical Association](#) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Garfield-After-the-Shooting>