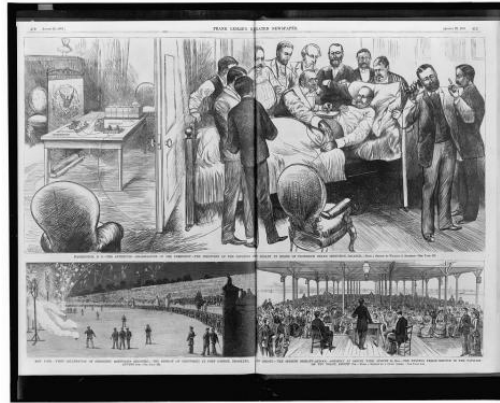


0. WHERE IS THE BULLET? - Story Preface
1. CHARLES GITEAU: ERSTWHILE LAWYER
2. PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT GARFIELD
3. ASSASSINATION of PRESIDENT GARFIELD
- 4. WHERE IS THE BULLET?**
5. DEATH OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD
6. MURDER TRIAL of CHARLES GITEAU
7. GITEAU: WAS HE INSANE?
8. GITEAU'S SENTENCE: DEATH
9. EXECUTION BY HANGING



At first people thought the President would survive. Garfield's attending physicians, however, searched for Guiteau's bullet without using sterile conditions. These illustrations appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* August 20, 1881. The Library of Congress provides details of these pictures:

"The attempted assassination of the president - the discovery of the location of the bullet by means of Professor Bell's induction-balance / from a sketch by William A. Skinkle ; ABS.

New York - First celebration of President Garfield's recovery - the display of fireworks at Fort Greene, Brooklyn, August 4th.

New Jersey - The seaside Sabbath-School assembly at Asbury Park, August 2d-12th - the evening praise-service in the pavilion on the beach, August 7th / from a sketch by a staff artist." Click on the image for a better view.

The President's doctors did what they thought was right. The problem is, what the doctors thought was wrong.

Without using sterilization (which was a new concept in 1881), attending physicians probed the President's wound with unwashed fingers and unsterilized medical devices. First Dr. D.W. Bliss looked for the elusive bullet. Then the Surgeon General of the Army, followed by the Surgeon General of the Navy, unsuccessfully hunted for it. These, of course, were the days before X-rays allowed doctors to look inside a human body.

Even Alexander Graham Bell (who had invented the "photophone" in 1880) was summoned to find the missing bullet. Using his new metal-detecting device, Bell hooked up his gadget to the President. At first everyone thought Bell had successfully located the slug. But when surgeons operated on the President, they STILL did not locate the bullet. Only then did anyone realize the great inventor had actually detected the metal mattress coils of the President's bed. The bullet, lodged near Garfield's vertebrae, was never found while the President was alive.

After all the unsterilized probing of the President's body, including at least one nick of his liver, Garfield developed a massive infection. Blood poisoning, perhaps from the bullet, complicated his condition. After 2½ months of anguished suffering, James Garfield died at 10:30 p.m. on 19 September 1881.

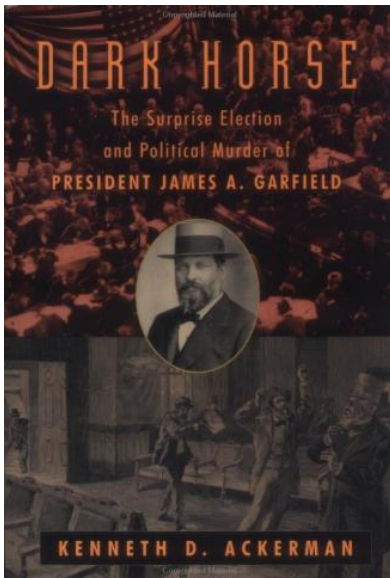
Chester Arthur was sworn in as President. And Charles Jules Guiteau would now be tried for capital murder.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHERE-IS-THE-BULLET-Guiteau-and-the-Assassination-of-President-Garfield>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHERE-IS-THE-BULLET-Guiteau-and-the-Assassination-of-President-Garfield>

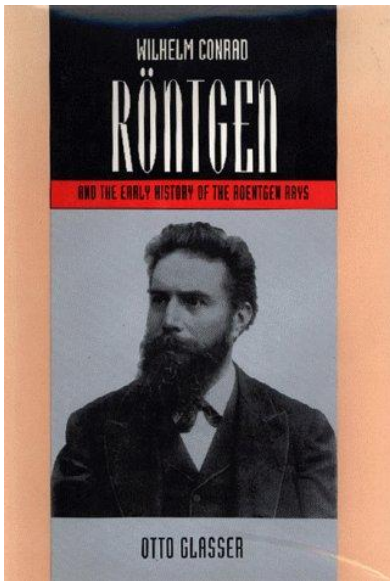


Dark Horse - by Kenneth D. Ackerman

Image online courtesy, the [Emerging Civil War](#) website.

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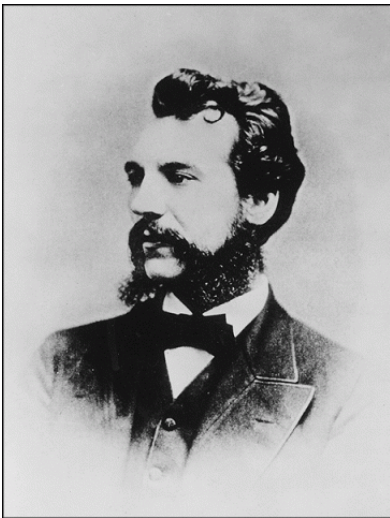


Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen - by Otto Glasser

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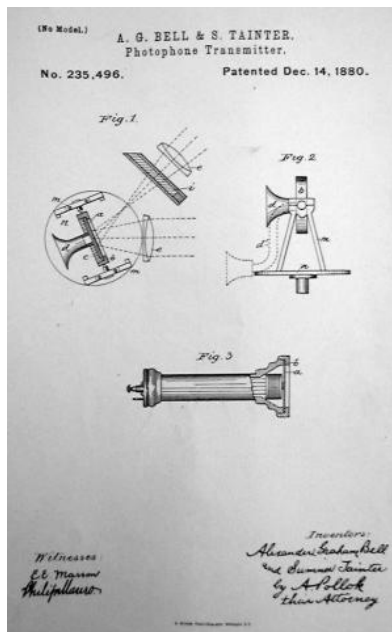


Alexander Graham Bell

Image online courtesy, the [IEEE.org](#) website.

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Bell's Photophone Patent

Image online courtesy, the [Audio Engineering Society](http://www.audioengineeringsociety.com/) website.

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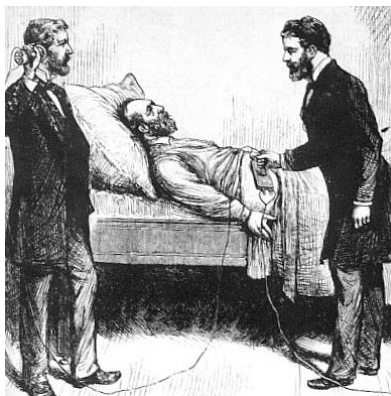
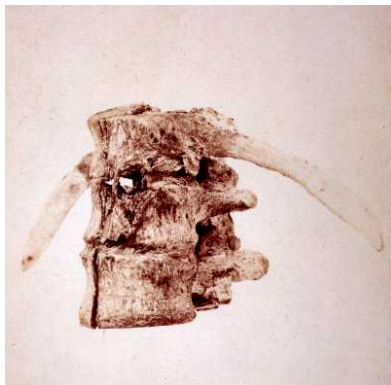


Illustration - Bell with President Garfield

Image online courtesy, the [histohry](http://www.historyblog.com/) blog.

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The Bullet Hole in Garfield's Vertebrae

Image online courtesy, Magrath Library of Legal Medicine, Harvard Medical School, 1934.

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