

0. A PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL - Story Preface

1. A POPULAR PRESIDENT

2. A SHOOTING IN BUFFALO

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5. IT IS OVER

**6. A PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL**

7. TRIAL AND EXECUTION



Bad weather, including rain, did not prevent thousands of people from paying their respects to President McKinley as his body arrived in Washington, D.C. from Buffalo, New York. This image depicts a scene in the nation's capital on September 17, 1901. The photo, by an undetermined photographer (perhaps N. Lazarnick), appeared in the 21 October 1901 issue of *Harper's Weekly* (at page 968). Image online via the Library of Congress. Click on it for a better view.

President McKinley's official cause of death was "the gangrene which affected the stomach around the bullet wounds as well as the tissues around the further course of the bullet."

James Creelman, a "yellow journalist" who was outside the Milburn House where McKinley lay for eight days, wrote a first-hand account of the President's last days. Rarely has a tough-minded journalist written so movingly about an American head of state.

The President's body was initially taken by funeral cortege to the Buffalo City Hall. It was then transported by train - first to Washington, D.C. and then to Canton, Ohio where the President and Mrs. McKinley had lived.

Thomas Edison's company once again recorded the events by moving film. The new President, Theodore Roosevelt, was on the scene as the dead President's coffin was removed from the train in Canton. TR followed the coffin to McKinley's home.

A huge crowd of people, anxious to view his body, gathered at the President's house. The description of Edison's movie (which the company sold for \$12) is interesting:

*Here we present probably the most interesting and valuable of the McKinley funeral series. Our camera is located opposite the McKinley home on Market street, Canton, at 9 A.M. on the day of the funeral, September 19th, 1901.*

*As the camera revolves, immense crowds of people who are slowly passing the house come into view. The soldiers of the National Guard of the State of Ohio are everywhere visible. In the center of the film we present an absolutely perfect view of the McKinley home and at the front door can be seen a soldier and a sailor on guard.*

*The camera continues revolving until the McKinley house passes out of view and the strip ends with the camera looking down Market Street toward the Court House.*

As numerous carriages headed to the cemetery in Canton, the person closest to McKinley was not present. Ida attended neither the funeral nor the cemetery services.



With the President laid to rest, the country's attention turned to the prosecution of his murderer.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-PRESIDENTIAL-FUNERAL-President-McKinley-Assassination>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-PRESIDENTIAL-FUNERAL-President-McKinley-Assassination>

## Media Stream

The bullet has not yet been found. There was no sign of peritonitis or disease of other organs. The heart walls were very thin. There was no evidence of any attempt at repair on the part of nature and death resulted from the gangrene which affected the stomach around the bullet wounds as well as the tissues around the further course of the bullet. Death was unavoidable by any surgical or medical treatment and was the direct result of the bullet wound.

Signed, Harvey R. Gaylord, Herman G. Matzinger, P. M. Rixey, Matthew D. Mann, Herman Mynter, Roswell Park, Eugene Wasdin, Charles G. Stockton, Edward G. Jaraway, W. W. Johnston, W. P. Kendall, Surgeon, U. S. Army, Charles Cary, Edward L. Munson, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army, Hermann L. Baer.

Sunday the President's body lay in state at the City Hall from noon until late at night and it is estimated that over 100,000 people gazed at the marble-like features of the dead ruler.

Monday morning the funeral train left Buffalo for Washington.

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REPORTS having been circulated and published to the effect that there was serious disagreement among the President's physicians, a meeting of the staff was held at the residence of Mr. Ansley Wilcox, Tuesday evening, Sept. 17, 1901, to consider the subject. As a result the following statement was issued:

The undersigned, surgeons and physicians who were in attendance on the late President McKinley, have had their attention called to certain sensational statements recently published in the daily papers and particularly in one New York paper, indicating dissension and mutual recrimination among them.

We desire to say to the press and the public, once for all, that every such publication and all alleged interviews with any of us containing criticism of one another or of any of our associates, are false and are nothing but scandal mongering.

We say again that there was never a serious disagreement among the professional attendants as to any of the symptoms or as to treatment of the case, or as to the bulletins which were issued. A very unusual harmony of opinion and of action prevailed all through the case.

The unfortunate result could not have been foreseen before the unfavorable symptoms declared themselves late on the sixth day and could not have been prevented by any human agency.

Pending the completion and publication of the official reports of the post-mortem examiners and of the attending staff we shall refuse to make any further statements for publication, and alleged interviews with any of us may be known to be fictitious.

Matthew D. Mann, Roswell Park, Herman Mynter, Eugene Wasdin, Charles G. Stockton.

### McKinley's Cause of Death - Medical Report

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/McKinley-s-Cause-of-Death-Medical-Report>



### 1901 Funeral Procession

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HEAD OF THE FUNERAL PROCESSION LEAVING THE MILBURN HOUSE

### McKinley Funeral Procession

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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THE MCKINLEY HOME AT CANTON

### President McKinley's Home

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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### Crowds Waiting to View McKinley's Body

Image online, courtesy [Library of Congress](#).

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THE RECEIVING TOMB, WEST LAWN CEMETERY, CANTON  
THE ABOVE TOMB IS THE HOME OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY, WHOSE  
BODY WAS RECEIVED HERE AFTER HIS DEATH.

### West Lawn Cemetery - Initial Burial Place of President McKinley

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/West-Lawn-Cemetery-Initial-Burial-Place-of-President-McKinley>



THE MCKINLEY BURIAL LOT, WEST LAWN CEMETERY  
HERE THE MCKINLEY COFFIN WAS DEPOSITED, AND WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S BODY WILL REMAIN.



### A PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL

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### Presidential Funerals - William McKinley

Library of Congress video. Online, courtesy [Library of Congress](#).

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