

THE DAY AFTER PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS SHOT

David Emory Grubb 1844-1926

David Emory Grubb, Noah and Drew's 4th great-grandfather, was born in Virginia in 1844. He fought in the Civil War, on the Confederate side, as did other men from Virginia.

During the battle of Dinwiddie, David was captured by Union forces and was held as a Prisoner of War at Hart's Island, New York until June 20, 1865. At the end of the war, to gain release, he signed an Oath of Allegiance to the United States. David was a prisoner at Hart's Island when the following event happened:

"On the night of the assassination of President Lincoln, Sergeant-Major DeLacy was the officer of the guard on Hart's Island. He remained on duty until nine o'clock of the morning of April 15th, 1865. DeLacy, soon after sunrise on the forenoon of that sad day, he was on his way to the officers' mess, and before he arrived there he heard the rumor that Lincoln had been shot.

After procuring a copy of the 'New York Herald,' he returned to the rebel camp, and with a young Confederate drummer boy, went to the middle of the prison campus and ordered him to beat the assembly, which aroused the camp. He was soon surrounded by acres of men, and there on a box, he announced the death of the nation's great War President, and read an account of the same from the columns of the newspaper.

After the Captain got through, there was a profound silence, which was not broken until a hand was raised and a Confederate in a loud voice shouted, 'Officer! Officer! We do not endorse assassination,' and at the same time up went the hands of thousands of rebel comrades.

Soon another with raised hand cried out, 'Officer! Officer! We have lost our best friend; Old Abe would forgive us,' and still another exclaimed, 'Officer! Officer! The North will now persecute us.'

To this the Captain responded, 'You, my Confederate friend over there, do not for a single moment entertain the thought that the North will persecute you for the fiendish act of the lunatic, crank or assassin, whose wicked hand has struck down the sincere and humane friend of the South, Abraham Lincoln.'