

Dr. William Jayne on Inauguration.

(Interview Oct. 22, 1898.)

Dr. William Jayne of Springfield, Ill., was among those who saw Lincoln's first inauguration. Dr. Jayne was then State Senator from the Springfield district; a month later he became, by Presidential appointment, Governor of Dakota Territory, and in 1863 territorial delegate to Congress. Dr. Jayne says:

"I suppose twenty or thirty, possibly forty, of Lincoln's fellow-townsmen were in Washington at the time of the inauguration. However, they did not all go together. I went to Washington with Gov. Yates, arriving Friday morning, March 1. Washington was astir in anticipation of the inauguration. I never saw more delightful weather than that which marked the three closing days of Buchanan's administration. On Sunday morning ~~xxxx~~ a soft, mild, spring-like breeze from the South seemed to fill Washington with the fragrance of oranges and magnolias. After ~~an~~ a beautiful sunset, the wind rose and came in fitful gusts, gaining in violence as the evening wore away. It shifted to the west during the night, and the morning of March 4 found the sky overcast with clouds rapidly flying eastward. By 10 o'clock the temperature had fallen thirty degrees; but notwithstanding the frosty, biting air, Pennsylvania ^{avenue} was black with humanity. People were there from frigid New England, from the Central states, from the regions of the great lakes and from the valleys of the Ohio and the Mississippi.

"My first sight of Lincoln that ~~xxxxixxxx~~ day was when he and President Buchanan, in an open barouche, drove ~~saxxxPxxx~~ up Avenue Pennsylvania ^A to the capitol. The broad thoroughfare, of course, was lined with eager people. Some mounted cavalrymen and some soldiers patrolling the streets gave a hint of the apprehensions of danger then prevalent in Washington.

"I went to the capitol and joined the crowd that had assembled to hear the inaugural address. I stood perhaps fifty feet from Lincoln and heard every word of his inaugural with great distinctness. As he arose with his high silk hat in his hand, ~~Steeplexxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ immensely perplexed as to what to do with it, Stephen A. Douglas came forward, graciously took the hat and held it throughout the ceremony. Lincoln read his inaugural with calmness and deliberation. It seemed to make a deep impression on the assemblage."

J. McCah Davis.