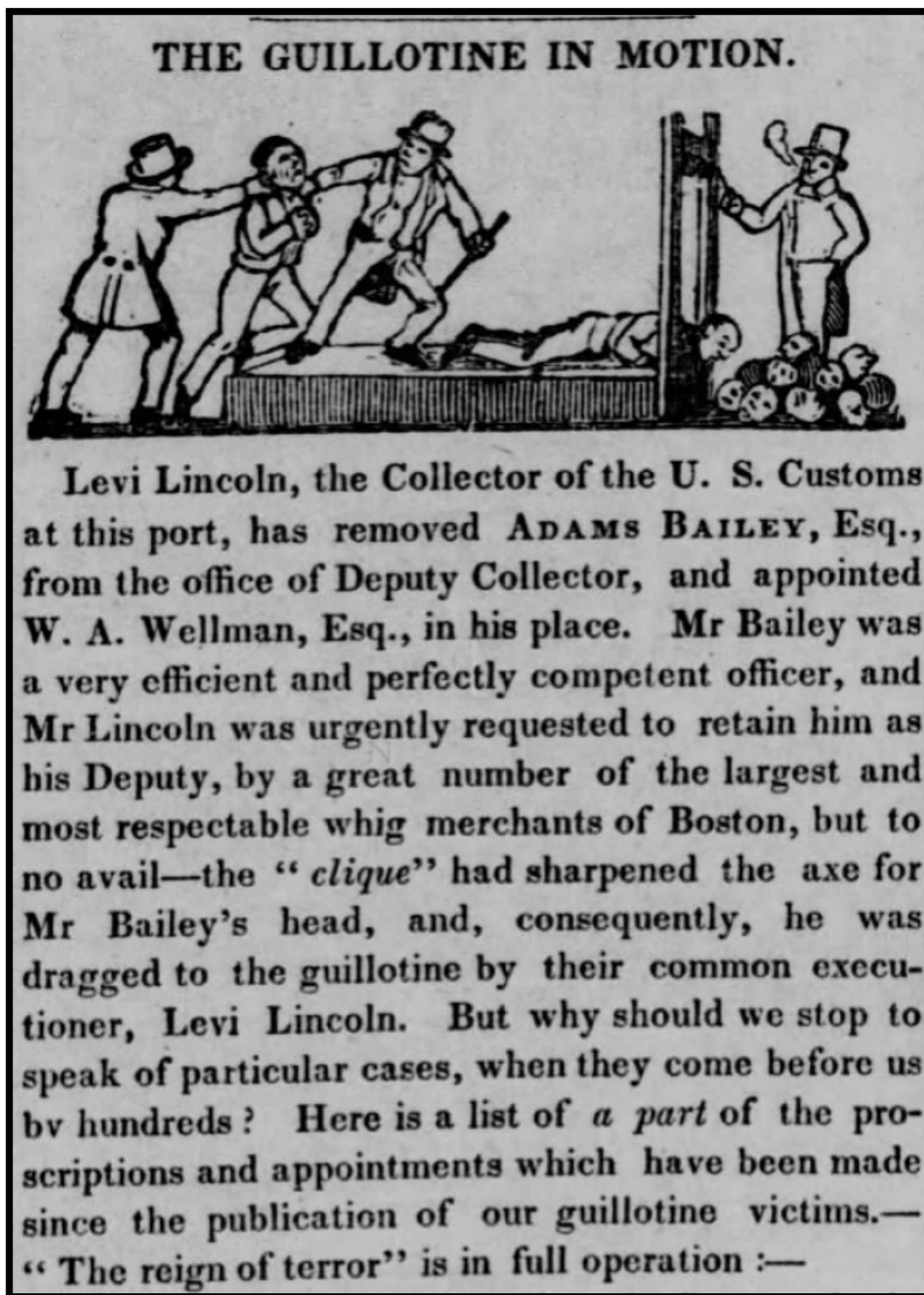


U.S. Customs Guillotine Images

By Steven W. Hooper



At Philadelphia, the Collector has swept his entire office at one swing. The Philadelphia Correspondent of the New York Herald (whig) says :—

“ Roberts has found the axe too tedious ; and so, at one fell swoop, he has cleared the Custom House. Not a man spared. Of forty-three inspectors, not one is left to tell the tale—all are headless trunks. Miserable policy, and disgusting proscription ! for many of them had never interfered in the smallest degree in politics, and ought to have been retained.”

“ There is an universal burst of indignation among party men, and the state is lost to the whigs. The appointments are confined, with hardly an exception, to a set of worthless Clay loafers, and the whole proceeding is viewed with the strongest disgust in this community.”

Mr Curtis, the Collector at New York, has also got his axe in full play—several heads were chopped off on Saturday. Curtis is a handsome man.

Figure 1: Abridged version of a newspaper article from the May 3, 1841, edition of the *Boston Post*. The guillotine is used to illustrate the rapid removal of U.S. Customs officers at the Ports of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Source: *Boston Post*, www.newspapers.com/clip/79623941/customs-patronage-in-boston-1841.

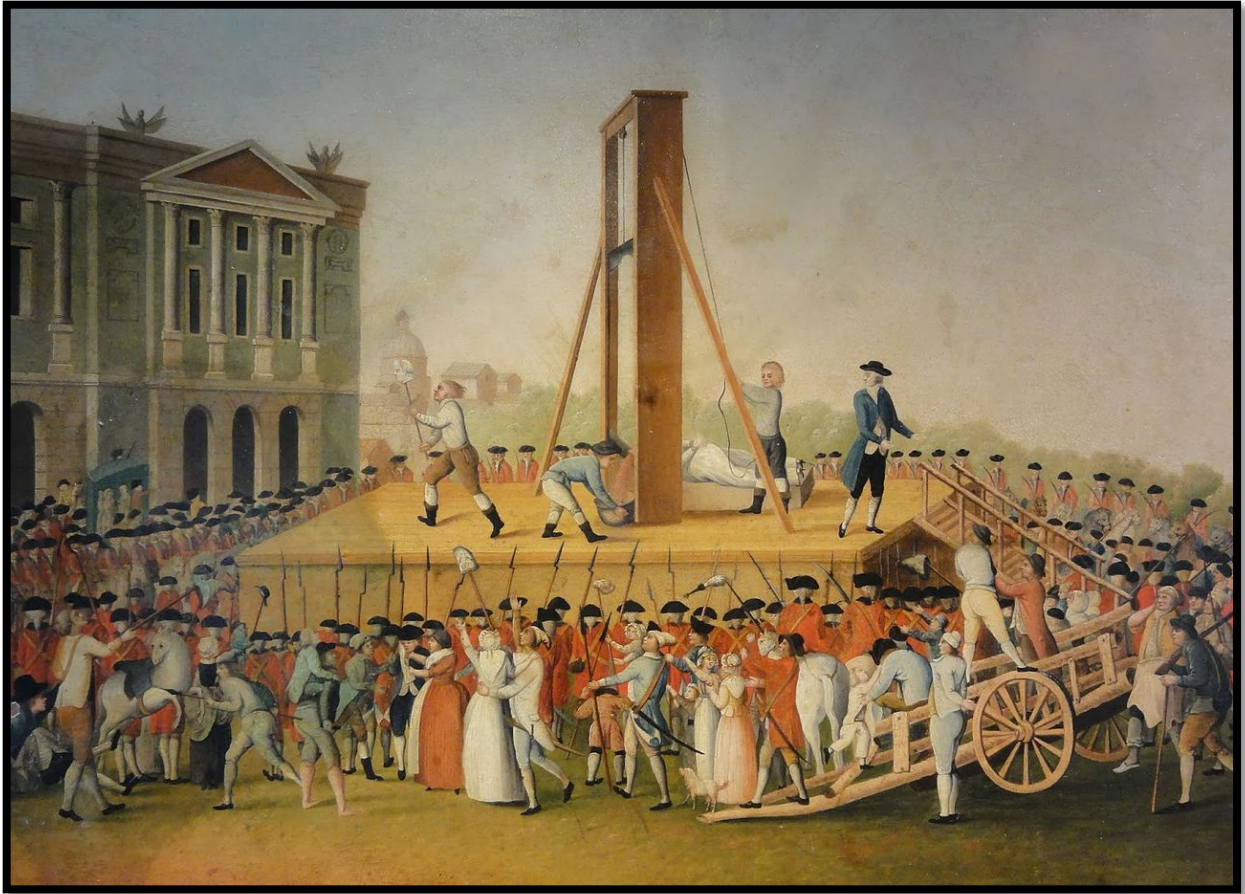


Figure 2: French Queen Marie Antoinette's execution by guillotine on October 16, 1793. The guillotine was made famous in France during the French Revolution and is now often used as a metaphor for getting rid of someone. (Source: *Wikipedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guillotine>.)

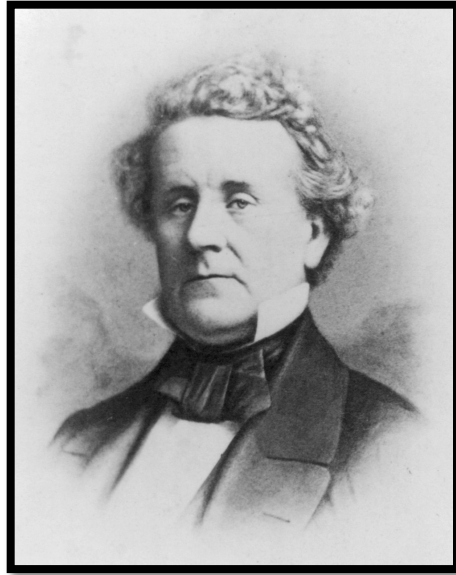


Figure 3: Collector of Customs Boston, Levi Lincoln Jr. was appointed by President William Henry Harrison in 1841 and served until 1844. Lincoln served as the 13th governor of Massachusetts in the US. House of Representatives and in various state government positions. Source: *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levi_Lincoln_Jr.

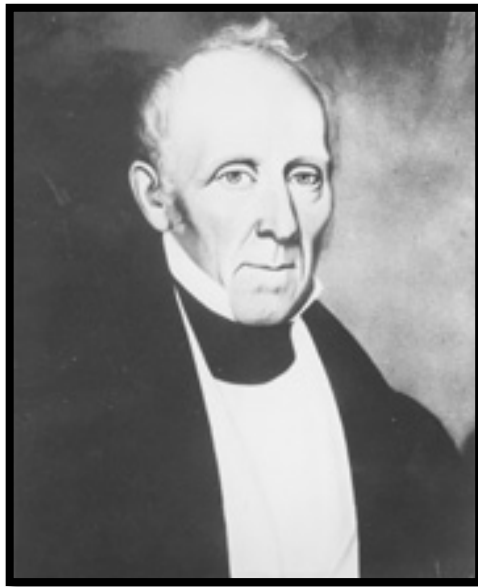


Figure 4: Collector of Customs Philadelphia Jonathan Roberts was appointed by President William Henry Harrison in 1841 and served until 1842. Roberts was a U.S. representative and senator from the state of Pennsylvania and served in various state government positions. Sources: *Pennsylvania State Senate*, <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/MemBio.cfm?!D=5392&body=S> and *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Roberts_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Roberts_(politician)).