



Figure 46. Arm span. Almost an entire book could be written about this photograph, which is yet another one taken at Antietam on Oct. 3, 1862.

Lincoln's *proportional* arm length can be estimated by: (1) adding the distances from A to B to C to D, then (2) dividing by the distance from E to F. The result is 1.08. A ratio greater than 1.05 is a sign of Marfan syndrome. Multiplying 1.08 by Lincoln's known height, $75\frac{3}{4}$ inches, yields his *actual* wing-span: 82 inches = 6-feet 10-inches.

Several factors add uncertainty to our measurement of the ratio: (1) Lincoln is slightly angled before the camera, (2) his right arm, at least, is not straight, (3) his clothing forces us to estimate the location of his shoulders, and (4) normally, the armspan-to-height ratio is measured with the patient's arms held straight out to the side. Lincoln's ratio is sufficiently abnormal that these factors are unlikely to change the overall conclusion that his arms were long.

Other findings: Lincoln's thinness is apparent. His chest appears asymmetric, and the daylight between his waist and the crook of his right arm suggests an asymmetry in the low back, all of which raises the question of scoliosis or a rib deformity. Lincoln's eyes are nearly closed and his face is blurred; he predicted he "may sway in the breeze a bit"²⁶ (see enlargement in Figure 89RIGHT). At left is the famous detective, Alan Pinkerton. At right is the obscure Major General, John McClelland.