

Ford's Theatre
National Historic Site



Laura Keane



Laura Keene

Born: July 20, 1826 in Winchester, England

Died: November 4, 1873 in Montclair, New Jersey

Laura Keene was a famous actress and was the leading lady in “Our American Cousin” at Ford’s Theatre on April 14, 1865. When the Lincolns and their guests entered the theatre after the start of the play, Ms. Keene stopped the production and ordered the orchestra to play “Hail to the Chief.” Mr. Lincoln received a standing ovation.