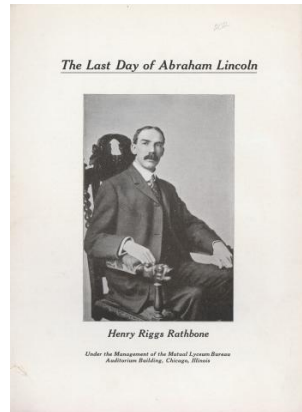




Major Henry Reed Rathbone and his fiancé, Clara Harris, attended the play with President and Mrs. Lincoln on the night of the fatal shooting.

In addition to his Derringer, Booth had a knife which he used on Rathbone. After a struggle with the Major, Booth jumped from the presidential box to the stage below.

Years later, Major Rathbone's son—Henry Riggs Rathbone (1870-1928)—became a Republican Congressman, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1923 to his death in 1928. As depicted in this promotional flyer, he was also a speaker about what had happened to his parents, and Abraham Lincoln, on the last day of the President's life.

The younger Rathbone endured his own trauma, while he was a boy. In 1882, he and his family moved to Germany where his father worked in Hanover. The following year, his father (the former Major Rathbone) murdered his mother and was committed to an asylum for the criminally insane in the German town of Hildesheim (located south of Hanover).

The Rathbone children, now without both their parents, were sent back to the States where they lived with their maternal uncle, William Harris.

The tragedy of his parents did not impede the young Rathbone's academic success. After graduating from Phillips Academy (in Andover, Massachusetts) during 1888, he successfully completed his undergraduate studies at Yale and then took a law degree from the University of Wisconsin (in 1894).

Rathbone went on the speaking circuit to talk about what happened the night the President was shot. This image depicts how he appeared at that time.

Click on the image for a better view.

Credits:

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Last-Day-of-Abraham-Lincoln-by-Henry-Riggs-Rathbone>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Last-Day-of-Abraham-Lincoln-by-Henry-Riggs-Rathbone>



Henry Reed Rathbone - Stabbed by John Wilkes Booth

Photo of Henry Reed Rathbone, maintained at the Lincoln Museum (in Fort Wayne, Indiana); online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Henry-Reed-Rathbone-Stabbed-by-John-Wilkes-Booth>

Clara Harris - Present at Lincoln's Assassination

The image on the left depicts Clara Harris after she married her fiancé, Major Henry Reed Rathbone. Both Rathbone and Harris were present, at Ford's Theatre, on the night that John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Lincoln.

A photo depicting a younger woman, on the right—which is maintained at the U.S. National Archives—is often misidentified as Clara Harris. Historians have verified, however, that the right-side image is not Clara Harris.

Later in life, Major Rathbone—who never quite got over what happened the night Lincoln was killed—seems to have lost his mind. Booth had injured him, too—with a knife—and just before Christmas, in 1883, Rathbone took a knife and a pistol and tried to kill himself and his children. He succeeded in killing his wife, Clara.

Click on the image for a better view.

Photo on the left, by an unnamed photographer, depicting Clara Harris Rathbone is [online via Ford's Theatre](#). Public Domain.

Photo on the right, by an unnamed photographer and maintained at the U.S. National Archives (where it is misidentified as "Clara Harris"), online via U.S. National Archives. Public Domain.

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