

0. CAPTURE and DEATH of JOHN WILKES BOOTH - Story Preface

1. MARY SURRETT

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4. CAPTURE and DEATH of JOHN WILKES BOOTH

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Alfred Waud (1828-1891), an artist born in London who became famous for his accurate sketches during America's Civil War, created this illustration of "The Capture of Booth, the Slayer of Lincoln." It depicts Booth in the barn after detective Everton J. Conger set the place on fire. Because of cracks in the barn, officers could see Booth moving around with his carbine and his crutch. Image online, courtesy the Library of Congress.

Booth made good his escape from Washington and, with the help of Confederate sympathizers along the way, remained at large nearly two weeks. Writing his thoughts in a makeshift diary, he did not apologize for his plans.

On April 26, 1865 - twelve days after he killed the President - Booth was tracked down to a farm in Virginia. Hiding out in Garrett's barn, he was still with David Herold.

Unarmed, Herold left the barn after Booth said only *he* intended to fire the pair's weapons. Setting fire to the barn, Booth's captors hoped to force the assassin into the open, where they could seize him.

Instead, Sgt. Boston Corbett - from Company L, Sixteenth New York Cavalry - shot Booth in the neck. He lived four hours, attended by a doctor who could not save him.

From the beginning, Edwin Stanton (the Secretary of War) and other federal officials believed that Booth did not act alone. Even before anyone heard about the near-fatal attack on Secretary Seward, people questioned how a lone gunman could have so skillfully masterminded the first assassination of an American president.

There had to be a conspiracy, was the general belief, and investigators - led by Lafayette Baker of the National Detective Police - wasted no time to learn who was involved. As the story goes, a man on the street suggested that investigators visit the Surratt boardinghouse on H Street.

Within six hours following the shooting, Mary Surratt was awakened by a ringing doorbell. After that first interview, no one in the Surratt home was arrested. Soon, however, the authorities wanted to question her son, John.

Two days later, another group of investigators had more questions for Mary and her household residents. It was late - around 11 p.m. on the evening of April 17th - when the investigators arrived. They wanted to determine the whereabouts of John Surratt - Mary's Confederate-courier son - but what the investigators actually learned produced far-more sweeping consequences.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CAPTURE-and-DEATH-of-JOHN-WILKES-BOOTH-Conspirator-Mary-Surratt>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CAPTURE-and-DEATH-of-JOHN-WILKES-BOOTH-Conspirator-Mary-Surratt>

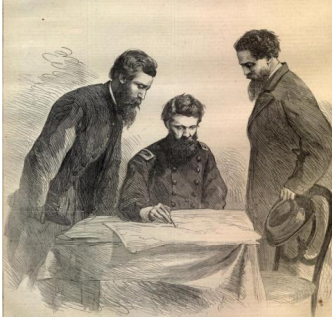


Lafayette Baker - Lead Assassination Detective

Image of Lafayette Curry Baker, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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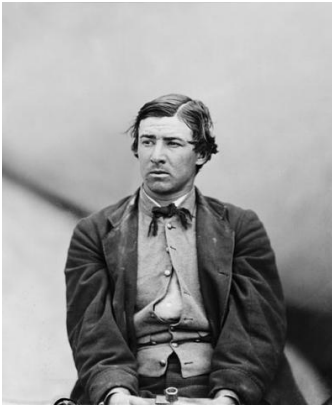


Baker Plans the Capture of John Wilkes Booth

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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David Herold - Conspiracy Trial Defendant

Photo of David Herold, by Alexander Gardner, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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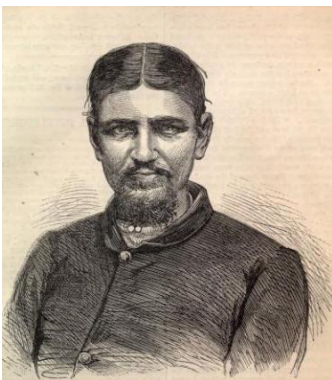


Booth in the Burning Barn at Garrett's Farm

Illustration and quoted passages from Harper's Weekly, May 13, 1865 issue. Online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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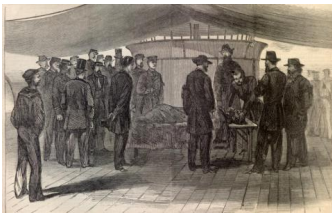


Boston Corbett - Shooter of John Wilkes Booth

Photo of Corbett, by Matthew Brady, published in the May 13, 1865 issue of Harper's Weekly. Quoted passages also from that issue. Online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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John Wilkes Booth - After Death

Illustration and quoted passage, from Harper's Weekly May 13, 1865 issue, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Edwin Stanton

Photo of Edwin Stanton, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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John Surratt - Wanted for Questioning on Lincoln's Murder

Image from the *Life and Extraordinary Adventures of John H. Surratt* - published in Philadelphia (1867) by Barclay & Co. - online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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