

0. FORD'S THEATRE - Story Preface

1. FORD'S THEATRE

2. A SHOCKING DEATH

3. DIARY of JOHN WILKES BOOTH

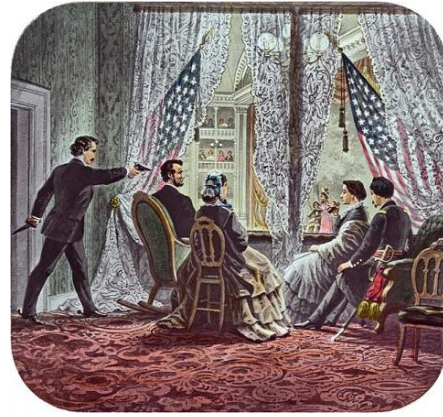
4. MISSING PAGES of a DIARY

5. THE STATUE of LIBERTY

6. HMS RESOLUTE

7. OLMEC GLYPHS

8. MOUNT RUSHMORE



This image depicts a restored slide illustrating an artistic impression of John Wilkes Booth who is about to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. Booth is holding a Deringer and a knife. After shooting the President, Booth used the knife to harm Major Rathborne (who was Lincoln's guest at the play). Booth dropped his pistol during his escape from Ford's Theatre. Although the engraver of this image is unattributed, it is based on a mechanical glass slide by T. M. McAllister of New York, c1865-75. Online via Wikimedia Commons.

Four days before attending the play, the President spent time with his young son, Tad. General Lee had just surrendered at the Wilmer McLean home (in the Virginia village of Appomattox Court House), so the war was essentially over.

The city of Washington was in a celebratory mood, and Lincoln looked relaxed. He'd even managed a smile for the photographer.

Although the performance was already underway when the presidential party arrived, the band played "Hail to the Chief" as Lincoln entered Ford's Theatre. Settling into a red rocking chair—now owned by the Henry Ford Museum—he must have appreciated the warm welcome he'd just received.

Around 10:15 p.m., John Wilkes Booth entered the President's box, his single-shot, muzzle-loading Deringer pistol at the ready. As an actor who had performed on Ford's stage, Booth knew the place well. This time, however, he came to play a different role.

Lincoln was unprotected. Accounts differ on the location of his bodyguard.

Had one been with him, it may not have mattered since Charles Forbes, the president's valet (apparently seated just outside the door) had admitted at least two people into the presidential box. One of those people was Booth. (See Manhunt, by James L. Swanson, pages 38-39.)

Undeterred, and with his weapon undetected, Booth had easy access to Abraham Lincoln. The assassin aimed his pistol and fired one point-blank shot at Lincoln's head.

Entering through his left ear, the .44-caliber lead ball lodged behind the president's right eye.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FORD-S-THEATRE-National-Treasure-Book-of-Secrets>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FORD-S-THEATRE-National-Treasure-Book-of-Secrets>

Media Stream



Appomattox

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Park Service.

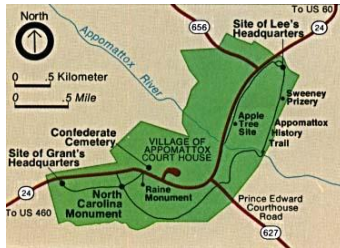
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McLean Home Photo

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Appomattox Courthouse - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy the nationalparksgallery.com website.

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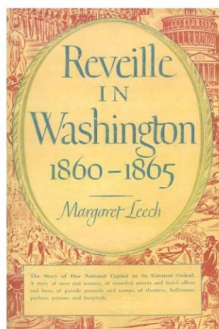


Abraham Lincoln's Last Reception

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Abraham-Lincoln-s-Last-Reception>



Reveille in Washington 1860-1865 - by Margaret Leach

Image online, courtesy margaretleach.com website.

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President Lincoln and son Tad

Image online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

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Lincoln's Chair at Ford Theater

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

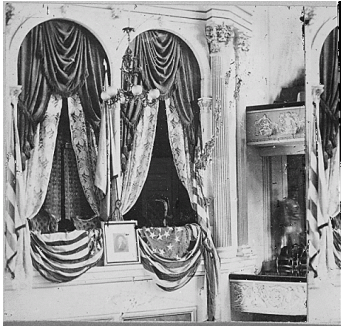
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Lincoln's Red Rocking Chair

Image online, courtesy the Travel and Escape website.

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President's Box at Ford's Theater

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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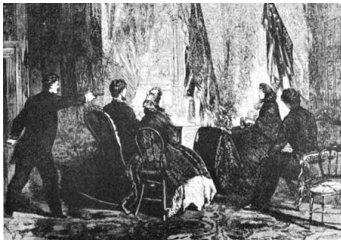
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Derringer - The Gun Used by Booth

Photo by Wknight94. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

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Assassination of Lincoln - Frank Leslie's Illustrated

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Park Service.

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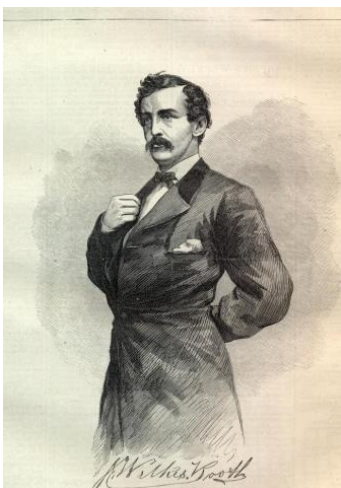
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Booth Pistol Photo

Image online, courtesy the rogerjnorton.com website.

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J. Wilkes Booth - Illustration by Harper's Weekly

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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John Wilkes Booth

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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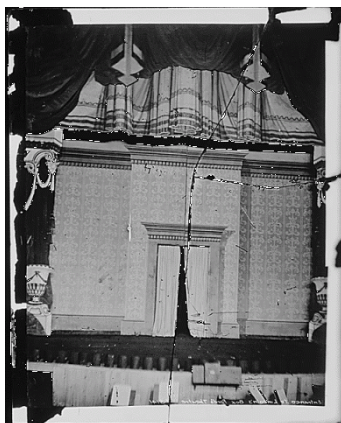
Lincoln Assassination - Harper's Weekly Illustration

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Stage at Ford's Theater

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Wilmer McLean Home

Image online, courtesy the civil-war.net website.

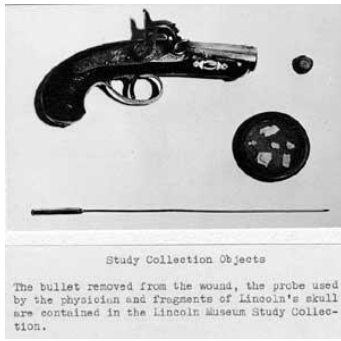
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Booth's Deringer - Muzzle View

Image online, courtesy the fbi.gov website.

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Booth's Deringer - .44 Caliber Lead Ball

Image online, courtesy the [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Booth-s-Deringer-.44-Caliber-Lead-Ball>