

# INCIDENTS

## Of a Great Tragedy

### Recalled By a Ride Through Maryland.

#### Where Booth Hatched the Awful Conspiracy

#### That Culminated in President Lincoln's Murder,

#### And the Disgraceful and Agonizing Death of His Cold-Blooded Assassin.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 17.—When Judge Samuel Hunt and myself went last week to Charleston, W. Va., we made the acquaintance of a Mr. Wyatt, who was just closing up the Powhatan summer resort at that place, a large hotel built in the general town-booming period in the valley of Virginia and abortive of results. Mr. Wyatt told me that the elegant and expensive Winchester Hotel, at that little war city, had been several years completed, and not a piece of furniture was in it nor ever a guest had been there. Some Pennsylvanian at Seranton, to wreck his resentment on his own town, left his fortune to Winchester.

We also saw at Charlestown the hall over an engine house called the "Charles Broadway Rouss" Hall, by its endower, a job lot merchant in New York, who also offered as a grandiose bluff, to give \$500,000 to build a "Southern Battle Abbey" at Washington City if other people would give \$500,000 more. Battle Abbey" was founded by William the Norman on Hastings Field to celebrate the victory.

James B. Taylor, a Cincinnati sketch artist for the pictorial papers in the war, came to see me a fortnight ago direct from General Rosser at Charlottesville, Va. Rosser and some Northern General were preparing to lecture for

#### "THE BATTLE ABBEY"

All over the country, and raise the \$500,000. I sympathized with them, as I have been nine months raising \$5,000 to record the names of Mr. Taylor and other limners of the war upon a landscape gateway. Since the visit of Mr. Taylor I have read somewhere that the Battle Abbey project has been dropped.

As we rode to Washington City Mr. Wyatt told me that he was reared in the Maryland region where Booth raved out in the ragged tatters of the war and butchered Lincoln into pity and sainthood. Mr. Wyatt said he saw Booth the first day he ever appeared in Southern Maryland, at the Catholic

Church, a mile from Bryantown. Mr. Wyatt filled another link in that ever memorable hegira of ruffians by telling me what happened to Booth and Herold after they left Dr. Mudd's at dark Saturday, April 15, 1865. Booth's leg had been set, Mudd had gone to Bryantown to turn pale at the sight of soldiery there, and Herold had accompanied him part of the way to town. Fright seized the whole outfit.

The two bandits wanted to find Dr. Sam Mudd's, without asking for it; so they asked for the house of a man named Bursell, and compelled a colored man to go with them, whom they picked up on the way. As he rode with the men 20 miles, his story is a new link in the chain of the crime.

Booth was drunk when he killed Lincoln, drunk when he got to Surrattsville, and, it now appears, was drunk when he left Cox's.

#### AN UNWILLING GUIDE.

Burtell, or Bursell, was the name of the man to whom Booth and Herold were guided by Ozro Swan, colored man, the night of Saturday, April 15, 1865. Booth's tone threatened to kill the poor colored man, who had demurred to going so far to personally show the way that Saturday night, as he was going to his home with his grocery and market basket full. Swan set the basket down by his stable, took out his horse from the stable and went to Burtell's. He had said when Booth called, "He wont, wont he? O, I can go." Booth, drunk so long, would have killed the innocent negro.

When they got to Burtell's they asked him how far it was to Cox's. He went there, some 12 or 15 miles further, and arrived at his home next morning, where his wife had been sitting up all night, afraid that he had been foully dealt with. His market basket was still sitting by his stable door. The bandits possibly gave him a dollar or two for his enforced trouble.

Cox, toward morning, had his overseer hide Booth in the short pines, and had his adopted son, young Cox, go and inform Jones that he must get these men out of the country.

#### BOOTH AND MUDD.

Dr. Mudd was the first man to enter Booth's conspiracy the day Booth came to the Catholic Church at Bryantown with Dr. Queen's family. He had appeared toward November 1, 1864, with a letter from Martin, a rebel refugee in Canada, addressed to the Queens. Dr. Queen's son-in-law introduced Booth to Dr. Mudd. The same day Mudd introduced a rebel spy, Thomas Harbin, to Booth, and in the tavern at Bryantown these three, Booth, Mudd and Harbin, swore to abduct President Lincoln.

Booth returned once more to that country before his flight through it, namely, in December, 1864, and again stopped one night at Dr. Queen's. Sam Arnold says Booth had a letter from Canada direct to Dr. Mudd.

In the middle of the following January Dr. Mudd, on Seventh street, Washington, introduced Booth, with whom he was walking, to John Surratt. At the National Hotel, before a witness, Surratt conferred privately with Booth and Mudd.

Surratt and Mudd procured Atzerodt, a contraband ferryman, and Herold, a field gunner. Booth himself furnished late in the event Lewis Thornton Powell, a Baptist preacher's son from Florida, who had slightly known Booth in Richmond at the outbreak of the war, and had since been a deserter, demon, &c.

Booth also supplied two vagrant chums of his boyhood in Baltimore, Mike O'Laughlin and Sam Arnold. These had been in the abduction plot as early as September, 1864.

Spangler, the scene shifter, knew all about the plot, as Samuel Harbin related to me, and ought to have been hanged. He watched for Booth when that assassin was preparing the mouse trap for Lincoln that day in the theater, and finally went to Dr. Mudd's house and died there.

Sam Cox was privy to the general conspiracy, and was protected by his lawyer becoming counsel for Herold.

#### TO PREVENT REVELATIONS.

John Surratt took Booth to his mother's, who ingratiated himself with mother and

daughter by theater passes and sentimental assiduities till Mrs. Surratt became Booth's most pliant instrument, hiding "Payne" away and driving the afternoon of the murder to her tavern to order arms, field glass, whisky and carbines for the murderers, who were to come past seven hours later. Mr. George McDonald wrote of American women in 1863:

"Down go the men in bloody fight; The women weep and hate."

The crime of Booth was matured in Canada. Martin had been one of the pirates who seized the steamer St. Nicholas near Point Lookout at the inception of the war, and when we captured Baltimore he had to fly to Canada, having no stomach for war. There he kept an exchange shop, and finally fitted for a blockade-running vessel with Alexander Keith, alias Thomassen, who put a time-explosive clock on the vessel and blew it up with Martin on board in the St. Lawrence River and got the entire insurance. Several years later he tried the same thing on a Bremen steamer and killed himself.

In Baltimore Martin kept a liquor store. He gave Marshal Kane, of Baltimore, who told me this story in the presence of Robert Garrett, a letter to John Wilkes Booth. At or near Salisbury, N. C., while flying with Jeff Davis's Government, Kane heard that Booth had killed Lincoln and tore the letter up.

As Kane took care of Martin's family during a large part of the war I suspect that

#### HE KNEW SOMETHING

Of the pirating of the steamer St. Nicholas, June 28, 1861. It was the day after Kane was arrested and put in Ft. McHenry.

Here, then, is the order of logical events in the murder of Abraham Lincoln:

1. April 17, 1861, Jefferson Davis issues a proclamation inviting privateersmen.
2. Martin, of Baltimore, formerly of Lower Maryland, and others seize the steamboat St. Nicholas at Point Lookout June 28, 1861.
3. Martin, flying to Canada, gives from there letters to Booth to Dr. Mudd and Dr. Queen, of Lower Maryland.
4. The clock machine, or horological torpedo, invented by Prof. McCullough at Richmond, is applied by Sandy Keith, or Thomassen, and blows Martin, his partner, up.
5. October, 1864, Booth appears in Lower Maryland with a letter recently written by Martin. Booth, Mudd and Harbin begin the conspiracy at Bryantown.
6. Mudd introduces Booth to Surratt in Washington, January 15, 1865; the Surratts moving up to Washington about the time Booth first went to Lower Maryland. The abduction of Lincoln designed in the summer of 1864, after Booth returned from Canada.
7. February, 1865, the spy, John Y. Beall, hanged in New York, with whom Booth had been intimate since they met at Charlestown, Va., in 1859. Booth swears revenge.
8. April 4, 1865, President Lincoln enters Richmond.
9. April 11, 1865, President Lincoln speaks at the White House and says loyal men South must be considered, black or white. Booth, present on the grounds, says to Herold: "Now, by God, I'll put him through." In four more days the murder long thought of is performed.
10. April 15, Booth all day at Mudd's.
11. April 16 to 21, six days, Booth hid by Cox's overseer and Jones in Maryland.
12. April 22-23, Booth reaches Virginia.
- April 24, crosses the Rappahannock.
- April 25, shot.

GATH.