

# THE ASSASSINATION.

## THE DETAILS OF BOOTH'S DEATH

### SEARCHING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

### STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS

### THE EXTENT OF THE CONSPIRACY.

### ARREST OF SUSPECTED CHARACTERS.

#### Arrest of a Suspected Character.

SHEFFIELD, Mass., Monday, May 1, 1865.

The town is under considerable excitement from the arrest of a person connected with a traveling exhibition, supposed to be an accomplice of Booth, who appears to answer the advertisement exactly. He has a prominent chin, a full mustache and a large scar under his left ear. Detectives from towns on the line of the Housatonic Railroad have been secreted in the village part of the day awaiting his appearance in the evening. His identity is not yet fully determined.

#### Arrest of a Maryland Congressman.

A special dispatch from Washington to *The Philadelphia Press* says that squads of cavalry and detectives are continually coming in from the surrounding country, sometimes bringing with them persons whom they have arrested upon the charge of complicity in the escape of Booth, or for uttering disloyal sentiments, &c. Among a party thus arrested and brought in here this morning, is Mr. Harris, member of Congress from Maryland, the same who was, about a year ago, by resolution of the House, declared an "unworthy member." The particular nature or character of the offense charged against Mr. Harris has not been made public. It is understood that the arrests of over one hundred persons in this city, some of them well-known citizens, which have taken place in the past forty-eight hours, are founded on disclosures made in part by Harrold, the accomplice of Booth.

#### Another Account of Booth's Death.

From *The Washington Republican*.

Hitherto the accounts of the capture of Booth have been made up and published by piecemeal. The following corrected statement, as given by Lieut. L. B. Baker, brother of Col. L. C. Baker, and belonging to his detective force, will therefore be found exceedingly interesting at this time. It is but justice to add that Lieut. Col. Conger, detective officer, also detached for the same service by Col. Baker, corroborates in all particulars the statement of Lieut. Baker, who is a gentleman of intelligence, a close observer, and was with Booth constantly during his last hours:

The party having arrived in the vicinity of Garrett's house, moved cautiously up and surrounded it. The old man Garrett came out of the kitchen door and asked, "What's this?" He was directed to light a candle and he would be told. He went in to obey the order. Meantime Col. Conger stationed a small guard near the barn. Lieut. Baker went into the house, and the old man soon joined him with a lighted candle. Baker caught him by the shoulder, and holding a pistol near the old man's head, said, "I want to know where those two men are that were here this afternoon." The old man said he did not know. Baker said, "They are here, and if you don't bring them I'll blow your brains out." The old man said the man had gone to the woods in the afternoon when the cavalry passed (meaning Baker's party.) Baker again threatened to take Garrett's life unless he disclosed,

At this moment Conger returned, and at the same instant Garrett's son, who appeared to have been listening outside, entered the room dressed in Confederate form. The son said, "Father, we had better tell him all." Conger presented his pistol to young Garrett's head and threatened to shoot him if he did not speak the truth. Young Garrett then offered to conduct the parties to the barn where he said they were concealed. As they approached the barn they met another son of Garrett, also dressed in Confederate uniform. The whole cavalry force had now surrounded the barn, mounted. Baker told young Garrett he must go in and bring out the arms of those men and deliver them over. He hesitated, but finally said he would do it. He took the keys and unlocked the door.

The barn was an old-fashioned building, 30 by 40 feet, nearly empty, and had in it some straw, hay and farming utensils. Garrett went in, but soon returned, saying they refused to give up their arms, had threatened to shoot him, and he had therefore come out. He locked the door, and gave the keys to Baker. Conger, Baker and Dougherty then held a conference, and concluded to make Booth and Harrold do one of two things—either put their arms in the hands of Garrett (in whose custody they were found), and surrender, or they would fire the barn, and the thing would end in a bonfire and shooting match. Baker was to make these propositions.

Baker went up and addressed the parties in the barn, stating what he had concluded to do, telling them that we had come to take them prisoners, and would treat them as prisoners, and would give them five minutes to consider.

A voice from inside (which was afterward found to be Booth's)—"Who are you, and what do you want of me?"

Baker—"We want you and intend to take you."

Booth—"This is a hard case. It may be that I am to be taken by my friends."

After further conversation he seemed to be convinced that he was surrounded, and said: "Give me a chance for my life; I am a cripple, with but one leg. Withdraw your men one hundred yards, and I will come out and fight you."

Baker—"We did not come to fight you, but to take you prisoner. You must give up your arms and surrender."

Booth asked time to consider, which was granted.

A low conversation was heard going on between Booth and his companion, and they could distinguish Booth's voice saying: "Go away from me, you damned coward! Leave me now, will you—you damned coward!"

While this was going on the cavalry were dismounted, and the horses taken out of the reach of the contemplated firing.

Booth then called out: "Captain, who are you? I could have picked off half a dozen of your men while we were talking and could have had half a dozen good shots at you."

Baker—"Then give up your arms and surrender; we have come here to take you, and not to fight you."

Booth—"I will never surrender. I shall never be taken alive."

Baker—"If you don't immediately surrender we will immediately set fire to the barn."

Booth—"Well, my brave boys, prepare a stretcher for me."

A short pause ensued, and further low-toned conversation was had inside of the barn.

Booth directly said: "There is a man here that wants to surrender."

Baker—"Then let him hand out his arms and come out."

Another conversation inside, in which Harrold seemed to be trying to get his arms from Booth, who was heard to say: "Go away from me; I don't want anything to do with you."

Harrold then came to the door and asked to be let out. Baker went to the door and told him: "No; hand out your arms."

Harrold replied: "I have no arms."

Baker said: "You have; you brought a carbine in the ferry-boat; hand out the carbine and one pistol, and you can come out."

Booth—"He has no arms; they are all mine. Upon my word, as a gentleman, he has no arms; they all belong to me."

Baker opened the door a short distance, and Harrold put out both hands. Baker took hold of them, brought Harrold out, and handed him over to Dougherty, and immediately shut the door and locked it.

Col. Conger then went to the side of the barn, drawing a small wisp of hay from the crack, set it on fire and thrust it back, and immediately the hay and straw inside caught and lighted up the barn as light as day.

The first seen of Booth he was standing near the middle of the barn, leaning on his crutch, with carbine in hand. On seeing the fire he immediately made toward it (dropping his crutch) with apparent intention of extinguishing the fire, or shooting the person who lighted it. When he came near the fire he hesitated, turned partly around, and his face was seen distinctly by Col.

Conger, who says Booth's face was then a picture of despair.

He then made toward the main door of the barn, with carbine in one hand and pistol in the other, and when about the center of the barn a pistol shot was heard from near the corner of the barn. During this time Baker was holding the door partially open. On hearing the shot he opened the door, and went in just in time to see Booth fall. Conger, who immediately entered the barn, said: "He has shot himself." Baker reached the body and clasped Booth by the arms, thinking he was probably only wounded. But, finding him powerless, with the aid of Conger, Dougherty and two soldiers, he was carried out of the barn and laid upon the grass a short distance from the door, and appeared to be insensible. By application of water, bathing his face and head, he revived, opened his eyes and made an effort to speak. Col. Conger placed his ear to Booth's mouth, and heard him say: "Tell mother I die for my country."

The heat became so intense that Booth was taken to the porch of Garrett's house. Col. Conger immediately sent for Port Royal for a surgeon, and an hour elapsed before the surgeon arrived, during which time Lieut. Baker constantly bathed Booth's head in ice-water, and placed in his mouth a wet cloth, Booth being unable to get his lips to a tumbler, owing to the fact that he could not be raised up. In the meantime it was discovered that the wound had been inflicted by a shot from a pistol in the hands of Sergeant Corbett of the 16th New-York Cavalry, the ball passing entirely through his neck, perforating both sides of his shirt collar.

Shortly after Booth was laid upon the porch, he made an effort to speak. He said: "Tell my mother I died for my country. I did what I thought was for the best." This was said with great difficulty, and apparently in the greatest pain. He said two or three times, at intervals: "Kill me—kill me," and by signs indicated that he wanted to cough, and that he wanted Conger to put his hand on his throat. Conger did so, but Booth did not succeed in coughing. He seemed now to be yelling rapidly, but revived again and said: "My hands." His hands were then lying motionless by his side. Baker raised one of his hands so that Booth could see it, and bathed it in ice-water. Booth, with great effort, his eyes glaring at the hand, said: "Useless—useless." Baker let go his hand, which fell powerless by the dying man's side.

Again Booth sank away, and was fast falling when the surgeon arrived. The surgeon examined the wound for some minutes; said Booth might live for twenty-four hours. But Booth's countenance soon changed, his eyes assuming a glassy appearance. The surgeon then said he thought he was dying. About this time Col. Conger left for Washington, with orders to bring the body when death ensued, to the boat at Belle Plain.

Booth seemed now to be in the agonies of death. His face was terribly distorted, his chin drawn down and to one side, countenance turned bluish, and he seemed to be in the greatest agony. It was soon over and the surgeon pronounced him dead.

He received the death wound at 3:15, and died at 7:20 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

Beside Lieuts. Baker and Dougherty, and soldiers, there were present at the death-scene four or five ladies of the Garrett family, the old man Garrett, and his two sons.

After the Surgeon had pronounced Booth dead, Lieut. Baker took his blanket from his saddle and in it rolled the body, sewing the blanket up about the feet and head. Previous to this the Surgeon had tied up the dead man's chin and hands and closed his eyes.

The body was placed in a rickety one-horse buggy wagon, belonging to a free negro near by, and taken 30 miles over the country to Belle Plain, where the boat *Ida* was in readiness to bring the party to this city.

#### Searching the District of Columbia.

From Saturday's *Washington Republican*.

One week ago to-day we expressed the opinion, editorially, that the cities of Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria ought to be searched for the arrest of Booth and his accomplices in crime. We entertained the hope that a thorough search would be kept up elsewhere at the same time. We stated many reasons, as far as we deemed it prudent, why such a search should be made.

It has been gratifying to our feelings to find our views, contained in the article referred to, indorsed by all the leading civil and military officials in this city and elsewhere, whose opinions are worth having. We have received numerous letters of thanks from leading men in the nation who have expressed the hope that the proposition to search the District would be carried into prompt execution.

While to this day the work has not been undertaken with that thoroughness which the great emergency demands, yet it is but just to state that much has been done in the direction indicated by us one week ago.

This is not all. The investigation in this city since our article appeared, has developed facts of the most

astounding character. The official record will eventually show this. These developments, resulting from a partial search, only show what would be brought to light by unroofing and unearthing, if necessary, every house in the District of Columbia. Seek for double partitions, false walls, secret apartments, under cellars, where the great State prisoners were to be kept secreted in chains after being kidnapped.

That it is in evidence that President Lincoln, Vice-President Hamlin, the members of the Cabinet, Gen. Grant, Chief Justice Chase and Speaker Colfax were marked as the victims of certain Rebel conspirators and assassins there is little doubt; that the plot originated with the chief political Rebels in Richmond, was planned in detail in Canada and was to be executed in this city, there is also no doubt. That secret meetings were held at the residences of secessionists in this city to further the execution of this fiendish plot is well known.

The arrests already made of persons known to be parties to the murder of President Lincoln, and the facts thus far ascertained, of the hellish purpose of the Rebel assassins to strike from existence all the leading men of the National Government, thus leaving it without a legal head, and the reins of Government to be seized by any erratic, ambitious general who might at the time be in the field at the head of an army—will, when all made known, startle our people and astound the world!

In view of the great good obtained by partial searches in this city, we reiterate our firm belief that a complete and thorough search of Washington would reveal facts quite as important as any yet ascertained, and possibly lead to the arrest of many bad men not supposed to be in these parts.

There are men and women walking our streets daily whose hearts are as bad as was that of the assassin Booth. *Let them be arrested.* They have no right to liberty under a Government that they despise and would destroy.

Secessionists should not be permitted to live in this city *out of prison.* We hope the Government will see to it.