

THE CONSPIRACY

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Chapter 3

THE CONSPIRACY

~~(Continued)~~

Southeast of Washington stretches a tapering peninsula, composed of four counties, which did not contain, at the time of the Civil War, any town within them of more than a few hundred inhabitants. Three of these counties, Prince George, Charles and St. Marys, ~~according to Secretary of War Stanton,~~ were noted for their opposition to the Union government, their protection to blockade runners, and Confederate spies. Undoubtedly there were many in this section who were loyal to the Union, but Southern sympathy predominated. ^{1/2}

While in Montreal, Booth had obtained from a Confederate refugee in that city (1) by the name of Martin, and a former resident in this section of lower Maryland, an introductory letter to Dr. William Queen, who lived in Charles County, near Bryantown, a village thirty miles south of Washington. Booth, who wanted to familiarize himself thoroughly with the country through which he planned to carry the kidnapped President, stated to Dr. Queen when he called at his home November 19 and presented Martin's letter, (2) that he was visiting the county to purchase lands and horses, and desired some information about the neighborhood. He then made minute enquiries of the doctor and his son-in-law, J.C. Thompson, about the roads in that section, and the next day accompanied them to the little Catholic church at Bryantown where he first met Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, who later played such an important part in his escape.

From Dr. Mudd, Booth enquired concerning the political sentiments of the people of Charles County, was "inquisitive about the contraband trade that existed between the North and South, and wished to be informed about the roads bordering on the Potomac." (3) He again visited Dr. Queen in December and accompanied him to church a second time. It was on one of these trips that he purchased from a neighbor of Dr. Mudd's, a dark-bay, one-eyed horse (4) which was later used by Payne, one of

his confederates, when he made the attempt on the life of Secretary Seward. (5)

In the cast at the Winter Garden when John Wilkes played there with his brothers, November 25, five days after attending church with Dr. Queen, he found an actor friend, Samuel Knapp Chester, a "bold resolute fellow," who had known him intimately for six or seven years. At this time he intimated to Chester that he had a tremendous speculation in hand, in which he desired that he take part, but Booth did not disclose any details. (6)

During the latter part of December when Booth was again in New York, he sought out Chester and after they had wine and dined, Booth told him that his speculation was a large conspiracy to capture the heads of the Government, including the President, and take them to Richmond. He urged Chester to become a party to the plot, but without avail. (7)

Christmas Day, 1864, James McVicker, ^athe theatrical producer of Chicago, wrote John Wilkes Booth:-

"Friend Booth:

"What do you say to filling time weekly with me, May 29th? I have not yet filled your time, in January, and see no chance of doing so with an attraction equal to yourself. (It would appear that from this Booth had cancelled an engagement for January with McVicker.) There are plenty of little fish but I don't want them if I can help it. So, if you can come then, come at the above date. With a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," (7 $\frac{1}{2}$)

But "Friend Booth" was preparing for a bigger tragedy than he could play on McVicker's stage.

While in Washington in December, ^{He}Booth had rented a stable at the rear of Ford's Theatre in which to keep his horses. These were cared for by a boy employe of the theatre, Joseph Burroughs, nicknamed "Peanuts", whose hostler work was under the superintendence of Ned Spangler, the stage carpenter and scene shifter. (8) Spangler, whose loyalty to John Wilkes Booth was unquestioned by the actor, had years previously worked for the Booths on the ⁱⁿfarm near Belair, ^{Maryland} but was now in the employ of the theatre. In March Booth added a third horse to his stable, and a buggy which he used instead of riding horseback.

He finally realized ^{But} ~~that~~ to insure the success of his enterprise, he needed the assistance of someone who would be in sympathy with his plans and was more familiar than he with the country between Washington and Richmond-- someone who had sufficient courage to help carry to fruition his hair-brained plot. He made inquiries for a party with these qualifications and learned that the man for the job was John Harrison Surratt, a Confederate dispatch carrier between Washington, Richmond, and the Confederates in Canada, who had lately taken a job with the Adams Express Company, Washington. (9)

At the outbreak of the war, John Surratt's father had been the tavern keeper and postmaster at Surrattville about ten miles south of Washington. He ^{The father} sympathized with the southern cause and before his death early in the war one of his sons, Isaac, had gone south and joined the Confederate Army. After the father's death, the mother, Mrs Mary Surratt, moved to Washington with the remaining son, John, and her daughter Anna, where she opened the boarding house in which they lived at this time.

Whether Booth first learned of John Surratt in Canada or from Dr Mudd or others he met in Charles County while looking over things, is not known. (10) However, ^{he} ~~Booth~~ had noted down Surratt's address, and on December 23, 1864, meeting Dr Mudd in Washington and learning that Surratt was in town, he sought and obtained an introduction to him through the offices of the doctor. (11) At this meeting, according to Surratt ~~in his Rockville lecture~~, Booth wanted to "know something about the main avenues leading from Washington to the Potomac." (12)

From this time on, Booth became a frequent visitor at the "H" street home of the Surratt family, and when John was absent he talked with the mother, a pleasingly featured woman of about forty-five years of age. John Surratt, a short time later wrote to Bell Seaman, a cousin, "I have just taken a peep in the parlor. Would you like to know what I saw there? Well, Ma was sitting on the sofa, nodding first to one chair, then to another, next to the piano. Anna sitting in corner, dreaming, I expect, of J. W. Booth. Well, who is J. W. Booth? She can answer the question

"But hark! the door-bell rings, and Mr. J. W. Booth is announced. And listen to the scamperings of the ----- Such brushing and fixing." (12a)

Finally after several meetings, Booth felt that he could confide fully in Surratt, and, first looking "under the bed, into the wardrobe, in the doorway, and the passage, he talked a lot about 'ridding the country of an arch tyrant, of helping the South and dying for his country'", and then explained his plan to kidnap President Lincoln and carry him off to Richmond in order to bring about

the exchange of the many thousands of Southern men whom the United States Government refused to exchange and which the South was "sadly in want of as soldiers." Surratt, if we may believe his claims, was at first "thunderstruck" and "frightened at the unparalleled audacity of the scheme," but after two days reflection, told Booth that he was willing to try it as he had decided it was practicable. (13)

The expenses of Booth and Surratt (Surratt had thrown up his job with the Express Company) (14) were heavy, and being "sadly in want of money" they discussed the advisability of informing the Confederate authorities about the abduction plan, but, according to Surratt, they finally decided that they did not want outside help, for they felt that without it, the credit would be the greater, and with this in mind they did not acquaint the powers at Richmond with the contemplated action. Surratt and Booth also were led to believe that there was "another conspiracy afloat in Washington", the object of which was the abduction of the President, and this made them anxious to quickly carry out their plans for fear someone should get ahead of them. (15)

Between January 7 and 15, Surratt in preparation for the kidnapping which was to take place at the first opportune time, spent several days in the territory around Port Tobacco, a small town south of Washington and a few miles west of Bryantown, on an arm of the Potomac River. This place was one of the towns on the "Underground route" used by Confederate spies and contrabandists, between Washington and Richmond. (16) Here he arranged for relays of horses and for boats, through George A. Atzerodt, ^{former blacksmith and} a coach maker of that town, who had ^{since the} been in the business of smuggling parties and contraband across the Potomac. It was through this connection that ^{the short thick-set stupid-looking} Atzerodt became a frequent visitor to the Surratt home and a party to the plots. (17)

It was about this time that ^{a "doltish, insignificant-looking young man about twenty-one years of age" who worked in a} David E. Herold, ^{store} a young Washington drug clerk, entered the conspiracy. Herold was a previous acquaintance of

the Surratt family and with Atzerodt was recruited by John Surratt. (18)

In furtherance of his plans, Booth during this time, also made the acquaintance of two Union officers stationed at Washington on the staff of the commanding general. He knew that among their duties, were periodical day and night visits to the fortifications surrounding the city, and proposed that they allow him to accompany them on their rounds. Since he was an excellent horseman, and there was no suspicion of his intentions, the offer was readily accepted. Fate, however, saved the officers from this compromising situation. Their details were soon changed and they did not take the actor friend to visit the fortifications. (19) Booth's casual Washington acquaintances and friends saw him often in town during the winter. Frequently he was met strolling on Pennsylvania Avenue or seen in those places which ministered to his convivial habits. He did not often discuss the war, and while many knew that he was slightly Southern in sympathy, they did not class him as a Secessionist. (20)

In January 1865, Booth wrote several times to Chester, each time insisting that he come into "his plan" which "was sure to succeed". One letter enclosed fifty dollars and told Chester that he "must come" and be there by Saturday night. Then in February while in New York he again called on Chester to urge acceptance of a part in the scheme in which "there was plenty of money." At this interview Booth told Chester that he had attempted to interest another actor friend, John Matthews, but that when he told Matthews what he wanted, "the man was very much frightened and would not join him". ^{In Court later} Chester testified that on Friday, one week previous to April 14, he saw Booth in a New York restaurant and that striking the table, he exclaimed, "What an excellent chance I had to kill the President if I had wished, on Inauguration Day". (21)

Early in February while in New York, Booth had as his guest John Surratt who reported upon his return to Washington that he had met Edwin Booth and that "Booth had a fine parlor". (22)

It would be interesting to know what Booth wrote to call forth the following letter of February 21, 1865, from John Simonds with whom he was associated in oil land speculation:

"Dear John:

"Your strange note of the 16th received. I hardly know what to make of you this winter, so different from your usual self. Have you lost all your ambition or what is the matter? Don't get offended with us, John, but I cannot but think you are wasting your time spending the entire winter in Washington doing nothing, where it must be expensive to live, and all for no other purpose beyond pleasure.

"If you had taken 5 or 10 thousand dollars and come out here and spent the season living with us trailing off over the country hunting up property I believe we both could have made considerable money by it. It is not too late yet, for I believe the great rush for property is to be this spring, and if you are not going to act this season, come out here, John, where at least you can live prudently and where I really believe you can make money. Come immediately, John. We have plenty of room at our house now.

"Yours,

"John H. Simonds.

"P.S. Let me hear from you soon and see you sooner. Ma is well and sends regards." (22 $\frac{1}{2}$)

For Arnold and O'Laughlin, two months then three months had passed since the Baltimore meeting but no Booth; and he had promised them that he would be back in a month. In the meantime he had written Arnold saying that he was delayed, due to "erysipelas in his arm." However, as we have seen, he had not been idle in the furtherance of the abduction plans.

Finally, in January (23) he had reappeared in Baltimore with a heavy trunk loaded with "two Spencer rifles, revolvers, knives, belts, cartridge-boxes, cartridges, caps, canteens -- all fully fixed for service-- which he explained to Arnold and O'Laughlin were to be used in case of pursuit." And most important of all, he had "two pairs of handcuffs to use on the President." The pistols, knives, and handcuffs were left with these men to be brought with them to Washington.

About 7:30 one evening soon after this, Arnold and O'Laughlin while passing Ford's Theatre met Booth and alighting from the buggy which he had furnished them, the three took a drink and Booth spoke of the chances of abducting the president from the theatre if they "could not succeed in the other plan at the Soldiers' Home." They went to the theatre that night ^{with} and Booth ^{who then} told them about the different back entrances, about this stable in the rear and explained how feasible was his abduction plan. The next day they breakfasted with ^{the actor} Booth and learned that he was quite "pressed with business," said Arnold in his confession, "with a man unknown to us then, by the name of John Surratt."

Arnold and O'Laughlin rented a room at No. 420 D Street and obtained their meals at the Franklin House nearby. They thus lived for nearly two months, seeing Booth three and four times a week. Posing as oil salesmen, ^{these two} they often drove around the city with the actor's horse and rig. Once they ventured across the Eastern (now Anacostia) Branch bridge and five miles down toward the Surratt tavern. When not driving they whiled away their time in "drinking and amusements" at Rullman's Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. How often Booth crossed the Eastern Branch Bridge, Arnold says he cannot state, but that, from Booth's own words, it was often.

It was during this period, about six weeks before the assassination, that Herold spent an evening at the Surratt Tavern leaving about eleven o'clock for "T.B." a village five miles south, where he spent the night in the "T.B." Hotel.

(24) Surratt and Atzerodt drove up to the tavern early the next morning and then went on to "T.B.". A half hour later they returned with Herold and calling the keeper of the tavern, John Lloyd, they gave him for concealment, two carbines, with ammunition, a rope about twenty feet in length and a monkey-wrench. These were hidden in an unfurnished room between the joists and the ceiling. (25)

About the middle of March, Surratt engaged a room at the Herndon House for Payne, a big rawboned bitter ex-Confederate, who had first met Booth in 1861 in Richmond. Payne was to take possession the following Monday, and as it was desirable that he be kept under cover, Surratt told the landlady that he wanted the room for a "delicate gentleman, who was to have his meals sent up to the room." (26)

Payne under the name of "Wood", had called at the Surratt home late in February, remained over night and left on an early morning train for Baltimore. When he called the second time, three weeks later, he gave the name of Payne. This time he remained three days, representing himself to Mrs Surratt's other boarders as a Baptist preacher. (27)

During his frequent visits to Washington, Booth was a daily visitor to Ford's theatre where he received his mail. There on the evening of March 18th he played the part of Pescara in the "Apostate", at a benefit for John McCullough. In the audience that night were three of his fellow conspirators, Surratt, Herold, and Atzerodt. (28)

Finally one midnight about this time (29) Booth sent for the conspirators to meet him at Gautier's Restaurant (30) on Pennsylvania Avenue. There for the first time Arnold and O'Laughlin met John Surratt, George A Atzerodt and David Herold. (31)

At this meeting Booth outlined a plan for abducting Lincoln the next day as the President's carriage passed out Seventh Street. They intended to seize the carriage, overpower any accompanying guards, place one of the conspirators on

the box, and with Surratt as pilot drive direct for Southern Maryland. "Upon the suddenness of the blow and the celerity of our movements we depended for success", ^{states} ~~said Surratt in the Rockville lecture.~~ (32) "By the time the alarm could have been given and horses saddled, we would have been on our way through Southern Maryland towards the Potomac River." They then intended to convey the President to a point along the river near Port Tobacco where they had a lead-colored flat-bottom boat concealed, that would carry fifteen men, set him in this, cross to the Virginia shore and carry him on to Richmond. Surratt was to act as pilot, since he knew the way. (33)

Should this plot fail, Booth was ready with the substitute plan for seizing the President while he was at the theatre. To accomplish this, Arnold was to rush into the Presidential private box, seize Mr Lincoln and hold him while he was handcuffed by Booth and Atzerodt. He was then to be lowered to the stage after O'Laughlin and Herold had turned out the lights. After which the President was to be placed in a buggy which Booth would bring and be driven across the Eastern Branch (Anacostia) bridge into Lower Maryland. Arnold offered the objection that they would be stopped by the sentinel at the bridge, "Shoot the sentinel" said Booth. (34) From this point on the details of both plans were the same.

Arnold remonstrated against shooting the sentinel with the declaration according to his confession, that if an alarm was given at the bridge the whole thing was up, and, "as for me" confessed Arnold, "I wanted the shadow of a chance for success and escape. Michael O'Laughlin wanted to argue the same way, whereupon J Wilkes Booth said, 'you find fault with everything concerned about it.' I said no that I wanted to have a chance, and I intended to have it; that he could be the leader of the party, but not my executioner. Whereupon J Wilkes Booth remarked, in a stern, commanding and angry voice, 'Do you know you are liable to be shot? Remember your oath.' Affairs were not running at all smoothly among the Booth forces. Payne disliked Herold and told Booth so. He spoke of him as a "little blab" and considered the others "women and babies." (34 $\frac{1}{2}$)

The first plan was attempted but failed since according to John Surratt's statement, when the carriage neared the point where the plotters were in hiding it was

seen that Justice Chase and not the President was in it. (34-3/4)

The evening of this abortive attempt Surratt returned to his home much excited and exclaimed that his prospects were gone and his hopes blighted. Soon Payne and Booth entered the Surratt house also displaying signs of great excitement. All three were so guarded in their remarks, however, that they did not divulge at that time any details of their failure. (35)

The group, bitterly disappointed became discouraged and the following week broke up. Booth left town on the 21st on the 7:30 p.m. train for New York. Arnold and O'Laughlin returned to their homes in Baltimore and as far as definite proof could ever be found, had no further connection with the plot. (36) Surratt on March 23, if we may believe his own story, went to Richmond about other Confederate business, passed through Washington April 3 on his way to Montreal, and never again saw Booth or had any further part in his plots. (37)

Booth stopped off in Baltimore on his way back to Washington from New York and saw O'Laughlin but missed Arnold. (38) March 25, upon his return to Washington, he learned that Surratt was away, and that President Lincoln had gone on the 22nd to visit the "front". (39)

His actions while in New York, ^{the week before,} evidently were interpreted as ~~stranger than~~ unusual for on March 26th, his mother wrote:

"J. Wilkes Booth, Ford's Theatre,
"Washington, D.C.

"My dear boy:

"I have got yours. I was very glad to hear from you. I hope you will write me often. I did part from you sadly, and I still feel sad, very much so. June has just left me. He staid as long as he could. I am now quite alone. Rose has not returned yet. I am miserable enough. I have never yet doubted your love and devotion to me; in fact, I always give you praise for being the fondest of all my boys, but since you leave me to grief I must doubt it. I am no Roman mother. I love my dear ones before country or anything else. Heaven guard you, is my constant prayer!

"Your loving Mother,

"M.A. Booth."

(39½)

One evening between March 25 and April 1, Booth called at Mrs. Surratt's Washington house in answer to a message from her that she desired to see him on "private business". Whether this referred to his plots is not known. (40) He remained about

town until April 1st and then took the afternoon train to New York and Boston (41) and remained away until Saturday the 8th, the day before the President returned to the capitol.

Beginning with April 3rd, when the news was received in Washington that Richmond had fallen there was much rejoicing not only in the capital city ^{throughout} but the length and breadth of the land. It became evident that the North would ultimately be victorious and that the war was only a matter of days. The Secretary of War ordered that a salute of five hundred guns should be fired in honor of the surrender of Richmond and three hundred more for Petersburg.

The streets were crowded with hosts of people talking, laughing, hurrahing and shouting - men embraced and kissed each other, and marched arm in arm; singing and cheering for General Grant, President Lincoln and every prominent official whose name was mentioned. (42) A Washington Dispatch of April 4th to the New York Tribune read: "The evening has been signalized by every possible exhibition and device of patriotic exultation".

Booth had closely followed the trend of events and decided that he had no further use for his horses and buggy and on Sunday the ninth ordered Ned Spangler to sell them as soon as possible. This Spangler did on the day following, the 10th.

Booth read in the Monday Washington newspapers that General Lee had surrendered the day before and also learned that President Lincoln had returned from Richmond the previous afternoon. This also was a gala day in Washington. The scenes which had taken place on the fall of Richmond were repeated. A vacation was given to the clerks in the Treasury Department and the workmen in the Navy-Yard, who immediately formed in procession, accompanied by bands, and proceeded to call on the leading officials. The President and Gen. Halleck made addresses, the cannon on the fortifications thundered forth salutes, bells were rung, and the general enthusiasm given vent to in innumerable spontaneous manifestations.

That night the veriest intoxication of patriotic rejoicing broke forth

afresh. The city was again ablaze with fireworks, rockets and illuminated buildings, while bands of music and great masses of people crowded the street. The War Department and all its dependencies were decked with flags and brilliantly illuminated, as also were the State and Treasury Departments. (43)

Mrs. Surratt apparently did not intend to lose connection with the popular actor who had been for several months the evil genius of her household, for on Tuesday, the 11th, she who had not been informed of the disposal of the equipage, sent Lewis Weichmann, one of her roomers, to Booth at the National Hotel to request the use of his buggy to drive to her Surrattville place. Since this was not possible, Booth gave Weichmann ten dollars with which to rent a "horse and rig". (44)

The situation in the South now had reached the climax, with the Confederate armies surrendering, further plotting for the kidnapping of President Lincoln seemed useless even were there a possibility of its successful execution. The plotters had seen the disintegration of all their plans--all their hopes.

And so "four years of threats and boastings, of alarms that were unfounded, and of plots that came to nothing thus passed away; but precisely at the time when the triumph of the nation over the long insurrection seemed assured, and a feeling of peace and security was diffused over the country, one of the conspiracies, not seemingly more important than the many abortive ones, ripened in the sudden heat of hatred and despair". (45) For into the unbalanced mentality of John Wilkes Booth had come a morbid and murderous resolution.

THE CONSPIRACY

NOTES

~~(Continued)~~

1/2 N.Y. Tribune April 24, 1865 - Stanton to Gen Dix.

- (1) C.T. Testimony of John C. Thompson, P.178 and Poore "The Conspiracy Trial" Vol 1, P.44. *Go to Martin, see the Cincinnati Enquirer for Oct 18, 1896.*
- (2) The records of the National Hotel, Washington, showed that Booth arrived the evening November 9th, left on early train November 11, returned the 14th in the early part of the evening and left on the 16th. C.T. P.46.
- (3) "Life of Dr. Mudd" by Nettie Mudd, P.44.
- (4) Testimony of Thomas L. Gardiner reported in "The Conspiracy Trial" by Ben Perley Poore, P.362-364.
- (5) Spangler's Statement "The Death of Lincoln" by Clara E. Laughlin, P.317 and "Life of Dr. Mudd" by Nettie Mudd, P.322-326.
- (6) While John Wilkes Booth may not have had previous knowledge of the plot to burn New York which was attempted the night of the play in which he took part with his brothers, ~~it may be assumed that Payne~~, who later associated with Booth ~~was~~ ^{may have been} acquainted with the scheme, for after his arrest in April, 1865, he confessed that he had been selected to set fire to one of the hotels on that November night, but had refused to act, as he considered it needless destruction of property and the sacrifice of innocent lives although he said he was willing to take the life of a high official of the Government for the good of the cause. (Lincoln in the Telegraph Office by David Homer Bates. Published by the Century Company, New York, 1907, P.307-308)

On November 14, 1864, a woman while riding on the New York City street cars overheard in earnest conversation two men, one of whom although he wore false whiskers, she identified six months later from a photograph as John Wilkes Booth, who she testified said that he would leave for Washington "the day after tomorrow". From the conversation she learned that the name of the other was Johnson. When the men left the cars the first dropped an envelope in which were two letters which she examined and referred to General Scott in command at New York, who thought they were of sufficient importance to bring to the attention of General Dix and he in turn sent them on November 17th to President Lincoln, who filed them *according* in his desk in an envelope marked "Assassination."

The one of interest in this connection was as follows (Letters, C.T. P.40)

"Dear Louis:

The time has at last come that we have all so wished for, and upon you everything depends. As it was decided before you left, we were to cast lots. Accordingly we did so, and you are to be the Charlotte Corday of the nineteenth century. When you remember the fearful, solemn vow that was taken by us, you will feel there is no drawback--Abe must die, and now. You can choose your weapons. The cup, the knife, the bullet. The cup

According to the testimony of Clara E. Laughlin (C.T. P.317)

#-- Since the National Hotel records show that Booth arrived in Washington in the early part of the evening of Nov. 14th and the testimony at the Conspiracy and Surratt trials that a few days later he was down in Maryland sizing up roads for his kidnapping plot, it is extremely doubtful that he could have had any connection with the Selby letter. It was merely another of the vague plans which were being made since the first days of the war.

The prosecution at the Surratt trial in 1867 attempted to make "Dear Louis" Lewis Payne and "Selby" Booth, but could not establish the point.

failed us once, and might again. Johnson, who will give this, has been like an enraged demon since the meeting, because it has not fallen upon him to rid the world of the monster. He says the blood of his gray-haired father and his noble brother call upon him for revenge, and revenge he will have; if he can not wreak it upon the fountain-head, he will upon some of the blood-thirsty Generals. Butler would suit him. As our plans were all concocted and well arranged, we separated, and as I am writing - on my way to Detroit - I will only say that all rests upon you. You know where to find your friends. Your disguises are so perfect and complete, that without one knew your face, no police telegraphic dispatch would catch you. The English gentleman, Harcourt, must not act hastily. Remember he has ten days. Strike for your home, strike for your country; bide your time, but strike sure. Get introduced, congratulate him, listen to his stories -- not many more will the brute tell to earthly friends. Do anything but fail, and meet us at the appointed place within the fortnight. Inclose this note, together with one of poor Leenea, I will give the reason for this when we meet. Return by Johnson. I wish I could go to you, but duty calls me to the West; you will probably hear from me in Washington. Sanders is doing us no good in Canada.

' Believe me, your brother in love,

" CHARLES SELBY."

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(C.T. P.40)

- (41) 7
- (42) 7 1/2
- (43) 8
- (44) 9
- (45) 9 1/2
- (46) 10
- (47) 11
- (48) 12
- (49) 12 1/2
- (50) 13
- (51) 14
- (52) 15
- (53) 16
- (54) 17
- (55) 18

C.T. P.44, Testimony of Chester.
See following page.

Testimony of Joseph Burrough, C.T. P.74-75.

Testimony of Weichmann, S.T. P.372, *Introduction to the Conspiracy trial by Sen Parley Poore.*

Assassination by DeWitt P.21-22.

Life of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd by ^{his} Daughter, Nettie Mudd - Neale Pub. Co. 1906, P. 42-43 and S.T. P.415.

Booth was at the National Hotel, December 12th, left by the morning train December 17th. Arrived again December 22nd; left 24th; arrived December 31st; left January 10th; arrived again January 12th; left on 28th; arrived February 22nd; occupied room 231 in company with John McCullough, the actor. Left the 28th on an 8:15 A.M. train. C.T. P.46.

February 6, 1865. Baker, P.562-563.

In an article "My True Relations with John Wilkes Booth" by John H. Surratt, which appeared in the San Francisco Examiner, April 3, 1898, Surratt says that he looked on Booth from the start as a "hot headed, visionary man," and a "monomaniac on the subject" of kidnapping Lincoln.

Testimony of Weichmann, S.T. P.372.

Rockville Lecture of John Surratt.

"Four Lincoln Conspiracies" by Victor Louis Mason in The Century, April 1896.

S.T. P.215 and P.374.

Testimony of Weichmann, C.T. P.115 and S.T. P.372.

(letter dated Feb 6, 1865 - Baker pg 562-3

(7 $\frac{1}{2}$) William G. Shepherd in Collier's Weekly, December 27, 1924. —
Strangely, on April 23rd, 1879, fourteen years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, in this same McVicker's Theater in Chicago, Mark Gray, an insane man fired two shots from the balcony at Edwin Booth on the stage. When the man was apprehended he stated his reason for the attempted assassination was Booth's inability to act Shakespeare as Gray thought it should be played.

55 The testimony of John T. Ford, Imp Inv. P535. Shows that John Wilkes Booth attempted to get Ford to engage Plester for the Ford's Washington theater, and even offered to pay Plester's salary should he be employed.

- 19 (53) Seaton Monroe in The New York Sun, April 5, 1896.
- 20 (54) ~~Seaton Monroe~~ Ibed in the New York Sun, April 5, 1896.

21 (55) # The Register of the National Hotel shows that Booth was in Washington from March 2nd to the 21st and was called at eight o'clock on the mornings of March 2nd, 3rd and 4th. It is quite doubtful that he lost his head to the extent of making a demonstration at the inauguration, although in a sworn statement made March 20, 1876, Robert Strong, a policeman at the Capitol March 4th, the day of the inauguration, said that as the President passed out to the platform where the ceremonies were about to begin, a man in a very determined and excited manner broke through the line of policemen which had been formed to keep the crowd out. "Lieutenant Westfall immediately seized the stranger" stated Mr. Strong, "And a considerable scuffle ensued. The stranger seemed determined to get to the platform where the President and his party were, but Lieutenant Westfall called for assistance. The Commissioner closed the door, or had it closed, and the intruder was finally thrust from the passage leading to the platform which was reserved for the President's party. After the President was assassinated, the singular conduct of this stranger on that day was frequently talked of by the policemen who observed it. Lieutenant Westfall procured a photograph of the assassin Booth soon after the death of the President and showed it to Commissioner French in my presence and in the presence of several other policemen, and asked him if he had ever met that man. The Commissioner examined it attentively and said: 'Yes, I would know that face among ten thousand. That is the man you had a scuffle with on inauguration day. That is the same man.' Lieutenant Westfall then said: 'This is the picture of J. Wilkes Booth.' Major French exclaimed: 'My God! what a fearful risk we ran that day!' (Marshall Ward Lamon "Recollections of Abraham Lincoln" P. 272-273).

- 22 (56) Weichmann Testimony, S.T. P.375.
- 22 1/2 (22 1/2) William G. Shepherd in Collier's Weekly, Dec. 27, 1924.
- 23 (57) January 10, C.T. P.46, Bunker's Memo.
- 24 ~~57a~~ *S.T. P.515*
- 25 ~~57b~~ *Testimony of John Lloyd C.T. P.85-87 S.T. P.300*
- 26 (58) Testimony of Weichmann, C.T. P. 113.

27(59) S.T. P.377. From the argument in the defense of Lewis Payne by W.E. Doster at the trial of the conspirators (Pitman P.308) we learn that Payne's real name was Lewis Thornton Powell and that he was the son of a Baptist minister who was then living in Florida. He had enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and had been ordered to Richmond. There he met and became acquainted with Booth. He was wounded July 3, 1863, in the battle of Gettysburg, taken prisoner and detailed as a nurse in the Pennsylvania College Hospital. From there he was sent to a hospital in Baltimore where he remained until October 1863 when he attempted to return south, met up with a regiment of Confederate Cavalry of Northern Virginia with which he is said to have served until January 1, 1865, when he deserted, came to Alexandria, took the oath of allegiance and returned to Baltimore. There he got into trouble and either in February or early in March, was ordered north of Philadelphia. On the day he was ordered out of Baltimore he met Booth on the street. To him he explained his predicament and Booth promised him a fortune if he would enter the abduction conspiracy.

Also Payne's Confession to Thomas Eckert - Imp Inv. PP 673-674

- 28 (60) Testimony of Weichmann, C.T. P.115 and S.T. P.380.
- 29 (61) March 17, 1865, according to Arnold in The Baltimore American in a series of articles quoted by David Miller DeWitt, P.264. "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" ~~by David Miller DeWitt~~

- (30) DeWitt, P. 263. A remarkable coincidence is that in 1871 Lieutenant Doherty, one of the captors of Booth married a daughter of Charles Gautier, the proprietor of this restaurant. Doherty states in his story written a few years after his marriage that "Mr Gautier was arrested as an accomplice of the assassins of the President, owing to the fact that Booth and his Confederates, had hired a private dining room in his establishment, for several nights previous to the tragedy, and there discussed their plans and made final arrangements for the perpetration of their diabolical plot. The table around which they gathered, remains in existence still, in the possession of the Gautier family. Mr Gautier readily established his innocence, however, by proving that he had absolutely no knowledge at the time, as to who the parties were."
- (31) George A Atzerodt ^{or} "Port Tobacco " as he was familiarly called by his conspiracy associates, was from Port Tobacco, Maryland, a small village south of Washington and near the Potomac. Atzerodt's knowledge of the Potomac River was the principal contribution he was expected to make to the abduction plots. The Baltimore American, July 9, 1865, stated that Atzerodt was born in the kingdom of Prussia in 1835, and came to America with his parents in 1844.
- (32) Rockville Lecture of John Surratt.
- (33) Atzerodt's Confession, Baltimore American January 18, 1869.
- (34) Arnold's Confession
- (34 $\frac{1}{2}$) Imp. Inv. p. 674 Testimony of General Eckert
- (34 $\frac{3}{4}$) Surratt's Rockville Lecture
- (35) Weichmann Testimony, C. T. P. 118
- (36) The following is a letter written by Arnold to Booth. This was found in Booth's trunk at the National Hotel and put in evidence at the trial of the Conspirators, C. T. 235-236:

"Hookstown, Balto. Co.,"
"March 27, 1865."

"Dear John:

Was business so important that you could not remain in Balto. till I saw you? I came in as soon as I could, but found you had gone to W-----n. I called also to see Mike, but learned from his mother he had gone out with you, and had not returned. I concluded, therefore, he had gone with you. How inconsiderate you have been! When I left you, you stated we would not meet in a month or so. Therefore, I made application for employment, an answer to which I shall receive during the week. I told my parents I had ceased with you. Can I, then, under existing circumstances, come as you request? You know full well that the G----t suspicions something is going on there; therefore the undertaking is becoming more complicated. Why not, for the present, desist, for various reasons, which, if you look into, you can readily see, without my making any mention thereof. You, nor any one, can censure me for my present course. You have been its cause, for how can I now come after telling them I had left you? Suspicion rests upon me now from my whole family, and even parties in the county. I will be compelled to leave home any how and how soon I care not. None, no not one, were more in favor of the enterprise than myself, and today would be there, had you not done as you have--by this I mean, manner of proceeding. I am, as you well know, in need. I am, you may say, in rags, whereas today I ought to be well clothed. I do not feel right stalking about with means and more from appearances a beggar. I feel my dependence; but even all this would and was forgotten, for I was one with you. Time more propitious will arrive yet. Do not

act rashly or in haste. I would prefer your first query "go and see how it will be taken at R----d, and ere long I shall be better prepared to again be with you. I dislike writing; would sooner verbally make known my views; yet your non-writing causes me thus to proceed.

Do not in anger peruse this. Weigh all I have said, and, as a rational man and a friend, you can not censure or unbraid my conduct. I sincerely trust this, nor aught else that shall or may occur, will ever be an obstacle to obliterate our former friendship and attachment. Write me to Balto., as I expect to be in about Wednesday or Thursday, or, if you can possibly come on, I will Tuesday meet you in Balto., at B----. Ever I subscribe myself,

Your friend,

"Sam"

In his confession Arnold claimed that on the Monday or Tuesday after the attempt to kidnap President Lincoln on the Seventh Street road he returned to Baltimore and then went to the country. That Booth on his way from New York to Washington during that week stopped off in Baltimore, the following Saturday he thought, and told Arnold's father he wished to see the son on urgent business. His father, stated Arnold sent for him but when he arrived from the country Booth had gone, "whereupon," said Arnold "I wrote him the letter which was found in his trunk."

- (37) S.T. P.383-387.
- (38) Arnold's letter just quoted and C.T. P.235.
- (39) New York Herald, March 23, 1865.
- (39 $\frac{1}{2}$) Collier's, The National Weekly, December 27, 1924.
- (40) C.T. P.113.

(41) The Providence Press, Providence, Rhode Island, reported April 19, 1865, that John Wilkes Booth arrived on the New York boat en route to Boston on April 5th.

The Boston Advertiser, April 17, 1865, contained this statement, "John Wilkes Booth was in this city no longer than last Monday and perhaps on previous days. He visited the shooting gallery of Floyd and Edwards in Chapman place by the Parker House, and practiced with a pistol, firing with the weapon under his leg, behind his neck, and in other strange positions. He is said to have been a frequent visitor at the gallery when in Boston and is very expert with the pistol. From this city he must have gone almost directly to Washington."

Edwin Booth was playing at the Boston Theatre at that time. John Wilkes arrived on the 5th and was behind the scenes that night, and in his brother's dressing room. The next day, the 6th, he bought a ring for one of the owners of the theatre. (Boston Sunday Herald, April 11, 1915) On the 8th he again arrived in Washington. C.T. P.46.

- (42) John I. Davenport, Private Secretary to General Benj. F. Butler. The National Republican, April 22, 1922.
- (43) Washington Dispatch, April 10, N.Y. Tribune, April 11, 1865.
- (44) C.T. P.113 and S.T. P.389.
- (45) Life of Abraham Lincoln. Nicolay & Hay, Vol. X, P.288-289.