

THE CHARGER

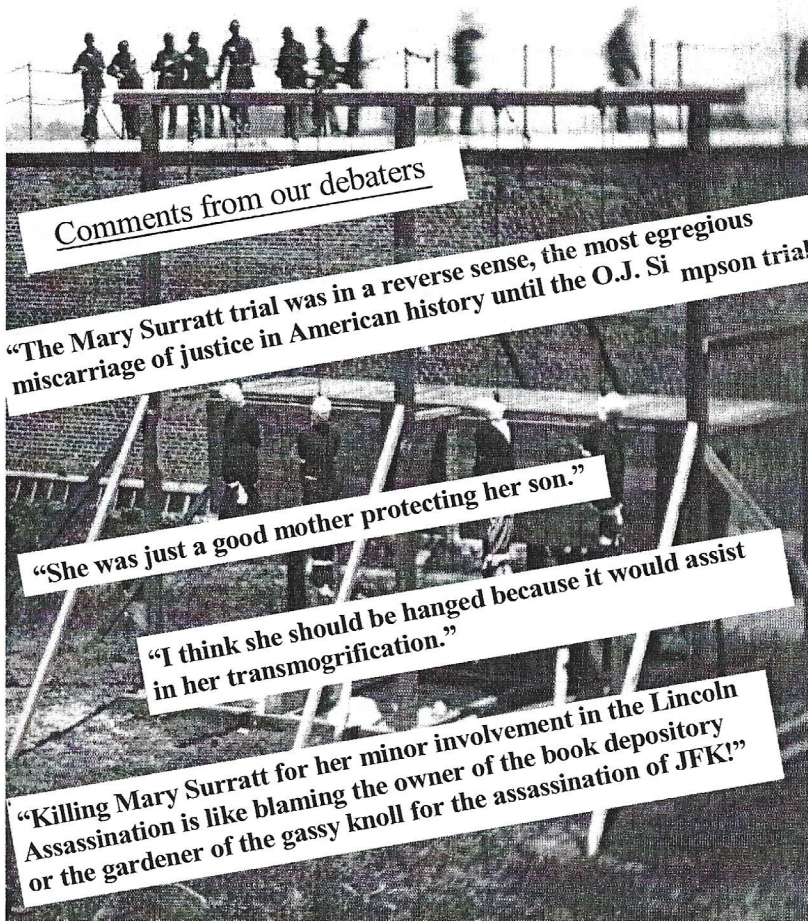
January, 2003

402 Meeting

Vol. 24 #5

Tonight's Debate:

Mary Surratt



Mary Surratt is the only woman ever executed by the United States military. Even though hooded, she is clearly the one on the left.

This wall still stands today in Washington. We saw it on the Cleveland CWRT field trip in 2000.

Tonight's debaters:

**David Carrino
Carol Drugan
Evelyn Hayes
Jimmy Menkhaus
Kathleen Platt**

Tonight's debate will be on three questions: Mary Surratt

1. *Was she guilty?*
2. *Should she, a civilian, have been tried by military court?*
3. *Should she have been hanged?*

**Date: Wednesday,
January 8, 2003**

**Place: The Cleveland
Playhouse Club
8501 Carnegie Ave.**

**Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM**

**Reservations: Please Call
JAC Communications
(216) 861-5588**

**Meal choice: Brest of Chicken
Swiss Steak**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Maynard Bauer** - (440) 835-3081
 Vice President: **Warren McClelland** - (216) 751-8564
 Secretary: **Mel Maurer** - (440) 808-1249
 Treasurer: **Maureen Goodyear** - (440) 888-3814
 Historian: **Dale Thomas** - (440) 779-6454

Trustees

Marilyn DeBaltzo	Jean Solyan
Ty Sommershield	William F.B. Vodrey
Kirk Hinman	Bill McGrath

Website: Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
 email: rcrews5369@aol.com

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to anyone with an interest in the American Civil War. The 120 members of the Roundtable, who's membership varies from 12 to 90 years old, share a belief that the American Civil War was the **defining** event in United States history.

The Roundtable normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at a private club of the Cleveland Playhouse, 8501 Carnegie, next to the Cleveland Clinic.

Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Dinner: \$20.00

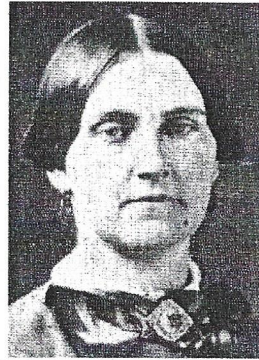
Dues: Maureen Goodyear
 5906 Hodgman Drive
 Parma Hts., OH 44130
 (440)888-3814

Check to: *Cleveland CWRT*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -JANUARY, 2003

New club members are easy to find. I attended a party this past weekend and several of guests as well as the host were members of CCWR. We had a great time and our host Bob Battisti showed us his Civil War room. As we talked about our common interest one member noted that people interested in the Civil War were invariable interesting and friendly. It was also noted that some of us had been friends for years before we found we shared a common interest in the Civil War. I believe that we need to check our list of friends and find if they are not also Civil War buffs who would welcome an invitation to the CCWRT. See you at the Great Debate. Make your reservation by the Friday before the meeting or early Monday morning at the latest to ensure the availability of a meal. *Maynard*

January 8, 2003



The Great Debate

Cleveland Roundtable members will debate: *Was Mary Surratt*

1. Guilty?
2. Should she, a civilian, have been tried by a military tribunal?
3. Should she have been hanged?

Moderator: Dick Crews

February 12, 2003

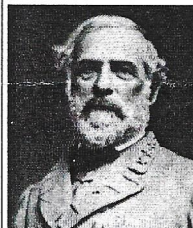


Major John Pelham

Pelham was famous for his "flying artillery". Robert E. Lee called him, "gallant and courageous," at the Battle of Fredericksburg. He was killed five months later.

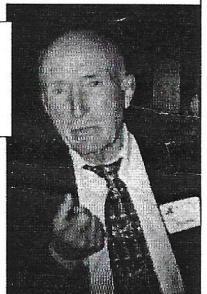
Peggy Vogtsberger

March 12, 2003

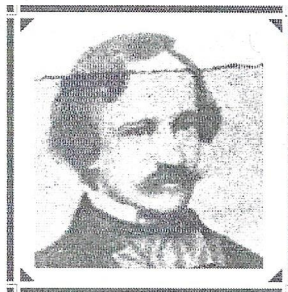


Ed Bearss
 "Mister Civil War"
 discusses

Robert E. Lee
 At
Chancellorsville



April 9, 2003



General Pettigrew's Journal

The story of North Carolina General Johnston Pettigrew. He led the confederate left in Pickett's Charge and died in the retreat from Gettysburg.

Dan Bauer

May 14, 2003 "Guest Night"



During the Civil War, Canada was a British Colony

Canada and the American Civil War

Mark Vinet

“His Name is Still Mudd!”

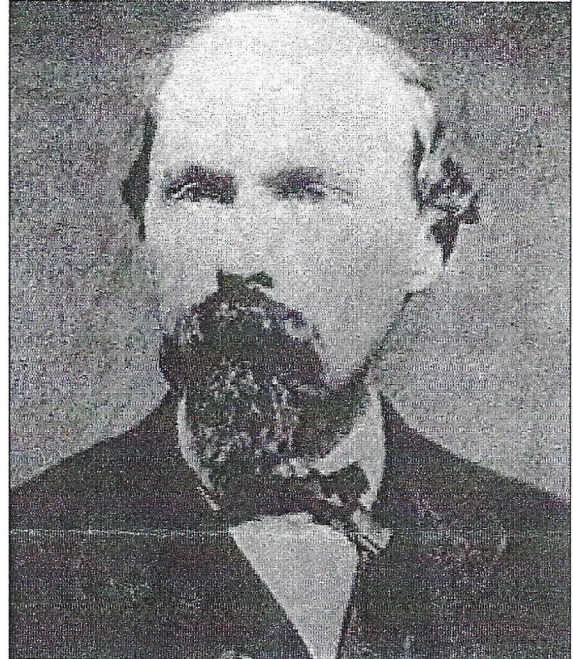
By Mel Maurer

“All persons harboring or secreting the said persons...or aiding...their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President...and shall be subject to trial before a military tribunal, and the punishment of death.”

— Edwin M. Stanton April, 1865

Poor Dr. Samuel Mudd. According to him, there he was sound asleep when about four Saturday morning, April 15, 1865, he heard a knocking at his door. He opened it to find two men, one of whom was injured. He treated the injured man for a broken small bone just above the ankle in his left leg. His visitors rested for a while, leaving late that afternoon. It was only later that that he learned of Lincoln’s assassination. He did become suspicious of his visitors but, not wanting to leave his family alone on Saturday, he waited another day before asking his brother to notify the authorities. Yes, he was just an “innocent country doctor,” providing medical care to a stranger, who became an innocent victim of the “rush to judgment” after Lincoln’s death - a judgment that sent him to prison as a member of the Booth conspiracy. At least that’s what his ancestors would have us believe as they continue in their efforts to have him posthumously found not guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted. Dr. Mudd, conspirator or victim?

Dr. SAMUEL MUDD



In his book, “Blood on the Moon, The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln,” published last year, author Edward Steers tells us that while it was John Wilkes Booth who entered the president’s box that tragic Good Friday evening and that it was his hand that held the deadly derringer, “there were many fingers on the trigger.” One of those “fingers” belonged to Dr. Mudd. Steers says he wrote his book “to events in the nation’s history.” The story of Dr. Mudd, a small part of the book, is one he wants history to get right. While the facts presented against Dr. Mudd by Steers will not change the minds of any members of the Mudd family, at least not publicly, they should convince most everyone else that Mudd was guilty as charged of conspiracy.

The case against Mudd includes the following: Dr. Mudd was not a innocent civilian bystander in southern Maryland – a hot bed of rebel sympathizers – but rather an active member of the Confederate underground in that area. Booth, in receiving Confederate help in his original plan to kidnap Lincoln, had received a letter of introduction to Mudd so he could solicit his assistance on the escape route from DC to Richmond. George Atzerodt, the conspirator assigned to kill Johnson, stated after his arrest that Booth told him two weeks before the murder, when it was still a kidnapping plan, he had sent provisions to Dr. Mudd for the supply of the escaping party on their way to Richmond with the president. Significantly, Mudd was already a suspect in the conspiracy to the investigators in DC before it was even known that he had treated Booth in Maryland.

Mel Maurer is retired and Secretary of the Cleveland CWRT

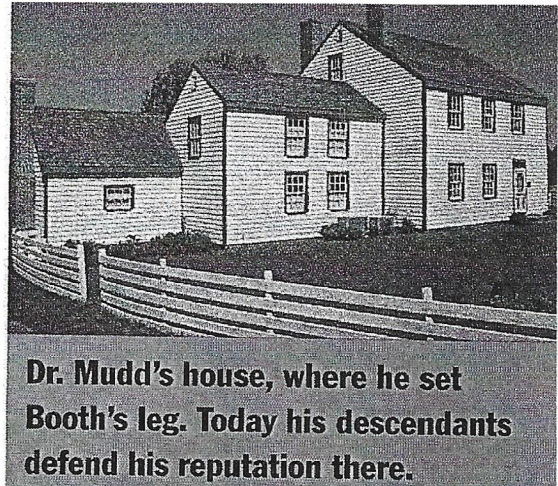
When first questioned, Mudd said, referring to his early morning visitors, "I never saw either of the parties before, nor can I conceive who sent them to me." When faced with contradictory evidence, he would first admit to meeting Booth once, later twice and eventually four times. Several of these meetings included others involved in the conspiracy – in Maryland and DC. In fact, Mudd introduced Booth to John Surrat, who joined in the conspiracy.

Mudd told so many lies about his activities the day he treated Booth that even he got confused about what he was claiming. He said he rode into town that day to get sundries while Booth rested at his house, returning home about 5:00 that afternoon to see Booth leaving. Evidence shows that Mudd did go into town but that he did not return home until at least 7:30. The unaccounted for hours gave Mudd time to either lead Booth to safety or to arrange for a safe guide. It also enabled Mudd to try to miss lead Booth's pursuers by lying about the time, Booth left his house – he also lied about the direction Booth took. While he also claimed that he waited over a day to tell authorities about Booth because he did not want to leave his family alone on Saturday, he left them alone, by his own admission at least 6 hours that day. His lies gave Booth 24 more hours to escape.

Mudd would also claim that while he did learn of the assassination in town, he did not learn that Booth was the prime suspect. Evidence shows and he would later admit he was told about Booth at least once if not more while he was out that day. When he was first questioned at his house, before it was known he met with Booth in DC, he was so edgy and nervous, the investigators demanded to search his house. They found Booth's left boot hidden beneath a bed – the boot had Booth's name ("J. Wilkes") etched inside. There was also an initial claim that the injured man had worn a false beard. Mudd's wife said she saw the man lose his beard while coming down the steps and in another claim, when still denying he knew Booth, Mudd said he saw the injured man shave off his handle bar mustache. The doctor's tangled web of various deceptions would catch up with him, as the full story of the conspiracy became known.

Steers' makes a strong case that Mudd was a key conspirator in planning the kidnapping of the president, assembling the gang to do it and establishing an escape route through Maryland – a route later used by Booth with the continuing assistance of Dr. Mudd. "Booth," Steers tells us, "benefited more from the help Dr. Mudd gave him than from any other person connected with Lincoln's murder."

Dr. Mudd was not an unlucky victim but rather a lucky conspirator – he avoided a death sentence for his crimes by **one** vote.



November 11, 2002

Mel Maurer

CLEVELAND'S FAREWELL TO LINCOLN

WRITTEN BY DALE THOMAS
FROM *PLAIN DEALER* ARTICLES

At the time of President Lincoln's assassination, the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* had suspended publication due to economic problems. The newspaper, a Democratic organ, had condemned Lincoln and supported the infamous Copperhead, Clement L. Vallandigham. On March 10, 1865, a few days before its hiatus, the *Plain Dealer* reported that Lincoln "is the marplot of the war; wherever he puts his fingers he deranges and brings confusion -- Look at the defeat of General McClellan's plans in the Virginia campaign: at Pope's disastrous career; at Burnside's and Hooker's reverses..." The next day, the editor accused Lincoln of surrendering the Monroe Doctrine: "A single remonstrance from the United States, in time, would have saved Mexico, and saved us from all the troubles that invasion of that country will assuredly entail."

The *Plain Dealer* reappeared from oblivion on Tuesday evening, April 25, 1865: "Abraham Lincoln is dead! He never received our suffrage, and we widely differed with many of his measures of public policy inaugurated by his Administration... Mr. Lincoln had a kindly heart, amiable temper and a forgiving disposition, and was undoubtedly more anxious than any of his party to stop the flow of blood, stay the hand of strife and re-establish order... The death of Mr. Lincoln deeply regretted in the North, is a calamity to the South..." In another edition, an article was reprinted from a Washington paper on the death of John Wilkes Booth: "Had he been brought to the Washington Navy

Yard alive nothing could have withstood the fury of the excited congregated thousands. What disposition was made of Booth's body after the autopsy upon it, it is impossible to ascertain, but that a fitting disposal in keeping with his ignominious character was made is certain."

Lincoln's funeral train was scheduled to arrive on Friday morning. George B. Senter, Mayor of Cleveland, announced on Thursday that "the sale of liquors and ale are prohibited during the twenty-four hours of the 28th instant." He requested that all places of business be closed except restaurants to accommodate the expected crowds. The city hastily built a pavilion directly to the east of Commodore Perry's statue on "Public Square for the reception of the remains of President Lincoln." The site was in the middle of Superior Avenue just north of where the Soldiers and Sailors Monument now stands. "It is to be hoped that all buildings, both public and private will be draped in mourning, and particularly those upon the line of march and the main business streets." The Old Stone Church is the only building on the funeral route that survives from that time period.



The monument to Abraham Lincoln at the Cleveland Board of Education building in downtown Cleveland. This monument was paid for in 1932 by students of the Cleveland Public Schools.

The *Plain Dealer* summarized the "Funeral Obsequies" in its Saturday evening edition: "About daybreak yesterday morning a salute of artillery called the city from slumber to mourning. By six o'clock the streets were thronged and crowds from the city and country had collected along Euclid, Erie (East 9th) and Superior streets, at Union Depot and on the Public Square. Punctually at seven o'clock the funeral train arrived at Union Depot on the Lake Shore track... The engines and cars were heavily and tastefully draped." (The train station was located on the lake at the end of Water Street (West 9th)

where today the RTA Waterfront Line makes a sharp turn a quarter of a mile west of Cleveland Browns Stadium.) "On reaching the depot, the locomotive of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad took the train in reversed position and drew it to the Euclid Street Station" at Willson Street (East 55th). Four years earlier at this same location, Lincoln had waved to a cheering crowd as the train left the station and headed east into the unknown future.

"Six white horses, decorated with festoons of crape, looped up with crape rosettes and silver stars, drew the hearse, and were attended by six colored grooms, wearing crape and mourning rosettes." Six thousand men, military and civilian, marched in the procession down Euclid Street. "The beautiful trees which line the streets and which have given Cleveland the name of the Forest City were in bloom. There was the total absence of dust on the street. The dwellings were tastefully decorated and mournfully beautiful in their drapery... " The draping on Amasa Stone's elegant mansion was "deserving of special notice." (One of Lincoln's secretaries, John Hay, would later marry the Cleveland financier's daughter.) "As the procession neared the Square, the streets were almost totally blocked up with the immense crowds. There was however no boisterous or unnecessary noise..."

Guards stood at attention around the pavilion. A military band played a dirge as the coffin was carried from the hearse to a catafalque enveloped with white flowers. There had been rumors that the casket would remain closed, but an "embalmer and undertaker opened the coffin and inspected the remains... " Bishop McIlvaine of the Diocese of Ohio read the Episcopal Burial Service, and as the gates were opened for the public, a heavy rain started to fall. During the next twelve hours, a hundred thousand people would look into the face of Lincoln. "The dust had gathered upon the features, the lower jaw somewhat dropped, and the lips slightly parted, and the teeth visible. It was not a pleasant sight, and we did not wonder that the women shrank hastily from the view." However, Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was reported to have lifted up a small child so she could see the "Great Emancipator."

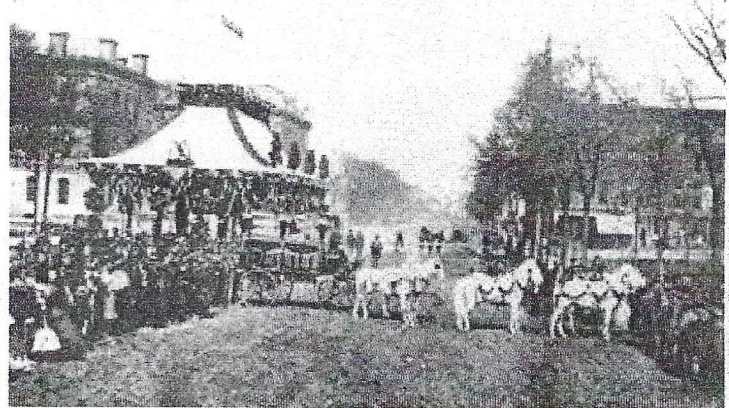
Around eleven o'clock that night, the coffin was closed and taken back to the hearse. "The cortège proceeded down Superior Street, preceded by three bands playing a dirge," and passed the Weddell Hotel where Lincoln had stayed in February of 1861. Then the procession went "down Vineyard Street, at the foot of which, the funeral train had been placed." (The Lausche State Office Building is located today where Vineyard or South Water Street once went into the Flats.) "The coffin was placed in the funeral car, and at precisely twelve o'clock the train started for Columbus... The sad day of mourning in Cleveland is passed. Let the faults of him for whom the nation mourned be written in the sand, but his virtues will be remembered forever."

Lincoln's Funeral Pavilion

Photograph, 1865

Courtesy of Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection

Public Square looking east with Lincoln's funeral pavilion in background



Dale Thomas

"Hurrah! Old Abe Lincoln has been Assassinated!"

Many southerners were delighted with the death of Abraham Lincoln. The following is from the diary of Emma LeConte. Emma was a 17 year old at the time. She lived in Columbia, South Carolina. Her father owned a company supplying munitions to the Confederacy. Her home was not destroyed by Sherman's occupation but her bitterness toward the Yankees is clear. *Dick Crews*

Friday (April 22, 1865)

Hurrah! Old Abe Lincoln has been assassinated! It may be abstractly wrong to be so jubilant, but I can't help it. After all the heaviness and gloom of yesterday this blow to our enemies comes like a gleam of light. We have suffered till we feel savage. There seems no reason to exult, for this will make no change in our position—will only infuriate them against us. Never mind, our hated enemy has met the just reward of his life. The whole story may be a Yankee lie. The dispatch purports to be from Stanton (Secretary of War Edwin Stanton) to Sherman (Union General William T. Sherman). It says Lincoln was murdered in his private box at the theatre on the night of the 14th (Good Friday—at the *theatre*). The assassin brandished a dagger and shouting, 'Sic semper tyrannis—Virginia is avenged,' shot the President through the head. He fell senseless and expired next day a little after ten. The assassin made his escape in the crowd, No doubt it was regularly planned and he was surrounded by Southern sympathizers 'Sic semper tyrannis.' Could there have been a fitter death for such a man? At the same hour nearby Seward's house was entered—he was badly wounded as also his son. Why could not the assassin have done his work more thoroughly? That *vile* Seward—he it is to whom we owe this war—it is a shame he should escape.



(when she visited her Aunt after her Latin and German classes)

'What do you think of the news?' 'Isn't it splendid,' all in a tremor of excitement. At home it was the same. If it is *only* true! The first feeling I had when the news was announced was simply gratified revenge. The man we hated has met his proper fate. I thought with exultation of the howl it had by that time sent through the North, and how it would cast a damper on their rejoicings over the fall of our noble Lee. The next thought was how it would infuriate them against us—and that was pleasant, too. After talking it over, the hope presented itself that it might produce a confusion that would be favorable, but there is scarcely any likelihood of that—he is hardly important enough for that. Andy Johnson will succeed him—the rail-splinter will be succeeded by the drunken ass. Such are the successors of Washington and Jefferson, such are to rule the South. 'Sic semper tyrannis'—it has run in my head all day.

**"Tremblez tyrans! et vous perfides
L'opprobres de toutes les parties-
Tremblez! vos projets parricides
Font enfin recevoir leur prix!"**

What exciting, what eventful times we are living in!

As an amateur Civil War historian I was most surprised that her information on the assassination was so accurate. A week before the above entry, the diary said General Sherman was killed and his wagon train of silver loot stolen from Columbia had been captured. Then two weeks following the Lincoln assassination the diary had news that the French fleet had sailed up the Mississippi River and captured New Orleans. *Dick Crews*

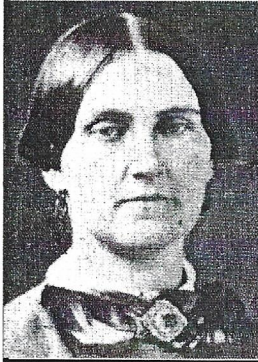
Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Wednesday, January 8, 2003
Annual Debate

Mary Surratt

Was she Guilty?

MARY AND JOHN SURRATT - MOTHER & SON CONSPIRATORS

Mary Surratt owned the boarding house in Washington, D.C. where the conspirators met, as well as the Surratt Tavern in Surrattsville, Booth's first stop on his escape route. After her husband died in 1862, her son John was briefly the Surrattsville postmaster. Later in the war John joined the Confederates as a courier and spy.



Samuel Mudd introduced John Wilkes Booth to John Surratt and Surratt joined Booth's original plot to kidnap the President. On the night of the assassination, John Surratt was in Elmira, N.Y. Hearing the news, he fled to Canada and was still there when his mother was executed. He fled to Rome where he became a Papal Zouave. In December 1866 he was brought back to the U.S. to face a civil trial. He was set free as the result of a hung jury and never went to trial again.

