

# THE CHARGER

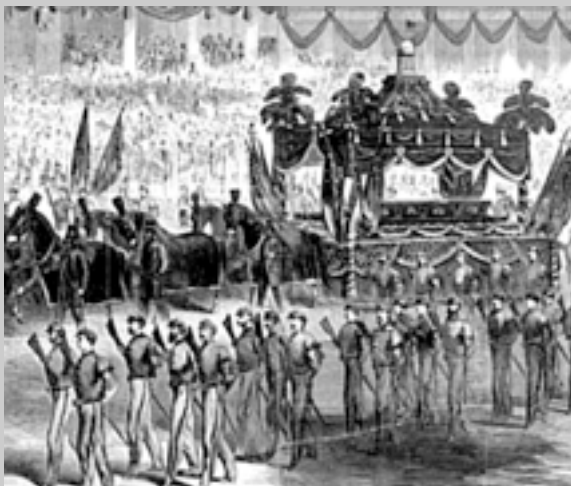
March 2013

494th Meeting

Vol. 34, #7

*Tonight's Program:*

## Not as it Seems: John Wilkes Booth and the Forging of a Conspiracy



Booth shooting Lincoln and Lincoln's funeral procession in New York City.

*Tonight's Speaker:*

## Michael Kauffman

Michael Kauffman is most famous to students of the Civil War as author of *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, one of the finest books published on the Lincoln assassination in the last 20 years. Mr. Kauffman has also authored numerous articles on the Lincoln assassination, his work appearing in *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *The Lincoln Herald*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, and *American Heritage Magazine* as well as numerous newspapers throughout the United States. His work has been the subject of articles in the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Washington Post*, and *Civil War Magazine*, among others. He has appeared on A&E, The History Channel, The Learning Channel, and C-SPAN. In 1995, Mr. Kauffman testified as an expert witness at the Booth Exhumation hearings in Baltimore. Mr. Kauffman is a supervisor and technician with an international broadcast company and resides with his wife and two children in Southern Maryland.

*Date:* **Wednesday,  
March 13, 2013**

*Place:* **Judson Manor  
1890 E. 107th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio**

*Time:* **Drinks 6 pm  
Dinner 6:45 pm**

*Reservations:* **Please send an email to [ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com) with your reservation, or call Dan Zeiser at (440) 449-9311 by 9 pm the Sunday before the meeting.**

*Meal:* **Entree, vegetable, rolls, salad, and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
FOUNDED 1957**

**President:** Michael Wells m.wells@csuohio.edu  
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## Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2012 Paul Burkholder  
2011 Lisa Kempfer  
2010 Dennis Keating  
2009 Jon Thompson  
2008 Terry Koozer  
2007 John Fazio  
2006 Dave Carrino  
2005 Mel Maurer  
2004 Warren McClelland  
2003 Maynard Bauer  
2002 Bill McGrath  
2001 William Vodrey  
2000 Bob Boyda  
1999 Dick Crews  
1998 John Moore  
1997 Dan Zeiser  
1996 John Sutula  
1995 Norton London  
1994 Robert Battisti  
1993 Kevin Callahan  
1992 Bob Baucher  
1991 Joe Tirpak  
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.  
1989 Neil Glaser  
1988 Martin Graham  
1987 George Vourlojianis  
1986 Tim Beatty  
1985 Brian Kowell

1984 Neil Evans  
1983 William Victory  
1982 John Harkness  
1981 Thomas Geschke  
1980 Charles Spiegle  
1979 William Bates  
1978 Richard McCrae  
1977 James Chapman  
1976 Milton Holmes  
1975 Thomas Gretter  
1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh  
1973 Arthur Jordan  
1972 Bernard Drews  
1971 Kenneth Callahan  
1970 Frank Schuhle  
1969 Donald Heckaman  
1968 Frank Moran  
1967 William Schlesinger  
1966 Donald Hamill  
1965 Lester Swift  
1964 Guy DiCarlo Jr.  
1963 Paul Guenther  
1962 Edward Downer  
1961 Charles Clarke  
1960 Howard Preston  
1959 John Cullen Jr.  
1958 George Farr Jr.  
1957 Kenneth Grant

## President's Message

Our March speaker, Michael Kaufmann, has been characterized by historian William C. Davis as a scholar who is unsurpassed in studying "Booth longer or more in depth" and as a "well-known figure and voice of reason in the field of Lincoln assassination studies." His discussion for us is entitled "*Not as it Seems: John Wilkes Booth and the Forging of a Conspiracy.*"

Mr. Kaufmann is also known for his Booth escape route bus tours, his articles in the *Civil War Times*, *Washington Post*, *Blue and Gray*, and *Lincoln Herald*, and his appearances in more than twenty television and radio documentaries. His recent book, **American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies**, was named by the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* as one of the best non-fiction books of the year in 2004. This book is now under development by David Simon (*The Wire*) as a mini-series.

Come to the CCWRT March meeting and learn from this important scholar.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Wells

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## 2012-2013 SCHEDULE

September 12, 2012

### *South Mountain*

**John  
Michael  
Priest**



January 9, 2013

### *Dick Crews Annual Debate: President Lincoln's Biggest Mistake*

**Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey**

February 13, 2013



*Edwin M. Stanton  
Buckeye Warlord*

**William F. B. Vodrey**

October 10, 2012



### *Morgan's Raid*

**Lester Horwitz**

March 13, 2013

### *The Assassination*

**Michael Kaufman**



November 14, 2012



### *Fort Pillow*

**Dr. John V.  
Cimprich**

April 10, 2013

### *Lincoln*

**Harold Holzer**



December 12, 2012

### *The Irish and the Civil War*

**Dr. W. Dennis Keating**



May 8, 2013

### *Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Players Present: Grant and Lee at the White House*



# The Lincoln Family

## Mary Lincoln

Mary Ann Todd was born in Lexington, Kentucky on December 13, 1818, of a prominent and influential family whose ancestors had a distinguished record in the American Revolution.

When she was about eight years old, Mary entered the Academy of Dr. John Ward, an Episcopal minister who was ahead of his time in running a coeducational school. Mary received more education than most women did at that time and, perhaps as a result, she sometimes expressed her opinions more freely than some of her contemporaries considered proper.

Considering her wealthy and aristocratic family background, her attitude toward marriage was surprisingly free of snobbery. She said "I would rather marry a poor man - a man of mind - with a hope and bright prospects ahead for position, fame and power than to marry all the houses [of] gold."

On November 4, 1842, Mary and Abraham were married. Because Lincoln came from a humble background, some members of Mary's family did not approve of her choice of a husband. In the course of their marriage, Mary sometimes lived under circumstances less luxurious than she was accustomed to, but she eventually became First Lady of the United States.

Shortly after her husband's death, Mary wrote: "There never existed a more loving and devoted husband." Mary Todd Lincoln died in Springfield on July 16, 1882, having never returned to the home she shared with Abraham Lincoln.



## Robert Lincoln

Robert Todd Lincoln, first child of Mary and Abraham, was born on August 1, 1843, in a boarding house called the Globe Tavern in Springfield. (This was before Lincoln had purchased the house on Eighth and Jackson Streets.) He was named after Mary's father, Robert Smith Todd.

As Robert grew up, it became apparent that he was of a stocky build and that he would never have the long-boned leanness of his father. When Robert was only three years old, his father wrote, "Bob is short and low' and, I expect, always will be."

In his boyhood years, Robert seems to have had a different personality than the rest of the family--he was more shy and reticent. He did not have the outgoing enthusiasm of the other sons and he seems to have lacked the personal magnetism of his father and the vivacious quality of his mother.

Robert was the only one of the Lincoln sons who lived into adulthood and he distinguished himself in many ways. He graduated from Harvard College in 1864. After four months at Harvard Law School, he was commissioned a captain on the staff of General Grant and was present at the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Courthouse.

Taking up the practice of law in Chicago in 1869, he became very successful as a lawyer and businessman. In 1897 he became president of the Pullman Car Company and he also served as director for the Commonwealth Edison Company, the Chicago Telephone Company, and several other business concerns. In addition, he played a distinguished role in government, serving as Secretary of War under Presidents Garfield and Arthur. He was later appointed minister to Great Britain by President Benjamin Harrison.

Robert died at his summer home - "Hildene" - in Vermont on July 26, 1926, a few days before his eighty-third birthday.

## Edward Baker “Eddie” Lincoln

The second child of Mary and Abraham, Eddie was born on March 10, 1846, in the Lincoln home on Eighth and Jackson Streets. He was named after Edward Baker, a friend and political ally of Lincoln's. Eddie only lived to be three years and ten months old. After a long illness he died in the family home on February 1, 1850.

Because he died so young, little is known of his still-developing personality, only a few impressions of him have survived. Mrs. Lincoln wrote of an occasion when Robert brought home a kitten. When Eddie "spied it his tenderness broke forth, he made them bring it water, fed it with bread himself, with his own dear hands, he was a delighted little creature over it...."

On the day that Lincoln said farewell to the people of Springfield as he left for the White House, he thought of Eddie. Summing up what Springfield had meant to him, he said: "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried."

## William Wallace “Willie” Lincoln

The third child of Mary and Abraham Lincoln, Willie, was born on December 21, 1850, in the family home in Springfield. He was named for his Uncle William Wallace, who married Mary Todd Lincoln's sister Frances. Willie was described as being amiable, cheerful, mature for his age, and the son who was the most popular with his playmates. His mother said that Willie "was a very beautiful boy, with a most spiritual expression of face." However, the use of the word "spiritual" here does not mean that he was not ready to join his younger brother Tad in pranks and mischief whenever the occasion presented itself.

Willie wrote his only lines about his father, in a letter to a friend named Henry Remann. In the note, the child touchingly described a trip the two were sharing to Chicago, where Lincoln was appearing in a legal case. This is how life with his father at the Tremont House appeared to a wide-eyed William Wallace Lincoln on 3 June 1859.

"This town is a very beautiful place. Me and father went to two theatres the other night. Me and father have a nice little room to ourselves. We have two little pitcher[s] on a washstand. The smallest one for me the largest one for father. We have two little towels on top of both pitchers. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. We have two little beds in the room. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. We have two little wash basin[s]. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. The weather is very very fine here in this town. Was this exhibition on Wednesday before last."

Willie died in the White House on February 20, 1862, at the age of 11, while his father was President. His death was a devastating blow to his parents, and it cast a dark shadow over the remaining years of Lincoln's Presidency, already made tragic by the Civil War.

The Willie letter is from Lincoln as I Knew Him, by Harold Holzer.

## Thomas “Tad” Lincoln

The youngest child of Mary and Abraham, Thomas, was born on April 4, 1853, in the Lincoln home in Springfield. He was named after Lincoln's father, Thomas, but, Abraham nicknamed him "Tad," short for "Tadpole," apparently because of his appearance as an infant. Tad was inventive in thinking up mischief and he became rather famous for his pranks, which he often carried out with the help of his older brother Willie.

Tad died on July 15, 1871, at the age of 18, about six years after the assassination of his father. His death was a great loss to his mother, because she had depended upon him for love, companionship, and understanding after Abraham's death.

Taken from the National Park Service  
website for the Lincoln Home National  
Historic Site.

## Exhuming the Body of John Wilkes Booth (1995)

On May 17, 1995, a hearing was begun in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan presiding, to determine whether the body of John Wilkes Booth should be exhumed from Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore. Petitioning to have the body exhumed were Lois W. Rathbun, Booth's great-great-grand niece, and Virginia Eleanor Humbrecht Kline who is Booth's first cousin, twice removed. These distant relatives sought the exhumation in order that the remains might be examined to determine whether the body in the grave actually is John Wilkes Booth.

Controversy over who is buried in Booth's grave dates back to 1903 when a man named David E. George committed suicide in Enid, Oklahoma. Before he died, George claimed that he was John Wilkes Booth and that someone else had been killed at Garrett's farm and buried in his place. George's claims were "confirmed" by Finis L. Bates, a lawyer who said that George confessed the same to him several years earlier. Bates wrote a book entitled *The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth* and exhibited George's mummified remains at carnival sideshows for years, thus keeping the rumor going.

Green Mount Cemetery opposed Booth's relatives' request for exhumation. Surratt Society members Steven G. Miller of Chicago, Dr. William Hanchett of San Diego, Michael Kauffman of Maryland, and Dr. Terry Alford and James O. Hall, both of Virginia, presented the documented history of Booth's capture and death. On May 26, Judge Kaplan ruled that the exhumation should not occur. He concluded that there was no compelling reason for an exhumation. This decision was based on the facts that:

- (1) Green Mount Cemetery is not certain where John Wilkes Booth is buried, and there is evidence that three infant siblings are buried in a coffin on top of his remains. Exhumation would inappropriately disturb these individuals.
- (2) Accurate identification of the body is not probable due to the length of time that has elapsed since Booth was buried; the effect that excessive water damage to the Booth burial plot would have had on his remains; and the lack of dental records by which to make the identification. Because there are no dental records, experimental "video superimposition" techniques would have to be used instead. DNA testing is not an option because a proper match cannot be expected from among Booth's relatives.
- (3) The historical evidence that Booth was indeed killed at Garrett's farm is convincing. Numerous people, who were in a position to know Booth intimately, positively identified him during his escape, while he was at Garrett's farm, after he was shot, and at his reinternment in Green Mount Cemetery in 1869. Evidence offered in support of having the body exhumed includes the claims of two soldiers who said that Booth was not killed at Garrett's Farm. But these men were not even present when Booth was captured and killed. Furthermore, the escape/cover-up theory at the heart of the current case is based on Finis L. Bates' book. In 1920, this book was declared an outright fraud by investigators hired by Henry Ford to whom Bates was endeavoring to sell the David E. George mummy. And during the recent hearing, the book was described as unreliable by the Petitioners' own expert witness.

Judge Kaplan's ruling may not end the matter. According to the August 1995 edition of the *Surratt Courier*, a Petitioners' Notice of Appeal was filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City on June 21, 1995.



## Appeal to Exhume Booth's Body is Denied (1996)

On May 8, parties gathered at the Court of Special Appeals in Annapolis, Maryland, to continue the quest by collateral descendants of John Wilkes Booth to exhume his body from Green Mount Cemetery for analysis in hopes of furthering the theory that an impostor is buried in his grave. The appeal was mounted by their lawyer, Mark S. Zaid, who contends that there is still an historical controversy. In May, 1995, Judge H. H. Kaplan of the Baltimore Circuit Court had denied a request to exhume Booth's body after hearing historical experts testify to the overwhelming documentation of Booth's death at Garrett's Farm in Virginia on April 26, 1865.

This time, a three-judge panel heard the arguments by Zaid as well as by lawyer Francis J. Gorman, representing Green Mount Cemetery, which contends that there is no controversy. During the 40-minute hearing, Zaid fielded an aggressive battery of questions from the judges. Gorman based his case on the cemetery's right to carry out its fiduciary and contractual duty to protect the rights of the Booth family, chiefly the wishes of the matriarch, Mary Ann Booth, who expected the family's remains to rest in peace. As Gorman stated, "This is not a referendum; this is not a history class. This is a court of law, and the law is very clear about how final remains should be handled." Chief Judge C. J. Wilner questioned the historical evidence Zaid presented, calling it contradictory.



On June 4, the appeal was denied. The judges' opinion is that overwhelming evidence indicates that Booth did die at Garrett's Farm and was buried in Green Mount Cemetery in 1869 after being interred for four years in Washington, and that Green Mount Cemetery has every right to control the grave site to which Booth's body was entrusted by his mother.

Taken from the website for the Surratt House Museum. Go to [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org) for more information.

### Harford to buy Tudor Hall,

BY MATT WARD 8/9/06  
Aegis mward@theaegis.com A3

The boyhood home of the nation's first presidential assassin will become public property Friday, when Harford County government completes the purchase of Tudor Hall and the surrounding eight acres.

Located off Route 22 at the end of Tudor Lane between Fountain Green and Churchville, the 3,400-square-foot home built by the Booth family in 1847 had been listed for sale at \$875,000, though it had failed to sell for that price at a public auction in April.

Deborah Henderson, director of procurement for the county, said the county will pay \$810,000 for the property, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A county government source said Tuesday the county will likely seek some reimbursement, which could come from the Maryland Historical Trust, which falls under of the Maryland Department of Planning.

While it won't be open as an everyday museum, the county is looking into ways to make Tudor Hall accessible to public groups and to Shakespearean actors.

### home to actors, assassin, for \$810,000

Tudor Hall is significant in theater circles because it was built by 19th Century Shakespearean actor Junius Brutus Booth, who had emigrated from England, and was the boyhood home of his even more famous theatrical son, Edwin Booth.

But it was also — perhaps more notoriously — the boyhood home of another of Junius Brutus Booth's sons, John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

Henderson said the Historical Society of Harford County has various relics and items of note pertaining to the Booth family, which could be

loaned for viewing at Tudor Hall.

The home was sold out of the Booth family in 1878 and has since had a succession of private owners. The original Booth estate included more land, which was sold off for development in the 1960s. A Movie crew visited the home in the mid-1960s in preparation for a feature film about the Booth family, "Prince of Players," that starred the late Richard Burton as Edwin Booth. The late John Derek played John Wilkes.

Tudor Hall was frequently opened to the public in the 1980s when owned by late Howard and Dorothy Fox, who

hosted a number of prominent actors, among them Stacy Keach.

The property has been off limits to the public since Bob and Beth Baker acquired it from the Foxes' estate at auction in 1999 for \$415,000, before embarking on a number of improvement projects to the home.

The Bakers put the property up for sale this year. After bids at the April auction failed to reach the asking price, the county government began expressing an interest. The purchase was approved by the county's Board of Estimates in a closed session July 13.



SURRAT



BOOTH



HAROLD

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,



# \$100,000 REWARD!

## THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,

### IS STILL AT LARGE.

## \$50,000 REWARD

Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

## \$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRATT, one of Booth's accomplices.

## \$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of David G. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

LIBERAL BOUNTIES will be paid for any information that shall result in the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or assisting the said persons, or either of them, or aiding in enabling their escape, or attempt, will be treated as accessories in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the pains of hanging stand as a warning from the hell for the arrest and punishment of the scoundrels.

All good citizens are solicited to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and not suffer right nor day need to be accomplished.

**EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.**

DESCRIPTION.—BOOTH is Five Feet 7 or 8 inches high, slender build, high forehead, black hair, black eyes, and wears a heavy black mustache.

JOHN H. SURRATT is about 5 feet, 8 inches. Hair rather thin and dark, eyes rather light, no beard. Would weigh 145 or 150 pounds. Complexion rather pale and clean with color in his cheeks. Wears light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square, chest broad, rather prominent; chin square; nose projecting at the tip; forehead rather low and square, but broad. Parts blackish on the right side; neck rather long. His legs are finely cut. A fine voice.

DAVID G. HAROLD is five feet six inches high, hair dark, eyes dark, complexion rather heavy, full face, nose short, head short and fleshy, but small, temples high, round headed, vivacity quick and active, slightly above his eyes when looking at a person.

NOTES.—In addition to the above, there and other authorities have offered rewards amounting to about one hundred thousand dollars, making an aggregate of about TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.



Booth on the porch of the Garrett house.



NEXT MONTH

LINCOLN

HAROLD HOLZER





## The Booth Escape Route and Locations along the Route

