

Preface

There can be no doubt that John Wilkes Booth killed Lincoln because the two detectives who captured him recovered a confession Booth wrote just days before he himself was shot to death. Scribbled on a few outdated pages in the diary section of an old 1864 memorandum book, Booth left a written account describing how, and even why, he killed the President.

However, the reason Lincoln's murder has remained a conspiracy theory for so long is because there are six pages of text missing from the center of Booth's confession. Also, because the conspiracy investigation to uncover Booth's accomplices and its ensuing trial, turned out to be a complete sham.

Despite evidence uncovered many years ago, this nation's mainstream history explaining Lincoln's murder still stubbornly endures as one long disgraceful cover-up.

By 1976, history researchers began to notice what appears to be invisible writing on the pages of Booth's diary. It was also apparent that several of the pages had been removed after Booth was dead.

It took intervention, as high as Vice President Walter Mondale, to persuade the United States Department of Interior National Park Service to dispatch a letter to the FBI director requesting the diary of John Wilkes Booth be examined by their forensic lab. Although, several months before Mondale's initiative to have the diary examined, Sunn Classic Pictures had already obtained permission from the National Park Service to photograph the diary under special lighting conditions.

Even before the diary reached the FBI, Hollywood had already tainted the credibility of the evidence by placing the mystery of the missing diary pages in the same category as alien abductions and crop circles. Then, the Washington Post, along with the Civil War Times, fueled wild speculations after posting articles claiming the missing pages had been recovered.

By midsummer 1977, the FBI forensic department had already used special techniques to test the 112-year-old diary confession written by Lincoln's assassin. At that point, the lab technicians discovered that the conspirators who plotted to kill the United States President were the same men who investigated his murder and conducted the conspiracy trial.

While anxiously awaiting the lab report, a second follow-up letter was sent to the FBI director, by an undisclosed third party, explaining why the matter was of great historical importance. The letter was to reiterate that since the matter arose there have been many suggestions the Booth diary is a forgery designed to assist in a cover-up. *"This needs to be settled one way or the other"* [CK2].

This matter of historical importance was settled, but it was done by concealing the actual results discovered by the lab technicians. The FBI uncovered definitive evidence that could prove Lincoln was removed from office by members of his own party, even members of his own administration. If this was released to the public, what political upheavals would result?

The Consequences of Truth

Such a truth would force institutions of higher learning to be reformatted, history books about Lincoln would become obsolete, and publishing companies would suffer great losses.

Scholars (God forbid) would be forced to admit they were wrong.

Another dangerous consequence of the truth to be considered was that by 1977, President Lincoln had not been the only United States President deprived of serving out his full elected term. Regardless of assassination or impeachment to empower a different administration (without an election), each deposed President removed from office would join the Kennedy conspiracy and be individually reevaluated. These long-buried secrets would expose under-the-table deals made behind closed doors.

A representative republic under a constitution is a form of government designed to provide the general public a voice in government policy by a majority vote. However, the decision to conceal the lab results about the missing diary pages was made by an elite few, based on an underground, age-old ideology which believes the opinion of the general public should be regulated through censorship or misleading information.

Even the most gullible or naïve realize that news, history and entertainment are all too often misused as a tool of political persuasion, edited in a way to greatly influence public opinion. And when an elite few own a broadcasting monopoly, the majority can be easily persuaded to favor the personal political views of major media executives who do the choosing for all as to what shall be allowed and what should be censored.

This history book is a collection of historical National Archives documents too long suppressed by an elite few. The men who removed Lincoln from office did so to gain a majority vote advantage over the distribution of government subsidies and exemption from taxes. Those who still wish to hide that truth can now be exposed as frauds, because the FBI report withstands every rebuttal.

In the United States, we still enjoy a freedom of information. This publication is about exercising that liberty, with a purpose to preserve a representative republic elected by a majority vote from a fully informed, open society.

The Lincoln conspiracy can only be considered a theory as long as the newly uncovered, published evidence continues to remain suppressed by a minority-controlled media.

The Depth of Conspiracy

Though Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, was the architect of the assassination plot, he could not, nor would he dare attempt such a bold initiative, without very high-ranking Congressional support.

The conspiracy to remove Lincoln from office consisted of four levels, with John Wilkes Booth and his New York accomplices at level 4. Secretary Stanton and his military subordinates were level 3. Congressional conspirators within Lincoln's own party, spearheaded by Charles Sumner,

Thaddeus Stevens, and Salmon Chase were level 2. At level 1, were the Northeastern capitalists who used their deep pockets to buy Washington lobbyists, while providing financing to elect their chosen candidates for Congress. The final decision to remove Abraham Lincoln, was initiated by the Union Pacific Railroad founder, Thomas Durant.

This publication will only address levels 3 and 4.

The Evidence

For more than seven decades, a large volume of files collected during Lincoln's conspiracy investigation was kept classified and locked away by the War Department. Even after their release, the old filing system made those documents almost meaningless to history researchers. Classified evidence about the conspiracy investigation did not become orderly and easily accessible to the public until 2009.

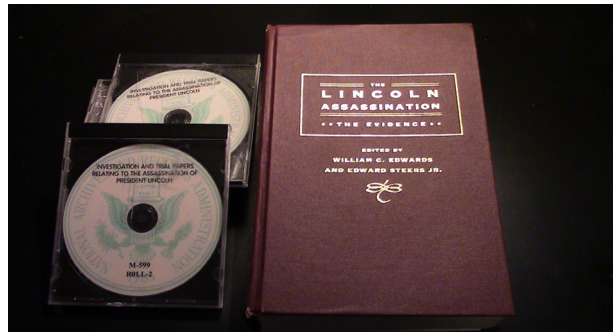


Fig. 1. National Archives CDs of M-599, Rolls 1-7. The Lincoln Assassination: The Evidence, edited by William C. Edwards and Edward Steers Jr.

(Photograph by Don Thomas)

Those old War Department files are no longer a random, unrelated pile of handwritten documents. Rather, they have been edited and published in *The Lincoln Assassination: The Evidence* by William Edwards, and can also be found on CD's sold by the National Archives.

In 2009, Lincoln's 1865 murder mystery acquired new evidence. From that, a new and different history has emerged.

Before the day Lincoln was shot, Booth and his kidnapping accomplices had only a plot to capture the President. But by the end of the conspiracy trial, the idiot followers in Booth's ridiculous and impossible kidnapping scheme were quite easily convicted as assassination accomplices, without motive evidence or even an escape plan.

All the while, the implicated New York suspects were never investigated because all of the collected evidence was placed in the possession of Stanton's military Special Commissioners, under the overall direction of Judge Advocate Colonel Henry Burnett.

Countless rumors, which circulated during the conspiracy trial, created a deep suspicion that Stanton's prosecuting Judge Advocate withheld significant information from trial evidence. Any part of this withheld information, if presented during the trial, would have exposed the illegal conduct by the military investigators, as well as by the illegal conspiracy prosecutors.

Two years after the trial ended, Congress investigated Stanton and his judges because it was discovered that the War Department was keeping Booth's diary confession a secret. The book was taken from Booth's body by detectives during his capture, but never made public.

A House Judiciary Committee found 86 pages missing from the diary, but could not prove when the sheets were cut from the book. It took 20th century technology to solve the mystery of the missing pages; yet, well into the 21st century, the general public still does not know that the mystery was solved by the FBI in 1977.

Today, those old secret War Department documents are accessible to the general public. After reviewing this new evidence, it becomes apparent that having complete authority over the investigation and conspiracy trial was a very crucial element of Secretary Stanton's treachery to cover up his own involvement in Lincoln's murder.

George Atzerodt's recovered confession, the Congressional investigation into Booth's missing diary pages (solved in 1977 by the FBI), and the published War Department secret files make up an immense volume of suppressed documents.

None of this evidence was known during the conspiracy trial, nor has it been included in contemporary books about Lincoln's murder. Lincoln's 1865 illegal murder investigation has endured for over 150 years as an unsolved mystery. Only now does the conspiracy to kill Lincoln have enough recovered evidence to solve this nation's most infamous murder.