

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

April 2009

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Lincoln Assassination Conspirators

With the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth this past February, we begin a year's reflection on Lincoln, as well as the beginning of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War—the pivotal event of Lincoln's life.

NARA's Regional Archives system holds a wealth of records that provide insight into this critical period of U.S. history. Some of the most frequently requested records include series detailing military recruitment and service, armaments and logistics, and enslavement and emancipation of African Americans. Filed among these often routine correspondence and transactional accounts are hidden treasures that can illuminate or broaden our perspective on other aspects or events of the Civil War era.

The hidden treasures featured this month document one of the greatest manhunts and trials in United States history—that of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. They are very modest-looking pieces of paper. Their very modesty and quotidian nature belie the volatile story.

The first is a multipage telegram, sent on April 15, 1865, describing the suspected assassin of Secretary of State William H. Seward—the equivalent of the modern "BOLO" or "APB" familiar to readers and viewers of thrillers and police procedurals. The last paragraph directs: "Use every exertion to arrest him, and call to your aid the entire force under your control. Invoke the aid of all citizens." The original conspiracy called for the assassination of Seward and Vice President Johnson as well as Lincoln. The person assigned to the Vice President got cold feet. Lewis Thornton Powell severely wounded Seward and his son (both recovered). Powell was captured in Washington, DC, on the 17th. Copies of this telegram reside in the Civil War Provost Marshal (NARA Record Group 110) correspondence files of several posts from New York to Maryland.

Another piece of routine correspondence among the same

Report dated April 28, 1865, recording the capture and incarceration of Junius Brutus Booth, Jr. to the Old Capitol Prison.

NARA RG 110, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War)

Courtesy of NARA Mid-Atlantic Region, Philadelphia ARC 439

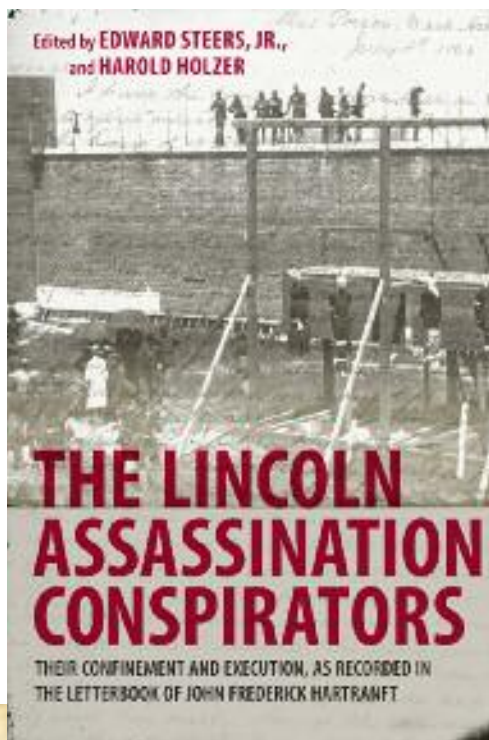
records reports the delivery and incarceration of Junius Brutus Booth. John Wilkes Booth's eldest brother was among many of the people arrested and questioned during the manhunt. Junius, also an actor, had been performing in Cincinnati. He was arrested in Philadelphia at his sister Asia's house, together with Asia's husband, John Sleeper Clarke. Booth had left correspondence at that house that proved Junius knew of the plot.

In the last document, handwritten copies of Maj. Gen. John Frederick Hartranft's daily reports detail the final days of the conspirators. Hartranft's final assignment of the Civil War was to guard and care for the conspirators during their incarceration. When their trial began, the nation waited eagerly for news, and many sought retribution against those they held responsible for the nation's grief. Hartranft resisted calls for both vengeance and mercy and continued to treat his notorious charges as humanely as possible, facilitating meetings with clergy and sending letters to and from family members. Yet, as his detached, detailed description of the execution of four of the conspirators shows, he did not allow emotion to impede the performance of his duty.

The letterbook, passed down through the Hartranft family, is held in the PA State Archives, under an Affiliated Archives agreement with NARA (NARA Record Group 393; ARC 586119). The image here is of the cover of a new regional publication of the Hartranft letterbook, edited by leading Lincoln scholars, Harold Holzer and Edward Steers, Jr., <http://www.lsu.edu/lsupress/bookPages/9780807133965.html>

The letterbook, passed down through the Hartranft family, is held in the PA State Archives, under an Affiliated Archives agreement with NARA (NARA Record Group 393; ARC 586119).

The image here is of the cover of a new regional publication of the Hartranft letterbook, edited by leading Lincoln scholars, Harold Holzer and Edward Steers, Jr., <http://www.lsu.edu/lsupress/bookPages/9780807133965.html>



Above: The Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: Their Confinement and Execution, as Recorded in the Letterbook of John Frederick Hartranft, 2009.

RG 393, ARC 586119, Courtesy of NARA Mid-Atlantic Region

Left: Telegram dated April 15, 1865, describing the suspected assassin of Secretary of State William H. Seward.

NARA RG 110, Records of the Provost Marshal

General's Bureau (Civil War) ARC 439
Courtesy of NARA Mid-Atlantic Region, Philadelphia

NARA WestCoast April 2009

Poppies in Perris, CA
Courtesy of NARA Pacific Region
Riverside, CA

Exhibit:
Seattle, WA
Picturing the
Century
in the Pacific
Northwest
5/6/08-Ongoing



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	Seattle, WA Immigration and Naturalization Workshop Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115 <hr/> Denver, CO Archives Tour and Workshop 2 P.M. Tour/General Public 303-407-5749	3 4 Denver, CO Denver History Day Competition K-12 Students 303-407-5749
5	6	7	8 Seattle, WA Brick Wall Discussion Group Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115	9	10 Denver, CO CO Council of Social Studies Annual Conference Information Booth and Exhibit K-12 Teachers 303-407-5749	11
12	13	14	15 Portland, OR Northwest History and Heritage Extravaganza Conference General Public 206-336-5115 4/15-4/18/09	16	17 San Bruno, CA Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records Workshop Workshop & Tour Genealogists 650-238-3485	18 Anchorage, AK Anchorage Genealogical Society Genealogy Seminar Conference Genealogists 907-261-7820
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Auburn, WA State History Day Competition K-12 Students 206-336-5115
26	27	28	29	30	Exhibit: Seattle, WA Blue vs. Gray: The Civil War in the Pacific NW 9/1/08-Ongoing	

NARA's Pacific Region
Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641
 laguna.archives@nara.gov
San Bruno 650-238-3501
 sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Rocky Mountain Region
Denver 303-407-5740
 denver.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Pacific Alaska Region
Seattle 206-336-5115
 seattle.archives@nara.gov
Anchorage 907-261-7800
 alaska.archives@nara.gov

NARA EastCoast April 2009

Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Awards Dinner
 Sunday, April 26, 2009, 6 P.M.
 Sponsored by The Civil War Round Tables of
 Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Lincoln
 Bicentennial Commission, and the National Archives



SOLD OUT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
	Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA Elusive Freedom 8/1/08-9/30/09	Exhibit: Waltham, MA RG 110 "Civil War at Home" 4/24/09-6/30/09		Waltham, MA Chinese Exclusion Act On-Site Educational Workshop 6:30 P.M. Workshop General Public 781-663-0130	Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House General Public 215-606-0112 Philadelphia, PA Incarceration Nation Conference Graduate Students www.mceas.org/incarceration/index.html 4/3/-4/4/09	Huron, OH Finding the Correct Ancestor: Civil War Soldiers Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy Research at NARA Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600		Delaware, OH Using Pre-1850 Censuses to Find Family Relationships Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604 Waltham, MA Censuses, Passenger Lists & Naturalization Records 2 P.M. Genealogical Lecture/General Public 781-663-0130			Huron, OH Navigating the Bureaucracy: Using Federal Web Sites Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		New York, NY Finding Family: Using Passenger Arrival Records Genealogists General Public 866-840-1752	Milburn, NJ Production of 1776 (the play) 7 P.M. General Public 866-840-1752 Philadelphia, PA Genealogical Series: Immigration Records Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112	New York, NY Family History Game Show at Ellis Island 1 P.M., 1:30 P.M., and 2 P.M. General Public 866-840-1752	Washington, DC The Lincoln Conspirators AI Lecture General Public 202-357-5053 Federal Hall, NY New York's National Treasures 10 A.M.-4 P.M. General Public 866-840-1752	Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Census Records Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogical Research at NARA Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Troy, NY Beginning and Managing Your Genealogy Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604		Waltham, MA Family-Friendly Introduction to Genealogy 10 A.M. Lecture General Public 781-663-0130		Manchester, NH Finding the Correct Ancestor: Civil War Soldiers Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604	Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at NARA Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 Pittsfield, MA Genealogy and the Internet Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 Morrow, GA This Property is Condemned! Workshop/Genealogists 770-968-2555
26	27	28	29	30		
Waltham, MA Oliver Wendell Holmes Award Dinner sponsored by the Civil War Roundtable of Greater Boston (SOLD OUT)	Troy, NY Using Federal Census Records Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604 Troy, NY Beginning Your Research at NARA Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604		Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Research at NARA Lecture and Tour Genealogists 413-236-3604		Morrow, GA Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Lecture/Genealogists 770-968-2555 Providence, RI National History Day Rhode Island Providence College Outreach/General Public 781-663-0130	

NARA's Northeast Region
 Pittsfield 413-236-3600
pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

Boston 866-406-2379
waltham.archives@nara.gov
New York 866-840-1752
newyork.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Mid Atlantic Region
 Philadelphia 215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Southeast Region
 Morrow 770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest April 2009

Dandelion Production in Minnesota, 1943
RG 95, Courtesy of NARA Great Lakes Region



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
	Exhibit: Raytown, MO Far Greater Evil 4/1-4/15/09	Independence, MO And Justice for All 4/1-4/15/09	Atchison, KS Westward Expansion Lecture General Public 816-268-8012	Wichita, KS Promoting Constitution Day in an Electronic World Conference Archival and Allied Professionals 816-268-8012		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Independence, MO Leavenworth Prison Records Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8016			Lone Jack, MO Internet and the Genealogist Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8072		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Chicago, IL Abraham Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power 6:30 p.m. Public Reading General Public 773-948-9001		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Kansas City, MO Discovering Your Indian Heritage, Part II Lecture/General Public 816-268-8071	
26	27	28	29	30	Exhibit: Chicago, IL Celebrity Draft Registration Cards 4/1/09-12/31/10	

NARA's Great Lakes Region
Chicago 773-948-9001
chicago.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's
Central Plains Region**
Kansas City 816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's National Personnel
Records Center (NPRC)**
Archival Programs Division
St. Louis 314-801-0850

NARA's Southwest Region
Fort Worth 817-831-5620
ftworth.archives@nara.gov