

## Masonic Lincoln 'Bookends'

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Onondaga & Oswego Masonic Districts Historical Societies (OMDHS)  
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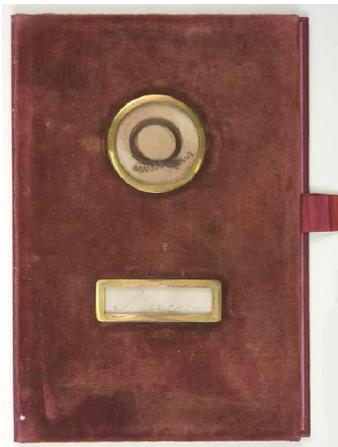
As sort of bookends in the fateful encounters of President Lincoln, it is of interest to note that Brothers John Alexander Kennedy and David P. Bookstaver, both of New York City, were involved in averting an assassination attempt of Lincoln. Brother Kennedy was on the train, in the same car with the President, on his passage from Philadelphia to Washington.

Following the assassination of President Lincoln, he was again with two Brothers from New York City:

**Bro. Charles DeCosta Brown** of LaFayette Lodge No. 64, New York City, was the one who embalmed President Lincoln and accompanied him on the train to his final resting place in Springfield, IL.

**Bro. Justus Chollar** of Manhattan Lodge No. 62 [Master in 1858] served at the White House in the newly created Secret Service Division during the Civil War. He was a Dr. Brown's side during the embalming, when the doctor found it necessary to remove some hair from around President Lincoln's entry wound, and gave this lock of hair to Bro. Chollar. This lock of hair is still extant

CHOLLAR, BYRON E. - Age 21 years. Enlisted [15th NY Engineers], 15 May 1861, at New York city; mustered in as private, Co. H, 17 Jun 1861, to serve two years; discharged, 3 Feb 1863.



LOCK OF LINCOLN'S HAIR

Cut from his head by the embalmers, Drs. Brown and Alexander, and presented by them to Justus Chollar, one of the guard in attendance at the White House. A lock of about 30 strands of the martyred President's hair, in a small stamped leather case.

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Superintendent John A. Kennedy again appears in the record about three hours following the assassination of President Lincoln, when a telegraph was sent to Kennedy by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. [Note: President Lincoln was shot at about 10:30 p.m. and, after being in a coma for nine hours, he died at 7:22 am on April 15, 1865].

American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies, by Michael W. Kauffman, page 48.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=86RH6NNC10QC&pg=PA48&dq=%22john+a.+kennedy%22+%22john+wilkes+booth%22&hl=en&ei=irdTTqrgA-rL0QH-vZnvBQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=86RH6NNC10QC&pg=PA48&dq=%22john+a.+kennedy%22+%22john+wilkes+booth%22&hl=en&ei=irdTTqrgA-rL0QH-vZnvBQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false)

War Department,  
April 15, 1865 – 1 a.m.

John A. Kennedy,  
*Chief of Police, New York:*

Send here immediately three or four of you best detectives to investigate the facts as to the assassination of the President and Secretary Seward. They are still alive, but the President's case is hopeless, and that of Mr. Steward nearly the same.

Edwin M. Stanton,  
*Secretary of War.*

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**David P. Bookstaver** - Metropolitan Lodge No. 273 was formed by members of Atwood Lodge No. 208; in 1852 circumstances occurred which brought about a dissolution of that Lodge, and the birth of Metropolitan was the outcome. On 30 Sep 1852, a petition was prepared for the new Lodge and signed by 38 Brothers, one of whom was David P. Bookstaver.

## John Alexander Kennedy

Manitou Lodge No. 106, New York City  
First Senior Warden, U.D., 1846; Master 1849

He is also listed as prominent Mason of Independent Royal Arch No. 2 in the Grand Lodge Proceedings.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Alexander\\_Kennedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Alexander_Kennedy)

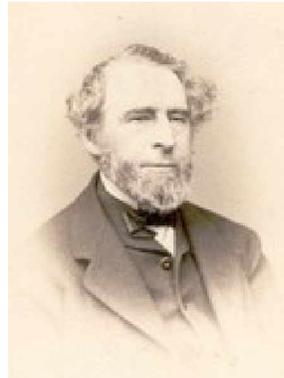
Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Volume 3, edited by James Grant Wilson, John Fiske, 1887. page 516-17.  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=TGFIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA516&dq=%22kennedy,+john+alexander%22&hl=en&ei=uvhSTpg\\_F6jn0QHl-YWHBw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=15&ved=0CGgQ6AEwDg#v=onepage&q=%22kennedy%2C%20john%20alexander%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=TGFIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA516&dq=%22kennedy,+john+alexander%22&hl=en&ei=uvhSTpg_F6jn0QHl-YWHBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=15&ved=0CGgQ6AEwDg#v=onepage&q=%22kennedy%2C%20john%20alexander%22&f=false)

**John Alexander Kennedy** was the superintendent of police for New York City. He was born in Baltimore, MD, on 9 Aug 1803. His father was a native of Ireland who became a teacher in Baltimore. John moved to New York City and worked with his brother. In 1849 he was appointed a commissioner of emigration, and in 1854 he was elected a member of the common council.

*John Alexander Kennedy >*

He was appointed superintendent of Castle Garden, and worked to protect emigrants against swindlers. In 1860 he became superintendent of the New York City Police. During the New York Draft Riots, aged 59, he was severely beaten by a mob, while protecting the office of the provost-marshal at 46th Street and 3rd Avenue, on the morning of 14 Jul 1863.

Since the NY State Militia had been sent to assist Union troops in Pennsylvania, the police were left to suppress the riots. The police superintendent, John A. Kennedy, came by on Monday to check on the situation. Although not in uniform, he was recognized by people in the mob and they attacked him. Kennedy was left nearly unconscious, having had his face



bruised and cut, an injured eye, swelled lips, his hand cut with a knife, and a mass of bruises and blood all over his body. In response, police drew their clubs and revolvers, and charged the crowd, but the crowd overpowered them. The police forces were badly outnumbered and unable to quell the riots; however, they were able to keep the rioting out of Lower Manhattan, below Union Square.

When he returned to duty he was appointed provost-marshal of New York City, as well as superintendent of police, and continued to serve in this double capacity during the Civil War. He made many enemies through his efforts to enforce the metropolitan excise law. He resigned on 11 Apr 1870, he then served as president of a street-railroad company for about two years, and then held the office of collector of assessments until his death in New York City on 20 Jun 1873, aged 69, ten years after the riots.

He was married to Agnes Crawford, b. Nov. 13, 1808, Lochwinnoch, Scotland; d. Jun. 25, 1898, Manhattan; bur. Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.



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In spite of the views of Pinkerton and Kennedy and the reports from their associates and informed sources, the public and the press in part saw a perhaps a different view of this alleged plot.

For the rest of his presidency, the story of his sneaking like a coward through Baltimore would be told and retold by his enemies, with particular effect by cartoonists of the day. He was drawn with many variations of Scottish headwear, which eventually morphed into a Scottish balmoral cap and very short kilt. The absurd disguise was often accompanied by a terrified expression on the President-elect's face, to further undermine the public's image of his courage and manliness. Images such as a below article and comic strip in *Harper's Weekly* plagued Lincoln throughout his presidency.

Newspapers of all parties mocked Lincoln's actions. In a *Vanity Fair* cartoon, the kilt was traded for a dress the president had borrowed from his wife. By the time Abraham Lincoln arrived in Washington, he was the laughing stock of the entire country

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Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States of America, Volume 2, by Benson John Lossing, footnote , pages 147-  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=uTMOAAAIAAJ&pg=PA148&lpg=PA148&dq=%22David+S.+Bookstaver%22&source=bl&ots=14FwVtDsPI&sig=Hx6\\_mSLD1vilckwfvUhfDEUj2k&hl=en&ei=TMBSTsjHN67C0AGF6tz6Bg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22David%20S.%20Bookstaver%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=uTMOAAAIAAJ&pg=PA148&lpg=PA148&dq=%22David+S.+Bookstaver%22&source=bl&ots=14FwVtDsPI&sig=Hx6_mSLD1vilckwfvUhfDEUj2k&hl=en&ei=TMBSTsjHN67C0AGF6tz6Bg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22David%20S.%20Bookstaver%22&f=false)

... the following letter, written to the author by the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police of the City of New York, may be appropriately given. It furnishes interesting additions to the history of Mr. Lincoln's Journey from Philadelphia to Washington, in February, 1861, given in the first volume of this work.

"Office of the Superintendent of Metropolitan Police, "300 Mulberry Street  
"New York; August 18th, 1866,

"BENSON J. LOSSING. Esq,  
"Poughkeepsie, New York.

"DEAR SIR:—On reading your description of the manner in which the late President Lincoln was induced to chance his route In going to the City of Washington, in February, 1861, I was impressed with the faithfulness, so far as the narrative goes, but regretted that It was not more full in showing how and to whom the country is indebted for the safety of his valuable life at that important period.

"It will be remembered that there was much uncertainty at the beginning of the late rebellion as to what course the conspirators designed taking to carry out their plans; and, with the view of ascertaining their purpose, In the latter part of December, 1860, I detailed two of my most Intelligent detectives to proceed to Washington, with instructions to endeavor to discover the secret plans of the conspirators. If they had any, for taking possession of the seat of Government, and to communicate with Senator Grimes, of Iowa, on the subject I did not know the Senator personally at that time, but I had a reputation of him that justified me in confiding in him.

"On Friday, January 4th, 1861, I received a note from Hon. Schuyler Colfax, requesting me to send a number of detectives to Washington, for the same purpose that I had already dispatched the two alluded to. I then determined to go that night myself, and take with me another of my men. I purposed looking the field over, with the view of ascertaining the probability of such an attempt being made. In the morning of Saturday I found a want of harmony among the friends of the Union—scarcely any two looked at the crisis through the same medium. Mr. Colfax invited me to attend a meeting of a sort of committee of members of both houses of Congress, at the residence of Senator Trumbull, that morning. It numbered about a dozen persons, and there were about twelve different opinions among them as to the ultimate designs of the conspirators. The extreme views were entertained by Senator Trumbull and Rep. K. B. Washburn. One of these gentlemen regarded the 'matter as nothing more than the usual Southern vaunting; that the South had been badly defeated, and the secession talk meant nothing but braggadocio; that they had had things so long their own way, it could not be expected of them to quietly submit to defeat; a few weeks and all would be peaceful again.' The other gentleman was of opinion 'that the Southern men meant every word they uttered; that they had been preparing for this thing since 1812; that he was convinced they had selected this time because they think themselves ready, while we are not; that they have made preparations which we know nothing about; that their plan was to destroy the Government and to start one of their own; and that to take possession of Washington was more than half the battle.'

"None of the remaining gentlemen agreed with either of these, nor with themselves.

"While at this meeting, I learned that a large number of detectives had been sent for to all the larger cities. East, North, and West, and among these it was mentioned that Marshal Kane, of Baltimore, had been applied to, and had promised to send ten detectives. I told the gentlemen plainly the Marshal would betray them: that his sympathies were with the South in any movement they would make; that but a few weeks before he had declined an Invitation to exchange a detective of his for one of mine, on the ground that he had but one in his force, and consequently he could not now furnish them with ten. In reply, I was informed that Mr. Corwin had confidence In Marshal Kane, and they also had confidence in Mr. Corwin. So, as they decided to hold on to the Marshal and his bogus detectives, I concluded not to act with them.

"I then called on a number of other members of Congress, without finding much improvement; the exceptional case was Senator Grimes. One distinguished Senator informed me that he was in counsel with Jefferson Davis, and that In a day or two *they* would be able to adjust all apparent differences.

"After that I went among the people, and soon found that Mr. Washburn was nearer right than any other member of Congress I had talked with. I also found that the safety of the country depended on Lieutenant General Scott, and I determined to consult with him; but I feared the General could not spare sufficient time to talk with me as fully as I desired, and then concluded to see one of his confidential officers. On inquiring, I learned that two of General Scott's family had great influence with him. Col. Robt E. Lee and Capt Chas. P. Stone. I do not know what induced me to select Captain Stone In preference to Col. Lee, but I did so, and called on the Captain at his quarters. We conversed freely in regard to the impending trouble, and especially of the danger in which Washington stood. I informed him I would leave three of my detectives in the city, and, at his request, agreed to instruct them to report to him verbally any things of importance they should discover.

"I stopped in Baltimore that night on my way home, and ascertained from Marshal Kane himself the plan by which Maryland was to be precipitated out of the Union, against the efforts of Govr. Hicks to keep it there; and with Maryland also the District of Columbia. He told me Maryland would wait for the action of Virginia, and that action would take place within a month; and 'that when Virginia seceded through a convention, Maryland would secede by gravitation.' It was at this interview I ascertained Fort McHenry to be garrisoned by a corporal's guard, consisting of one man, and that the Baltimore police were keeping guard on the outside, to prevent the roughs from capturing it prematurely. I communicated the facts to Captain Stone, and on the following Wednesday, January 9th, troops from Washington took possession of the fort, under orders from General Scott

"At a subsequent visit to Washington I called, of course, on Captain Stone, and informed him of the purposes contemplated in Baltimore. He then requested me to put some of my men on duty there, and instruct them to report to him in person, by word of mouth, and not by mall, as he could not trust the mails. I had previously placed two men there, and on my return selected a third, whom I sent directly to Captain Stone for special instructions, Under these instructions, this officer, **David S. Bookstaver**, remained at Baltimore until February 23d, when I relieved him. During that period, while apparently occupied as a music agent, **Bookstaver** gave particular attention to the sayings and doings of the better class of citizens and strangers who frequent music, variety, and book stores, while the other two detectives .had joined an organization of rebel roughs, destined to go South or elsewhere, whenever their services should be required.

"It was on the evening of Wednesday, February 20th. that **Bookstaver** obtained the Information that made it necessary for him to take the first train for Washington. Before going, he posted a letter to me, briefly stating the condition of things, and of his intention to

go on the four o'clock morning train and report. I shall complete this narrative with an extract from a letter written by Captain Stone on the subject.

" ' It is impossible, with the time now at my disposal, to give you any thing like a detailed history of the Information derived from your men, and from dozens of letters and reports from other sources, addressed sometimes to the General-in-Chief and sometimes to myself, which served to convince both of us that there was imminent danger that Mr. Lincoln's life would be sacrificed, should he attempt to pass through Baltimore at the time and in the manner published in the newspapers as the programme of his Journey.

" The closing piece of information on the subject was brought by one of your men, **Bookstaver**. He had for weeks been stationed in Baltimore, and on the morning of Thursday (two days before the intended passage of Mr. Lincoln through Baltimore) he arrived by the early train and reported to me. His information was entirely corroborative of that already in our possession; and at the time of making my morning report to the General-in-Chief, I communicated that General Scott had received from other sources urgent warnings also, and he stated to me that It was almost a certainty that Mr. Lincoln could not pass Baltimore alive by the train on the day fixed. "But," said the General, "while you and I know this, we cannot convince these gentlemen that Mr. Lincoln is not coming to Washington to be inaugurated as quietly as any previous President."

" I recommended that Mr. Lincoln should be officially warned; and suggested that it would be altogether best that he should take the train of that evening from Philadelphia, and so reach Washington early the next day. General Scott said that Mr. Lincoln's personal dignity would revolt at the idea of changing the programme of his journey on account of danger to his life. I replied to this, that it appeared to me that Mr. Lincoln's personal dignity was of small account in comparison with the destruction, or, at least, dangerous disorganization of the United States Government, which would be the inevitable result of his death by violence in Baltimore; that in a few days more the term of Mr. Buchanan would end, and there would (in case of Mr. Lincoln's death) be no elected President to assume the office; that the Northern cities would, on learning of the violent death of the President-elect, pour masses of excited people upon Baltimore, which would be destroyed, and we should find ourselves in the worst form of civil war, with the Government utterly unprepared for it

" General Scott, after asking me how the details could be arranged in so short a time, and receiving my suggestion that Mr. Lincoln should be advised quietly to take the evening train, and that it would do him no harm to have the telegraph wires cut for a few hours, he directed me to seek Mr. W. H. Seward, to whom he wrote a few lines, which be handed me.

" It was already ten o'clock, and when I reached Mr. Seward's house, he had left: I followed him to the Capitol, but did not succeed in finding him until after 12 M. I handed him the General's note; he listened attentively to what I said, and asked me to write down my information and suggestions, and then, taking the paper I had written, he hastily left.

" The note I wrote was what Mr. Frederick Seward carried to Mr. Lincoln in Philadelphia. Mr. Lincoln has stated that it was this note which induced him to change his Journey as he did. The stories of *disguise* are all nonsense; Mr. Lincoln merely took the sleeping-car in the night train. I know nothing of any connection of Mr. Pinkerton with the matter.'

"The letter from which the above extract is made was sent to me by General Stone, in reply to an inquiry of mine, made in consequence of having seen an article In a newspaper which gave the whole credit of the movement to a person who I supposed had little to do with it. My opportunity for knowing who the parties were that rendered this service to the country was very good, but I thought It advisable to have the testimony of one of the most active in it to sustain my views. For obvious reasons, I have not called on either of the other living parties to the matter, regarding the above sufficient to satisfy all reasonable persons that the assassination consummate in April, 1865, would have taken place in February of 1861 had It not been for the timely efforts of Lieutenant-General Scott, Brigadier-General Stone, Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Frederick W. Seward, Esq., and **David P. Bookstaver**, of the Metropolitan Police of New York.

"I am, very respectfully, yours, &c,

"John A. KENNEDY."

[http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3137&context=fss\\_papers&sei-redir=1#search=%22David%20S.%20Bookstaver%22](http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3137&context=fss_papers&sei-redir=1#search=%22David%20S.%20Bookstaver%22)

In Sandburg's "Lincoln," the following appears:

Wild talk of what might happen to Lincoln at Baltimore had reached up into New York City, where **Superintendent of Police John A. Kennedy**, on his own initiative, ordered detectives to have a look at the Maryland city. One of these, **David S. Bookstaver**, without meeting the Pinkertons or knowing their work, had posed as an agent for a musical house, canvassed all classes, and decided that hell would break loose if Lincoln set foot in Baltimore, that in the commotions and riots staged Lincoln wouldn't come through alive. Bookstaver headed straight for Washington and told what he knew to General Scott and Colonel Stone. Their decision and Seward's that Lincoln should not go to Baltimore rested on the New York detective's certainty that Baltimore was volcanic and would erupt, and on the reports of two detectives sent to Baltimore by Colonel Stone, whose findings tallied with Bookstaver's.

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There is some debate regarding Superintendent John A. Kennedy's above letter from Allan Pinkerton, which is well explain in his Pinkerton's 42 page book [History and Evidence of the Passage of Abraham Lincoln from Harrisburg, Pa., to Washington, D. C., on the twenty-second and twenty-third of February: eighteen hundred and sixty-one](http://www.archive.org/details/historyevi00pinkerton) (1907), which may be read at <http://www.archive.org/details/historyevi00pinkerton> .

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On page 8 of Pinkerton's book he comments on Superintendent Kennedy's letter in Lossing's book as follows:

Chicago, Jan. 8, 1868.

"The question of the passage of Mr. Lincoln, on the night of the 22d of February, 1861, from Harrisburg, Penn., to Washington, DC, the Capital of the United States, is one of marked interest in history, and one upon which the people of this country, and the world, ought to have correct information. Hitherto I have kept silent upon this subject, and probably might have continued so much longer, but that historians are now writing up the important events of the last seven years—a period the most exciting in the life-time of this Nation—up to the present stage of its existence, and I deem it proper to lay the following brief statement before the public in connection with this event. I am induced, moreover, to take this step from the fact of the publication, in the second volume of Lossing's History of the War of the Rebellion, of a letter from **John A. Kennedy**, Esq., Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police of New York City, dated New York, August 13, 1867, in which Mr. Kennedy speaks of the acts of himself and his detective force, in discovering the plot for the assassination of President Lincoln, on his passage through Baltimore, en route to Washington, for inauguration as President. This letter has had so wide a circulation in the press of the United States that it will be unnecessary for me to insert the whole of it here. I merely desire to call attention to the following words:

"I know nothing of any connection of Mr. Pinkerton with the matter."

That is to say, Mr. Kennedy knew nothing of my connection with the passage of Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg, via Philadelphia, to Washington, on the 22d of February, 1861. In this respect, Mr. Kennedy spoke the truth: he did not know of my connection with the passage of Mr. Lincoln, nor was it my intention that he should know of it.

". . . I herewith subjoin the following letters, which are proof of my participation in the passage of Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg, via Philadelphia, to Washington, on the night of the 22d of February, 1861. **As I have before said, it was unnecessary that Mr. Kennedy should know aught of the movement that was going on, and I did not advise him of it; although I am informed that he was on the same train and occupied the third berth in the same sleeping car from that where Mr. Lincoln lay on that eventful night of his passage to Washington from Philadelphia.**"

Allan Pinkerton.

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On pages 21-22 of Pinkerton's book, the long letter of Hon. N. B. Judd, Chicago, IL., Nov. 3d, 1867, to Mr. Allan Pinkerton, reads in part:

"The meeting thus arranged took place in the parlor of the hotel, Mr. Lincoln being present. The facts were laid before them by me, together with the details of the proposed plan of action. There was a diversity of opinion and some warm discussion, and I was subjected to a very rigid cross-examination. Judge Davis, who had expressed no opinion but contented him self with asking rather pointed questions, turned to Mr. Lincoln, who had been listening to the whole discussion, and said "Well, Mr. Lincoln, what is your judgment upon this matter?" Mr. Lincoln replied: "I have thought over this matter considerably since I went over the ground with Pinkerton last night. **The appearance of Mr. Frederick Seward, with warning from another source, confirms my belief in Mr. Pinkerton's statement. Unless there are some other reasons, besides fear of ridicule, I am disposed to carry out Judd's plan.**" Judge Davis then said: "That settles the matter, gentlemen." Col. Sumner said: "So be it, gentlemen. It is against my judgment, but I have undertaken to go to Washington with Mr. Lincoln and I shall do it."

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On page 13 of this book, Pinkerton quotes Lossing regarding President Lincoln's statement on this incident as follows:

#### MR. LINCOLN'S STATEMENT.

Extract from Lossing's History of the War. Vol. I, Page 218.

"Mr. Judd, a warm personal friend from Chicago, sent for me to come to his room (at the Continental Hotel, Philadelphia, Feb. 21st). I went, and found there Mr. Pinkerton, a skillful police detective, also from Chicago, who had been employed for some days in Baltimore, watching or searching for suspicious persons there. **Pinkerton informed me that a plan had been laid for my assassination**, the exact time when I expected to go through Baltimore being publicly known. He was well informed as to the plan, but did not know that the conspirators would have pluck enough to execute it. He urged me to go right through with him to Washington that night. I didn't like that. I had made engagements to visit Harrisburg, and go from there to Baltimore, and I resolved to do so. I could not believe that there was a plot to murder me. I made arrangements, however, with Mr. Judd for my return to Philadelphia the next night, if I should be convinced that there was danger in going through Baltimore. I told him that if I should meet at Harrisburg, as I had at other places, a delegation to go with me to the next place, (Baltimore,) I should feel safe and go on. **When I was making my way back to my room, through crowds of people, I met Frederick Seward. We went together to my room, when he told me that he had been sent, at the instance of his father and General Scott, to inform me that their detectives in Baltimore had discovered a plot there to assassinate me. They knew nothing of Mr. Pinkerton's movements.** I now believed such a plot to be in existence."

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From Pinkerton's book and from Kennedy's letter it would appear that Pinkerton did indeed inform President Lincoln of the plot, but also upon the corroboration from Kennedy's detectives, via Frederick Seward's [Frederick was the son of W. H. Seward] meeting with Lincoln, that it is then that Lincoln 'now believed a plot to be in existence,' and then decided to change his schedule for his journey through Baltimore.

Kennedy, in his letter, maintained that "The note I wrote was what Mr. Frederick Seward carried to Mr. Lincoln in Philadelphia. Mr. Lincoln has stated that it was this note which induced him to change his Journey as he did."

It would appear, therefore, that by the combined information from Pinkerton [and his agent Webster], and Kennedy [from his detective, David B. Bookstaver], plus other persons who assisting in revealing the plot, that Lincoln acquiesced to the existence of the plot, and thus his life was spared until his fateful later encounter with John Wilkes Booth.

Harper's Weekly – 9 Mar 1861

### Flight of the President to Washington.

The city was startled on Saturday by the intelligence that the President-elect, instead of proceeding on his journey to Washington from Harrisburg, in accordance with the published programme, on Saturday morning, had left the latter city secretly, on a special train, on Friday night, and returning to Philadelphia, had passed thence, unrecognized, through Baltimore, and was already in the Federal Capital. This step, it appears, was induced by the desire to avoid threatened trouble in Baltimore, and was taken at the earnest solicitation of his friends and leading Republicans in Washington, who had received authentic information that an organized demonstration would be made against him in Baltimore—if, indeed, he were allowed to reach there alive' for it was also feared that an attempt would be made to throw the Presidential train from the track on the Northern Central Railroad. This information, it appears, was imparted to Mr. Lincoln on Thursday night at Philadelphia, and he consented, after considerable hesitation, to the private arrangement which was subsequently carried into effect. He reached Washington early on Saturday morning, and proceeded quietly to his hotel, his arrival being known to but few. He soon afterward, in company with Senator Seward, paid a visit to President Buchanan, and interchanged civilities with him and with other gentlemen of distinction.

**ONE VERSION OF THE PLOT** - The Herald correspondent says: It appears that the plot was concocted in Baltimore, and, being discovered by a detective officer, was by him communicated to two or three leading Republicans, including Mr. [William H.] Seward and Thurlow Weed. Afterward it was made known to Mr. Judd, of the Presidential party.

"On Thursday last, the intelligence having been privately forwarded to New York, several detectives were at once sent from that city to confer and cooperate with those who had the matter originally in charge. **Mr. General Superintendent Kennedy** and Commissioner Acton were also on hand. Together they succeeded in ferreting out the details of the conspiracy, and enough has been made known to give it, in the minds of these men, a rank by the side of the most infamous attempts ever made upon human life.

"The exact mode in which the conspirators intended to consummate their designs has not yet transpired; but enough is known to be satisfactory that either an infernal machine was to be placed under the cars or railway, like the Orsini attempt upon Napoleon, or some obstruction placed upon the track whereby the train would be thrown down an embankment at some convenient spot; and that if these failed, then, on the arrival at Baltimore, during the rush and crush of the crowd, as at Buffalo, by knife or pistol, the assassination was to be effected.

"It has also been ascertained that two or three of the conspirators were in New York on Wednesday, the 20th inst., watching the course of events while the President-elect was there."

**ANOTHER VERSION** - The Times correspondent says: On Thursday night after he had retired, Mr. Lincoln was aroused and informed that a stranger desired to see him on a matter of life or death. He declined to admit him unless he gave his name, which he at once did. Of such prestige did the name carry that while Mr. Lincoln was yet disrobed he granted an interview to the caller.

"A prolonged conversation elicited the fact that an organized body of men had determined that Mr. Lincoln should not be inaugurated, and that he should never leave the city of Baltimore alive, if, indeed, he ever entered it.

"The list of the names of the conspirators presented a most astonishing array of persons high in Southern confidence, and some whose fame is not to this country alone.

"Statesmen laid the plan, bankers indorsed it, and adventurers were to carry it into effect. As they understood Mr. Lincoln was to leave Harrisburg at nine o'clock this morning by special train, and the idea was, if possible, to throw the cars from the road at some point where they would rush down a steep embankment and destroy in a moment the lives of all on board. In case of the failure of this project, their plan was to surround the carriage on the way from depot to depot in Baltimore, and assassinate him with dagger or pistol-shot.

So authentic was the source from which the information was obtained that Mr. Lincoln, after counseling his friends, was compelled to make arrangements which would enable him to subvert the plans of his enemies.

"Greatly to the annoyance of the thousands who desired to call on him last night, he declined giving a reception. The final council was held at eight o'clock.

"Mr. Lincoln did not want to yield, and Colonel Sumner actually cried with indignation; but Mrs. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Judd and Mr. Lincoln's original informant, insisted upon it, and at nine o'clock Mr. Lincoln left on a special train. He wore a Scotch plaid cap and a very long military cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable. Accompanied by Superintendent Lewis and one friend, he started, while all the town, with the exception of Mrs. Lincoln, Colonel Sumner, Mr. Judd, and two reporters, who were sworn to secrecy, supposed him to be asleep.

"The telegraph wires were put beyond the reach of any one who might desire to use them."

**YET A THIRD** - The Tribune says: "The facts, as given by **Superintendent Kennedy** are substantially as follows: The police authorities of Baltimore had come to the conclusion that there would be little demonstration of any kind during Mr. Lincoln's passage through the city. Indeed, as firmly had they become convinced of this, and that there would be no riotous proceedings, that they had determined to employ a force of only twenty men for the special duty of attending to the route of the Presidential cortege through Baltimore. The reason alleged for this course was, that they wished to demonstrate to the country and to the world the law-and-order character of the city.

"This coming to the ears of General [Winfield] Scott, he at once declared that one of two things must be done: either a military escort must be provided for Mr. Lincoln at Baltimore, or there must be a coup de main by which he should be brought through the city unknown to the populace. Under the circumstances, it was thought that the employment of a military escort might create undue excitement, and the cause of its being brought into requisition misinterpreted. The alternative of employing stratagem was therefore determined upon. A messenger—a civilian, and not a military man—carrying three or four letters from men high in position, and one from General Scott, was therefore immediately dispatched to Philadelphia. He had an interview, and delivered his letters sometime toward midnight of last Thursday. It is not known that the fact was communicated to any other person than Mr. Lincoln on that night. Mr. Lincoln, therefore, was apprised of the deviation from the published plan of his journey before he left Philadelphia. The messenger then went on to make arrangements for the special train which conveyed Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg the next morning."



**(1.) THE ALARM**

"On Thursday night, after he had retired, Mr. Lincoln was aroused, and informed that a stranger desired to see him on a matter of life and death. \* \* \* A conversation elicited the fact that an organized body of men had determined that Mr. LINCOLN should never leave the City of Baltimore alive. \* \* \* Statesmen laid the plan, Bankers indorsed it, and Adventurers were to carry it into effect "



**(2.) THE COUNCIL**

"Mr. LINCOLN did not want to yield, and his friends cried with indignation. But they insisted, and he left."



**(3.) THE SPECIAL TRAIN**

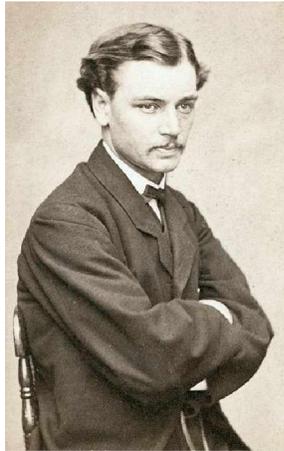
"He wore a Scotch plaid Cap and a very long Military Cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable."



**(4.) THE OLD COMPLAINT**

"Mr. LINCOLN, accompanied by Mr. Seward, paid his respects to President BUCHANAN, spending a few minutes in general conversation."

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin\\_Booth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Booth)



In an interesting coincidence, Edwin T. Booth saved Abraham Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, from serious injury or even death. The incident occurred on a train platform in Jersey City, NJ. The exact date of the incident is uncertain, but it is believed to have taken place in late 1864 or early 1865, shortly before Edwin's brother, John Wilkes Booth, assassinated President Lincoln.

< Robert Todd Lincoln - 1865

Robert Lincoln recalled the incident in a 1909 letter to Richard Watson Gilder, editor of *The Century Magazine*.

The incident occurred while a group of passengers were late at night purchasing their sleeping car places from the conductor who stood on the station platform at the entrance of the car. The platform was about the height of the car floor, and there was of course a narrow space between the platform and the car body. There was some crowding, and I happened to be pressed by it against the car body while waiting my turn. In this situation the train began to move, and by the motion I was twisted off my feet, and had dropped somewhat, with feet downward, into the open space, and was personally helpless, when my coat collar was vigorously seized and I was quickly pulled up and out to a secure footing on the platform. Upon turning to thank my rescuer I saw it was Edwin Booth, whose face was of course well known to me, and I expressed my gratitude to him, and in doing so, called him by name.

Booth did not know the identity of the man whose life he had saved until some months later, when he received a letter from a friend, Colonel Adam Badeau, who was an officer on the staff of General Ulysses S. Grant. Badeau had heard the story from Robert Lincoln, who had since joined the Union Army and was also serving on Grant's staff. In the letter, Badeau gave his compliments to Booth for the heroic deed. The fact that he had saved the life of Abraham Lincoln's son was said to have been of some comfort to Edwin Booth following his brother's assassination of the president.



< Edwin Thomas Booth, b. 13 Nov 1833, was a famous Shakespearean actor, born in Bel Air, Maryland, and for twenty-five years before his death, on 7 Jun 1893, was a **member of New York Lodge No. 330**, New York. He was the older brother of American stage actor and assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

[http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/10,000\\_famous\\_freemasons/Volume\\_1\\_A\\_to\\_D.htm](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/10,000_famous_freemasons/Volume_1_A_to_D.htm)

Edwin T. Booth (1833-1893) Famous Shakespearean actor of the American stage. b. 13 Nov 1833 at Belair, MD. Member of a famous stage family, his father was Junius Brutus and his brother, John Wilkes, who assassinated Lincoln on 14 Apr 1865. Edwin first appeared on the stage in 1849 and by 1855 was a well established actor. His later travels carried him throughout the world. He was greatly admired for his moral strength in rising above periods of poverty and hunger, his father's addiction to drink and periods of insanity, and his brother's act of assassination and death. He was initiated in **New York Lodge No. 330** on 11 Sep 1857 and raised 23 Sep. His love of Freemasonry is attested by his bequest of five thousand dollars to the Hall and Asylum Fund, and his statement that "... to be worshipful master and to throw my whole soul in that work, with the candidate for my audience, and the lodge for my stage, would be greater personal distinction

than to receive the plaudits of the people in the theaters of the world." He was an honorary member of the Masonic Veterans Association of New York, and on at least two occasions gave dramatic recitals in Independent Lodge. While visiting a lodge in Omaha, Nebr. he was called upon to give a short talk and when asked what his favorite hymn was, he answered Jesus Lover of My Soul, and recited it. Asked for his favorite prose, he called the members to stand and repeated The Lord's Prayer. In 1925 Booth was elected to the American Hall of Fame. d. 7 Jun 1893.

On 8 Apr 1868, after the removal of several old structures and blasting out an unexpected "stone ledge" at the southeast corner of Twenty Third and Sixth Avenue, Edwin, after "Masonic observances", laid the cornerstone for his new Booth's Theatre.

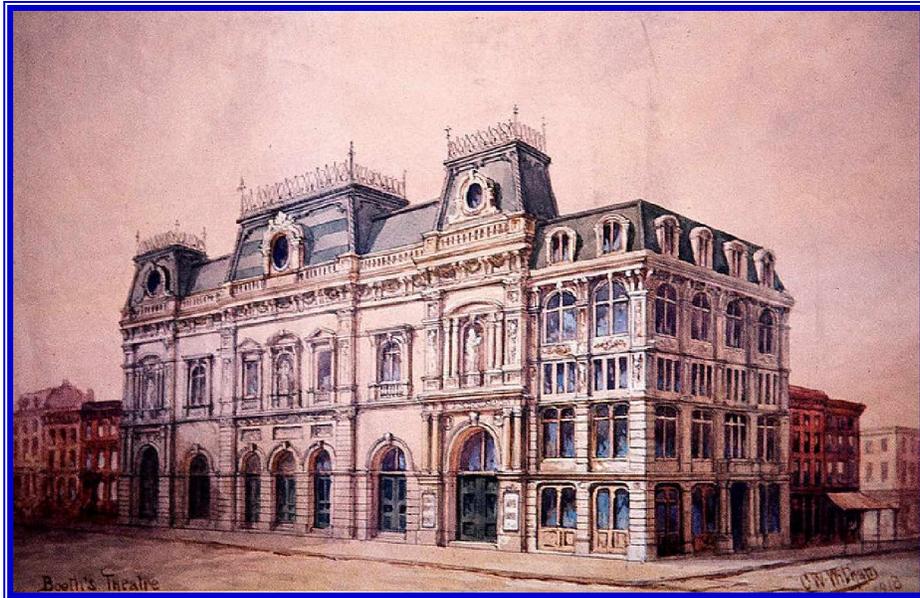
Central to the identity of Booth's Theatre was the stage background of Edwin Booth, who belonged to the Booth Family dynasty, which ruled the American stage in the 19th century. It was actually touring with his father, Junius Brutus Booth, that gave Edwin his first break, first appearing as Tressel in Richard II in Boston in 1849. After his father's death in 1852 Booth toured internationally, visiting Australia and Hawaii and briefly settling in California before returning to East Coast. Edwin is perhaps best known for his



"hundred nights of Hamlet" in which he played Hamlet for 101 consecutive performances, a record held until 1922. Booth is also known for his relationship with his infamous brother, John Wilkes, who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. After the tragedy, Edwin and John Wilkes' relationship was highly strained and Edwin even disowned him at one point.

Booth had been drawn to the idea of erecting his own theatre, particularly after he purchased the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. Plans overtook Booth when a tragic fire of 1867 consumed The Winter Garden Theatre - Booth's usual performing home in New York - and with it much of Booth's personal wardrobe. The new theatre was to be one of the finest of its time, called in the press "A fitting temple for the presentation of Shakspearean drama.

Booth's Theatre remained Booth's new performing home for several years, during which time Booth and his elder brother Junius Brutus Booth, Jr., produced productions of the classics and hosted guest artists, such as Joseph Jefferson in his popular *Rip Van Winkle*. Finally, due in part to bad management, Booth lost the theatre to bankruptcy in 1874, and "never again participated in theatrical management." In 1883 the theatre was converted into a department store, which was demolished in 1965. Presently [2011], the land is occupied by a Best Buy electronics store.



Booth's Theatre, Feb 1869, on the southeast corner of Twenty-Third Street and Sixth Avenue  
Note: the old Masonic Hall was on the northeast corner, directly across the street.  
The present Masonic Hall is also located there.



Masonic Hall, ca 1870, northeast corner of Twenty-Third Street and Sixth Avenue.