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The Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy



Suspects Charged in the Confederate Conspiracy



John Booth
Library of Congress
[LC-USZ62-25166]



David Herold
Library of Congress
[LC-USZ62-121530]



George Atzerodt
Library of Congress
[LC-USZ62-22995]

John Booth

Booth was the mastermind of a kidnapping plot. He recruited a few friends and some others to help. His first plan was to kidnap Lincoln from Ford's Theater. They would bind his body and lower him onto the stage and then carry him off. When the others heard about this plan, they said Booth was crazy. This made Booth mad, but he soon came up with another plan: capture Lincoln on his way to a play along a road. While waiting for Lincoln on the night of the play, they found out that Lincoln changed his plans and did not travel that road. When this plan also failed, he decided to kill Lincoln. He shot and killed President Lincoln on April 14, 1865.

Edward Spangler

Spangler was a carpenter at Ford's Theater. He was taken into custody when a stagehand named Jacob Ritterspaugh accused him. Ritterspaugh was a stagehand at Ford's Theater the night of the assassination. When Ritterspaugh saw Booth getting away from the theater, he ran inside and told Spangler what had happened. Spangler slapped him and told him to be quiet. Spangler had been previously employed by the Booth family.

Lewis Paine

Paine was identified as the man who tried to attack secretary of state William H. Seward at his house.

David Herold

Herold went with Paine to Seward's house. He knew the roads well and was supposed to help Paine find his way out of the city. He waited outside for Paine to kill Seward, but when the attack did not go as planned, he panicked and fled. He met up with Booth after crossing the Navy Yard Bridge. He was also involved in the kidnapping plot. He was good with directions and secret paths out of the area.

George Atzerodt

Atzerodt was seen in the house where Vice President Johnson lived the very night of the assassination. He had also inquired about the vice president's schedule. He was a friend of both Booth and John Surratt. He often helped Confederate spies cross the Potomac River in his boat. He was involved in the kidnapping plot, and Booth hoped that he would get them across the river with Lincoln's body.

The Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping



Graphic Organizer

Directions: Write a brief profile of the person under each name.

The graphic organizer is a tree-like structure with a central vertical trunk and two horizontal branches. Each branch has three rectangular boxes attached to it, for a total of six boxes. Each box is designed to look like a small table or desk with a decorative top and four legs. The names are printed in the center of each box.

Charles Lindbergh	Anne Morrow
Betty Gow	Olly
Elsie	Henry "Red" Johnson