April 1865 – The Month that Saved America

Part IV – Booth Killed, Johnston Surrenders and Sultana Disaster, Lincoln’s Funeral Train, and Aftermath – April 21-30, 1865

Booth is captured and killed, Lincoln’s funeral train leaves Washington, Johnston surrenders at Bennett Place, Sultana disaster claims 1,800, Conspirators hang but John Surratt escapes, Aftermath
Lincoln’s casket is placed on special funeral train that leaves Washington, D.C., on April 21, 1865 at 12:30 pm

- The train travels 1,654 miles and arrives in Springfield, arriving on May 3, 1865.
- Several stops were made along the way, in which Lincoln's body lay in state.
- The train retraced the route that Lincoln traveled to Washington as the president-elect on his way to his first inauguration, and millions of Americans viewed the train along the route.
- Lincoln's wife Mary Todd Lincoln remained at the White House because she was too distraught to make the trip; she returned to Illinois about one month later.
Lincoln Returns to Springfield

- Left Washington, DC 8:00 am April 21st
- Baltimore, MD - 10:00 am April 21st
- Harrisburg, PA - 8:30 pm April 21st
- Philadelphia, PA - 8:30 pm April 22nd
- New York City, NY - 10:50 am April 24th
- Albany, NY - 10:55 am April 25th
- Buffalo, NY - April 27th
- Cleveland, OH - 6:50 am April 28th
- Columbus, OH - 7 am April 29th
- Indianapolis, IN - 7 am April 30th
- Michigan City, IN - 8 am May 1st
- Chicago, IL - 11 am May 1st
- Springfield, IL - 9 am May 3rd
- Mrs. Lincoln selected Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield for her husband's burial.
- Coffin placed in Receiving Vault, Oak Ridge Cemetery on May 4th.
- Construction of the Lincoln Tomb was finished in 1874.
- Mary Todd Lincoln and three of their four sons are also buried there.
- Robert Todd Lincoln is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
Lincoln’s Tomb [1]

Lincoln’s nose, rubbed shiny by those seeking good luck.

The receiving vault (foreground) and the tomb (background)

Infantry and Cavalry statues at the corners of Lincoln Tomb
Lincoln’s Tomb [2]

The Art Deco Burial Room

Mary Todd Lincoln's crypt in the Burial Room
Herold and Booth are Captured

- **April 16th-21st** – Cox takes Booth and Herold to Thomas Jones, who hides the men in Zekiah Swamp near his house for five days waiting to cross the Potomac River
- **April 22nd** – Land on Maryland side and stay at home of Col. Hughes
- **April 23rd** - Booth and Herod spend night in cabin on Lucas’s Farm.
- **April 24th** - Reach Garrett’s farm
- **April 26th** - Herold surrenders and Booth is killed
Booth is Captured

“I ordered my command to surround the house, and, as a precautionary measure, sent six men in rear of the barn and outbuildings.

“I seized this man [Garrett son] by the collar, and pulled him out of the door and down the steps, put my revolver to his head and told him to tell me at once where the two assassins were; he replied, ‘in the barn.’

“I ... found Garrett coming out of the barn; it appears that he had been sent in there during my absence to summon Booth to surrender.

“Booth, however, refused to surrender.

“... after consultation the project of burning the building was abandoned for the time being.”

From report of Edward P. Doherty, 1st Lt. 16th New York Cavalry, Commanding Detachment.
... considerable conversation took place concerning the surrender of Booth between Mr. Baker, myself, and the assassin.

“Booth all this time was very defiant and refused to surrender.

“Booth up to this time had denied there was anyone in the barn besides himself.

“We threatened to burn the barn if he did not surrender...

“Finally, Booth said, ‘Oh; Captain, there is a man here who wants to surrender awful bad’

“Booth replied, ‘I own all the arms, and intend to use them on you gentlemen.’

“After some little parley I said, ‘Let him out.’

“I took hold of both his [Herold’s] wrists and pulled him out of the barn.”
“Tell my mother ... I die for my country.”

- “... the hay in the rear of the barn was ignited by Mr. Conger, and the barn fired.
- “I entered the barn as soon as the shot was fired, dragging Herold with me, and found that Booth had fallen on his back.
- “.. some of my men, entered the barn and took hold of Booth.
- “The assassin Booth lived about two hours.
- “... a doctor was procured, who remained with Booth till he died.”
- The bullet severed Booth’s spinal cord leaving him paralyzed and dying.
- Booth looked at his hands and said “Useless, useless.”

“Tell my mother that I did it for my country – that I die for my country.”
Joe Johnston Surrenders – April 26

- After learning of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, Johnston agreed to meet with General Sherman between the lines at a small farm known as Bennett Place near present day Durham, North Carolina.
- After three separate days (April 17, 18 and 26, 1865) of negotiations, Johnston surrendered the Army of Tennessee and all remaining Confederate forces still active in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- It was the largest surrender of the war, totaling 89,270 soldiers.
- President Davis considered that Johnston, surrendering so many troops that had not been explicitly defeated in battle, had committed an act of treachery.
- Johnston was paroled on May 2 at Greensboro.
Johnston & Sherman Conclude Surrender

- Johnston surrenders his 30,000-man army.
- After the surrender, Sherman issued ten days' rations to the hungry Confederate soldiers, as well as horses and mules for them to "insure a crop."
- He also ordered distribution of corn, meal, and flour to civilians throughout the South.
- This was an act of generosity that Johnston would never forget; he wrote to Sherman that his attitude "reconciles me to what I have previously regarded as the misfortune of my life, that of having you to encounter in the field."
The Sultana left New Orleans on April 21, 1865, with 75 to 100 passengers and livestock for St. Louis.

She stopped at Vicksburg to make repairs to the boilers and to take on more passengers.

A boiler was leaking and rather than replace the boiler, a small patch was made to fix the leaking area.

During her time in port, men tried to muscle, bribe, and threaten their way on board, until more than 2,000 passengers were onboard.

Most of the new passengers were Union soldiers who had been released from Confederate prison camps such as Andersonville.

The government had contracted with the Sultana to transport these former prisoners of war back to their homes.
The ship’s legal capacity was 376 and she was severely overcrowded.

- Many of the passengers were weak or sick from their time as POWs.
- Passengers were packed into every available space including the decks.
- The boiler exploded because the pressure was too high and the water level too low.
- It is believed that the allowable working steam pressure was exceeded to try to overcome the spring river current.
- The boiler (or boilers) gave way at 2:00 am when the steamer was 7 to 9 miles north of Memphis.
- The explosion destroyed a large section of the ship and tossed some of the passengers on deck into the water.
- The ship caught fire the glare and produced flames that were visible as far as Memphis.
The exact death toll is unknown.
Estimates range from 1,300 to 1,900.
The official count by the United States Customs Service was 1,800.
Of the total casualties, Ohio lost the most of any state, with 791 dead.
Indiana lost 491 persons, with Kentucky suffering 194 dead.
It is estimated that of the Ohio casualties, over fifty were Cincinnatians.
Final estimates of survivors were between 700 and 800.
Many of the dead were interred at the Memphis National Cemetery.
Aftermath

- **May 1** – President Johnson orders nine army officers as commissioners in the trail of those accused of conspiring to kill Lincoln.
- **May 2** – Johnson offers a $100,000 reward for capture of Jefferson Davis.
- **May 3** – Lincoln’s funeral train reaches Springfield, Illinois
- **May 4** – *General Richard Taylor* surrenders Confederate troops in Alabama, Mississippi, and east Louisiana to General Edward Canby
- **May 5** – Connecticut ratifies 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in US
- **May 9** – *General Nathan Bedford* disbands his troops
- **May 10** – President Johnson tells the country that armed insurrection against the authority of the Federal government can be considered “virtually at an end.”
- **May 10** – President Davis is captured near Irwinville, Georgia.
- **May 23** – Washington holds grand review for Army of Potomac
- **June 2** – Confederate troops west of the Mississippi surrender
**Canby Accepts Surrenders**

- **Major General E.R.S. Canby** commanded the Union forces in the campaign against Mobile, AL in the spring of 1865.
- This culminated in the Battle of Fort Blakely, which led to the fall of Mobile on April 12, 1865.
- **Canby** accepted the surrender of the Confederate forces under
  - **General Richard Taylor** in Citronelle, AL on May 4, 1865, and
  - **General Edmund Kirby Smith** west of the Mississippi River on May 26, 1865.
July 7 – Mary Surratt, Powell, Herold, and Atzerodt were hanged in the Old Arsenal Penitentiary.
- The executions were supervised by Union General Winfield Scott Hancock.
- Mary Surratt was the first woman executed by the US government.
- O'Laughlen died in prison of yellow fever in 1867.
- Mudd, Arnold, and Spangler were pardoned in February 1869 by President Johnson.
- Spangler, who died in 1875, insisted that he had no connection to the plot beyond being the man Booth asked to hold his horse.
John Surratt was a Confederate Secret Service courier and spy who carried dispatches about Union troop movements across the Potomac River.

Surratt traveled between Richmond and Montreal delivering orders from senior Confederate officials to agents in Canada.

Dr. Samuel Mudd introduced Surratt to John Wilkes Booth in December 1864 in Washington, and Surratt agreed to help Booth kidnap Abraham Lincoln.

Booth's plan was to seize Lincoln, take him to Richmond, Virginia, and exchange him for thousands of Confederate prisoners of war.

An attempt on March 17, 1865 failed when Lincoln changed his travel plans.

Surratt denied any involvement with Lincoln's assassination and claimed he was in Elmira, NY.
Surratt Escapes

- After the assassination, Surratt fled to Canada and reached Montreal on April 17, 1865.
- A Catholic priest in St. Liboire gave him sanctuary.
- Surratt remained in Canada while his mother was arrested, tried, and hanged for conspiracy.
- Former Confederate agents helped Surratt flee to Liverpool, England in September and lived in the Church of the Holy Cross.
- From England, he traveled to Italy and enlisted, under an assumed name, in the Ninth Company of the Pontifical Zouave in the Papal States.
- An old friend recognized him and notified papal officials and the U.S. minister in Rome.
- On November 7, 1866, Surratt was arrested and sent to Velletri prison.
- He escaped and lived with the Garibaldians, who gave him safe passage.
- Surratt traveled to Alexandria, Egypt where he was finally arrested by U.S. officials on November 23, 1866 and returned to the U.S.
Surratt and the Church

- In 1983 the Emancipation Proclamation alienated Archbishop of New York John J. Hughes.
- Pope Pius IX wrote to Davis and seemed to recognize the Confederacy as a separate nation.
- In 1864, Pope Pius IX issued the “Syllabus of Errors” that condemned some ninety “errors and perverse doctrines” including democracy, science, separation of Church and state, liberty of the press, secular education, and progress.

- Catholic priests helped in Surratt’s escape
  - In Montreal, a Catholic priest, Father Charles Boucher, gave him sanctuary
  - In London, he lodged in the oratory at the Church of the Holy Cross
  - In Italy, he joined the Pontifical Zouave in the Papal States.
  - However, Surratt was arrested after being discovered in the Vatican
Evidence suggests that “all three of the top Confederate leaders (Davis, Benjamin, and Seddon) provided active support to reconnoiter the kidnapping of Lincoln.”

Code name for Lincoln kidnapping was changed from “Complete Victory” to “Come Retribution” on February 1, 1865.

When informed of Lincoln’s death on April 19, Davis responds with: “If it were to be done, it were better it were done well.”

Davis told Breckinridge on April 21: “.. And if the same had been done to Andy Johnson, the beast, and to Secretary Stanton the job would then be complete.”
Surratt was tried in a civilian court in Maryland.

A Supreme Court decision had declared the trial of civilians before military tribunals to be unconstitutional.

Judge David Carter presided over Surratt's trial, and Edwards Pierrepont conducted the federal government's case against him.

Surratt's lead attorney, Joseph Habersham Bradley, admitted Surratt's part in plotting to kidnap the President, but denied any involvement in the murder plot.

After two months of testimony, Surratt was released after a mistrial; eight jurors had voted not guilty, four voted guilty.

The statute of limitations on charges other than murder had run out, and Surratt was released on $25,000 bail.
Reconciliation

▪ “Southerners were incoherent with grief, their land diseased and without a cure.” – J. Winik
▪ “They left me one inestimable privilege – to hate ‘em” – Southern innkeeper
▪ “Oh how I hate the Yankees! I could trample on their dead bodies and spit on them.” – Southern woman
▪ “My tears and feelings seem frozen. I feel but one thing, I am alone, utterly desolate.” – Southern widow who lost her father, husband, and infant son

▪ “Across the North the picture was mixed ... they had cheated death and survived ... a great victory had been won ... the Union had been preserved.” – J. Winik
▪ “A hoarse cry of vengeance sounded a discordant requiem for Lincoln.”

“These final days turned not on the issues of battle or the fibers of war, but on the sinews of politics and justice. But foremost was the question of healing. The North had gambled with total war and won; the South had wagered all and lost; the Confederacy was no more. Could these two distant sides now reconcile themselves to each other?” --- J. Winik