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Today in History - April 14

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Lincoln Shot at Ford's Theater

at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., and fatally shot President Abraham Lincoln. As Lincoln slumped forward in his seat, Booth leapt onto the stage and escaped out the back door. The paralyzed president was immediately examined by a doctor in the audience and then carried

[D]ying as he did die, by the red hand of violence, killed, assassinated, taken off without warning, not because of personal hate...but because of his fidelity to union and liberty, he is doubly dear to us, and his memory will be precious forever. Oration by Frederick Douglass, delivered on the occasion of the unveiling of the freedmen's monument in memory of Abraham Lincoln, in Lincoln Park, Washington, D. C., April 14th, 1876... Washington, D. C.: Gibson brothers, printers, 1876. African American Perspectives: Materials

across the street to the Petersen House where he died early the next morning.

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on **April 14,** 1865, actor John Wilkes Booth entered the presidential box

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The assassination of President Lincoln: at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., April 14th, 1865.

Lincoln's assassination was the first presidential assassination in U.S. history. Booth carried out

the attack five days after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia

to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. He thought that his action

would aid the South. The suspicion that Booth had acted as part of a conspiracy of Southern

sympathizers increased Northern rancor. Whether Lincoln would have been able to temper the

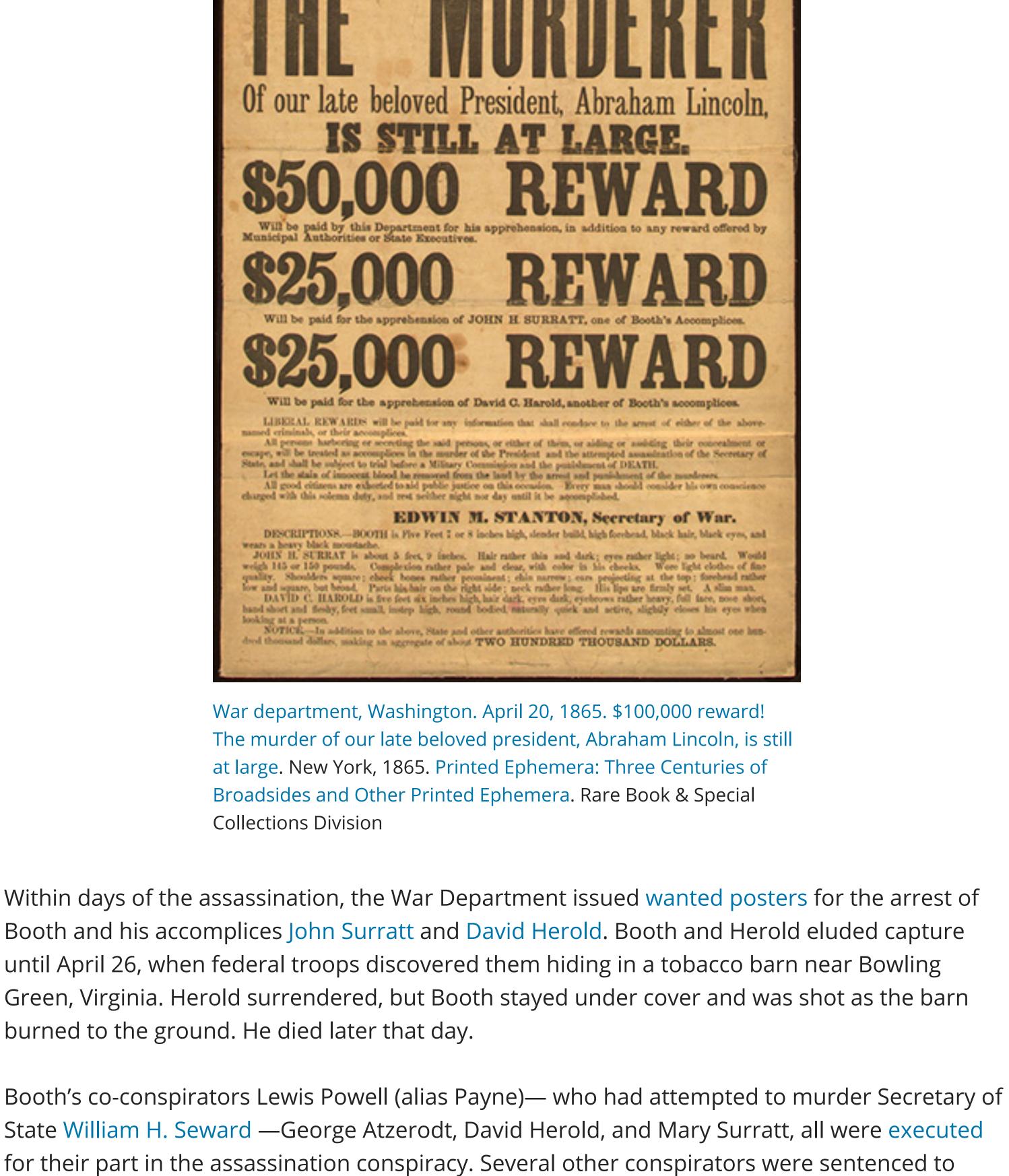
New York: Currier & Ives, 1865. Popular Graphic Arts. Prints & Photographs Division

reunification and peace.

speculation because of his untimely death as the United States transitioned from civil war to

Reconstruction policies enacted by the Radical Republicans in Congress is left to historical

HAROLD War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,



finally laid to rest in a tomb at the Oak Ridge Cemetery. Many monuments were built to honor Abraham Lincoln over the years, across the nation and around the world. On April 14, 1876, Frederick Douglass delivered an oration at the unveiling of a monument to Lincoln located in Washington, D.C.'s Lincoln Park. Better known to the nation is another memorial to Lincoln, also located in Washington, D.C. Featuring a monumental

sculpture by Daniel Chester French, the Lincoln Memorial stands at the foot of the nation's Mall

The death of President Lincoln resulted in an outpouring of grief nationwide. After a funeral at

railway station where it began a 1,700-mile journey to Springfield, Illinois. On May 4, Lincoln was

the White House and lying in state at the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln's body was transported to the

imprisonment.

and was dedicated on May 30, 1922.

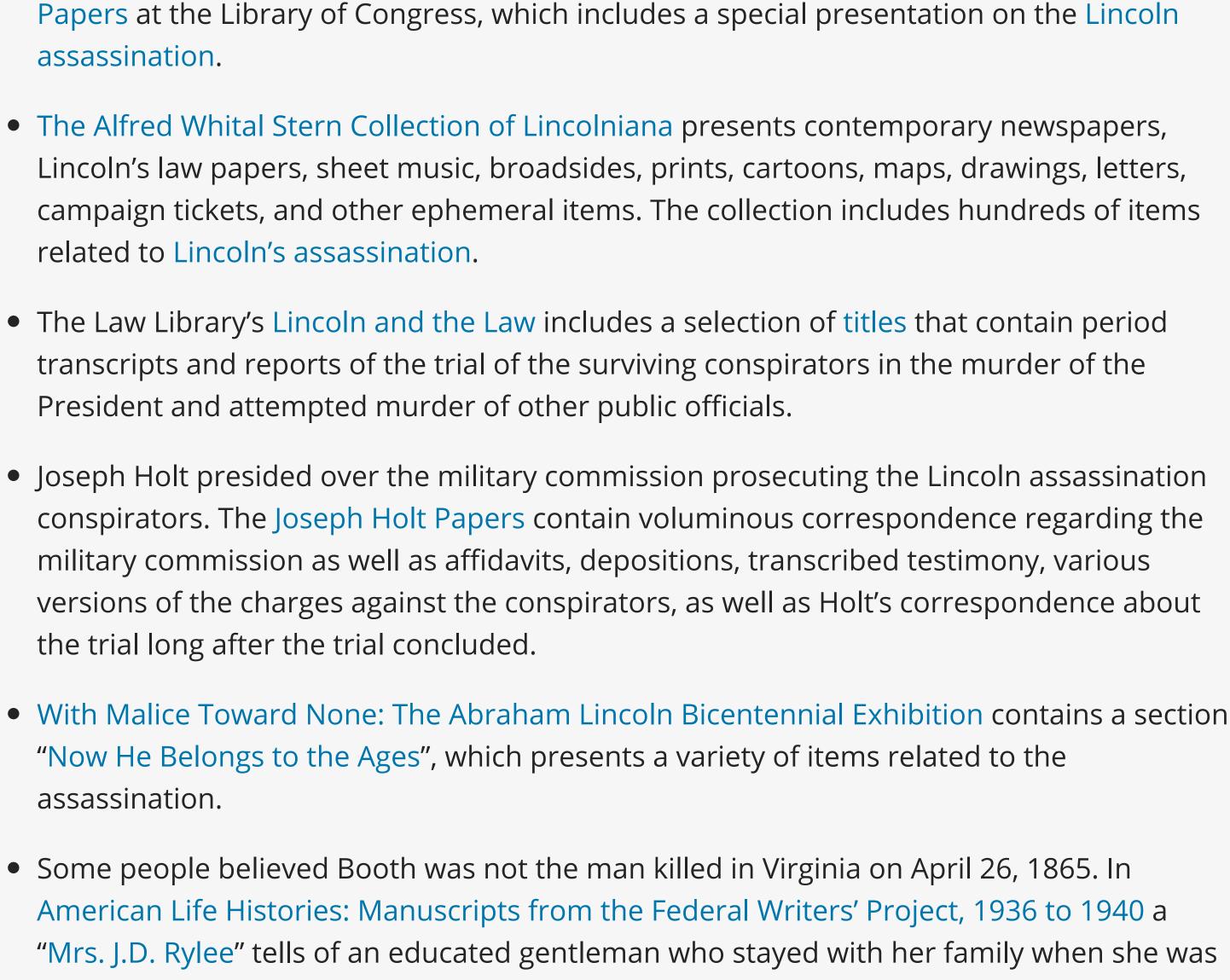
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Lincoln realia, 1865. Memory Gallery B. American Treasures of the Library of Congress. Rare

• To learn more about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, visit the Abraham Lincoln

The Trin?



a child. She is certain it was John Wilkes Booth. See also the interview with Virginian

• Search on the term *Lincoln Memorial* in Capital and The Bay: Narratives of Washington and

with Special Reference to the Lincoln Memorial. This address, delivered in 1910 by Glenn

Brown, secretary, American Institute of Architects, to the Washington [D.C.] Chamber of

Commerce, discusses the future location of the Lincoln Memorial on the national Mall.

• Visit the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, maintained by the National Park Service, to

At about 11:40 PM, **April 14**, 1912, the *R.M.S. Titanic* struck an iceberg off the coast of

The *Titanic* was on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York when the tragedy

Newfoundland and sank to the bottom of the sea at about 2:20 a.m. the next morning, taking

occurred. A later investigation showed that the ship had failed to follow all safety procedures.

Besides traveling through dangerous waters at high speed (after receiving repeated warnings

JEARER MY GO

TO THEE

AS THE SHIP WENT

the Chesapeake Bay Region, ca. 1600 to 1925 to find The Development of Washington

"Robert Carter" — he too believed Booth escaped capture.

learn more about the fateful event that occurred there.

R.M.S. Titanic

the lives of more than 1,500 people.

concerning the presence of icebergs), the *Titanic* also had aboard an insufficient number of lifeboats for the passengers and crew. e BAND PLAYED

Music by Words by HAROLD JONES MARK BEAM JUE MORRIS MUSIC CO. 130 WEST 37" ST., NEW YORK

"The Band Played 'Nearer My God to Thee' as the Ship Went Down ," Harold Jones,

composer; Mark Beam, words; New York: Joe Morris, 1912. Historic American Sheet Music ...

MEMORY OF

THE HEROES

• To see contemporary coverage of the disaster, visit the Maryland Newspaper Project's exhibition Images of the Titanic From Maryland Newspapers. • Search Chronicling America, a database of historic American newspapers, to find coverage

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with the special feature Sinking of the Titanic: Topics in Chronicling America. • To see various views of the statue erected in Washington, D.C.'s East Potomac Park to the memory of the victims of the Titanic, search on the term *Titanic* in the Horydczak

of this tragedy published in papers from across the United States. You may wish to start

- Collection and the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Color Photographs, and Black-and-White Negatives. • Wreck of the RMS Titanic: A Resource Guide compiles materials concerning the *R.M.S.*
- Titanic at the Library of Congress and elsewhere. April 14

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