Lincoln Assassination
1865: Lincoln Delivers His Second Inaugural Address

On March 4th, President Abraham Lincoln delivers his second inaugural address to a crowd of 50,000 in front of the newly completed iron dome of the U.S. Capitol. Nationally known stage actor John Wilkes Booth and several other Confederate sympathizers are among the crowd. Booth will later claim he had “a splendid chance... to kill the president where he stood.”
Booth plots to kidnap Lincoln and hold him ransom for Confederate Army prisoners. Lewis Powell, George Atzerodt, David Herold, Samuel Arnold, Michael O’Laughlen and John Surratt conspire with Booth, but their plot will not be carried out.
The Conspirators....

George Atzerodt
Samuel Arnold
David Herold

John Suratt
Michael O'Laughlen
Lewis Powell (Paine or Payne)
What happened?

• Booth began using Mary Surratt's boardinghouse *(pictured left)* to meet with his co-conspirators.
• On March 17, 1865, the group planned to capture Lincoln who was scheduled to attend a play at a hospital located on the outskirts of Washington.
• However, the President changed plans and remained in the capital. Thus, Booth's plot to kidnap Lincoln failed.
Booth over the edge....

- Lincoln suggested conferring voting rights for some blacks; "on the very intelligent, and on those who serve our cause as soldiers."

- Booth was enraged! He said, “That is the last speech he will ever make."
The Opportunity….

• On April 14, Booth stopped at Ford's Theatre to pick up his mail.

• While there he learned of President Lincoln's plans to attend the evening performance of Our American Cousin.
One last meeting....

- Booth held one final meeting with his co-conspirators.
- He said he would kill Lincoln at the theatre (he had since learned that Grant had left town).
- Booth gave the others their orders.
- Booth also arranged to have a fast horse waiting for him.
Andrew Johnson

- George Atzerodt was to kill Vice-President Andrew Johnson at the Kirkwood House where Johnson resided.

Johnson was not home when Atzerodt came calling.
William Seward

- Lewis Powell was assigned to kill Secretary of State William Seward.
- David Herold would accompany Powell.

Powell wildly attempted to stab Seward, but struck no fatal blows!!
Lincoln’s Protection....

- John Parker, a Washington police officer who had been assigned as Lincoln's bodyguard for the evening, met the President just as he was entering the box.

- Parker, who did not have a very good record as a policeman, took his seat outside the box.

- However, he found that he could not see the stage, so he left his post to find better seating.

- Unbelievably, Parker then left the theater at intermission with Lincoln's footman and coachman. The three went to a saloon next to the theater for a drink.
The Day of the Assassination

April 14:

The day of Lincoln’s assassination is also Good Friday.

Late morning
While picking up his mail at Ford’s Theater, John Wilkes Booth overhears someone saying Lincoln will attend that evening’s performance. He spends the following eight hours gathering supplies and plotting with Powell and Atzerodt.

10:13 p.m.
At the theater, Booth shoots President Lincoln in the head during a performance of “Our American Cousin.” Booth breaks his leg, but escapes by horseback. Lincoln is taken to the Peterson boarding house, across the street, where a death watch begins.

10:15 p.m.
Lewis Powell attacks Secretary of State William Seward in his bed, slashing Seward’s face and inflicting a serious wound. Powell escapes out the front door of the house.

Late evening
Secretary of War Edwin Stanton takes charge of a manhunt for the assassins.
Early April 1865: Lincoln Visited Richmond
2. The Confederacy Surrendered
3. John Wilkes Booth
Lincoln Shot at Ford's Theatre
Booth Escaped
Lincoln Died the Next Morning
A New President Was Sworn In
Manhunt for John Wilkes Booth
A Thousand Mile Funeral
Booth Was Killed
Justice Came At the End of a Rope
Veneration of Lincoln in Death
http://www.cbsnews.com/media/abraham-lincoln-assassination-5-facts-you-may-not-know/