

Brief Annotated Bibliography of the Lincoln Assassination

Non-Fiction

Fortune's Fool Terry Alford *His biography is probably the last word on a person who only lived to be 26. In depth review of his acting career, which often gets short shrift in studies of the assassination*

American Brutus Michael Kauffman *Kauffman is one of the leading scholars of the assassination (and who I met while he was leading a Surratt Society Booth escape tour). Kauffman sees Booth as a master manipulator – which does not exonerate the other conspirators*

Manhunt James Swanson *Probably the best single volume on the assassination Very easy read – as compared to other books which tend to be academic*

Lincoln Murder Conspiracies William Hanchett *Effectively debunks all of the nonsense we discussed in Class 3, particularly the Stanton conspiracy Well organized and an easy read*

Chasing Lincoln's Killer James Swanson *Young adult version of Manhunt Good first book on the Lincoln Assassination for tweens*

The Day Lincoln Was Shot Jim Bishop *By far the oldest book on the list – originally published in 1955 - literally goes hour by hour on April 14, 1865. More what and when than how and why.*

Blood on the Moon Edward Steers *Steers, along with Swanson and Kauffman, are probably the leading contemporary writers on the Lincoln assassination. Very good on Mudd and Southern MD*

The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia Edward Steers *The one book to have next to you while you are reading any of the other assassination books. Only drawback – very limited before and after information about the people discussed*

Come Retribution William Tidwell *This volume revives the Confederate grand conspiracy, and proves Booth was working with the Confederate Secret Service in Canada on the kidnap plot*

Assassination Vacation Sarah Vowell *If you were going to bring one Lincoln assassination book to the beach, this would be the one - Plot is the author (along with her sister and nephew) visit sites from, among others, the Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley and Kennedy assassinations*

Lincoln Assassination Riddle ed. Frank Williams and Michael Burkholder *A series of essays about different aspects of the assassination, manhunt and trial - presupposes a basic knowledge of the assassination*

The Assassin's Accomplice Kate Clifford Lawson *Used as the basis for the movie The Conspirator Looks at the assassination through the lens of Mary Surratt*

Alias Payne Betty Ownsbey *Ownsbey has created, in the absence of any other biography, what will probably be the last word on Lewis Powell*

His Name is Still Mudd Edward Steers *Edward Steers, one of the foremost Lincoln assassination writers clearly refutes the "innocent doctor" theory*

Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination Thomas Bogart *An excellent introduction to the general world of theater in the mid-19th century and the events at Ford's*

Fiction

The Lincoln Conspiracy David Balsinger and Charles Seiler *Not sure whether to put this in fiction or nonfiction – only included to show what bad history looks like*

Hanging Mary Susan Higginbotham *Fictional account of Mary Surratt, told through the eyes of a fictional boarder*

Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln Stephen Carter *"What if" book in which Lincoln survives the assassination attempt His "let 'em up easy" philosophy comes into conflict with the Radical Republicans and like Andrew Johnson is impeached – you'll have to read the book to find out the verdict!*

Henry and Clara Thomas Mallon *To a large extent, the lives of Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris were "stranger than fiction" so the novel reads like a novel, even when true*