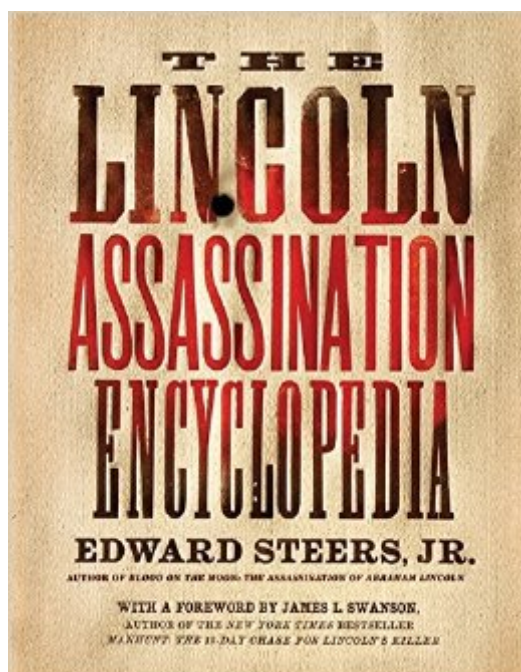


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The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia



Synopsis

In this encyclopedia of Lincoln's assassination, Edward Steers, Jr., the foremost scholar of the assassination, has assembled knowledge of the subject scattered in documents and writings over a period of nearly a century and a half, organized it authoritatively and comprehensively, and written about it clearly. William Hanchett, author of *Out of the Wilderness: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* The definitive A-to-Z reference to the Abraham Lincoln assassination by Edward Steers, author of *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. With a foreword by Manhunt author James L. Swanson.

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Customer Reviews

I suppose that by general consensus Edward Steers, Jr., is the pre-eminent expert today on the Lincoln Assassination. And I think it safe to say that there is no-one better qualified than Steers to produce such a book as "The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia". If there is a single person, place, or event associated with the Lincoln Assassination that Steers has omitted from his Encyclopedia, I don't know who or what that might be. The most obscure witnesses and minor participants are discussed in surprising detail, with each entry far more than a bare-bones description. Numerous photographs and maps illustrate the book's pages. If you ever come across some vague reference to a person or event in another, more conventional Lincoln Assassination book, then Steers' Encyclopedia would be the first and best place to go for clarification and more information. The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia perhaps would not be an appropriate place to

begin learning about the Assassination (rather, a book such as Steers' own "Blood on the Moon" would be better geared towards presenting an initial coherent, chronological picture of events), but the Encyclopedia is definitely a necessary addition to the bookshelf of anyone who considers himself/herself a student of the tragedy.

The author of "Blood on the Moon" has put together an incredibly well written and exhaustive detail on everyone and thing connected to the Booth conspiracy. Obviously written in encyclopedic style listing people, places and things alphabetically, each as a definitive mini biography. 'Blood on the Moon' is a great book but this encyclopedia is an excellent companion piece to your Lincoln/Booth library as it allows you to research each individual in more detail and the information does include everything from General Hancock, who was in charge of the prison and execution of the Lincoln conspirators, to the relative obscure such as the Green Mountain Cemetery where the Booth family had a plot. Anyone that a conspirator came in contact with or had something to do with, including those looking for him, is in this great book. What I found most interesting are the biographies of the various Confederate agents that helped Booth along the way that includes pictures of their homes, many still existing like the Huckleberry home of Confederate agent Thomas Jones who provided Booth and Herold the means to escape across the Potomac. Also, a wealth of photographs, some of which I have never seen before such as the photograph of Confederate Willie Jett who befriended Booth and Herold and introduced them to the Garrett family where they both stayed until eventually caught. In addition, the book includes great maps particularly the escape route that took Booth and Herold many miles from Ford's Theater. The book is so well written that each subject is a delight to read in their compact yet informative style. A book I highly recommend.

Time after time Steers has shown that he probably knows more than anyone living concerning the assassination of President Lincoln. If your interested in the assassination, and need to quickly find someone involved this is a great book. It is also very good to read all by itself. However, I suggest reading Blood On the Moon or Manhunt (in my opinion both are very good books).

While there are numerous inaccuracies and dubious "facts" in this reference book (inter alia, it is highly unlikely that liquor merchant and shipping magnate Patrick C. Martin died in late 1864 when his ship foundered in the St. Lawrence River--just had to get that out!) this needs to be applauded as a first-ever attempt to gather the Assassination suspects and intelligence agents into one place. Being a reference book, it is open to revision, and I heartily hope we shall see a new edition in the

future. Did I say it was a joy to read? That's how you know a reference book or survey history is a goody. 'Tis a joy to read.

"The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia" is a must-have for anyone with a serious interest in one of the most fascinating episodes in U.S. history. Edward Steers, who has written and edited several excellent books on Lincoln's assassination, here draws on his impressive knowledge and familiarity with the sources to give us easy access to the facts surrounding the people, places, and organizations connected with the conspiracy, murder, investigation, trial, and aftermath. The book includes an introductory chapter summarizing the chain of events, followed by a useful chronology. The entries themselves are well written and highly informative. Importantly, each entry concludes with a source note; many also have cross-references to related entries. Detailed graphics show Booth's probable route in and around the theater on the night of the assassination and the path he and Herold took until they were captured. I particularly appreciate the wealth of photos that Dr. Steers has unearthed, including numerous portraits of the otherwise ordinary people who played a role in this tragedy. Highly recommended!

I've purchased most of the leading books about the Lincoln assassination in the past forty three years, devoted many hours to examining the large collection on this subject at the San Francisco Main Library (and even had the honor of visiting Ford's Theatre in Washington DC) and this book is the most precious found so far; so I'll be ordering another one of Mr. Steers' Lincoln books, 'Blood On the Moon.' I love the remarkable number of little photos in this one, the type, the way the author guides us through all the controversies, and the clarity of his writing. The only thing better would be an opportunity to sit in front of a crackling fireplace in Surrattsville with this man on some dark and rainy night, chatting on timelessly about the story and occasionally sipping a glass of whiskey.

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