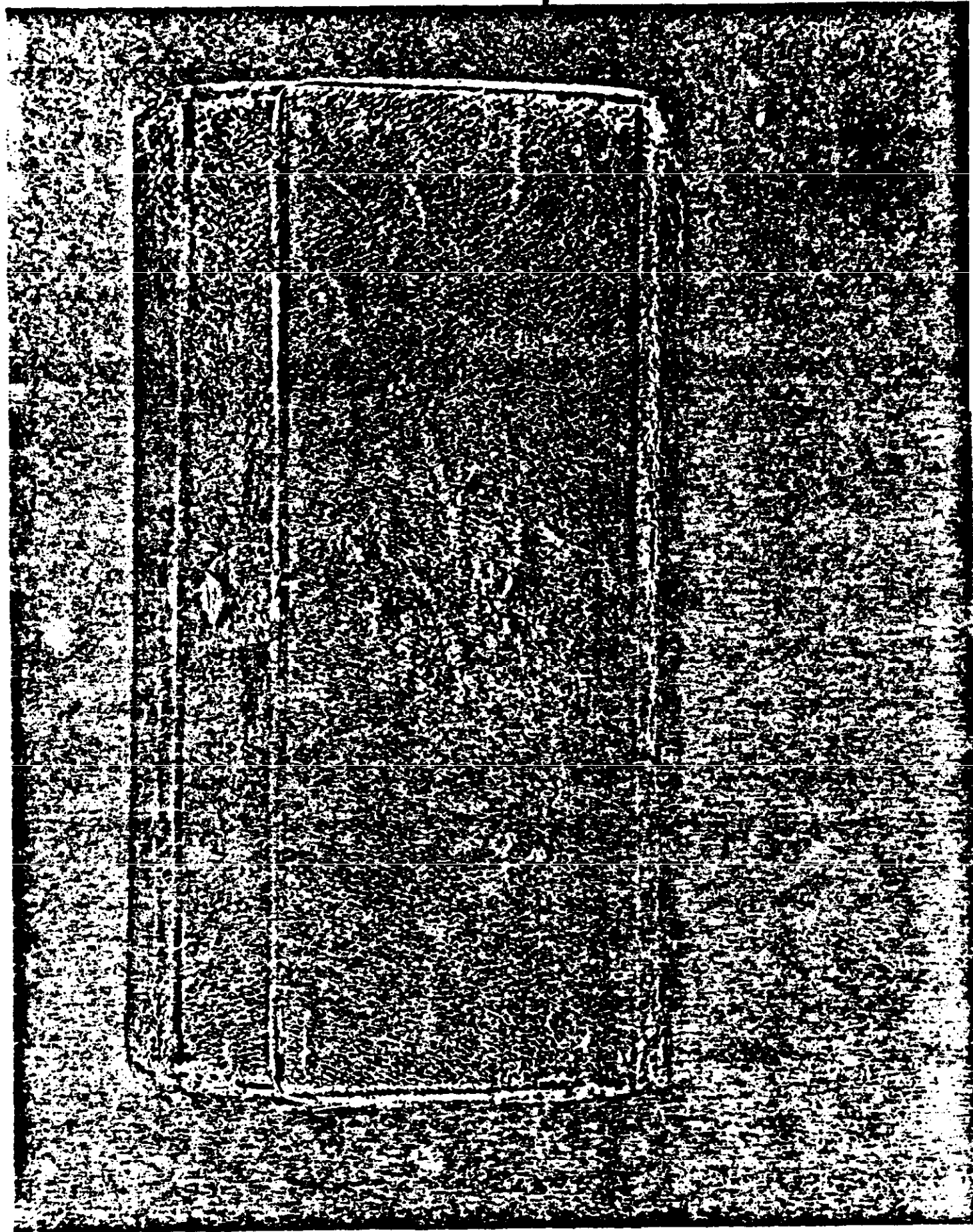


Quadrupla


Postage





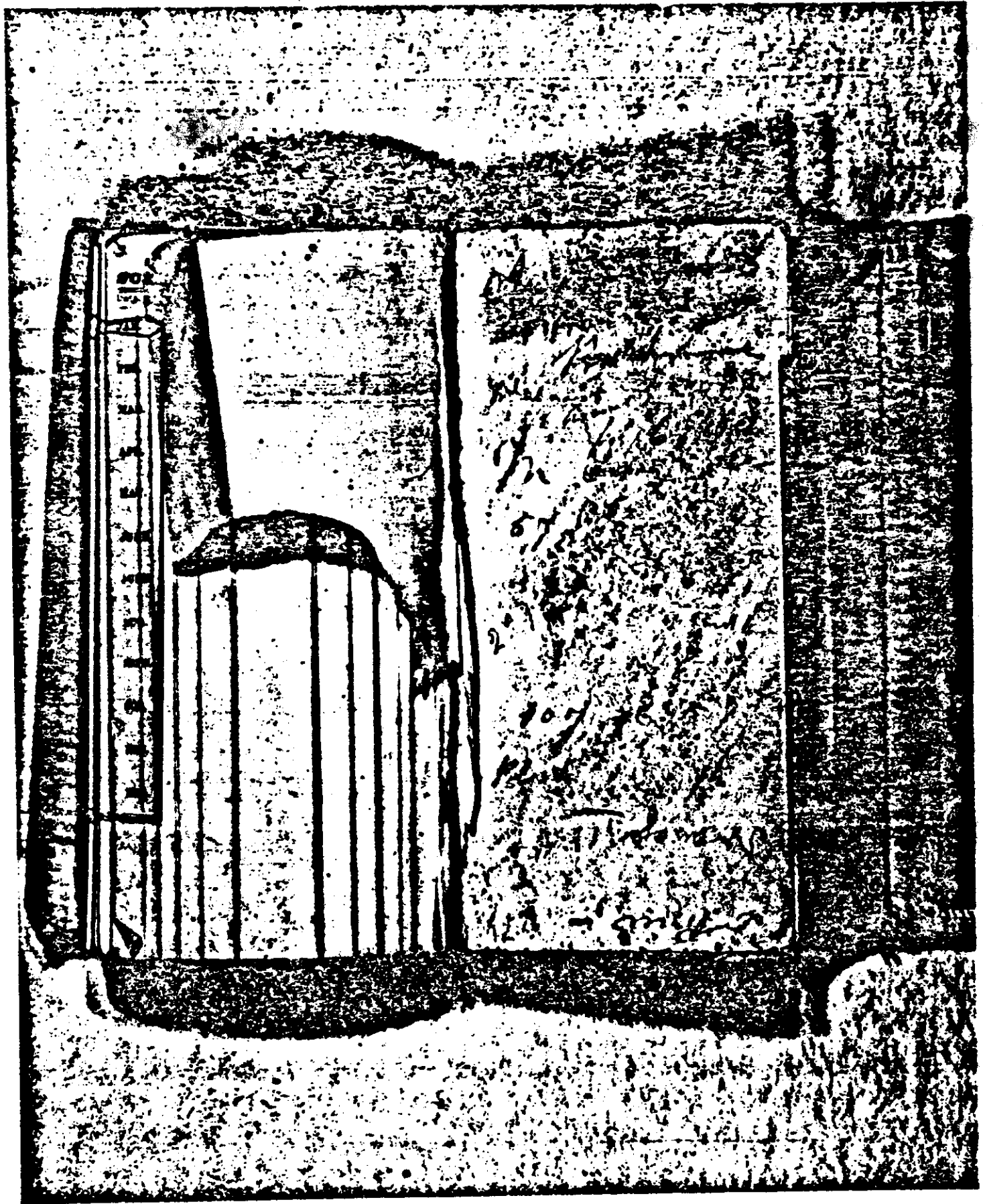
32214  
*Handwritten notes and scribbles on the left page of the diary cover.*

*Gucker*  
**DIARY,**



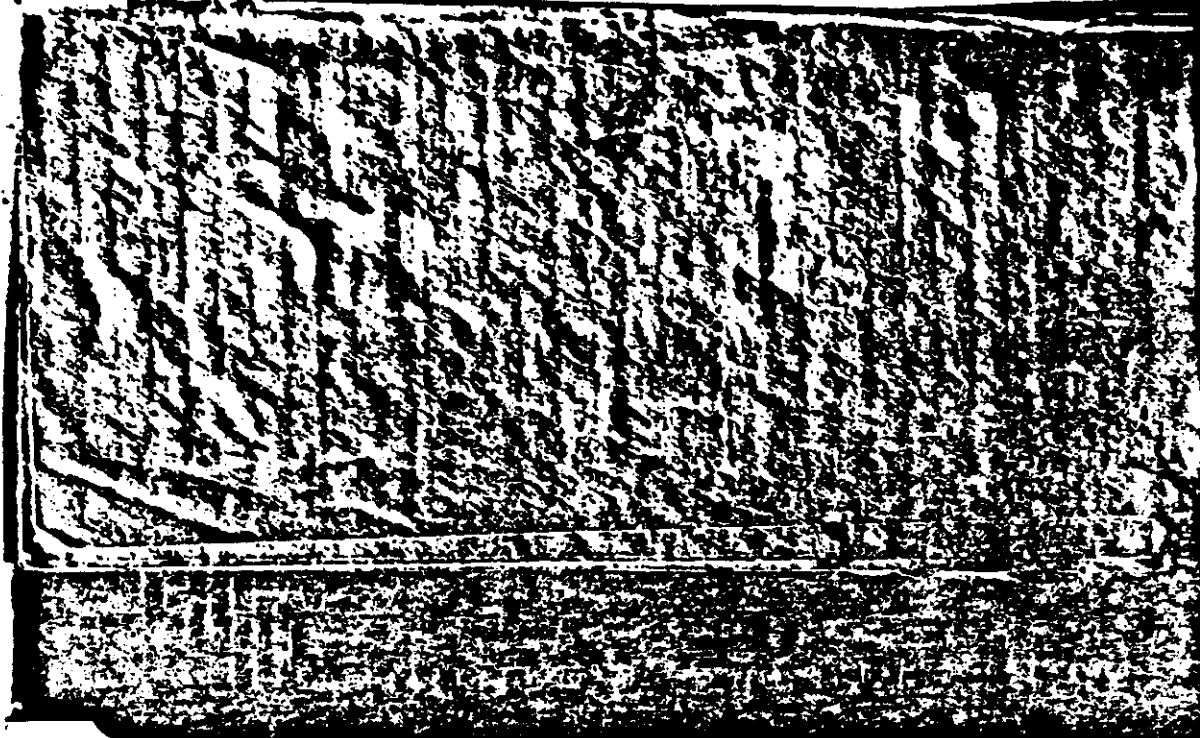
**1864.**

JAMES M. GUCKER,  
No. 54 Fourth Street,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

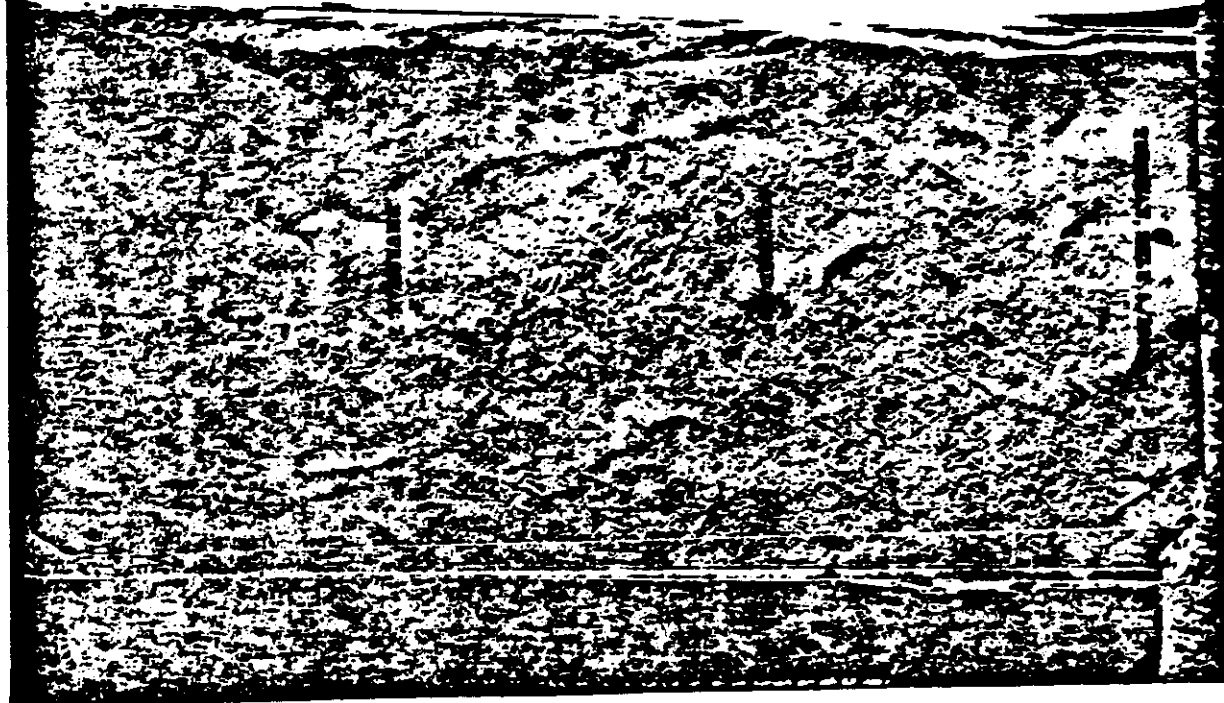




AT 2, 1961



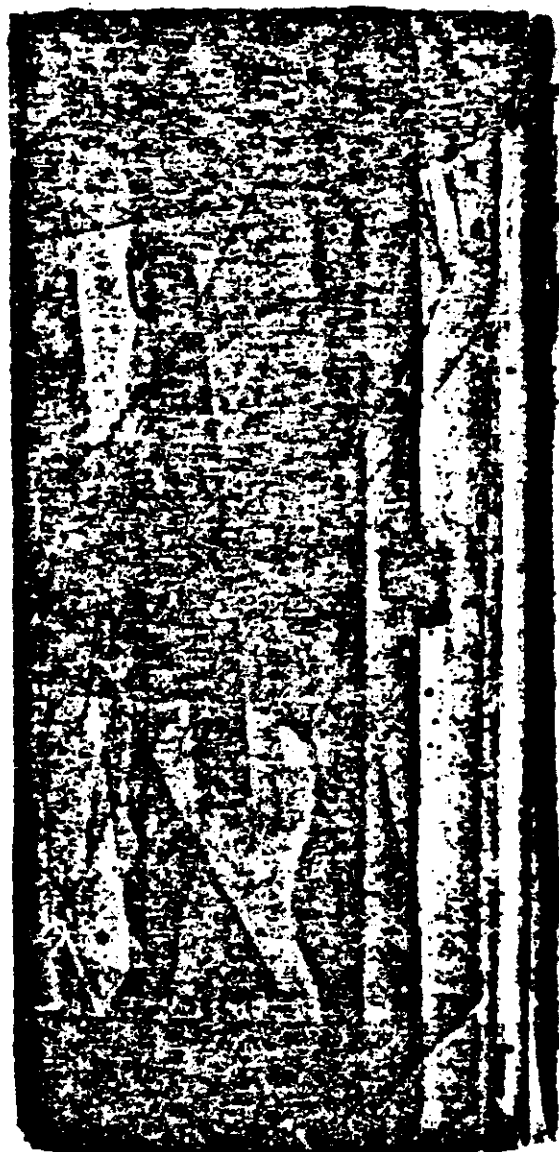
AT 2, 1961



August  
1964

CASH ACCOUNT	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
8/1	Balance
8/2	...
8/3	...
8/4	...
8/5	...
8/6	...
8/7	...
8/8	...
8/9	...
8/10	...
8/11	...
8/12	...
8/13	...
8/14	...
8/15	...
8/16	...
8/17	...
8/18	...
8/19	...
8/20	...
8/21	...
8/22	...
8/23	...
8/24	...
8/25	...
8/26	...
8/27	...
8/28	...
8/29	...
8/30	...
8/31	...

CASH ACCOUNT	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
9/1	...
9/2	...
9/3	...
9/4	...
9/5	...
9/6	...
9/7	...
9/8	...
9/9	...
9/10	...
9/11	...
9/12	...
9/13	...
9/14	...
9/15	...
9/16	...
9/17	...
9/18	...
9/19	...
9/20	...
9/21	...
9/22	...
9/23	...
9/24	...
9/25	...
9/26	...
9/27	...
9/28	...
9/29	...
9/30	...







~~THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1964~~

**WEDNESDAY 16**

**THURSDAY 10**

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1964.

**SATURDAY, 10**

**SUNDAY**

# DECEMBER, 1864.

New York.				Day of Week.	San Francisco.			
Sun Rise	Sun Set	Moon Set	High Tide		Sun Rise	Sun Set	Moon Set	
7 54 34	7 9	9 44	1	Th.	6 58 41	7 22		
7 54 33	8 15	10 32	2	Fri.	6 59 40	8 23		
7 74 33	9 24	11 23	3	Sat.	7 04 40	9 35		
7 84 33	10 33	.....	4	S.	7 14 40	10 42		
7 94 33	11 42	0 37	5	Mo.	7 24 40	11 49		
7 104 33	morn	1 33	6	Tu.	7 34 40	morn		
7 114 33	0 50	2 33	7	W.	7 44 40	0 57		
7 124 33	1 58	3 33	8	Th.	7 54 40	2 3		
7 134 33	3 6	4 38	9	Fri.	7 54 40	3 9		
7 144 33	4 14	5 38	10	Sat.	7 64 40	4 15		
7 154 33	5 19	6 35	11	S.	7 74 41	5 20		
7 154 33	6 21	7 28	12	Mo.	7 84 41	6 21		
7 164 33	rises	8 17	13	Tu.	7 84 41	rises		
7 174 34	6 16	9 1	14	W.	7 94 41	6 31		
7 184 34	7 16	9 45	15	Th.	7 94 42	7 29		
7 184 34	8 16	10 28	16	Fri.	7 104 43	8 27		
7 194 35	9 14	11 10	17	Sat.	7 104 43	9 24		
7 204 35	10 11	11 50	18	S.	7 114 43	10 20		
7 204 35	11 7	0 11	19	Mo.	7 114 44	11 15		
7 214 36	morn	0 54	20	Tu.	7 124 44	morn		
7 214 36	0 3	1 40	21	W.	7 124 45	0 3		
7 214 37	1 0	2 29	22	Th.	7 134 45	1 4		
7 224 38	1 56	3 22	23	Fri.	7 134 46	2 1		
7 224 38	2 57	4 17	24	Sat.	7 144 47	2 59		
7 234 39	3 56	5 13	25	S.	7 144 47	3 57		
7 234 39	4 54	6 8	26	Mo.	7 154 48	4 54		
7 234 40	5 54	7 2	27	Tu.	7 154 48	5 54		
7 244 41	sets.	7 53	28	W.	7 154 49	sets.		
7 244 42	6 0	8 41	29	Th.	7 164 49	6 13		
7 244 42	7 9	9 28	30	Fri.	7 164 51	7 21		
7 244 43	8 20	10 17	31	Sat.	7 164 51	8 30		

## San Francisco Tides.

For explanatory remarks, see Note on Tenth page.

By High Tide.			By High Tide.			By High Tide.		
No.	Morning.	Evening.	No.	Morning.	Evening.	No.	Morning.	Evening.
1	0 34	0 34	12	0 26	0 17	23	0 31	1 20
2	0 34	1 02	13	0 26	0 17	24	0 31	1 20
3	0 34	1 30	14	0 26	0 17	25	0 31	1 20
4	0 34	1 58	15	0 26	0 17	26	0 31	1 20
5	0 34	2 26	16	0 26	0 17	27	0 31	1 20
6	0 34	2 54	17	0 26	0 17	28	0 31	1 20
7	0 34	3 22	18	0 26	0 17	29	0 31	1 20
8	0 34	3 50	19	0 26	0 17	30	0 31	1 20
9	0 34	4 18	20	0 26	0 17	31	0 31	1 20
10	0 34	4 46	21	0 26	0 17			
11	0 34	5 14	22	0 26	0 17			

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1864.

*The Press*

April 14, Friday the 14th  
 Another day nothing was  
 more thought of excepting to  
 run country through. In the middle  
 of day reached the capture. Had our  
 cars in almost lost, something  
 came, but he alone. But it is  
 my own only to others. He did not  
 think for their country with  
 heart. I should totally and not  
 the paper say. I walked with a friend  
 this through a thousand of them from  
 the cliff. But pushed on. I felt  
 on the side. I should be in  
 before I find. In pushing back up to  
 I found all his fight. He was not  
 the night. But the force of my  
 long. The fleet at long jump  
 I then never returned it. I was  
 dead at the hill. Our country just  
 all their trouble to him. I feel  
 God surely made one the mother  
 of his punishment. The country



*Book*

**DIARY,**

Chicago, Ill. 1864.

London, Ohio. 1864.

London, N. Y. 1864.

**1864.**

JAMES H. GUTHRIE

No. 101 South St.

St. Louis, Mo.

# DECEMBER, 1864.

New York.				Day of Week	San Francisco.		
Low	High	Mean	High		Low	Mean	High
m	m	m	m		m	m	m
7	54 34	1 9	9 44	1	Th.	6 58 4 41	7 28
7	54 35	9 15	10 22	2	Fri.	6 59 4 40	8 28
7	54 33	9 34	11 23	3	Sat.	7 04 4 40	9 28
7	54 33	10 38		4	S.	7 14 4 40	10 42
7	54 33	11 42	0 57	5	Mo.	7 24 4 40	11 48
7	104 33	more	1 28	6	Tu.	7 34 4 40	more
7	114 33	0 58	2 33	7	W.	7 44 4 40	0 57
7	124 33	1 58	3 38	8	Th.	7 54 4 40	2 3
7	134 33	2 6	4 38	9	Fri.	7 54 4 40	3 9
7	144 33	4 14	5 38	10	Sat.	7 54 4 40	4 15
7	154 33	5 19	6 38	11	S.	7 94 4 41	5 20
7	154 33	6 21	7 28	12	Mo.	7 94 4 41	6 21
7	164 33	6 21	8 27	13	Tu.	7 94 4 41	more
7	174 34	6 18	9 1	14	W.	7 94 4 41	6 31
7	184 34	7 18	9 25	15	Th.	7 94 4 42	7 28
7	184 34	8 18	10 25	16	Fri.	7 104 4 43	8 27
7	194 35	9 18	11 10	17	Sat.	7 104 4 43	9 24
7	204 35	10 18	11 50	18	S.	7 114 4 43	10 20
7	204 35	11 9	0 11	19	Mo.	7 114 4 44	11 18
7	214 36	more	0 54	20	Tu.	7 124 4 44	more
7	214 36	0 9	1 40	21	W.	7 124 4 45	0 9
7	224 37	1 0	2 29	22	Th.	7 134 4 45	1 4
7	224 38	1 36	3 22	23	Fri.	7 134 4 46	2 1
7	234 38	2 57	4 17	24	Sat.	7 144 4 47	2 58
7	234 39	3 58	5 13	25	S.	7 144 4 47	3 57
7	234 39	4 58	6 8	26	Mo.	7 154 4 48	4 54
7	244 40	5 54	7 2	27	Tu.	7 154 4 48	5 54
7	244 41	6 54	7 55	28	W.	7 154 4 49	acta.
7	244 42	7 9	8 47	29	Th.	7 164 4 49	6 18
7	244 42	7 9	8 47	30	Fri.	7 164 4 51	7 21
7	244 43	8 20	10 17	31	Sat.	7 164 4 51	8 20

## San Francisco Tides.

For explanation of signs, see Note on Tides page.

Day	High Tide	Low Tide	Day	High Tide	Low Tide
Mo. & Eve.	Mo. & Eve.	Mo. & Eve.	Mo. & Eve.	Mo. & Eve.	Mo. & Eve.
1	6 58	4 41	16	7 54	4 40
2	6 59	4 40	17	7 104	4 43
3	7 04	4 40	18	7 114	4 43
4	7 14	4 40	19	7 114	4 44
5	7 24	4 40	20	7 124	4 44
6	7 34	4 40	21	7 124	4 45
7	7 44	4 40	22	7 134	4 45
8	7 54	4 40	23	7 134	4 46
9	7 54	4 40	24	7 144	4 47
10	7 54	4 40	25	7 144	4 47
11	7 94	4 41	26	7 154	4 48
12	7 94	4 41	27	7 154	4 48
13	7 94	4 41	28	7 154	4 49
14	7 94	4 41	29	7 164	4 49
15	7 94	4 41	30	7 164	4 51
16	7 94	4 41	31	7 164	4 51



1916

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

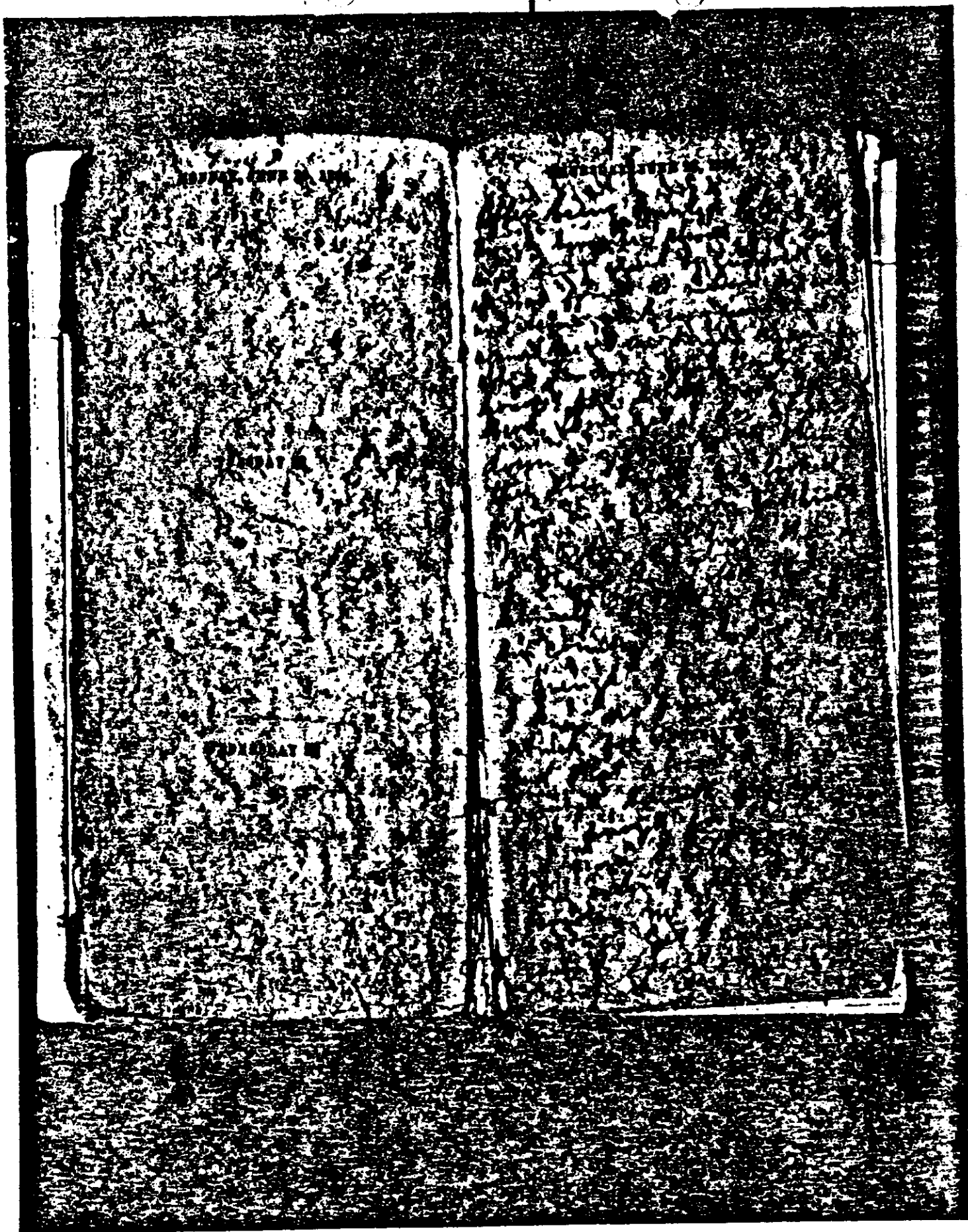
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

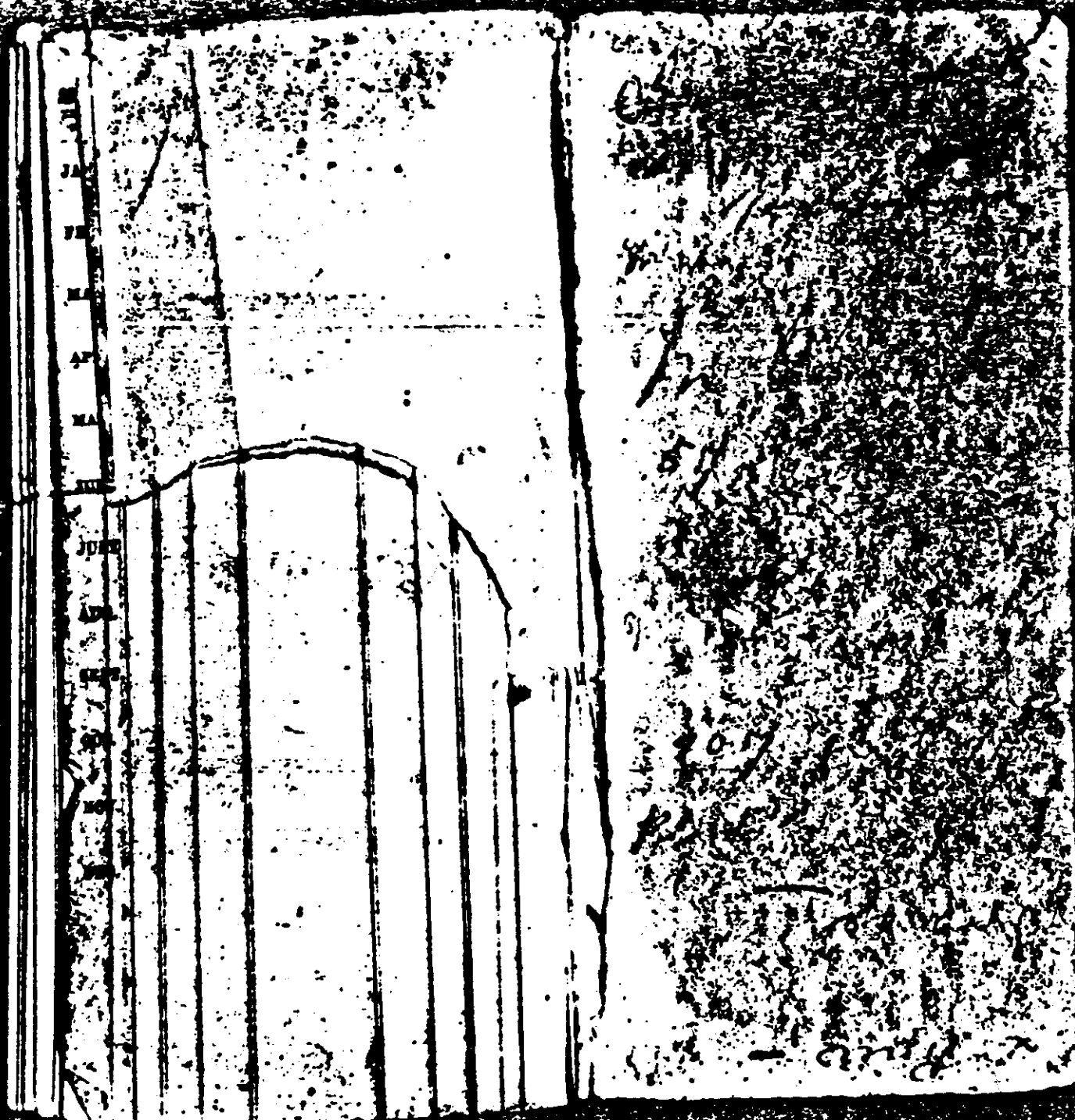


SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1964

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1904

I think I have done well.  
 I thought I am a hundred, but  
 the love of Cain is for me.  
 When if the world knew  
 my heart, that one blow and  
 have made me great, though  
 I did desire no greatness.  
 To night I try to comfort  
 these blood hounds once  
 more. <sup>THURSDAY</sup> ~~like~~ don read  
 his fate. God will be do  
 I have too great a heart  
 to die a wife's death. I think  
 he may be afraid that  
 and I will be do  
 I bless the entire world  
 that have held on ever yet  
 anyone. This land was not  
 a wrong. <sup>FRIDAY, JULY 1</sup> ~~don't~~ don't  
 so. And it's worth being  
 down on a list and  
 for this brave day  
 I often pray for  
 with a true  
 heart. I'm going on  
 I'm not going to  
 clut of blood. but  
 fight the course. I'll be  
 with me.





Book

DIARY



1864.

JAMES H. GILFORD  
No. 24 Fourth Street  
St. Louis, Mo.



**DECEMBER, 1864.**

New York.				Day of Week	San Francisco.			
Sun Rises	Sun Sets	Moon Sets	High Tide		Sun Rises	Sun Sets	Moon Sets	
h m	h m	h m	h m		h m	h m	h m	
7 54	34	7 9	9 44	1 Th.	6 58	4 41	7 22	
7 54	33	8 15	10 32	2 Fri.	6 59	4 40	8 28	
7 54	33	9 24	11 22	3 Sat.	7 0	4 40	9 35	
7 54	33	10 33	.....	4 S.	7 1	4 40	10 42	
7 54	33	11 42	0 37	5 Mo.	7 2	4 40	11 49	
7 54	33	morn	1 25	6 Tu.	7 3	4 40	morn	
7 54	33	0 50	2 33	7 W.	7 4	4 40	0 57	
7 54	33	1 58	3 33	8 Th.	7 5	4 40	2 3	
7 54	33	2 6	4 38	9 Fri.	7 5	4 40	3 9	
7 54	33	3 14	5 38	10 Sat.	7 6	4 40	4 15	
7 54	33	4 19	6 35	11 Mo.	7 7	4 41	5 20	
7 54	33	5 21	7 28	12 Tu.	7 8	4 41	6 21	
7 54	33	6 16	8 17	13 W.	7 8	4 41	7 29	
7 54	33	7 16	9 53	14 Th.	7 9	4 42	8 27	
7 54	33	8 16	10 28	15 Fri.	7 10	4 43	9 24	
7 54	33	9 14	11 10	16 Sat.	7 11	4 43	10 20	
7 54	33	10 11	11 50	17 S.	7 11	4 44	11 15	
7 54	33	11 5	0 11	18 Mo.	7 12	4 44	morn	
7 54	33	morn	0 54	19 Tu.	7 12	4 45	0 9	
7 54	33	0 2	1 40	20 W.	7 12	4 45	1 4	
7 54	33	1 29	2 29	21 Th.	7 13	4 45	2 1	
7 54	33	2 32	3 22	22 Fri.	7 13	4 46	2 59	
7 54	33	3 27	4 17	23 Sat.	7 14	4 47	3 57	
7 54	33	4 16	5 13	24 S.	7 14	4 47	4 56	
7 54	33	5 5	6 2	25 Mo.	7 15	4 48	5 54	
7 54	33	6 54	7 2	26 Tu.	7 15	4 48	act.	
7 54	33	7 53	8 41	27 W.	7 15	4 49	6 13	
7 54	33	8 41	9 28	28 Th.	7 16	4 49	7 21	
7 54	33	9 28	10 17	29 Fri.	7 16	4 51	8 30	
7 54	33	10 20	11 31	30 Sat.	7 16	4 51	9 30	

**San Francisco Times.**

For diplomatic remarks, see News on Tuesday page

[illegible]

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 1963

72

[illegible]

[illegible]

From Lord 9. Come and  
visit me 7. I have no other  
with me my country. This is  
the end. I would a long  
time for one of the  
red birds. red birds  
from the South

WEDNESDAY 16

THURSDAY 10

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1968

SATURDAY 26

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1864.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1964

[illegible]

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1904

My little I don't believe  
that my name has  
not been allowed to be  
printed. So in all. For  
Monday I have given  
it that makes life  
and not only. I have  
not yet seen my family.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

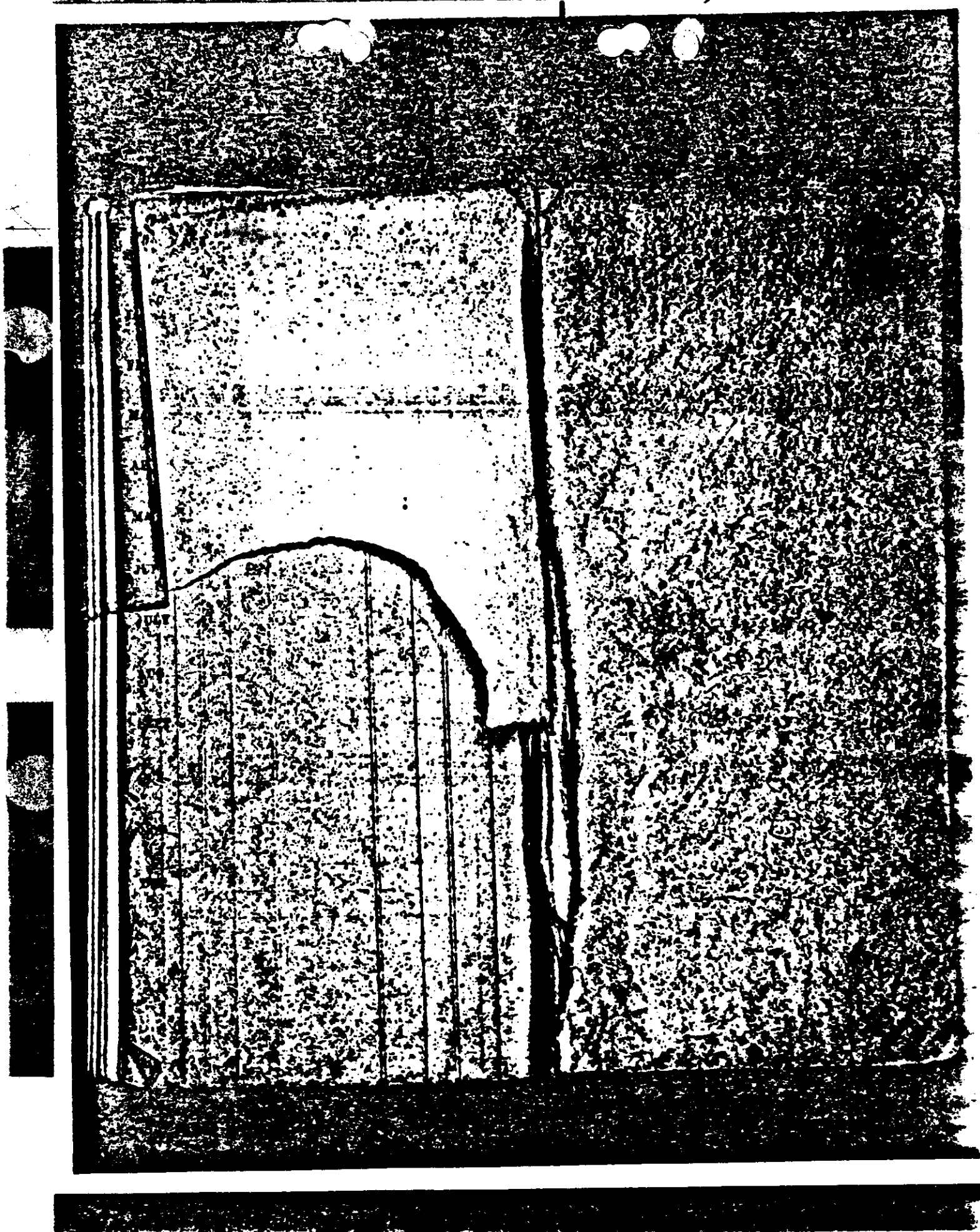
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1904

I think I have been  
a bit of a busy man  
since of course. I have  
seen of the world. I have  
heard that one of the  
great men of the world  
is dead. I have seen  
the blood of the world.

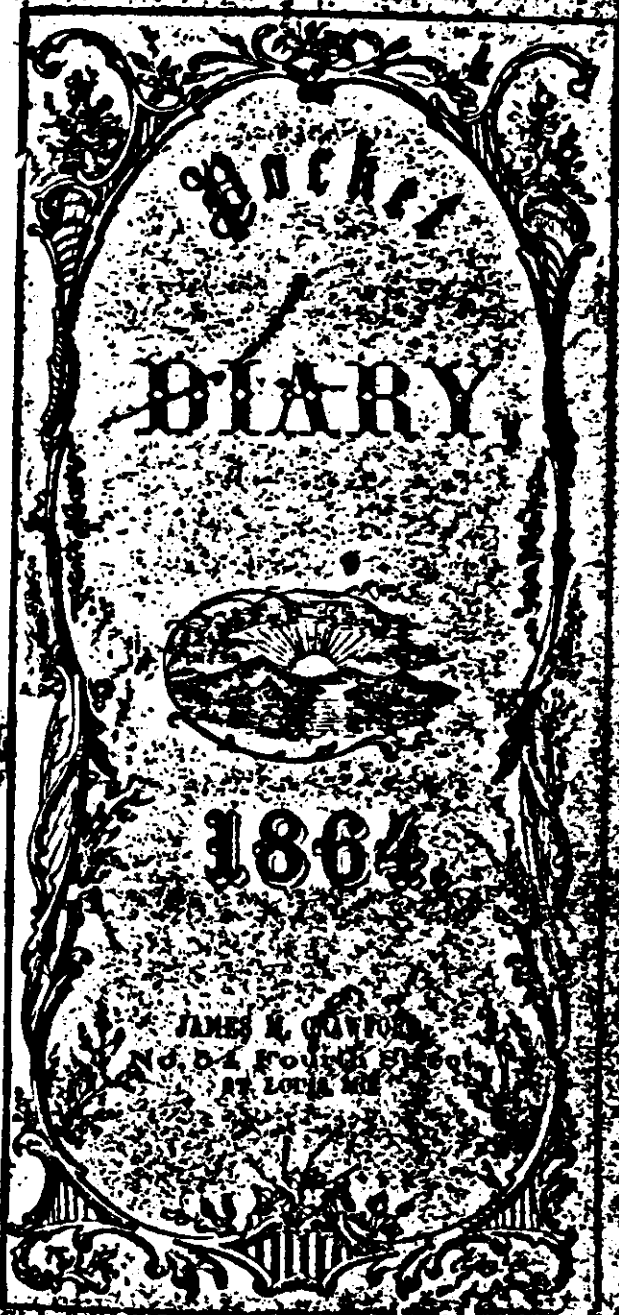
THURSDAY

FRIDAY



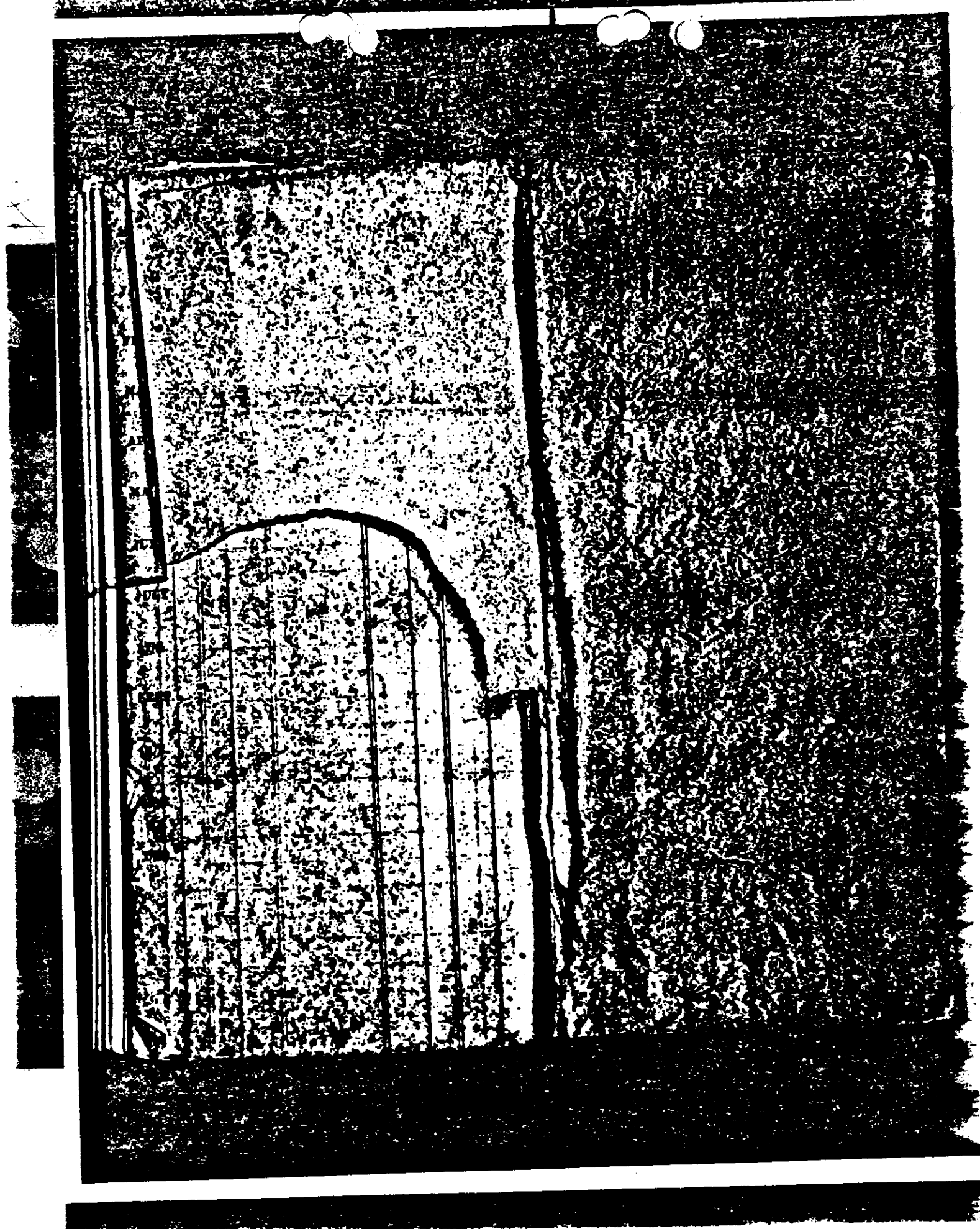














UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
1100 OHIO DRIVE, S. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

K18-NCR(MIRR)

JUN 3 1977

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

K-1  
Mr. Clarence Kelly  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20005

710615073

Dear Mr. Kelly:

This office has requested the loan from the National Archives of two letters written by John Wilkes Booth. We hope, through the services of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to be able to authenticate the Booth diary in the Ford's Theatre collection by a comparative analysis of the handwriting.

Regional Curator Gordon Gay has been working with the FBI on an earlier project involving a detailed examination of the Booth diary. We have discussed with your staff the possibility of the handwriting analysis while the diary is in your hands. At this time, we wish to request your assistance in such a study.

As soon as we get clearance from the Archives for the loan of the booth letters, we will be in contact to further discuss this project.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*J. D. [Signature]*  
Acting Regional Director, National Capital Region

ST-115

REC-26

95-216208

95-216208-2

3 JUL 6 1977

56 JAN 17 1978

SEVEN

Copy and Specimens retained in Lab  
for Lab Action and Report



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Kelleher *TK*  
FROM : *RTK* Robert T. Kelly

SUBJECT: */* LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

1 - Mr. Kelleher  
1 - Mr. Herndon  
1 - Mr. Kelly  
1 - Mr. Lilja  
DATE: 8/3/77  
1 - Mr. Mones

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. *AK*  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

On 5/19/77, Gordon Gay of the Department of Interior, National Park Service, National Capitol Region, Washington, D. C., furnished to the FBI Laboratory a diary purportedly belonging to John Wilkes Booth. The Department of Interior requested that the FBI Laboratory examine the diary in a effort to determine if it contained any invisible writing, alterations or other characteristics which would be considered unusual.

A thorough forensic photographic examination was conducted of the entire diary. Some of the special techniques utilized included, ultraviolet reflectance, visible fluorescence with ultraviolet excitation, reflected infrared, infrared luminescence, and x-ray. In addition, the diary was also examined for indented writings. The only unaccountable indented writings were found on a page captioned "cash account September." This page was preceded by a single missing page. The limited text of the indented writings noted could not be determined. The only examination remaining to be completed by the Laboratory is the comparison of the writings in the diary with pages of purported known writings of John Wilkes Booth. These purported known writings were also furnished to the Laboratory by the National Park Service.

As a result of the examination of the diary, no invisible writings, *obliterations*, alterations or other unusual characteristics were found. There were portions of the writings that have been obliterated or worn away through age and wear and tear on the diary itself.

BLM/mvs  
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER



5010-110

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

2 AUG 9 1977

Memorandum to Mr. Kelleher  
RE: LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

In order to state absolutely whether or not any secret writings existed in the diary, other examination techniques would have to be utilized which would be destructive to the diary.

In summation, all appropriate and non-destructive examination techniques have been utilized and nothing of any value has been found.

The above information relating to the examination of the diary was orally furnished to Mr. Gay and on this date Mrs. Pam West, of the National Park Service advised the Laboratory that the Ford Theater Museum curator had been interviewed by Mr. Les Whitten. The resulting information published in the Washington Post on this date is in fact reasonably accurate and was a result of that interview.

ACTION: For information.

APPROVED:	Exec. Sec.	Legal Coun.
Director	Crim. Inv.	Plan. & Insp.
Assoc. Dir.	Adm. & Pers.	Rec. Mgmt.
Dep. AD Adm.	Ident.	Spec. Inv.
Dep. AD Inv.	Intell.	Tech. Servs.
	Laboratory	Training
		Public Affs. Off.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

1- Boynton  
1- Mones  
1- Kelleher  
1- Kelly  
DATE: 8/4/77

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Kelleher

FROM :

R.T. Kelly - RTH

SUBJECT:

LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

As a result of two articles published in the 8/3/77 Washington Post an inquiry was received from WRC-TV (NBC affiliate-ch 4) concerning the FBI's "investigation" of the John Wilkes Booth diary.

It was jointly decided between us and Skip Larson of the National Park Service that no one should be allowed to photograph or handle the diary because of its condition, however we could furnish black and white photographs if requested.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., 8/3/77, Mr. Larson and Mike Harmon, both of the Ford's Theater Museum, National Park Service and Kelly Burke, Reporter WRC visited the laboratory and discussed captioned matter with the examiner, SA Barry L. Mones. SA Mones provided a few enlargements of the diary, explaining what each was and made it clear to Mr. Burke that the FBI was not investigating this matter but merely providing laboratory assistance because of the historical value at the specific request of the Department of Interior, National Park Service.

ST 114 REC-7295-216205-4

Mr. Harmon wanted to know if it would be possible to match any loose pages with the cut remaining portions in the diary. He was advised that while a predetermination as to the value of the examination could not be made it certainly should not be ruled out if the pages became available.

17 AUG 10 1977

(continued over)



5010-110

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SEVEN  
FBI DO

Memorandum Kelly to Kelloher.  
Re: LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

All three individuals clearly understood that short of destructive testing, all forensic examinations of the diary revealed nothing of significance or value and that in probability there was no visible writing in the diary. Mr. Burke was most thankful for our assistance and the photographs, expressing that he had a 5:00 deadline.

Mr. Larson advised that a letter from his office to us will be forthcoming giving us blanket permission to release any photographs requested in this matter.

Recommendation: None. Information only.

APPROVED:

Director

Adm. Serv.  
Crim. Inv.  
Ident. Sec.  
Intell. Sec.  
Lab.  
Legal Coun.  
Plan. & Insp.  
Rec. Mgmt.  
Tech. Serv.  
Training

Adm. Serv.

Crim. Inv.

Ident. Sec.

Intell. Sec.

Lab.

Legal Coun.

Plan. & Insp.

Rec. Mgmt.

Tech. Serv.

Training

Legal Coun.

Plan. & Insp.

Rec. Mgmt.

Tech. Serv.

Training

Adm. Serv.

Crim. Inv.

Ident. Sec.

Intell. Sec.

Lab.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Kelleher *T/K*  
FROM : Robert T. Kelly *RK*  
SUBJECT: LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

1 - Mr. Kelleher  
1 - Mr. Kelly  
1 - Mr. Mones  
DATE: 8/12/77

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
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Tech. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

Re memorandums dated 8/4/77 and 8/9/77.

## PURPOSE:

To advise of a telephone call from [REDACTED] to the FBI inquiring of the status of the John Wilkes Booth Diary examination.

## DETAILS:

At 11 a.m., 8/11/77, a phone call was received in the Special Photographic Unit by SA Joseph M. Avignone, Document Section, Laboratory.

The caller identified himself as [REDACTED] a newspaper article written by Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, 8/3/77, relating to captioned matter. [REDACTED] had called for SA Barry L. Mones who was on eight hours of annual leave. Avignone took the call and explained that Mones was not at work and would be back tomorrow. [REDACTED] started asking Avignone questions about the captioned matter and Avignone explained that the case was assigned to Mones and Mones had conducted the examinations and Avignone had no first hand knowledge of the results of the examination. Avignone told [REDACTED] to call Mones back on Friday, 8/12/77. [REDACTED] inquired "Why is the report taking so long?". Avignone stated that the wording of [REDACTED] question implied that that report was taking too long and that he (Avignone) had no basis to share his [REDACTED] opinion. [REDACTED] asked Avignone when he [REDACTED] would be receiving a copy of the report. Avignone

7C  
all

95-216208

1 - Mr. Bointon (7150)



5010-110

*dlp\** (5)  
1977

CONTINUED - OVER

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

*RJR*



To: Mr. Kelleher  
RE: LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

advised [REDACTED] that he did not know that [REDACTED] would receive a copy of the report since this was a submission from the Interior Department and that the report to Avignone's knowledge would be sent to the Interior Department. [REDACTED] continued with questions regarding the results and Avignone again tried to explain that Mones and not Avignone was conducting the examination and [REDACTED] stated something to the effect that that's the trouble with the government. 7C  
211  
[REDACTED] He further rambled on about that he knew that the FBI had gotten the diary back from the Interior Department after Jack Anderson's column had appeared and that we conducted the handwriting examination from the diary and had returned the diary to the Interior Department. Avignone attempted to explain that handwriting comparisons can be made from high quality photographs but [REDACTED] interrupted and stated that he has talked to handwriting experts all over the country and he knows for a fact that comparisons can not be made from photographs. At this point Avignone stated "Sir, you're wrong - I'm not going to argue with you anymore - I don't want to quibble about this matter - Call back tomorrow and talk to Mones - It has been my pleasure talking to you - Goodbye." At this point the telephone conversation was terminated.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information only.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Kelleher *JK*

FROM : *JK* Robert T. Kelly

SUBJECT: LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

1 - Mr. Kelleher  
1 - Mr. Kelly  
1 - Mr. Mones

DATE: 8/9/77

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
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Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

Reference memorandum in this matter, 8/4/77.

## PURPOSE:

To advise of a telephone call from [REDACTED] to the FBI inquiring of the status of the JOHN WILKES BOOTH diary examination.

## DETAILS:

At 11:00 a.m., 8/5/77, a phone call was forwarded from the FBI Press Office to SA Barry L. Mones, Document Section, Laboratory.

The caller identified himself as [REDACTED] a newspaper article written by Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, 8/3/77, relating to captioned matter. [REDACTED] in very rapid succession, began asking questions relating to what and how the FBI Laboratory reached its findings concerning the JOHN WILKES BOOTH diary. He wanted verification about the number of missing pages, any areas of abrasion or obliteration, and a page which he claimed was chemically eradicated. *ST-108* *9/1/77*

SA Mones did not provide [REDACTED] with any information other than that which is already public knowledge. [REDACTED] does not have control of the purported missing 18 pages from the diary but that they are in the hands of an elderly descendant of the Stanton family. [REDACTED] stated that the pages should be made available for comparison to authenticate with the diary and said that he believes that they may become available in the near future. He stated that the descendant in possession of the pages is hesitant at this time because he fears of possible reprisals against [REDACTED] *REC-31 95-211-21-6*

1 - Mr. Boynton (7150)

CONTINUED - OVER



*Buy* asc\* (5)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

MEMORANDUM TO MR. KELLEHER  
LINCOLN ASSASSINATION  
8/9/77

him when the "truth" is known. [REDACTED] stated that he personally has already been "blackmailed and threatened" but is only interested in this matter because he wants to see the truth come out while others such as Sunn Films are in it for the money and publicity.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information only.

APPROVED:

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tech. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

August 15, 1977

[REDACTED]

Director Clarence M. Kelley  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20535

LOCAL & STATE

Re: Lincoln Assassination

Dear Director Kelley:

Several years ago I prepared a research paper for a history course which covered the possibility of Edwin McMasters Stanton's involvement in the conspiracy to murder President Lincoln; the apparent key to the puzzle appeared to lie in the missing pages which had been cut or torn from the assassin's diary. I now have learned from a recent Jack Anderson column that Mr. Joseph Lynch of Worthington, Massachusetts had discovered that he believes to be the missing pages, and that they have been turned over to the Bureau for scientific examination.

My interest is apparent. If copies of the pages or their content are available, I would appreciate a copy. If you prefer not to release them directly, can you furnish me with Mr. Lynch's address so that I may communicate with him directly.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

REC-76

15-1-1-7

8 AUG 21 1977

8

1 - Mr. Kelleher  
1 - Mr. Carter  
1 - Mr. Tykal, Rm. 7825

August 25, 1977

[REDACTED]

LOCAL & STATE

b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of August 15th concerning an examination of the John Wilkes Booth diary has been brought to my attention.

The FBI Laboratory has been requested by the United States Department of Interior to conduct an examination concerning the authenticity of the Booth diary. This examination is yet to be completed and there is no information available at this time. When the examination has been completed, the results will be sent directly to the United States Department of Interior. You should contact them at the following address for any additional information desired:

United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
National Capitol Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

The missing pages you refer to have not been submitted to the FBI for examination and we are not aware of their whereabouts.

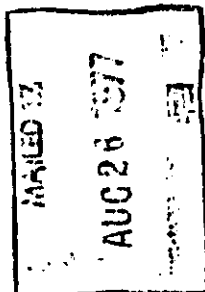
I hope this information has been of assistance to you.

REC-76 DE-80  
V-10  
Sincerely yours, 95-216-100 8

Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr.

Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr.  
Assistant Director

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



MSM/dlp\* (4)

51 SEP 1977

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

4 AUG 31 1977



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
October 5, 1977

U.S. JUSTICE  
MAIL ROOM  
GRB

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Honorable Griffin Bell  
Attorney General of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bell:

I am enclosing a photostat of a newspaper article with regard to the purported discovery of eighteen pages of John Wilkes' Boot diary among the effects of an heir of Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War.

This diary had been seized as evidence by the Government and the original diary now lies in "Ford's Theater" in Washington.

There is no question pages were ripped from the diary and the first head of the Secret Service, Lafayette Baker, testified the diary was substantially intact when he turned it over to the Secretary of War.

Jack Anderson recently wrote an article indicating these purported missing pages are being examined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for authenticity.

First, it infuriates me to think Stanton's heirs have material stolen from the Federal Government valued at between one quarter a million dollars. Secondly, since if this property were stolen from the Government, it is Government property and should be returned to the Government.

I am a Lincoln assassination conspiracy buff and feel the Government is under an obligation to secure these pages and that they should be made public. It is a pity that the assassination of our Sixteenth President is still clouded in mystery.

Very truly yours,

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure:

ACK  
10-21-77  
[initials]

339

REC-57 95-2162-5-9  
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72

D

# Lincoln's Enemies

## IN THE CORNER

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...and Les Whitten  
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...this one  
...of Abraham  
...goes on to  
...The belated FBI inquiry into  
...The death may help to resolve  
...Was Lincoln  
...secret conspiracy  
...into his own cabinet?  
...for this monumental  
...light on these  
...some 18 pages  
...disappeared from  
...may now have  
...And:  
...Now an  
...American expert,  
...Joseph Lynch of Worthington, Mass.,  
...to be the  
...missing pages

Not having much else to report in this most normal summer since the '50s, which is to say dull, aside from

the recent discovery of that long extinct prehistoric beast, the plesiosaurus, from the murky depths of the southern seas of New Zealand, or a sociological examination of the deeper significance of the latest phenomenon, the John "Son of War" we turn now to that burning question—not who killed Kennedy but who killed Lincoln. And also how that subject happens to surface in the press this August 7th.

The American expert, Joseph Lynch, lists his address at P.O. Box 72, Worthington, Mass. His phone, the operator says, has been disconnected. A day of indefatigable tracking led from Worthington, Mass., to Salt Lake City, Utah, and ended at the Steamboat Square Book Shop in Albany, N.Y., where Mr. Lynch was said to receive messages.

"He's a very private man who jealously guards his privacy," the proprietor said, cautiously

Mr. Lynch maintains a phone in the Albany area, but it has been unlisted for a while in the day after

EDWIN M. ...

...helps not ...

more ... Mr. Lynch ...

"I'm ... American ...

subject of ... the artifact ...

"One night ... the thing ...

In general ... the thing ...

liked best ... it's over at ...

of being ... anything. I'm ...

LINCOLN ...

from selling cigarettes to participants in mass market research. Polling, computer readouts to determine what the audience wants. Then it takes the films, "Docu-dramas," it calls them. Some of Senn's credits, for film and TV: "The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams," "The Mysterious Monsters" and "The Amazing World of Psychic Phenomena."

The company modestly claims "The

Watergate scandal was a conspiracy of... Watergate never happened. The seeds of the... Watergate lives.

David... described as "an investigator, a coooper" by the company. was doing the gumshoe work that all reporters and their investigators must do when he stumbled on a lead.

He says he was in Washington, D.C., at a Civil War-type gun show, when he heard about an Americana collector who had found the missing pages from Booth's diary. "It took me nearly six weeks to track Lynch down," Balsiger says. After selling dealers from New York to Boston, he finally got a call back. He and Lynch began negotiations over the material. And here, ~~the~~ hasn't already, the story becomes too complex to unravel at this writing. But the essence:

Balsiger says Lynch estimated the value of the material at a quarter of a million to a million dollars, and that Lynch, acting as the middleman for the heirs, first put a price of a quarter million dollars. Lynch denies this. The Stanton heirs, he says, didn't want to deal with anyone. "So far as they were concerned, the diary was a black spot on everyone concerned," he says. That is, Stanton clearly was implicated as the master conspirator. How would you like to be known as a direct descendant of the man who had Father Abraham slain?

In the end, Lynch sold to the movie company a transcript of the supposed diary, made from his tape-recorded descriptions. The price was somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The movie company claims to have done exhaustive work into authenticating the pages. They were evaluated "by

Journal of the Lincoln assassination had been turned up. New material is always turning up but Harmon made the call. In time, he met Lynch, Balsiger and other people from the movie company. One of them asked for, and got, permission to photograph the original Booth diary on display in the museum. There had been rumors, among the hordes of Lincoln assassination conspiracy buffs that Booth's diary contained "invisible"

After that, Harmon says the government decided to protect itself. "We asked the FBI to examine the diary in our possession to alleviate any future uncertainty as to its authenticity, or any questions pertaining to 'hidden' writing." That was done. The diary is now back in its case in Ford's Theater.

The FBI has never looked at the "missing pages" from the diary. As Harmon says: "Being a cautious historian, I have to say this: The burden of historical proof rests on Lynch. If a guy says, 'Hey, I have the documents that say Mary Lincoln did it,' it's the burden of that person to produce the documents in question. The only way anybody's going to be able to determine their authenticity is when they become public documents subject to public scrutiny and examination."

Harmon's a Civil War buff himself. He recalls being fascinated by an event a year ago: Lincoln's wallet had been sealed inside a box maintained at the Smithsonian. It was opened during the bicentennial celebration. Guess what they found.

Five dollars -- in Confederate money.

October 21, 1977

INSIDE SOURCE

b7C

Your communication of October 5th to the Attorney General was referred to FBI Headquarters for acknowledgment and received on October 14th.

The FBI Laboratory was requested by the U. S. Department of the Interior to conduct an examination concerning the authenticity of the diary maintained by John Wilkes Booth. This examination was just recently completed and the results have been sent directly to the Department of the Interior.

If you desire additional information regarding this examination of the Booth diary, you should communicate with the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capitol Region, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20242.

The missing pages to which you refer have not been submitted to the FBI for examination and we are not aware of their whereabouts.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew J. Decker, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Records Management Division

NOTE: Based on available information, correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

ESH:jmh (3)

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
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Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

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NOV 8 1977

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI/DOJ

7C  
August 8, 1977

Mr. Clarence Kelley  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation OUTSIDE S&A  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Attention: Mr. Barry Mones, Technical Analysis Laboratory

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I note in the Les Whitten story (copy enclosed) in the Washington Post for August 3, 1977, that your check of the John Wilkes Booth diary is still in progress. It is hoped that your sophisticated methods will raise some of the writing that does not appear to the eye. I send you here two pictures (made under special light) which show some of this writing. Please return these pictures.

There is also some writing opposite the calendar, faint at the top and slightly clearer toward the bottom. This appears to be a list of names. Perhaps this is beyond recovery by any means but the writing is there, clearly so. I am sorry that I do not have a picture of this page to send to you.

There is a growing controversy that your report can settle easily: how many pages (or sheets) are missing from the Booth diary? As you will note, this document is not properly a diary but rather is an 1864 memorandum book with spaced dates, presumably beginning with Friday, January 1, and ending with Sunday, December 31. It is alleged that eighteen of the missing pages have been located in the hands of a Stanton heir. It would be most helpful for future research for you to state in your report just which pages - or sheets - are not now in this memorandum book. You could, for example, note either the missing pages or the pages that are there in chronological order. Either way will permit historians to reconstruct the memorandum book and to make comparisons with the "missing pages" if these are ever released for such a purpose.

03 REC-2 95-211 208-9  
As I urged in my letter of June 23, every page should be photographed even if scanners reveal nothing. This will avoid mythmakers coming back later with doctored pictures or making a claim that the FBI missed something or deliberately withheld material as part of "a conspiracy." This is no idle fear as you can see from the editorial in the Civil War Times for August 1977 (copy enclosed)

ENCLOSURE

A claim has been made that the diary (the one you are checking) was forged by the Government as part of a "cover-up." For



[REDACTED]

this reason historians are anxious that your report be definite in comparing the writing in the diary with the "To whom it may concern" letter and the "Dearest beloved mother" letter. This is the last chance for an answer, one way or the other. We are advised that the diary will never again be made available for such a purpose.

I am sorry to bother you on these points - all of which you are no doubt doing and doing well. Still, so much history rides on the documentation of what you do and how you do it.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

all  
7C

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

# FBI Probes Lincoln Assassination

The FBI has quietly entered the investigation of another presidential assassination — this one the 112-year-old shooting of Abraham Lincoln while he watched a performance at Ford's Theater in Washington.

In many respects, the 1865 murder of Lincoln remains even more controversial than the 1963 killing of President John F. Kennedy. Murky questions hang over both tragedies.

The belated FBI inquiry into Lincoln's death may help to resolve such mysteries as these: Was Lincoln the victim of a secret conspiracy reaching into his own cabinet? Was Frederick Douglass, the Martin Luther King Jr. of the Lincoln era, also marked for murder? Did the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, actually escape and leave another man's body in his place?

New light on these questions is contained in some 18 pages that mysteriously disappeared from Booth's diary but may now have turned up. The diary reportedly was delivered intact to Lincoln's arrogant Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, who has been linked by rumors to the assassination plot.

When the diary was later introduced into the Andrew Johnson impeachment hearings, it was missing some pages that had been neatly excised. Now an indefatigable American expert, Joseph Lynch of Worthington, Mass., has found what appears to be the missing pages.

He made the discovery while appraising some historical artifacts belonging to Stanton's heirs. The pages were locked in a box in the attic. The heirs had never opened the box; in fact, they had no key.

The pages give a fascinating account, presumably written by Booth, of his intrigues with Lincoln intimates shortly before the assassination. Some of the most prominent politicians of the period, including Stanton, are implicated.

Referring to a plot perhaps unrelated to the murder, Booth allegedly writes that he may be working for the Secretary of War himself. At another point, he declares: "I swear that I shall lay the body of this tyrant dead upon the altar of Mars." Apparently, Lincoln is the "tyrant," and "Mars," the god of war, could have been a code name for Stanton.

For years, the Booth diary, shorn of its mysterious pages, has been on display at Ford's Theater museum. But the Interior Department, which runs the museum, has now turned over the diary to the FBI. Its handwriting experts, with their ultraviolet scanners, microscopes and other detection devices, are trying to determine whether the diary itself is genuine.

They have made two important tentative discoveries. The diary contains no writing in invisible ink, as some people have suspected for more than a century. The text also hasn't been altered, as others have thought. But the big question, whether the diary is entirely in Booth's handwriting, remains to be settled.

The FBI's findings may establish whether the 18 newly discovered pages are authentic. Lynch gained considerable credibility by insisting that the missing pages were lined. Most experts had thought the diary was unlined. But the museum's curator, Michael Harman, has now in-

spected the diary more scientifically and has confirmed that its pages, those of Lynch's discovery, are lined.

Along with the missing diary, Lynch also found hundreds of intriguing items in the possession of the Stanton heirs. One is a letter in a newspaper, in which Booth reportedly outlined why he killed Lincoln.

A film company, Sunn Classics, also been investigating the Lincoln assassination for a feature movie, "The Lincoln Conspiracy." One researcher, Lawrence Mooney of Alexandria, Va., has turned up missing Booth letters and other items. Mooney believes he has evidence that Booth escaped and that another body was put in his place.

Another researcher, Prof. Ray of Indiana State University, has produced material which he believes shows Booth escaped at Garrett's, where most experts believe he was killed by pursuing troops.

Still another ingredient has been injected into the mystery by Lynch, who has "discovered" what looks like the name of Frederick Douglass, a leader, in the Booth diary. This raises the possibility that Booth may have intended to kill Douglass, too.

Meanwhile, Curator Harman, a government expert on the assassination, is taking an historian's caution about the renewed controversy. "It's the original can of worms," he said. "The government didn't conduct a thorough investigation at the time. We don't know whether we'll ever get the answers."

By Charles Rodriguez

95-211208-11

Within a few weeks you are going to get very excited. From your radio, your newspaper, and seemingly every other minute on your television, you are going to be bombarded by a media blitz for a new motion picture. "New film proves conspiracy in Lincoln assassination," they will say; "Researchers have advanced the Lincoln assassination study more in a one-year crash investigation than it has been advanced in the previous 112 years"; "calls for joint Senate-House assassination committee to re-examine Lincoln's death"; "With the historical discoveries we've made, our film will make Watergate look like kindergarten plotting."

The new film, "The Lincoln Conspiracy," is produced by Sunn Classic Pictures, makers of a recent film on Noah's Ark and several wildlife movies. It presents a scenario which, if true, does indeed make events surrounding the Watergate break-in pale into insignificance. "The Lincoln Conspiracy" does nothing less than charge that there were four separate groups conspiring against Lincoln; that Secretary of War Edwin McM. Stanton and Lafayette Baker were deeply involved; that Booth was a tool of all four groups; that Stanton tried to replace Booth with a Confederate Captain James W. Boyd; that it was Boyd, not Booth, who was killed in the dark hours of April 26, 1865, at the Garrett farm in Virginia; that Booth escaped to freedom while Boyd's body was identified and buried as Booth's; that Stanton and other high officials, finding incriminating evidence against them in Booth's diary, conspired to suppress this evidence; that Baker was later killed to silence him, and much more.

Space does not allow telling of the whole story. Briefly, however, Confederate leaders in Canada want Lincoln out of the way, and feel that kidnapping him may get Southern prisoners freed to continue the fight. Northern cotton speculators don't want their profits cut by a lenient peace with the Confederacy. New York financiers feel the same, and the Radicals in Congress want an opportunity to ride roughshod over the conquered states. All four groups want Lincoln kidnapped or killed for their own ends. All work through Booth. Stanton and Baker know of the plots—are involved with one or more groups themselves—and Baker acts as liaison with Booth. Booth makes several kidnapping attempts and fails. Disillusioned with the actor, the Radicals want a change. Baker and Stanton get Captain James W. Boyd—a ruthless character—out of Old Capitol Prison in Washington and put him in Booth's place. While Boyd schemes, a resentful Booth changes his plans to murder, and finally kills Lincoln on April 14, just as Boyd is ready with his own plot, which included spiriting Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William Seward, aboard a Chaffey Shipping Company vessel to be born away to Bloodsworth Island in the Chesapeake where they would be killed.

Booth attempts to escape in company with one Edward Henson over an unguarded route left open for Boyd. Baker immediately sends Boyd and young David Herold—an accomplice of Booth's who is captured on April 15 and coerced into giving aid—out to catch the assassin. But then Boyd, fearing that Baker will betray him, decides to escape himself, but he and Herold are trapped at the Garrett farm. Herold is taken, and Boyd slain. Since Boyd bore a remarkable resemblance to Booth, he is at first mistaken for the assassin. When the error is discovered, the War Department covers it up rather than reveal that the wrong man is dead. Thus begins the cover-up, which Stanton completes by hiding Booth's diary and excising from it eighteen pages which incriminate scores of prominent Northerners. And Booth escapes to West Virginia and eventually, Europe.

It is an incredible story if true, and the way Sunn Classic goes about trying to prove it is equally incredible.

There is a special technique to this sort of thing. It has been around a long time, and has been used most effectively in recent years by Erich von Däniken in his "Chariot of the Gods" books. The formula is simple. To present a theory that no reputable authority has ever accepted, first attack the authorities. Sunn does this with a vengeance, claiming that traditional historians of Lincoln's murder have perpetuated the cover-up by slavishly accepting the official government version of the assassination conspiracy. "Seldom has a traditional historian questioned the government's statements or acquired primary resource material from the heirs of those who lived during the assassination period," claims a Sunn spokesman. As a result, Sunn went after "findings overlooked by historians or suppressed by them because new revelations could be embarrassing to some of the established historical writers on the subject." And whatever they looked for they found—in abundance.

Next must come the hint of a continuing conspiracy to keep the truth from coming out. Thus, when it came to filming the picture, Sunn went to Savannah instead of doing it on location in Washington. "Our film," they say, "which rewrites the history of the Lincoln assassination, rattles a lot of skeletons in family and official closets. We wanted to keep a low profile until we finished filming." In a separate statement, Sunn maintains that a book by one of their consultants, Theodore Roscoe's *Web of Conspiracy*, "came under open attack by the Federal secret service . . . and the publisher was forced to let the book go." Can this possibly be the same *Web of Conspiracy* that was condensed for a *Reader's Digest* anthology and later served as the basis for a CBS TV documentary?

Next comes the presentation, and with it the repeated and insistent statement of startling revelations, one building upon another. Repetition brings familiarity, and

familiarity breeds belief. Film, when the supposition has been stated often enough, is accepted as fact, and presto! we have spacemen building cities in South America, a voracious triangle of ocean off Bermuda that swallows ships like anchovies, and a massive plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln and cover up the crime.

It is a twentieth century technique, and thus it is fitting that it be coupled with another modern "invention" in the making of "The Lincoln Conspiracy." "Sunn uses computers to help make movies," proudly proclaims the publicity release. After extensive demographic surveys are made, sample audiences are polled on "which scenes offered the greatest enjoyment, which scenes were the most interesting, and which scenes they wanted longest." Essentially the audience tells what it likes best, and that is what Sunn gives them. This is fine for a fictional drama, but when applied to the presentation of what purports to be history, the result can be disastrous. No society can afford to have its understanding of its own past determined by market research on what people want to believe. Winston Churchill once remarked of the legendary King Arthur that, if he hadn't really lived, nevertheless "he should have." Application of market research to history reverses that somewhat. If the studies indicate that most people would prefer that King Arthur had really lived, then he did. The implications are frightening.

But all of this pales when compared to the real meat of the story, the startling and extensive new evidence upon which the film is based. All such courageous, trailblazing endeavors must have a host of evidentiary materials overlooked by "traditional historians." "The Lincoln Conspiracy" has them in abundance.

The most interesting items, of course, are the purported missing pages from Booth's diary, supposedly taken out by Stanton. In the first place, it was not a "diary," but an appointment book. Booth's was not a diarist's temperament. He wasn't even a good correspondent. Secondly, Sunn's promotional campaign is headlined with the claim that "Sunn's research turns up Booth's missing diary pages." Not so. The pages were found by a Massachusetts manuscript dealer in the hands of a Stanton descendant. Sunn merely located the dealer. But—and this is important—neither Sunn nor anyone else has seen the actual pages. Only the dealer has seen them, and he furnished a transcript to Sunn. For complicated reasons, the owner of the originals is reluctant to release them for authentication. Meanwhile, the manuscript dealer has shown copies of the transcripts to a few experts, and the best that can be said at this point is that no serious anachronisms have been found to disprove authenticity. Nevertheless, until some unimpeachable authority such as the Library of Congress authenticates the original pages, basing any historical claims upon what is found in the transcript is irresponsible. And incidentally, the National Park Service tells us there are thirty-six leaves missing from the small book in their custody, not eighteen as is usually stated.

Having dispensed with the diary, about which no defini-

tive conclusion yet be reached, let us turn to the other evidence produced to support the scenario of "The Lincoln Conspiracy." About this evidence, certain ironclad conclusions are inescapable.

First, from several sources they have resurrected the old canard that Booth escaped capture and lived out his days in disguise and seclusion. The evidence for these oft-repeated claims has been put to the test by Chauncey Black of the *Dearborn Independent*, George S. Bryan in *The Great American Myth*, Otto Eischeniml in *The Shadow of Lincoln's Death*, and a number of other investigators. The consensus is that all such claims are spurious.

Far more fascinating is the story of Captain James W. Boyd, who we are told was mistaken for Booth. A collec-



Sunn Classic Pictures photograph purporting to be Captain James W. Boyd.

tion of Boyd's papers is offered. . . his involvement in the kidnapping scheme and his timely death and mis-identification. There is a grain of truth here. In February 1865 Captain J.W. Boyd, formerly Captain of Co. F, 6th Tennessee Infantry, was in Old Capitol Prison, and he was released on War Department orders. It is documented by his signed Oath of Allegiance, now in the National Archives in Washington. An interesting document this is. It shows that at the time of his release Boyd, a native of Madison County, Tennessee, was gray-haired, blue-eyed, and 6 feet-2 inches tall. The 1860 census for Madison County indicates that in 1865, Boyd would have been about 42 years of age.

We are asked to believe that this man was passed off not only to friends, but also to intimate family members, as John Wilkes Booth, a black-haired, brown-eyed, 5 foot-8 inch, 26-year-old! Six inches difference in height; sixteen years in age; gray hair instead of black; blue eyes rather than brown. It strains credulity beyond the limits of reason to assert that Boyd could pass for Booth with anyone. Sunn does offer a purported photo of Boyd which shows a man somewhat like Booth, but in no way corresponding with the description of J.W. Boyd. And curiously enough, the man in the photo is dressed in a Federal uniform, a private's at that.

Equally interesting are the papers of the New York shipping firm of Chaffey and Biggs. It is claimed that Booth and Lafayette Baker had a long standing connection with this firm, and that it was to supply the ship for the original kidnapping and murder plot. The firm does business, we are told, at 178½ Water Street.

The errors here are legion. First, no New York City directory for the years 1844-1865 lists any firm such as Chaffey in shipping or any other business. Further, all references found to businesses at 178½ Water Street are for Martin Bates, furrier and importer. This includes the year 1853, when documents in the Chaffey papers show that firm doing business at that address. In New York City's tax records there is no account of this firm, and in the New York Times's daily listing of shipping in and out of the port of New York for the years of the Civil War, there is not a single vessel mentioned which is registered to Chaffey. This for a company which regularly ships into and out of New York! Add to this the fact that the Chaffey correspondence—at least that which we've seen—is written, not in a letter book, but in an account ledger; that the ledger paper bears a British and not an American watermark; and that the handwriting is poor and in places illegible in an era when mercantile firms employed scribes specifically for their penmanship—add all this together and it is not hard to conclude that Chaffey and Biggs never existed, and that the papers of this spectral firm are clumsy fakes.

Much the same can be said for the Lafayette Baker papers, which Sunn calls "journals and cipher-coded manuscripts detailing the Lincoln kidnap-assassination conspiracy plot and cover-up." At the outset it is enough

to say that . . . with a notorious liar and scoundrel that anything he said could be unacceptable as evidence unless extensively corroborated. But internal evidence in the purported Baker journal makes certain that its information is a fabrication, and probably not by Baker.

We are asked to believe that, according to Baker, Stanton and his henchmen feared that Lincoln would not be re-elected in 1864. Rather than have Democrat George McClellan take the Presidency, they would kidnap Lincoln, Vice President Hamlin, and Secretary of State Seward prior to the inauguration. Then the Committee on the Conduct of the War, controlled by Radicals, would appoint an interim president who would announce that McClellan could not take office. When Lincoln won the election, however, the plotters retained their plans, for they feared Lincoln would be too lenient on the South. Only this time it was Lincoln, Seward, and Vice President Andrew Johnson who were to be kidnapped, and ultimately killed.

Implicit in Baker's statement is a belief on Stanton's part that in the event of the death or disability of the President and Vice-President, the office would fall to the Secretary of State as senior cabinet officer. Equally implicit is the supposition that Andrew Johnson would deal leniently with the conquered South. Well, there are problems with this plot. First, Johnson, so far as anyone knew at this time, was in the Radical Republican camp; his denunciations of the leadership of the Confederacy and shrill calls for their execution were well known. More important, it is impossible to reconcile such blatant ignorance of statutory and Constitutional provisions governing presidential succession with Edwin M. Stanton's prior position as Attorney General in the cabinet of James Buchanan and his reputation as a Constitutional lawyer. The succession in 1865—as it had been since 1792—provided that the Presidency would pass to the President *pro tempore* of the Senate in the event of the death or disability of both the President and Vice-President. Lafayette S. Foster of Connecticut would automatically have become President (interestingly, this order of succession changed in 1886 to include cabinet officers in the succession order). Seward would never have entered the picture—which Stanton would have known. Stanton would also have known that, constitutionally, the Committee on the Conduct of the War could not have been empowered to appoint an interim President. Stanton would have known this, but the creator of this document obviously did not, and he consequently stuck his foot in it up to the hip.

Andrew Potter's papers dissolve even quicker under scrutiny. We are asked to believe that National Detective Police agent Potter smuggled these papers out of his organization's files. Among them is his account of the discovery that the man thought to be Booth was actually Captain Boyd, and the decision to cover the mistake to avoid embarrassment. In the light of what has already been shown about the supposed Boyd-Booth identification, Potter's statement is obviously false. It is made the less believable by the photograph of Potter in Sunn's pub-



licity package. It shows a ( ) more than 30 years old dressed in clothing which did ( ) come into vogue until the 1880's. If this is Potter, then putting the best light on it, we must believe that Andrew was a trusted secret agent at age fifteen!

With the George W. Julian Papers, we have a real gem. Julian, an organizer of the Republican Party, stood among the foremost Radicals. He kept a diary during the war and after, a diary which his daughter loaned to historian Claude Bowers when he was researching his classic study of Reconstruction, *The Tragic Era*. When Bowers finished with the diaries, Julian's daughter destroyed the portions covering the Civil War and donated the remainder to the Indiana State Library. However, Sunn claims that they have a transcript of the 1865 portion of the diary that Bowers made before it was destroyed. And in the entry for April 24, 1865, there is an eight paragraph account of a meeting in Stanton's office in which Stanton and several others speak in panicked tones of what is in Booth's diary, which they have just received. Stanton gives the book to his trusted henchman Thomas Eckert with orders that it be kept safe and shown to no one. Note, this is April 24, two days before Booth—or Boyd, if you will—is killed. It is claimed that the diary was found in Booth's abandoned coat, and rushed to the War Department.

There are several problems here. First, a search of the Claude Bowers Papers at Indiana University reveals no correspondence to indicate that Bowers kept a transcript of the Julian diary or any portion of it. Second, anyone who has read *The Tragic Era* knows that Bowers was a rabid anti-Radical. The book pours venom on Stanton, Ben Wade, and others. If Bowers really had such a diary account revealing a Radical involvement with Booth and a cover-up, it is inconceivable that he would not have used it in his book. And the reason he did not use this entry is because he had the genuine April 24, 1865 entry before him. And anyone who is interested can read it today. Simply find a copy of the *Indiana Magazine of History* for December 1915, which contains an article titled "George W. Julian's Journal." Therein, interestingly enough, is an entry for April 24, 1865, the same date as in Sunn's alleged transcript. Only this entry has but one paragraph, and instead of recounting conspiracy and coverup, it describes a meeting of the Committee on the Conduct of the War. Instead of recording a meeting at Stanton's office, it tells of an audience with President Johnson during which Julian was "mortified" at the President's bad grammar (page 337). Obviously the fabricator of the more lurid version of the Julian diary didn't do his or her homework, else this earlier publication of the April 24 entry would have prevented the blundering forgery which is a major piece of evidence in Sunn's version of the conspiracy.

This sort of thing goes on and on. The film "proves" for us the old legend that Booth married Izola D'arcy. Further we are told that Booth and his wife lived on his farm near Harpers Ferry, and that it is to this farm that

he ( ) successfully escaping in 1865. The title and tax books for ( ) area, however, show no transaction whatever that have Booth owning land. There is a statement by Michael O'Laughlen in which he details the involvement in the massive plot and what was planned. This statement comes from the Osborn Oldroyd collection, we are told. Oldroyd, an eminent collector of Lincolnian kept inventories of his Lincoln items. Some are with his papers in the University of Chicago Library, and nowhere do they mention such a statement by O'Laughlen.

And there is testimony taken from the sister of David Herold, who fled with Booth and was later hanged with the other conspirators. It is supposedly suppressed testimony which backs up the contention that Herold was never with Booth on the escape. Rather, he was riding with Boyd in an attempt to find Booth. Well, the credibility of this one doesn't last beyond the first sentence. The initial question asked of Herold's sister is whether or not her husband is Edward C. Nelson. She says "yes." Yet church and census records verify that her husband was really Frederick M. Nelson! Is it not reasonable to expect that after thirteen years of marriage Mrs. Nelson would know her husband's given name? Additional errors abound in this obviously bogus testimony. Oh, yes, and in the revelation from Mrs. Edward Nelson—or was Frederick?—is the tantalizing fact that her brother David Herold kept a diary in 1865 and that a relation of he had it. Since this is the only hint to date of a Herold diary and since it comes from a suspect document, any date Herold diary which may hereafter come to light must certainly be viewed with caution.

Sunn's story line claims that David Herold was captured only the day after the assassination and then sent off with Boyd to capture Booth. To support this they cite a reward poster for Booth, Surratt and Herold, in which the photo of Herold is the same as a later view in which he is handcuffed after his capture at the Garrett farm on April 20. The conclusion is that this photo was taken April 19. Otherwise, how would the government have a photo of Herold, in irons, to put on a wanted poster issued days before his capture? While superficially persuasive, the claim, too, dissolves under scrutiny. There are at least two known versions of the reward poster dated April 20. In addition to the version at which Sunn points its finger there is a poster which shows Herold as an adolescent schoolboy, and a photograph purporting to be John Surratt which is obviously erroneous. This is the poster distributed by Luther B. Baker at the behest of Lafayette C. Baker. The Sunn version of the poster—though they don't mention this—has a photograph of John Surratt taken approximately 1867. The second poster—with the John Surratt photograph and the post-capture Herold photograph—was undoubtedly a response to the clamor for "souvenirs" of the century's greatest crime. In short, Sunn's claim is based on a poster that postdates the hunt for the assassins by many months, possibly years.

It must be apparent by now that virtually all of the



SURREAT.



BOOTH.



HAROLD.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,

**\$100,000 REWARD!**

# THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,  
**IS STILL AT LARGE.**

**\$50,000 REWARD**

Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

**\$25,000 REWARD**

Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURREAT, one of Booth's accomplices.

**\$25,000 REWARD**

Will be paid for the apprehension of David G. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

**GENERAL REMARKS.** Will be paid for any information that shall enable the officers of justice to the above named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons having or obtaining the said persons, or either of them, or acting as such, or the transportation of any of them, or shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

For the state of Missouri (Edw.) be removed from the land by the general and purchase of the same.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid in the capture of these criminals. Every man should consider his own convenience as being with the welfare of the country.

**EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.**

**DESCRIPTIONS.** SURREAT is five feet two or three inches high, slender build, light complexion, dark hair, black eyes, and wears a dark suit & mustache.

JOHN H. SURREAT is about 5 feet 7 inches high, rather thin and dark, eyes rather light, nose broad, lips full, mouth 14 or 15 inches wide. Complexion rather pale and clear with color in his cheeks. Wears light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square; chest, broad, rather prominent; thin narrow waist, tapering at the top, somewhat rather low and square, fair sized. Hands big, long, rather dark, with long fingers. His lips are usually set in a thin smile.

DAVID G. HAROLD is five feet six or seven inches high, dark complexion, rather broad, fair hair, nose dark, broad, and thick, thin lips, small, fleshy high, round, broad, naturally open, and a little, slightly shows his eyes when looking at a person.

NOTE: In addition to the above, there are other persons who are believed to be connected with the above named criminals, and who are making an acquaintance of about **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

Reward poster with a photograph of Harold as an adolescent and an erroneous photograph of John Surratt.

startling claims in the film are based upon documents which, if not outright forgeries, are so highly suspect as to make them inadmissible as evidence in any serious investigation. While Sunn has unearthed a mass of documentary evidence, little would withstand the scrutiny of serious historians.

Just who had this material, and why, may never be known. There have been forgers and charlatans working in the field of Lincolniana ever since his death. Joseph Cossey produced some very well known Lincoln forgeries in the early 1900's. And the famous Minor collection of spurious documents relating to Lincoln and Ann Rutledge dates back to 1928. There have been many faked photos of Lincoln in death. It should hardly be surprising, then, that a lot of documents relating to the assassination have been manufactured. Americans do love a conspiracy, and in the case of Lincoln's death someone wanted one bad



SURREAT.



BOOTH.



HAROLD.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865.

**\$100,000 REWARD!**

# THE MURDERER

Reward poster showing post-capture photograph of David Harold and 1867 photograph of John Surratt.

enough to invent data supporting a plot of monumental proportions. We may never know the identity of the person or persons who concocted the material that Sunn has found, or when it was done. Indeed, the work is so clumsily amateurish that its authorship should charitably be left anonymous. One should not criticize Sunn Classic Pictures over much for using this material. Pictures are their business, not history. Given the material to make a box office hit with blockbusting revelations, they simply have not questioned their evidence too closely.

One might suppose that the point of all this is to advise the readers of *CWT* not to pay good money to see "The Lincoln Conspiracy" when it comes to your theater. Not so. Go and see it. See it twice. Take your friends and your family. Watch it carefully. You will literally see history in the making. Look with a careful eye and an open mind: there is, after all, the remote possibility that they really have something. The picture is based on far more documents than we can discuss here, and there is always the chance that they have turned up worthwhile new material; after all, only last year the "lost" manuscript account of the assassination by Louis J. Weichmann—undeniably genuine—finally came out in print.

But watch for the innuendo, the stretched truth. Keep in mind the evidence that the film is based upon, and what has been shown here about the evidence. Then decide for yourself. That is the point of this editorial. To urge you not to walk out of that theater unquestioningly accepting what you have seen as being the truth. Because once that happens, then we have all begun to lose touch with our past—and without that there can be no sure grip on the future.

And then, if there is anyone who still buys what this film has to offer. Boy! can I make you a deal on the Brooklyn Bridge.

William C. Davis  
Editor

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE		2 items DSM	DATE DUE 8-26-77
LOAN RECEIPT			DATE LOANED 7-26-77
DIVISION OR BRANCH Legislative, Judicial and Fiscal Branch	ROOM NUMBER 11E	LOAN NUMBER NHFL 77-369	
<p>RG 60, Records of the Department of Justice          Attorney General's Papers- Letters Received</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter from John Wilkes Booth to his mother, undated (3 sheets 6 pages)</li> <li>2. Letter from John Wilkes Booth to "to whom it may concern", -- 1864 (4 sheets 6 pages)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">by Mr. Gay          To be delivered to the FBI for study.</p> <p><small>The receipt on loan from the National Archives of the records listed above is hereby acknowledged. It is expressly agreed that they will be carefully protected against any injury or loss, kept in their present order or sequence, and returned promptly on or before the above-stated "Date due" unless special permission for an extension of the loan for a specified period of time has been obtained from the above-named Division or Branch of the National Archives.</small></p>			
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