

# John Wilkes Booth spent time in Montreal plotting Lincoln's kidnap

**Q. I heard that John Wilkes Booth spent some time in Canada shortly before assassinating U.S. president Abraham Lincoln. True?**

**A. Yes.** In fact, there were a great many Confederate spies and sympathizers who spent time in Canada during the American Civil War.

According to the book, *Conspiracy in Canada*, by Clayton Gray, Booth came to Montreal on October 18, 1864 and spent most of the rest of the month there meeting with fellow Confederates.

The Confederate Secret Service headquarters in Canada were in the St. Lawrence Hall Hotel in downtown Montreal. There, men plotted to involve Canada in the war against the Northern states. At one point, about 25 men made a raid from Montreal into Vermont as a way of disrupting the North.

When Booth checked into the hotel, he told people he was here to do some oil speculation, but as an actor, he also planned some performances and dramatic readings. However, he was mostly here to discuss a wild plan to kidnap Lincoln and take him to Richmond, Virginia. Booth left Montreal at the end of the month, but returned in December.

About four months later in April, Booth assassinated Lincoln and was the subject of an intense manhunt. He was killed during the hunt, and a Bill of Exchange from the Ontario Bank in Montreal was found on his body. Booth had opened an account at the bank during his October visit and according to Gray's book, the money there was never claimed by Booth's heirs.

# George gives 100% to all his pursuits

(From page 6)

tools and detailed plans, as George has taken to building quarter-scale remote control aircraft in his workshop.

He is a member of a Toronto remote control club, and has flown his 124 inch wingspan babies up to a mile.

He is currently working on a 10-foot replica of a German U-boat from World War II, having scored the plans from an ex-marine draftsman who served on such a craft in his days in

the German navy.

As for his career, George maintains he came to the school board like so many other journeymen after spending several decades in the fishing tackle business.

He insists caretaking isn't what it once was, pointing to the one time carpenters, joiners, and mechanics who have turned to the school system for work after enduring the wringer of the private sector for so long in this time of economic

upheaval.

And while he downplays his reputation as a handyman, it's obvious he goes about his work with the same detail and dedication he has applied to such diverse pursuits as pumping iron and working his way through the construction of an authentic model airplane.



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