

Booth History Spotlight

Tudor Hall's Roof

Harford County Council approved \$225,000.00 funding for reroofing of Tudor Hall in September 2008¹.

Docents at Tudor Hall

A new organization has been formed by Dinah Faber to establish a docent program to conduct tours at Tudor Hall. At the first meeting on September 17, 2008, Dinah provided a handout stating, "Spirits of Tudor Hall is a volunteer organization created in cooperation with Harford County Government, the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Center for the Arts for the initial purpose of establishing a docent program at Tudor Hall in order to open the house for public tours on a regular basis." For more information on Spirits of Tudor Hall, Tudor Hall, Tours, and links go to www.CenterfortheArtsHarford.org.



Tudor Hall, September 2008

¹ Brenner, A., Tudor Hall Roof Fix Approved, *The Aegis, Bel Air*, September 17, 2008, page A4.

Mentioning John Wilkes Booth

By El Penski

Stories, tales, myths and histories of John Wilkes Booth (JWB) and President Lincoln have been very popular since Lincoln's death, thus a number of people have asked why we have not mentioned JWB. Thus, since I am dedicated to clarity and full disclosure, I owe a detailed answer.

Many good people have dedicated major portions of their lives to studying the Lincoln assassination and JWB. If you go to the Junius B. Booth Society website (www.JuniusBooth.org) and click on [Booth Research Center], you will find a link to my bibliography on the Booths. As you will see, you can find many books on JWB. Also, I suggest you hit the web links for the Surratt Society (www.Surratt.org), and Fords Theatre (www.nps.gov/foth). Clearly, John Wilkes Booth has not been neglected. He is one of the most researched men in history. Over a thousand books have been written on the Booths with most written about the assassination and JWB. A recent Google search for "John Wilkes Booth" gave about 469,000 hits. An Amazon.com book search recently found 4,014 results.

My personal interests are much broader than murder, assassination and conspiracy. Since no one has volunteered to help start the Junius B. Booth Society, there is no one who has expertise and interest in that part of the Booth history.

Many books on JWB and the assassination contain substantial errors, myths, and raise many questions. The following book is the most thoroughly researched single book on John Wilkes Booth and the assassination of President Lincoln.



Painting of JWB at Tudor Hall by David Fried.

Kauffman, M.W., *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, Random House, New York, NY, November 2004.

WARNING: The history of the JWB and Lincoln's assassination is addictive, overwhelming, unusual, and a captivating puzzle. It is extraordinary for a successful person from a famous family to commit murder. While JWB was a gifted actor and loved by many people, he was a foolish young man with extreme ambition and a cruel killer. He might have been more famous had he lived his life in a positive way. **Proceed with great caution, and do not forget that I warned you.**