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By John Harrison Surratt, George Purnell  
sher

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- Q. You say he had no beard on his face?
- A. No, sir; he had a slight mustache.
- Q. No imperial, goatee, or anything on his chin?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Do I understand you that you had never seen any of these men but Booth before that morning?
- A. I knew Booth very well. I had seen him in Baltimore, and cut his hair when a boy.
- Q. You had not seen the other three before that time?
- A. No, sir; I do not think I had seen any of the others.
- Q. And you have never seen them since, until you saw Mr. Surratt here?
- A. I live on E street, just below here, and as I was going down to my dinner one day, passing this court-house, he was coming out with the jailor. I stood aside and looked. When I saw him I was utterly astounded. I instantly thought I recognized in him the gentleman I had shaved and waited on immediately after Mr. Booth, on the morning of the 14th of April. It made such an impression on my mind that I spoke of it.
- Q. When was it you met and recognized him?
- A. Last week, I think, Monday or Tuesday.
- Q. Do you recollect whether there was anybody in the shop that morning?
- A. The young man that worked in the chair back of me, I think, was in there. His name is Teebo; he is a small man. He is now working in Norfolk.
- Q. Do you know whether there were any other customers?
- A. Well, about that time we were very much pressed, and we all had about as much as we could do, there were so many strangers coming in. The shop being next to the paymaster's office, soldiers used to come in there in perfect droves.
- Q. Particularly in the morning?
- A. Yes, sir, generally pretty hard at work all day at that time.
- Q. Was there anybody else there except yourself?

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On March 7, 1861, (three days after Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as President of the United States) Isaac Surratt left Maryland and traveled to Texas, where he enlisted in the Confederate States Army (serving in the 33rd Cavalry, or Duff's Partisan Rangers, 14th Cavalry Battalion). John Jr. quit his studies at St. Charles College in July 1861 and became a courier for the Confederate Secret Service, moving messages, cash, and contraband back and forth across enemy lines. The Confederate activities in and around Surrattsville drew the attention of the Union government. In late 1861, Lafayette C. Baker, a detective with the Union Intelligence Service, and 300 Union soldiers camped in Surrattsville and investigated the Surratts and others for Confederate activities. He quickly uncovered evidence of a large Confederate courier network operating in the area, but despite some arrests and warnings the courier network remained intact.[66]

John Surratt collapsed suddenly and died on either August or August 26 in 1862 (sources differ as to the date). The cause of death was a stroke. The Surratt family affairs were in serious financial difficulties. John Jr. and Anna both left school to help their mother run the family's remaining farmland and businesses.[47] On September 10, 1862, John Jr. was appointed postmaster of the Surrattsville post office. Lafayette Baker swept through Surrattsville again in 1862, during which time several postmasters were dismissed for disloyalty. John Jr. was not one of them. In August 1863, John Jr. sought a job in the paymaster's department in the United States Department of War, but his application raised suspicions about his entire family's loyalties to the Union. Surratt was dismissed as postmaster on November 17, 1863, for disloyalty.

The loss of John Jr.'s job as postmaster caused a financial crisis for the Surratt family. When John Sr.'s estate was probated in late November 1862, the family owned only two middle-age male slaves. However, by 1863, Louis J. Weichmann (a friend of John Jr.'s from St. Charles College) observed that the family had six or more slaves working on the property. By 1864, Mary Surratt found that her husband's unpaid debts and bad business deals had left her with many creditors. Several of her slaves ran away. When he was not meeting with Confederate sympathizers in the city, her son was selling