

History 225

Re: Notes on Lincoln Assassination

### The Raft of Conspiracy Theories

There are at least a dozen of these in the Lincoln assassination literature that can be labeled as "Grand Conspiracies" as opposed to the "simple conspiracy" that is the staple of our textbooks and generally accepted view by most historians of what happened in Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865.

\* A Confederate plot to kill Lincoln that ran right up to Jeff Davis.

\* That Andrew Johnson was somehow involved in a conspiracy to off Lincoln and place himself in the White House.

\* A conspiracy involving the House of Rothschild and international bankers in order to weaken the US and take over the banking structure after the war.

\* That it was the Papacy in Rome that plotted to kill Lincoln because he was a Free Mason or thought to be a Free Mason and some thing of an agnostic. (Point to fact that George Surratt escaped the US and spent two years as a guard for the Papal Court in Rome before returning to the US in 1867 to stand trial as one of the co-conspirators in Booth's assassination plot).

\* A view that Secretary of War Stanton and leading Radicals was behind the assassination because Stanton believed that Lincoln would be too soft on the South when it came to reconstruction.

\* Some have even pointed to Mary Todd Lincoln as being an actor in the plot for the insurance.

\* The only theory not raised was that Lincoln shot himself because he became bored with the play.

\* Wm. Hanchett, The Lincoln <sup>Murder</sup> Conspiracy