

LINCOLN LORE

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A \$100,000 REWARD

The day, April 15, 1865, on which President Lincoln succumbed from the attack made on him by John Wilkes Booth a notice was issued and published by General C. C. Angus, commander of the War Department in Washington, announcing that "A reward of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) will be paid to the party or parties arresting the murderer of the President, Mr. Lincoln, and the assassin of the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, and his son."

The following day, April 16, Colonel L. C. Baker, Provost Marshal of the War Department, published a notice in which the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) was offered as a reward "for the arrest and conviction" of Booth and Payne.

Neither of the above two rewards seemed to result in the capture of the assassin; and, on April 20, Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, made known the following rewards:

"Fifty thousand dollars reward will be paid by this department for the apprehension of the murderer of the President.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars reward will be paid for the apprehension of Atzerodt, one of Booth's accomplices.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars reward will be paid for the apprehension of Herold, another of Booth's accomplices.

"A liberal reward will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices. All persons harboring or secreting the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a military commission, and the punishment of death."

The Rewards Explained.

It is interesting to note how these various offers of rewards were harmonized and how the division of the premium money was finally made. It was decided that the last offer of reward, as far as the apprehension of Booth was concerned, should be considered as a substitute for the two former ones and represent the full and final reward.

In the case of Payne, another conspirator whose arrest was effected prior to the date of the last reward notice, it was decided both of the former publications were in force and that one-half of each reward or a total of \$10,000 should be paid his captors.

With respect to the award of \$25,000, as specified in the publication of April 20, for the arrest of Atzerodt, it was decided that the fact that he was arrested on the same day the reward was offered should not exclude his captors from receiving the reward.

The first two publications made no reference to a reward for the apprehension of others connected with the crime aside from Booth and Payne. While the final publication did offer a liberal reward for information that would lead to the arrest "of their accomplices," the fact that Surratt, Mudd, O'Laughlin, Arnold, and Spangler were arrested before the reward of April 20 was issued would not entitle the informants to any reward.

Total Amounts to Be Paid

On January 13, 1866, E. D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General, and J. Holt, Judge Advocate General, made their report to Secretary of War Stanton as to the proper division of the awards, and they recommended that the following sums be paid:

"To the parties effecting the arrest of Booth, the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000).

"To the party effecting the arrest of Herold, twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$25,000).

"Or the parties—for they were the same—who arrested Booth and Herold, seventy-five thousand dollars, (\$75,000).

"To the parties effecting the apprehension of Atzerodt, twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$25,000).

"To the parties effecting the arrest of Payne, ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000)."

To Whom Paid

The individuals to whom the money should be paid was a more difficult task for the commission to determine, but finally these selections were made:

1st. The parties who made the arrest of Booth and Herold, a detachment of the 16th New York cavalry, (consisting of Lieutenant E. P. Doherty, commanding, and two sergeants, seven corporals, and seventeen privates), accompanied by E. J. Conger and L. B. Baker, two employes in the detective service of Colonel L. C. Baker, provost marshal.

2nd. The parties who immediately effected the arrest of Atzerodt: Sergeant Z. W. Gemmill (commanding) and six privates, all of Company D, 1st Delaware cavalry; Major E. R. Artman, the authority who originated and issued the order for arrest (through the medium of Captain Townsend, of said company); a private citizen, J. W. Purdum, who had previously communicated the information in regard to the whereabouts of the suspected person.

3rd. The parties who arrested Payne: Brevet Major H. W. Smith, Assistant Adjutant General; five special officers or detectives—R. C. Morgan, William M. Wermerskirch, Charles H. Rosch, Ely Devoe, and Thomas Sampson; Major Smith, who commanded the party, under the orders of Colonel H. H. Wells; H. S. Occott in charge of the special officers and detectives named.

Share of Individuals

The most difficult task of the commission on awards was to determine in what proportion the awards were to be divided, especially among those not of the same military rank and also among civilians, detectives, and special officers.

Using as a precedent in the case of officers and soldiers, the method of distribution of prize money in the Navy, the men who were responsible for the capture of Booth and Herold received the following sums totaling in all \$75,000.

Col. L. C. Baker received one-twentieth of the total amount or \$3,750. First Lieut. E. P. Doherty one-tenth of the total amount or \$7,500. Two detectives, E. J. Conger and Luther B. Baker then came in for their share which was set at \$4,000 each. After these major assignments had been made they were deducted from the total amount and the remainder was divided among the twenty-six soldiers participating in the captures.

Two Sergeants: Boston Corbett and Andrew Wendell received \$2,545.68 each; seven corporals: Charles Zimmer, Michael Uniac, John Winter, Herman Newgarten, John Walz, Oliver Lonpay, and Michael Hornsby received \$2,291.09 each. The following seventeen privates received \$2,036.53 each: John Myers, John Ryan, William Byrne, Philip Hoyt, Martin Kelley, Henry Putnam, Frank McDaniel, Lewis Savage, Abraham Genay, Emery Parady, David Baker, William McQuade, John Millington, Frederick Deitz, John A. Singer, Carl Steinbrugge, and Joseph Zisgen.

In the division of the \$25,000 for the capture of Atzerodt, Major Artman received \$1,250; Sergeant Gemmill, \$3,598.54; the following six privates, \$2,878.78 each: Christopher Ross, David H. Barker, Albert Bender, Samuel J. Williams, George W. Young, and James Longacres. James W. Purdum received a like amount.

The division of the \$10,000 paid for the arrest of Payne resulted in Colonel Wells and Colonel Olcott each receiving \$625.00; Brevet Major Smith, \$2,500; Chief Assistant Morgan, \$1,595.95; Assistant William M. Wermerskirch, \$1,436.78; and the three detectives, Ely Devoe, Charles H. Rosch, and Thomas Sampson, \$1,005.75 each.