

CW/VFM-48: D. Mark Katz

Essay titled *Booth's First Attempt*. In it, Katz speculates that John Wilkes Booth first made an attempt on Abraham Lincoln's life at his second Inaugural speech on 4 March 1865. Katz narrates a story in which Booth violently tries to break through the security barrier and engages in a physical confrontation with John W. Westfall, a member of the Capital police force. After the altercation, Katz claims that Booth was shoved back into the crowd and never made it onto the platform for Lincoln's address, despite having obtained a platform pass from Senator Hale's daughter, Lucy Hale. 9pp.

Keywords: Lincoln – Assassination; Papers - Other;

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)