



Southern Brewery Co. N.Y.
BREWERS, N.Y.

BORDEN'S MILK CONDENSERY AT BREWSTER

With the coming of two railroads to Putnam County twelve years before the Civil war, our County was soon supplying ten percent of New York City's milk consumption. Successful dairymen were grossing small fortunes from their efforts.

The Civil War called for all the agricultural products supplied by our County but circumstances created a demand for milk which made its production of major importance to us for the next 75 years.

Gail Borden, founder of the great Borden Company, gave character to the milk output in our County.

Borden was born in upstate New York but like many others of the time, the family migrated west looking for a new home. Gail, in poor health, finally arrived in Mississippi. He taught school and followed surveying. Restored in health, he married and moved to Texas in time to share in the freeing of Texas from Mexico.

With the rush for gold to California, the tales of starvation on the way, set Borden to the task of dehydrating beef. He reduced eleven pounds of beef to a two-pound biscuit. Exhibited at the London World Fair, his biscuit was awarded a gold medal. Its chief drawback was an unpalatable taste.

On shipboard, on his way home, he heard the cries of hungry immigrant children in the steerage. This fired him with the idea of preserving milk for such a need. His four motherless children were probably a double stimulus for him. His first efforts were a failure. From the Shakers, he learned that evaporation by "vacuum" was had at lowered temperatures. Applied to milk, he got a condensed milk that was palatable. By adding sugar, a necessary preservative was achieved.

But here added difficulties dogged his efforts. It was three years before his patent was granted. Without sufficient funds, he was caught in the depression of 1857. He made two unsuccessful attempts at and near Torrington, Conn. to set up a milk factory. But soon, Jeremiah Millbank, a New York merchant, went into partnership with him. He made a nominal success at Torrington. Soon he added his second factory at Wassaic, New York.

With the Civil War came his real opportunity. He secured a government contract to supply the armed forces with all the condensed milk he could produce. By January 1864, his third factory now at Brewster was in operation. This first Brewster factory is seen in the accompanying picture. Within a few years, his "Eagle Brand" Condensed Milk had made him a millionaire. At his death in 1874, his monument was inscribed with these words, "I tried and failed. I tried again and again, and succeeded."

Letters from servicemen in hospitals and those suffering from malnutrition, frequently spoke of the healing qualities of Borden's milk. These letters could be multiplied, indicative of thousands whose lives were spared to swell the ranks of living veterans after the ordeal of war.

John Gail Borden, Gail's son, succeeded him at the Brewster plant. He lived across the street from the factory, now Kent's Antique Shop. He was not only active in the Condensery but took a leading part in the development of Brewster and Eastern Putnam County. In time, most dairymen in the four Eastern towns brought their milk to Borden.

BORDEN'S MILK CONDENSERY(2)

With the father's death, the Company in 1876 was reorganized as the New York Condensed Milk Company with John Gail Borden as President. Three years later, the old factory was taken down and a factory of brick was erected. A portion of this factory is still to be seen at the junction of Routes 22 and 6 on the East Branch of the Croton River.

But New York City's incessant demand for water in Putnam County closed areas of milk supply until the Brewster factory gave up in 1893. During these thirty years, the factory operated, Brewster had grown from a small railroad station stop to the largest community in the county.

For the next thirty years, Brewster was in the throes of a declining population. The forty years since then, however, have seen the community rejuvenated. Continued growth is everywhere apparent. Today Brewster's major problem is the direction in which to grow.

The early good roads in the eastern part of the County were in no small measure due to the need of farmers to get their milk to the Borden's factory.

Efforts to set up local plants to process fluid milk were a temporary stop gap. Today, milking in Putnam County, is almost at the vanishing point.

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Our next edition will be our last on the Civil War. In this edition, we thank Mrs. A.C.Penny in preparing the Borden Story. Col. N.B. Wilson, of West Point, supplied the record of Brevet Major General William H. Morris. The Sixth Heavy Artillery sources includes William Pelletreau's "History of Putnam County", Colin T. Naylor Jr.'s loan of Alex B. Denike's Diary and Elmer Lee's materials have meant much to us.

Mrs. J.T. Rorer has added much to the 38th Regiment. Miss Jean Saunders has pin-pointed veterans who enlisted outside the County. Mrs. Frank Paddock has presented the County with several old and interesting copies of County papers and some rare and skillful work and materials in home manufacture.

PUTNAM COUNTY HISTORIAN
Horace E. Hillery
Patterson, New York

PUTNAM COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR - SIXTH EDITION 1961

During this Centennial year, I have outlined some of the major energies spent by Putnam County in the Civil War.

You have worked with me in adding about a fifth more veteran's names to our Honor Roll. We now have about 1000 men whose memory will be treasured.

On the HOME FRONT we were industrially most active. It is estimated that West Point Foundry's production of heavy weapons and projectiles was nearly one-fourth of all the North's output. Our farms delivered about three million gallons of milk each year. Most of this was channeled through Borden's Condensery for the health of the armed forces. The chemical plant on the Hudson River became an important cog in the industrial output of the County. Iron ore was desperately needed. At least three mines operated at capacity. Lake Mahopac made a large contribution toward satisfying what recreation could be snatched from the pressures of war.

1400 men were farmers. The demand for food and more food caused the bidding up of farm labor until the average wage increase rose 70%.

In order of quantity, these were the major crops: Corn, apples, potatoes, oats and buckwheat. Barreled cider and rhubarb wine were in demand. Turnips were for both the market and home use. Honey and tobacco were raised locally to fill the blacked-out Southern supply.

Pork out-put reached almost a million pounds a year. Butter ranked high with a quarter million pounds a year. Under the pressure of a low tariff, sheep were a drug on the market but wartime demand for both meat and wool gave it a temporary spurt.

Lumber needs gave renewed importance to our dwindling supply. In order of importance these woods were cut: oak, hickory, walnut and cherry.

A considerable number of hats and caps came from our County. Mechanics and kindred occupations, carpenters, blacksmiths and boot and shoe men were plentiful in our County. Did the introduction of machinery in 1858 in the shoe business become the cause for so many boot and shoe men enlisting in the service from here, or did the government take them over?

This is the last of six editions in 1961 on "Putnam County in the Civil War." I thank very much you who have shared in making these editions possible.

For aid in this sixth edition, I wish to thank General Charles G. Stevenson for securing for us the photo of the Flag of the Sixth Heavy Artillery Volunteers. We remind ourselves that most of Company A in this regiment came from Eastern Putnam County. The General says the flag has just been restored and is good for another 100 years. Look for it the next time you are in Albany. I thank Henry H. Wells for the photo and write-up of his fathers, Major Frank Wells, and for the organization of the Crosby G.A.R. and the list of its charter members. Mrs. George Crasswell supplied the photo of her cousin, Elbert O. Fuller. He was one of many who in order to enlist early had to go outside the County. Wallace Hopkins supplied the interesting photo of the Tilly Foster Mine. You who attended the Sportsman

Show remember the large broadside offering \$100,000. reward for the murderer of Lincoln. Fred DeWitt permitted us to reduce this broadside to the enclosed size. If you want old photographs copied better than the original, see Crew Studio, Carmel.

These Six Editions are being bound into a single volume which will be ready well before Christmas. You who have paid for a volume will come first. A few additional volumes are to be had at \$2.00 each.

State-wide programs in which we have shared the past three years have engaged much of our energy. Beginning in January, I plan to bring you some new and very interesting historic backgrounds of your County. I think you will like it.

An exchange with our near neighbor, the East Fishkill Historical Society, has added 20 interesting pictures to our County's Historical Collection. Thank you, Mrs. J.M. Finkel and Mrs. A. Millard.

President Allison Albee of the Westchester Historical Society has loaned a picture of the Revolutionary War Mill at Farmer's Mills. This needs checking. Thanks, Allison.

MORE CIVIL WAR VETERANS FOR OUR HONOR ROLL

Ames, Robert (M.F.) Arnold, John (64) Avery, Daniel (38) Bailey, Arthur (4HA) Barnes, W.N. (6H Co.D) Bates, Joseph (6H Co.L) Bauckham, (Phil) Baxter, Absolam (PV) Benedict, George (4HA) Best, Herman (?) Brady, Thomas (59) Brewer, William (6H Co.L) Brooks, Mitchell (4H) Butler, Amos (4HA) Burton, Martin (6H Co.L) Carver, Edward (C) Conklin, J.J. (Mah.) Cornish, John (?) Corbin, William (4HA) Coxe, Francis (6H Co.L) Daniels, James (Mah.) Davis, Joseph (4HA) Davis, Oliver (4HA) Derbyshire, William (P.V.) Dorly, Patrick (59) Furguson, Joe (6HA) Garning, Bailey (6H Co.G) Gauzler, Fraz (6H Co.L) Griffin, John (95) Harde. Joseph, Hayden, Henry W, (4HA) Hitherton, William (6H Co.L) Hopper, John (6H Co.L) Housler, Urvan (6H Co.G.) Kemble, Samuel (6HA) Kirk, Thomas (59) Latham, Lewis, Lebanon, Ferdinand (4HA) McCollum, James (1st Mted) McEnnaly, B. (4HA) McNally, Bernard (4HA) Mead, Morgan (?) Mead, Nelson (59) Morgan, Charles (4HA) Murph, Charles (38) Newman, Nelson (6H Co.L) Nixon, William H. (1st Mted) Odell, Harrison (Phil) Otis, Henry (95) Owen, Francis D. (6H Co.M) Owen, Charles R., Owen, William J. (18) Parker, David (4HA) Patterson, James, Proud, Ambrose (59) Rusco, Henry (4HA) Shears, David A. (4HA) Spellman, Edward (38) Taylor, Benjamin (38) Terrill, David H. (4HA) Tilford, Elias (59) Trowbridge, John S. (4HA) Warren, Edward (Phil.) Warren, Isaac (Ohio) Washburn, Merritt (4HA) Washburn, Thomas (38) Weeks, David J. (d.11/7/64) Williams, Edward (59) Willis, Howard J. (3rd) Wilson, Elbert (4HA) Wilson, Herman (59) Wilson, John N. (4HA) Wixom, George W. (4HA) Worden, Henry (6H Co.D) Wright, Hart (65) Wynn, James (4HA) Zeliph, Edward, Zeliph, Ferdinand.



Fourth Heavy Artillery Flag. Made of yellow silk. Size 71" by 79". New York State Arms and Motto, crossed cannon. Recently restored, to be seen in New York State Military Museum in Albany.



MAJOR FRANK WELLS
by his son, Henry H. Wells

Major Frank Wells of Brewster was one of the prominent Civil War veterans in Putnam County. He was born in Litchfield, Ct. Sept. 2, 1841. After working as a bank clerk in Brattleboro, Vt. he was commissioned Feb. 19, 1862 a First Lieut. in the 13th Connecticut regiment of volunteers. With the help of his brother-in-law, Congressman John Henry Hubbard and other distinguished men in Litchfield, he got fifty or sixty recruits. Thirty or forty recruits from New London joined with Lieut. Well's men to make up Company I. On March 17, 1862 the regiment boarded "The Granite State" at New Haven for service in Louisiana. There he took part in the battle of Irish Bend and the battle of Port

Hudson. He was made Captain and later received the honorary rank of Major in the fall of 1864, the 13th fought under General Sheridan in the Battle of Winchester, Sept. 19th, and of Cedar Creek October 19th when Sheridan made his famous ride and turned defeat from General Early into victory. Major Wells served some time in the South after the War ended.

In the history of the 13th Connecticut, the author Col. Homer B. Sprague says: "Lt. Wells served on the staff of the celebrated General Phelps, also of Generals Birge and King. He repeatedly distinguished himself by gallantry in action."

In the account of Cedar Creek, the author says: "Captain Wells deserves especial mention for going into battle and sharing the perils of the regiment through the day, though he had in his pocket a leave of absence."

On Oct. 19, 1882, 17 veterans were given by Dept. Commander James S. Fraser of the Grand Army of the Republic, a charter for Crosby Post #302. The post was named in honor of Major Justus Thorn Crosby of Brewster, a brother-in-law of Major Wells. Major Crosby lost one arm in the war.

Major Wells was made Commander of the Post and so served till his death Dec. 17, 1919. In 1869 he came to Brewster to be a bookkeeper in the Borden's Condensed Milk Factory built a few years back. With John G. Borden, the son of Gail Borden, inventor of condensed milk, he became a part of Borden, Wells and Co. bankers. This firm later became the First National Bank with Mr. Borden as president and Major Wells as cashier. He remained active in the bank, later becoming its president. In all Memorial Day parades, he was a glamorous figure riding his horse at the head of the parade and reading the ritual at the Methodist Cemetery over the grave of a veteran.

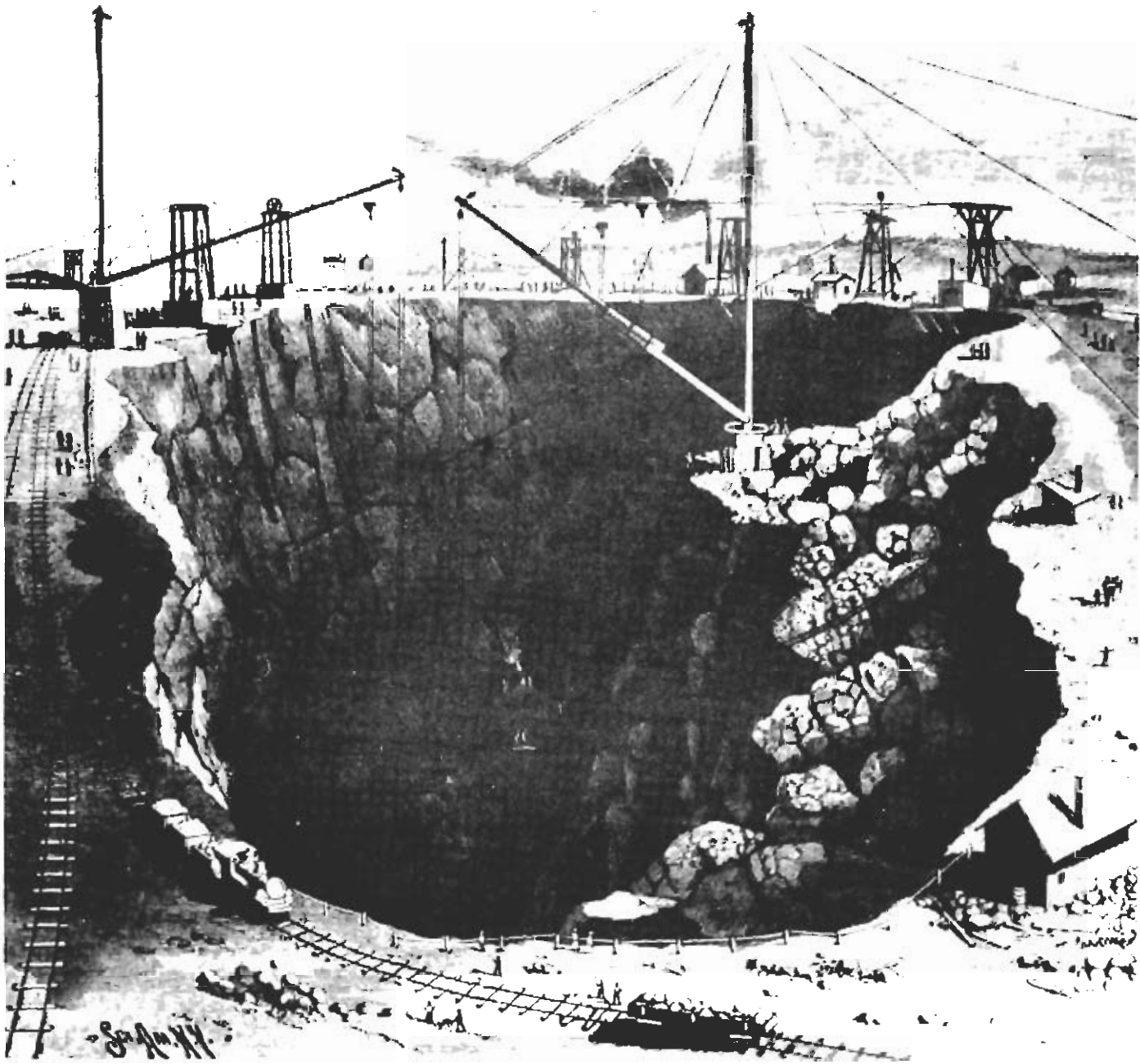
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On Oct. 19, 1882 Crosby Post #302 GAR Brewster was given a charter by James S. Fraser, Dept. Com. of the State of New York. The original members were: Frank Wells, Frederick Kratz, Isaac S. Wallace, Frederick R. Hall, Gilbert D. Bailey, Dennis Scully, I.R. Ostrander, Edward Bailey, Wm. Satterly, Dingee Barrett, Abner Crosby, H.C. Reed, Knowlton Ferguson, G.H. Seagrave, Isaac W. Parker, L.H. Secor, John M. Sloane.

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Elbert O. Fuller born in Carmel, 1832. Enlisted at Scarsdale. Rose to Corporal. Lost his right arm. Mail collector in New York City. Interred Somers 1917. One of many who enlisted out of the County. By his cousin, Mrs. George Crasswell.





San Antonio

THE TILLY FOSTER MINE

Our Putnam County Highlands was like a magnet to lure those who prospected for mineral wealth. There was and is a wide variety of ores to be found here. This intrigued the imagination and hopes of early settlers as is evidenced by the prospect holes found throughout the County. A number of "silver" mines were located. Stock was sold. Other ores were exploited. With the exception of iron ore, all types of ore bodies proved unprofitable.

When ore bodies in Connecticut were exploited in Connecticut in the 1730s, prospectors swarmed into our County bounds. Not only individuals but a group of men were grub-staked for 30 years. Their methods of smelting brought an end to their efforts.

When the Phillips family acquired 90% of our mineral and mining rights, a life time prospecting right was given. After a quarter century the Revolutionary War interrupted this right.

During the Revolutionary War, a number of like mine sites were explored or reopened. Transportation costs are recorded. Tradition says iron links in the huge Hudson River chain were made here to prevent British Warships from dividing the patriot armies.

A number of local iron foundries flourished. In 1795 a good body of ore under the present heart of Brewster was being used by the four eastern towns. For decades, this ore was also shipped to Long Island Sound for smelting. For a time it was closed but during the Civil War it was reopened. Tunneling under the railroad tracks brought on a famous lawsuit whose decisions still guide mining practices.

An eight mile ore body, known as the Philips vein, ran south from Fahnestock Park. The ore was carted over the hills to the Hudson River and shipped south before 1800. During the War of 1812, a turnpike was built. This enterprise was later taken over by the West Point Foundry. These shipments were continued for about 30 years. The Civil War skyrocketed the demand for iron. The Philip's vein was reopened. A railroad was built to the top of the hill going into Cold Spring. The County Supervisors told the railroad not to obstruct normal traffic over the County highway.

Our particular interest is in the Tilly Foster Mine, which lies between Brewster and Carmel. This is an isolated ore body which has produced the most iron ore in this area, variously estimated at between 600,000 and a million tons.

As early as 1810, James Townsend exploited this mine. In the War of 1812, Townsend was Brigadier General of New York State Militia which carried the burden of the War with England. General Townsend is a man of whom Putnamites should know more. His foundry was on the Middle Branch of the Croton River near "General Trainings." This Foundry was quite successful for a number of years. Its ruins now lie below the level of Boyd's Dam but can be seen when the water is low at the upper end of the dam.

The Townsend family kept their interest in this mine. In 1830 Tilly Foster bought 128 acres of land which included most of the ore body. When Tilly Foster died, Horace Townsend was executor of his will.

With the coming of the Harlem Railroad through Putnam County, the Harvey Steel Company leased most iron ore bodies in Eastern Putnam. In 1853 Tilly Foster was acquired. With the coming of the War, the Harvey Steel Company sold their interest and this property was incorporated in 1864 as "The Tilly Foster Mine" with a value of \$500,000.

For the next generation, this mining operation was of major importance. The magnetic ore was of excellent quality and was free from much foreign materials which permitted smelting it by Bessemer process. The ore was shipped by mule tram to Brewster and forwarded by rail to Scranton and Bethlehem, Pa.

At the close of the war (1868) Andrew Cosgriff came as mine superintendent. A decade later it was producing nearly 100,000 tons a year and employed 300 men.

Soon after this the mine was in trouble. New York City had thrown a dam across the Croton River below the mine. Water began seeping into the mine. Whether because of the depth mining or the city dam could not be proved.

The railroad out of Mahopac ran a spur across to Brewster which improved ore transportation.

Also the huge pillars which had been left to support the overhead rock began to impede further work. By 1886 the mine was operating at about one-fourth capacity.

The following year the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company acquired the mine and closed it. For two years huge cables stretched across the upper face of the mine (as you see in the accompanying picture) were used to remove these pillars. 1000 tons of material were handled every ten hours. At 170 feet down, these pillars were cleared. It now became a fully open pit mine.

As this limited body of ore began to be exhausted, chances were taken which eventually resulted in the death of several workers. By 1897 the mine was closed. Huge timbers taken from the mine are now doing service elsewhere. Today the mine is filled with water and is said to be the deepest man-made freshwater hole in Eastern America, at something more than 600 feet.

Some have thought that there was much valuable ore yet to be had but subsequent drilling has shown that while there is still valuable ore to be had it is too limited a quantity to warrant reopening the mine.

After all these years, the varieties of ores, laying above ground around the mine, incites the curious. In an hour I have picked up no less than 25 different ores, most of which my amateur geologist friend was able to identify.

The Tilly Foster Mine still intrigues the interest of those who catch the contagion of the prospector's fever or are reminded of the rough and ready mining camp which was a part of our area in another day, or who think of former resources which are now exhausted, or unable to be exploited because of changing conditions, or, like most of us who sometimes wonder at the clause in our property deed which excludes you from ownership of mineral rights.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865.

\$100,000 REWARD!

THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
IS STILL AT LARGE.

\$50,000 REWARD!

will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

\$25,000 REWARD!

will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRETT, one of Booth's accomplices.

\$25,000 REWARD!

will be paid for the apprehension of DANIEL C. HARROLD, another of Booth's accomplices.

LIBERAL REWARDS 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**.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

DESCRIPTIONS.—**BOOTH** is 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, slender build, high forehead, black hair, black eyes, and wears a heavy black mustache.
JOHN H. SURRETT is about 5 feet 8 inches. Hair rather thin and dark; eyes rather light; no beard. Would weigh 140 or 150 pounds. Complexion rather pale and clear, with color in his cheeks. Wore light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square; cheek bones rather prominent; chin narrow; ears projecting at the top; forehead rather low and square, but broad. Parted his hair on the right side; neck rather long. His lips are firmly set. A slim man.
DANIEL C. HARROLD is 23 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, rather broad-shouldered, otherwise light built; dark hair, little (if any) mustache; dark eyes; weighs about 140 pounds.

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