

THE NORTH STAR:

How Canada became a safe haven for Confederates ... and a staging ground for their war against Lincoln



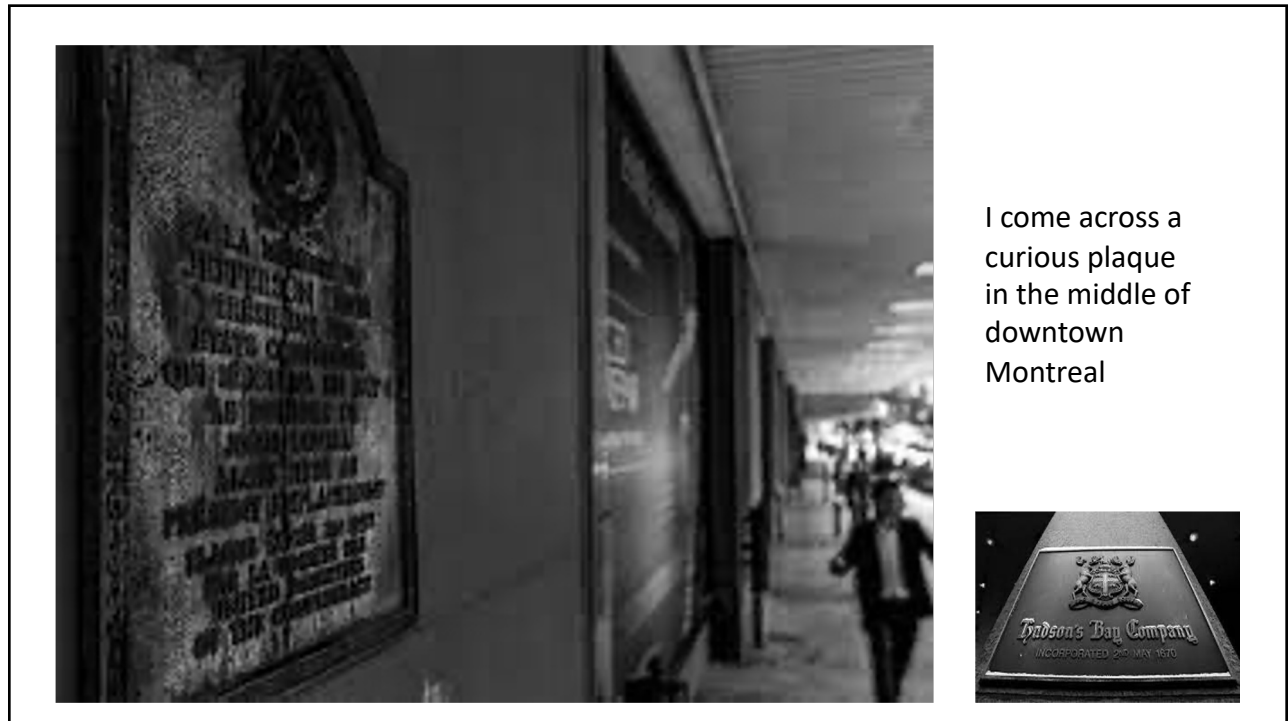
www.juliansher.com/northstar

1

I was a history student at
McGill University ... 1970s

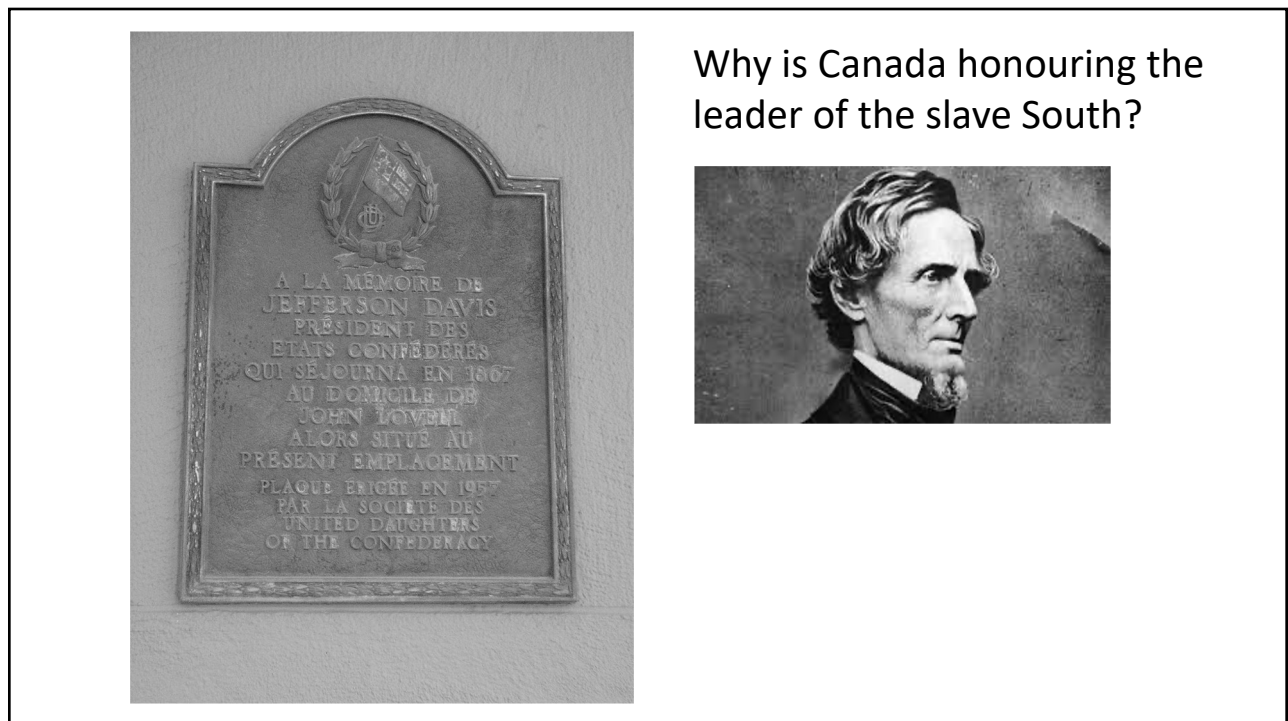


2



I come across a curious plaque in the middle of downtown Montreal

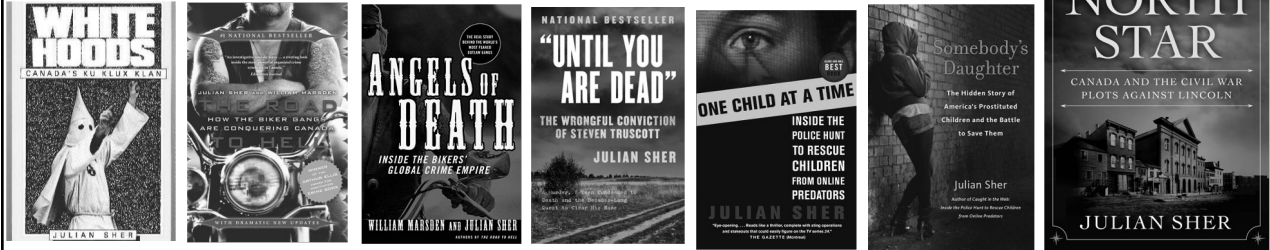
3



Why is Canada honouring the leader of the slave South?

4

50 years ... and 7 books later,
I found the answer to that question.



5

The Underground Railroad ... 30,000 escaped
slaves make it to Canada



6

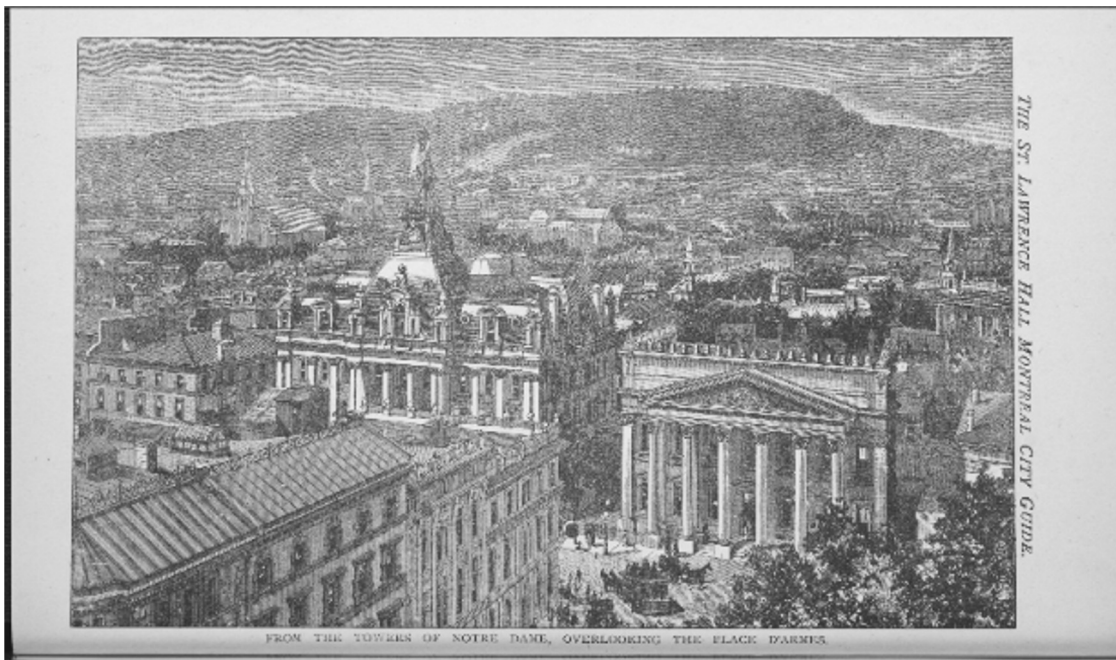


“Deep in our history of struggle for freedom, Canada was the **North Star**. So standing today in Canada I am linked with the history of my people and its unity with your past.”

—*Martin Luther King Jr., speaking in Toronto at the 1967 Massey Lectures, one year before his assassination.*

7

Montreal in the 1860s...

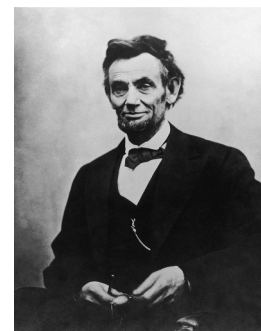
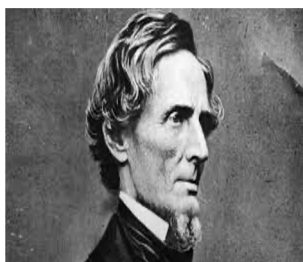


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9

Canada, like the rest of the British Empire, declares its “neutrality” in the Civil War



“Neutral”?

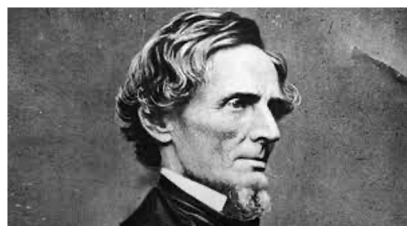
Between a legitimate, democratically –elected government and an illegal secessionist republic based on slavery???

10

“Neutrality” meant Canada would become a safe haven for Confederates and a staging ground for their war against Lincoln



11



Early 1864... the tide was turning against the slave Confederacy of the South



12

\$1 MILLION
DOLLARS FOR
"SECRET SERVICES ... IN
FOREIGN COUNTRIES"

Executive Office
Department of State,
Richmond, *Apr. 25, 1864*

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

To: Please cause a WARRANT for the sum of *One*
Million ~~of~~ *dollars*

payable out of the Appropriations for "Secret Service",
Act of 15 Feb. 1864.

to be issued in favor of *Hon. J. P. Benjamin*
Secretary of State

Payable in foreign countries.

£ 206,185. 11. 4

Exchange on England requested

Jefferson Davis
President C.S.A.
Secretary of State

Appropriation for "Secret Service" \$1,000,000


**CONFEDERATE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS
AND SECRETARY OF STATE JUDAH BENJAMIN**

13

Davis picks Jacob Thompson,
a Washington veteran
and loyal friend, to head
the Confederate Secret Services
in Canada

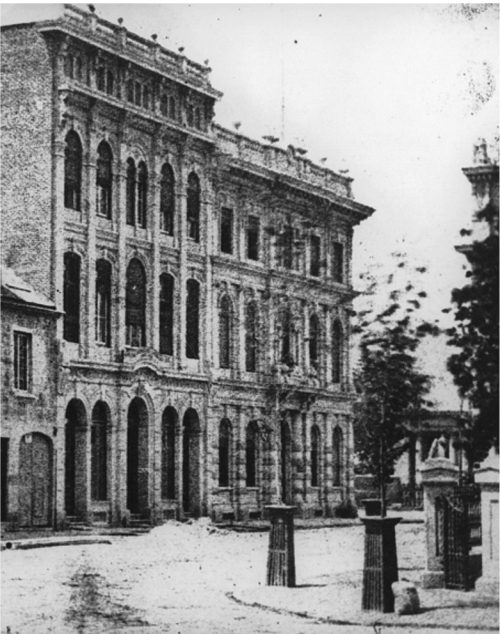

14

Dr.		Cr.	
Jacob Thompson		in ac ^t with	
		The Ontario Bank.	
No.	Checks	No.	Deposits
Jan 2	5.00	109	965 63
Jan 24	5.00	109	427 25
Jan 24	6.50	109	5.00
Jan 24	7.50	109	20 000 71
Jan 24	3.40	109	69 589 10
Jan 24	5.00	109	25 000 615 11 1/2
Jan 24	19 125	109	99 885 45 420 618 11 1/2
Jan 24	1,205 20	109	99 885 45 420 618 11 1/2
Jan 24	2.00	109	321 70 89
Jan 24	1.00	109	0.00
Jan 24	573	109	573
Jan 24	1.00	109	1 000 00
Jan 24	28.00	109	6.000 76
Jan 24	5.00	109	21 82 96
Jan 24	10.00		
Jan 24	2.00		
Jan 24	20 000		
Jan 24	26 333 55		
Jan 24	10.00		
Jan 24	50.00		
Jan 24	2.00		
Jan 24	3.00		
Jan 24	2.00		
Jan 24	6.75		
Jan 24	2.00		
Jan 24	99 88 56		



JACOB THOMPSON'S BANK ACCOUNT TOTALLING \$649,873.28 (the equivalent of more than \$12 MILLION today)

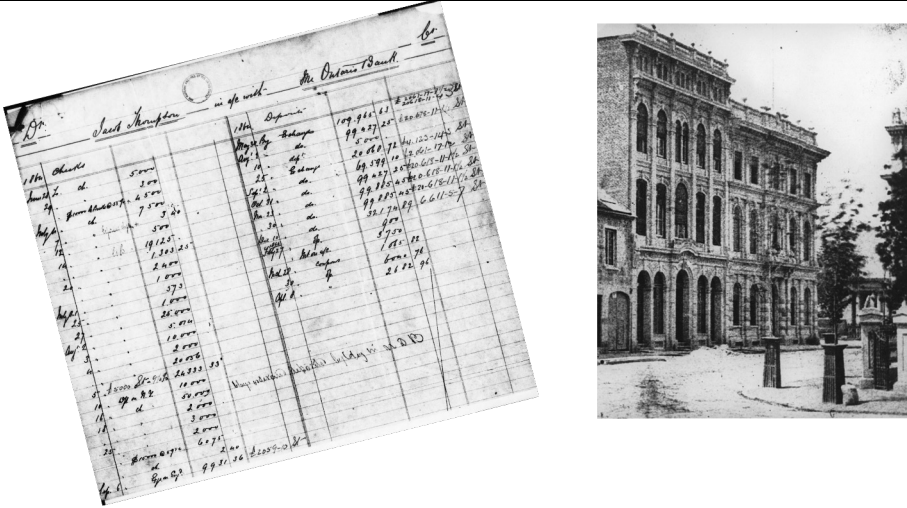
15

ONTARIO BANK IN MONTREAL

HENRY STARNES, BANK PRESIDENT AND MAYOR

16



DURING THE LINCOLN CONSPIRACY TRIALS, BANK OFFICIALS TESTIFY ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS WITH THE CONFEDERATES:
“We can never tell. We never ask a man anything about that. A man doing business with us deposits what he likes; and we never ask any questions. He draws checks for what he likes; and we do not know what he is going to do with it.”

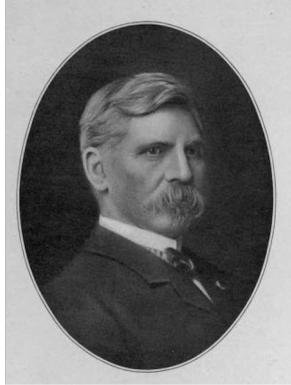
17

WHAT DID THE CONFEDERATES DO WITH ALL THAT MONEY IN CANADA?

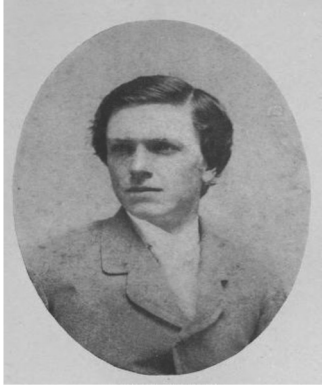


18

Morgan's Raiders



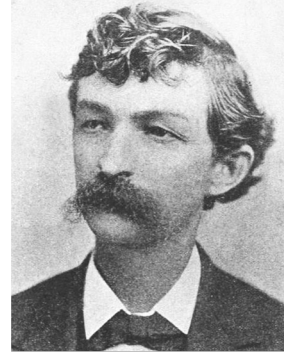
BENNETT YOUNG



JOHN HEADLEY



JOHN CASTLEMAN



THOMAS HINES

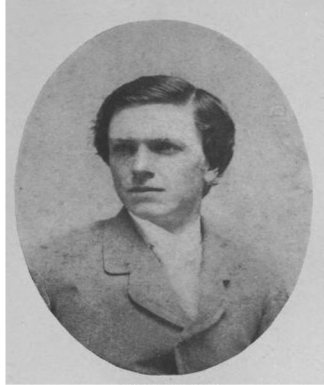
19

NEW YORK ARSON ATTACK – NOVEMBER 1864



20

John Headley is the mastermind



“There must be something dead in that valise,” one unsuspecting citizen quipped as Headley boarded a streetcar with a valise filled with ‘Greek fire’ that smelled like rotten eggs

21

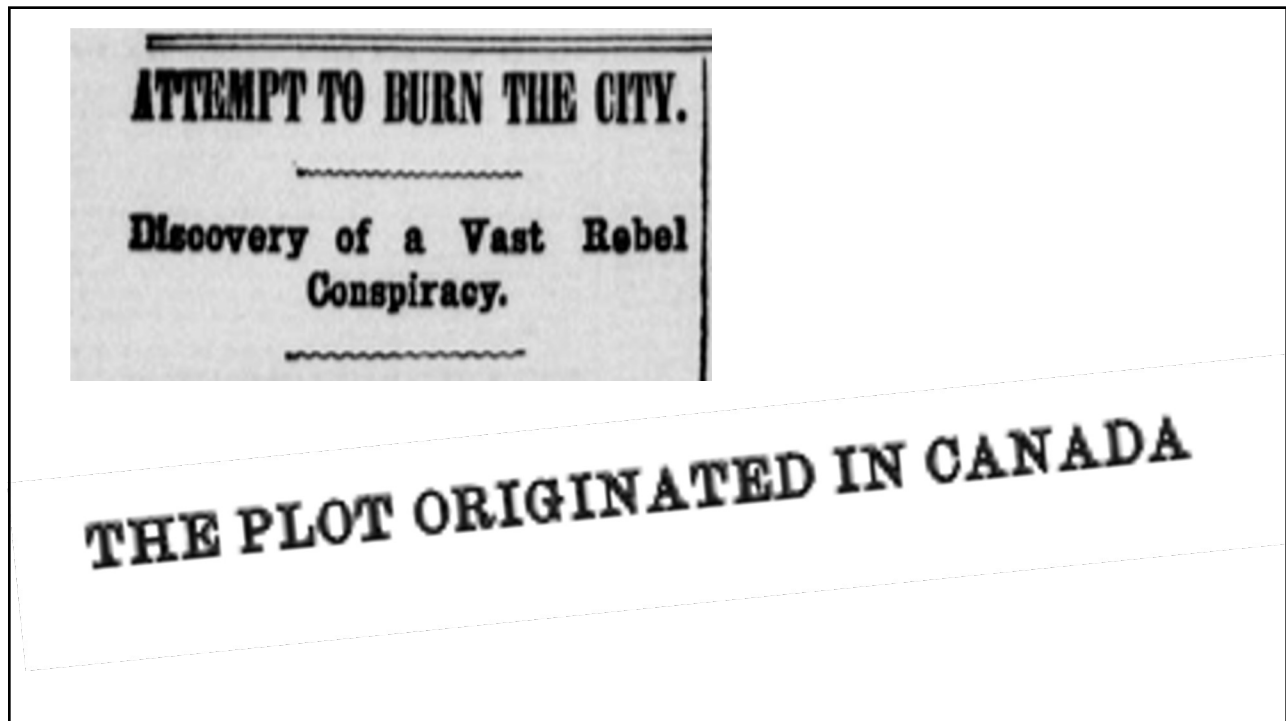
The Booth Brothers on stage at the Winter Garden theatre in New York



Edwin would play Brutus, Junius would play Cassius, and John Wilkes would play Marc Antony:

*“The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interred with their bones.”*

22



23

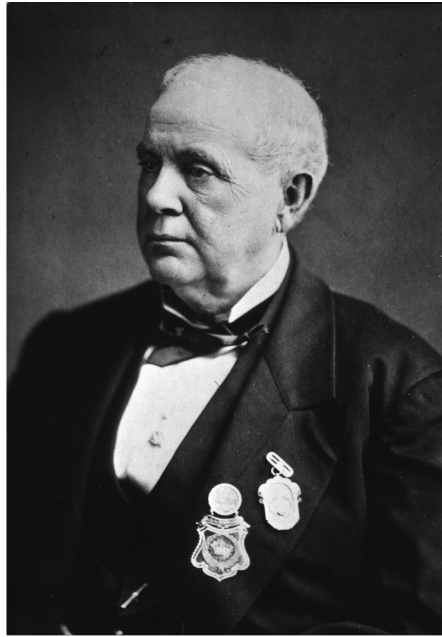
Robert Cobb Kennedy is later arrested...



"We only wanted to let the people of the North understand that there are two sides to war and that they can't be rolling in wealth and comfort, while we in the South are bearing all the hardships and privations."

- Kennedy's execution on 25 March 1865 marked the last execution of a Confederate soldier by the United States government during the Civil War

24



DR. LUKE BLACKBURN AND THE "YELLOW FEVER PLOT"

25

THE YELLOW FEVER PLOT.

Conspiracy to Destroy the People of New-York Disclosed.

Arrest of a Confederate of Dr. Blackburn in Bermuda.

THE FACTS REVEALED IN HIS EXAMINATION.

The Trunks of Infected Clothing Found on His Premises Ready for Shipment.

The Guilt of Blackburn Fully Established.

HIS CONFEDERATE COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

THE YELLOW FEVER PLOT.

EXAMINATION OF DR. BLACKBURN.

The Evidence Against Him Conclusive.

Toronto, Wednesday, May 24.

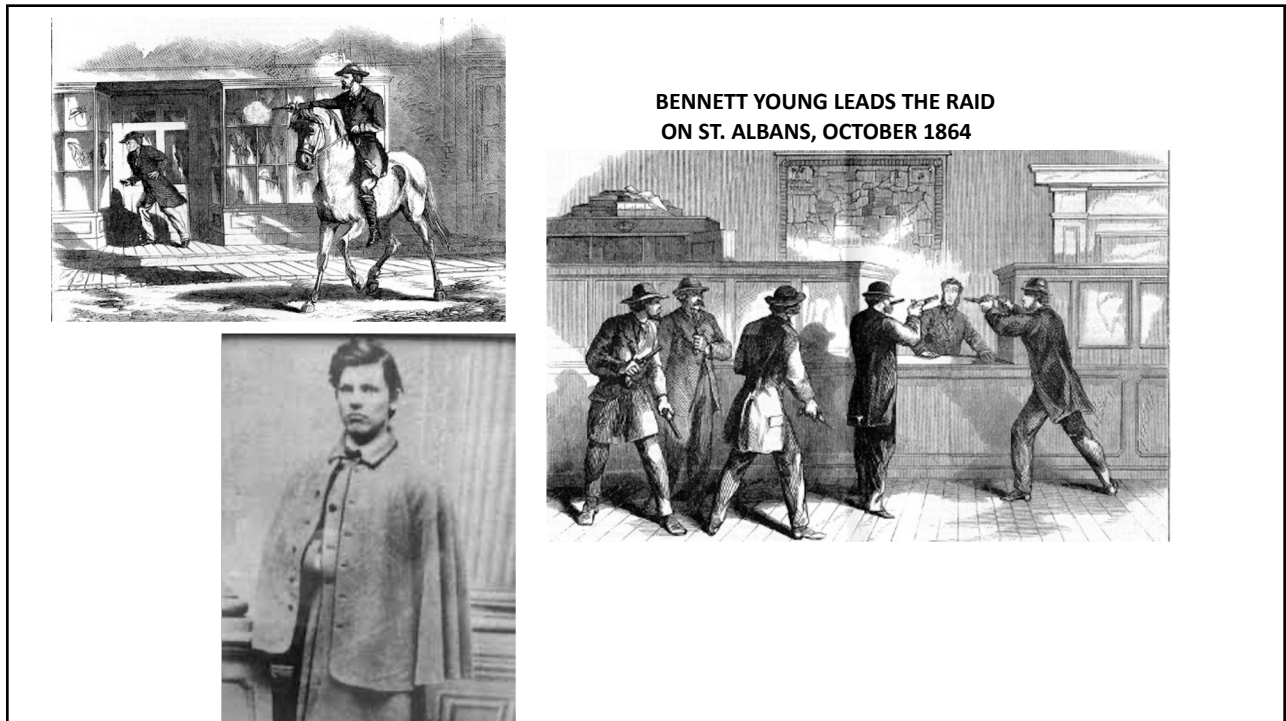
The evidence in the case of Dr. BLACKBURN, published to-day, gives details of the yellow fever plot.

The testimony of the principal witnesses is corroborated by the affidavits of Mr. CLEARY and W. J. HALL, both Southerners.

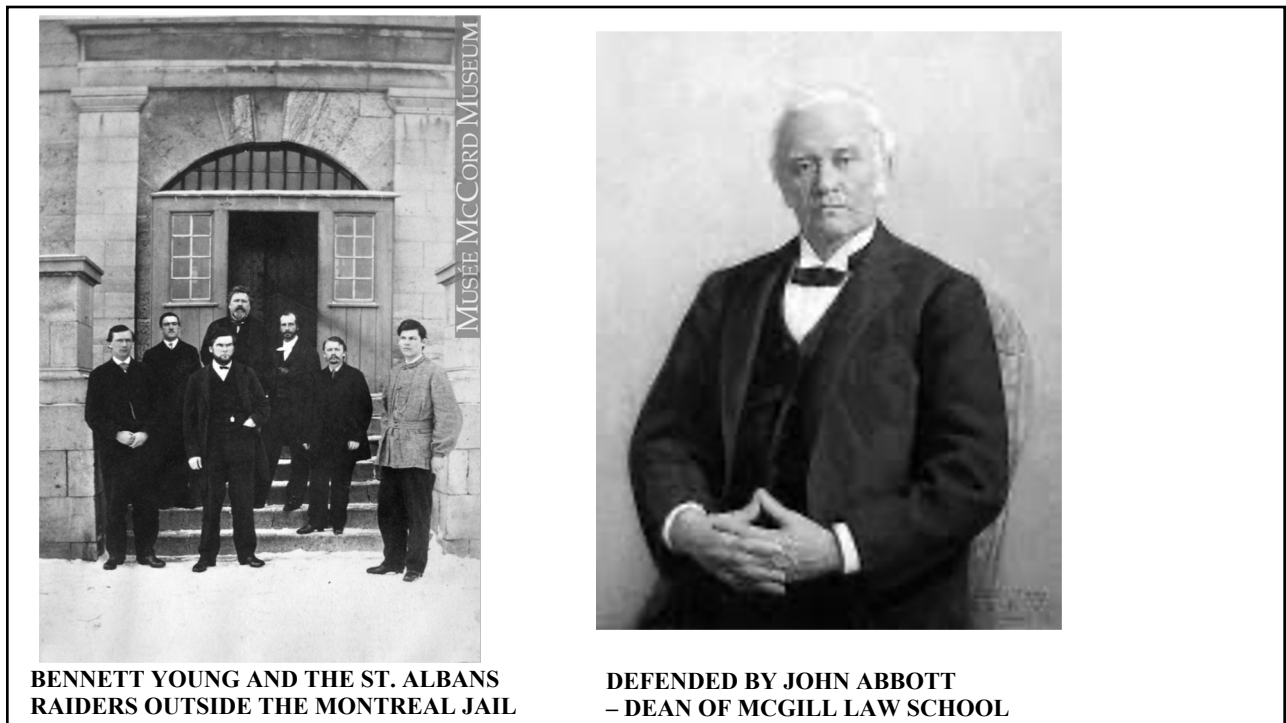
The counsel for the defence admitted the evidence, but contended that there was no decided authority in support of the prosecution for conspiracy to murder in a foreign country, and that it was not punishable by the common law in England, unless it was contemplated to murder the head of a government.

The New York Times
Published: May 25, 1865
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27



28

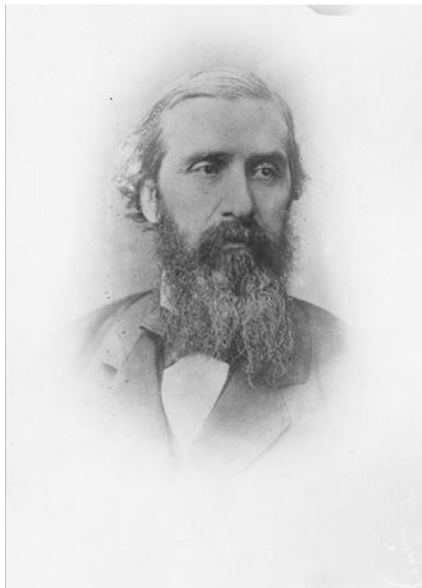


**BERNARD DEVLIN, CITY COUNCILLOR,
TRIES TO TAKE ON THE CONFEDERATES**

“Great good or great evil will mark the result of this decision. Have we not . . . if not directly, indirectly aided, countenanced and sanctioned aggression upon the United States by the emissaries and agents sent here from the South for that purpose?”

29

BUT THE CONFEDREATES HAVE HIGH-LEVEL FRIENDS



POLICE CHIEF GUILLAUNE LAMOTHE JUDGE CHARLES COURSOL

30

The New York Times

The Hostility of Canada-


It is useless to mince matters. No charity can soften the facts. The Canadian people have given shelter and friendship to men who have robbed and murdered American citizens. Their court has barred the operation of the Ashburton Treaty against these criminals, by interposing technicalities which were just as applicable to any case that has occurred during the twenty-two years' history of that Treaty, and yet were never before dreamed of; and it has not only set the outlaws free, but has secured them their plunder. It is impossible to make anything else of this than that Canada has been turned into a regular base of rebel operations against our Government and people—and a

31

The elites in Canada lend support to the South



POLITICAL LEADERS...



CHURCH LEADERS...



BUSINESS LEADERS...

32

At the 1864 Charlottetown Confederation Conference, he spoke about **“the gallant defence that is being made by the Southern Republic.”**

“At this moment they have not much more than four millions [sic] of men... yet what a brave fight they have made.”



CANADA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER
JOHN A. MACDONALD

33

MANY OTHER “FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION”
SHOWED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH



Thomas D'Arcy McGee Alexander Galt Georges Etienne Carter

34



JOHN ABBOTT, THE LAWYER FOR THE ST. ALBAN'S RAIDERS BECAME CANADA'S THIRD PRIME MINISTER JOHN ABBOTT

35

Most newspapers were anti-Lincoln

FOR QUERIES.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.—As is known Mr. Davis is at present in Montreal, staying with his mother-in-law, keeping within doors, or going out incognito. His features are much *amalgamized*. He shuns the crowd. He travelled alone from New York to Montreal, in order not to be recognized, his wife following the day after. She arrived here on Wednesday morning last, accompanied by two servants of color.

La Minerve had no shame in praising the Confederacy for fielding one of “the most intelligent armies we have known in America.”

Niagara Review denounced Lincoln as a “mad, blood-stained despot at Washington.”

THE ST. ALBANS RAID.
 [FROM THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.]
 Twelve men charged with being concerned in the plunder of the St. Albans banks have been arrested in Canada. Two are in jail at St. John's, one wounded in the leg; upon one sent in from Farnham \$3000 was found, on the wounded one only \$30. Another was arrested at Waterloo this morning having on him two packages, one containing \$600 in greenbacks, the amount of the other not known, also three loaded revolvers. Six of the men were taken at Stanbridge, three at Farnham, and three at Sweet'sburg.
 One young man of 19 in jail at St. John's has made important disclosures developing the whole plot, and those connected with it. It is asserted that the expedition was commanded by a Captain in the Confederate service, duly commissioned for the purpose. This leader is said to have made Burlington, Vermont his headquarters, and his likeness was obtained there from a photographer he had patronized while staying there. The report of the shooting of two bailiffs is untrue. So far as known only two of the accused have been arrested on the American side. The girl reported wounded was hit by accident while firing at men.
 Captain Coursol has proceeded this morning with a body of armed police to Farnham to bring into St. John's the prisoners there; when all are collected they will be escorted from St. John's jail to Montreal, where the examination will be made, and the application

36



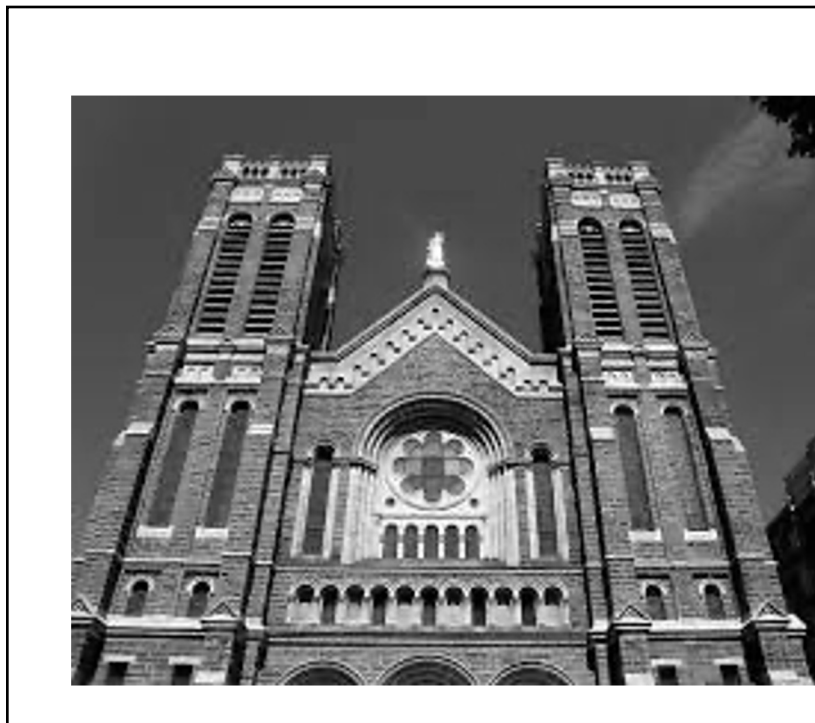
“All white men, who are planters, are necessarily slave-owners, and of course, interested in the preservation of their lives and property.”

Another commentator wondered if **“the blacks be permitted to rise and massacre their masters and their families.”**

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION:

“The proclamation will be little more than an indecent exposure of Lincoln’s rage and fiendishness.”

37

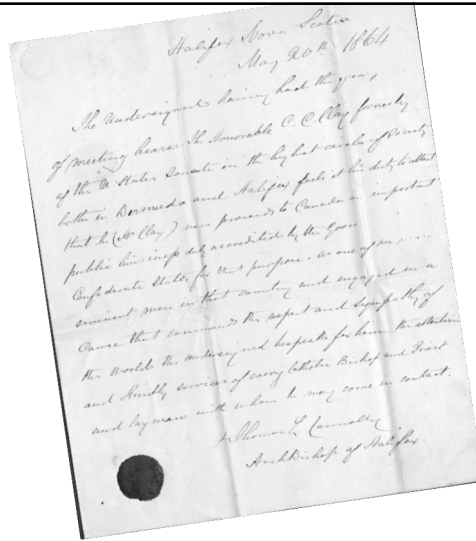


English and French Catholic Church opposed Lincoln

38



ARCHBISHOP THOMAS CONNOLLY



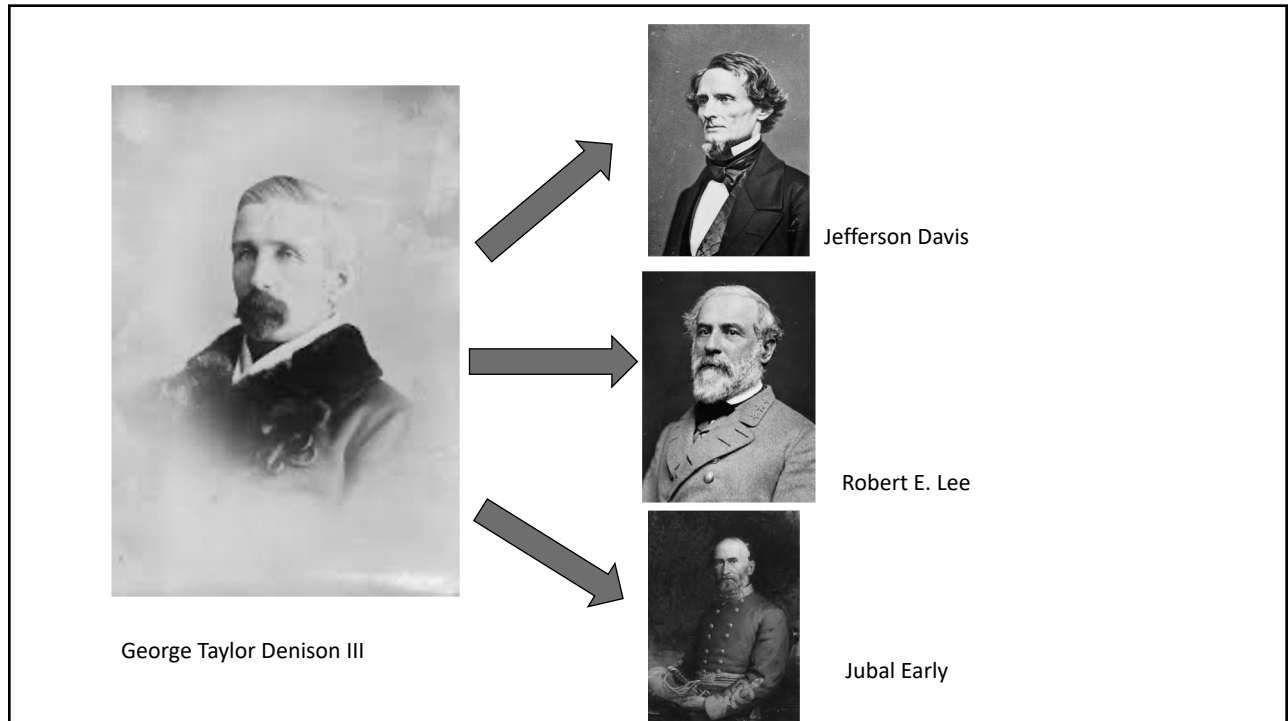
Connolly, met frequently with Confederate leaders and sent out a letter to his followers notifying them that the slave South had **“a cause that commands the respect and sympathy of the world”** and therefore worthy of **“the attention and kindly services of every Catholic Bishop and Priest and layman”**

39

Toronto Aristocrat George Taylor Denison III



40



41

THE ELITES TENDED TO SUPPORT THE SOUTH...
BUT ORDINARY CANADIANS BACKED THE UNION

42

Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty

was one of many Canadians who fought for Lincoln

An estimated **30,000 to 50,000 English and French Canadians** enlisted in the Civil War—overwhelmingly on the Union side.

As many as 5 to 10 percent of some regiments in Maine, Massachusetts and Michigan were francophones.

The Canadians fought valiantly: at least **twenty-nine earned Medals of Honour; five of them became Union generals.**

And many paid the ultimate price for valour: an estimated **5,000 to 7,000 died.**



43

THE PIONEERING BLACK DOCTORS



DR ALEXANDER AUGUSTA




DR. ANDERSON ABBOTT

44


MEN OF COLOR
To Arms! To Arms!
NOW OR NEVER
THREE YEARS' SERVICE!
AND FOR IN FURTHER THE
BATTLES OF LIBERTY AND THE UNION
FAIL NOW, & OUR RACE IS DOOMED
OF FREEDOM AND MAN, IN TO NEW YORK AND FOR TO ARMS! WE HAVE BEEN MADE
SILENCE THE TONGUE OF CALUMNY
VALOR AND HEROISM
THE BARRICADES OF THE
PORT HUDSON AND MILLIKEN'S BEND.
ARE FREEMEN LESS BRAVE THAN SLAVES
OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY HAS COME
MEN OF COLOR, BROTHERS AND FATHERS!
WE APPEAL TO YOU!
STRIKE NOW!

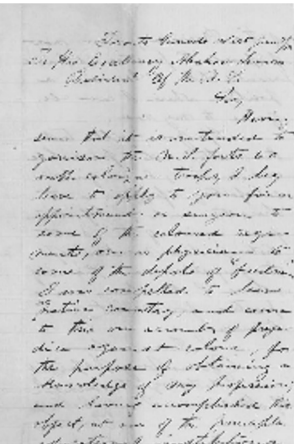
And for us Garrison and every friend

<small>W. B. South,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>
<small>W. B. South,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>
<small>W. B. South,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>
<small>W. B. South,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>
<small>W. B. South,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>	<small>Wm. J. Brown,</small>



45






The New York Times

A COLORED ASPIRANT FOR MEDICAL HONORS.
Several days since, the Medical Department received an application from a person in Canada to be examined before the Medical Examining Board, in session in this city, preparatory to entering the medical corps of the army. Perplexion was of course

DR. AUGUSTE, THE NEGRO SURGEON, MOBBED BY THE BALTIMORE SECESSIONISTS.

46



“It was not a war for white men or black men, red men or yellow men... It was a war for humanity.”

“When 30,000 of them left their homes and went forward to fight ... thousands of our comrades poured out their blood upon the battlefield as a libation upon the altar of freedom.”

47



THEY CRASH A PARTY AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND MEET LINCOLN IN 1865

48

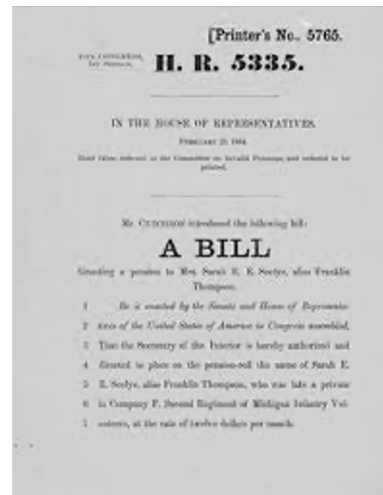
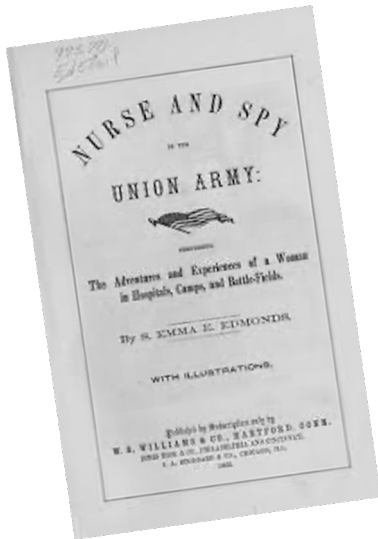


“It is true, I was not an American--I was not obliged to remain here during this terrible strife--I could return to my native land.”

“But the great question to be decided was: What can I do? What part am I to act in this great drama?”

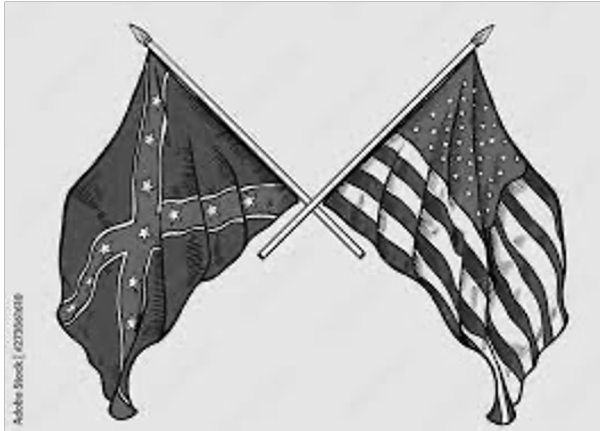
EMMA EDMONDS... one of the most famous women in the Union Army

49



50

So the American Civil War divided Canada as much as it did the U.S.



Canada played a dark role as a staging ground for terror attacks – bank raids, bio-terrorism, arson, piracy on the Great Lakes – and ultimately, an assassin

51

The war drags on into 1864, the South is losing...



... Canada and Montreal become hotbeds of Confederate conspiracies...

52

And who shows up in Montreal
in the fall of 1864?



JOHN WILKES BOOTH

53



**LIKE ALL OTHER CONFEDERATES,
HE COMES TO MONTREAL'S
ST. LAWRENCE HALL**

54

St. Lawrence Hall.



**GREAT ST. JAMES STREET,
OPPOSITE THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,
MONTREAL.**

THE subscribers have recently Opened this Commodious and Elegant House, which is
Situated in the most salubrious and fashionable part of the City,
And is in the immediate vicinity of the Banks, Post Office, Telegraph Office, and other
Public Institutions, as well as of the principal Business Houses in town, thus rendering
it equally eligible to parties travelling for pleasure or on business.

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN FURNISHED IN THE BEST STYLE OF THE NEW YORK
AND BOSTON HOTELS, AND COMPRISES:

**A DINING SALOON,
AND
A CONCERT ROOM,
AND
A READING ROOM.**

Unequaled by any Hotel in Canada, together with a commodious and well supplied
THE TABLE

Will receive especial attention, with the view of rendering it equal, if not superior to
any in America.

THE WINES AND LIQUORS
Have been selected from the best Importations.

HOT AND COLD BATHS

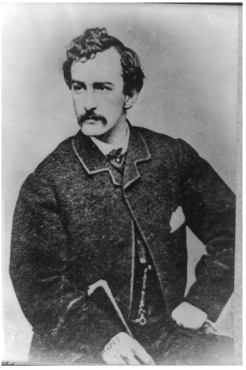
Can be had at all hours, and an omnibus will always be in attendance on the arrival or
departure of Railway Cars and Steamboats, free of charge.

YARDON & HOGAN.

55

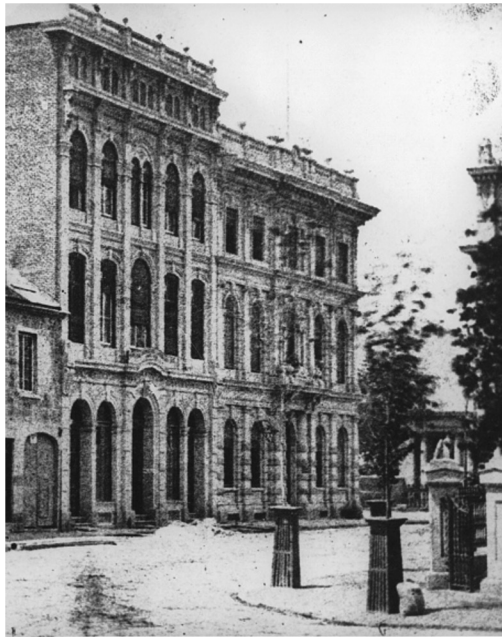
St. Lawrence Hall.

Date.	NAME.	Hour.	From.	Room.	Destination.
October 18	Wm Macaulay	9.30	Kingston	135	
"	Edward Boston	"	Quebec	107-4	
"	Wm Boston & son	"	"	107-5	
"	Wm Booth	"	St. John's	150	
"	D. A. Macdougall	"	Alexandria	132	



BOOTH'S SIGNATURE AT HOTEL, OCTOBER 18 1864

56

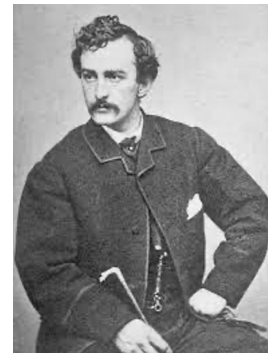
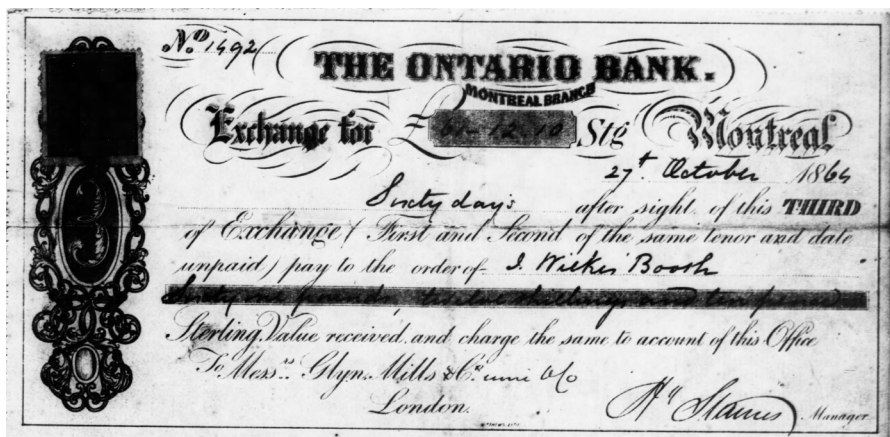


ONTARIO BANK IN MONTREAL



HENRY STARNES, BANK PRESIDENT AND MAYOR

57



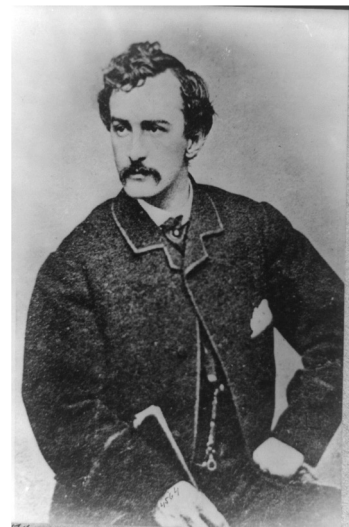
BANK DRAFT GIVEN TO BOOTH, WORTH ABOUT \$300, FOUND ON HIS BODY

58

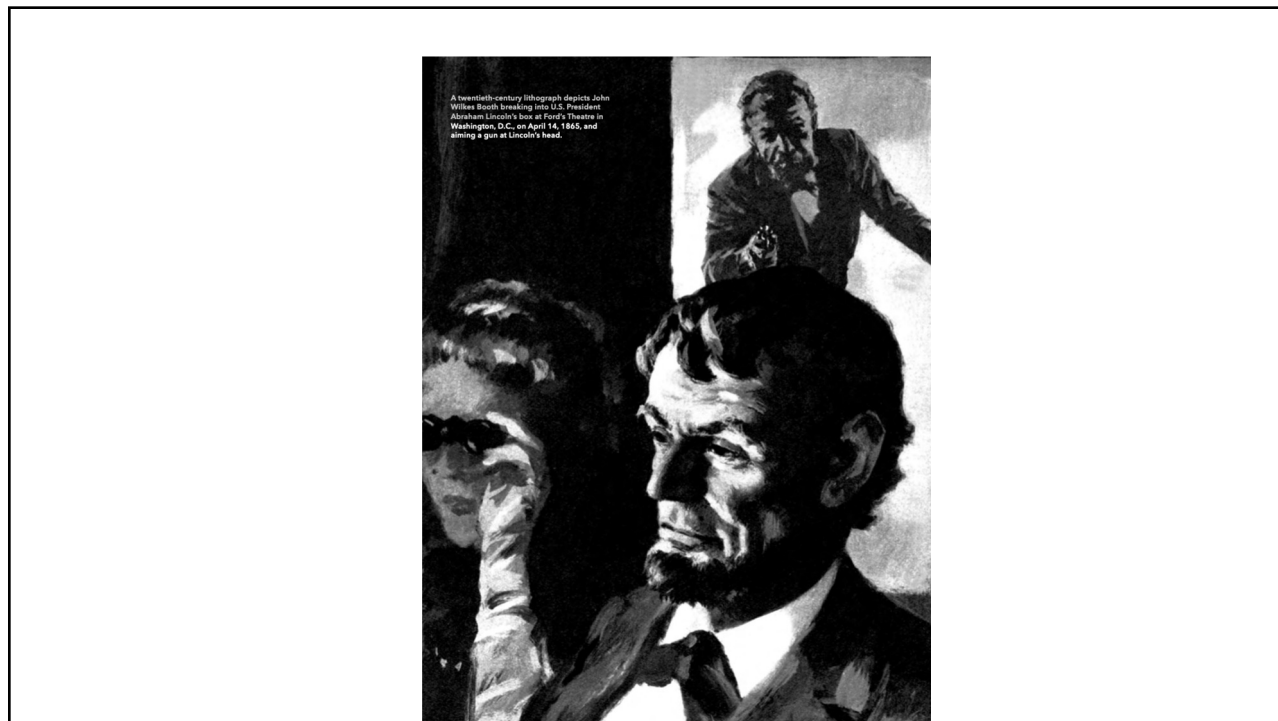


59

“It made damned little difference, head or tail, Abe’s contract was nearly up.”
“Whether re-elected or not, he would get his goose cooked.”



60



A twentieth-century lithograph depicts John Wilkes Booth breaking into U.S. President Abraham Lincoln's box at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1865, and aiming a gun at Lincoln's head.

61

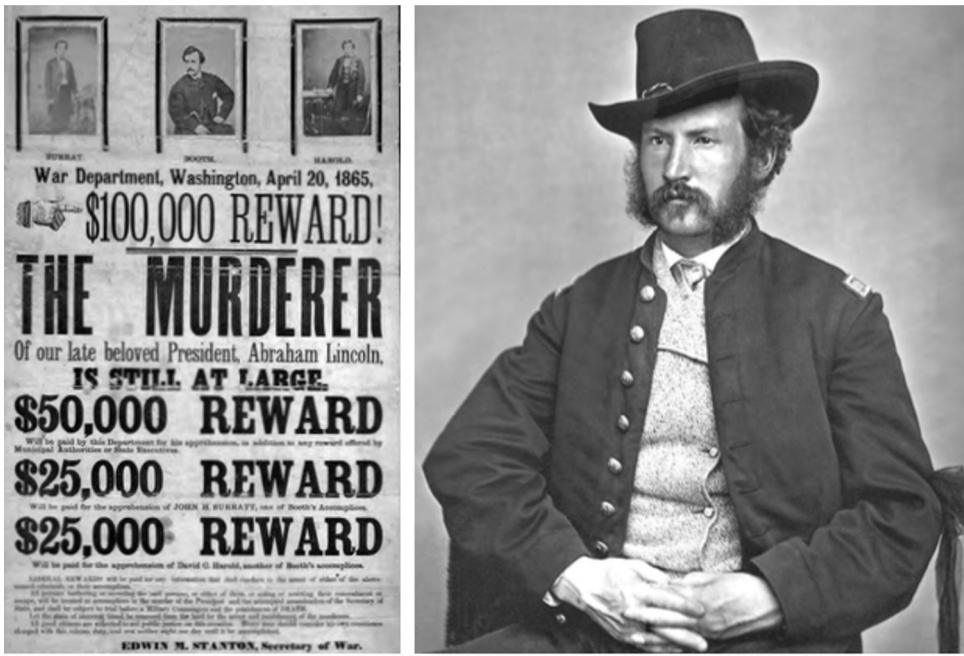
MONTREAL GAZETTE:
 Talked about “**the great loss which the South sustains in his death.**” The paper reminded its readers that it had questioned “**the justifiableness of the war itself**” and feared that if vengeance took over, “**the calamity which his assassination causes to the Southern States is great.**”

LONDON EXAMINER:
 “It must be remembered that as atrocious as was **Booth’s deed, it was literally justified by the facts ...**The man he killed had murdered the Constitution of the United States.”

THE NIAGARA REVIEW :
 denounced Lincoln as a “**mad, blood- stained despot** at Washington.

THE TORONTO LEADER :
 “It should not be forgotten that [for] all such deeds **there is some cause,**” blaming Lincoln for the harsh treatment of “**the oppressed people of the South.**”

62



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 the apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Warlike Authorities or State Executives.

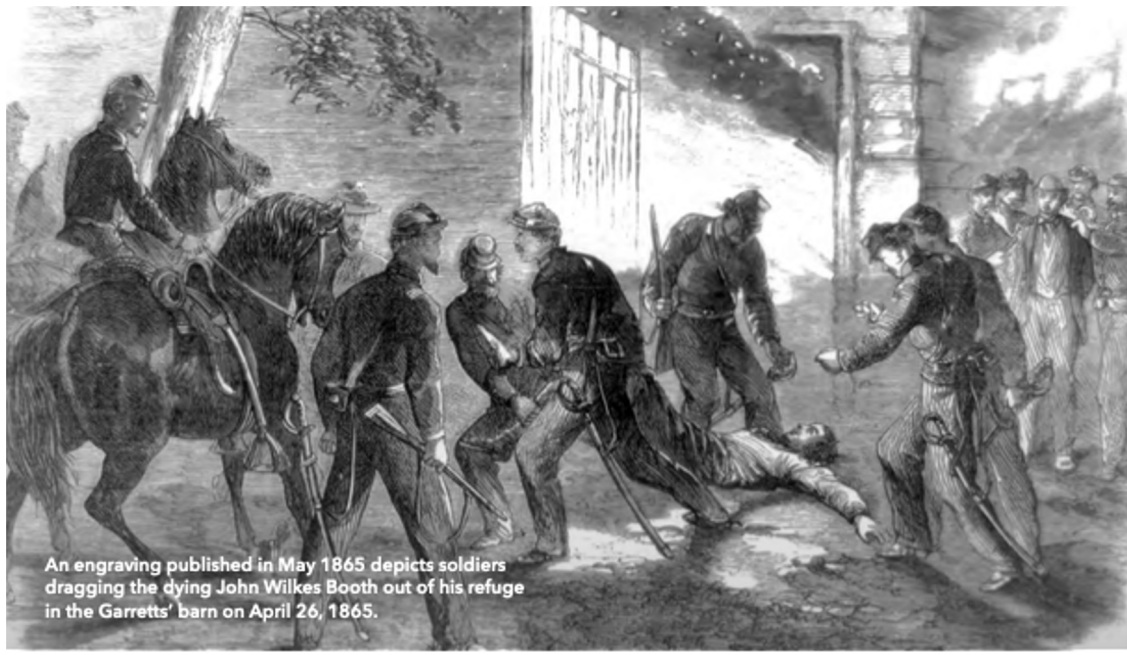
\$25,000 REWARD
Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. BURKETT, one of Booth's Associates.

\$25,000 REWARD
Will be paid for the apprehension of David G. Harvill, another of Booth's associates.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

MONTREALER EDWARD DOHERTY HEADS THE MILITARY REGIMENT TASKED WITH HUNTING DOWN THE ASSASSIN

63



An engraving published in May 1865 depicts soldiers dragging the dying John Wilkes Booth out of his refuge in the Garretts' barn on April 26, 1865.

64




65

THE ONTARIO BANK.
MONTREAL BRANCH
Exchange for £500 Montreal
27th October 1864
Sixty days after sight of this **THIRD**
of Exchange (First and Second of the same tenor and date
unpaid) pay to the order of **J. Walker Booth**
Sterling Value received, and charge the same to account of this Office
To Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co. Ltd
London.
A. H. Stewart, Manager

BANK DRAFT GIVEN TO BOOTH, WORTH ABOUT \$300, FOUND ON HIS BODY

66



The New York Times.
THE ASSASSINS.

**Important Proclamation by
President Johnson.**

**Mr. Lincoln's Murder Planned by
Leading Traitors.**


**Most of these Traitors Are Harbored
in Canada.**

**Jefferson Davis is the Head of
the Assassins.**

**He is Aided by Jacob Thompson,
Clement C. Clay, Beverly Tucker
and George N. Sanders.**

67

THE HANGING OF FOUR OF THE CONSPIRATORS...



... but one is still missing and on the run

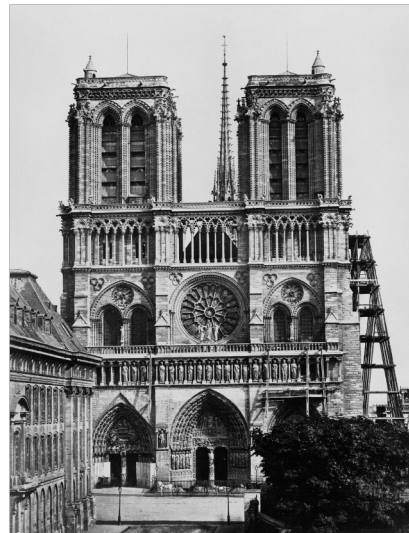
68



JOHN SURRETT

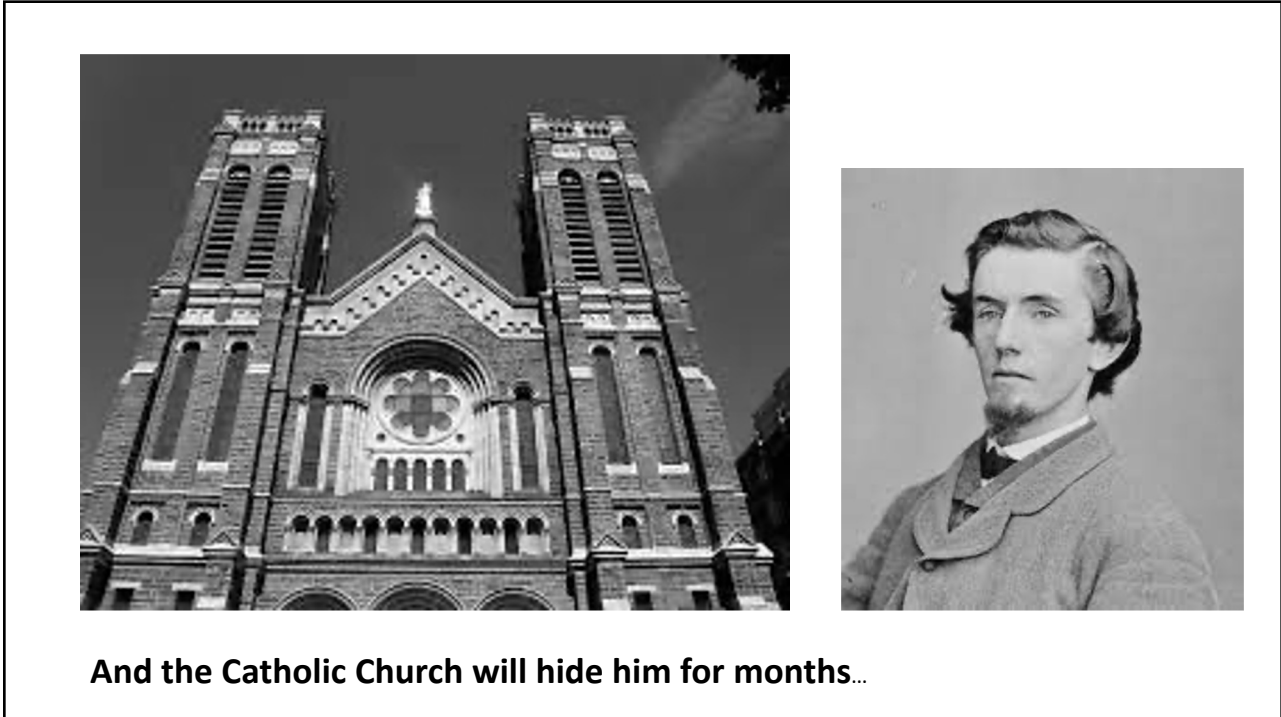


69

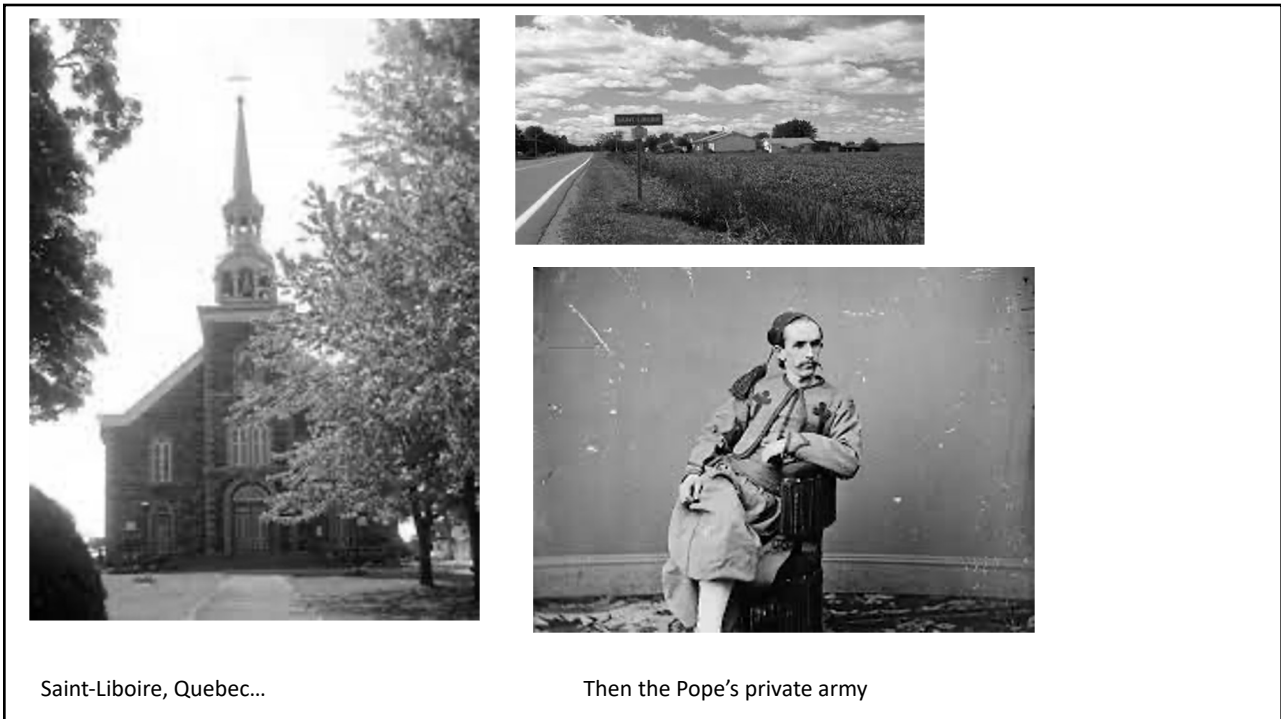


SURRETT WRITES THAT HE ADMIRES THE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN AND CHURCHES, SUCH AS NOTRE DAME BASILICA

70



71



72

Jefferson Davis, defeated Confederate president, is jailed from 1865 to 1867

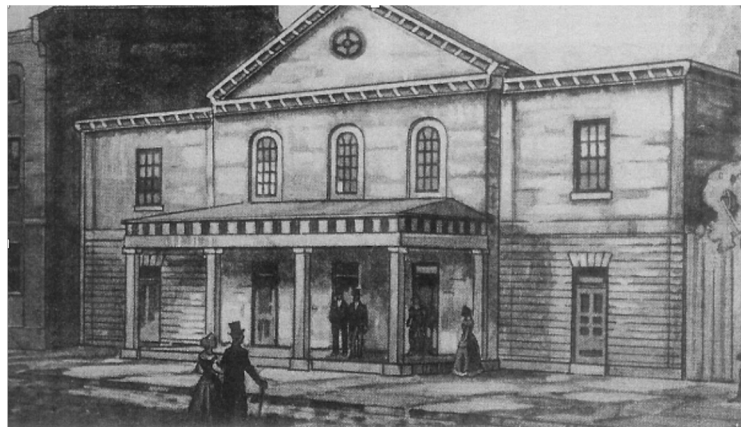


He gets bail in May, 1867 ... and where does he flee?

73



74



Davis cheered as a hero at Montreal's Theatre Royal

75

“May peace and prosperity be forever the blessing of Canada, for she has been the asylum for many of my friends, as she is now an asylum to myself.”



**JEFFERSON AND VARINA
DAVIS IN MONTREAL 1867**

76

THE “LOST CAUSE”

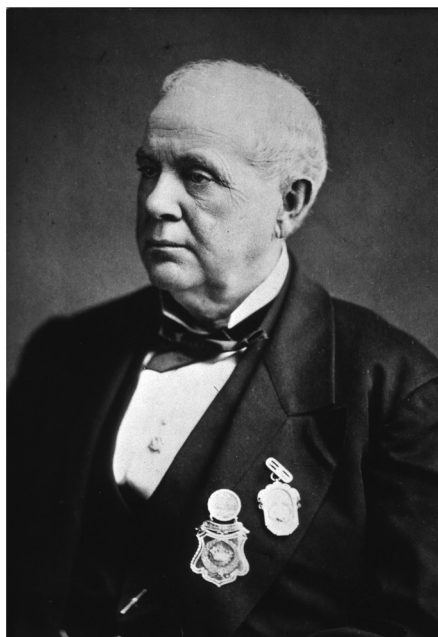


Usually, the **victors** get to **write the history...**
But **not in the case of the Civil War.**
The Confederate cause continues to be **whitewashed and glorified**

77

Dr. Luke Blackburn...
The man behind the
Yellow Fever Plot

**Governor of Kentucky
1879-1883**



78

Bennett Young,
the leader of the
St. Albans raid...



79

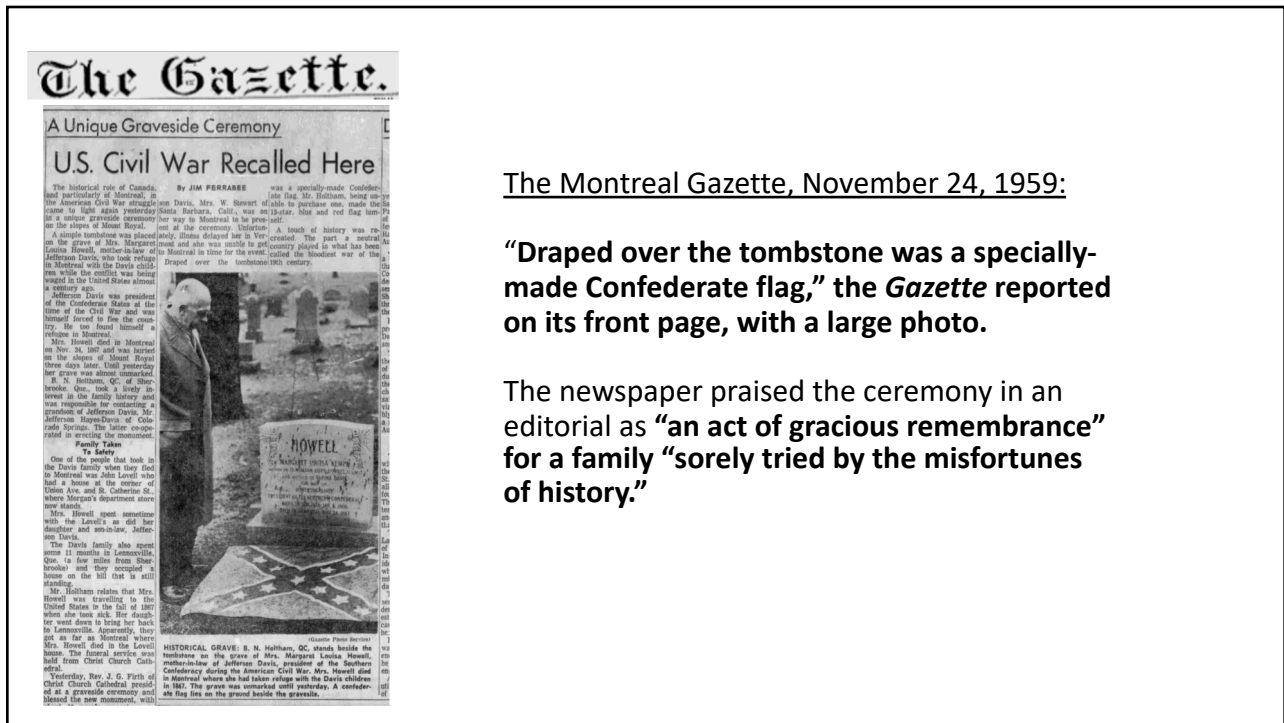


**MAIN SPEAKER AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY 1914 TO
COMMEMORATE A GIANT STATUE FOR CONFEDERATE
SOLDIERS**

80



81



The Montreal Gazette, November 24, 1959:

“Draped over the tombstone was a specially-made Confederate flag,” the Gazette reported on its front page, with a large photo.

The newspaper praised the ceremony in an editorial as **“an act of gracious remembrance” for a family “sorely tried by the misfortunes of history.”**

82



83

Remember that plaque in Montreal?



UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
Historical - Educational - Benevolent - Memorial - Patriotic



LEST WE FORGET

84





85

“The past is never dead. It’s not even past”



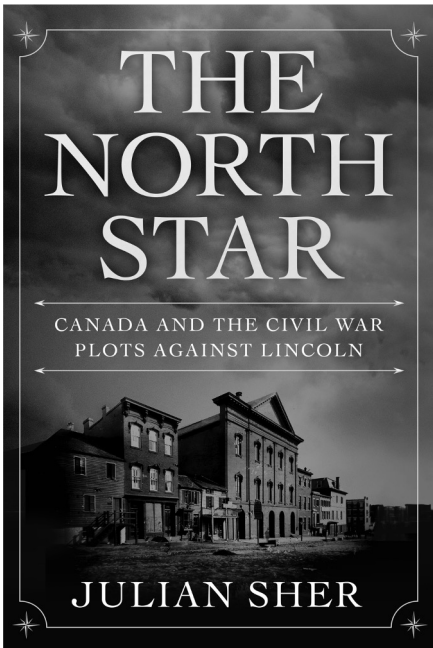
86

**“The past is never dead.
It’s not even past”**



**“History is not history
unless it is the truth”**

87



**THE
NORTH
STAR**

CANADA AND THE CIVIL WAR
PLOTS AGAINST LINCOLN

JULIAN SHER

www.juliansher.com/northstar

julian@sher.com

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