

The Surratt Courier

Published Bimonthly by the Surratt Society

January/February 2021

Louise Oertly, Editor

Volume XLVI No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Mom was a great believer in the superstition that bad things happen in threes, and so far 2021 is not shaping up to be any better than 2020. A 12-year-old family dog died. I won't comment on the events of January 6. I'll just say that I thought nothing would top the events of 9/11 for me. (I worked for the FAA right next to Accident Investigation and, looking out my office window, I could see the smoke billowing from the Pentagon. Need I say more?) And the third event is the passing of Maryland Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. "Mike" Miller.

About two decades ago, I went to my oldest nephew's high school graduation. Mike was the keynote speaker. He began his talk telling the graduates how lucky they were to go to Calvert High School. They could proudly say that their school was named after the founding family of Maryland. He went on to say that he wasn't as lucky. He went to Surrattsville High School. A family name that had deep ties with the Lincoln assassination, and the first woman hanged by the Federal government. I had to chuckle. I'm not sure how many of those present realized that they had just been given a history lesson, but that was Mike. He was a historian and loved to share his knowledge. He was also a life member of the Surratt Society and an avid supporter of the Surratt House Museum. We can thank him for his help in expanding the museum facilities to include the Visitors' Center and the James O. Hall Research Center.

Unfortunately, Mike lost his battle with cancer on January 15, 2021, and the Surratt Society lost a friend. His obituary is on page 3.

The main focus of this issue is John Minchin Lloyd, who rented the Surratt Tavern and was the star witness at the trials of both Mary and John Surratt, Jr. While checking some information on Lloyd, I stumbled across an article mentioning a Mr. Roby. I'm not sure if it was the same Roby, who became postmaster of Surrattsville after John Surratt, Jr., but he is definitely from the same family. How true the description of this Mr. Roby is, we can only guess.

Syracuse Daily Courier and Union

May 8, 1865, front page

[Originally from *The New York World*]

Excerpt from "An Army of Pursuers" article

Union Marylanders Helping the Police

"The few Unionists of Prince George's and Charles Counties, long persecuted and intimidated, now came forward and gave important testimony.

This newsletter is a bimonthly publication of the Surratt Society, a non-profit volunteer affiliate of the Surratt House Museum, a historic property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735. Museum phone number is (301) 868-1121. Annual Surratt Society membership dues are \$10. Visit our website at surrattmuseum.org or contact us at surrattsociety@gmail.com.

“Among these was one Roby, a very fat and very zealous old gentleman, whose professions were as ample as his perspiration. He told the officers of the secret meeting for conspiracy’s sake at Lloyd’s Hotel, and although a very John Gilpin on horseback, rode here and there to his great loss of wind and repose, fastening fire coals upon the guilty or suspected.

“Lloyd was turned over to Mr. Cottingham, who had established a jail at Robytown, that night his house was searched, and Booth’s carbine found hidden in the wall. Three days afterward Lloyd

confessed—and his neck is quite nervous at this writing.”

And lastly, due to COVID restrictions, there will not be an in-person 2021 Surratt Society conference in April. However, plans are underway to hold a virtual annual meeting of Surratt Society members in April 2021, which would consist of a brief meeting and possibly a presentation or two to follow. Details will be circulated as soon as they are available.

Stay safe.

Louise Oertly, President

VICE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Not to worry. This will be a one-time column and message.

At the April 2021 meeting of the Surratt Society membership, before the election of the officers of the Executive Committee, I will offer the following amendment to the Surratt Society Bylaws: ***In Article IV, Section 2, strike “The” and insert: Beginning in 2021, the***

In the current Society Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2 includes the sentence: “The president shall not be elected to more than three consecutive terms.” In normal times, a term limit on the Society president was intended to foster new leadership and bring new blood to the position. However, these are not normal times. With COVID, the loss of Laurie Verge, and the curtailment of Society activities by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, more responsibility has fallen on the Executive Committee of the Society, most specifically on the president, Louise Oertly. Fortunately, Louise has the expertise to take on the role of editor of *The Surratt Courier*; as a long-time docent, she has intimate knowledge of the Surratt House

Museum; and she has been a member of the Society since 1976 and has a vast institutional memory of it and the people associated with it. Louise has very ably served as president of the Society for the past three years, and the term limit in the current Bylaws would preclude her from continuing to serve as president at a time when the Society desperately needs her unique skill set and experience.

The proposed change to the Bylaws does not eliminate the term limit, but would mark 2021 as the beginning point of the limit on being elected more than three consecutive years. Article XIII, Section 1 of the Bylaws provides that amendments “shall take effect and be in force upon their adoption by majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting,” and this would make Louise eligible to be elected president in 2021 and for the next two years, should she be willing and the membership want. Although graciously willing to serve, this amendment was not Louise’s idea, it was mine, and it has the unanimous support of the Executive Committee of the Surratt

Society and, I would hope, of the membership of the Surratt Society.

If you like to comment on this proposed Bylaws change before the April meeting (more information on that later),

you can express them at surrattsociety@gmail.com.

Bill Binzel, Vice President

Thomas V. “Mike” Miller December 3, 1942 – January 15, 2021

Thomas V. “Mike” Miller was raised in Clinton (once known as Surrattsville), Maryland. I guess you could say that Mike grew up knowing about the Surratt House and its history. You see, his grandfather, B.K. Miller, owned the Surratt House before it became a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission property and was restored as a museum. He graduated from Surrattsville High School and attended the University of Maryland. There he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration in 1964 and would go on to attend Maryland’s School of Law. In 1967, he would graduate from law school and be admitted to the Maryland bar and became a member of the Maryland State and Prince George’s County Bar Associations. For the next 40 years, he would have law offices in both Prince George’s and Calvert Counties.



Photo from Maryland State Archives

Mike’s first elected office was in 1970, when he ran for the Maryland House of Delegates and won. Four years later, he decided to run for a seat in the Maryland State Senate. He won and continued to win each Senate race for the next 45 years. In 1983, he became the Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and led his committee members to enact tougher criminal penalties and greater protections for victims. He held that title until 1987, when his fellow Senators recognized his leadership abilities and elected him President of the Maryland Senate, a position he would hold until his resignation on October 24, 2019, for health reasons. The cancer he was battling had metastasized, and he was dealing with anemia and fatigue. He felt the position needed someone’s full time attention. Mike was the longest serving Senate President in Maryland history, as well as the longest serving Senate President across the country. His colleagues voted unanimously to award him the title of “Senate President Emeritus” in honor of his nearly 50 year commitment to the Maryland State Government.

On December 23, 2020, Mike announced his resignation from his Senate seat, citing his “failing health.” Less than a month later, news of his death was announced on January 15, 2021.

In an interview last year with the *Baltimore Sun*, Mike said that he hoped his legacy would be that “He did the very best he could. He had a reputation for honesty. He had a reputation for candor and a reputation for hard work.” “And he made the state a better place for having been there.”

The Surratt Society has indeed lost a good friend.

That Man Lloyd

by Laurie Verge

Reprinted from *The Surratt Courier*, April 1988

John Lloyd is generally known among Lincoln assassination researchers as the tavern tenant at Surrattsville, who gave much damaging testimony against his landlady, Mrs. Surratt. However, very little has ever been printed about him in a biographical nature. The question came up recently as to how old John Lloyd was at the time of his involvement with Mrs. Surratt. [Note: As always, when faced with an “unanswerable” question, we turned to James O Hall. He supplied some Xeroxed material, which had been given to him some years ago by another Society member, Dennis Campbell. This was material from a genealogical work entitled *The Lloyds of Southern Maryland*, published by Daniel B. Lloyd in 1917.] To the writer, it came as a shock to learn that John Lloyd was just 40 years old in the spring of 1865. I had always envisioned a man of 55 to 60 years of age!

John Minchin Lloyd was born on December 18, 1824, in Virginia. At age 21, he married Mary Elizabeth Mahorney, whose family was numerous in King George County, Virginia, and Charles County, Maryland. Washington, D.C., marriage records show the date of their union as January 29, 1846. Shortly thereafter, John became the sole heir of his father, William Lloyd. From the estate, he received \$300 and five enslaved people, valued at \$850. Around 1850, the couple moved to 709 E street, S.W., in Washington, D.C., where they spent most of their remaining years—except for the period of 1862-1865, when they lived in Charles and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland. Several children were born to the couple, but none survived to adulthood. The family was Roman Catholic, and one son (born in 1849) was baptized at Holy Trinity in Georgetown, D.C.

John Lloyd was first a bricklayer by trade and is so designated in the *Washington, D.C., City Directory* of 1855 and again in 1862. After a lapse of five years, during which the couple lived in Maryland, the directories again show him as a bricklayer continuously from 1867 to 1892. However, he also served on the Washington Police Force. Prior to the establishment of the Metropolitan Police Force of Washington on August 1, 1861, a Federal guard performed police duties in the city. They were called “roundsmen” or “constables.” In 1851, a Day Police Force was organized, and John M. Lloyd is shown as a new appointee with a salary of \$480 per annum. An 1856 entry in the records shows him as an officer in the 7th Ward. The 1860 Federal Census shows him as a member of the Police Department; and he, himself, testified at Mrs. Surratt’s trial that he had been a member until 1862. He then severed connections to return to farming in Charles County, and subsequently to renting the Surratt Tavern in the fall of 1864.

The events of March and April 1865 thrust Mr. Lloyd into the spotlight. He became a key government witness against Mary Surratt in 1865, when he testified about her trips to Surrattsville on April 11 and 14 and her bringing Booth’s field glasses and an incriminating message to “have the shooting irons ready.” This testimony surely sealed the fate of his landlady. He repeated the story again in 1867 at the trial of John Harrison Surratt, Jr.

Following Mrs. Surratt’s execution, Lloyd floundered at the Surrattsville farm and subsequently returned to the city and to his bricklaying trade. His life ended in 1892, while he was supervising a construction project at 10th and B Streets, S.W. In later years, a great-niece recalled:

I was a small child but remember him quite well. He was a very kindly man, and we were devoted to him. He was a large man and sort of a Santa Claus to all of us. We called him Uncle Lloyd. He was in the construction business and died of an accident that occurred on one of his building projects. He wasn't satisfied with some work that had been done and went up on a scaffold to inspect it. Near the other end of the scaffold flooring, a load of brick had just been deposited. As he reached the scaffold and stood on it, the boards gave way and he fell to the ground. The bricks tumbling down upon him crushed his head, kidneys and other parts of his body.

He lingered for nearly two weeks before his death on December 18, 1892—his 68th birthday. He was buried with a solemn requiem Mass from St. Dominic's at 6th and E Streets, S.W. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in a lot he had purchased in 1865. Ironically, he lies scarcely 50 yards south of the grave of Mary E. Surratt!

Mrs. Lloyd remained at the E Street home until 1901. She was then cared for by a great-nephew, George Petty, in Dunn Loring, Virginia, until her death on July 28, 1906. The funeral Mass was at St. Dominic's and the burial at Mt. Olivet. Her grave is not marked, but she is registered beside her husband and listed as Mary E. Lloyd. His simple tombstone is marked *John M. Lloyd*. Only to those familiar with the history of the Lincoln assassination, will it jog the memory of a cemetery visitor.

Why John M. Lloyd Was in Upper Marlboro

by James O. Hall

Reprinted from *The Surratt Courier*, September 1980

[Originally printed in the Prince George's County Historical Society newsletter]

On the afternoon of April 14, 1865, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Surratt and one of her Washington boarders, Louis J. Wiechman, drove out to her tavern in Prince George's County, Maryland. The government alleged that Mrs. Surratt's trip that day was made in the furtherance of Booth's conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln. She was convicted by a military commission and executed on July 7, 1865.

It is not the purpose here to examine the controversial evidence against Mrs. Surratt; but much hinged on the testimony of John M. Lloyd, her tenant at Surrattsville. He swore at two sensational trials that he had attended court in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on April 14 and that he had returned to the tavern in an intoxicated condition. At the tavern, he talked with Mrs. Surratt. His testimony, as to what she said to him—if believable—was damning. The military commission, however, believed him.

As a side matter, Mr. John C. Brennan and Mr. Frank White, both members of the Prince George's County Historical Society, asked me to ascertain what Lloyd was doing in Upper Marlboro on April 14. Was he telling the truth, when he testified that he was there to attend court?

This is what I found. At the murder trial of John H. Surratt, Jr., in 1867, District Attorney E.D. Carrington asked Lloyd where he had been on April 14, 1865. Lloyd responded by saying, "I was in [Upper] Marlboro, attending the trial of a man who had stabbed me." He did not say

who had stabbed him, or when, or where. These questions were left dangling and are not answered in the massive collection of documents dealing with the assassination of President Lincoln.

Mr. White, an employee of the Maryland Hall of Records, suggested that I check the 1865 Circuit Court Archives for Prince George's County. From the shelf list, we selected several volumes, including two large ones called Office Dockets, which contain brief log entries for the April and November terms of that court. While other materials were found to bear on the problem, these two volumes contained the most specific information.

The first relevant entry is dated February 17, 1865, and shows that Edward L. Perrie was placed under \$100 "...to answer for an assault on John M. Lloyd." The date of the assault is not shown, but could not have been long before February 17. Richard B. Perrie and James A. Medley each made a bond of \$200 to guarantee that Edward L. Perrie would show up for trial. In addition, the following witnesses were placed under a \$100 appearance bond: John M. Lloyd, E.L. Smoot, William Allen, David Barry, John W. Ball, William F. Mullikin, Andrew Kaldenbach, James T. Lusby, Thomas W. Ward, Charles Middleton, and Joseph T. Knott. Five of the witnesses were required to have sureties, also under \$100 bond. For example, John Z. Jenkins, Mrs. Surratt's brother, was a surety for Mullikin.

That the assault took place at the Surrattsville tavern seems clear from the list of witnesses placed under bond. Several of the names may be found on the extant accounts of those who owed tavern bar bills. Most lived in the immediate Surrattsville area. Knott was the tavern barkeeper, employed by Lloyd. It is not hard to imagine what happened. Everybody drinking, an argument between Perrie and Lloyd, Perrie deciding to settle it with a knife.

Another entry shows that six of those placed under bond, including Lloyd, were later sworn before the Grand Jury. This resulted in an indictment against Perrie for an assault on Lloyd "...with intent to kill." The trial, apparently set down for April 14, 1865, never was held. The narrative entry of proceedings for that day does not show it. A note elsewhere under Criminal Trials, #85, April term, explains why—the case was continued to the November term. In an aside at the 1865 conspiracy trial, John Z. Jenkins states that "the jury was discharged that day from our court..." The witnesses had made the trip to Upper Marlboro on April 14, 1865, for nothing.

Lloyd testified in 1867 that: "I stayed in Marlborough for some time after the trial was over, drinking and playing cards..." Obviously, what he called "the trial" consisted of the motions and arguments that resulted in dismissal of the jury and a continuance of the case to the November term. It was probably after 3:00 p.m. when he and James T. Lusby, one of the witnesses summoned, set out together—but in separate conveyances—for Surrattsville. Both were more than a little drunk. Lusby told about this at the conspiracy trial in 1865.

The Perrie case was called on November 13, 1865. Seven witnesses were on hand. By this time, things had cooled down. The charge against Perrie was dismissed with the costs to be paid by him—\$37.15.

In this, Lloyd told the truth. He was in Upper Marlboro on April 14, 1865, to attend court. Whether or not he told the truth in other matters—particularly with respect to Mrs. Surratt—is disputed. There are partisans of either view.

As a postscript, John M. Lloyd died in Washington, D.C., on December 18, 1892, aged 68. He was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, not too far from the grave of Mrs. Surratt. The judgment of his veracity has long since been made in the Highest Court. Here, we can only stir the ashes.

John M. Lloyd—*Star Witness*

by James O. Hall

Reprinted from *The Surratt Courier*, March 1977

On the night of April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. That same day in the afternoon, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Surratt and one of her Washington boarders, Louis J. Wiechmann, drove out to her tavern at Surrattsville. The Federal government alleged that Mrs. Surratt's trip was made to the furtherance of Booth's conspiracy. Mrs. Surratt was tried and convicted by a military commission and was hanged at the Washington Arsenal Penitentiary on July 7, 1865.

At the conspiracy trial in 1865, there was considerable evidence about Mrs. Surratt's pro-Confederate sympathies and about the use of her Washington boarding by Booth and his mismatched cabal. But the *hanging* evidence was supplied by her Surrattsville tenant, John M. Lloyd. This rested on three points:

1. John H. Surratt, Jr., asked Lloyd on March 18, 1865, to hide two carbines, with ammunition, at the tavern. He secreted them over the kitchen wing in a place pointed out by Surratt. Lloyd testified that on April 11 he met Mrs. Surratt and Wiechman just outside Washington, and she made a vague reference to these weapons, saying that they would be called for soon. He testified that she made a more direct mention of these weapons, when he saw her at the tavern late on the afternoon of April 14, saying that they would be called for *that night*.
2. When Mrs. Surratt came to the tavern on the afternoon of April 14, she brought a package. Lloyd testified that she told him to turn the package over to the people who would call for the weapons. Lloyd opened the package and found that it contained a set of field glasses.
3. John Wilkes Booth and David Edgar Herold came to the tavern just before midnight and received one of the carbines and the field glasses from Lloyd.

The military commission believed Lloyd—and he probably told the truth. Mrs. Surratt's counsel, Frederick Aiken, all but admitted that she had carried this message to Lloyd on the afternoon of April 14. He argued, however, that if she had brought such a message from Booth, it was innocent enough—people brought messages every day. He did not make the argument strong enough. Looking back after more than a century, it is easy to see what could have happened. Booth was polished and persuasive. He might well have charmed Mrs. Surratt into delivering the glasses and his message: "Would you do me a favor? Drop this package off with Lloyd and tell him that somebody will be by tonight to pick it up, along with the weapons John left out there. And better keep this to yourself, as there might be trouble—if the wrong people heard of it."

No matter what really happened—and we shall never know—the key witness against Mrs. Surratt was John M. Lloyd. A sketch of this man may be of interest.

Lloyd was born in Virginia on December 18, 1824. When he was a two year old, his family moved to Charles County, Maryland, where he grew up. In 1845, Lloyd came to Washington, D.C., where he worked as a brick layer. On January 29, 1846, he married Mary Elizabeth Mahorney, the daughter of a Washington tailor.

In 1859, Lloyd became a Washington policeman. He held this job until the force was reorganized and put under Federal control in August of 1861. He moved to Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1862 and started farming with a partner, John Frazier.

In October of 1864, Mrs. Surratt began to move her things from the Surrattsville tavern to her house in Washington with the intent of taking in boarders. Lloyd became interested in the tavern and negotiated to rent it for \$500 per year. In November, the papers were drawn up, and he took possession in December. A publican's license was issued to him on December 20, 1864. He soon became his own best customer at the bar, and the tavern continued to be a favorite stopping place for Confederate agents coming and going.

Lloyd was not at the tavern when Mrs. Surratt and Wiechmann arrived on the afternoon of April 14, 1865. He had gone to Upper Marlboro to attend court. In early February, there had been a drunken dispute at the tavern and Lloyd had been stabbed by an Edward L. Perrie. Lloyd had him arrested, and the case came up for trial on that day. The trial was postponed, and Lloyd stayed on in Upper Marlboro, drinking and playing cards. It was toward sundown when he drove up to the kitchen door at the tavern. He was admittedly drunk. His testimony about what Mrs. Surratt told him was challenged on this account. Later that night, Lloyd gave one carbine and the other supplies to Booth and Herold. The other carbine was returned to its hiding place.

Just before noon on April 15, the hunt for Booth and Herold reached Surrattsville. A Washington detective, John A. Clarvoe, questioned Lloyd and was told that no men had visited the tavern during the night. He had been up all night he claimed. When Clarvoe asked Lloyd's advice about the best direction to take in the search, Lloyd told him to take the Piscataway Road. Clarvoe was indignant about this when he learned that Booth and Herold had been at the tavern and that they had taken the road to T.B.,—not the one to Piscataway. It seemed that Lloyd had deliberately sent the search in the wrong direction. In the next few days, it became increasingly apparent that Lloyd had guilty knowledge, especially when the one remaining carbine was found at the house.

He was arrested on April 18. At first he was reluctant to talk. Later he talked freely. His story did not vary in any material respect in any of the statements he made or in the testimony he gave at the 1865 conspiracy trial and the trial of John H. Surratt, Jr., in 1867. Lloyd was released from the Old Capitol Prison on June 30, 1865. He tried to keep the tavern going, but found it difficult. There was nothing to do, but return to Washington and resume his trade as a bricklayer.

John Lloyd in the News

An issue of *The Surratt Courier* doesn't seem complete without a few period newspaper articles. Here are two mentioning John Lloyd and the conspirators.

The Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), August 29, 1865
W.D. Wallach, Editor and Proprietor
[Reprinted from *The Surratt Courier*, July 2013]

Visit to Surrattville
Booth and Herold – The Surratts – The Mysterious Closet – Herold’s Game of Bluff
(Correspondent of the *Star*)

Prince George’s County, Maryland, August 28, 1865: I wrote you yesterday from the camp ground at Tolson’s woods. [Note: A Methodist camp ground in what is now the town of Camp Springs, home of Joint Base Andrews and about two miles from the Surratt House.]

Learning that Surrattville, of assassination conspiracy renown, was but about three miles from the camp grounds, we decide to pay a visit there. The country on the route presents the usual features of much of the Prince George’s County lands, a thin gravelly soil, covered with scrub pines. The road is much of the way shaded by trees, making it an agreeable one for a summer’s day ride, but the imagination was busy with pictures of its looks on that bloody night, when Booth and Herold spurred their panting steeds along these gloomy aisles. Did not the cold black silence strike an ominous chill on the breast of the assassin, following upon the glare and brilliancy of the scene just before him at the theatre? Did not the dim glimmer of light through the forest vistas take the color of *blood* to his heated eye balls? Did not those blasted oaks by the road side, with their knobbed arms stretching out humanly assume the shape of pursuers and did he not pause at each hilltop, listening for the patter of following hoofs that might be bringing his fellow conspirators, Payne and Atzerodt, or the officers of justice?

But a single house, and that a dilapidated, apparently untenanted structure, was passed on the way until the cluster of buildings constituting the Surratt premises came in sight. The Surratt farm, either from better soil or better cultivation, presents a somewhat more attractive look than the surrounding poverty-stricken land. The house is a good-sized frame, with front yard, portico and long side porch. The house has a weather-beaten look and appears never to have been painted, but closer inspection shows that at some time it has been primed for paint. Opposite and on the other side of the road are a cluster of farm buildings and others are noticed in the rear of the house, and also a blacksmith’s shop on the road, but all are connected with the Surratt premises and this is Surrattville. On the green before the porch is a long hitching post and half a dozen horses were hitched there as we drove up. The riders were to be seen seated upon the porch, questioning Mr. Lloyd, the lessee of the premises, in regard to all he ever knew, heard or guessed in regard to the Surratt family.

Lloyd will be remembered as a principal witness in the trial of the conspirators, and especially in regard to the carbine business and Mrs. Surratt’s connection therewith. He is a man of considerable native shrewdness and intelligence, evidently as shown by his conversation. The house has not been reopened as a hotel since the assassination, but several parties have made offers to Lloyd for it and if it is not taken by any of them by the 1st of September, he proposes to reopen it himself. A great many people visit the place from feelings of curiosity, and some who, from motives of delicacy, do not like to stop at the house, drive slowly past, devouring it with their eyes.

One gentleman from the city proposed to take his family there to board for the summer.

While we were there a stout old gentleman with an inflamed nose, and dressed in blue homespun rode up to the horse rack threw the reins over the stake with a grunt, lifted his right leg over the saddle with a grunt, dismounted with a grunt, and seated himself on the plank bench of the porch with a grunt and had many questions to ask about Mrs. Surratt and about the daughter, Anna, and about how the counsel fees were paid. Then he looked at the roof of the porch for a minute, and said that the house would be the memorial while a timber stood of the Martyr of

America. We thought he referred to Mr. Lincoln, but it came out presently that he meant Mrs. Surratt. He seemed much dissatisfied with mundane affairs generally, and especially with the fact that there was no whiskey to be had on the premises. Presently he mounted upon his horse with a series of fortissimo grunts and rode away.

The open door from the porch shows what was the tavern barroom—a roughly furnished, unprepossessing looking room. Here it was that John Surratt, riding down frequently at neck-breaking pace from Washington, (Lloyd says he *always* rode at such a pace.) used to get up a game of bluff for the “good of the house.” Surratt, Lloyd says, was quiet in manner, with the exception of his reckless horsemanship. He never heard an oath from him.

In this room Herold, when on that cold night on his way to Thompson’s at Piscataway, to arrange for storing the firearms, (that was afterwards deposited at Lloyd’s), stopped and took a hand at a game of bluff, and while so engaged insisted on having the door open, that he might keep his eye on his horse at the hitching post. This being objected to by the company, he gave a boy a quarter to watch the horse. Frivolous always, Herold even with this mission of damnation devolved upon him, could not resist the temptation to take a hand at a game of cards by the warm fireside. Herold, when seen on this road in those days, was always natty in dress, quite dandyish in fact, and scarcely to be identified with the wretched, dirty, slouching figure in the dock at the Arsenal trial.

The room in which the carbines were concealed is a small apartment, occupied by Mrs. Surratt as a store room, and of which she did not give Lloyd possession when she leased him the premises.

At the time John Surratt made his appearance at the place with the carbines, Lloyd objected to receiving them, saying there was no place on the premises to store them. John Surratt then pointed out a hiding place for them behind the wall of this room, and this was the first knowledge Lloyd had of such a place of concealment.

The distance from Washington (Navy Yard Bridge) to Surrattsville is held to be just ten miles, visitors may like to know.

Burlington Weekly Hawk-eye (Iowa), May 13, 1865, front page
[Originally from *The New York World*]
Excerpt from “The Assassination Plot” article

Preparation for the Act and the Flight

Six weeks before the murder, young John Surratt had taken two splendid repeating carbines to Surrattville, and told John Lloyd to secrete them. The latter made a hole in the wainscoting and suspended them from strings, so that they fell within the plastered room below. On the very afternoon of the murder, Mrs. Surratt was driven to Surrattsville, and she told John Lloyd to have the carbines ready, because they would be called for that night. Harrold [sic] was made quartermaster, and hired the horses. He and Atzeratt [sic] were mounted between 8 o’clock and the time of the murder, and riding about the streets together.

The whole party was prepared for a long ride, as their spurs and gauntlets show. It may have been their design to ride in company to the Lower Potomac, and by their numbers exact subsistence and transportation; but all edifices of murder lack a corner stone. We only know that

Booth ate and talked well during the day; that he never seemed so deeply involved in “oil,” and that there is a hiatus between the supper here and his appearance at Ford’s Theater.

Boasts of Blood

Lloyd, I may interpolate, ordered his wife a few days before the murder to go on a visit to Allen’s Fresh. She says she does not know why she was sent away, but swears that it is so. Harrold [sic] three weeks before the murder visited Port Tobacco, and said that the next time the boys heard of him he would be in Spain; he added that with Spain there was no extradition treaty. He said at Surrattsville that he meant to make a barrel of money or his neck would stretch.

Atzeratt [sic] said that if ever he came to Port Tobacco again, he would be rich enough to buy the whole place.

Wilkes Booth told a friend to go to Ford’s on Friday night and see the best acting in the world.

Postscript

by William P. Binzel

There may be a hidden reason why John Lloyd dispatched his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Mahorney, to visit family in Allen’s Fresh, Maryland, in mid-April 1865. When Mrs. Surratt and Louis Weichmann arrived in Surrattsville on the afternoon of April 14, Lloyd was not at home and neither was Mrs. Lloyd. The person who invited Mrs. Surratt to wait for Lloyd’s return in the front parlor of the house was Lloyd’s sister-in-law, Emma Offutt. The former Emily Frances Mahorney was married to George Washington Offutt. Why was she in Surrattsville while her sister was away? The following letter from the files of James O. Hall may provide the answer:

April 23, 1979

Dear Surratt Society:

The May issue of SOUTHERN LIVING is always a pleasure to receive. But I was doubly pleased to read the article about the Surratt House.

My mother was the Great-niece of John Lloyd. Her youngest brother John A. Petty, married the granddaughter of William Petersen. Not a German tailor but a Swedish Carpenter. (A direct descendent of his lives in D.C. and can substantiate this fact.)

There was a romantic secret to which every member of my mother’s family especially the children were sworn to keep. In advanced years (my mother died at age 96 a few months ago) my mother would not talk about it. I do know the girl[’]s name was “Offutt” – I suspect Emma Offutt as the female character in this drama! Lloyd was allegedly madly in love with her and though she was active in collecting or help to collect guns secreted in the attic of the Surratt house – he sort of took her place so she would not be asked to testify.

My Washington, D.C. grandmother knew Mrs. Surratt. They attended the same Catholic church. Either St. Dominic's or St. Patricks. My grandmother would shake her head and say "they hanged an innocent woman". Then go on to describe the fateful day "like Good Friday in the Bible – darkened clouds etc[.] etc."

Mrs. Surratt was tried by a military court and not a civilian court. This was a serious point of contention.

As a child I used to visit an aunt in Brandywine – Mrs. Angela Petty Berry. We would pass the Surratt house. I am so thankful it has not been demolished for a parking lot! My aunt taught music in the public schools of that area.

Thought this might be of interest.

*Sincerely,
/s/ Ann W. Naylor*

(At the time, Mrs. Naylor lived in Southern Pines, NC.)

The Corn and the Calvary

Reprinted from *The Surratt Courier*, September 1981

John M. Lloyd is well-known by Lincoln assassination scholars as the man who gave the very damaging testimony against his landlady, Mary E. Surratt. Authors often paint the gentleman as the best patron of his tavern, which he ran out of Surratt House following the Surratts' departure to the city. He was also engaged in farming and other enterprises. And, after the war, he was engaged in trying to recoup money that he felt the War Department owed him. From the research files of James O. Hall come the following transcripts from Judge Holt's office files, which are in the National Archives.

United States for the use of Major Day's Cavalry, April 29th, 1865, To John M. Lloyd

To	25 <u>Barrels</u> of corn at \$7.00 per barrel	\$175.00
	Hay and fodder for horses	50.00
	10 Bushels of potatoes at \$1.50 per Bu.	15.00
	2 ½ doz of hens and ducks at \$1.00 each	34.00
	15 lbs of horse shoes at 12 ½ cts. per lb.	9.75
	10 lbs. of horse shoes nails Griffin's No, 1 at 75 cts.	7.50
	1 horse shoes rasp	1.75
	1 Farier's knife	1.50
	1 shoeing hammer	1.00
	1 Farier's pincers	1.50
	1 pc. ¾ in. square Sanderson 6 steel	2.25
	10 lbs. of nail rods at 25 cts.	2.50
	300 lbs. of old Iron at 5 cts. per lb.	15.00
	8 lbs. of toe cork steel at 25 cts. per lb.	2.00

3 carriage bridles at \$2.50 each	7.50
3 carriage reines	5.00
3 carriage britching	5.00
1 Brown horse	50.00
1 Demijon	1.75
2 Leather Halter New	<u>4.00</u>
	\$392.00

And next comes the following letter from John M. Lloyd:

Hon Secretary of War

Dear Sir

I take this method of placing before you for your Honorable consideration my petition for pay for the losses that I have sustained in consequence of my imprisonment as a witness in the conspiracy trials, and the grounds on which I rely for the justness of my claims.

After giving to Col. Wells all the information I possessed, I then gave to Mr. Wm. P. Wood the route by which I was satisfied Booth and Herold would try and make their escape and told him in what way he would do to catch them. That was to take a steamer with a body of cavalry and proceed to Mathias Point or that neighborhood and strike the road leading to Richmond, where I felt sure they would be found; the same day that I was sent to Washington, Mr. Wood sent dispatches I presume to Col. Baker who proceeded as I stated to Mr. Wood, the result of which was the capture of Booth & Herold in about two days from the time Col. Baker got the information from Mr. Wood.

I will state, sir, that I was assured that if I made a full statement my property would be protected which was just the reverse. After I made my statement Maj. Day's Cavalry amounting to three or four hundred came down and received orders to take whatever they wanted. The consequence was they swept everything edible [sic] for man or beast that was about the premises. Not satisfied with that, they would take groceries from the family, and when they left they carried everything away they fancied, a list of which I have made out for the use of Maj. Day's Cavalry which can be certified to under oath by persons that was here at the time.

I have suffered a great loss in my crops for the year, the loss of which I estimate at least \$1200.00. The Hotel has been closed ever since the 1st of May at a loss of \$100 per month also a Buggy and harness that was taken to Bryantown and never returned. Bill enclosed of Maj. Day's

\$300.00
40.00
<u>392.00</u>
\$1982.00

I am now, Sir, completely ruined and am liable to be sold out for rent at the discretion of my landlord with no friend to assist me in my distress. I know of no other recourse than to rely upon the magnanimity of the government for redress of my grievances, believing that you will do

justice to me in the premises I submit the whole case to you, satisfied with whatever amount you may think proper to decide upon.

I remain your obt. servant

John M. Lloyd

Surrattsville

Prince George's County Maryland

August 3rd, 1865

Notary papers witnessed by Andrew Kaldenbach and Nelson Lyles (coloured) are also attached, signed by John A. Pyles, J.P.

A transmittal dated Sept. 22nd, 1865, is sent from Judge Holt to Maj. Thos. E. Day asking for a report on the matter. The following statement by Maj. Day is dated Dec. 23rd, 1865, and accompanied by a receipt to Mrs. Lloyd for 25 bushels of corn.

Respectfully returned to Hon. J. Holt with the following report. It was twenty-five bushels of corn taken. The balance of the account as here stated is false and dishonest. Not an article that he mentions was taken to my knowledge. What would cavalry do with 300 lbs. of old Iron. What did we want with carriage harness? The whole is trumped up and Lloyd perjures himself when he swears to it. At the time of the alleged taking Lloyd was in prison at Washington. How does he know who took the food or whether they were taken at all. Instead of being paid for anything he should be sent to keep Mrs. Surratt company.

Thomas E. Day

Major 6th W. Va. Cav.