

Reward for the capture of Booth. Volume 1272, Report no. 99 1865/1866

Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1865/1866

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REWARD FOR THE CAPTURE OF BOOTH.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 801.]

JULY 24, 1866.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Hotchkiss, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee of Claims, pursuant to the resolution of the House of Representatives of May 7, 1866, which was in these words—

On motion of Mr. Kelley,

Resolved, That the Committee of Claims be instructed to inquire into the fairness and propriety of the distribution of the rewards offered for the arrest of Jefferson Davis and the conspirators to murder President Lincoln.

submit the following report:

Your committee have carefully considered the claims of the parties presenting evidence to them, or as to the merits of whose claims they have been able to procure evidence, and the terms of the several offers of reward, and the circumstances under which they were made, and they respectfully report, that, in their judgment, a liberal construction of such offers authorizes the award of five thousand dollars to the parties engaged in the arrest of Payne, who attempted the assasination of the Secretary of State, which sum is, in the opinion of the committee, amply sufficient to compensate the parties who effected such arrest for the time and efforts devoted to that end. The circumstances attending such

arrest were, to state them briefly, as follows: On Saturday night, the 15th April, 1866, Susan Mahony, now Susan Jackson, a colored servant girl of Mrs. Surratt, by feigning sleep, overheard disclosures and witnessed transactions, at Mrs. Surratt's house, showing that the inmates of, and the visitors at, that house were connected with the assassination On the next day she made haste to communicate these facts to her aunt, Mary Ann Griffin, a colored woman of this city in the employ of John H. Kimball. This woman on the next day communicated the same to Mr. Kimball, who acted upon this information. These colored women were somewhat tardy in their movements, but it should be borne in mind that they were under the restraints incident to their life-long position of servitude and assumed inferiority; and fears for their personal safety, with a certain prospect of loss of place and employment, to say nothing of persecution in case they should be suspected of being informers against their employers. Under these circumstances the committee regard their conduct as highly commendable, and their acts as coming within the spirit and letter of the offers of reward for the arrest of Payne.

It has been further shown to the committee that the said Kimball, immediately upon receiving the aforesaid information, started for General Augur's headquarters; that on the way he was joined by Mr. P. M. Clark, who was making voluntary efforts to discover the assassins; that the two were instrumental

in setting the force in motion for taking possession of the Surratt house.

The committee, therefore, regard the said Kimball and Clark as parties to the proceedings which, as hereinafter shown, resulted in the capture of Payne.

Immediately upon the examination of Kimball, at General Augur's head-quarters, a force of five detectives, commanded by Major H. W. Smith, took possession of Mrs. Surratt's house, and in a short time thereafter Payne came there and fell into their hands.

And the committee further report that in their opinion the sum to be awarded should be distributed as follows:

To Major H. W, Smith who had charge of, and commanded the force,

the sum of	\$1,000
Richard C. Morgan, detective	500
Eli Devore, detective	500
Charles H. Rosch, detective	500
Thomas Sampson, detective	500
William M. Wermerskirch, detective	500
John H. Kimball, citizen	500
P. M. Clark, citizen	500
Susan Jackson, colored	250
Mary Ann Griffin	250

The committee further report that the arrest of Atzerodt, one of the conspirators, for whom a reward of twenty-five thousand dollars was offered, was effected by a force sent out by Major Enos R. Artman, of the 213th Pennsylvania volunteers, then in command at the military post at Monocacy Junction, Maryland; that such arrest was made on the 20th of April, 1865; that the information which led to such arrest was furnished by James W. Purdam, a citizen of Maryland, who was also one of the party that made the arrest, and the men who made the arrest belonged to the 1st Delaware cavalry, and were under the immediate charge and command of Sergeant Zachariah W. Gemmill. Major Artman was acting in a military capacity, and was responsible for the inception, planning, execution, and result of the enterprise; and had he shown a want of skill, energy, fidelity, or discretion, the consequences to him would have been disastrous. It is therefore submitted, that he is entitled to much greater consideration than the subordinates who merely executed his orders, however much fidelity they may have shown, but who were only bound to obey orders, and were not responsible for results.

The same reasoning is applicable to the case of Sergeant Gemmill.

Citizen Purdham is, in the opinion of the committee, entitled to a liberal share of the reward for his zeal, energy, and fidelity in procuring information, disclosing the facts, tracing the culprit to his hiding place, and aiding in his arrest.

And the committee would recommend that the reward for the arrest of Atzerodt be distributed as follows:

To Major Enos R. Artman Sergeant Zachariah W.Gemmill. Citizen James W. Purdham Private Christopher Ross. David H. Barker.	5,000 0 3,000 0 1,166 6	00 00 37
Albert Bendee Samuel J. Williams George W. Young. James Longacre.	1, 166 6 1, 166 6 1, 166 6	57 56

25,000 00

75,000

The committee further report that the expedition which resulted in the capture of Booth and Herold was planned and directed by Colonel (now General) Lafayette C. Baker, then a detective officer of the War Department; the force consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Everton J. Conger, Lieutenant Luther B. Baker, then in the detective service, Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty, and twenty-six privates of the 16th New York cavalry.

And the committee further report that Major James R. O'Beirne, then provost marshal of the District of Columbia, General H. H. Wells, then under General Augur's command, George Cottingham and Alexander Lovett, detectives, and Samuel H. Beckwith, a telegraph operator, rendered important service leading to the arrest of Booth and Herold, and the committee regard them as coming

within the terms of the offer of rewards.

The committee do not regard the capture of Booth and Herold as purely military service, and do not feel bound to award compensation to mere rank, without regard to the extent and merit of the service performed, but look to the rank and position of the officers engaged in such service as evidence of the opportunity afforded them and the duty imposed upon them to exercise greater care, skill, and diligence than persons in a subordinate position.

And the committee further report, after a careful consideration of the evidence presented to them of the services of the respective parties engaged in the capture of Booth and Herold, in their opinion, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars reward for the capture of said Booth and Herold should be distributed

To Lafayette C. Baker, chief detective...... \$17,500

as follows:

10 Larayette C. Daker, chief detective	Ψ1.,000
To Everton J. Conger	17, 500
To Luther B. Baker	5,000
To James R. O'Beirne	2,000
To H. H. Wells	1,500
To George Cottingham	1, 500
To Alexander Lovett	1,000
To Samuel H. Beckwith	500
To Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty, 16th New York cavalry	2,500
To Sergeant Boston Corbett, 16th New York cavalry; Sergeant An-	
drew Wendell, 16th New York cavalry; Corporal Charles Zimmer,	
16th New York cavalry; Corporal Michael Uniac, 16th New York	
cavalry; Corporal John Winter, 16th New York cavalry; Corporal	
Herman Newgarten, 16th New York cavalry; Corporal John Walz,	
16th New York cavalry; Corporal Oliver Lonpay, 16th New York	
cavalry; Corporal Michael Hormsby, 16th New York cavalry;	
Private John Myers, 16th New York cavalry; Private John Ryan,	
16th New York cavalry; Private William Byrne, 16th New York	
cavalry; Private Philip Hoyt, 16th New York cavalry; Private	
Martin Kelley, 16th New York cavalry; Private Henry Putnam,	
16th New York cavalry; Private Frank McDaniel, 16th New York	
cavalry; Private Lewis Savage, 16th New York cavalry; Private	
Abraham Genay, 16th New York cavalry; Private Emery Parady,	
16th New York cavalry; Private David Baker, 16th New York	
cavalry; Private William McQuade, 16th New York cavalry; Private	
John Millington, 16th New York cavalry; Private Frederick Deitz,	
16th New York cavalry; Private John A. Singer, 16th New York	
cavalry; Private Carl Steinbrugge, 16th New York cavalry; Private	06 000
Joseph Zisgen, 16th New York cavalry, one thousand dollars each	26,000

The committee regret that the terms of the offers of reward preclude their recommending awards to other parties engaged in the capture of Mudd, O'Laughlin, and other conspirators; and they would particularly notice and commend the arduous and meritorious services rendered by Marshal McPhail, of Baltimore.

And the committee further report that no objection has been presented to them to the distribution of the reward for the capture of Jefferson Davis, recommended by the commission appointed by the War Department, they therefore recommend the adoption of the same, as follows:

Lieutenant Colonel B. D. Pritchard	\$10,000	0Ò
Captain John C. Hathaway	729	
Captain Charles C. Hudson	729	60
First Lieutenant Lauren H. Ripley	555	88
First Lieutenant John A. Palmer	555	-
First Lieutenant Henry S. Boutell	555	
First Lieutenant Herbert A. Bachus	555	
First Lieutenant Silas J. Stauber	555	
First Lieutenant Charles W. Fisk	555	
First Lieutenant T. H. B. Hazelton	555	
Second Lieutenant Hiram D. Treat	555	
Second Lieutenant John Bennett	555	
Second Lieutenant Chaucla M. Bickford	555	-
Second Lieutenant Lorenzo T. Southworth	555	
Second Lieutenant Alfred B. Purinton	555	
Second Lieutenant Leonard C. Remmington	555 555	
Second Lieutenant Samuel F. Murpney	555	
Second Lieutenant Samuel F. Murphey. Adjutant Julian G. Dickinson. Regimental Quartermaster Perry J. Davis.	666	
Regimental Quartermaster Perry J. Davis	660	
Regimental Commissary John S. Pugsley Assistant Surgeon John A. Grooves, (98th Illinois mounted inf'y)	660	
Assistant Surgeon John A. Grooves, (98th Illinois mounted int'y)	555	
Sergeant Major Fitz E. Stevens	271	
Hospital Steward Amos Knight	239	
First Sorgoout Others F. Conding commons A	229	
Commissary Sergeant Harlan P. Dunning. First Sergeant John W. Bradner, company A. First Sergeant John W. Bradner, company B. First Sergeant John H. Shaamakar, amount G.	$250 \\ 250$	
First Sergeant John W. Drauner, company D		15
First Sergeant John H. Shoemaker, company C	$\frac{250}{250}$	
First Sergeant Stanlay I Nichola company E	$\frac{250}{250}$	
First Sergeant Stanley L. Nichols, company F. First Sergeant Francis Maguire, company G. First Sergeant George Hall, company H.	$\frac{250}{250}$	
First Sergeant Coorge Hall company U	$\frac{250}{250}$	
First Sergeant E. F. Price, company I	250 250	
First Sergeant George Dovernort, company K	250 250	
First Sergeant Wesley D. Pond. company M.	250	
First Sergeant George Davenport, company K First Sergeant Wesley D. Pond, company M Sergeant B. Frank Gooding, company A	208	
Sergeant Thomas Davis company A	208	
Sergeant Thomas Davis, company A. Sergeant George H. Simmons, company A.	208	
Serveant Thomas Riley company A	208	
Sergeant Thomas Riley, company A. Sergeant George Miles, company A.	208	
Sergeant Rezin Wright company A	208	
Sergeant Rezin Wright, company A Sergeant Wakeman L. Grant, company B Sergeant Marrie Bross company B	208	
Sergeant Morris Brass, company B	208	
Sergeant Abel A Braley, company B	208	
Sergeant Wakeman L. Grant, company B Sergeant Morris Brass, company B Sergeant Abel A. Braley, company B Sergeant Simon Voght, company B Sergeant Alondo E. Ford, company B Sergeant Charles L. Leathers, company C Sergeant Thomas D. Smead, company C	208	
Sergeant Alondo E. Ford, company B	208	
Sergeant Charles L. Leathers, company C	208	
Sergeant Thomas D. Smead, company C.	208	
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Sergeant	Edward W. Parker, company D	\$208	45
Sergeant	Robert W. Morris, company D	208	45
Sergeant	David B. Green, company E	208	45
Sergeant	William F. Babcock, company E	208	45
Sergeant	George A. Bullard, company E	208	45
Sergeant	George A. Bullard, company E	208	45
Sergeant	Benjamin S. Vest	208	45
Sergeant	Benjamin S. Vest	208	45
Sergeant	Thomas Gorman, company F	208	45
Sergeant	Howard A. Dickerson, company F	208	45
Sergeant	John C. Nichols, company G	208	45
Sergeant	Benjamin F. Archer, company G	208	45
Sergeant	Jacob N. Trask, company G	208	45
Sergeant	James T. Obrien, company G	208	45
Sergeant	John Cavanaugh, company G	208	45
Sergeant	Jeremiah P. Craig, company G	208	
Sergeant	William H. Palmateer, company G	208	45
Sergeant	Horace B. Warner, company H	208	45
Sergeant	Solomon Wightman, company H	208	45
Sergeant	Samuel Van Etten, company H	208	45
Sergeant	Martin Horan, company H	208	45
Sergeant	Daniel O'Crotty, company H	208	45
Sergeant	Emery A. Miller, company I	208	45
Sergeant	Lester P. Bates, company I	208	45
Sergeant	Ansel Adams, company K	208	45
Sergeant	George R. Vantine, company K	208	45
Sergeant	Andrew Snook, company K	208	46
Sergeant	Joseph Hofmaster, company L	208	45
Sergeant	John F. Beebe, company L	208	46
Sergeant	Levi Tuttle, company L	208	45
Sergeant	Gurdon N. Kenyon, company L	208	45
Sergeant	James H. Holdsworth, company L	208	48
Sergeant	Benjamin K. Colf, company L	208	45
Sergeant	Alonzo C. Burnham, company L	208	4.5
Sergeant	Edwin Pearce, company M	208	45
Sergeant	George W. Collins, company M	208	46
Sergeant	Roland Osgood, company M	208	45
Sergeant	Roland Osgood, company M	208	45
Corporal	Darwin Dunning, company A	187	61
Corporal	William P. Smith, company A	187	61
Corporal	Robert L. Reynolds, company A	187	61
Corporal	Lyman J. Russell, company A. William Crow, company B	187	61
Corporal	William Crow, company B	187	61
Corporal	John F. Shurburn, company B	187	61
Corporal	Chester Barber, company B	187	61
Corporal	C. F. Parker, company B	187	
Corporal	Nelson B. Tuttle, company B	187	61
Corporal	A. W. Kenney, company B	187	
Corporal	Baxter B. Bennett, company B	187	61
Corporal	Abram Sebring, company C	187	61
Corporal	Charles Burrell, company C	187	
Corporal	Reuben Palmerton, company C	187	
Corporal	David Q. Curry, company C	187	
Corporal	George M. Munger, company C	187	
Corporal	James Place, Company D	187	
	Ephraim Truesdell, company D	187	61

Corporal William C. Stiff, company E	\$187	61
Corporal William H. Crittenden, company E Corporal John Hines, company E	187	61
Corporol John Hines, company E	187	61
Corporal Dewitt C. Carr. company E	187	61
Corporal Charles W. Tyler, company E	187	61
Corporal James Peeler, company E	187	
Corporal Dewitt C. Cobb, company F	187	
Corporal Dewitt C. Cobb, company F	187	-
Corporal Adam Kline, company F	187	
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Corporal George Myers, company G	187	
Corporal Leander B. Shaw, company G	187	
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Corporal William McCune, company H	187	
Corporal Daniel P. Welton, company H	187	
Corporal Charles Blackall, company H	187	
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Corporal Leander Van Kleck, company K	187	
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Corporal Charles Cabb company K	187	
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Corneral Charles C. Marsh, company L.	187	
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Corporal Henry Shanahan, company M	187	61
Corporal Simeon Huff, company M	187	61
Corporal Samuel Wilson, company M	187	61
Corporal Elias M. Engling, company M	187	61
Corporal John E. Rankin, company M	187	61
Farrier Gurley B. Chase, company C	187	61
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Farrier Nathaniel Rix, company E	187	
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Private William Balon, company A	166	
Private James B. Boyle, company A	166	
Private Daniel C. Blinn, company A	166	
Private John Baty, company A	166	
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Private	Francis E Thompson, company D	166	76
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Private	William J. Frazer, company E.	166	76
Private	John E. Brown, company E	166	76
Private	John G. Brindle, company E	166	76
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Private	Edwin Laray, company E	166	76
Private	Peter Legarry, company E	166	66
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Private	James Merrick, company E	166	
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Private	Joseph Riley, company E	\$166	76
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Private	Walter S. Mead, company F	166	76
Private	Walter S. Mead, company F	166	76
Private	William Brigham, company G	166	76
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Private	Stephen Cunningham, company G	166	
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Private	Daniel Graham, company G		76
Private	Lucius O. Bates, company H	166	
Private	Henry M. Brown, company H.		76
Private	Abel H. Berry, company H	166	
rivate	Benjamin Bump, company H	166	
Private	Milo D. Cooper, company H H. Rep. Com. 99—2		. •
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And the committee further report that, in their opinion, provision should be made to guard against the persons entitled to awards herein recommended being defrauded of their rights by pretended agents, assignees, or extortioners.

The committee have prepared a bill, which accompanies this report, in accordance with the views herein set forth; and they respectfully recommend its

passage.

G. W. HOTCHKISS. H. D. WASHBURN. HAMILTON WARD. A. A. BARKER.

I agree that the report may be made without committing myself.

ANTHONY THORNTON.
C. DELANO.