

1822 - Junius Brutus Booth and Mary Ann Holmes settle in Harford County. Booth leases 150 acres about 2.8 miles east of Bel Air. The tract was next to a forest the locals called "The Big Woods." Booth's father, Richard, arrives from England the same year and derisively calls his son's farm "Robinson Crusoe's Island."



COURTESY JUNIUS B. BOOTH SOCIETY

The cabin on the family homestead near Bel Air where John Wilkes Booth and seven of his nine siblings were born between 1823 and his own birth in 1838.

1838 - John Wilkes Booth is born on May 10, 1838, in a cabin on the Booth homestead that his father bought and moved from a neighboring farm. He was the ninth of the 10 children of Junius Brutus and Mary Ann Holmes Booth.

1845-52 - The Booth family begins dividing time between a home in Baltimore and the farm in Harford County. During this period John Wilkes Booth attends Bel Air Academy, Milton Academy, a boarding school in Cockeysville, and St. Timothy Hall, a military boarding school in Catonsville.

1851-52 - Tudor Hall, named by another of the Booth children, Asia, is constructed on the Bel Air farm. Junius Brutus Booth dies near Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 30, 1852 and never saw the finished home.

1853-56 - John Wilkes Booth lives at Tudor Hall, as he and his mother attempt to farm their property, which has grown to 180 acres. By late 1856, however, the family gives up farming and scatters, and John Wilkes begins his acting career.

1857 - "John Booth" takes out two classified ads in The Southern Aegis in Bel Air, running July 18 and 25 and Aug. 1 and 8, one to sell "two valuable horses" and the other to rent "The splendid and well-known residence of the late J.B. Booth..." The farm was not rented at that time, however, and would not be for several years.

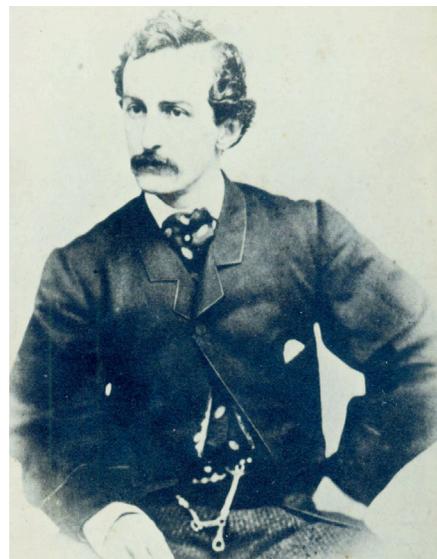


ALLAN VOUGHT | AEGIS STAFF

The Booth family home, Tudor Hall, was completed in 1852 and has received several additions and renovations. The home and 8.3 surrounding acres have been owned by Harford County since 2006.

1861 - Booth is believed to have spent several weeks in Bel Air, living at the Eagle Hotel. During July, a detachment of troops from Pennsylvania entered Bel Air in search of weapons and pro-Confederate agents. Booth, who was in contact with several friends who were local rebel sympathizers and plotters, spends time hiding in the woods near Tudor Hall during the siege.

1862 - Booth again returned to Tudor Hall in the summer, the off-season for the theater.



COURTESY OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY

John Wilkes Booth is shown in an undated photograph.

1864 - There are numerous accounts that Booth spent several weeks at Tudor Hall in the fall and may have been trying to recruit some of his local acquaintances to his conspiracy to kidnap President Abraham Lincoln, which he is said to have talked openly about one night at Cook's Tavern near Pylesville.

1865 - Booth shoots Lincoln inside Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., on the night of April 14. Lincoln dies the following morning. Booth flees and is shot to death by a soldier on a farm near Port Royal, Va., on April 26.

1869 - Booth is buried in Baltimore's Green Mount Cemetery after his remains are released to his family by the federal government. During the next decade, the remains of three of his brothers and sisters, who died prior to his birth, are disinterred at Tudor Hall and buried with him in Green Mount. Most of the Booth family furniture still stored on the Harford County property is sold at public auction. Siblings Edwin, Rosalie and Joseph Booth make their final visits to Tudor Hall.

1878 - Mary Ann Holmes Booth sells Tudor Hall and its surrounding land to Samuel Kyle, whose wife, Ella Harwood Kyle Mahoney, lives on the property until her death in 1848.

2006 - After a succession of private owners, some of whom sold off parts of the property, Harford County buys Tudor Hall and 8.3 acres for \$810,000.