



Nora Titone.

-- On --

""My Thoughts be Bloody". The Bitter Rivalry Between Edwin and John Wilkes Booth "

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The Civil War Roundtable of Chicago
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by: Bruce Allardice



On the night of April 14th, 1865, actor John Wilkes Booth shot and killed President Abraham Lincoln. Historians have largely failed to reconstruct the exact sequence of events of the "Booth Murder Conspiracy." Similarly, the assassin's life has remained something of a mystery, despite his status as one of America's best-known actors, second only to his brother Edwin Booth. What led this handsome, athletic "ladies man" to commit the "Crime of the Century"?

On October 14th, Nora Titone will explain the surprising origins of her Booth research project, tell the epic story of the actor brothers, and explore the tangled relationship these two sons shared with their famous father, British Shakespearean star Junius Brutus Booth.

Nora Titone studied 19th-century American history at Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley. She later worked as a research assistant to Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin as Goodwin wrote her groundbreaking 2005 portrait of Lincoln and his Cabinet, [Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln](#). While working for Doris Goodwin, Titone discovered a rare and extraordinary collection of private Booth family diaries, letters and papers that inspired her to write [My Thoughts Be Bloody: The Bitter Rivalry of Edwin and John Wilkes Booth that Led to an American Tragedy](#).

Titone has discussed her book on NPR and C-SPAN, and been a guest speaker at Ford's Theater, the National Archives, the Harvard Club of Boston, and the New York Public Library, among other venues. She is delighted to be making her first visit to a Civil War Round Table