

May 16 William Binzel – “Innocent or Guilty – Mary Surratt & the Lincoln Assassination”

In 1865, Mrs. Surratt was convicted as a conspirator in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and was hanged, becoming the first woman ever to be executed by the federal government. The controversy over it remains to this day. Who was Mary Surratt? Why was she charged as a conspirator? Was she innocent or guilty?



About our Speaker:

William P. Binzel is a native of southwestern Ohio who has resided in the Washington, DC area for more than forty years. A retired attorney, he spent twelve years on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, eleven years in the financial services sector with MasterCard International, and ten years as general counsel and executive vice president of an educational nonprofit foundation focused on financial literacy. His undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin is in U.S. History. A life-long student of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, and the Lincoln assassination, Bill is also vice president of the Civil War Roundtable of the District of Columbia and of the Surratt Society (an organization that supports research into Lincoln’s death and related topics); a contributor of articles to *The Surratt Courier*; a docent at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD; and a narrator of the Surratt Society’s extensive tour of the twelve-day escape route of John Wilkes Booth from Ford’s Theatre to the Garrett’s farm in Caroline County, VA.