



## *Lincoln's Scout: The Diary of Horatio Cooke Soldier, Spy, Escape Artist, Magician*

Our featured speaker shares an incredible tale of Civil War Union soldier Captain Horatio (Harry) Green Cooke, commissioned by President Lincoln as a "Lincoln Special Scout" in 1863.

Lincoln's Special Scouts were an elite group formed two (2) years before the US Secret Service, taking on the most dangerous missions during the Civil War.

Cooke, a professional magician, performed a rope escape trick for Lincoln, leading Lincoln to state, "*The Johnnies would have to go some way to hold you if you should fall into their hands.*" These words would prove prophetic, as Cooke would later be taken prisoner by Mosby's Guerillas, leading Cooke to have to attempt the most dangerous escape of his life to save his own life as well as his men's.

After the war, Cooke would personally witness the assassination of President Lincoln. Cooke himself would later survive being shot by a lunatic and then go on to become America's first performing escape artist, lead a "Spiritualism De-Bunking" campaign, and much later become a mentor to a young man named Harry Houdini. Cooke was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Fast-forward to 1981, when the author, a young magician himself, meets Cooke's only surviving daughter, Clara Louise Wasem, while he is performing a magic show! Clara then hands over her father's scrapbook and diary and asks that his story be told one day.



Mark R. Cannon

Our presenter and author, Mark Cannon, is a husband and father of two. Professionally, he has been a cruise ship magician and an escape artist consultant for numerous television programs and many of the world's famous magicians. He served as an airborne law enforcement sergeant-pilot for 36 years. An avid adventurer, he has traveled to over (70) seventy countries, including all seven continents. His interests include back-country flying, baseball, magic, the "Great Outdoors," and American history. He received the 2006 Leslie P. Guest M-U-M Award of Excellence from the Society of American Magicians for his literary work on "Harry Cooke, American Wizard."