

The Secretary of the Elks Lodge, Decorah, Iowa reported in January <sup>1921</sup> that George E. Smith had been a member there in 1903 and had moved to Milwaukee. He stated that George Smith had a brother by the name of W. R. Smith at Warsaw, Wisc. Later wiring W. R. Smith, George E. Smith was located and was interviewed at Dearborn February 8, 1921. At this interview Mr. Smith stated that he had met David E. George in El Reno in <sup>1901</sup> and got quite interested in him as he seemed to be much different than the average man one met. Smith says he loaned George money several times and altogether possibly let him have \$150.00; that in return George was to make a will in favor of Anna Smith, George Smith's wife. Smith claims that he thought George had considerable property up 'till the time of his death. He says that George always talked of the farm he owned and the insurance he had and other <sup>assets</sup>, Smith says he received a wire from George a few days before the assassination asking for money and that he, (Smith), sent him \$25.00. That after the suicide Penniman notified him by wire to come to Enid and that when he arrived in Enid he began at once looking into the affairs of the dead man to see just what his property consisted of. <sup>Smith says that</sup> Mr. ~~Bates~~ said he went on to El Reno, saw some of his friends there and found that all of George's estate was a matter of his own imagination. Mr. Smith

claims that he had never had any conversation with George that would lead him to believe that he was John Wilkes Booth and that no such idea had ever occurred to him, (Smith), until after Mrs. Harper stated that George had made such a confession to her. Smith claims that Penniman and he talked over the proposition of exhibiting the body and thought they could make a fortune doing that very thing. When he found that such couldn't be done and learned that there was no estate he thought that he had wasted enough money on old George and decided to go home. Smith says there was nothing mysterious about his actions at the time and that any one who had been very much interested in actually getting his story could have easily made connections.