

Slayer of Lincoln Lived Long After Killing, Says Niece

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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 21.

—John Wilkes Booth escaped.

This was admitted here today by his niece, Blanche Booth, breaking the 60-year silence of the Booth family regarding the fate of Abraham Lincoln's slayer.

In an interview given exclusively to the Minneapolis Daily Star and International News Service, Miss Booth refuted the statement made on Feb. 17, by Edward Harper Sampson, of Moline, Ill., one of the guards supposed to have killed Booth, that with his death the secret of the burial place of Booth's body would be lost. She believes that Sampson knew that Booth was not killed by his pursuers.

FOUGHT INTERVIEWERS

After fighting off interviewers for years, Miss Booth settled a controversy that has raged for years since it was announced that Booth was killed in a barn on the Garrett plantation near Bowling Green, Va.

"Wilkes Booth met his mother a year after the assassination and told her all about the plot, its execution and his carefully planned escape," Miss Booth said. "They met in San Francisco after he had gone from Canada to Mexico and had arranged for a meeting there. She repeatedly told members of the family that she had seen her son and that he had told her all about it."

ACTED WITH UNCLE

Miss Booth was for a considerable period a member of the company of her uncle, Edwin Booth.

She has lived for many years in Minneapolis and was out of touch with other members of the family until the recent visit of a relative who continues to follow the stage tradition.

Here are the high lights of her amazing interview:

John Wilkes Booth lived 38 years after the death of Lincoln and his own supposed death and died by his own hand in 1903 at Enid, Okla., at the age of 65.

He revealed his identity twice, once when he believed he was dying and once on his death bed.

PHOTOS IDENTIFIED

He produced a photograph proving his identity which was identified by Edwin Booth and Joseph Jefferson.

He left behind him a sworn statement declaring that Andrew

Johnson, vice-president, who succeeded Lincoln, not only suggested the crime but arranged for his escape.

"The man killed in the barn on the Garrett plantation near Bowling Green, Va., was named Ruddy," Miss Booth declared. "Booth had escaped from the Garrett plantation nearly five hours earlier."

At the time of his death, Booth was known as David E. George, and he pointed out physical characteristics that answered the description of Booth. The body has been embalmed so that it will remain intact for 100 years. It was examined in 1922, 19 years after his death, according to the story Miss Booth has admitted is true.

CONFESSED IDENTITY

Finis L. Bates, probably the greatest authority on the subject, knew John Wilkes Booth as John St. Helen at Grand Berry, Texas. It was there, when Booth was deathly ill, that he confessed to Bates his true identity, and presented him with a tintype which was later identified.

Later, according to Blanche Booth, Dr. Clarence True Wilson, retired lobbyist for the Methodist Episcopal church in Washington, D. C., spent years in going over records pertaining to the death.

His conclusion, as will soon be published in a volume of his own, is that secret service guards under Colonel Baker missed their man at the Garrett barn and that David E. George, who died in Enid, Okla., was the true assassin of Lincoln.

At the present time one of the foremost capitalists of the United States, Judge Elbert H. Gary, president of the United States Steel Corporation, is devoting his spare time to hounding down the mystery that has surrounded Booth's death, Miss Booth said.