

In re Identification of J. Wilkes Booth

There are several weak links in the matter which Mr. Black is careful to ignore. One is the undoubted fact that the body turned over to Booth's relatives had two horseman's boots on, while the boot cut from Booth's leg by Dr. Knudd was at that very time in a foot museum in Washington and it is well substantiated that Booth was never able to wear a boot subsequently. The identification of the body & its burial by relatives proves nothing except one thing - that in future Booth would be safe - a splendid alibi had been established - I do not pretend to know whether Booth escaped or was killed, but there was every possible reason to claim that he had been killed. In the state of feeling then prevalent - it is hard to say what the result might not have been had it been certain that Booth got

away. At all events many of the  
old inhabitants of that part of the  
county covered by Booth after the murder  
always claimed - and some still  
living claim it yet - that Booth  
did get away and that another  
man somewhat resembling him  
except that he was not so dark,  
was killed - Corbett who fired the shot  
in defiance of orders would of course  
claim it was Booth - A nice mess he  
would have been in - Pulling the wrong  
man - As for Herold not making any  
claim that it was not Booth - if he had  
a spark of manhood in his make up  
he would have done all he could  
to help his Co. conspirator make his getaway  
and would either say nothing or that Booth  
was the dead man - My memory is pretty good  
if I am fast



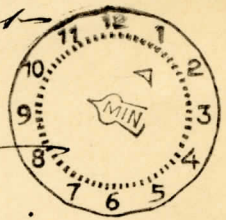
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