

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Sunday, January 18, 1903

-WILKES BOOTH A SUICIDE-

WEALTHY MAN CLAIMS TO BE LINCOLN'S ASSASSIN

-CASE SHROUDED IN MYSTERY-

Enid, Okla. January 17th, 1903, Special - David E. George, a wealthy resident of the Territory, who committed suicide here, announced himself on his death bed to be John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln. He stated that he had successfully evaded the Officers after shooting him and had since remained incognito.

His statement caused a sensation and an investigation was made. Surgeons examined the body and stated the man to be of the age Booth would be at this time and announced that his leg was broken in the same place and in the same manner as that of Booth after jumping from the President's Box at Ford's Theatre, after the assassination.

All the time George has received money regular from unknown sources and telegrams arriving yesterday and today asked that the body be held for identification. It is claimed that one telegram came from the address - George E. Smith, Colfax, Iowa," the same source as the mysterious money remittances. Smith is unknown to anyone in Oklahoma. Upon his arrival in Enid today, he commanded that no other person be allowed to view the remains and promised to return for the body later. Mr. Smith was asked if Mr. George had ever confided any of his life's history to him, to which he answered:-

"Well, yes, to some extent. He has had a past and had told me of having killed a man in Texas for which crime I think he has been acquitted. He may be Booth, I do not know."

George committed suicide in the Grand Avenue Hotel by taking poison. He previously attempted suicide in El Reno. A letter found in his pocket is addressed - "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" and sets aside a former will which he made, although its contents are not known.

He was worth \$30,000.00, owning property in El Reno, Indian Territory and Dallas, Texas, and a lease on 1600 acres in Indian Territory. He carried \$5000.00 insurance, No reason for his suicide is known.

George maintained to his attendants that he was Booth and his general appearance closely resembles that of the murderer of Lincoln. History states that Booth was killed in a Virginia Barn and that his remains were burned with the building.
