

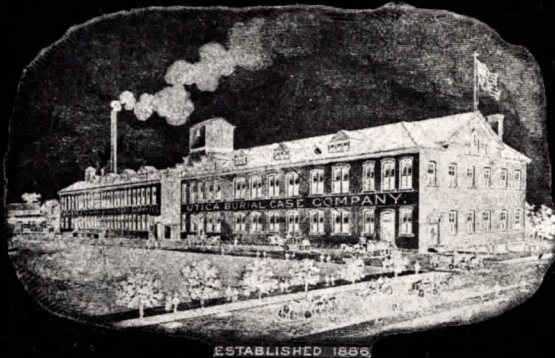
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THE STORY OF A MUMMY WITH A HISTORY.

Wonderful Experiences of an Undertaker in the Southwest Who Embalmed and Now Has the Body of a Man Who Claimed That he was John Wilkes Booth, Assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

By W. B. Penniman, Copyright, 1909.

"I explained to the Vice-President that to kill the President meant certain death to me, and that I had just been arrested by the guard as I attempted to enter the city, and that it would be impossible for me to escape through the military lines, but upon being assured that he would arrange for my escape, I replied:

"Under these conditions I will dare to strike the blow for the vanquished South and whose people I love."

Mr. Johnson, according to the story told by St. Helen, arranged his escape and told him that the guard would be called in upon order of Gen. C. C. Augur, but if there should be guards on the bridge as he was making his escape, he should use the pass-word "T. B." or "T. B. Road," which, according to pre-arrangement, opened the gates and permitted him to pass. Then followed the tragedy and the escape, which St. Helen described as follows to Mr. Bates:

"I was joined by Herold, and together we went to the home of Mr. Cox, who refused to admit us, but turned us over to his overseer, a man about my size, named Roby or Ruddy, who promised to deliver us to Col. Moseby's command for a consideration. This journey comprised a distance from the Potomac to the Rappahannock rivers, and was made in the guise of an old negro moving, while I lay flat on the bottom of the wagon, concealed by the furniture and bedding. In the hurry to get me out of the wagon I lost a number of letters, my diary and, I think, a picture of my sister. I asked Ruddy, as we will call him, to go back to the wagon, if they were there and bring

them to me at Garret's, where the soldiers had arranged to take me. Before separating, it was understood that Herold and Ruddy should go to Bowling Green, Va., that afternoon by a near route, on foot, to make some purchases and returning were to meet me at Garret's where Ruddy was to deliver to me the papers.

"About one o'clock in the afternoon of April 23, 1865, the second day of my stay at Garret's, I was out in the front yard lounging in the meadow, when Lieutenants Bainbridge and Ruggles came hurriedly up and informed me that a squad of Federal troops had just crossed the Rappahannock, and advised me to leave at once and go back into the wooded ravine at the rear of the house where they would meet me with a horse, on which I could escape. Following their directions, I finally arrived at the Mississippi River and crossed at a point called Catfish Point in Mississippi, where I remained in hiding among the Indians in the Indian Territory for about eighteen months."

Mr. Bates says he refused to believe the story as told by St. Helen. He argued that someone was killed at the Garret farm whom the American people had been told was Booth and asked if not Booth who then was killed? To this St. Helen replied:

"I would say that it was Ruddy, the man with whom I had negotiated for my personal deliverance. If he did as he promised to do he got my letters, picture, etc., out of the wagon, as I have explained to you, and I take it without personal knowledge of the facts that Ruddy and Herold came to the Garret home as pre-arranged, and that the Federal troops by some means traced me to

the Garret home where they found Herold and Ruddy, capturing Herold and killing Ruddy. They found on the body of Ruddy my check for sixty pounds, together with my letters and, by reason of finding these belongings of mine on the body, I presume they identified it as the body of myself."

In further corroboration of the Booth story Mr. Bates quotes from an article published in the Boston Sunday Globe, December 12, 1897, from the pen of David Dana, brother of Charles A. Dana, founder and editor of the New York Sun. In opening his interview Mr. Dana says:

"In the spring of '65 I was near Washington, with headquarters at Fort Baker, just above the east branch of the Potomac. It was within the lines of the Third brigade of Harden's division, Twenty-second corps, commanded by Gen. C. C. Augur, under whom I was provost marshal. While patrolling this territory I learned that a plot was forming against the government, and that the blow would undoubtedly be aimed against the life of President Lincoln. I at once asked for a battalion of veteran cavalry, in addition to the regular provost guard, and the request was granted. I was ordered to establish a line of pickets from Fort Meigs on the left to Geisboro Point on the right, with orders to permit none to enter the city of Washington during the day unless they could give their names, where they were from, and what was their business at the capitol. From sundown to sunrise no one was to enter or leave the city except in case of sickness or death. All suspicious persons were arrested and sent to the commanding general for examination. On Friday, April 14, 1865, two men appeared before the guard on the road leading into Washington from the east. Refusing to give their names or state their business, they were arrested and put in the guard tent, whence they were to be sent to headquarters. This was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. In an hour or two they gave their names as Booth and Herold. About 4 o'clock I received an order from Gen. Augur to release all prisoners held by the guards

and to withdraw the guards until further orders. On the line from Fort Meigs to Surrattville I went in person and withdrew the guard to my headquarters."

(To be continued in our next issue.)

New York's New President.

George E. Fairchild, the new president of the New York State Undertakers' Association, was born in Syracuse, in 1872. He is a graduate of the Syracuse public schools and high school; also of the United States College of Embalming. He was with F. M. Fairchild, of Brooklyn, from 1889 to 1893; started in business at Syracuse, in 1893; formed a partnership with W. A. Fancher, in June, 1904. He was president of the Onondaga County Undertakers' Association for five years and president of the New York State Embalmers' Association for two years.

Please bear in mind that all copy for the current issue of the Sunnyside should be in not later than the 5th of the month.



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