

EXPOSE FAKERS OF BOOTH RELICS

Five Alleged Skulls of John
Wilkes Booth Are On
Exhibition in U. S.

TWENTY "BOOTH" DIED

Real Booth Was Buried Under
a Federal Prison, Later
Removed By Family

Springfield, Ill., March 28.—Five alleged skulls of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln, are on exhibition in the United States, and 20 "Booths" have died, according to Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of Lincoln's tomb here. Recurring reports that Booth lived 38 years after President Lincoln's death and later committed suicide, are characterized by Mr. Fay as wild.

"Those who wish to make money out of the hoax, or to create cheap notoriety, are the only ones to dispute the historical record of Booth's death in a barn at the Garrett farm," Mr. Fay asserted. "David E. George was only one of 20 different men who have sought to create a furore by claiming to be Booth. Recently while lecturing on Booth's death at the tomb, one of my audience who gave his name as William H. Regan, said he embalmed the body of George. Asked whether he thought it was Booth and whether the dead man had any proof of his identity, Regan said he believed not. Nevertheless, George's body was embalmed and shown over the country in a commercial show scheme."

The version of Booth's death accepted by the custodian of the victim's tomb is as follows:

"John Wilkes Booth eluded his pursuers for 11 days. He was fed by Thomas A. Jones in the meantime in a grove along the Potomac. Lieutenant Baker of the Secret Service, who had often seen Booth, and his men were watching the fugitive. When he crossed the river he was suspected and chased to the Garrett farm.

"Baker and his men surrounded the house and after some parley they ascertained that Booth and Herold were in the barn. They demanded several times that he come out. Colonel Conger's men were surrounding the barn. They threatened to set fire to the barn and Herold merged and surrendered. Booth refused, saying he would 'die in the last ditch.' The barn was set afire.

"Boston Corbett, a sergeant, saw Booth through a crack and disobeying orders, shot him. He was brought out by Conger's men and died in three hours. The body was brought to Washington and identified by various men who knew Booth. One, Dr. John F. May, identified the body by an ugly wound on the neck from an operation performed some time before. Against his physician's advice Booth insisted on acting, and reopened the wound, which healed badly.

"Booth was buried under a Federal prison and an accurate, detailed report

Oldroyd Denies Tale That Booth Escaped

The "discovery" that John Wilkes Booth escaped punishment for the assassination of President Lincoln was said to be unfounded last night by speakers at the Lincoln night meeting of the University club. O. H. Oldroyd, owner of the house where Lincoln died, related his personal experiences.

Mr. Oldroyd told of the capture and death of Booth and his burial in the old arsenal here. Later, he said, permission was granted his relatives to move the body to Greenmount cemetery, Baltimore, on condition that his grave should not be marked. Dr. A. B. Hooe, chairman, said the tale that Booth escaped and died a natural death is brought to light periodically.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

April 8, 1925

Friend of Lincoln Dies at 74 Years

Bloomfield, N. J., April 7.—Mrs. Carolina Gehrman, 74, who claimed to be one of the few remaining persons, who had a close acquaintance with Abraham Lincoln, died today. Mrs. Gehrman came here in 1894 from Springfield, Illinois where she said she lived as a neighbor to Lincoln. She wrote many newspaper and magazine articles on incidents of Lincoln's life and character.