

## Booth Buried In Virginia and Body Covered With Acid, Veteran Says

Chicago, March 7.—Col. James Hamilton Davidson, former commander of the 122nd infantry, today revealed what he said was the burial place of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. Colonel Davidson, who lives here with a daughter, believes he is the only living man who knows. Recently Edwin Harper Sampson, who had said he was one of seven men who disposed of Booth's body, died in Moline, Ill., without revealing what had been done with the body.

Colonel Davidson said he was in command at Portsmouth, Va., on the night of Booth's burial, and was told of it by Colonel Baker, head of the secret service of the army.

Booth's body was buried in the basement of a warehouse at Portsmouth in a deep grave and covered with acid, Davidson and Colonel Baker told him. The grave then was filled with limestone and dirt.

"Just after the shooting of Booth at Bowling Green, Va.," said Colonel Davidson, "a report came to me about a group of men acting mysteriously in the middle of the night around one of the warehouses.

"I didn't have to wait long for my information. The head of the

secret service in the army, Colonel Baker, came to me the next morning and said he wanted to see me in privacy.

"This is what he said:

"Last night I brought into Portsmouth the body of Booth. Six of my men carried it on a stretcher to the first warehouse to the north. We took it into the basement, where we dug a grave.

"The body was placed in there and covered with acid. Then the grave was filled with limestone and dirt. Every man of us is pledged to secrecy. Will you promise never to say a word?"

"That was sixty years ago. There can't be any harm in telling it now. The country ought to know."

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## "Grave of Lincoln's Assassin" Made Known After Sixty Years

### Civil War Colonel, Revealing Confidence of Secret Service Head, Says Booth Was Buried in Portsmouth, Va., Cellar; Records Refute His Account

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Colonel James Hamilton Davidson, former commander of the 122d Infantry, today revealed what he said was the burial place of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. Colonel Davidson, who lives here with a daughter, believes he is the only living man who knows. Recently Edwin Harper Sampson, who said he was one of seven men who disposed of Booth's body, died in Moline, Ill., without revealing what had been done with the body.

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BALTIMORE, Feb. 21.—The records of Greenmount Cemetery, this city, show that John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln, was buried in the Booth family plot there on June 6, 1869.

According to the records of the Maryland Historical Society, Booth's body was brought here from Washington on February 18 of the same year and was kept in a vault at Greenmount until final interment.

"The family fully identified the body as that of John Wilkes Booth, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding," a statement from the records of the historical society declares.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Many versions of the burial of John Wilkes Booth have been in circulation for years, but the generally accepted belief here is that the body of the assassin was buried on the ground floor of the old Washington penitentiary and later was removed at the request of his relatives to Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore.