

JAMES R. FORD

Business Manager of Ford's Theater

May 30, 1865. C.T. Page 100 - 101

Testified:-

At the time of the assassination, I was business manager of Ford's Theater. I was first apprised of the President's intended visit to the Theater on Friday morning at half-past 10 o'clock. A young man, a messenger from the White House, came and engaged the box. The President had been previously invited to the theater that night, and I had no knowledge of his intention to visit the theater until the reception of that message. I saw John Wilkes Booth about half-past 12, two hours after I received this information. I saw him, as I was coming from the Treasury Building, on the corner of Tenth, and E Streets. I was going up E Street, toward Eleventh Street; he was coming from the direction of the theater.

I wrote the notice for the Star in the ticket-office of the theater about half-past 11 or 12 o'clock, and sent it to the office immediately; I at the same time carried one myself to the National Republican. The notice appeared in the Star about 2 o'clock. Before writing the notice I asked Mr. Phillips, an actor in our establishment, who was on the stage to do it; he said he would after he had finished writing the regular advertisements. I also spoke to my younger brother about the propriety of writing it. I had not seen Booth previous to writing the notice, nor do I remember speaking to any one else about it.