

The Booth Matter.

The Corpse Placed in a Burial Case---Prepared for Shipment to the Booth Family in the East.

Bates Gone Back to Memphis.

The Matter Closed and Sealed as far as Penniman's Undertaking Establishment is Concerned.

There seems to be but little doubts to the positive identity of the J. Wilkes Booth, who committed suicide in this city January 14th, last, under the name of David E. George, and whose remains were perfectly embalmed under the suspicion and evidence at hand that the remains were really those of Lincoln's assassin. For a time the morgue of Penniman's Undertaking rooms were visited by thousands of people anxious to view the remains of such a notorious character as J. Wilkes Booth. The undertakers tired of satisfying the curiosity of the people, when the remains were removed from the morgue and placed in an arm chair in the casket room of the establishment. This change occurred about February 1st, and until yesterday the corpse sat in the arm chair in full dress with eyes wide open looking nearly as natural as life so well did the embalming fluid do its work, in fact the body was as well cured as one of the Swift hams and sat in the chair looking as comfortable as one in life.

Yesterday morning, by order of Mr. Bates, who produced his authority to act for the Booth family, the remains were placed in a metallic casket which was sealed and made ready for shipment to wherever the nephew of the dead Booth may direct in the near future.

The positive identification of the remains as those of J. Wilkes Booth by the descendants of the great Booth family is prima facie evidence that Booth was not killed in Virginia in the way and manner given in history, but that he still lived and they knew it. The long delay in the positive identification was caused from the fact that he had lived under so many different names and the family wanted to be positive that he was really dead, hence, Mr. Bates, who was employed by the Booths traced him from Glenrose Mills, Texas, to Enid, covering twenty-four years.

The remains are now under the control of the Booth family and it is fair to presume that they will be laid to rest by the side of Edwin Booth in New York, or perhaps they will be interred in the Old Booth Burial plot in Baltimore, Maryland.

One of the strangest circumstances surrounding this George alias Booth/^{death} and identification is the fact that the federal government never has given it any attention. This would naturally lead to the belief that the government was well satisfied that J. Wilkes Booth was disposed of years ago in the way and manner history portrays ; yet the uncertainty surrounding the positive identification of the man shot in the Garret barn as being Booth that the government refused to pay the reward offered for his capture.

It is indeed a wonder that the assassin was not identified and captured by the government before his death as he seemed to have trused his secret to many people during the last twenty-eight years. However, as Mr. Bates notified both the war and state departments that he had good reasons to believe that Booth was living, twenty years ago. This is about the last chapter of this sensational affair as far as Enid is concerned. The next is the shipping of the body and what disposition the Booth People will make of it.