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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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ENID CORPSE IDENTIFIED

George Declared to be Assassin of Lincoln

WILKES BOOTH'S NEPHEW

Said to Have Declared Remains His Late Uncle

NAME WAS ST. HELEN

Lived in Seclusion in Texas for Years

St. Louis, June 2.—A special from Enid, O. T., says:

"Junius Brutus Booth, the actor, and nephew of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, has fully identified the remains of the man known as David E. George as his uncle. George, or Booth, committed suicide here January 14 last and in his effects was found a letter directed to K. L. Bates of Memphis, Tenn. Mr. Bates came here at once and fully identified the body as John Wilkes Booth. He then went east and has obtained positive identification of the remains of the dead man's nephew, and from Joseph Jefferson, Miss Clara Morris and a score of others known by him in his early days.

"According to Mr. Bates' story, he had acted as Booth's confidential agent for nearly forty years. After Lincoln was shot, the assassin escaped to the Garrett plantation in Virginia. According to Mr. Bates, the man who was killed was named Ruddy. Being warned, Booth left Garrett's and was taken care of by friends in southern Kentucky. He later settled at Glenrose Mills, Tex., where he conducted a store for several years as John St. Helen."

Guthrie, O. T., June 2.—The Enid Eagle has made new discoveries in the Booth-George case that has attracted so much attention. This paper declares that the facts show that the man George was without doubt John Wilkes Booth. The Eagle has the following:

It now seems a settled fact that David E. George and John Wilkes Booth were one and the same person. George died in this city on January 13 last, and no small amount of excitement was occasioned by a report that he had confessed his identity. Mrs. Harper of this place, on a certain occasion three years before, at El Reno, and thousands of people viewed the remains at Penniman's morgue; many of them at that time expressing the belief that the body was none other than that of Booth.

Corroboration now comes from F. L. Bates of Memphis, Tenn., who is now here to lecture on the subject, and granted an interview with a reporter this morning.

Mr. Bates arrived in Enid Friday evening. The story he tells is a revelation of historic facts which set aside many well accepted and time-honored theories and statements.

Mr. Bates was for many years the confidential lawyer of Booth. From him he has the complete story of the duplicity of men high in official life, the names of the chief conspirators and the escape of the assassin. These confidential facts were, of course, given Mr. Bates under stress.

According to his report, Booth located at Glen Rose Mills, Tex., about five years after the assassination, and purchased a stock of tobacco and whisky from a man named Snyder. Shortly afterward the vicinity was visited by an internal revenue collector. He discovered the violation of the revenue laws which was going on in Glen Rose Mills, and caused the arrest of Snyder, whom he believed to be the owner of the establishment where the violation was taking place, Snyder being innocent, however. Booth having purchased his interest, pressure was brought to bear on the latter to get him to go to Tyler in order to testify in favor of Snyder. This he refused to do, and persisted in his refusal until the second day of Snyder's trial, when he acknowledged to Mr. Bates that he could not appear in a settled community for the reason that he was then in exile in consequence of his crime. This was the beginning of their acquaintance, and from time to time afterward Booth disclosed more and more of the history of his crime and escape.

At different times during his life he presented Mr. Bates with photographs of himself for his future identification. These have been painted by competent artists and have been brought to Enid by their owner.

While in Texas Booth was known among the cowboys as John St. Helen. And here exists a very pretty piece of sentiment which would be characteristic of a man of Booth's temperament. Napoleon was in exile on the island of St. Helena. Booth adopted the name, changing it slightly for the sake of euphony as representative of the similarity of the cases.

Contemporaneous history and current tradition assert and presume that Booth was shot by Boston Corbett, on Garrett's farm, in Virginia. According to Mr. Bates, who details the story as told by Booth, the man who was killed was a man by the name of Ruddy. Booth had been at Garrett's for about twenty-four hours, but on the afternoon before the alleged capture he had been warned to leave by some Confederate soldiers who promised to arrange for his escape later. Therefore, at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the day before the killing of Ruddy, he had retired to a spot some distance from Garrett's house and was still there in hiding when the federal cavalry arrived. Ruddy and Herold had been to Bowling Green, Va., to secure a boot for Booth. Owing to the presence of the federal soldiers they were compelled to travel slowly and secretly and their return was long delayed. They reached Garrett's house about 10 o'clock at night and at 4 o'clock in the morning they were surrounded and attempted to escape and seek refuge in some corn cribs which are variously described as barns and tobacco warehouses by the different writers. In this effort Herold was captured and executed and Ruddy was killed.

From his hiding place Booth was after-

ward taken by Confederate friends and his disguise was that of an old colored man moving. He made his way to friends in central Kentucky, where he recuperated strength and proceeded on his way to the Indian territory, following the course of the Arkansas river from a point near where it empties into the Mississippi. From here he drifted into Texas and naturally selected the most isolated spot in the state.

He has had the picture of the man George identified by the family of Booth and also by Joseph Jefferson and Miss Clara Morris, both of whom knew him well. He also has an extensive correspondence with the government, and is in possession of one letter from a government employe who states that as a citizen and not as a government employe he is collecting data for an article on this subject, but can find nothing in the archives of the government which shows that Booth was ever captured or executed.

Bates Secret Book

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