

A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE GREATEST OF
THE BOOTH-MYTHS CONTAINED IN "THE FIRST
TRUE ACCOUNT OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION."
BY FINIS L. BATES OF MEMPHIS, TENN.

A very thorough investigation and check-up on the statements contained in this book was made by the writer from November 11, 1920 until ~~February 10th, 1921~~. On November 11th I went to Washington and spent about ten days in the Congressional Library, The Lincoln Museum and ⁱⁿ going over the trail of Booth and Herold from the Ford Theatre ^{in Washington} to the Garrett farm down in Virginia. In December I visited Mrs. Josie Cameron in Chicago, the Northrups in Racine, Wisconsin, located the mysteriously missing Mr. Smith in Wisconsin, visited Mr. Banks in Lamar, Mo., Mr. Bates in Memphis, Tenn., and Mr. Penniman, the undertaker who embalmed the body of D. E. George at his home in Columbus, Ohio. In January I spent three weeks in El Reno, Hennessey, Enid and Weatherford, Okla., Dallas, Fort Worth, Granbury, Glen Rose, Cleburne, Austin and Amarillo, Texas and Colorado Springs and Leadville, Colo. February 8th and 9th was spent with Mr. Bates in Dearborn going over the various statements in his account. On page 4 of Mr. Bates' book he makes a statement that John Wilkes Booth was by religion a catholic. Arthur Hornblow in his history of the theatre states that the Booths were half Jewish and ^{the daughter states} ~~others say~~ that Junius B. Booth, the elder, liked to attend the synagogue, as he could follow the service in Hebrew and that he attended all types of religious services. John Wilkes Booth did attend a catholic church twice in Maryland, while he was ~~making arrangements for his escape after the abduction of Lincoln or making~~ ^{he should abduct Pres.}

abducting and

arrangements for taking President Lincoln down through that section. As far as can be learned he belonged to no church. *Episcopal* Mr. Bates gives as his authority some individual who had a vague idea that a Catholic priest had told him that he had confirmed John Wilkes Booth. This statement is only interesting in view of the fact that a great many people thought that the assassination was a Catholic plot, because of the connection of the Surrats who were very devout Catholics, but this could never be established and no motive could ever be found for such a connection. On page 6 Mr. Bates says that "after many years of painstaking and exhausting investigation."

Mr. Bates ~~had~~ never visited Washington in this connection or ~~gone~~ *had he ever been* over the ground of the Booth and Herold escape. He ~~had~~ spent but a couple of days in Enid, Okla., and had not visited Hennessey at all and spent but one day in El Reno. Mr. Bates ~~had~~ never returned to Texas to check *the few* up statements that he received from ~~both~~ Granbury and Glen Rose. While not germane to the question the statement on page 8 that Glen Rose Mills was "located immediately on the Bosque river which flows at the base of the Bosque mountains" is not true since the Bosque river is 15 miles south of Glen Rose *which* and is located on the Peluxy River. This shows the lack of care with which he checked his statements, *and his poor memory for details.* One thing well to remember is the statement on page 7 that in the spring of 1872 Mr. Bates was "a lawyer yet in his teens, as a matter of fact a mere boy between 18 and 19 who had read law in one of the local Granbury attorney's offices."

in June of that year

Mr. Bates acknowledges that he did not make a single note of things that occurred back in Glen Rose and Granbury, Texas, 1872 to 1875, and that the first time the confession was put on *Paper* was at the time the first edition of his book was prepared, about 1907, at least 30 years after the confession of St. Helen. In view of many other discrepancies in geography and dates and descriptions which can be absolutely checked, it would be reasonable to suppose that the word for word reports of what St. Helen is alleged to have said, Bates page 11 on, would be impossible. The statements of other Granbury and Glen Rose people who knew St. Helen better than Bates had ever known him do not agree at all with Bates, particularly as to the description of St. Helen, his personal appearance, his actions and the relations of St. Helen and Bates. On January 18, 1921 the following statements were made to the writer at Granbury, Texas. Mr. A. T. Gordon, who is at present owner of a general store and who was in the saloon business in the early seventies employed St. Helen for nearly a year. Mr. Gordon was school examiner and County Superintendent in 1872-3. Gordon thinks that he knew St. Helen as well or better than any other man in Granbury. He said that St. Helen was a fine penman and prided himself on his penmanship. He said St. Helen

drew pictures of birds, eagles, horses and men with the pen, drawing his men so well one would recognize them. That he never told where he came from and that no one in Granbury at that time asked any one else such questions. He said St. Helen was a dangerous man when drunk. He was considered a very wicked man and always went armed with a pistol and knife. He could pull the pistol quicker than any other man Gordon knew. That he remembered in particular one time when he was drinking and had been quarrelling and was about to get into a fight that he, Gordon, talked him out of it. He said, at that time, that St. Helen said: "I don't want to have any more trouble with anybody. My hands are all dyed with blood. That he was cut across the back of the neck in one fight in Granbury. He said that St. Helen had a big scar on the side of his throat, on the right side, where it looked as though he had had his throat cut. It didn't look like it had been done in an operation, but in a fight; that there was also a scar on his breast. That St. Helen did not limp, that he did not have a flat chin, but one rather pointed; that he was tall, slim, about 6 feet high, weighed about 160 pounds, of dark complexion, dark small piercing eyes and looked something like a French Creole. That St. Helen claimed he was a Southerner and that one couldn't name any place in the

R. F. Whitehead says that he was in Granbury in the seventies and knew St. Helen and that St. Helen made considerable money in his business, but that he never saw him have or heard of him having any special amount.

John Formwalt, a Texas ranger, and a Major in the Confederate Army who came to Granbury in 1856, was in business there in 1872, and now resides in the town, is a very active old gentleman and very keen. He says he knew St. Helen about as well as nay one could know a man and not know anything about him. That he spent a good many hours in his saloon. He says "Saint" (St. Helen) seemed to have his right leg boughed out a little and thinks he limped a little in that leg. He says he thinks his name was John, although all the boys called him "Saint". He says that he had something wrong with his throat and wheezed when he talked. That St. Helen was about 5 Ft. 10 or 11 and rather slim. He says he never saw St. Helen with a lot of money and never heard of him having any great amount, but that he must have made quite a little in his saloon. He says St. Helen never took part in any public meetings and that he never heard of any gathering at Glen Rose for a Fourth of July barbecue in the seventies. He says St. Helen had a slight accent which he thought was more foreign than Southern.

Mrs. J. D. Rylee thinks she was about eight or nine years old when St. Helen first came to their house near Glen Rose. Her father told her that St. Helen got money about every three months but never said how. The McDonalds lived $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Glen Rose. She never heard of St. Helen mentioning of Mrs. Surratt or the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. She doesn't know whether St. Helen paid anything or not for staying with them. He wasn't in business long in Glen Rose when he went to Granbury. She says that he never came back to their house on a visit after going to Granbury. She says that after he had been with them about a year he was gone for several months and when he returned he said that he had gone to California. She says that when she was older her father told her that St. Helen had gone to California to see his people. She says her brother claims that his father never told anything about St. Helen. Mrs. Rylee has read Bates' story and gets mad if anyone doubts anything in it. She says St. Helen drank a lot when he was with them. She says after he left they usually heard from him through his friends and that they heard through mutual friends that he had gone to Oklahoma, but "just can't give the names of any of these friends". She says she is sure he was Southern as he could not have stayed at their house if he hadn't been for her father was an intense Southerner.

Judge B. M. Estes, who was a Granbury attorney in the seventies and County attorney for four terms beginning with 1880 and is now a judge in the local courts says that Bill McDonald/^{who}was a very good friend of St. Helens was a terrible drunkard and gambler and that he was considered even around Granbury in those days as an "old devil". That he knifed one fellow across his loins and ruined him. That he was also a sneak and a coward and that you couldn't believe a word that he said. That his daughter, Mrs. Rylee, lived in Granbury at the present time. That every record of the old Court house which was burned in 1875 was destroyed except a mark and brand record which was out of the building at the time. The Judge says that he remembers Bates quite well and that he was not considered in Granbury as particularly keen and that he was chimerical and as "lazy as the devil" and he lived, while in Granbury,"from hand to mouth". The Judge says he does not believe that St. Helen ever made such a confession to Bates seriously. He might have told him some such a story as a reason for not wanting to tell the true story, knowing that if Bates ever told it no one would believe him. Judge says St. Helen was just the type of man that would tell a "kid" like Bates such a darn fool yarn if it wasn't true, but never if it was. The Judge says he

read part of Bates' book and then gave it up disgusted. He says he knew the parts of the book he didn't know anything about was a lie, because the part he did know about was fiction. He says St. Helen had something wrong with his throat and had a wheezy voice. He says he remembers that St. Helen did carry a little cane, not a big walking stick, but did not have it often. The Judge says that old J. M. Taylor had lived out east of town. That he was a squatter on some property belonging to some Virginia people and that he, Judge Estes, was the agent for these people and let the old man and his family live there. He says that Taylor was merely a private confederate soldier and not a general. He says he was an odd, half-witted old fellow and not able to make a speech if he tried. He says there was no other J. M. Taylor in Granbury and does not believe there was ever a Fourth of July celebration in Glen Rose in those early days as there was but three houses and very few people in the neighborhood. The Judge thinks that Bates never wrote the descriptions on page 20 and 21 as he did not have the capacity. He says that Bates spent most of his time around his, (Judge Estes') brother's office. He says that St. Helen did not have a colored or Mexican porter at Granbury. He claims that St. Helen manufactured his own booze and made some

terrible stuff, (Bates page 22). He says that Bates never hung around St.

Helen's saloon, that he wasn't that kind of kid. (Bates page 23-27). Judge

Estes cannot remember that St. Helen was ever sick at Granbury •

D.W. Morris, formerly County Treasurer, remembers St. Helen . He says there are no records with St. Helen's name on in the court house now, but there might have been before the fire in 1875.

A. L. Peters, living 3 miles from Granbury, remembers St. Helen. Does not think that he was ill while in Granbury and never knew of him having much money.

Glenrose, Texas, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1921. Tom Matthews lived at Granbury in 1871, knew St. Helen who had an awful wheeze in his throat that sounded like asthma. St. Helen never did anything but sell Whiskey and gamble around Granbury and Glenrose. Had the appearance of an educated man and talked a great deal and was very rough spoken. Matthews says his work compelled him to get up early and he remembers going past St. Helen's place in Granbury and that St. Helen was sleeping in some sort of a wagon back of the saloon and that he could hear him breathe. That he never knew or heard of him having any more than an ordinary amount of money and could make all he was ever known to have in his business.

Bill Pierce, Clebourne, Texas, says he was in Saloon business in Glenrose sometime after St. Helen was there. Had heard him talked about but never met him.

The writer showed Mr. Pierce the tin-type of St. Helen and he exclaimed,-
"Say that looks like me when I was young". Mr. Pierce looks a lot like the tin-type yet--although seventy. Has the same type of moustache, shape face, with keen eyes and bushy eyebrows, and has his hair combed in the same manner.

W.W. Snyder, Confederate Home, Austin, Texas, the man mentioned by Bates as having sold his business to St. Helen. He says that he and Bates went to Tyler in a Buggy and that on the way over Bates said to him that St. Helen wasn't that man's name that he was John Wilkes Booth. Snyder says he doesn't remember how much he sold his business to St. Helen for, but that it couldn't have been more than \$150.00 and it might have been as little as \$100.00. He says it was just a little store of groceries and liquors and that the sale took place in 1871. He says that his license ran out and St. Helen failed to renew it and that was the reason he, Snyder, was indicted. Snyder says that when they went to Tyler they intended to fight the case and that he, Snyder, had \$500.00 in his side pocket and Bates went to the court house and later came to where he was waiting and said that he could get the case nolle prosequi and there would be no fine, but that the cost and expenses would be about \$80.00. He says he gave Bates the money, but that it was never returned by either Bates or St. Helen. Snyder says that he remembers leaving Granbury with \$500.00 and returning with about \$400.00. He says he does not know just what Bates did at the court house, but thinks that he explained to the judge that it wasn't he, Snyder, who sold the whiskey but St. Helen. He says he does not know why St. Helen was not then

then indicted. He says he thinks that St. Helen and Bates were pretty good friends.

He does not know whether St. Helen ever paid Bates any money or not. He says as soon as he read Bates' book that he said, "That's wrong about St. Helen paying the Bill, I paid it".

Snyder says that his daughter lives in Memphis and his grandchildren now live there and that Bates knows this. He says he went to Memphis in 1910 to visit with his daughter and called at Bates' office but didn't find him in and after he returned he wrote Bates who replied that he was sorry to have missed him. Snyder says that St. Helen talked with a wheeze and limped a little. Snyder says he does not remember of any Fourth of July celebration at Glenrose and thinks he would have known of it since he was the greatest "fiddler" in the county. Snyder claims that at one time he and St. Helen were sitting on a stump at Glenrose and that St. Helen was looking away into the distance; that he said, St. Helen, your mind is a long ways from here and St. Helen replied, "Yes Mr. Snyder, if you knew what I was thinking about you would be mystified." St. Helen claimed to him that he had been all over the United States. Snyder says that St. Helen was quite an artist with the pen and wrote a fine hand. He says that St. Helen did not carry a cane while he knew him

and that "he rode a horse very well and was as active as a cat". St. Helen once said something about having been in California, but never mentioned any folks or anything about Lincoln Assassination. He says that St. Helen had a southern accent, and never had a great amount of money; just a little pocket change.

The following is the signed and witnessed statement of Mr. Snyder:

Dearborn, February 8th and 9th. Mr. Bates does not remember of a scar on St. Helen's throat or on the back of his neck. He claimed that the wheeze only bothered St. Helen when he had a cold and that at all other times his voice was bell like. This does not agree with the statements of other people who seem to have known the man better.

Mr. Bates claims that Snyder did not give him the money to pay the fines, but that it was given to him by St. Helen and that the costs were as follows:

Guilty Costs-----	\$ 5.00
Two Indictments-----	35.00 each

Mr. Bates claims that Snyder was ill in the hotel at Tyler and that he, Bates, went to the Judge and had his presence waived because of illness. Mr. Bates cannot remember why the amount was given as \$65.00 in each case in his book, page 15, because he says that the total was not over \$80.00 at the most, and claimed that an unauthorized edition of his book has been issued and that it must have been changed in this, but it was found that the statement was the same in an authorized Edition.

Bates, Page 18.

As shown in the statements of Lee Nutt and Judge Estes, "General"

J. M. Taylor, was merely a private confederate soldier and was considered by those who knew him as "half-witted". This in connection with St. Helen's wheezy voice, the smallness of Glenrose, and the fact that no one else remembers of a Fourth of July Barbeque in Glenrose at that time, would lead to a doubt as to the accuracy of other statements in pages 18 to 26.

Page 27

Lee Nutt at Granbury, says that St. Helen had a colored porter at
Glenrose and that this porter was killed in a fight about the time St. Helen
left Glenrose for Granbury.

Page 27-30

Mr. Bates repeats that St. Helen was ill in the back room of his saloon and claims that Dr. Hannaford attended him, but cannot give the names of others who attended him. Lonn Gordon, who was generally acknowledged to have been personally the best friend St. Helen had and for whom St. Helen worked the first year he was in Granbury, does not remember St. Helen ever being seriously ill. Neither does John Formwalt, Judge Estes, Jeff Cross, Lee Nutt is not sure but thinks St. Helen was sick in some room upstairs at one time and men took care of him. The one rather strange thing about this (page 29) is that the doctor sends for Bates and runs off and leaves the dying St. Helen to his fate and it is necessary for Bates to call the porter to aid in bringing St. Helen back to life.

In view of what Snyder claims in his statement that Bates told him on the way to Tyler that he thought that St. Helen was John Wilkes Booth even before the confession was made, would lead to the belief that Bates might have asked St. Helen if he was Booth and the confession having been made to back up the joke.

Bates-Page 34:-

History given here of Booth family by St. Helen does not prove he was Booth as any facts given were matters of common knowledge to the newspaper reading Public. The relation of other private family affairs which Mr. Bates considers unnecessary to make public, might have some weight if Mr. Bates could now remember any of these details. In December 1920 and again on February 8th and 9th, 1921, he acknowledged that he could not remember any of these details. St Helen could be none other than John Wilkes Booth, otherwise, he would not know of the private customs of the Booths, is the implication in this page.

The possible connection of President Andrew Johnson with assassination was discussed quite freely at the time of the Impeachment Trial (1868), and was carried as far as appointing a committee, In the House of Representatives known as the "Assassination Committee" ^{made up of Pres Johnson's enemies} to investigate ^a possible connections ^{of Johnson} with the Lincoln assassination. This committee finally gave up all investigations due to the fact that their principal witness was proved to have perjured himself in most of his testimony, not only regarding this, but other cases and that there was no foundation in fact for such an implication. All this history was known to anyone who read the newspapers at that time.

Century Magazine, January 1890, Piersons Magazine, July, 1904, all

issued before Mr. Bates' book, carried stories on this. Bates claimed

Feb. 8th and 9th that some colonel, whose name he could not give, was a bar

tender at the Kirkwood Hotel, April 14, 1865 and that this man stated that he

served Andrew Johnson and John Wilkes Booth with drinks on that day, but that

if statement was printed he ^{col} would say it was a lie and that the statement was

never made by him.

On Page 96 & 97 of Bates--Dona states that Booth and Herold reaching Washington about 6:30 P.M., the following thirteen statements made on the witness stand at the conspiracy trial refute both:

C T - Page 83---John Fletcher saw Herold about a quarter of one.

C T - Page 81---John Miles who worked at Ford's Theatre saw Booth put his horse in stable back of theatre about three o'clock.

C T - Page 80---Joe Simms who worked at Ford's Theatre, saw Booth at theatre between 5 and 6 o'clock.

C T - Page 76---James F. Ferguson, restaurant keeper, saw Booth between 2 and 4 o'clock near theatre.

C T - Page 75---Mary Jane Anderson who lived right back of Ford's Theatre saw Booth on morning of 14th at stable back of theatre where Booth kept his horse, and between 2 and 3 in the afternoon, standing in the theatre's back door.

C T - Page 73---J F Sleichman, assistant property man at Ford's Theatre, saw Booth in restaurant next door to theatre between 4 and 5 o'clock.

C T - Page 72---James P. Punthry testified that Booth was in his stable about 12 o'clock on the 14th.

C T - Page 70---Robert E. Jones, clerk at Kirkwood House, during day gave card of John Wilkes Booth to Colonel Browning, Mr. Johnson's secretary.

Wm A Browning testified that between 4 and 5 o'clock, he took a card from his box signed by John Wilkes Booth.

C T - Page 46---G W Bunker says Booth registered at National Hotel, April 8th and remained there until assassination.

C T - Page 101---James R. Ford saw John Wilkes Booth coming in direction of theatre about 12:30.

Refer - Booth's Movements on Day of Assassination C T- Page 39

John Deveny testified that he saw Booth on steps of Kirkwood House between 5 and 6 o'clock P.M.

C T - Page 99--C.D. Hess, Manager of Grover Theatre, Talked to Booth on day before assassination.

H. Clay Ford saw Booth at theatre about noon.

Leadville Colo., January 1921. H. R. Pendry, Attorney, Secretary of
the Elks Lodge, Leadville never heard of a man by the name of St. Helen or
D. E. George. When shown the tin type of John St. Helen he did not recognize
it as any one he had known.

M. J. Monnihan of Monnihan and O'Mear, undertakers

said "Yes, I recognize that picture when shown the tin type. I buried 100 fellows that looked very much like that back in the early days here. NO, I never knew anyone by the name of St. Helen or David E. George.

Mr. Butler, the Editor of the Journal Democrat and Mr. McDonald the Manager who came to Leadville in the 80's did not recognize the tin type and the name of St. Helen or David E. George.

J. W. Clark, an attorney who was here at that time did not either.

M. F. Dwyer connected with the Leadville police department for the past forty years "No."

Judge Evans of Leadville since 1880 "No."

John Colman, Leadville, who has been connected with the old ^{ly} Taper Opera House, 1879-1893 as a property man and bill poster remembers when ~~Edmund~~ Booth was in Leadville until the late 80's. ^{he} ~~She~~ says he was very quite and reserved, held himself aloof. Colman is sure that ~~Edmund~~ ^{was} Booth was never in Leadville but once. He does not recognize the tin type or remember of ever knowing anyone by the name of John St. Helen or David E. George.

Bob Ball, owner of the Colorado bakery has been stage manager of the Elks since 1893 and has lived in Leadville since 1882; has attended practically every show coming to Leadville since that time. He does not recognize the name John St. Helen, David E. George or the tin type as anyone he knew. He says, of course, there were any number of people around Leadville at that time who dressed like the man in the tin type, and wore their hair and mustache the same.

Granville Fagan, Stephensville remembers Morris, Gentry and Wood and says

they are all dead. He does not remember of ever hearing the name John St. Helen.

Granbury, Texas, Judge Estes, B. Nutts and Lon Gordon, all three said that Captain J. H. Traylor who was sheriff at Granbury at the time that St. Helen was in that town would remember him well and that Captain Traylor has a very good memory and writes a good letter. They say the captain is about 80 and that his address is Live Oak Street, Rockport, Texas, a little town east of Corpus Christie on the coast. They say that Traylor was not in the Confederate Army.

Bates, page 41. Mr. Bates' attempt to connect President Andrew Johnson with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln is not a new one. This was thoroughly thrashed out in Congress by President Johnson's enemies and went so far during the attempt to get evidence against President Johnson before the trial to the formation of an assassination committee of the house of representatives which made a report, #104, first session 39th Congress H.R. July 1866.

A very excellent discussion of this question can be found in "The Impeachment and Trial of President Johnson" by B. M. Dewitt, The _____ Company. The discussion and possible connection of Johnson with the assassination is a matter of record in the files of all the larger newspapers of that period. The members of the assassination committee were inimical to Johnson and made every attempt possible to connect his name with the dastardly deed, but were unable to do so.

The evidence in the _____ trial showed that Booth did call at the Kirkwood Hotel and asked to see President Johnson, but upon learning that Johnson was out left his card, took a place in the box of Colonel Browning, Johnson's secretary.

Booth did not see either Johnson or Browning.

Grants decided to go to Burlington, N. J. much earlier than the time here given, 4 P.M. Implication on page 43 and 44 that Grant would be gotten out of the way and that whoever attended the theatre with the President and his wife would not interfere with Booth and his purpose to kill the president cannot be sustained by any evidence and is a vicious uncalled for suggestion.

Bates, page 47 and 48. St Helen exposes the fact that he has no connection with John Wilkes Booth when he states that it was his right chin bone that was fractured six or eight inches above the ankle. It is interesting to note that wherever statements were made that St. Helen or George limped it was in the right leg. The boot cut off of John Wilkes Booth by Dr. Samuel Mudd was the left boot. This boot can be seen today among the effects of John Wilkes Booth in the war department at Washington. Dr. Mudd's statement and the statement of Sergeant General Barnes to examine the dead body of Booth say that it was the left leg that was fractured. The mummy of D. E. George in the possession of Mr. Bates shows the right leg to have been injured and the fact that the right foot is drawn up farther than the left would indicate an injury had been made to the living body. This was pointed out by Mr. Bates with a statement. "See the left leg shows signs of having been broken. The boot cut off of John Wilkes Booth was described and exhibited in Court at the conspiracy trial.

for Booth and Herold. His discipline was very poor, indeed, for his troops which were broken up into squads in order to spread over the country were really working against each other in an attempt to capture Booth and secure the big reward. We have already seen that the statements of , that he had Booth under arrest on the day of the assassination, are proved not true by over a dozen statements taken under oath at the conspiracy trial. It would seem as though the event fast crowding upon each other has confused the mind and the memory of the man who is faced with one of the biggest problems of the Civil war, the capture of two criminals in intimate territory.

statements all the way through do not agree with the evidence at the trial.

Bates, page 95. There is no record to show that President Lincoln or the Government knew of the death plot against the life of the president at this time.

Bates, page 96. Already proven that, at the conspiracy trial that Booth and Herold were not arrested on the 14th as stated by Dana.

Bates, page 99-100. The right evidence offered at the conspiracy trial would disprove the story that Bates strung up an old man in order to learn where Booth had gone to. This and the succeeding statements are merely an attempt on the part of Dana to show that he was on the job.

claimed that Major Ruggles said to him a few years ago that Jett, Bainbridge and himself did not know it was Booth until they reached the Port Royal side of the river when they all went into a bar and had a drink and Harold told their identity.

I asked if he knew how Booth and Harold reached Port Conway. He said they came in an old spring wagon driven by a "Nigger" that Harold rode on the seat with the "Nigger" and Booth, because his leg hurt him, was lying in the back part. He said he had never heard of any furniture being piled on top of Booth.

He had never known of anyone by the name of Ruddy but knew from hearsay that a Roby had something to do with the care of Booth and Harold at Col. Cox's.

Permission was obtained at the War Department to see the articles connected with the tragedy. *They are in* ~~Was taken to a room in the basement,~~ *in the basement.* an old iron safe, opened and the derringer pistol-muzzle loader-with which Lincoln was shot, the bullet and pieces of the skull driven into the head of the President by the bullet, *were brought out for examination.* A large old wooden chest was then opened and piece by piece the following articles handed me: Booth's left riding boot, slit from the instep for about a foot up the front of the leg, *size?* his diary written in pencil, and *which he* dagger with which he wounded Major Rathbone and flourished on the stage. One blood-stained bar with which Booth fastened the door behind him after entering the passage way to the presidential box. Booth's keys (must have been 18 or 20 on the ring, all different shapes and sizes). The pistol and carbine ~~he~~ *Harold* picked up at the Surrat place. ~~The carbine with which Corbett shot Booth (or the man who was shot at the Garrett place),~~ *and the* ~~one~~ dagger

Payne used in his attempt to kill ^{Secretary} Seward and the pick he carried to Mrs. Surratts

Washington house the ~~next~~ day. *after the assassination.*

was, and stated what Booth had done, which he did on three subsequent occasions when the latter was not in hearing.

"Sometime during Saturday they were discovered by a negro, who reported what he had seen to one of the detectives of Colonel Baker, who was in charge of the Federal secret service. The negro's testimony was regarded as so important that he was taken immediately to Washington to appear before Colonel Baker in person, who, after examining him closely, became satisfied that he had seen the fugitives, and despatched the body of cavalry to Virginia which ultimately overtook the assassins.

"Saturday night Booth and Herold again attempted to reach Machodoc Creek, but the light of morning came upon them before they could do so, and they were

forced to enter Gambo Creek, a small inlet on Machodoc Point, about one mile from Mrs. Quesenberry's, up Machodoc Creek.

"Eleven o'clock Sunday morning Herold appeared at the house of Mrs. Quesenberry, stated that he had been directed to call upon her for assistance by Mr. Thomas A. Jones, and informed her that "the man who killed Abe Lincoln is within a mile of the house." Mrs. Quesenberry and Mr. Thomas Harbin, a guest at her house at the time, accompanied Herold to the hiding-place of Booth, in a secluded spot up Gambo Creek, where they found him stretched on the ground, suffering much from his leg. Booth talked little, but stated that he thought the worst of his trip was over, and that while his journey thus far had been attended with much danger, he anticipated little difficulty over the remainder of the course, as he soon expected to be among friends. He desired Mrs. Quesenberry to secure a conveyance in order that he might reach the residence of the nearest physician., Dr. Richard Stuart, about eight miles distant.

"Mrs. Quesenberry sent dinner to Booth and Herold, and later in the afternoon made arrangements with a neighbor, Mr. William Bryan, to take them to the doctor's. She also prepared a luncheon for the party while en route to Dr. Stuart's country home, "Cleydyle."

"During the day Booth was assisted to the house of Mr. Bryan, and remained on one of the beds there until the horses for the party arrived.

"Sunday afternoon, between five and six o'clock, Booth, Herold, and Mr. Bryan arrived at the summer home of Dr. Stuart, the entire party much under the influence of intoxicants. Bryan brought the men up to the house and left them without further delay. Dr. Stuart informed the men that they could not be accommodated that night, as the house was full of guests; and that as the murderer of President Lincoln was still at large, he could not afford to shelter any one whom he did not know. He, however, offered the fugitives supper, which was served in the dining-room by the ladies of the house. Herold said, "Doctor, we have a secret to tell you." "Young man, if you have any secrets, keep them. I do not want to know your secret, and if you are going South you had better go immediately."

"Dr. Stuart's and Mrs. Quesenberry's were both regular stopping-places on the "underground road"; and while the house of the former was somewhat off the direct road to Port Conway, the ferry across the Rappahannock, his unbounded hospitality and his sympathy for the Southern cause made it a rendezvous for those engaged in the secret service of the Confederacy. His hospitality and frankness had twice caused him to be arrested and confined, on one occasion in Washington,

and later in a prison-ship near his residence on the Potomac. When Booth and Herold reached his house he had just returned from his second imprisonment, and was little inclined to run the risk again of entertaining any one whom he did not know well. Moreover, he was much displeased to find on his premises two unknown men under the influence of liquor, whose actions were suspicious, while the assassin of Mr. Lincoln was at large.

"A free-born negro named William Lucas, living within a quarter of a mile of the doctor's house, and on the latter's premises, was regularly engaged in conveying guests at Dr. Stuart's to the Rappahannock River, a distance of about fifteen miles, and it was to this man's house that Booth and Herold were directed to go that evening.

"Booth was keenly stung by the treatment he received at Dr. Stuart's, and that evening, when he arrived at the house of Lucas, whom he frightened much by the announcement that he had killed /that damned old tyrant, Abe Lincoln, the negro implored Booth and Herold not to stay at his house; but the assassin was inexorable, and forced the negro to secure more whisky for him. Herold and Booth spent the night at Lucas's in a drunken debauch.

"The next morning (Monday), before starting for the Rappahannock, Booth

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sent to Dr. Stuart the following letter by one of Lucas's children:

"My Dea--(piece torn out) forgive me, but I have some little pride. I cannot blame you for your want of hospitality. You know your own affairs. I was sick, tired, with a broken limb, and in need of medical advice. I would not have turned a dog from my door in such a plight. However, you were kind enough to give us something to eat, for which I not only thank you, but on account of the rebuke and manner in which to (piece torn out). It is not the substance but the way in which kindness is extended that makes one happy in the acceptance thereof. The sauce to meat is ceremony. Meeting were bare without it. Be kind enough to accept the enclosed \$5 (although hard to spare) for what I have rec'd.

"Most respectfully your obedient servant, "

(No signature.)

"Dr. Stuart was afterward ~~again~~ arrested, and ~~was~~ confined for a short period in the old Capitol prison.

"On the way to the river Booth and Herold stopped that noon at Office Hall, the home of Mr. William McDaniel, where they took dinner; and about three o'clock that afternoon they reached Port Conway, the northern terminus of the ferry across the Rappahannock. Lucas left his troublesome guests at the ferry, and returned home without delay."

Mr. Mason's story agrees with one written for the Washington, D. C. newspapers by W. N. Walton, May 3, 1865. (Lincoln Scrap Book-Congressional Library Pages 82-83) Mr. Walton obtained the details from interviews with Lucas, the negro, Dr. Stewart, and Mrs. Quesenberry a few days after the events occurred.

George Alfred Townsend, who wrote many of the newspaper stories of the assassination at the time, ~~in 1864~~, in the *Magazine* ¹⁸⁸⁴ for April ~~of that year~~, told *the same story* how Booth and Herold crossed the Potomac and reached Fort Conway.

In 1900 O. H. Oldroyd interviewed people all along the route of Booth's and Herold's escape, and received the same stories from those he could find still living. ("The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" by O. H. Oldroyd. Page 302 et seq.)

It will be remembered from Thomas Jones' story that
Dr. Stewart and the negro, Lucas, were both ~~arrested and~~ held as witnesses in Washington during part of the Conspiracy Trial, May and June 1865.

The statement that "Col. Mosby's command of Confederate troops was encamped not far south of the Rappahannock river at or near Bowling Green, Virginia" April 16th-21st (Bates page 49-50) is quite clearly refuted by the records.

The Memoirs of Col. John S. Mosby--Little, Brown & Co. 1917, page 360.

On April 15, 1865, Mosby and his command were at Warrenton, Fauquier county, Virginia, the home of the Washington family. This page contains Mosby's farwell address to his command April 21, 1865, Fauquier County.

Official Records of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. 46, part 1, page 527, shows that Mosby was in Loudoun County, Virginia, after April 9, 1865 and that his command surrendered at Winchester April 21, 1865.

Loudoun County is seventy-five miles northwest of Bowling Green. Loudoun County is northwest of Washington, D.C. while Bowling Green is southwest. Winchester is the county seat of Frederick County and is ninety miles northwest of Bowling Green. This is where Mosby's command surrendered April 21st.

St. Helen's "Confession" (Bates Page 50-56)

"This distance was through an open country, and we were liable to be come upon at any moment by the Federal troops; so to guard against this I arranged the plan of my flight, covering this distance from the Potomac to the Rappahannock to be the scene of an old negro moving. An old negro near the summer home of Dr. Stewart possessed of two impoverished horses and a dilapidated wagon was hired for the trip.

Straw was first placed in the bottom of the wagon bed. I got in on this straw and stretched out full length; then slatts were placed over the first compartment of the bed, giving me a space of about eighteen inches deep, which required me to remain lying on the straw during the entire trip. On the first compartment of the wagon bed was placed the second portion of the wagon body, commonly called sideboards, then was piled on this old chairs, beds, mattresses, quilts and such other paraphernalia as is ordinarily kept in a negro's home. A number of chickens were caught and put in a split basket, which was then made fast to the hind gate of the wagon, with old quilts, blankets, etc., thrown over the back end of the wagon, exposing the basket of chickens, and the wagon or team was driven by the old negro, the owner of the same, and contents, except myself."

~~W. N. Walton, a newspaper man who interviewed Lucas, the negro referred to by Mr. Bates as Lewis, was told by him that on the trip to Port Royal Booth seemed much fatigued, and laid down in the bottom of the wagon and slept at intervals. This was printed in the Washington newspapers May 3, 1865, just a few days after the ride, while all details were fresh in Lucas' mind. (Lincoln Scrap Book Pages 82-83) Nothing was said about a load of furniture and chickens piled on Booth.~~

In an interview November 14, 1920, W. H. Garrett, who was twenty years

Pictures of Booth & Herold
Testimony L.B. Baker

SURRATT TRIAL, JUNE 25TH, 1867 PAGE 316-317

Leaving Colonel Conger in the hall, I went to the ferry, at Port Conway, telling Colonel Conger that I would go and ascertain if I could get any information there, and would cross the river if necessary. I went immediately to the ferry. The first man that I came across was a colored man. I did not succeed in getting any information from him, and turned to the right and saw a man and his wife sitting by their door. Their house was perhaps four or five rods from the ferry. I went with them and asked them if they had seen within a day or two any citizens passing that way; finally I asked them if they had seen a lame man. They said they had; and from their description, I concluded it must have been Booth and Herold. I then took a likeness of Booth from my pocket, and asked this fisherman (Rollins was his name) if that picture resembled the lame man? He said it did, except the moustache, which the lame man did not have. I then took Herold's picture from my pocket, showed it to him, and he said he thought that resembled the small man who carried the carbine. I then learned from Rollins, that the day before, these parties, Booth and Herold, came to the ferry about 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock in the morning. They were brought there by a colored boy by the name of Charley Lucas. Booth paid Lucas ten dollars for bringing him from Dr. Stewart's to the ferry. While they were there Lucas left them and returned.

The Clarkes mentioned would be connected with John Wilkes Booth by the marriage of his sister, Asia Booth to John Sleeper Clarke.

Junius Brutus Booth.

WITNESS

F. L. Bates.

I, as stenographer, wrote the above on the typewriter at the dictation of one signing himself as above, Junius Brutus Booth.

(Miss J T. Wolf.

Personally appeared before me a Notary Public in and for the County of Shelby and state of Tennessee. Miss F. Wolf who after being duly sworn made oath that she was the stenographer who wrote the hereto attached typewritten instrument at the dictation of one who signs himself as above, Junius Brutus Booth signed at Memphis on this 21st day of Feby. 1903.

H. C. Shelton

Notary Public

Shelby County

Tenn

Mrs. Geo. T. Kendal.

Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I was present during an interview between F. L. Bates and Joseph Jefferson on the fourteenth of April 1903, respecting the identification of John Wilkes Booth.

H. J. B. Kendal

For the identifications of the St. Helen tintype as D. E. George which follow we must necessarily take Mr. Bates' unsupported word, since that is all he gives us.

Bates (Pages 229-230): "At the El Reno State Bank, where Booth made his deposits as David E. George, the tintype picture of St. Helen (Booth), taken twelve years after the assassination of President Lincoln, was at once identified by the officials of the bank as being a true likeness of the man David E. George, who made the deposits at their bank and with whom they were personally acquainted. At the request of Mr. Bellamy, one of the bank officials, I went with him to another bank, the name of which I do not now remember, and was introduced to the president of this bank, whose name I believe was Dr. Davis, who at once identified the tintype picture of St. Helen as a true and correct likeness of David E. George."

Interviewed Mrs. Evans December 27, 1920 at the Chicago Church Home for old ladies, Episcopal. Mrs. Evans is 76 years old and states that she and her husband were in the play, "Our American Cousin", April 14, 1865 at Washington, D. C. She says at the time of the assassination she was not on the stage, but in a dressing room, but heard the shot and commotion and ran out to the stage, but by the time she arrived Booth was gone. She says Ferguson was on the stage at the time and should know a lot about it. She says the actors connected with the company kept pretty quiet as they were afraid they would be harmed because John Wilkes Booth had been an actor. She believes that there is absolutely nothing to the stories that Booth ~~was~~^{escaped} and claims that she has never heard of anything that would lead one to believe that such was true.