

EXPOSES FAKE 'RELICS' OF BOOTH

Lincoln Tomb Custodian Tells
How Gullible Are Fleeced
by Swindlers

Springfield, Ill., April 18 (A.P.).—Five alleged skulls of John Wilkes Booth, assassinator of President Lincoln, are on exhibition in the United States, and twenty "Booths" have died, according to Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of Lincoln's tomb here. Recurring reports that Booth lived 38 years after President Lincoln's death and later committed suicide, are characterized by Mr. Fay as wild.

"Those who wish to make money out of the hoax, or to create cheap notoriety, are the only ones to dispute the historical record of Booth's death in a barn at the Garrett farm," Mr. Fay asserted.

"David E. George was only one of 20 different men who have sought to create a furore by claiming to be Booth. Recently while lecturing on Booth's death at the tomb, one of my audience who gave his name as William H. Regan, said he embalmed the body of George.

HOW BOOTH WAS KILLED.

Asked whether he thought it was Booth and whether the dead man had any proof of his identity, Regan said he believed not. Nevertheless, George's body was embalmed and shown over the country in a commercial show scheme."

The version of Booth's death accepted by the custodian of the victim's tomb is as follows:

"John Wilkes Booth eluded his pursuers for eleven days. He was fed by Thomas A. Jones in the meantime in a grove along the Potomac. Lieutenant Baker of the Secret Service, who had often seen Booth, and his men were watching the fugitive. When he crossed the river he was suspected and chased to the Garrett farm.

"Baker and his men surrounded the house and after some parley they ascertained that Booth and Herold were in the barn. They de-

manded several times that he come out. Colonel Conger's men were surrounding the barn.

"They threatened to set fire to the barn and Herold emerged and surrendered. Booth refused, saying he would 'die in the last ditch.' The barn was set afire.

"Boston Corbett, a sergeant, saw Booth through a crack and disobeying orders, shot him. He was brought out by Conger's men and died in three hours.

BODY IS IDENTIFIED.

"The body was brought to Washington and identified by various men who knew Booth.

"One, Dr. John F. May, identified the body by an ugly wound on the neck from an operation performed some time before. Against his physician's advice Booth insisted on acting, and reopened the wound, which healed badly.

"Booth was buried under a Federal prison and an accurate, detailed report made of position and condition as required. Later Edwin Booth, actor-brother of the slayer, obtained an order allowing him to see the body, hoping that a mistake had been made.

"He viewed the body and identified it as that of his brother. He also called in dentists who identified fillings in the teeth of the body, which made identification positive. Edwin Booth claimed the body and buried it in the family burying ground at Baltimore in an unmarked grave."