

remember pointing to a thick piece of wood-land some distance from the house and saying, 'Booth, get over there at once and hide yourself. In those wooded ravines you will never be found.' 'Yes,' said Ruggles, 'get there as quickly as you can, and lose no time about starting.'

Booth turned around to look for Herold, but he was nowhere in sight, as indeed was no one else. He then straightened himself up to his full height and replied, 'I'll do as you say, boys, right off. Ride on! Good-by. It will never do for you to be found in my company.'

1845

Capt. Doherty's command got there that night to find, it is claimed, every arrangement made to draw them on a false scent with Herold. Capt. Doherty's report shows that he found strange men apparently sleeping in each one of the three outhouses and when he asked for Booth he was told he was in the barn so conspicuously padlocked.

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May 28th

Capt. Doherty surrounded the barn. Kicking on the door he got no reply. After a lot of delay he unlocked the door and then began a long conversation with the alleged but still invisible Booth. The latter confessed with alacrity to being the murderer of Lincoln, but kept the soldiers off with threats of shooting. Herold finally agreed to surrender and he was coming out when the barn was set on fire from the outside by one of the soldiers.

Then a shot was heard and the alleged Booth was taken out, mortally wounded. Maj. Ruggles in his account says that, knowing the barn well and judging from all the circumstances of its burning, this shot could not have been fired by Boston Corbett, who could not have seen Booth where he stood at the time, and he concludes: "No one saw Corbett fire, and one chamber of Booth's revolver, held in his hand, was empty, and I am by no means alone in the belief that he killed himself."

While the prisoner possessed a rude crutch, it has been claimed that his leg was broken after death, so as to have him identified as Booth, and that the latter's diary had been put in his pocket before the soldiers arrived for the same purpose, in case he should be arrested.

These are some of the arguments advanced to show that Booth may have escaped. The claim has been made that the necessity for quieting the country was so urgent at the time that another man's body was palmed off as that of Booth. Herold had many reasons to keep such a secret, and the others involved were, it is said, interested parties. The government distributed \$100,000 among those engaged in the capture.

While this theory of a false Booth is an old one, it has not, however, won many adherents. The general opinion is that the identity of the body was established at the autopsy.

x Doherty

Deedman
of Cornish Mass