

Man
319 Cumberland St
Brooklyn New York
June 17th, 1907.

Mr F L Bates
Memphis
Tenn

Dear Sir:

Yours of 13th instant just at hand. Allow me to thank you for the pains you have taken to prove to me that David E George was really John Wilkes Booth.

As I stood before his dead body with Lillian Alexander, a member of the "Holy City Company" who went with me to Mr. W B Penniman's place of business on my second visit on January 23rd, 1907 - the day we played there - I placed my hand upon the head of his "mummy" for such an object his body now really is, and as I gazed, was startled by its likeness to the life-size crayon bust portrait of the assassin that his brother Dr. Joseph Adrian Booth had over his parlor mantle in his cottage at Long Branch, N.J. The faces of the two are the same, except in years. The murderer of Lincoln, I have heard, used to speculate in oil in the sixties and I once asked Dr. Booth if it was true that his brother John left some \$25,000. He replied: "All they found was a draft on Canada for 70 pounds." (About \$350) I also asked him, "What became of his theatrical wardrobe?" He replied that: "John had shipped it on a vessel to Nassau, and that the vessel was lost (or burned) at sea."

While in Oklahoma, I met a number of persons who knew "George"(?) well. J M Craig, the contracting painter, for whom he worked gave me a great deal of information, for he knew him well and now believes he was Booth. He says he had money. Jim Duffy of El Reno, Okla. told me that "he - when a boy - often saw John Wilkes Booth, both on and off the stage in New York City, and that he knows absolutely that David E. George was John Wilkes Booth. He knew him for years in Texas, and Oklahoma also, and says that he drank himself to

death, dying from kidney disease, and did not commit suicide as claimed." This is probably true because each one of his three brothers died from some form of kidney disease and it is more likely that it killed him also than that he killed himself. He undoubtedly assumed the first part of the name "David E George" in memory of his accomplice "David E Herold", who was hanged.

Jim Duffy is a very prominent man in Oklahoma and is a personal friend of the "Governor's." He told me that Booth's favorite recitations and quotations were from Macbeth, and that he was a master of the art of acting, and reciting, which he often did while intoxicated to a slight degree in saloons for the edification of the crowds. He would then suddenly seem to "come to himself" and pulling his slouch hat down over his face, rush out of the drinking place and go limping down the street alone in the dark to his room, for he was always lame in the leg he broke when he jumped from the box at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. Mr. Duffy, knows more about him in his last years than any person I met with while in Oklahoma. He told me he once asked him as to his parentage, remarking that his education and refinement did not seem to be in keeping a exact harmony with his calling as a house and sign painter, merely mechanical work, to which he replied that - "He had had a good kind mother and father, but had wandered away, had wandered away." His eyes filled with tears. This was a short while before he died.

From the several accounts of the assassination of Lincoln and death of Booth, I am sure any careful reader and investigator must conclude that two men were shot and killed who were supposed to have committed the awful crime, One was probably "Ruddy" (?) an overseer at Garrett's farm and the other was probably "Fox" (?) at Richter's on whom Booth's clothing and personal effects were actually found. The "Washington Star" of January 5th, 1907, in an article by James Croggon, evidently, largely copied from an older account, makes it appear very plain that two bodies were taken from off the Monitor. One of these was evidently sunk in the Potomac or at sea, and the other eventually turned

over to the Booth family for burial.

Kindly inform me when your book is issued from the press so that I may at once order several copies.

Yours very truly

Walter Hubbell

To live on without working but wanted to keep out of mischief, he informed him, so worked.