

# SATISFIED DEAD MAN WAS BOOTH

Many People in Enid are of That Opinion.

EVIDENCE ACCUMULATES

Hand Writing Is Same as Assassin of Lincoln.

Enid, O. T., Jan. 21.—The Wave editorial and reportorial force have been searching closely for data, and evidence to sustain, or obliterate, the report that the remains lying in the Enid morgue under the name of David E. George, could possibly be those of J. Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Abraham Lincoln nearly thirty-eight years ago. All the history or account of that sad and terrible affair to be found in the city has been searched.

While the history at hand leaves but little doubt as to the demise of Booth in attempting to escape from the burning barn in Virginia, that he was shot by Boston Corbett upon his first appearance from the barn contrary to orders, and that he died on the porch of that Virginia farm-house, was taken to Washington, identified and buried secretly; that a diary was found on his person detailing the plot to assassinate Lincoln and its purpose, etc., etc., but the fact still remains that a doubt did exist with the government at that time as to the positive identity of the man killed, hence the reward for his capture was never paid, for the identity was not clear.

The Wave is still of the opinion that the possibility of the dead man being all that is mortal of J. Wilkes Booth is based on a theory of 16 to 1 that it is not Booth, but it must admit that the evidence goes to show that if George was not Booth, he was his double, which in connection with voluntary confession to Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Simmons, makes the case interesting and worthy of the attention of the attorney general's department of the government. Drs. Baker and Way unearthed the December, 1901, number of the Medicinal Monthly Journal in their office, which number was almost wholly devoted to the consideration of murderers of presidents of the United States and European potentates. In this pamphlet we found a portrait of J. Wilkes Booth with quite a write-up as to his character, physical and anatomical description among other descriptions. It says:

"The head and forehead of J. Wilkes Booth was kephalonord. The ears excessively and abnormally developed, inclined to the so-called satanic type. The eyes were small, sunken and unequally placed. The nose was normal. The facial bones and jaw were arrested in development and there was a partial V-shaped dental arch. The lower jaw was well developed. He developed an insanity in manner, creating a certain amount of fear among children."

Yesterday the editor of this paper, in company with Dr. McElrath, visited the corpse and compared it with the above description of Booth and we must acknowledge that the dead man shows all the marks credited to Booth above, in every particular. The "satanic ear" is not much larger than the ordinary ear, but the lower lobe thereof clings close unto the side of the head instead of projecting outward like the common, ordinary ear. The corpse has that kind of an ear.

The eyes of the dead man are not mates in appearance. The frontal bone of the left eye comes down further and is more prominent than the right, which fits the description given of Booth. The Booth chin, mouth, upper lip and general description is almost perfect in the corpse.

The Wave has been searching for a fac simile of Booth's handwriting. It was found today in a copy of Harper Bros. Pictorial History of the Civil War. We were really startled when we compared it with the large, round lettered school boy writing of D. E. George. We placed the very last words George wrote by the side of the fac simile writing of Booth and it really seemed to us that one and the same man had written both. Booth's fac simile signature shown in Harper's Pictorial indicates the same large, irregular handwriting of George. History readers will remember that an

attempt was made to poison President Lincoln in a hotel in Meadville, Pa., in August, 1864. A notice appeared on the window of the hotel which read: "Abe Lincoln departed this life August 1, 1864, by the effects of poison."

After the Washington tragedy this handwriting on the window was found to be the handwriting of J. Wilkes Booth, and as it appeared in Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War is a fac simile of the handwriting of D. E. George, now supposed to be Booth.

D. E. George first registered at the Grand Avenue hotel December 3, 1902, and was a guest of the hotel until he died, January 13. His friend, George E. Smith, has left the city, leaving orders to hold the body.

Hundreds of the citizens of Enid are well satisfied that the remains of J. Wilkes Booth are here under the name of D. E. George. However, the Wave aims to give the evidence as to its being Booth only. The likeness of Booth is quite perfect, yet we cannot think that it is Booth.

A man by the name of Martin, who claims to have known J. Wilkes Booth in life, reported around the streets yesterday that if the corpse had certain marks or scars below the right knee and on the right side of the face below the eye, it was Booth. The scars were found before Martin was allowed to view the body.

## MYSTERY UNSOLVED.

Yesterday's WAVE told as simply and as unsensationally as possible the story of the suicide, David E. George, as narrated to it by Mrs. George, the wife of the Methodist minister of this place. And while there are as yet no new developments or documentary evidence as to whether he was who he claimed himself to be, yet Mr. George B. Smith, of Colfax, Iowa, has furnished some facts of interest in the matter. Mr. Smith arrived last night to take charge of the remains of his friend and to look after his effects. He went to El Reno this morning to investigate the rumor that the deceased had property there, of which he says he knows absolutely nothing. He returns tonight or tomorrow, when arrangements for the funeral of the deceased will be made.

Mr. Smith's story, in brief, is that he first met George a year and a half ago in Iowa, and the acquaintance ripened into a close friendship, notwithstanding he disparity in their ages. Smith being a young man.

Mr. George held a life insurance policy in the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company for \$2500 and this he transferred to Smith and he has paid some \$150 to George. He also holds the last will and testament of the dead man, but has not yet opened the document. He also has George's written request that he administer the will, of which he is likely the beneficiary. Smith says that he knows George had traveled extensively in the Holyland, Assyria, Europe and Africa. That he was a highly educated man and a Shakesperian scholar but knows nothing as to whether he was J. Wilkes Booth or not. However as soon as the obsequies are concluded, he will carefully go over the books papers and clippings among the effects and they may disclose his identity.

Incidentally it may be said, George said that he at one time lived in Mississippi and that he had killed a man in Texas, but the last statement Smith does not believe.

Baxter's School Book

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