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from the thread has spun.

Booth Captor's Son Denies Escape Story

Resents Published Reports of Assassin's Coup; Cites Official Record.

March 17, 1925.

To the Editor: There has been called to my attention the publication in several recent editions of the Sunday newspapers of a series of articles relative to John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, having escaped and many years later died a suicide, according to the claim of his niece Blanche Booth.

The revival of this subject at intervals and newspaper publicity given it from one angle or another is a source of regret and annoyance to me, and whenever brought to my attention I feel compelled to refute what I know to be false and come forward in defense of and in justice to the men of the Sixteenth New York cavalry, and particularly my father, Captain (then Lieutenant) Edward P. Doherty, who commanded the detachment of the Sixteenth New York cavalry that pursued and captured John Wilkes Booth and David E. Herold, assassins of President Lincoln, and has ever since been known as "Lincoln avenger," and upon whose integrity and honesty, reflection is cast by these pernicious claims.

He was a resident of New York for many years prior to his death and well known in political and municipal affairs as "Major Doherty," general inspector of paving, department of public works, Manhattan. He was also prominent in military and Grand Army circles, having been grand marshal for two consecutive terms.

In justice to him and myself, and because of the many friends of his own and mine who know of his connection with this historical event, I feel justified in a challenge of these statements irrespective of their source or origin and denounce the theory of Booth's escape as devoid of sound foundation, even absurd.

With due respect to Booth's relatives and what they may claim, if an imposter succeeded in foisting his identity upon them, it is regrettable, but their statements and claims are not in accord with government records, nor to be accepted as authentic in lieu of the majority who participated in the pursuit and capture and testified under oath at the trial of the other conspirators when the entire matter was reviewed.

There was also a commission appointed of the Thirty-ninth congress for the purpose of rigid investigation and determination as to who was entitled to the \$75,000 reward the government offered for the apprehension of the assassins. Does it seem possible, or probable, that the exhaustive inquiry conducted would have failed to reveal any discrepancy in the establishment of the absolute identity of the assassin Booth? Or that the rewards would have been paid unless it had been completely established?

Knew Booth By Sight.

Furthermore, Captain Doherty knew Booth well by sight (if not personally) through seeing him at the National hotel in Washington where Booth resided, and he did also when not on duty.

He also had photographs of Booth when engaged in the pursuit and in his official report submitted immediately upon his return, the following statement may be found in the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion," Vol. 46, pages 1317-1322: "I procured a wagon, sewed up the body in a blanket myself, and placed it in the wagon."

When the order was received calling for a "reliable and discreet commissioned officer" to be sent in charge of the expedition, the colonel of the regiment selected Lieutenant Doherty for the mission. He was not on duty at the time, but an order was sent in search of him, the colonel knowing that he was the man to be relied upon, because he

had acquitted himself creditably on former important missions entrusted to him.

Always alert, keen of perception, vigilant, of strong integrity, a soldier and a gentleman, highly respected by his comrades, he could not have been so deceived, nor would he have been a party to deception practiced upon the government, which would not have been possible owing to the intense indignation and desire for revenge which was nationwide because of the nature of the crime and the assassination of our beloved president and head of our nation.

My claims are based on established facts, and substantiated by government records and other data that I have, and my plea is for justice to one who was a citizen and resident of New York city, an honorable soldier with an illustrious record of nine years' service during the entire Civil war and afterwards as an officer in the regular army under General Sheridan suppressing the Indian uprisings on the western plains. Also for the men of his command.

Please give this letter in their defense prominent and fair representation in your valuable paper, for which I shall be sincerely grateful.

Yours very truly,
CHARLES J. G. DOHERTY,
817 Falle street, Bronx, New York City.

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