

Minneapolis, 81, Recalls Assassination of Lincoln Sixty Years Ago Tuesday

Dr. H. W. Brazie, Veteran of Gettysburg and Secret Service, Knew John Wilkes Booth and Men Who Aided Him

Dr. H. W. Brazie, 81 year old Minneapolis physician, who as a Washington secret service agent used to eat his meals in the same hotel with John Wilkes Booth, last night recalled the details of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865, just 60 years ago Tuesday, remembering the tragedy that rocked a nation, "as if it were yesterday."

"the time Lincoln was shot," Dr. Brazie recalled last night.

"It was a warm night, and I was sitting in my room before an open window when a commotion in the street attracted my attention, looking out, I saw men hurrying here and there, and heard cries that 'Lincoln is dead—Lincoln has been killed!'"

Posted at Rail Station

"Immediately reporting for duty, I was stationed at the Baltimore & Ohio railroad terminal, ordered to see that nobody left the city without being identified."

Dr. Brazie, who has been a physician here for 46 years, was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg. He can recall the tavern, owned by Mrs. Surratt, where the plot to assassinate Lincoln was hatched.

He knew every member of the Booth family, and was "professionally acquainted" with the Surratt tavern, "a nest of anarchy and sedition," which was rifled when Booth's gang was rounded up.

He knew Spangler, the man who held Booth's horse outside the theater, and Dr. Mudd, who set the assassin's leg and secreted him after his flight.

Assassin Shot as He Flew Barn

"Booth met his death not more than 10 days after the assassination," Dr. Brazie said. "He was shot as he rushed from the barn that had been fired by officers surrounding him. Sergeant Boston Corbett fired the shot that killed him, and he was buried in a private burial ground in northern New York, without mark or headstone."

"Some have said the body was kept in the navy yards before burial, and it is reported now that he lived several years after the assassination. This is not true. I saw Booth in the arsenal, and I know it was he, because I used to eat in the same hotel dining room with him in Washington."

"The rumor that Booth lived for years after the assassination is similar to the recent fallacy about Harry Haywood not being hanged. I happen to know Heywood was hanged, because I was within six feet of the gallows when the trap was pulled from under his feet. I was the physician who pronounced him dead."

Dr. Brazie lives at 3416 Pillsbury avenue.