

"GENERAL" DANA "CORROBORATES"

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Chapter 18

Ch 18

"GENERAL" DANA "CORROBORATES."

Mr. Bates states that his interest was revived in the "confession" by a story which appeared in the Boston Globe, December 12, 1897, from an interview with Lieutenant David D. Dana (Bates constantly refers to him as General Dana), who, according to his own story, was in supreme command of the pursuit of the assassins and was taking his orders direct from Major General Augur.

Among the numerous officers of higher rank connected with the case his name occurs infrequently. His superior officer was Colonel Wells, the provost marshal general of the section over which Lieutenant Dana claims he had authority.

The Official Records of the Civil War and the Washington newspapers of the period, instead of confirming Lieutenant Dana's various statements, give much material to show they must have been the result of an imaginative memory.

The points of Lieutenant Dana's story that most interested Mr. Bates ten years before he published St. Helen's "Confession" were those statements which after the passage of the ten years, he used to corroborate this "alleged confession". Bates may or may not have ^{obtained} ~~gotten~~ most of the confession from Dana's story and Richter's delirious tale, but before publishing this book, he himself gave material to the newspapers dealing with the Booth legends and then used in his book the newspaper stories for corroboration. But we are anticipating---

In the spring of '65, while patrolling the territory in southern Maryland, Lieutenant Dana, ⁽¹⁾ says that he learned that a plot was forming against the government, and that the blow would undoubtedly be aimed against the life of Pres. Lincoln. "I at once asked," declares Dana, "for a battalion of veteran cavalry, in addition to the regular provost guard, and the request was ⁽²⁾ granted. I was ordered to establish a line of pickets from Fort Meigs on the left to Geisboro point on the right, with orders to permit none to enter the city of Washington during the day unless they could give their names, where they were from, and what was their business at the capital.

The picketing orders ^(2 1/2) ~~possibly~~ were those put into force after the assassination, for on Friday the 14th, "The war was over. The great rebellion which for four long years had been assailing the Nation's life was quelled; Richmond, the rebel Capitol, was taken; Lee's army had surrendered, and the flag of the Union was floating in reassured supremacy over the whole of the

National domain." (3)

"The conspirators," says Ray Stannard Baker, "could not have chosen a more favorable occasion for their bloody work. Washington and the North were in a paroxysm of rejoicing over the surrender of Lee and the close of a long and bloody war. The rigor of military restrictions was in some degree relaxed, and the highways of travel north and south were rapidly opening. Everywhere the air was filled with the spirit of disorganization consequent on the mustering out of armed men and the return of the soldier to his plow-handle." (4)

National Intelligencer, April 14, 1865. "Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, ordered drafting and recruiting to cease and has ordered reductions of the army to actual necessity."

Bennett F. Gwynn, (5) testified that he came to Washington frequently during April, 1865, and never saw pickets beyond the District line.

John C. Bartlett (6) testified that during April, 1865, he was driving a stage daily from Washington to T.B. and back, leaving Washington at 8 a.m. and returning between 5 and 6 p.m. That there were no pickets on that road beyond (the hill just beyond Anacostia Bridge.) Good Hope/during April and that on Friday the 14th he did not see any pickets on the road after he left the bridge and none until he reached the bridge upon returning, that the next day pickets were stationed beyond the bridge. (7)

"On Friday, April 14, 1865," continues Dana, "Two men appeared before the guard on the road leading into Washington from the east. Refusing to give their names or state their business, they were arrested and put in the guard tent, whence they were to be sent to headquarters. This was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. In an hour or two they gave their names as Booth and Herold.

"The officers on guard under me had carried out my orders so strictly that it was very annoying to the rebel sympathizers who wished access to the city, so that many complaints were made by prominent citizens of Maryland.

"About 4 p.m. I received an order from General Augur to release all prisoners held by the guards, and to withdraw the guard until further orders. I

sent an orderly to the officers on the line from Fort Meigs easterly, with orders to release all prisoners, and to report to me at Fort Baker. On the line from Fort Meigs to Surrattville, I went in person, and withdrew the guard to my headquarters.

"Booth and Herold were released as soon as the orders reached the guard, and they proceeded at once to Washington, reaching there about 6:30 in the afternoon. I had a guard at each end of the bridge on the eastern branch of the Potomac, and one of the guards knew Booth, and recognized him as he rode into the city, and as he came out after the assassination, and had it been known that he had killed Lincoln, escape would have been impossible."

St. Helen in the "Confession" claims he reached the city at 3 p.m. and was closeted between three and four with Andrew Johnson. Lieutenant Dana did not release his prisoners until 4 p.m. and they reached Washington about 6:30. The evidence ^{I have} submitted in refutation of this point in St. Helen's "Confession" also disproves the authenticity of Lieutenant Dana's statements. Booth and Herold were not even out of Washington on the 14th.

"I returned to headquarters about 11 p.m.", claims Dana, "and had dismissed the guard, and was eating supper, when an officer rode into camp with the startling intelligence that Lincoln was killed, and that the murderer, with another man, had ridden at a rapid pace into the country.

"I called out the guard, and sent detachments in different directions, and then went to the bridge to learn what I could there. On my way I met a company of cavalry, the 13th of New York, which I ordered to patrol the river to Guisi point and learn all they could, and then return to Fort Baker.

"At the bridge I found an orderly from General Augur with orders for me to report to him at Washington without delay. I did so, and was ushered into his presence, where I found him standing by his desk with streaming eyes. 'My God, Marshall,' he cried upon seeing me, 'if I had listened to your advice this terrible thing never would have happened!'

"After conversing with him a few moments, I was appointed adjutant general

on his staff, and ordered to use my own judgment as to the best way of capturing Booth. The order read as follows:

"To commanders of all divisions, brigades, regiments, companies and posts: You will obey all orders emanating from Adj. Gen. and Provost Marshall D.D. Dana the same as though especially issued from these headquarters.

(Signed) Maj. Gen. C.C. Augur.
Commanding 22nd corps in Dept. of Washington."

"While with General Augur and by his request I laid out the plan for the capture of Booth. First, one of the swiftest steamers which could be obtained should patrol the Potomac as far as the Patuxent river and seize all boats which could not give a good account of themselves. Then a steamer should be sent up the Patuxent and all boats on this river were to be seized at all hazards to as far as Horse Head Ferry."

Reference to the dispatches quoted in Chapter VII, "The Government Acts," shows how far afield Dana has wandered at this point.

That this Lieutenant was taking his orders direct from his commanding General is improbable. General Augur, who spent most of the night with Secretary Stanton in the house where Lincoln died and not at headquarters, issued a great many orders relating to the hunt for the assassins, (8) but the one quoted by Dana cannot be found. In the Official Records (9) is a report from Dana dated April 15th, addressed to Capt. R. Chandler, Assistant Adjutant General, who referred it to Lieutenant-Colonel King, with the indorsement that Lieutenant Dana, "is instructed to keep on until he finds somebody." (Quoted in full, Chapter VII.) Dana signed this report "First Lieutenant and Provost-Marshal, Third Brigade." What became of the "Adjutant General"? If Lieutenant Dana was dealing directly with General Augur, why was the dispatch addressed to a mere captain?

But let us return to "General" Dana's story of how he won the war, --
"I returned to Fort Baker, left orders for the cavalry, who were out scouting, took a small detachment of my own guard and started after Booth, taking the

road by Surrattville to Bryantown. As we passed by the Surratt mansion all was as dark as though it had never been inhabited, but I found an old man and woman who had a boy sick with the smallpox. Finding that no information could be obtained there from the old man or his wife I took him along with us for a mile and a half to a secluded dell. Refusing to give the desired information, I ordered him to be strung up to the limb of a big oak tree."

"It was a clear night, with the moon just rising, its silvery glints touching the tops of the trees in the dell and the flickering light of the campfire which the men had kindled casting fantastic shadows here and there." After describing the "weird and gruesome scene" which Dana says was "in the light of the fire and the moon" he continues, "I ordered him to be cut down after a few moments and he was resuscitated. Rather than try a second pull on the rope, he told me that Booth and Herold had been at the Surratt mansion, had had something to eat and drink, and that after supper, though Booth was badly hurt, they had mounted their horses and rode toward Bryantown."

That Lieutenant Dana took a detachment, passed through Surrattville during the night, Friday night, and hung an old man, by the light of the rising moon, who informed him that "Booth and Herold had been at the Surratt mansion", is refuted first by the testimony of John Lloyd, keeper of the Surratt Tavern, who stated that the soldiers did not arrive in Surrattville until about 8 a.m. and the 15th, /it was not until the middle of the following week that the detectives learned that Booth and Herold stopped the night of the 14th at the tavern. (10)

William Harkness, Naval Observatory, (11) testified at the Surratt trial, that the moon rose at 10:01 on April 14, 1865, that at 11:20 the sky was covered more or less with clouds and looked somewhat hazy.

A.R. Eastman, Naval Observatory, (12) testified that on the night of April 14th, he was making observations from about 7 o'clock until 11:20. When asked whether at eleven o'clock it was or was not dark, he answered that "It was comparatively so, because the moon was so much obscured by the haze that the stars

could not be seen by a glass, except those of the first magnitude. You could just see their position."

William Dixon, Chief Engineer, U.S. Fire Brigade, Washington, D.C., (13) testified that on the night of April 14th, 1865, it was so dark at 11 o'clock and again at 2 o'clock, that he could not see the color of horses on Pennsylvania Avenue from the sidewalk.

"I arrived at Bryantown about 6 A.M." states Lieutenant Dana in the "Globe" but in his testimony May 20, 1865, (14) he tells a different story.

Question-- "State at what hour you arrived in Bryantown on Saturday, April 15th"

Lieut. Dana,-- "I sent an advance guard of four men. They arrived there twenty minutes or half an hour before I did. I arrived there very near one o'clock that afternoon, Saturday afternoon."

Upon his arrival in Bryantown, Lieutenant Dana says that he "At once placed guards at all the roads leading into the village, with orders that anyone might enter the town but that none were to leave it."

This guard was no more effective than the one the Lieutenant claimed he placed about Washington before the assassination. It evidently did not stop those desiring to leave the town, for:-

John I. Langley, (15) testified at the Conspiracy Trial: "I was at Bryantown two or three times on Saturday, the 15th of April; it was sundown when I last left. I heard that the President was assassinated, but did not hear who assassinated him. I did not hear that till Monday morning."

Leonard S. Robey, of near Bryantown, (16) testified that he went to Bryantown about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th, asked the soldiers there questions about the assassination, but did not learn until before he left that evening who the assassin was, when the information was given him by Dr. George Mudd.

Daniel E. Monroe, (17) testified that he was in Bryantown, Sunday the 16th, and that Wm. Henry Moore, a neighbor, who had come from Bryantown that morning, said that the assassin was Edwin Booth.

John McPherson, (18) testified: "I was at Bryantown on Saturday, the day after the assassination of the President, from 2 o'clock till about 6, and heard the talk about the assassination. It was the general topic; but I did not hear who was the assassin. I do not recollect that I made any inquiries about it. On Monday morning I first heard that it was Booth."

Mason L. McPherson, (19) testified: "I live within three-fourths of a mile of Bryantown. About 2 o'clock on the day after the assassination of the President I went to Bryantown, and was there till 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening. I did not hear any one say that afternoon who had assassinated the President. I heard that Boyle had murdered the Secretary of State - John Boyle, the guerilla, that had passed through there several times, and had killed Captain Watkins. I made inquiries of some of the soldiers, but they could not tell me who had killed the President. I asked right smart of people, citizens as well as soldiers. but they did not know. I was in Bean's store a short time and heard the talk there, but nobody mentioned the name of the assassin. There were a good many people in town that day. On Sunday I heard who the supposed murderer was."

Not one of these witnesses make mention of trouble getting through the lines at Bryantown.

Lieutenant Dana in his story says: (20) "After Booth and Herold arrived at Dr. Mudd's, Booth's leg was set, and after giving them their breakfast the doctor made a crutch for Booth and fixed him up ready to start at an instant's notice.

"Dr. Mudd came into Bryantown at 2 in the afternoon and stayed there until 8 or 9 in the evening, when a cousin of his, Dr. George Mudd, asked as a personal favor a pass for him through the lines. After closely questioning Samuel Mudd, and believing him to know nothing of Booth, and having confidence in what his cousin said, I let Dr. Samuel Mudd go." (21)

Again Lieutenant Dana does not agree with himself, as is shown by his testimony on the witness stand May 20, 1865.

Question: "Are you acquainted at all with the prisoner at the bar, Dr. Mudd?"

Lieut. Dana: "No, sir."

Question: "Have you any knowledge whether you met him on that occasion."

(Bryantown, Saturday April 15th.)

Lieut. Dana: "No, sir."

"George Mudd, let me say in passing, never intimated to me," declares Dana, "that his friend was a doctor, or was a relative of his. I learned the next day, when it was too late, that his cousin was a rank rebel, and I plainly told George Mudd what I thought of him."

A comparison of Lieut. Dana's statement just quoted with the Conspiracy Trial testimony of Dr. George Mudd, shows to what extent time had altered the Lieutenant's memory of events as they actually happened.

"I was at Bryantown ~~the~~ Saturday, the 15th," testified Dr. George Mudd (22) "when the news of the assassination of the President reached there, and remained there all the evening. Lieutenant Dana, on whom I called for information, told me that the party who had attempted the assassination of Secretary Seward was named Boyle, and claimed him to be the same party who assassinated Captain Watkins of Anne Arundel County, and that the party who assassinated the President was supposed to be a man by the name of Booth, but that he thought he had not yet got out of Washington. (23) Boyle, who was known in our region of country, and had been there three or four weeks before, was a noted desperado and guerilla."

Dr. George Mudd also testified that on Monday morning after the assassination, he informed Lieutenant Dana at Bryantown that there had been two suspicious persons at Dr. Sam. Mudd's on the previous Saturday.

The remainder of Dana's story deals with Booth's and Herold's movements after they left Dr. Samuel Mudd's, and is based purely on imagination or hearsay as it does not at all agree with the evidence presented at the conspiracy trial and statements obtained afterward. Enough has been quoted to show how unreliable as corroboration the story really is.

The Dana story and St. Helen's "Confession" is an instance of "the blind leading the blind!" After coming to many asinine conclusions from the story and making comparisons between it and St. Helen's "Confession," Bates (24) elaborates on St. Helen's "Confession" with the claim (25) that St. Helen told him that he and Herold left Dr. Mudd's after an early breakfast. The Conspiracy Trial Records show that Booth and Herold left between three and four, Saturday afternoon. Bates (26) then says that St. Helen claimed that their horses were not killed at the Cox place but were led away by Thomas A. Jones, and Bates argues that the horses could not have been killed and buried for says Mr. Bates "Booth in his crippled condition could not help and Herold was without the necessary implements with which to do it."

Jones in his story (previously quoted) states that he had no hand in the disposition of the horses but that Herold led them to the Zackiah swamp to a spot where there is a large quicksand covered with water and shot them and that in his opinion their own weight sunk them. Herold had for "implements with which to do it", a carbine and revolver and Booth had two revolvers and a dirk.

Bates (27) says that St. Helen claimed that he met John H. Surratt through a letter of introduction from Herold.

Louis J. Weichman (28) testified at the Conspiracy Trial that he was present about January 15, 1865, when Dr. Samuel Mudd introduced John Wilkes^{Booth} to both Surratt and him. The testimony shows that Herold was not even present. (29)

Mr. Bates states: "After having read the publication of General Dana in December, 1897, I remembered anew the confession of St. Helen."

He then says he wrote "to General Dana for further facts."

"Having no knowledge whatever of the Booth family before my meeting with St. Helen, I could only explain the information I had received from him concerning this family and the escape of John Wilkes Booth upon the theory that St. Helen was related to Herold and knew Booth's personal and family affairs by reason of his association with either Booth or Herold, or both. So, I assumed, without foundation in fact, that the tintype picture of himself, given me by St. Helen when he believed he was dying, must be a picture of some one of the Herolds. So I wrote General Dana, who, in return, sent me the first pictures I ever remember to have seen of Booth, also Herold, and others. I at once identified John Wilkes Booth for the first time, by comparing the tintype picture of St. Helen with the picture of John Wilkes Booth sent me by Dana. St. Helen was indeed the man he claimed to be—John Wilkes Booth."

It is passing strange that during all the years, from the time of St. Helen's Confession about 1872, until 1897, that Bates was not even curious enough to obtain (and they were not hard to procure) a picture of John Wilkes Booth to compare with the St. Helen tin^{tin}type.

Mr. Bates' letters to Dana are not in evidence, but copies of Dana's answers have been secured and are here given:

Only the parts italicized were quoted by Mr. Bates in his book.

"West Lubec, Maine. Dec. 25, 1897.

"Mr. F. L. Bates

"Dear Sir:

"Yours of the 20th at hand read and contents noted. Enclosed please find a good likeness of Booth, also one of Herold. *Booth, I personally knew, Herold I did not. After Booth was killed he was brought up to the Navy Yard in a gunboat and I went on board to see if it was him. I identified him at once and know positively that it was Booth. He was buried near the old jail and a battery of artillery driven over his grave to obliterate all trace of it.* Atzerodt, another of the conspirators, was captured by my troops, tried and hung, making four including Mrs. Surratt that was hung, namely, Herold, Atzerodt, Payne, and Mrs. Surratt.

"The Herold that you knew must have been a relative of the one hung. There were a large number of them and all related, and several of them were mixed up in the conspiracy, to a greater or less extent, and his object of secrecy was to save them from trouble. I have not a particle of doubt but that he told you the truth. It was a peculiar incident that I should refrain from publishing the account of their pursuit and capture until after the expiration of the 25 years. I have concluded to send the entire lot of those captured and proven to be connected with the conspiracy.

"Trusting that what I have written and pictures sent will be of interest to you, I am

"Sincerely yours,

(Signed) "David D. Dana."

The Official Records of the Civil War, series 1, volume 46, part 3, testimony at the conspiracy trial, and the making of the awards, show that Lieutenant Dana had absolutely nothing to do with the search for or capture of George A. Atzerodt. The search and arrest were made by Sergeant L. W. Gemmill under the direction of Major Enos R. Artman, and both received rewards for the capture. Atzerodt was arrested at the home of a Mr. Richter near Germantown, Maryland, about thirty miles northwest of Washington; just the opposite direction from where Lieutenant Dana was located—Sergeant Gemmill's testimony—Pittman Report, page 149.

(30)

Bates then says: "I at once had a picture made from the tintype and sent it to Dana," whose reply, from Lubec, Maine, January 17, 1898, with respect to this picture, is here given in full. Mr. Bates, however, quotes only those parts of this letter shown in italics.

"F. L. Bates, Esq.

"Dear Sir:

"*Your favor of Jan. 8th at hand and read. I must say that I was somewhat surprised at the turn things took, for I expected that the likeness of Herold had some of the features in it of the man you wrote me about. But it seems that Booth was the one instead, and as you have invited me to help you "correct history" it is my duty to present to you certain facts, in relation to the matters of Booth's death, although if I had a copy of the confession you have I would be better able to do so. First, as I wrote you before, I knew J. W. Booth and it was him that I followed through Maryland. He had broken his leg and Dr. Mudd set it for him, but in his travel, he had undone the setting so that it was in a worse condition when he was killed than when first broken, for gangrene had set in and he could not have lived over two weeks longer at the most.*

"When the body lay on board of the gunboat, at

Navy Yard bridge I went on board and saw him as he lay there. *He had grown poor and thin, his features were drawn and pinched as if he had suffered a great deal*, which undoubtedly he had. The surgeons who examined him knew him well in life and they pronounced the corpse to be that of John Wilkes Booth. His brother, Edwin Booth, claimed the body as that of his brother and asked the government to give it up to him for burial, which they did after it had lain in the old arsenal yard for two years, and it was put in the Booth vault in the Baltimore cemetery. The old arsenal yard and the old prison yard and the old jail yard are all one. It was used as a arsenal yard first, then as a prison and last as a jail.

"Booth had a brother, J. B. Booth, who was almost an exact counterpart of J. W. in looks, who, if I am not very much mistaken, died some years ago of consumption down South. It would be hard to tell their likeness apart, put the two together. Could it not have been J. B. you saw and knew? He must at that time have been very poor. You ask about Lt. Col. Baker. He at that time was not connected as one might say with the army although he held a Lt. Col's commission. He was at that time at the head of the Secret Service and was under the control of the War Department alone.

(31)

"As I sent in my reports from day to day, the Department knew every move. In one of my reports, I mapped out a route and only route Booth was to take to effect his escape into Virginia, and the Department sent Col. Baker with a squad of cavalry to intercept him, which he did as you have read. When the conspirators were tried, all the officers who performed such wonderful feats in capturing them had to own that all the information they had concerning their movements came from me and you will so find it in their evidence. So I care nothing about what they write or what they claim. *Will it be asking too much for you to send a copy of the confession which you have? I would like it for my own satisfaction. If I can be of any help to you, will gladly aid all I can. Regarding J. B. Booth, I shall write to some one of the family and learn all I can of his death and where, when received, will send to you.*

"Respectfully yours,
(Signed) "David D. Dana."

(32)

After receiving this, Mr. Bates says: "Especial attention is called to General Dana's identification of the tintype picture as that of John Wilkes Booth."

Reference to the letter itself shows that Dana was uncertain and canvassed the possibility of its being a photo of J. B. Booth instead.

(33)

One of Dana's comrades, F.A. Demond, read his story in the Boston Globe, December 12, 1897, and wrote him. Dana forwarded this letter to Bates who published it in his book, (34) to corroborate the St. Helen story about the pass words. This it does not do. However, it does corroborate Sergeant Cobb in his Conspiracy Trial testimony quoted in Chapter V.

"Mr. D. D. Dana:

"Dear Sir and Comrade--I was very much interested in reading your account of how you tried to prevent the assassination of the late President Lincoln, as published in The Globe of yesterday. It brought back old memories to me of away back in '64, as I was a member of your old provost guard, with headquarters at Fort Baker.

"Well do I remember those days. I was detailed from my company--Co. C., Capt. A. W. Brigham, then stationed at Fort Mahan--and ordered to report to you at Fort Baker for duty on provost guard. I did so, and was employed guarding prisoners, sawing wood and going down to Uniontown searching for soldiers without passes. After a short time of service at headquarters I, with some others from your command, was sent to guard the bridge leading from Washington to Uniontown, down by the navy yard.

"I was stationed at the Uniontown end of the bridge where the gates were hung to stop people from going to Washington. I was under the orders of Corp. Sullivan--I think that was his name--and the command at the other end of the bridge, the Washington side, was under Sergt. Cobb.

"I was present the night that Booth and Herold crossed after Booth had shot the President, but was not on post. I stood in the door of the block house when Booth rode up and heard him ask the guard if anyone had gone through lately. I heard the guard on the post answer him, 'No,' and

ask him what he was doing out there this time of night?

"He made some kind of answer about going to see some one who lived out on the T. B. road. I did not pay much attention at this time to what they were talking about. I helped open the gate and he rode through.

"A short time after this Herold rode over the bridge and asked if there had been anyone through mounted on a bay horse. Upon being told that there had, he muttered something about being a pretty man not to wait for him.

"Well, we opened the gate and let him through and he rode off in a hurry. About twenty minutes later, I should say, we heard a great uproar across the bridge and in a short time got word of the assassination. If we had only known it sooner neither one of them would have passed us, as I would have shot them as quickly as I would a mad dog. But it was too late; they were out of sight and hearing by that time.

"I remember when you came down to meet some one that was waiting on the Washington side, but never knew who it was until I read the account given by you in The Sunday Globe. I remember of your going in pursuit, and, if I am not mistaken, one of Co. C.'s boys, Charles Joise, was with you.

"Excuse my writing to you, but I was so glad to hear from you, Lieutenant, that I had to let you know that one of your boys was still living. Hoping sometime to see you on a visit to me up here, I remain, yours with great respect,

"F. A. Demond, Cavendish, Mt.

"Late private Co. C., Third Heavy Artillery, Massachusetts Volunteers."

There is nothing in this letter to show that "T.B." or "T.B. Road" were used as passwords. Demond says, "He made some kind of answer about going to see some one who lived out on T.B. Road. I did not pay much attention at this time to what they were talking about."

In a letter of June 12, 1915, this time to Mr. Bates who had written him, Demond enclosed his pictures and a "statement" for a new edition of the Bates' book, and asks "Do you want me to send the book back?" In another letter to Bates May 31, 1916, Demond says, "I have lost my book that you sent me having lent it so many times, and do not remember who I lent it to. If I had it, I could have sent it to you with corrections on margin, but my memory is getting poor so I cannot remember so far back."

In the 1915 letter, dated eighteen years after the one to Lieutenant Dana, and having been influenced by reading Bates' book, Demond, whose "memory is getting poor" now states that Booth and Herold attempted to enter Washington the morning of the 14th, and were arrested and held until the afternoon, and that he recognized Booth immediately, and charged him with being the actor. "He then said," claims Demond, "that I was right and that his companion was Herold." This does not agree with St. Helen's statement that he hesitated a while to give their names, or with Dana's statement that "In an hour or two they gave their names as Booth and Herold." Demond does not even mention this arrest and detention in his 1897 letter.

"Just as we were getting ready for guard duty," writes Demond to Bates in the 1915 letter, "Dana came and told us not to let anyone through without the pass word "T.B." Countersign "T.B. Road". We thought that strange for it was the first time that we ever had a pass word to use since we were at the Bridge." ^{after another year had passed,} But Demond in 1916/says that "On the evening of the assassination about 8 or 9 o'clock, the Sergeant of the guard who was stationed on the Washington side of the bridge "came across and gave them the pass word."

The first letter, 1897, agrees with the testimony of Sergeant Cobb at

as has been said before the Conspiracy Trial, and does not even mention "T.B." as a password and "T.B. Road" as a countersign. It merely says he was "going to see some one who lived out "T.B." road. Since "T.B." road and "T.B." the town, both were out that way, there was nothing unusual about this as an excuse. If this was the first time the guard ever had a pass word, what was the necessity for it this particular night? If high army officers been interested in the escape of Booth and Herold as Bates would lead us to believe, they certainly would not arrange for pass words and countersigns that would hold the assassins up for even a few minutes after the dastardly deed was done.

If there had been any basis for these late claims that Booth and Herold gave a pass word and countersign at the bridge, some of the many contemporary newspaper stories would have mentioned it. I have examined literally hundreds of newspapers and clippings published in 1865 dealing with the assassination and escape of the assassins and not one thought it remarkable that Booth and Herold were allowed to cross the bridge with only a cursory examination. Think how the 1865 reporters would have snatched at the statement, "They had the pass word and countersign."

It is on this type of senility that Bates and those who have used his work for the basis of their stories and books supporting the escape myth, have built their fiction.

No, we must conclude that the "pass word, countersign" story was just a figment of St. Helen's or Bates' imagination.

Mr. Bates (35) quotes and also misquotes with words left out some times and words added in others, "The Capture, Death and Burial of J. Wilkes Booth" by Ray Stannard Baker. (36) A couple of instances of his method in this case should prove illuminating.

"Baker feared that the presence of the searching party might give warning to Booth and his companion should they be hiding anywhere in the neighborhood. He therefore pushed on ahead to the bank of the Rappahannock. Here, dozing in front of his little cottage in the sunshine, Baker found a fisherman-ferry-man whose name was Rollins. He asked him if he had seen a lame man cross the river within the past few days. Yes, he had, and there was another man with him. In fact, Rollins said that he had ferried them across the river." In Bates' volume, page 140, he quotes the foregoing as "there were other men with him," and then in parenthesis says "(This was Booth, Herold and Ruddy. Notice that the ferryman refers to men being with Booth--not a man.)" Thus we find Mr. Bates deliberately attempting to prove by a false quotation that Ruddy was along. To continue Mr.

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insert X

Mrs Surratt and her boarder, Lewis Weichman, had no trouble crossing the
Anacostia ^{• or Eastern Branch} bridge going to Surrattville about ^{three o'clock} ~~3:00~~ pm and returning about ^{seven o'clock} ~~7:00~~
on the afternoon before the assassination. How did they cross without the
pass word? ^{34 1/2} (c.t. p 113 and 85-86*)

Ray Stannard Baker's narrative: "Instantly Baker drew out his photographs, and Rollins pointed without the least hesitation to the pictures of Booth and Herold. "There are the men," he said, nodding his head: "there are the men, only this one"--pointing to Booth's picture--"had no mustache." Bates here again on page 140 inserts in parenthesis, the following: "(The fisherman evidently was thinking of Ruddy and identifying him from Booth's picture, because Booth had a mustache and Ruddy did not have a distinguishable mustache, having an even growth of whiskers on his entire face. This would seem to show that Ruddy could have been, and was, mistaken for Booth, without a long mustache.)" Unfortunately for Mr. Bates' reasoning Booth borrowed a razor at Dr. Mudd's and shaved off his mustache. *over a week before reaching the ferry.* (37)

then a
Bates makes ~~about the~~ most grotesque statement ~~that could be made~~ when he says of ^{*the*} Baker ^{*story.*} (38): "For instance, he refers to the dark outlines of the dingy barn and tobacco house, where Booth is claimed to have been killed, when as a matter of fact, was there a barn on the place at all, or only two small corn cribs constructed of poles or small logs, as seen in the true pictures of the Garrett home here presented!" And then Mr. Bates (39) shows a picture of the Garrett place which was taken after the barn was burned, and comments further, "If there was no barn to burn--and we understand there was none--then none was burned, as claimed and written of by Mr. Baker. The man killed was killed in the left hand corn crib, as you face them in the picture of the Garrett home and barnyard, shown in this volume, which is a true reproduction of the Garrett home, together with the corn cribs as they were on the 26th day of April, 1865." (Bates does not even have St. Helen's "Confession" to support him in the assertion just given.) Of course *the tobacco barn, it had been burned.* it would not show. Richard H. Garrett, the father, and John W. Garrett, one of the sons, both say it was a large tobacco house, and since he gives no references as authorities, we are compelled to accept Baker who credits his sources as "the personal reminiscences of Colonel L.C. Baker and Lieutenant L.B. Baker."

W.H. Garrett, the younger of the Garrett boys, who was twenty at the

time Booth was shot in their barn, when interviewed November 14, 1920, at the old Garrett place, pointed out the location of the ^{former} tobacco barn, which was burned, and indicated where he had been standing near one corner of the barn while the parley between Booth and the officers took place. When told that one writer claimed that Booth and Herold had been concealed in one of the corn-cribs, and said there had been no barn, Mr. Garrett laughed and said that he had been in the old barn too often before it was burned for it to be mere imagination. (Refer to Chapter, "At the Garrett Farm.")

And then Bates revels in the various stories about the disposition of Booth's body but does not quote the testimony given under oath on this point. As a matter of fact, he acknowledged to the author that he had never read the ^{published transcripts of the} Conspiracy and Surratt trials and Impeachment Investigation and did not know that they had even been put in print until I gave him that information in 1921.

"And now comes the climax," states Mr. Bates (40) "in the shape of a voluntary letter from the United States War Department, as follows:

"War Department,
"Office of the Judge Advocate General,
"Washington, May 13, 1898.

"F.L. Bates, Memphis, Tenn.

"Dear Sir: I am collecting matter for a detailed account of the assassination of President Lincoln by J. Wilkes Booth, and seeing your letter to this department concerning the evidence you therein state you possess, that Booth was not captured and killed by the Federal troops, I have been prompted to write you in my private capacity as a citizen, and not as an employe of the War Department, and inquire if you will kindly give me for publication, if found available, such information on the subject as you may possess.

"While I have not what may be styled direct or positive evidence that the man killed was Booth, I have such circumstantial evidence as would seem to prove the fact beyond doubt. Still, I would be glad to examine any evidence to the contrary.

"Hoping to hear from you soon, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

(Signed) JOHN P. SIMONTON."

Mr. Bates claims,

"The voluntary statement of Mr. Simonton being true, establishes beyond question the fact that the government had no positive or direct proof of the capture and killing of Booth. Then this explains why the government did not expose the supposed body of Booth. Because they had no conclusive proof of its identity they kept it concealed from the public, for the good effect the deception would have on the public, that they might lull to rest the outraged and restless public sentiment demanding vengeance."

Mr. Simonton's letter is not a voluntary letter "from the United States War Department," but as is stated in the letter itself, written "in my private capacity as a citizen, and not as an employe of the War Department." In fact, Mr. Simonton, retired in September, 1920, was a clerk in the Judge Advocate General's Office, and for a number of years has been interested in gathering material proving Mrs. Surratt innocent of any connection with the assassination conspiracy. He stated ^{to me} in conversation in November 1920 that he was quite provoked at the statement that his letter was from the War Department and that the only evidence he had ever received from Mr. Bates "that Booth was not captured and killed by the Federal troops" was a copy of Mr. Bates' book, "The First True Account of Lincoln's Assassination," which Mr. Simonton said "was a mass of unsupported statement." Mr. Simonton's assertion in his letter, "while I have not what may be styled direct or positive evidence that the man killed was Booth, I have such circumstantial evidence as would seem to prove the fact beyond a doubt," ^{as we have seen in Chapter II,} does not from any standpoint establish beyond question the fact that the government had no positive or direct proof of the capture and killing of Booth as is claimed by Mr. Bates.

And here is another example of Mr. Bates' type of reasoning. (41)
~~He says, but as usual gives us no authority for the statement, that~~
~~quoting him:~~ "On one occasion a friend asked to speak to Edwin Booth respecting

the subject of John Wilkes Booth's crime, when Edwin Booth interrupted him by saying, 'Yes, that Washington affair was a horrible crime, but then John Wilkes is my brother.' He uttered this with great emotion and ended the subject.

"Notice, ^{Cries Mr. Bates triumphantly,} Edwin's unwitting reply, 'John Wilkes is my brother,' not 'John Wilkes was my brother.'"

Referring to the monument over Booth's grave in the Booth family plot in Baltimore, Mr. Bates (42) ^{declares that} says, "On this monument is chiseled only the name 'Booth' and that on the base, the white shaft stands barren of name or epitaph to John Wilkes Booth. Why is this? Does St. Helen's story explain? When the keeper of the Booth lot asked Edwin Booth if the name of John Wilkes Booth, with an epitaph to him, should be placed on the monument, his reply was, 'Let it remain blank'." ^{illogically replies} "By the light of subsequent investigation, ^{Bates decides} we understand Edwin Booth's reason for this order. It was, in fact, not the monument of the dead John Wilkes Booth."

^{As has been stated in a previous chapter,}

^ When in 1869 Edwin Booth was given permission to remove the body of John Wilkes Booth to Baltimore, it was stipulated that the actual location of the remains should not be marked by monument or mound. (43)

Bates now makes some oratorical but unsupported flings ^{at} over the disposition of the body. (44) "If this was in fact," he complains, "the body of John Wilkes Booth, why was it secretly and mysteriously handled around, as shown in these statements, while the masses of the people of the United States were clamoring for the avenging of the death of President Lincoln? What could have been more satisfactory than for the government to have made public proffer of the body? This, it seems, common judgment would have dictated to the officials then in power. And we believe it would have been done if in truth and in fact this body in question had been that of John Wilkes Booth. And why did not the government in this instance turn the body over publicly to Booth's family? This is the custom of the government--State and National--in dealing with their executed dead. This was done in the case of Guitteau, the assassin of President Garfield, and Czolgosz, the assassin of President McKinley.

Why this exception with the body of Booth?" ^{we may add,} (And it also was done in the case of

at straw,

Booth when the proper time came.)

Continues Bates' in his discussion of the disposition of the body

(45) "The truth is, but one purpose was served, and that the one desired, the concealment of the body claimed to be that of Booth, because it was known that it was not the body of John Wilkes Booth. From the true facts and circumstances as they existed there is neither sense nor reason for any other conclusion."

in which he can claim "neither sense nor reason" for it is

Suddenly we have Mr. Bates coming to an absolute conclusion based on a "Confession" which he himself did not believe, partly "corroborated" by a Sunday newspaper story the falsity of which could have been easily ascertained.

The body of Booth was disposed of two weeks after the assassination. The government officials had considerable circumstantial evidence that Booth was merely a tool of a great Confederate conspiracy, (Refer to President Johnson's proclamation, May 2, 1865, already quoted.) the greatest excitement prevailed, the government received many letters of warning about attempts that would be made to get possession of Booth by either his friends, who it was said wanted to take him south and bury him as a hero, or by the populace at large who had they gotten his body would have torn it to pieces.

The assassination of Presidents Garfield and McKinley did not occur during a period of great national excitement and in no way could the procedure followed in the disposal of Guitteau and Czolgosz be used as an argument that the government knew they had not Booth and wanted to conceal the fact.

Granbury statements indicate that St. Helen left about 1875; Bates sometime earlier. Bates claims St. Helen started for Leadville, Colorado, in the spring of 1878 from which point he lost trace of him until 1898.

To substantiate the Leadville location, Bates told the writer that he had been informed that St. Helen was one of the founders of the Elks at Leadville and that his picture hung on the walls of the clubroom. Investigation disclosed that the picture was that of an actor, Charles Vincent, one of the founders of the "Jolly Corks" which later became the Elks. Vincent might by some be thought to resemble the Booths.

Bates lambastes the War Department (46) because they did not become intensely excited when on January 17th, 1898, he wrote them that he had "such facts as are conclusive that John Wilkes Booth now lives." (When on February 9, 1921, the author questioned Mr. Bates, he admitted that in 1898 he had no knowledge of St. Helen's whereabouts and did not know whether he was alive or not.) He then turns his guns on John Hay, ^{at the time} Secretary of State (47) and one of Abraham Lincoln's secretaries during the Civil War, because the secretary treated Mr. Bates' letter of April 24th, 1900, like the many other foolish communications received daily by the State Department--merely acknowledged it. The ~~War~~ ^{Government's} Department had been advised long before they heard of Mr. Bates, that Booth had escaped and was posing as the Rev. James Armstrong. Almost daily they were told of a new J. Wilkes Booth. ^{why} ~~should one more bother themselves~~ The Bates' book ^{now} gives instances of persons seeing ~~a man~~ ^{men} in various parts of Texas who ^{were} ~~was~~ recognized as Booth, but in no instance was the matter followed and the true identity learned.

Mr. Bates states:(48) "While trying to trace Booth after he left Fresno, California, (Mr. Bates could not tell the author how he traced Booth to Fresno, Calif.) I read a story from Col. Edward Levan, of Monterey, Mexico. He says that a man whom he believed to be Booth roomed with him during the winter of 1868, in Lexington, Kentucky. The two became quite friendly, and Col. Levan openly declared to the man, who was going by the name of J.J. Marr, that he believed him to be John Wilkes Booth. Mr. Marr did not deny the allegation, but shortly thereafter left Lexington, where he was 'playing the character of a lawyer'."

^{according to Mr. Bates,} "Col. Levan says, that he afterward learned that Mr. Marr had settled at Village Mills, Texas, and from there went to Glenrose Mills, Texas, at which place I first met John St. Helen, and where he declared himself to be John Wilkes Booth."

As usual Mr. Bates gives no reference as to where he read this story, and whether he ever made the slightest investigation to learn whether it was authentic or not.

Through the kindness of Mr. Frank Brady, publisher of "The Sister Republics"

Denver, Colorado, the author has read Edmond Levan's (Mr. Bates has it Edward) manuscript copy of the story as he himself tells it. The manuscript is dated October, 1907, Monterey, N.L. Mexico. *The year is the same in which Bates brought out his book* Levan claims that while living in a Lexington, Kentucky, boarding house in 1869, he met another roomer who claimed to be Mr. Bickford of Pittsburg, Pa. *however* [Note that Bates has it "J.J. Marr".] This was the name of Mr. Levan's landlord who he says was also a coal and hemp dealer. Mr. Bickford posed as a lawyer according to Levan but didn't have any law business, like Bates' St. Helen, Levan's Mr. Bickford was a Shakespearean scholar. Mr. Bickford received quantities of letters but "he burned them up as soon as he got through with them," says Mr. Levan, who then describes how Bickford acted as advance agent for another man who made bets "of over \$200,000 on the coming elections."

Bickford, according to Mr. Levan, confessed that he was John Wilkes Booth and gave a full account of the assassination. This neither agrees with Mr. Bates' St. Helen or with the facts. Levan quotes Bickford as saying that there were three men who aided him in addition to Payne, O'Laughlin, Herold and Atzerodt, and that one of these whose function it was to mislead the pursuit, died in the barn in his place, while he "was carried off by his friends in the opposite direction to a friend's house." The substitute, pursued closely by the police, was thrown, according to this story, by his horse in front of Dr. Mudd's residence and thus suffered a broken leg.

Mr. Bickford's confession places the scene of the bogus Booth's death as Dr. Mudd's barn and claims as the reason for the execution of Mrs. Surratt that she knew too much about Andrew Johnson's connection with the assassination.

Mr. Bickford then stated, according to Mr. Levan, that he was spirited away from Washington to Kentucky until his leg which was *also* broken, *but* in true historical style, as a result of his jump from the box, could heal. From Kentucky he went to a "logging camp in the northwestern part of Canada where he spent a year and a half and put some money in the lumber business."

One is inclined to wonder whether Paul Bunyan, the great mythical lumber-

jack and John Wilkes Booth had any connection.

After the lumber camp, Bickford-Booth returned to the United States, says Mr. Levan and became connected with a combination of political leaders which "elected three Republican Presidents in succession, Grant twice and Hayes next."

Mr. Levan winds up with the statement that about ten years later in the southwest he met a man who told him that he also knew John Wilkes Booth under an assumed name and that since 1875, Booth had been "dividing his time between the states of Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi--with occasional side trips to New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City."

"Thus," concludes Mr. Levan triumphantly, "it will be seen that Booth was not the man that was killed in Garrett's barn."

But Mr. Levan does not mention in the manuscript that "he afterward learned that Mr. Marr had settled at Village Mills, Texas and from there went to Glenrose." Mr. Bates would lead us to believe that his St. Helen and Mr. Levan's "Booth" were one and the same party. Unfortunately Mr. Levan does not aid him.

Here is another St. Helen-Wilkes Booth, *The* statement was sent Bates on April 23, 1921, by J.C. Burrus, Benoit, Miss. Was Mr. Burrus' memory influenced by having read Bates' book? His Booth is a Mr. Marr, but if Mr. Levan can be credited at all, this was the name of his landlord in Lexington, (Ky.) and mistakenly used by Bates for Bickford.

"In the fall of 1867 (I think)," writes Mr. Burrus, "two gentlemen, splendidly mounted and equipped, giving their names as Marr, were the guests at my father's residence in Bolivar County, Miss., for a period of about ten days. The elder of these gentlemen was a man of about fifty years of age, the so claimed nephew of the elder was a man between twenty-five and thirty years of age, apparently, was of medium stature, elegantly proportioned, with black hair worn rather long, with flashing black eyes and with arched eyebrows, one of which was slightly more arched than the other. These gentlemen claimed to have ridden horseback from Virginia and stated that they were looking for lands for an investment. This younger man would

sit for hours without saying anything, apparently in a deep, brooding mood, and then maybe for a time, would be one of the most entertaining men I ever listened to. His uncle requested us all not to notice his moods, as his nephew had had a great sorrow. My father's house was known as the stopping place for all couriers or other soldiers traveling from the Trans-Miss. Dept. East or for those going from the East to the West. It was also the headquarters of many of Henderson's scouts and Evans' scouts of which I was a member and which was made up of men from the various regiments of Ross's Texas Brigade. At the close of the war our home was also the headquarters or stopping place of many of our Confederate soldiers (officers and privates) many of whom were men

who afterward joined Joe Shleby in his Central American Expedition, and notable men who had not surrendered and for whom large rewards were offered by the Federal Gov't, among whom was Gen. Jubal A. Early, for whom there was at that time a reward offered of (\$30,000.00) Thirty Thousand Dollars, as stated by himself. In fact our residence, which is still my home, was known from East to West as a place where a Confederate soldier was always welcome and where he would be safe from betrayal.

My brother, Charles A. Burrus (older than myself and who is now dead) told me that this younger man, Mr. Marr, was John Wilkes Booth, that he recognized him and in fact the whole family believed him at the time to be John Wilkes Booth, and I believe these men (the Marrs) confided the fact to my father, though my father never stated this to any of his family that I know of.

After remaining with us for about ten (10) days the younger Mr. Marr crossed the river (Miss.) at Cat Fish Point, at Singers Ferry, while the elder gentleman, after seeing his nephew safely across the river, returned to our home and stated that his nephew had gone to Texas and that he (the elder) would return to Virginia. I might state that though they said and claimed to be desirous of investing in lands in this county, they never interested themselves in trying to locate or find any. They seemed to have plenty of funds.

I have never since heard of the old gentleman. Some years after this, I heard but cannot remember the source of my information, that young Marr was merchandising in Texas and doing well. Also I heard ten or twelve years ago that young Marr killed himself somewhere in Oklahoma.

I will state that personally I have never had a doubt that this young Mr. Marr was in reality John Wilkes Booth.

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. C. Burrus
E.M.B.

49

Mr. Bates now tells us another story, he says: (48) "The man supposed to be Booth was seen by others before he settled at Glenrose Mills for Dr. H.W. Gay says:

"I knew John Wilkes Booth in 1857, and while I was at Fort Donaldson, a prisoner of war, the news was flashed over the world that President Lincoln had been slain by John Wilkes Booth. I was horrified to think of such a thing, for Booth, though a boy when I knew him, in appearance was the most accomplished gentleman with whom I had ever come in contact. All who knew him well were captivated by him. He was the most hospitable, genial fellow to be met, and when drinking or much in company, he was always quoting Shakespeare, or some other poet. How many times have I seen him strike a tragic attitude and exclaim:

"The aspiring youth who fired the Ephesians dome outlives in fame the pious fools who reared it."

"I read of his capture and death and never doubted it until the year 1869. I was then living in what is now Tate county, Mississippi. One evening about dusk a man came to my house claiming that he was one of the Ku-Klux Klan run out of Arkansas by Clayton's militia.

"I soon recognized this man as an erratic fellow. During his stay at my house he told me that John Wilkes Booth was not killed, but made his escape and spent a short while in Mexico with Maximilian's army, but got into trouble, and his life was saved by reason of the fact that he was a Catholic. The man also stated that during Booth's short stay in Mexico he had lived in disguise as an itinerant Catholic priest. He also told me the story of how Booth had escaped after the assassination was done, and it corresponded exactly with Mr. Bates' story as told by John St. Helen, even to the crossing of the Mississippi river at Catfish Point and going thence up the Arkansas river to Indian territory. And that Booth afterward met Junius Brutus Booth and his mother in San Francisco."

If Bates quotes Dr. Gay correctly, someone who was "an erratic fellow" told Dr. Gay, so that lets him out, but who told the Ku-Kluxer that John Wilkes

Booth was a Catholic? I have been unable to find the slightest proof that he was. His brother Edwin was an Episcopalian and the Booth family are claimed to be of Jewish origin.

Mr. Bates further "corroborates" the St. Helen "Confession" by quoting Mr. W. Connolly, "a distinguished newspaper man" who reported that in 1884-85, while with General Albert Pike in a Fort Worth, Texas, hotel bar room, they saw a Village Mills, Texas, man whom Connolly claimed he knew. General Pike, however, Mr. Bates quotes Connolly as stating, recognized the man as Wilkes Booth and nearly fainted from the shock. But General Pike was not sufficiently perturbed to make any investigation and Connolly himself says that he took "no newspaper interest in the matter."

While These many Booths from various parts of the world do not corroborate Bates' story, *They do show however,* how myths can spread, and an examination of them proves how faulty human memory can be, *Bates reads about many of them during* ~~which forced us to the decision that because~~ ~~the~~ the thirty years which elapsed between hearing St. Helen make his "confession" *and because of* and writing it up, *that it is doubtful whether Mr. Bates, who himself did not believe it, could remember all its florid details,* *the* *which he reports,* He did as many of the readers of his book have done since they avidly devoured the ~~Bates'~~ "Correction of History" *50* confused it with other Booth escape stories and then told a combination of the whole lot. (49).

The great difference in Mr. Bates' descriptions of St. Helen and those given by other Granbury residents, in a much better position to know St. Helen and remember him, and the wide divergence between the story of the assassination and pursuit as told in St. Helen's confession and that told on the witness stand a few weeks after the events happened, while they were all fresh in the memories of the witnesses, lead to the conclusion that even if John Wilkes Booth did escape from the Garrett barn he did not become John St. Helen.

Note 2½ Pickets - St Helen

Ch 18 Notes
General Dana Corroborated

Says the New York Tribune, Monday, April 24, 1865.

"Since the murder of President Lincoln, it has been directed by Gen Augur that no one be allowed to pass the pickets or forts encircling Washington, unless on a written pass from headquarters, or when personally known to the officer in charge or command of a fort."

Augurs' orders of April 15th were "All persons arrested must be held subject to orders from these headquarters." O.K. Series 1, Vol 46 part III pp 772-3

The fact that these orders were issued indicates that the practice immediately previous to the assassination at least had been the opposite.

"GENERAL" DANA CORROBORATES.

Notes.

- (1) Bates 995-96.
- (2) "I at once asked for a battalion of veteran cavalry.....,"and the request was granted." This is strange for battalions are not usually commanded by Lieutenants. No mention can be found in the Official Records of the Civil War, of this most unusual occurrence.
- (3) Abraham Lincoln - Herndon & Weik, Vol. 2, P.272.
- (4) "The Capture, Death and Burial of J. Wilkes Booth" by Ray Stannard Baker. McClures, May 1897.
- (5) Trial of John H. Surratt, P.758, July 19th, 1867.
- (6) Trial of John H. Surratt, P. 892, July 20th, 1867.

Insert 2/27

(7) Lieut. Dana while describing the picketing must hazily remember the following which took place after the assassination:

Washington Star, April 15, 1865. "The police report that about 11 o'clock two men were seen rapidly riding into Maryland by way of Anacostia Bridge. All roads leading out of Washington were immediately picketed and no one is allowed to enter or leave without a permit."

Washington Star, April 29th, 1865. New Military Posts. "Military posts, with detachments of infantry and cavalry are being established in Prince George, Charles, and St. Marys Counties, Maryland, for the purpose of breaking up the treasonable practices of the inhabitants and protecting loyal men. The officers in command of the posts are instructed to forage on the country. A little Military rule will prove particularly wholesome to that section." (Refer to Chapter VII, "The Government Acts.")

- (8) Series 1, Vol.46, Part 3, Official Records Civil War.
- (9) Series 1, Vol.46, Part 3, Page 767, Official Records.
- (10) See Lloyds Testimony, C.T. P.85 and 87, and S.T. P.276-287 and 289-302.
- (11) S.T. P.1022.
- (12) S.T. P.577, July 9,1867.
- (13) S.T. P.584.
- (14) Poore's Reports, Vol. 1, P.88.
- (15) C.T. P. 205, June 5, 1865.
- (16) C.T. P.202, June 3, 1865.
- (17) C.T. P.212, June 10, 1865.
- (18) C.T. P.204, June 5, 1865.
- (19) C.T. P.204, June 5, 1865.
- (20) Bates, Page 101.
- (21) C.T. P.201-202, May 27, 1865. GEORGE BOOZ (Colored) Testified that he saw Dr. Sam Mudd coming from Bryantown and going toward home alone between 3 and 4 o'clock, April 15th, and Dr. Mudd stopped and said a few words to him.

Susan Steward - Page 202, corroborates this statement.

C.T. P.169-170, May 16, 1865, COL. H.H. WELLS, testified that Dr. Mudd told him that he had started out with the young man, Herold, on Saturday April 15th, to find a carriage, but that Herold returned and that as he (Dr. Mudd) came back in the afternoon, he saw the wounded man (Booth) going away from the house.

- (22) C.T. P.206.

- (23) According to Dr. George Mudd's testimony, Dana did not believe Booth had "yet got out of Washington" and this was on Saturday afternoon. Compare

this with statements he made at the beginning of this chapter re his knowledge the night before of the direction Booth and Herold had taken.

(24) Bates, P.121-129.

(25) Bates, P.121.

(26) Bates, P.121-122.

(27) Bates, P.123

(28) C.T. P.114, May 13, 1865.

(29) (Life of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, by his daughter Nettie Mudd, Page 42.)

Doctor Mudd: "I did confess to a casual or accidental meeting with Booth in front of one of the hotels on Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C., on the 23rd of December, 1864, and not on the 15th of January 1865, as testified to by Weichman. Booth, on that occasion, desired me to give him an introduction to Surratt, from whom he said he wished to obtain a knowledge of the country around Washington."

(30) C.T. P.149.

(31) Bates in his book, Page 170, states: "I have since learned, however, that the brother of Booth unmistakably referred to by Gen. Dana as J.B. Booth was Junius Brutus Booth, who, with the exception of a few years spent in the West, lived and died in Boston, Mass."

This is ludicrous when compared with St. Helen's "Confessional" introduction to the Booth family history (Bates Page 34) in which he speaks of Junius Brutus Booth, his brother. Bates must have forgotten the "Confession" between the time he wrote page 34 and 170.

(32) A third letter from Lieutenant Dana, -

"West Lubec, Maine Feb 17th, 1898.

(32) "F L Bates, Esq.

"Dear Sir:

"Your favor came duly at hand. I have delayed answering on account of being very busy. Accept my thanks for your kindly expression that my account of the pursuit of Booth is the nearest correct of any that you have seen. The likeness that I sent you were taken from the Century Magazine of April 1896. The account you will find, should you get one, is my report of the pursuit as far as Bryantown, from there it is I think the report of Col Wm T Wood who was with me. It was written by Victor Mason, a clerk I think in the War Dept.

"You ask which leg of Booth was broken and where, It was the right leg between the knee and ankle. He went into a barbor shop and got shaved just before he went into the theater to shoot the President. From that time until he was killed, a razor had not touched his face. He had a full long mustache with about two weeks growth of beard. He suffered a great deal for my troops followed him so closely that he had no rest night nor day in peace until after he was captured and killed. I did not tell all that I could about his pursuit. He came out of one of his hiding places very early one morning and went to a Negro cabin and offered a negro girl a twenty dollar gold piece for a bite of something to eat, before he could get it he was obliged to flee on account of the approach of a squad of my troops under a sergeant. He was kept in a state of semi-starvation all the time of his flight.

"I have written to a friend of mine to send me the address of Miss Agnes Booth so that the next time I write you, I may have something interesting.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

"David D Dana"

Lieutenant Dana here states that Booth's "right leg between the knee and ankle" was broken--Could this be Mr. Bates' source for the "right" leg? The Lieutenant in this letter shows how unreliable his statements necessarily must be considered. Booth was shaved in a ^{Washington} barber shop on the morning of the 14th, and borrowed Dr. Mudd's razor on the 15th and removed his mustache.

(33)

(34) Bates, Page 106-108.

(34 1/2) *C.T pp 85-86 and 113*

(35) Bates, Pages 133-167

(36) McClures Magazine, May 1897.

(37) Testimony, Col. H.H. Wells, May 16, 1865. C.T. Page 169.

(38) Bates, Page 162.

(39) Bates, opposite Page 162

(40) Bates, Pages 180-182.

(41) Bates, Page 183.

(42) Bates, Page 182

(43) How Booth's Body was Hidden by Dr. George L. Porter - Columbian Magazine,
April 1911.

(44) Bates, Pages 178-179

(45) Bates, Page 179.

(46) Bates, Pages 210-218.

(47) Bates, Pages 219-221

(48) Bates, Page 222.

(49) Bates, Pages 226-228

(50) After reading Bates' book, a great many, afflicted with senility or with imaginative memories, wrote him adding "long mustached" details about the John St. Helens and David Georges they had known under those and various other non de plumes. Henry W. Strong, who said that he was 21 years of age in 1870, wrote from Wichita Falls, Texas, January 12, 1922: "My dear Mr. Bates:

In response to your query as to where and when I first met John St. Helen (or John Wilkes Booth), was in Squaw Creek, in Hood County, Texas, in the last days of March 1870. He was staying with an old settler by the name of Ray, and was teaching school."

After several pages of senile ramblings, this correspondent notifies Bates that he beat him to the discovery that St. Helen was Booth and details a conversation with St. Helen, during which "I looked him in the face " declares Mr. Strong, "and told him I believed that he was Booth. He reddened a little and asked me why my suspicion lead me to think so. I told him and he then asked me about sentiment in the States, and in my travels as to Booth, and was he believed to be still alive. I told him what my observation had been. He told me not to divulge what we had talked about, that I had fathomed what thousands of shrewd men had failed to do, and I was but a boy."

Unfortunately Mr. Strong does not explain what led him to believe that St. Helen was Booth and does not give us the results of what his "observations had been." He states that the last time he saw "Booth" was in another Texas county where the erstwhile St. Helen was teaching

school under the name of "Professor Ravenwood" - and where the professor became quite intimate with Emery Peters and "phrenologized Peter's head and got the confidence of each other in this way, and convinced Peter who he was."

Mr. Strong says, "There was a peculiarity in St. Helen's (or Booth's) eyes, which caused him to appear sometimes as looking you sideways, or that one eye seemed to be deficient in some way when looking straight at you." This was not mentioned by Mr. Bates in his descriptions of St. Helen, neither does Mr. Strong corroborate Bates' intimations that St. Helen always had plenty of money from secret remittances, for Strong describes how a collection of money and clothes was taken up for "Professor Ravenwood to help him to get back to Lampassas County."

This statement of Strong's and others equally as improbable were supplied by Mr. Bates to the author and his associates during 1920, '21 and '22 to corroborate the Bates Book which he hoped to have republished through our influences.