

W. D. Robar

S T A T E M E N T

Of

Mr. W.E. Robar

I was Chief of Police of El Reno during the time that D.E. George lived here, 1900 to 1903 and remember him very well. I lived about a block from J.W. Simmons' place while George boarded with them. One day he came home drunk and got into a fight with John Sams, Mrs. Simmons' brother, over some trivial matter. George threatened to kill Sams and went to his room for his pistol, a six shooter. Sams got out of the house and ran down to my place, and I went back with him. Old George came out to meet us with the six shooter. Sams jumped behind me while I took the pistol away from George and arrested him. I took him down to the police station and "Progress" Smith went on his bond. I kept the pistol and still have it in my possession. After becoming sober, George promised he would never start anything again, and I turned him loose.

At Police Headquarters, we considered D.E. George as harmless when sober, but a little dangerous when drunk, or under the influence of morphine. He loafed in the station a lot during the two or three years he was in El Reno. He was nobody's fool and must have had a good education. He was tall, had a dark complexion, and his hair was quite mixed with gray. He was always fairly neat, but did not have fine clothes. His eyebrows were heavy and were perfect matches. He did not limp and had a Southern drawl. One would take him for a Kentuckian. George considered McCartney of the "force" and myself as friends. He was a morphine fiend and I saw him under the influence of the drug quite often. He didn't take heavy doses as a regular thing, I am absolutely positive as to his using morphine. We had quite a few "dope" fiend cases down here in those days which gave us considerable experience with them. He was frequently on a drunk for several days at a time. From the description of his actions he had taken poison when he made his confession to Mrs. Harper here in El Reno in 1901. I was called in at the time he took this poison at Mrs. Simmons' home, at which time he made this confession through Mrs. Harper. I was just leaving the room when I noticed that he motioned for Mrs. Harper to come to his bedside and stopped at the head of the stairway where I heard part of the conversation. I noticed that Mrs. Harper was badly scared, she called me down stairs immediately afterwards and told me of his confession, which was to the effect that he, (Mr. George) was John Wilkes Booth who killed Abraham Lincoln. She told me that he said that if he died she might tell this fact, but that in case he lived, he would kill her if she did so.

Soon after he first came to El Reno he once told me that he had

drawn a land claim and that his fortune was made, which he sold soon after. At no time did he have much money. He worked steadily at his trade, house painting, and could easily have made all the money I ever saw him with by the painting he did.

SIGNED W.D. Robare

State of Oklahoma )  
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Canadian County   )

I, W.J. Finch, a Notary Public in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that W.D. Robare personally known to me to be the same whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed the said instrument.

Given under my hand and seal, this 18th day of July 1921.

SIGNED W.D. Finch  
Notary Public

My Commission expires Nov. 9th, 1924.