

himself to death, dying from kidney disease, and did not commit suicide as claimed. This is probably true because each one of his three brothers died from some form of kidney disease and it is more likely that it killed him also than that he killed himself. He undoubtedly assumed the first part of the name "David E. George" in memory of his accomplice David E. Howard, who was hanged. Jim Duffy, is a very prominent man in Oklahoma, and is a personal friend of the gangster's. He told me that Booth's favorite recitations and quotations were from Macbeth, and that he was a master of the art of acting, and reciting, which

319 Cumberland St  
Brooklyn N.Y.  
June 17 - 1907

Mr. F. L. Bates  
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:-  
Yours of 13th instant just at hand. Allow me to thank you for the pains you have taken to prove to me that David E. George, was really John Wilkes Booth. As I stood before his dead body with Lillian Alexander - a member of the "Holy City Company" - who went with me to Mr. W. B. Pennington's place of business on my second visit on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1907 - the day we played there, I placed my hand upon the head of his "mummy" for such an object his body now really is, and as I gazed was startled by its likeness to the life-size crayon bust portrait of

he often did while intoxicated to a slight degree, in saloons for the edification of the crowd. He would then suddenly seem to "come to himself" and pulling his slouch hat down over his face rush out of the drinking place and go <sup>in the dark</sup> leaping down the street alone to his room, for he was always lame in the leg he broke when he jumped from the box at Ford's Theatre - on April 14 - 1865. Mr. Duffy, knows more about him in his last years than any person I met with while in Oklahoma. He told me he once asked him as to his parentage, remarking that his education and refinement

March 1865

the assassin that his brother Dr. Joseph Adrian Booth, had over his parlor mantle in his cottage at Long Branch N. J. - The faces of the two are the same, except in years. The murderer of Lincoln I have heard - used to speculate in oil in the sixties and once asked Dr. Booth if it was true that his brother John left some \$5,000. - He replied "all they found was a draft on Canada, for £70." (about \$350.) I also asked him "What became of his theatrical wardrobe?" - He replied that: "John had shipped it on a vessel to Nassau, and that the vessel was lost (or burned) at sea."

did not seem to be in keeping or exact harmony with <sup>his</sup> calling as a house and sign painter, merely mechanical work. - To which he replied that: "He had had a good kind mother and father, but, had wandered away, <sup>had</sup> wandered away and his eyes filled with tears. This was a short while before he died."

From the several accounts of the assassination of Lincoln and death of Booth, I am sure any careful reader and investigator must conclude that two men were shot and killed who were supposed to have

While in Oklahoma I met a number of persons who knew "George" well. - J. M. Craig, the contracting painter for whom he worked gave me a great deal of information, for he knew him well and now believes he was Booth. He says he had money. Jim Duffy, of El Reno, Oklahoma, told me that: "he - when a boy - often saw John Wilkes Booth, both on and off the stage in New York City, and that he knew absolutely that David E. George was John Wilkes Booth. - He knew him for years in Texas, and Oklahoma also and says that he drank

committed the awful crime. One was probably "Ruddy" (?) an overseer at Garretts farm and the other was probably "Fox" (?) at "Richters" on whom Booth's clothing and personal effects were actually found. The "Washington Star" of January 5<sup>th</sup> 1907, in an article by James C. Roy, evidently largely copied from an older account makes it appear very plain that two bodies were taken from off the monitor. One of these was evidently sunk in the Potomac or at sea, and the other eventually turned over to the Booth family for burial. -

Kindly inform me when your book is issued from the press so that I may at once order several copies. <sup>of yours very truly</sup> Walter H. Hubbs