

Stories That Lincoln's Slayer Was Not Captured Are Denied

Curator of Lincoln Museum at Springfield, Ill., Gives What He Calls True Version of Wilkes Booth's Death.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 2—Five alleged skulls of John Wilkes Booth, assassinator of President Lincoln, are on exhibition in the United States, and 20 "Booths" have died, according to Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of Lincoln's tomb here. Recurring reports that Booth lived 33 years after President Lincoln's death and later committed suicide, are characterized by Mr. Fay as wild.

"Those who wish to make money out of the hoax, or to create cheap notoriety, are the only ones to dispute the historical record of Booth's death in a barn at the Garrett farm," Mr. Fay asserted. "David E. George was only one of 20 different men who have sought to create a furor by claiming to be Booth. Recently while lecturing on Booth's death at the tomb, one of my audience who gave his name as William H. Regan, said he embalmed the body of George. Asked whether he thought it was Booth and whether the dead man had any proof of his identity, Regan said he believed not. Nevertheless, George's body was embalmed and shown over the country in a commercial show scheme."

Accepted Version.

The version of Booth's death accepted by the custodian of the victim's tomb is as follows:

"John Wilkes Booth eluded his pursuers for 11 days. He was fed by Thomas A. Jones in the mean time in a grove along the Potomac. Lieut. Baker of the Secret Service, who had often

seen Booth, and his men were watching the fugitive. When he crossed the river he was suspected and chased to the Garrett farm.

"Baker and his men surrounded the house and after some parley they ascertained that Booth and Herold were in the barn. They demanded several times that he come out. Col. Conger's men were surrounding the barn. They threatened to set fire to the barn and Herold emerged and surrendered. Booth refused, saying he would 'die in the last ditch.' The barn was set afire.

"Boston Corbett, a sergeant, saw Booth through a crack and disobeying orders, shot him. He was brought out by Conger's men and died in three hours. The body was brought to Washington and identified by various men who knew Booth. One Dr. John F. May, identified the body by an ugly wound on the neck from an operation performed some time before. Against his physician's advice Booth insisted on acting, and reopened the wound, which healed badly.

"Booth was buried under a Federal prison and an accurate, detailed report made of position and condition as required. Later Edwin Booth, actor-brother of the slayer, obtained an order allowing him to see the body, hoping that a mistake had been made. He viewed the body and identified it as that of his brother. He also called in dentists who identified fillings in the teeth of the body, which made identification positive. Edwin Booth claimed the body and buried it in the family burying ground at Baltimore in an unmarked grave."

Oldroyd Denies Tale That Booth Escaped

The "discovery" that John Wilkes Booth escaped punishment for the assassination of President Lincoln was said to be unfounded last night by speakers at the Lincoln night meeting of the University club. O. H. Oldroyd, owner of the house where Lincoln died, related his personal experiences.

Mr. Oldroyd told of the capture and death of Booth and his burial in the old arsenal here. Later, he said, permission was granted his relatives to move the body to Greenmount cemetery, Baltimore, on condition that his grave should not be marked. Dr. A. B. Hooe, chairman, said the tale that Booth escaped and died a natural death is brought to light periodically.

OKLAHOMAN - March 29, 1925
Oklahoma City, Okla

FAY DECLARES BOOTH DIED ON GARRETT FARM

Caretaker Of Lincoln's Tomb Says Other "Booths" Are Fakes.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 28.—(P) Five alleged skulls of John Wilkes Booth, assassinator of President Lincoln, are on exhibition in the United States, and twenty "Booths" have died, according to Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of Lincoln's tomb here. Recurring reports that Booth lived thirty-eight years after President Lincoln's death and later committed suicide, are characterized by Fay as wild.

"Those who wish to make money out of the hoax, or to create cheap notoriety, are the only ones to dispute the historical record of Booth's death

in a barn at the Garrett farm," Fay asserted. "David E. George was only one of twenty different men who have sought to create a furor by claiming to be Booth. Recently while lecturing on Booth's death at the tomb, one of my audience who gave his name as William H. Regan said he embalmed the body of George. Asked whether he thought it was Booth and whether the dead man had any proof of his identity, Regan said he believed not. Nevertheless, George's body was embalmed and shown over the country in a commercial show scheme."

Both Died On Farm

The version of Booth's death accepted by the custodian of the victim's tomb is as follows:

"John Wilkes Booth eluded his pursuers for eleven days. He was fed by Thomas A. Jones in the meantime in a grove along the Potomac. Lieutenant Baker of the secret service, who had often seen Booth, and his men were watching the fugitive. When he crossed the river he was suspected and chased to the Garrett farm.

"Baker and his men surrounded the house and after some parley they ascertained that Booth and Herold were in the barn. They demanded several

times that he come out. Colonel Conger's men were surrounding the barn. They threatened to set fire to the barn and Herold emerged and surrendered. Booth refused, saying he would 'die in the last ditch.' The barn was set afire.

"Boston Corbett, a sergeant, saw Booth through a crack and disobeying orders, shot him. He was brought out by Conger's men and died in three hours. The body was brought to Washington and identified by various men who knew Booth. One, Dr. John F. May, identified the body by an ugly wound on the neck from an operation performed some time before. Against his physician's advice Booth insisted on acting, and reopened the wound, which healed badly.

Brother Identified Body

"Booth was buried under a federal prison and an accurate, detailed report made of position and condition as required. Later Edwin Booth, actor-brother of the slayer, obtained an order allowing him to see the body, hoping that a mistake had been made. He viewed the body and identified it as that of his brother. He also called in dentists who identified fillings in the teeth of the body, which made identification positive. Edwin Booth claimed the body and buried it in the family burying ground at Baltimore in an unmarked grave."