

S T A T E M E N T

Of

Mr. John Garwer

Charles County - Maryland

*John Garwer*

I am eighty-two years old and have lived in this neighborhood for \_\_\_\_\_ years and remember quite clearly events happening during the Civil War, 1860 - 65.

At the time of the assassination of President Lincoln I was living down on the "Neck" not far from the home of Thomas A. Jones. I knew him, "Col." Samuel Cox of Cox's Station, and Franklin A. Roby, "Col." Cox's overseer, all quite well. I also was well acquainted with George Atzerodt, who was hung as one of the Conspirators. I went hunting with him a good many times when we were boys together.

Atzerodt, as a boy, didn't have good "horse sense" and when he grew up became quite a drinker and a "good for nothing."

Col. Cox was a wealthy and pompous man and practically ruled this section of the country. Tom Jones was a foster brother of "Col." Cox and a contraband runner across the Potomac River during the Civil War. He was arrested and imprisoned for this several times. Jones was the type of man who could put on a "long" face and be the most innocent looking fellow in the world when he wanted to.

Franklin Roby was Col. Cox's Overseer. He was a quiet sort of man who didn't say much unless religiously aroused. He was a Shouting Methodist by religion and his sport was fox hunting.

These three people, Col. Cox, Tom Jones, Franklin Roby, and an old negro by the name of Woodland, who worked for Jones, are the only ones I ever heard of being connected with the care of Booth and Harold at Cox's place. Jones took them from there to the Potomac. I have never heard of a family of Ruddys' and am sure no one by that name of Ruddy ever lived around Cox's Station.

Franklin Roby, I know was alive thirty-two years ago, for I moved into the place I am now living at that time and after I moved Roby spent a night with us.

Roby always claimed that he had very little to do with the care of Booth and Herold; that Jones was really the man who cared for them.

About the time Roby was here last, Tom Jones had been convinced by a young fellow by the name of Mattingly that he should write a book about Booth and that they, Jones and Mattingly, would sell it at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. They went to Chicago and tried to sell it from a tent. Jones was inside the tent and Mattingly stood outside telling the crowd that the man who aided John Wilkes Booth to escape was inside and would sell them copies of his book which told the story. An old Union soldier stepped up and said that he was a boyhood friend of Abe Lincoln and would like to get hold of the Blankety - Blank - Blank - Blank that aided Lincoln's murderer to escape and just to let him inside. Jones heard this and went out the back end of the tent, and he and Mattingly didn't try to sell any more of the books.

As I remember, when Roby stayed with us that night Jones was mentioned and the big reward offered for Booth and Herold and Roby "opined that he guessed Tom was more afraid of Col. Cox than he was of the Federal Army or his desire to have the reward."

Jones always said that Herold had driven the horses, Booth's and Herold's, into the quicksand in the swamp near Cox's place and shot them, and that the horses buried themselves.

*Witness*  
*Eugene Mudd*

Signed *John L. Garver*  
*mdd*

State of Maryland)  
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County of Charles)

I, *Eugene Mudd*, a Notary Public in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify, that *John Garver* personally known to me to be the same person 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 *20<sup>th</sup>* day of *July, 1921*  
*Eugene Mudd*  
Notary Public

My commission expires *May 1, 1922.*

