

WILKES BOOTH PAID VISIT TO NIECE BLANCHE

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Minneapolis Woman Is Sure
She Saw Uncle In
St. Louis.

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MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 23.—Blanche Debar Booth saw her uncle, John Wilkes Booth, many years after he assassinate President Lincoln.

This admission Monday followed that of Saturday when she pronounced true the statement that Booth died in Enid, Oklahoma, in 1903.

"He came to me at St. Louis," she said.

"I thought he was an imposter even though he recalled many incidents of our common childhood together.

She Is Convinced Now

"But now I am convinced. His visit had aroused my suspicions. I investigated and found that it was true, that his mother, my great aunt, had seen him herself in San Francisco a year after the announcement that he had been shot to death.

"This explains why the rewards totaling more than \$100,000 for the capture, dead or alive, of John Wilkes Booth were never paid to anybody."

It Was Wilkes Booth

"It was in the late 80's or early 90's," Mrs. Booth said, "that this man came to see me declaring he was John Wilkes Booth.

"I laughed when he was announced, for I believed the story of his death as it had been told to me.

"And then he came. I sprang to my feet astounded. The man was Wilkes Booth. Still I thought him an imposter. He smiled and greeted me by name. I looked him over and laughed in his face, yet doubts assailed me.

Tells of Childhood

"Do you remember," he asked me, and detailed an occurrence of our childhood together.

"Of course, I remember that," I told him, "but how do you come to know about it?" Still I would not believe.

"At this his smile faded away from him. The hands he had held out to me dropped at his sides.

"I thought him a clever actor, even then I denied him.

"He turned away. 'Perhaps it is just as well,' he said, 'but ask others of the family of what I say. Mother was with me in San Francisco in 1867.'

Wants to See Body

"That was the only time I ever saw him after his disappearance from Ford's theater. I should like to look at the body of this man Doctor Wilson of Washington says is preserved at Memphis Tennessee. I believe it's the body of John Wilkes Booth."

Two other convincing elements were pointed out by Mrs. Booth today in the story told by Finis L. Bates, attorney of Memphis, Tennessee, for

the man who admitted he was John Wilkes Booth in Texas, the man who died in Enid, Oklahoma, nearly forty years after the assassination.

One was that as many as five different stories have been told of where John Wilkes Booth was buried.

Many Stories Told

Here are some of the various statements as to where Booth is buried:

General D. D. Dana said: "After Booth was killed he was brought to the navy yard and I went on the boat and identified him. But the body was very much thinner and his features very much pinched up, as though he had suffered a great deal. He was buried near the old jail and a battery of artillery drawn over his grave to obliterate all trace of it."

Buried Under Pavement?

General Lew Wallace, member of the military court that tried and convicted David E. Herold and Mrs. Surratt, who were hanged:

"To my certain knowledge, John Wilkes Booth was buried under a brick pavement in a room of the old Penry prison of Washington city. After he had lain buried there for a time, at the request of his friends, his remains were taken up and transferred to Baltimore, where they now lie, under a very handsome marble monument erected to his memory by men of whom I have reason to think as little as I did of Booth."

The statement is made by a former judge of the advocate general's office in Washington that the government has no direct or positive evidence that the man killed was Booth.

Acid Thrown in Grave

In spite of this story, generally credited at the time, that acid had been used to destroy the body in its grave, the actress, Blanche Chapman, tells the story of the supposed identification of Booth in 1872 after exhumation of the body was made to quiet the rumors which even then had arisen that Booth was not dead. The examination of the body was conducted under the direction of the owner of Ford's theater, John T. Ford.

Miss Chapman tells of going with members of the Booth family and others who looked at a body wrapped in an army blanket in a mouldy casket and heard Junius Brutus Booth identify a filling in one tooth as that of the brother who now is revealed to have been in Mexico alive and well at the time.