

RELIQS OF BOOTH BOON TO FAKERS

Frauds Foisted on American Public Are Exposed by Custodian Fay.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 1.—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 38 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 furore 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 scene."

Fay's Version of Death.

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 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.

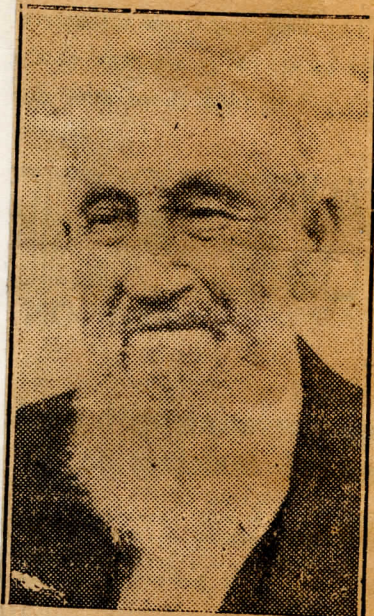
"Baker and his men surrounded the house and after some parley they ascertained that Booth and Herold were in the barn. They demanded several times that he come out. Colonel Conger's men were surrounding the barn. They threatened to set fire to the barn and Herold emerged and surrendered. Booth refused, 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.

Burial Under Prison.

"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 an unmarked grave."

Saw Lincoln Shot



Sixty years ago, on the night of April 14, 1865, William H. Hershey, a soldier in the Union forces, witnessed the shooting of Abraham Lincoln in Ford's theater in Washington. Hershey, now 85 years of age, lives at Dayton, Ind., and is one of the few survivors of the theater audience which witnessed the assassination.

LINCOLN ASSASSINATED SIXTY YEARS AGO TODAY

Sixty years ago today, April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, was assassinated while attending a theatrical performance at Ford's theater in Washington. He was removed from the theater to a residence close to the theater and died the following morning. Secretary of War Stanton, who was at the death bed of the President, turned away from the last scene and said to those present: "He now belongs to the ages."