Was it Wilkes Booth

Tullahoma, Tenn April 4th

On the 17th of January last D E George committed suicide by taking poison at the Grand Avenue Hotel, El Reno, Okla. George was a wealthy resident of the Territory but little was known of his history, as he never spoke of his past life to any one so far as can be learned.

Just prior to committing the fatal act George made the startling statement that he was none other than John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln. He stated that after the assassination he had eluded the officers and had since traveled around the world. He said he had made his home for a while in the mountain country of Tennessee, and that he had married during his stay in this State.

His confession created a great sensation and an investigation was at once instituted. Surgeons examined the body and found the leg broken in the manner Booth's is said to have been injured at the time of the tragedy.

In 1872 there was a widow living at Sewanee, Tenn by the name of Mrs Louise J Payne. About that time a stranger, handsome and of good address, appeared on the scene and soon won the affections of the widow, resulting in their marriage. After the wedding, so it is stated by some of the members of the Payne family now living in Tullahoma, George told his wife that he was assassin of Lincoln and that his right name was John Wilkes Booth. Soon after marriage George or Booth started to the Indian Territory, but on reaching Memphis he informed his wife that he was being shadowed by detectives and was in imminent danger . He disappeared that same day, since which time the wife has never heard from him.

The deserted woman returned to friends at Pelham, Tenn, where she gave birth to a daughter in the fall of '72. The child was christened Laura Ida Booth, that name having been suggested by George, alias Booth, before he disappeared. Laura Ida Booth is now an actress living in New York City. She married an actor in that city named Charles Le Vine and it is he and his wife Laura Ida, who are now endeavoring to establish the identity of the man who committed suicide at El Reno, Okla. in Jan last.

Mrs Le Vine has a half brother living in Tullahoma, and he is positive in his convictions that the suicide is none other than his step-father, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln.

A number of letters have been received by Micajah Payne, the stepson of the supposed Booth, from the mayors of Guthrie , and Enid, Oklahoma, in which they say that all the evidence and indications in the case point to the fact that D E George, the suicide, was in truth John Wilkes Booth, the assassi. of Abraham Lincoln.