Bed On Which John Wilkes

WAS THE PROPERTY OF R. B. GARRETT

Booth Died Formerly Here

Celebration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln last week recalls the fact that the bed on which John Wilkes Booth, assassin of the President, died is the property of a former Carlisle man, R. B. Garrett, and was viewed by many local people when Mr. Garrett resided in Carlisle several years ago.

According to history, Booth, after shooting the President in a theater in Washington, escaped and made his way to a barn on the farm of a family named Garrett, near Richmond, Va. The assassin barricaded himself in the barn for several days, and was shot and seriously wounded by the posse which trailed him to the place.

After being shot and fatally wounded, Booth was removed from the barn by members of the Garrett family and taken to their home a short distance away and placed on a bed. He died several hours later on the front porch of this home.

The owner of the farm to which Booth escaped was the father of R. B. Garrett, who was then a small boy. R. B. Garrett moved to Carlisle after he became a man and conducted a grocery store here for several years. He resided in what is now called Bucktown. He came into possession of the bed and moved it here with him from Virginia. Several years ago Mr. Garrett returned to Virginia and at last accounts was still living in Richmond.

While a resident of Carlisle Mr. Garrett frequently discussed the death of Booth and stated that his mother had fanned Booth and administered to him in his last hours. The assassin died with his head in his mother's arms, Mr. Garrett told citizens, many of the older residents of Carlisle recalling conversations with him about the matter. The authenticity of the bed was never questioned.

Efforts were made to induce Mr. Garrett to send the bed to the World's exposition at Chicago while he resided here, but this was not done. He also had many flattering offers for the historical relic, it is said, but refused all offers.

For many years after the assassination of the President there were persistent rumors that John Wilkes Booth was still alive. From practically every section of the United States rumors were broadcast that Booth was living there under an assumed name. A report that John Wilkes Booth was teaching school in Grant county, Kentucky, under an assumed name, was given wide publicity about twenty years ago.

However, all of these rumors proved to be false, and there is little doubt that Carlisle was once the home of a man who knew more about the death of the slayer of the Great Emancipator than any other living person.