T H E E N I D W A V E
Enid, Okla. Territory, Thursday, Jan. 22, 1903

IS IT BOOTH?

The Impression Growing, From Evidence, Circumstantial and otherwise, that the Supposed Remains of David E. George are None Other Than The Remains of

JOHN WILKES BOOTH

Who Assassinated President Lincoln Almost Thirty-eight Years ago. The Face of the Corpse Compared with Pictures of Booth--The Likeness Striking.

From the first the Wave has not believed that it is probable that David E. George who committed suicide, as stated in these columns, and whose remains now repose in the Penniman undertaking rooms, was the remains of J. Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln; however, it is possible. The evidence of Mrs. Harper as to the fact George confessed to her in El Reno, at a time he expected to die that he was none other than Booth, the assassin, in connection with the striking likeness to the assassin and the general demeanor of the man in producing parts of Shakespeare's plays and songs around the saloons leads to a possibility in this case.

It is a well known fact that the government was never quite sure of the death of Booth, at least it never paid the reward offered for his capture, yet the national history of the affair indicates that J.Wilkes Booth was identified beyond all reason able doubt previous to his burial in the Arlington cemetery at Washington, and his people have since moved the remains to the Booth burying plot in the Baltimore cemetery.

The most remarkable circumstance surrounding the dead man, as links to is the fact that his right leg was broken, just above the ankle, years ago, then again comes the remarkable likeness to Booth as found in Vol. 2 of Grant's Memoirs. Besides these links, comes the fact that J.Wilkes Booth was born in 1839 and was twenty-six years of age when the assassination took place and sixty three years old in 1902, if living, which is the exact age of George as found in examining his papers. Several years ago, or it might be ten years ago, the writer remembers of reading an article, credited to the Atlanta Constitution,

that J. Wilkes Booth still lived and was at that time in Mississippi where he had been recognized beyond doubt. Now it appears from some of the talk and confessions of George that he lived in Mississippi about six years.

George left a will, which is now in the hands of his friend Smith, who agreed to open it on his return from El Reno. Perhaps the will will give some light on George's past life or it may contain a confession as to his identity.

It would indeed be remarkable and startling if George should prove to be Wilkes Booth, but in the language of Col. Bryan it is 16 to 1 that he is not Booth.

If it is Booth, why did he come to Enid to pass in his checks voluntarily? There is only one answer at hand for the question. He probably read in an eastern paper that Enid was destitute of a cemetery and did not wish to be buried. Be it remembered that one of his last requests of landlord Dumont was that if he was found dead just to throw him out the back way. Mrs Harper, the wife of the Methodist minister of this city, is quite confident that George is no other than Wilkes Booth and there are many others here of the same opinion, their judgment being based on the comparisons and actions of the man previous to his death.

One thing is certain, the remains now lying embalmed in the Penniman undertaking rooms should not be buried until the identity of the man is made clear.

Upon his return today from El Reno, Mr. Smith was seen by a Wave reporter and from him learned that while Mr George had at one time owned considerable property there, it has all been dissipated.

While there he saw Mrs. Simmons, with whom George boarded while there, and she corroborates in detail the story as told in Thursday's Wave by Mrs Harper.

Mr. Smith is now in telegraphic communication with parties in New York and elsewhere in regard to the matter, and leaves this evening at 5:30 for Kansas City on the same errand.

He gave orders to Mr. Penniman to care for the body until further notice, and it will not be interred until something more definite than at present is known.

He says the deceased had intimated to him at times a story similar to the Wave's report, but he is entirely in the dark. That deceased told contradictory stories as to his age, but had lived in Mississippi and Texas, and had traveled extensively, was much above mediocre and an educated man. He will not open the will or the papers of the dead man until his return from the east. Mr Smith is a member of the U.C.T., No. 130, Des Moines, Iowa, and of the Elks at Decorah, Iowa.