St Helen's "Confession" Copied

As Judge B.M. Estes of Granbury said in Conversation in January 1921,
"As I remember St Helen he was just the type of man that would tell a "kid" like Bates such a dam fool yarn if it wasn't true, but never, if it was. I do not believe that St Helen ever made such a Confession to Bates seriously. He might have told him some such a story as a reason for not wanting to tell the true story knowing that if Bates ever told it, no one would believe him: acknowledges that he Bates himself, did not take the "Confession" seriously for then he says, page 80 of his book, "So I determined to

drop the subject for all time & come-
treating it as a myth unfounded
in fact - a story that existed only
in the mind of St Helen, a
comparatively demented man, a
crank, who clung to deceiving
me to the idea."
Again Bates page 66, "Then I
would think he could have been
equally as well John St. Helen,
John Smith or John Brown, or
any other man, who had
committed some crime other than
that of the assassination of
President Lincoln, for the Commission
of which he would have been
equally as anxious to avoid
detection under any other name
or for any other crime of such
crime had any connection
with violation of the Federal laws.

In other words, he could as well have been a mail robber as the assassin~~tion~~ of a President. So, that I could place but little importance in these statements and circumstances as a proof that St. Helen was in fact John Wilkes Booth, but rather thought of his Confession as an evidence of an identity not yet spoken of."

Insert X & X page following

* In Conversation Feb 9 1921 Mr Bates acknowledged that he did not make notes of St Helen's "Confession" and never considered it seriously until he read Dana's account in 1897.

squad. Mr. Bates, on page 65 acknowledges that he had no confidence in the story that was told him by St. Helen. One proof that he himself was inclined to consider whatever was told him in the same light that other Granbury people consider it today, as a joke.

On page 66 Mr. Bates says that he thought confession might have been made that St. Helen was John Wilkes Booth to hide his identity other than that and that he thought of him equally well as John St. Helen, John Smith or John Brown or any other man who had committed some crime other than that of the assassination of President Lincoln for the commission of which he would have been equally as anxious to avoid under any other name or for any other crime if such crime had any connection with the violation of the Federal law. As a matter of fact it would be rather clever for a criminal to confess that he was some other criminal who was dead for if he then ever faces the confession he could easily prove that it was false.

Bates. page 68, 60 and 69. The statement made here that the reason for this confession was so that the country would know the motive for his crime evidence that John St. Helen and John Wilkes Booth are not the same for John Wilkes Booth gave the world the motive for his crime in

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Cronologically this chapter should come befor Clara Morris description published three years after Mr Bates' letter to N. L. Cooper.

Why didn't Mr Bates get some corroborate statements from Granbury people re description and actions of St. H. This would have been so easy at this time as part of his "exhaustive and painstaking investigation".