May
11th
1925

Mr W H Atkins
Connellsville
Pa

Dear Sir:

I was very glad indeed to receive your letter of May 6th stating that you were greatly interested in the Booth articles.

According to Tom Jones, he told Booth and Herold that they would have to get rid of their horses or they would certainly betray them. Jones further states that Col Cox told him that he stood on the hill near his house and saw Herold taking the two horses down toward Zachia Swamp and heard the two reports of the pistol that killed them. It was Jones' opinion that the horses were led into a large area of quick sand covered with water and that the horses were shot and sunk of their own weight. Jones, of course, would be in a better position to know than anyone else. The horses were never found.

In accordance with an order issued by President Andrew Johnson February 5, 1869, Mrs Surratt's body was taken up from its grave in the penitentiary building and turned over to the daughter, Miss Anna Surratt, and buried in Mt Olivet Cemetery February 18, 1869. The grave is in Lot 31, Section F. The above information is taken from issues of the Washington Star and the National Intelligencer published at the time. Herold's body was buried in the Congressional Cemetery on the eastern banks of the Potomac; Atzerodt at Glenwood Cemetery; Payne in Holmead Cemetery in the northwest part of Washington. This cemetery was later discontinued and Payne's body exhumed and re-buried in some other cemetery, but I cannot learn just where.

Cox and Jones were placed in the old Caroll Prison, Washington, D.C. Jones was kept for six weeks and Cox for seven. Then they were liberated as it could not then be proven that they had taken care of Booth and Herold. Jett was held at Washington for a while as a witness and released. Ruggles and Bainbridge were never captured by Federal troops. As I remember, there was no effort made to take them into custody.

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As far as I can learn, the Government did nothing other than question Mrs Quesenberry. The best books, of course, on the entire case are the original volumes; "The Assassination of President Lincoln and Trial of Conspirators" compiled and arranged by Ben Pittman, recorded to the Commission. This is considered as the official report. Also "The Trial of John H Surratt and the Impeachment Investigation of Andrew Johnson." The first named book is quite rare and very hard to obtain. "The Trial of John H Surratt" was printed in two volumes with the Government documents; the Impeachment Investigation as three volumes. I am not sure whether these can still be obtained from the Government or not. Books on the subject are "Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" by O H Oldroyd, who is the owner of the Lincoln collection located in the house where Lincoln died; "The Death of Lincoln" by Clara E Laughlin, published by Doubleday, Page & Company, 1909; and "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" by David Miller DeWitt, published by the McMillan Company in 1909. There have been a great many magazine articles which have appeared in Century, Harpers, Lippencotts, and other publications in the years gone by. I don't know how large your local library may be but they undoubtedly have a Poole's Periodical index and you can get a list of these magazine articles from it.

I will keep your letter in mind and as I prepare some additional articles which will appear in the Dearborn Independent in the near future, I may have other information I can send you.

Very truly yours

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