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Authentic Story

of the

Assassination of

President Abraham Lincoln

as detailed by

J. Wilkes Booth

Edmond Levan Author

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Pub. Note--This article was written in 1907, but at that time it was hard to get any one to accept it. Recent events and especially the statements of his neice Blanch Booth of Minneapolis, Minn. Huston Booth of Galesburg, Ill. and Benjamin Pitman official Stenographer at the trial of Mrs. Mary Lurratt, go to prove Col. Levan was correct. Additional news paper clipping of interesting matter will be found at the end of this article.

Monterey, N. L. Mexico. October 1907.

Did J. Wilks Booth who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theater in April 1805 escape? He did. He roomed with the waiter for six weeks during the months of January and February 1809 in the city of Lexington, Kentucky. He went under an assumed name.

If you want to know where has he been living and what has be been doing since he laid the plans to assassinate President Lincoln, Seward and Stanton, and learn the names of some of the men that were associated with him including Vice President Andrew Johnson as J. Wilks Booth related it to me when he roomed with me read this article carefully.

He first planned to kidnap President Lincoln and take him to Richmond Va., and turn him over to the Confederate Government. He found after consulting his friends that scheme would not work, so he then decided to assassinate him and some of his Cabinet officers.

I can safely say that there is not a half a dozen persons now living outside of Booth himself, who knows as much about the assassination of President Lincoln, and how it was planned and carried out as I do.

How I Became Aquainted With J. Wilks Booth.

In order to protect myself of ~~living~~ being in any way connected with Booth in the assassination of President Lincoln and the attempt on the lives of Seward and Stanton I will say a few words about myself.

I was born on the 17th of March 1830 in the county of Mayo, Ireland. In 1849 I went to Canada West and I made that country my home until the latter part of May 1865. I was upto that time living in Uxbridge county of North Ontario where I carried on business.

As the winters were long and severe I decided to seek a milder climate, so on the 26th of May 1865 I left there and went to Buffalo New York, where I spent six weeks. The cold wind of Lake Erie did not agree with me so I went from there to Cleveland, Ohio where I spent six weeks. But the cold winds of the Lake did not agree with me so I went from there to Cincinnati and from there I went to Lexington Ky., where I located and carried on business.

One Saturday afternoon in December 1868 a bitter cold day as I was coming in from Versailles I caught a severe cold, which in the course of eight or ten days developed into pneumonia and it laid me up for four months.

I roomed and boarded with a family by the name of J. J. Mears. Mrs. Mears was associated with Col. Morgan a brother of General John Morgan in the coal and hemp manufacturing business. Mr. Mears had charge of the coal business and Morgan looked after the hemp end of it.

One afternoon of the first week in January 1889 I went down stairs to the sitting room to spend a few hours with Mrs. Mears and a lady friend who dropped in to spend the evening with her.

While we were talking together I saw a man pass by the window with a cap on his head and the front part of it was pulled down over his face and only the tip of his nose could be seen, while his over-coat collar was turned up and buttoned about his throat. He stepped up to the front door and rung the door bell. Mrs. Mears went out and opened the door and invited the gentleman in and then closed the door after him to keep the cold out. As she did so the gentleman remarked that he was informed that she rented rooms and kept boarders. She informed him that she did but just then she did not have a vacant room in the house, but that she could board him. He told her that that kind of arangements would not suit him. He wanted to room and board in the same house, and he started to go out. As the door between the sitting room and hall was open I heard every word that they said and I requested Mrs. Mears to invite the gentleman into the sitting room. She did so, and when he came in he introduced himself as Mr. Bickford of Pittsburg Pa. and Mrs. Mears introduced me to him as Mr. Levan from Canada.

As I occupied a large room upstairs 20 by 24 feet with a fire place in it, I told Mrs. Mears to show him the room and if it suited him that she could put a bed in it for him as I would like to have him as a room mate (while I was laid up.) She led him upstairs and showed him the room--there was a good coal fire burning in the grate at the time the room was warm and comfortable.

As soon as he saw it he told her that he would accept of my kind offer and to have a bed put in at once and that he would go to the Hotel and have his baggage moved over. He left and within an hour a Express wagon drove up in front of the door with two trunks and a valise in it, and the driver carried them up stairs to my room.

That night he took supper in the dining room down stairs with the balance of the boarders.

There was eighteen of them, and that was the only time that he dined with them during the six weeks that he roomed with me. He always waited until they got through and left the dining room before he went down stairs. I had my meals sent up to me.

The next morning he unpacked his trunks. The first thing that he took out was a Majistrates Manual and he informed me that he was a Lawyer by profession. The next were copies of Shakespear, Byron and Milton's works and laid them on the side board, then writing material and laid them on a table.

He informed me that his misson to Lexington was to examine some legal papers that were on file in the District Courts Office for a Cliant of his and that it would take him six weeks or two months as he would have to wait for certain parties who were to be sent from the city to return.

In the afternoon of that day he told me that he put up at the Broadway Hotel, when he came into the city. He then gave me his reason for moving from there. He asked me if I was acquainted with a man that he described and who he was, his name and occupation. I told him that he was an ex-chief of Police, who had to resign on account of bad health.

I then asked him what was the matter. Did you have a scrap with him? He replied that he did not, but when we first met he stared at me as though he would look right through me. From that time on he kept close by me, and when mealtime came he would not go to the dining room until I took my seat and he would take a seat opposite me, and he wanted to keep watching me until I got through and left the room and when I went to the Post Office which was only a block away, I was sure to meet him on my return and he never kept his eyes off me until we past each other. It was on that account that I left the Hotel and came here.

During the first day or two he would take a look at his Magistrates Manual and scan it's pages over. But from that time on he never again looked at it while heroomed with me. But it was not so with Shakespeare, Byron and Miltons works. He would read pages from them and recite pages from them for hours at a time. He seemed to be as familiar with them as the aged Ministers of the Gospel are with the Scriptures.

At that time there was only two railroads coming into Lexington. One from Louisville and the other from Covington, Kentucky. The passenger trains over these roads arrived at 10:30 A. M. and they brought the Louisville Courier and Journal, now the Currier Journal, the Cincinnati Gazette, the Commercial and Engineer Newspapers. Inquire.

About the time the mail was distributed he would put his overcoat on, turn the collar up and button it close around his neck, put his cap on and pull the peak well down over his face so that the tip of his nose could be seen. He never failed to purchase copies of the above papers and scan their pages very closely. After the first three days he would take clippings from them and notes also. From that time on he commenced to receive a number of letters, and he would answer some of them and then throw them into the fire and burn them up. He never left an envelope nor the scrap of a letter lying around. He burned them up as soon as he got through with them.

One day he introduced the subject of politics, and he informed me that if I would do as he would direct me that I would make a large amount of money out of the coming Prsidential Election. He asked me how much ready money I could spare out of my business. When I told him, he replied that if I would bet as he directed me to do that I could clear

OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

He them went on and he told me where to place my money. You can bet that no matter what may occur there will be three Republicans elected in succession. General U. S. Grant will be the Republican Candidate and Seymore of New York will be the Democratic Candidate.

I then reminded him that when the Democrats met in convention in Albany that they named Seymore as their first choice for President in the coming election and that he came out in a letter a few days after declining the nomination, and he stated that he would not be a candidate if tendered to him under any consideration. He replied that is just like Seymore. His object in publishing that letter was to find out what his party thought of him. Now this is Monday morning, you will see in Wednesday's papers a

letter from Seymore where he withdraws his letter of September last and that he will announce himself as the Democratic candidate for President, and stated what the substance of that letter would be.

When the Wednesday papers arrived they contained Seymore's letter. He then read the letter for me and when he got through reading it he called my attention to what he said on the Monday previous about it.

He then told me that there would be a man come from Chicago to attend the Fairs and Races at Louisville and Lexington next October for the purpose of betting on the next Presidential Election, and he advised me to place bets on the side that he did, and that I would clear more money that year by by betting than I would in a life time at hard work.

The man did come, and he attended the Louisville Fair and Races and he made bets there of over $200,000 on the coming election.

On the way up from Louisville to Lexington he made a number of bets on the train. He made one bet of $20,000 with Col. Morgan, the gentleman that I mentioned as being associated with J. J. Mars in the Coal and Hemp business. I met the man on the race grounds during the week of the races and I saw him make big bets. The smallest bet that he would make was $500. When the money was placed in the bank, he turned in checks, he would take the parties to a hat store and purchase a $10 hat and make them a present of it and tell them at the same time that that was all that they would ever receive for their money.

He offered to make one bet that Grant would carry Kentucky by more than 10,000 majority over Seymore in the face of the fact that Kentucky gave a Democratic majority of 75,000 over the Republicans in the August election of that year. He wanted big odds on that bet, but he could not find a man or a group of men to take him up.

So wreckless he seemed to be with some of his bets that some of the men who put up their money with him that if he lost that he would not pay them, so they called, privately on the President of the National Bank where their money and his checks were deposited and requested him to telegraph to the President of a National Bank in Chicago that his checks were made out against to inform them if his checks would be honored in case he lost. The reply to that telegram was that his checks on bets on the Presidential election would be honored. That he had no limit for money. That he had a large amount at his command to bet on the coming election.

When they received the reply to that private telegram they commenced to protest themselves against loss by placing money in the hands of their friends to bet on the Republican side for them. Mr. Cal Morgan got friends to place $25,000 for him on the Republican side and he came out $5000 ahead. As I was not a betting man I did not make the $100000 that Bickford told me that I would make if I would bet.

We all know how the election turned out General U. S. Grant was elected twice, but that <u>Unholy Alliance</u> that was organized by the leading spirits of the Republican and Democratic parties for the purpose of making money for themselves and their friends who bet their money on Hayes. They slipped up on Hayes. They failed to control the young and independent voters who grew up since that <u>Unholy Alliance</u> was organized. The young men elected Tilden. But unable to save themselves that <u>Unholy Alliance</u> COUNTED Tilden out and Hayes in.

[illegible] member of [illegible]

Tilden was a member of that Unholy Alliance and made thousands of dollars by having himself counted out and Hayes in.

When Tilden joined that Unholy Alliance he had no idea that he ever would be the nominee of the Democratic party. If he had, it is doubtful if he would have joined it.

How Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Mr. Bickford asked me if I had read an account of it? In reply I told him that I had read some of the papers that were published at the time that it occured. In reply to that he informed me that the papers never got a correct account of it and even if they had that they dare not publish it on account of President Andrew Johnson's connection with it when he was Vice Pres.

Mr. Bickford then gave me a full account of the plot and how it was organized and the names of some of the men who were associated with Booth including Vice President Andrew Johnson.

WHY DID VICE PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH J. WILKS BOOTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSASSINATING PRESIDENT LINCOLN, SEWARD AND STAMTAN?

President Johnson was ambitious. He wanted to become President of the United States. He well knew that he never would as long as President Lincoln, Seward and Stantan lived. Hence he wanted them put out of his way.

Bickford told me that Booth was the sole promoter of the plot to kidnap President Lincoln and take him to Richmond Va. and turn him over to the Confederate Government. But by the advice of friends he dropped that plot and he then decided to assassinate him in Ford Theater and have his associates to assassinate Seward.

The truth finally came out. The following article appeared in the press of Feb. 13, 1925.

WOMAN HANGED FOR LINCOLN'S DEATH WAS NO GUILTY

Benjamin Pitsman Stenographer
at Trial Says, Spies Lied About Mary Surratt.

Cincinnati, Feb. 13.--Almost fifty years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln the pen of Benjamin Pitman pooneer of stenography who was official stenographer at the trial of the conspirators has revealed facts supporting his belief that Mrs. Mary Surratt the woman hanged with three other conspirators, was innocent of the crime for which she was executed. The statement was written by Pitman just before his death here a year ago, and appears in the March issue of a Cincinnati magazine. A portion of Pitman's statement is:

"That Mrs. Surratt who was hanged with three male conspirators concerned in a plot to assassinate President Lincoln and other government officials was entirely innocent of any prior knowledge of or participation in those crimes is, to my mind, beyond question. My conviction is based on the following facts:

"That as official recorder of the trial as having heard ev-

ery word of the testimony; as compiler of the published volume 'Lincoln Assassination Trial' more than all, as having previous to the trial written down from the lips of the principal witnesses their stories of what they knew or about which, in their employment as spies, they lied. I have had the best opportunity of forming a true opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Mrs. Surratt."

Bickford then gave me a full account of how and why Booth selected Mrs. Suratts private boarding house to hold his meetings in, and to get her son to join him in the plot to kill Seward and Stanton.

He had associated with him Payne, O'Laughlin, Harold.Algerodt, Suratt, Vice President Johnson. But he would not give me the names of the two men that he placed on the sidewalk, nor the name of the man that was killed by the officers in Garretts barn.

When Booth was naming the men that they were to assassinate one of them asked him, "What are you going to do with Vice President Johnson?" He replied, "Johnson must not be touched, he is alright." He is our friend. He is with us in this business and he must not be harmed."

It was the above remarks that Mrs. Surratt overheard and which caused her to be arrested and cast into prison.

Some days after President Andrew Johnson was informed that Mr. Surratt overheard what Booth said about him he issued an order to have her arrested prosecuted convicted and hanged (an innocent woman) with a gag in her mouth.

After everything was arranged to Booth's satisfaction and the places of refuge to go to after they finished their bloody work they sailed forth. The two men took their place on the sidewalk the horseman took his standby his horse. The other men went to the residences of Seward and Stanton while Booth went upstairs in Fords Theater.

Soon after Booth went upstairs the horseman rode up, dismounted and and he asked one of the men that was standing on the sidewald if he would be so kind as to hold his horse for him for a minute and he handed him the bridle, while he entered a side door of the Theater, and he remained there until he heard the shot fire upstairs. He then came out and went up to the man that was holding his horse and told him that he would relieve him of the horse. As the man turned around and handed him the bridle, the horseman gave him a punch between the eyes so that he could not recognize him again and he jumped into the saddle and put spurs to the horse and rode away.

As soon as he rode off the two men that were stationed on the sidewalk hallowed, There goes Booth there goes Booth, who shot Prsident Lincoln upstairs, pointing their hands in the direction that the horseman took, while Booth was carried by his friends in the opposite direction.

All this occurred before any one of those that were standing on the side walk knew what took place upstairs. But it was only a minute or two until men and women came rushing down stairs and they reported that J. Wilkes Booth shot and killed President Lincoln in his private box. Those two men told them that Booth rode off on horseback, pointing their hands in the direction that the horseman took. By this time some of the city police came up and they inquired what all that noise and confusion was about. As soon as they were informed that J. Wilkes Booth had just shot

and killed President Lincoln in his private box. Then the two men that were stationed on the sidewalk stepped up and informed them that he had just mounted a horse and rode off, pointedtheir hands in the direction the horseman took and that he was trying to make his escape into the country that way so that they could put the officers off on a false chase while Booth was carried off by his friends in the opposite direction to a friends house.

As soon as the Police got mounts they took after the horseman. As the horseman was driving at full speed and when in front of Doctor Mudds house he stumbled and fell with the rider under him with a broken leg. When he got up he limped his way to Doctor Mudds house which was close by and he called him out and told the Doctor that he met with an accident. The Doctor took him in and examined hisssleg and he found that some of the bones were fractured. He put him to bed.

Soon after the Police rode up. They inquired of the Doctor if he had seen a man ride by on horseback within the past two hours. The doctor informed them that he had not.

As they seemed to be considerable excited he asked them what was the trouble in the city. They told him that J. Wilkes Booth shot and killed President Lincoln in Ford Theater and that he then mounted a horse and rode out this way to make his escape and take refuge with some friend in the country.

The officers then rode on and they inquired at every house if they had seeb a man ride by on horseback. But they could not find any traces of him. After they left, the doctor told the man what the officers told. and he asked the man if he was mixed up in it. The man told him that he was a little. The doctor then told him that he would have to leave his house at once.that he would not harbor any man who had a hand in the assassination of President Lincoln. The man got up and dressed and he then limped his way to a barn that was not far off, and he took refuge in it.

Assthe officers could not find any traces of the horseman on their way out so the next day on their way back they searched every house, stable and barn to see if he would not be hiding in them. When they came to this barn they found a man hiding in it and they commanded him to come out and give an account of himself. That he refused to do. Then then told him that if he did not they they would go in and drag him out. He pulled his six shooter and he told them that if they attempted to lay hands on him that he would shoot them. There was not anything that they said to him would induce him to come out, so some of the officers concluded that he was Booth and Boston Corbett shot and killed him.

They took the dead body with them into the city of Washington and it was identified by some of Booth's friends as the body of J. Wilkes Booth so as to put a stop to the offercers in making any further search for him.

When the doctors examined the body they found that one of his legs had been broken and that it had been dressed by a doctor. They then sent out officers to try to find out who dressed his leg and to arrest him. When they came to Doctor Mudds house they inquired of him if he dressed a man's leg--a stranger who came to his house in the night. He told him that he had. They then told him that they had an order for his arrest, and they then arrested him and they took him with them into Washington and he was cast into prison and he was kept there for six months, and at

the end of six months he was let out.

That was all that Doctor Mudd had to do with the assassination of President Lincoln.

While all that was going on in and about the city ofWashington, Booth was taken care of by friends who took him to the house of a friend and a Doctor was called in to dress the leg that he broke when he jumped to the stage after he shot President Lincoln.

As the neighbors of the family that Booth was taken saw a doctor go there they concluded that some of the family must be sick so they called at the house and inquired who was sick. They were informed that no one was sick, that the doctor was only making friendly visits. They well knew that doctors were not accustomed to pay friendly visits. As the neighbors saw him go they decided to watch the house to find out who was sick.

When the family found that their house was watched, and to prevent them from finding out they had Booth carried in the night to another friends house and a doctor was called in to attend him.

At the close of that neighborly call Booth's friends held a meeting and they came to the conclusion that it was not safe for them to keep Booth in the Washington district as the officers might stumble on to him, so they concluded to send him to a friends house in Kentucky , so in the night they took him away.

While he was there the leg got well so that he could walk about with the aid of a cane and in the course of time he went to a loggingcamp in the North Western part of Upper Canada where he spent a year and a half and he put some money in the lumber business.

At the close of that season he returned to the United States and he took a hand in politics under an assumed name. He became identified with a secret political organization which in about a year after it was organ - ized it was known as the Unholy Alliance; and it was composed of the leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties for the purpose of making money for themselves and personal friends out of the next three Presidential Elections. It was that secret organization that elected the three Republican Presidents in succession, Grant twice and Hayes next.

Everything that Bickford told me turned out just as he stated that they wanted but once. He stated that President Andrew Johnson would never again be elected to any office in the gift of the Southern people. That he proved a traitor to the South and that he treated some of them with greater sincerity than did the Northern Republicans. That part of the program was not carried out, and I will state in the proper place why it was not.

ANDREW JOHNSON AS PRESIDENT

The day following the death of President Lincoln, Vice-President Johnson was sworn in as President. No sooner was he installed into office than he had an order issued for the arrest of every one who was in any way connected with the assassination of Lincoln and the attempt on the lives of Seward and Stanton.

The first one that he had arrested was Mrs Surratt. He knew that if she was left out, that she might tell what she overheard what Booth said

about him when he was laying the plan in that house to assassinate Lincoln, Seward and Stanton. He knew that his life was not worth much as long as any of them lived.

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Mrs. Surratt with others were tried and she was convicted and sentenced to be hung with a gag in her mouth. As soon as her case was made public some of the most prominent ladies in Washington got up a petition to have her pardoned, and sent copies of it to some of the prominent ladies in New York, Boston, Philadelphia Pittsburg, Richmond, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Chicago, to be signed requesting President Johnson to pardon or reprieve her. That petition was signed by members of the Supreme Court of the United States U. S. Senators and Congressmen by the judge and jury that tried her and by Judge Advocate Holts that prosecuted her, and they presented that petition to President Johnson. But he turned a deaf ear to it. He did not and he would not reprieve nor pardon her. But on the contrary he had her hanged with a gag in her mouth so that she could not scream out when under the gallows and tell the officers that Johnson as Vice-President was associated with Booth for the purpose of assassination Lincoln Seward and Stanton.

It was for the same reason that he had the others arrested, some of them hanged and the balance sent to the "Island of Dry Tortugas"

As soon as they were disposed of President Johnson began to court favour with the Republican party so as to pave the way so that they would nominate him as their candidate for President at the next election.

He had an order prepared for the arrest of all the Confederate officers and have them tried for High Treason.

The day before that he was to have that order served, an officer saw it laying on President Johnson's desk and he went at once and hunted up General Grant. He found him playing billiards with some friends in the Billiard Hall of the Willard Hotel and the officer called General Grant to one side and he told him what President Johnson was going to do the next day to the Confederate officers.

General Grant put away his cue, and asked to be excused. He went at once to President Johnson's office and told him what he heard and he asked him if he was going to issue such an order. The President replied that he had prepared such an order and that he would have it issued the next day.

General Grant then informed the President that if he issued such an order that he would not permit it to be served as long as he commanded the United States Army. Those officers were out on Parole and as long as they honored that parole that there was no power in the United States that would deprive them of their liberty. He would break his sword in two and throw it into the gutter before he would permit one of them to be deprived of their liberty. General Grant was getting stirred up by this time and he closed his fist and shook it in the President's face and remarked, "Now Mr. President I dare you to issue that order" and he turned on his heels and marched back to the billiard room picked up his cue and went on with the game as though nothing unusual occurred with him while he was out.

President Johnson did not issue that order and when the above got out, the Confederate officers called on General Grant and they thanked him most cordially for the stand that he took in behalf of their honor and liberty. Was it any wonder that the Confederate officers loved General

Grant to the day of their death and that President Johnson hated him.

When the above got into the papers President Johnson was dispised and detested by the southern people and by the officers and men of the United States army as well as by the southern soldiers.

A few days after Mr. Bickford gave me the above information he read an article in one of the Cincinnati papers that there was a man in the city of New York who offered to bet $10,000 against $1,000 that J. Wilkes Booth was then alive, and that he would name the place where he was then living and take any man or men who wanted to take him up to the house and introduce them to him. But he could not find any man or group of men that would take him up.

After he read the article he asked me if I had ever seen Booth. In reply I told him that I had not, but that I had seen a full size oil painting of him in the Cleveland Theater. He then asked me if I would recognize Booth from that painting if I met him. In reply I told him that I would, and I pointed my right hand towards him and I told him that he was at that minute within ten miles of us and that you are the mean J. Wilkes Booth who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. Like a flash of lightning he turned round in his chair and changed the subject of our conversation.

The next day after the above conversation took place and when he returned from the Post Office he informed me that he just received a letter from his partner ~~informing him~~ that the case that they were interested ~~traded~~ in was set for trial on such a day and that it was necessary for him to be there on that occasion.

Well, Mr. ~~Swan~~ Bevan I regret that I will have to leave you so soon. Hold the room for me as I expect to be back in side of a month.

That afternoon he packed his trunks and the next morning he took the 7 A. M. train bound for either Lousiville or Covington, or the Lord knows where. That was the last time that he showed up in the city of Lexington, Kentucky.

While I was laid up sick and during the time that J. Wilkes Booth, for that is the name that I shall call him in place of Bickford from this on, members of Merick Lodge No. 31 and the Independent of Red Men which orders I am a member of whoud call in to see me both night and day, and some of them would sit up with me until after 10 p.m.

In about two months after Booth left I went down to the dining room. All the boarders were sitting down to their breakfast. There were eighteen of them, sixteen of them belonged to Lexington and the other two were from Cincinnati. They were beef buyers for the Cincinnati and Covington butchers.

As soon as I was seated Mr. James Dunlap, who was foreman in the Press department of the Lexington Observer, a weekly paper that was published there, asked me if I had heard from my room mate Mr. Bickford since he left. In reply I told him that I had not, and that I never expected to see or hear from him.

Mr. Dunlap then spoke up and remarked "We all know that he is not the man that he represented himself to be and I believe that you know who he is and what is his name. Come now, Mr. ~~Swan~~ Bevan, tell us who he is."

I then told them that he was none other than J. Wilkes Booth, the man that assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.

As soon as I mentioned his name the sixteen men raised up their right hands above their heads and they brought them down with closed fists and struck the table with them and exclaimed, "By God, he is J. Wilkes Booth." The other two men got up and shoved their chairs back and exclaimed, "Why in Hell did we not know that."

I then asked them what would you do if you had. In reply they said that they would have him arrested and claim the reward that was offered for his arrest. In reply to that, "Oh, it is the money that you are after. You are too late for that now."

There was not a man nor a woman that was connected with the house but what recognized him as J. Wilkes Booth as soon as I mentioned his name.

Again to show that Booth was not the man that was shot in Garretts barn, the following winter the Federal Authorities arrested an actor in Memphis Tennessee by the name of Mr. Arlde who was the very image of Booth and they cast him into prison and they kept him there for six months and then turned him out. After he was let out he brought suit against the Government for $100,000 for false imprisonment. But when the case was called up before the court it was thrown out, as Memphis was under martial law when he was arrested and he had no redress.

Now then if Booth was the man that was killed in Garrett's barn, why did they arrest Mr. Ardle as Booth?

Soon after I recovered from my spell of sickness, my physician informed me that I would have to seek a milder and a more regular climate than they have in Kentucky in the fall winter and spring. So in January 1870 I went to Texas. I landed in Galveston on the 5th of February and I made that city me home until November 1880.

In 1871 I became connected with a Galveston business firm and ~~traveled~~ Traveled for them in Southwestern Texas. In 1872 I became connected with the Galveston News and I traveled for them for twelve years in Southwestern Texas and some of the border states of Mexico as solicitor and correspondent. In October 1874 I went to Victoria Texas to report the Gulf coast Fair for the News.

When I reached the Fair grounds I was met and introduced to two stockmen by the name of Whizager and I asked them if they were related to the Wizagers of Midway Wondfort County, Kentucky. They informed me that they wer first cousins. I then told them that I was will acquainted with them as I lived in Lexington four years. I also informed them that there was a man who roomed with me for six weeks during the months of January and February 1869, that nine tenths of the civilized world believe is dead. That is J. Wildes Booth, who assassinated President Lincoln. In reply to that statement they informed me that they knew to their personal knowledge that he has been in Texas twice since then.

While I was traveling in Southwestern Texas and the border states of Mexico I have met a number of men who informed me that they knew that Booth was alive, and some of them knew where he was then living.

I met a man once in this city who hailed from Mississippi. As I was going through the Hidalgo Plaze some one pointed one out to him, and told him that I reported that J. Wilkes Booth escaped. The man ran across the Plaza and hailed me. When he cam up to me he introduced himself

and he stated what town in Mississippi that he was from.

He then said that I reported that J. Wilkes Booth roomed with me for six weeks during the months of January and February 1869 in the city of Lexington Kentucky.

"Well Mr. Bevan I know that he escaped, as he was living in my town under an assumed name. There are some people that know he is J. Wilkes Booth. But Mr. Bevan, you would not recognize him now if you met him. He has aged very much the past ten years.

Since 1875 he has been dividing his time between the states of Virginia, Alabama, Georgia Tennessee and Mississippi. He has taken occasional trips to the cities of New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago St. Louis, and Kansas City. He has spent some time with friendly stockmen in the Indian Territory. Thus it will be seen that Booth was not the man that was killed in Garrett's barn.

Who was the greatest Criminal in the assassination of President Lincoln, and the attempt on the lives of Seward and Stanton? J. Wilkes Booth or Vice President Andrew Johnson? I will leave those questions to the future historians to answer. It was in his power as vice president to put a stop to all that bloody work and save the life of Lincoln and that he sentenced to be hanged, including Mrs. Suratt, an innocent woman, with a gag in her mouth.

But no. He was ambitious. He wanted to become the President of the United States. He well knew that he never would as long as Lincoln, Seward and Stanton lived, hence he must get them out of his way so that he could take charge of the White House as the Chief Executive of the United States.

A reference to the files of the leading daily paper in the United States that was published from April 1865 to the election of Ex-President Andrew Johnson as United States Senator from Tennessee will bear testimony to the truthfulness of what I have written.

HOW PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON FAILED TO GET THE REPUBLICAN OR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT.

Soon after Vice President Andrew Johnson wasinstalled as President, and in order to make himself solid with the Republican party, so as to secure their nomination for President in the next election, he commenced to have arrested and imprisoned some of the leading Democrats of the Southern States, the men who took an active part in the secession movement and have their property confiscated and turned over to Loyal Republicans.

That move on his part aroused the Southern Democrats and stirred them up to take some steps to check him. They well knew that there was not any thing too small nor contemptible for him to stoop to if he could gain favour with the Republicans, so that they would make him their candidate for President in the next election.

Some of the leading Southern and Northern Democrats called a meeting to devise some scheme to defeat him. That meeting selected a committee of three, Hon. James Beck of Lexington, Kentucky, Judge Black, of Pittsburg, Pa., and Judge Brooks of New York.

Those three B's were like the Three R's, Rum, Romanism and Rebellion that politically killed him and James G. Blain.

The above committee called on President Johnson the next day and they told him their mission as follows:

"Mr. President we have been appointed a committee of three by the Southern and Northern Democrats, now happily unided and will work together to restore the standard of liberty over now our united country, to call your attention to the unfortunate affairs that has existed in the Southern States since the close of the War.

Now, Mr. President you was born and raised in the South. You are a southern man. You know what their present conditions are. You must know what the Southern people, your people are suffering at the hands of unscrupulous Northern men who have located in their midst.

Now, Mr. President you know and we know that there is a strong party sprung up in the Republican party in the Northern States against you being their candidate for President. Some of them call you President by accident. The Southern people made a great mistake when they seceded from the Union and now they are suffering for doing so.

Now, Mr. President if you will cooperate with us to rebuild the southern states and restore them to their former prospecity, we, the Democrats of the North and South States when we meet in Convention we will nominate you for President and we will give you our solid vote, and with what support that you will get from your Republican friends, we will elect you President by our twenty thousand majority. "

President Johnson fell into the trap that they set for him as will be seen by what followed.

Some days previous to this meeting it was announced that President Johnson was to deliver an address on the 22nd of February, Washington's birthday and inform the people what Washington did for the United States to gain their independence and to extablish a stable government.

The above committee prepared a speech for him and they submitted it to him for his approval. After he read it he told them that he endorsed every word of it and that he would deliver that speech the following day. And for fear that he would not as they had no confidence in him they sat up with him the most of the night and they made him intoxicated so that he delivered that drunken speech the next day that brought the blush of shame to the cheeks of every American that heard him and read it.

It was that speech that cut him off from the Republicans, and the Democratic party dropped him. He was now powerless to do them any political harm. But it did not turn out so favorable to the Southern States.

When President Johnson delivered that drunken speech, and he denounced the Republican party the Republicans then passed the Reconstruction Laws, and Negro Franchise which were very humilating to the Southern people.

They clipped Johnson's wings they tied his hands so tight that from that on to the end of his term he was only a played out political figure head.

When President Johnson failed to receive the nomination for President from wither the Republican or the Democrats he set to work to organize a

party of his own. He organized the Johnson Raymond Party. He got Mr. Henry Raymond, Editor of the New York Times to manage it for him, and soon after they started out on a lecturing tour and they took that Swing around the circle.

Cleveland, Ohio was the first city that he spoke in, and where he delivered such a drunken and blasphemy speech, that the Press of the country would not and did not publish it.

They went from Cleveland to Columbus where he delivered another drunken speech, and from there they went to Cincinnati where he delivered a speech that went beyond the bounds of common decency, and the Press of that city both Republican and Democrat would not publish it.

They went from Cincinnati to Louisville, Kentucky and as only a few men went to hear him they threw up the sponge, returned to Washington and wound up the affairs of the Johnson Raymond Political Party.

WHY EX-PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS ELECTED UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE.

Just before the close of President Grant's first term the Hon. Benjamin F. Butler of Massachusetts notified the house that the next term of Congress that he would introduce a Bill to levy a tax on the Southern States to pay the northern states and people all the expenses that they were put to to put down the ~~resolution~~ Rebellion and that he would address the House in its favor.

When those remarks of Butler wer published they created considerable sensation throughout the Southern States. Each State called a convention for the purpose of adopting some plan to defeat it. After they met they agreed to call a general convention of all the states to meet at one of the Southern cities for the purpose of selecting one or more prominent men to reply to Butler. They did meet and they named several prominent statesmen to reply to Butler, but each one of them declined to meet him in debate. But they all declined to discuss the bill with Butler.

One old gentleman got up and addressed the convention and he told them that their labor would be a barron one unless they selected a member of Congress or a senator to reply to Butler so that their reply would appear along side of Butler's in the Congressional Record. In casting eyes over the Hall he saw a group of people from Tennessee off to one corner of the Hall and he pointed his had toward they and he remarked, "What is the matter with Tennessee? Why doesn't she elect Ex-President Andrew Johnson United States Senator? He was associated with Butler during the war and he knows all about his dirty work, and rascality. He is the only man in the United States that can down Butler. Tennessee should elect Johnson United States Senator."

That speech brought down the home and they called on Tennessee to elect Ex-President Johnson U. S. Senator. When the Legislature met they elected him and when B. F. Butler heard for what purpose he was elected he took his Bill and speech and threw them in to the fire and burned them up.

As Senator Johnson had no opportunity of "skinning Butler" he was only a figure head while in the Senate as both political parties knew what he did and was guilty of they had no respect for him.

Every statement that I have recorded includes from April 1865 to the

election of Ex-President Johnson as United States Senator are absolutely true and a reference to the files of the Press that were published in those days will bear me out in them.

Edmund Doran Author