Mr Black:

Do you want this Booth article?

Lawson

3-4-26

May
3
1926

Mr Shepard Bryan
1202-1207 Candler Bldg
Atlanta Ga

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of April 24 Mr Cameron desires that an acknowledgement be made of it and our appreciation expressed for the suggestions you make. The article by John T Boifeuillet on the death of Booth is interesting and is being referred to Mr Black, the writer of the Booth articles in the Dearborn Independent.

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO

B E LARSON

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

BEL:MJ

The Atlanta Journal
Sat. April 24, 1926
April

New Light on Death of Booth—By John T. Boifeuillet

MR. SAMUEL W. WILKES, of Atlanta, the veteran railroader and highly esteemed Georgian, familiarly known over several states as "Sam Wilkes, has received an intensely interesting letter from Mr. A. W. Cash, president of the Cash Manufacturing company, Decatur, Ill., regarding the last moments of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln.

According to Mr. Cash's letter, Booth died with his head on the lap of Mr. Cash's sister. But Mr. Cash contradicts newspaper statements that he saw Booth shot, and says he never saw Booth in his life. He was only six years old at the time of Booth's capture and death, and was not on the scene of these occurrences.

As a preliminary to the reading of Mr. Cash's letter which appears below, I will briefly relate one or two historically recorded assertions in connection with Booth's shooting Lincoln. When Booth fired the fatal shot, at Ford's theater, on the night of April 14, 1865, he leaped upon the stage, breaking one of his legs. He reached a horse in readiness for him near the private entrance of the theater, and with a friend rode thirty miles into Maryland, where a surgeon set his fractured leg, and then crossed the Potomac into Virginia. Before daybreak of April 26, a party of pursuers overtook him at Garrett's farm, about twenty miles from Fredericksburg, Va., where he had taken refuge in a barn, and refusing to surrender, the barn was set on fire and Booth was shot.

I invite the attention of the reader to the following letter from Mr. Cash to Mr. Wilkes:

"Responding to your letter of the 9th relative to capture of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, would say that the information given in a number of papers saying that I saw Booth shot through the lungs of saw him at all is untrue, inasmuch as I was only about six years old at the time and was not even at the Garrett house.

"Mr. Garrett was one of our neighbors, living about three-quarters of a mile from our house, and my older sister, who died about 1870, was there at the time and Booth died with his head on her lap. She happened to be staying at the home of one of the neighbors' house at the time, and seeing the flames at the house supposed that Mr. Garrett's house was on fire, and she, together with a number of the other neighbors, rushed over to offer any aid they might. On arriving, she found soldierse there and they had shot Booth in the tobacco house after having set it on fire after his companion, Harold, had surrendered and come out.

"They brought Booth out immediately after they shot him, and were very anxious to keep him from dying, as they had imperative orders to take him alive at all hazards, hence they were very anxious to have my sister and any of the Garrett family to do all they could to nurse him. My sister cut off a lock of Booth's hair and kept it until she died, she having married a man by the name of John W. Royston and moved to Illinois before her death.

"The old Garrett home place once belonged to my father, and I got a photograph of the old house, showing the porch on which Booth died, on my visit to the old place about six years ago.

"My older sister, my nephew and myself still own our old home place adjoining the old Garrett farm near Port Royal, Caroline county, Virginia, but all of the Garrett family who were alive at that time, I believe, are dead now, with a possible exception of one of the younger sons named Robert, and the last I heard of him he was somewhere in Georgia or Alabama, I think, connected with some railroad.

"Of course, neither my sister nor any of the Garrett family knew positively that the man shot was John Wilkes Booth, although he had the initials J. W. B. tattooed on his arm and he had his leg broken and it had been dressed and put in a stay by some physician; therefore, it would seem very improbable that he would be erroneously identified as Booth by the soldiers who captured him and the authorities in Washington to whom his body was taken, especially in view of the fact that his companion was hung, as also were a Mrs. Surratt and her daughter, at whose home Booth and Harold had been living and where it was supposed the plot had been conceived."

Booth's last words were: "Useless, useless!" in response to a demand by his pursuers to surrender.

Tomorrow will be the sixty-first anniversary of the death of John Wilkes Booth, according to all historical accounts. But some writers, and other persons, have professed to believe that Booth never was shot and captured by his pursuers. Some claim that the disposition of his dead body has always remained a mystery, and that if any man ever knew the place of his burial he never imparted the information. However, this statement appears on historical pages:

"He was secretly buried under the flagstones of the arsenal warehouse at Washington, but two years later his brother, Edwin Booth, received permission to remove the remains, and they were reinterred in the family plot in the cemetery at Baltimore."

It is interesting to note that Booth died on April 26, 1865, the day and year of the surrender of Joseph E. Johnston to Sherman, which event is generally accepted as marking the real close of the War Between the States. April 26th was designated as Confederate Memorial Day, in consequence of Johnston's surrender on that date.

Many persons have said that the late Dr. James G. Armstrong, of Atlanta, a highly gifted Episcopal divine and a superb Shakespearean scholar, accomplished linguist and profound philosopher, bore a most striking resemblance to John Wilkes Booth. He was for years rector of St. Philip's Cathedral in this city.

Booth was a handsome man, and possessed good histrionic ability. One of the most memorial theatrical performances ever enacted on the New York stage was "Julius Caesar," November 23, 1864, at the Winter Garden theater. The three Booth brothers appeared in the cast, to-wit: Junius Brutus Booth as Brutus, Edwin Booth as Cassius and John Wilkes Booth as Mark Antony. I believe that Lawrence Barrett played the part of Julius Caesar. John Wilkes Booth was only twenty-seven years old at the time of the assassination of Lincoln.