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Tonight on History's Greatest Mysteries.

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00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:15,000

He was the actor whose most famous role was assassinating a president.

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00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:20,000

But was John Wilkes Booth also an escape artist?

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00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:22,000

I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:28,000

On tonight's mystery, did John Wilkes Booth evade justice and live for decades

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:31,000

after assassinating Abraham Lincoln?

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00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:36,000

There was a son born five years after the assassination.

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:40,000

John Wilkes Booth could not have died in the barn and fathered his son five years later.

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00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:43,000

Did another man die in Booth's place?

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:48,000

Booth was able to escape and the man in the barn was James Boyd.

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00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:57,000

For the first time, Booth descendants share family lore of what they believe is evidence passed down through generations.

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:03,000

Even list John Wilkes Booth here as Harry Jerome Stevenson's other father.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Their theories and others will be put to the test, including for the first time Booth family DNA analysis from the autopsy table and the graveyard.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:20,000

Where John Wilkes Booth was buried was an issue from the very beginning.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

Suppose John Wilkes Booth actually isn't buried in here.

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:30,000

The escape of John Wilkes Booth tonight on history's greatest mysteries.

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:46,000

Music

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:54,000

John Wilkes Booth before he became John Wilkes Booth the assassinator had a lot going for him.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:59,000

He was one of the most popular, if not the most popular actors in North America.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:03,000

What's thought of as being the handsomest man in North America.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:08,000

I mean he had huge numbers of female fans who swooned over him.

22

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:10,000

Music

23

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:16,000

He had these eyes that were described as black, a very unusual trait.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

And it's something that seems to sort of draw you in.

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:29,000

He also had a kind of charisma and power over people which he was able to use in drawing together people for his conspiracy.

26

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Music

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:41,000

One of the most difficult things as a historian is to get through to people how different the world was in 1865.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:46,000

You've got one half of the country fighting against the other half.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:56,000

Washington DC, the nation's capital, is right on the line between the two and it is thoroughly saturated with enemy sympathizers.

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:59,000

John Wilkes Booth identified himself as a Southerner.

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:05,000

He was pro-slavery, anti-black, had racist views which were quite common at the time.

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:13,000

And by the time of the Civil War he identified himself firmly as a Southerner who supported

secession and opposed the election of Abraham Lincoln.

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:18,000

Booth was crushed that the man he thought was a tyrant had been re-elected.

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:23,000

He hated Lincoln for conquering southern territory and for emancipating the slaves.

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:32,000

Booth's remedy for the presidential tyrant echoes themes in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, a play he'd performed with his brothers.

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:40,000

Caesar has become a tyrant when Brutus comes along for the good of Rome and kills him.

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00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:45,000

There's no doubt that John Wilkes Booth was the man who shot Lincoln at Ford's theater.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:49,000

He made certain the audience knew he had played the leading role.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:55,000

Booth wanted to be a hero. He wanted to be the American Brutus. He believed he was saving his country.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:01,000

Booth pauses at center stage and shouts six simple tyrannous, thus always to tyrants.

41

00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:12,000

He's saying it in Latin, the language of Julius Caesar and Marcus Brutus, making it known that this is what tyrants get. This is justice.

42

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:20,000

John Wilkes Booth has just performed the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in front of an audience of 1,500 people.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:26,000

Then he exits heading for the bridge that will take him from Washington to Maryland.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:31,000

Booth crossed the Navy Yard Bridge into Maryland 20 minutes after shooting Lincoln.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:39,000

Just over the border, he was joined by 23-year-old David Harrell, the only one of Booth's co-conspirators to escape with him.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:46,000

While Booth was assassinating Abraham Lincoln, David Harrell and Lewis Powell were supposed to murder the Secretary of State.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Powell nearly stabbed him to death in his bed. Harrell was waiting outside for Powell, got afraid.

48

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:59,000

The Seward's daughter opened a window and yelled, Help! Murder! Help! He abandoned Lewis Powell at Seward's house.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:06,000

David Harrell finally catches up to Booth and then it's the two of them escaping together from that point on.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:13,000

Booth and Harrell traveled south for 12 days into Virginia until they reached a barn owned by the

Garrett family.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:18,000

Most historians believe Booth was killed by Union soldiers in the Garrett's tobacco barn.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:29,000

We're in Caroline County, Virginia, about two miles south of the town of Port Royal.

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:36,000

It doesn't look like a historic site, but as you can see, they put up a sign about John Wilkes Booth's death.

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:47,000

This is ground zero for one of the greatest crime scenes in history and we have a body, but as usual, the biggest thing we have to do is ID that body.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

Who was pulled out of the barn that night?

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00:05:50,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Lori Rothschild on Salty is a journalist and producer. She's teamed with former U.S. martial art,

Roderick, who's spent decades tracking down criminal fugitives.

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00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:05,000

Lori's handling the family side and I'm more on the technical side.

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:13,000

Look at it, forensic document examination, medical examiners, autopsies, photographs, forensic photography.

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00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:21,000

Looking at some of the conspiracy theories, it really fall more into my lane from having almost 40 years in law enforcement.

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:29,000

I was actually approached by the family with their story of how they never believed that John Wilkes Booth died at Garrett's farm.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:40,000

They had all this information, things that were passed down from generation to generation, things that could never be recorded in history books, that were secrets.

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00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:51,000

Joanne Hulme is a descendant of the Booth family. She believes John Wilkes Booth escaped the Union manhunt and lived to father children after 1865.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:56,000

The like great-great-grandmother is John Wilkes Booth's aunt.

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00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:59,000

And how many siblings do John Wilkes have?

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00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:06,000

Ten children born in the United States and four of them died during the Yellow Fever.

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:18,000

So there's Junius Booth as Booth, the second, Rosalie Booth, Edwin Thomas Booth, Asia Booth Clark, John Wilkes Booth, and then Joseph Adrian Booth.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:29,000

I was between 11 and 12 years old and my mother says, so you're going into sixth grade and you're going to study about the Civil War.

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00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:35,000

And they're going to tell you that John Wilkes Booth was shot and died in the barn and she said that is not true.

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:40,000

He escaped the barn, he lived for many years, he had a family.

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00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:46,000

That is when my life changed and maybe I think a part of my innocence was lost forever.

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00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:59,000

But if Joanne's family lore is right, then accepted history must be rewritten, especially the accounts of what happened that fateful night at Garrett's Farm.

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00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:11,000

On April 24th at about 2 p.m. Booth and Harold made contact with a trio of Confederate cavalymen who accompanied the fugitives as they were ferried across the Rappahannock River.

73

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:16,000

Then he's taken to the farm of Richard Garrett.

74

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Now the Garrets don't know who Booth is, they're told these are Confederates going home, they need your help.

75

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:26,000

The first night they're there, the Garrets take them in, they let them sleep in the house.

76

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:30,000

The next day a cavalry patrol comes near the Garrets' barn.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:36,000

The Garrett family sees Booth and Harold run for cover, so now they're thinking what have these men done?

78

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:42,000

They tell them you can't sleep in the house tonight, you've done something, you can sleep in our tobacco barn.

79

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:43,000

Right.

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00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:49,000

But they don't realize as soon as they go inside and go to bed, the Garrets lock them into the tobacco barn.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:57,000

Most historians say Booth and Harold were locked in the tobacco barn and couldn't escape when Union troops arrived.

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:03,000

When soldiers set fire to the barn to smoke them out, Harold gave himself up.

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00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:10,000

Moments later Booth was shot, dragged from the flaming barn and later died.

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00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:14,000

But Joanne Hulme doubts that account.

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:18,000

There's hundreds and hundreds of books talking about a tobacco barn.

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:21,000

I don't understand why historians then question this more.

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Tobacco barn is made for drawing tobacco, it's not made for keeping people in.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:30,000

Any one of us could escape from a tobacco barn without detection.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:35,000

This is a frame circa 1900 or so tobacco shed.

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00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:39,000

So what's the difference between a tobacco shed and a tobacco barn?

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00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Geographically basically, they call tobacco buildings different in different areas, but this is basically a shed here.

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00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:50,000

And it has these vertical ventilators here that help dry out the product inside.

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:56,000

But in around April, the end of April in Virginia, the barn would have been cleaned out at that point.

94

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:58,000

By a few months.

95

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:01,000

Can a human be locked into a tobacco barn?

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:04,000

Are those slots very heavy to move?

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:07,000

Couldn't they just kick it out or push it out from the inside?

98

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:10,000

They're relatively easy to pivot on their hinges.

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00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:15,000

We see a couple different attachments here to kind of secure this.

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00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:19,000

You've got the wooden slat that spins on one nail.

101

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:22,000

If you're trying to get out, that looks like a pretty easy way to...

102

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:28,000

But the thing of it is, when you have 25 vertical ventilators or something like that, some maybe half open.

103

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:30,000

It's like a shutter on a house.

104

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Structurally, it's not made to keep anybody in.

105

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

No George, it's not made.

106

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:37,000

It's not a jail.

107

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:38,000

Yeah, exactly.

108

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:47,000

You've got two desperate fugitives there on the run, obviously from one of the most heinous crimes ever done in the United States up until that point in time.

109

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:51,000

They're in the barn, they're aware that there's union troops are coming down the road.

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:55,000

They probably got about 10, 15 minutes to figure out what the heck to do.

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:58,000

If they're locked in here, do you think they could have got out of this?

112

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:01,000

Yes, my own opinion, yes.

113

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:09,000

So why wouldn't the most wanted men in the country simply push their way out of that tobacco barn?

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00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:15,000

It's the first of many questions about what truly happened to John Wilkes Booth.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:33,000

12 days after assassinating President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth was locked in a tobacco barn at the Garrett farm with co-conspirator David Harold.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:41,000

When Union cavalry set a fire to smoke them out, Harold surrendered, but Booth was shot, dragged from the burning barn and later died.

117

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:46,000

Case closed, justice served. Or was it?

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00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:52,000

My cousins grew up with the same story that John Wilkes Booth was not the body in the barn.

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00:11:52,000 --> 00:12:00,000

Some Booth family members believe John Wilkes was not the man killed that night at Garrett's farm, and they cite various reasons.

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00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:06,000

There's the enduring claim that as David Harold surrendered, he said that the man in the barn was not Booth.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:16,000

And the fact that, at the official autopsy, Dr. John Frederick May, the man brought in to identify the body, did not recognize it as Booth's.

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00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:22,000

That's significant to Dr. Robert Arnold, who has written about the assassination.

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:29,000

When May first saw the corpse, he said, that's not Booth, and I have no reason to believe this could ever be the man.

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00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:40,000

But if John Wilkes Booth escaped, where did he go? According to Booth family lore, he reunited with a woman named Martha Isola, someone they believe was his wife.

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00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Author Troy Cowan, who wrote a book about Isola, agrees.

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00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:50,000

Historians have ignored the marriage to John Wilkes Booth because they kept it a secret and nobody knew about it.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:55,000

Some members of the Booth family believe Booth and Martha Isola had a daughter named Ogirita.

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00:12:55,000 --> 00:13:00,000

Ogirita was born nine months after they were married in 1859.

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00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:09,000

As the story goes, after the assassination, Booth and Martha Isola set sail for India, leaving their daughter behind.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:14,000

After a very short stay, they decided to return to the United States.

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00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:18,000

That is what some Booth family members and others believe.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:22,000

There is evidence that Martha Isola did get married, but not to Booth.

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:28,000

According to court records, she married a man named John Stevenson in 1871.

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00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:31,000

The couple had a son named Harry Jerome Stevenson.

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00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:42,000

But according to Booth family lore, that marriage was a cover story to conceal the fact that Harry Jerome Stevenson's real father was John Wilkes Booth.

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:45,000

Is that accepted that it was John Wilkes Booth's child?

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:53,000

In our family and among historians that are not just going by the general accepted history.

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00:13:53,000 --> 00:14:01,000

This story was published in a 1937 book by Ogirita's daughter, Isola Forrester, Harry Jerome Stevenson's niece.

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00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:09,000

Thirty years earlier, a Tennessee lawyer named Finis Bates had written a different account of Booth's life as a fugitive.

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00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:18,000

According to Bates, Booth made his way west where he died in Enid, Oklahoma in 1903 under the alias David E. George.

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00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:26,000

To investigate these different accounts, the team will examine critical evidence and conduct DNA testing on some possible Booth family members.

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00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:30,000

It's a process familiar to former U.S. Marshal Art Rodrick.

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00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:34,000

There's been so many books written about John Wilkes Booth.

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00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:39,000

You could spend your lifetime actually wading through all the different conspiracy theories.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:46,000

And what we always try to do from the law enforcement perspective is boil it down to the facts.

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00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:51,000

The hunt for facts continues at the place where Lincoln was assassinated.

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:54,000

We're in Ford's Theater on 10th Street in Washington.

148

00:14:54,000 --> 00:15:01,000

This is the place where President Lincoln came on the night of Good Friday, April 14th, 1865.

149

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:10,000

The previous Sunday, Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Grant and the city had been celebrating all week long.

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00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:18,000

Mary Lincoln decided to celebrate that evening by attending the popular comic play *Our American Cousin*.

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:21,000

The president in a joyous mood agreed to join her.

152

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:27,000

It wasn't so much the play, it was joining in the celebration of the end of the war.

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00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:34,000

But in the closing months of the Civil War, John Wilkes Booth had orchestrated an evolving plot against the president.

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00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:41,000

John Wilkes Booth's first plot against Abraham Lincoln was not to murder him, it was to kidnap him.

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00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:47,000

He could use Lincoln as a captive to force the North to surrender all the Confederate prisoners of war.

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00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:54,000

In the fall of 1864, Booth drew a group of associates into his kidnapping plot.

157

00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:02,000

But on the 18th of January, 1865, the Union government agreed to resume prisoner exchanges with the South.

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:10,000

There was no longer any reason to capture Abraham Lincoln and force them to do what in fact they were already doing.

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00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:12,000

Booth was very disappointed.

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00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:17,000

He thought he could perform this master stroke where he'd become part of history and change history.

161

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:20,000

Then on April 3rd, Richmond fell.

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00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:22,000

Then news got even worse for Booth.

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00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:26,000

On April 9th, Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

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00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:28,000

He thought the cause was lost.

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00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:36,000

When John Wilkes Booth woke up in the morning of April 14th, 1865, he did not know that he was going to assassinate Abraham Lincoln that night.

166

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:39,000

He went to Ford's Theater to pick up his mail.

167

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:45,000

One of the theater employees told Booth that Abraham Lincoln is planning to be here tonight.

168

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:50,000

That started the ticking clock and Booth said, maybe there's still time for me to act.

169

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:53,000

So Booth ticked off in his head. Who's still in town?

170

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:55,000

Lewis Powell is still here.

171

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:56,000

George Atzerot is here.

172

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:58,000

David Harrell is here.

173

00:16:58,000 --> 00:16:59,000

We can do it.

174

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:10,000

He starts making plans not only for an attack on the president, but also possibly the vice president and certainly the secretary of state, William Seward.

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00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:16,000

That afternoon, Booth arrived at Ford's Theater during rehearsal.

176

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:26,000

He went into the vestibule behind the presidential box, taking with him a piece of wood from a music stand that he'd later used to barricade the door.

177

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:31,000

Once he put that bar in place, no one could follow him into Abraham Lincoln's box at Ford's Theater.

178

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:39,000

The play began around eight o'clock that night, and John Wilkes Booth dropped in from time to time, looking at the clock and the lobby and so on.

179

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:49,000

He went next door and had a drink, and he had a kind of a last minute get together with Lewis Powell and possibly George Atzerot.

180

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

He needed to make sure his pistol was ready.

181

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:55,000

He decided to use a single shot Derringer pistol.

182

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Maybe Booth thought it was, in his twisted mind, more honorable to take Lincoln with a single coup de gras, like a hunter.

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00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:06,000

Lincoln's entrance to Ford's Theater was majestic in its simplicity.

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00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:10,000

He arrived with no entourage, no armed guards.

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00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:15,000

We think of security of the president today. It's completely different than the way it was back

then.

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00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:20,000

There was no security detail around the president all the time, like we see now with what the Secret Service is.

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00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:24,000

Lincoln did have a detail with him that evening from the Metropolitan Police Department.

188

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:31,000

More than likely, the two main responsibilities he had at most was to meet the president at the door when he arrived at Ford's, get him to his box.

189

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:35,000

Once the play was over, then get him from the box back to this street.

190

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:44,000

Even in a city where you have the vast majority of people are pro-southern, they still didn't think it was necessary that you protect the president.

191

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:50,000

William Seward once said, oh, assassination, it's not an American habit or custom. That's not going to happen here.

192

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:58,000

So John Wolk's Booth came back in here about 10 o'clock. He comes to the back of the theater and calls out to Ned Spangler.

193

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:06,000

He wants Spangler to hold his horse for him. Spangler says, I'm busy, I'm here working, and so he refuses.

194

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:13,000

So then Booth gets this young boy by the name of Joseph Burroughs to hold the horse's reins for him.

195

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:19,000

And then he goes inside. Booth is about ready to go into that final stretch.

196

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:26,000

Booth's path pretty much followed the perimeter of the building, very similar to the path that Lincoln had taken.

197

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:32,000

Oftentimes, people may be asked questions of why on earth would you have let John Wolk's Booth access the president? Why would you not have?

198

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:36,000

Today, you see celebrities hanging out with politicians, very similar in 1865 as well.

199

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:44,000

One thing I find interesting about Booth is if he just wanted to kill the president, he could have been sitting back there with a Civil War-era rifle,

200

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:49,000

making a shot from that distance across the theater would have been a pretty easy shot with a rifle.

201

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:53,000

Yeah, but then there would be a chance that somebody else would get credit.

202

00:19:53,000 --> 00:20:02,000

So this is a door leading to the vestibule that would have then led to the actual presidential box. Booth more than likely gets here during the third act scene two of Our American Cousin.

203

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:09,000

And he knows when he wants to fire the shot because he's familiar with the play and it's going to be a big burst of laughter and all of that.

204

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:17,000

So Booth makes his way into the vestibule here, then closes the door behind him, picking up the broken music stand that he had placed earlier,

205

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:23,000

and then wedges the door shut. He is waiting outside the box. You can see through the hole.

206

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Through that hole, you could see the top of the president's rocker and the president's head.

207

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:34,000

He's in a really imperfect position for just simply walking in and firing the shot.

208

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:40,000

Major Henry Rathbone, here's the shot, smells the sulfury gunpowder, realizes something has just happened.

209

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:45,000

Booth drops the derringer, pulls out his nine-inch dagger, lunges at Rathbone.

210

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Rathbone is stingly throwing up his left arm, catching the blade.

211

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:53,000

The audience was stunned and didn't understand what was going on.

212

00:20:53,000 --> 00:21:00,000

Booth got to the front rail and vaulted over, landing down on the stage. That's 12 and a half feet down.

213

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:06,000

Booth lands unevenly on the stage and breaks a bone in his left leg.

214

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:17,000

And after a few seconds, Mrs. Lincoln screamed and John Wilkes Booth ran off the stage and went out the back door where Joseph Burroughs was waiting with his horse.

215

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:25,000

According to some, what happened in the ensuing hours and days didn't play out the way history books say it did.

216

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:39,000

As President Lincoln liked dying in a boarding house across the street from Forge Theatre, his assassin fled through northern Maryland, headed for a tavern owned by Mary Surrutt.

217

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Booth would have felt comfortable in Maryland and Virginia because they were slave states, and so I think it would have been seen as a haven for any Southern sympathizer.

218

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Surrutt's tavern was indeed a haven for those with Southern sympathies.

219

00:21:56,000 --> 00:22:04,000

Former U.S. Marshal, Art Rodrick, met with author James L. Swanson to retrace fugitive Booth's known steps.

220

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:10,000

So James, here we are at Surrutt's tavern, why don't you tell me what happened here in April of 1865?

221

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:18,000

A little after midnight, Gen. Booth and David Harrell rode up to this tavern, and Booth didn't want to dismount because of his broken leg.

222

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:25,000

David Harrell got off his horse, knocked on this door, and told the tavern keeper to come down and let them in.

223

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Booth knew he was coming here. It was always part of his plan.

224

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Earlier that day, he stopped at Mary Surrutt's boarding house in Washington, D.C.

225

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:38,000

She was the mother of John Surrutt Jr., one of Booth's conspirators in the kidnapping plot.

226

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Booth handed her his binoculars, and he said, Mary, can you take these to your country tavern and tell the innkeeper, John Lloyd, that people are coming tonight and I want to pick up my guns.

227

00:22:50,000 --> 00:23:05,000

Earlier, as part of the kidnapping plot, Booth had left two Spencer repeating carbines here. They were hidden behind a wall. Cleverly, they were suspended on ropes, so you'd have to look down and see that the carbines were down there.

228

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:11,000

Now we don't know if Booth told Mary that I'm stopping there after I've killed the president and I want my guns.

229

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:19,000

He probably only told her I'm passing through town, I'm going to pick up the binoculars and tell Lloyd the innkeeper to get those guns ready.

230

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:23,000

Lloyd told David Harreld, wait here, I'll get the guns.

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00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:27,000

Then Booth said to Lloyd, there's some news if you'd like to hear it.

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00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:31,000

And Lloyd said, I'm not particular about it, tell me if you want.

233

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:37,000

And Booth unbelievably confessed. The actor couldn't resist boasting about what he had done.

234

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:47,000

He said, I'm pretty certain that we've assassinated the president because he wasn't sure. He did not know yet if he had succeeded. He didn't know if it was a fatal wound.

235

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:55,000

It sounds like the assassination plot was done kind of on spur of the moment. The planning was done for the kidnapping as opposed to the assassination.

236

00:23:55,000 --> 00:24:03,000

Booth still knew where the safe houses were. He knew the names of Confederate operatives and agents. But he had one big advantage when he got here.

237

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:13,000

He was riding ahead of the news. Nobody in Maryland knew that Abraham Lincoln did the shot. They didn't want to stay here long because Calvary was going to come out of Washington searching the countryside.

238

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:16,000

And then Booth and Harreld rode off into the night.

239

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:26,000

The traditional story says that Booth and Harreld rode from Sirot's Tavern to the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd. Booth was badly in need of medical attention.

240

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:36,000

From Washington to Mudd's house, he was 25 to 30 miles. And Booth had broken his ankle when he fell onto the stage.

241

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:50,000

In riding a horse, you use your legs sort of as shock absorbers. He couldn't do that. And he had to bounce along. And by the time he got to Mudd's, his back was killing him.

242

00:24:51,000 --> 00:25:02,000

But Dr. Mudd's statements about Booth's visit suggest it might not have been David Harreld traveling with Booth, but a younger man named Edwin Hinson, shown in this photo.

243

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:10,000

In testimony, Dr. Mudd gave to Union authorities. He said Booth's accomplice gave his name as Hinson.

244

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:17,000

Mudd stated he had seen the photograph of Harreld, but did not recognize it as that of the young man.

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00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:27,000

In another statement, Mudd described Hinson as a well-grown boy who looked to be about 17 or 18, a boy who had never yet shaved.

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00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:37,000

That's a far better description of Edwin Hinson than the 23-year-old Harreld, whose ample five o'clock shadow can be seen in photos taken after his capture.

247

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:47,000

If Booth was traveling with Hinson, then is it possible Booth wasn't at Garrett's farm with Harreld, and that he wasn't the man who died there?

248

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:57,000

That's what some Booth family members believe, and they point to the possibility that Booth fathered children after the history books say he died.

249

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:09,000

To help find the truth, Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick, a noted forensic genealogist, agreed to undertake DNA testing of some Booth family members.

250

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:18,000

So I've been contacted by one of the Booth family members. Her name is Joanne Yolm, and she has documentation showing her lineage.

251

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:25,000

Can we possibly use Joanne's DNA to prove or disprove whether or not these people are descendants?

252

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:34,000

Well, that's where genetic genealogy comes in. Forensic genealogy is the application of scientific methods of genealogy.

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00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:39,000

In an informal sense, it's known as CSI meets roots.

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00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:47,000

Fortunately, we have the ability to take DNA tests as genealogists to prove family lines or to disprove family lines,

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00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:54,000

and so we no longer have to rely on family stories and documentation that may not have provenance.

256

00:26:54,000 --> 00:27:04,000

Now, when you test Joanne, the whole point really is to compare her to some people that might be Booth's, but are not sure.

257

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:12,000

When we want to compare, I'll call them the maybe Booth against authentically documented Booth.

258

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:18,000

Joanne is a candidate because she descends from John Wilkes Booth's paternal aunt.

259

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:26,000

This whole project actually comes down to DNA. We're sitting in a time where history and science are going to merge together.

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00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:35,000

Among the possible descendants of John Wilkes Booth is Andy Gordo, whose great-great grandfather is Harry Jerome Stevenson,

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00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:40,000

a man allegedly fathered by Booth after Booth was supposed to be dead.

262

00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:49,000

At left, Mrs. Joseph Bala, the former Isola Francis Stevenson, who was searched, John Wilkes Booth was her grandfather.

263

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:57,000

At right, Mrs. Isola Martha Stevenson, who, Mrs. Bala says, married assassin of President Lincoln in Connecticut in 1864.

264

00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:00,000

So this would be Isola Martha Mills.

265

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:02,000

That's my mother's mother, actually.

266

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:03,000

This is your mother's mother.

267

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Yes.

268

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Got it.

269

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:07,000

And then her father would have been Harry Jerome Stevenson.

270

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:08,000

Yes.

271

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:12,000

You've given your sample for the DNA testing, which is exciting.

272

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:13,000

It is.

273

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:17,000

The only thing I get really concerned about is at the end of the day, it's going to come down to science.

274

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:19,000

We're going to come up with an answer.

275

00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:22,000

And are you guys ready to face that answer?

276

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:23,000

Oh, definitely.

277

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:25,000

It's just being nice to know.

278

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:31,000

It'd be nice to vindicate my mother and grandmother, you know, and shed some light on really what happened.

279

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:43,000

Five and a half hours after John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln, he arrived at the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd with a broken leg.

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00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:53,000

Relying on statements Dr. Mudd gave to Union officers after his arrest, some theorize that Booth was accompanied by a young man named Edwin Ensign.

281

00:28:53,000 --> 00:29:01,000

But most historians, like James Swanson, maintain that Booth was traveling with conspirator David Harreld.

282

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:05,000

Booth stayed in this horse right about here, about 20 paces from the house.

283

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:09,000

David Harreld dismounted and pounded on the front door until he woke Dr. Mudd.

284

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:12,000

Mudd shouted through the door, who is it?

285

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:13,000

What do you want?

286

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Harreld said, well, from around here, I'm with a friend, his horse fell, he's got a broken bone, he needs help.

287

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:23,000

Mudd came out to help the injured man off the horse.

288

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:26,000

And that's when Dr. Mudd knew it.

289

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:28,000

This is John Wilkes Booth.

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00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:31,000

This wasn't Booth's first visit to this house.

291

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:33,000

He'd spent the night here.

292

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:37,000

He had come down to this county and met with Dr. Mudd and other Confederate operatives.

293

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:40,000

Mudd was part of Booth's plot to kidnap Abraham Lincoln.

294

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Dr. Mudd did not know that John Wilkes Booth was going to assassinate Abraham Lincoln that night.

295

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:52,000

Well, after Dr. Mudd helped John Wilkes Booth come through the front door, he took him into this room, the front parlor.

296

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:55,000

And Mudd set him on the sofa.

297

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:57,000

He didn't even take him up to his office.

298

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:01,000

So Booth reclined on that sofa and Dr. Mudd began to help him.

299

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:02,000

On that actual sofa?

300

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:03,000

That sofa.

301

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:04,000

That sofa right there?

302

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:06,000

Yes.

303

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:11,000

Mudd knew he had to get Booth's left boot off, but it wouldn't come off.

304

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:14,000

He tried to yank it off and it caused Booth agonizing pain.

305

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:17,000

So he cut the boot open and pulled it off his leg.

306

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:20,000

He detected that he had a simple fracture.

307

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:21,000

Easy enough to treat.

308

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:26,000

Dr. Mudd left Booth on the sofa and he went upstairs fashion to splint.

309

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:29,000

And then Dr. Mudd knew that Booth was going to need crutches.

310

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:31,000

And so he made a pair of crutches here.

311

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:37,000

He invited him to spend the night and took him upstairs to the front bedroom where Booth rested for several hours.

312

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:40,000

David Harreld came down for breakfast, but Booth didn't want food.

313

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:43,000

He just stayed upstairs till at least around noon.

314

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:45,000

They spent quite a few hours here then.

315

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:46,000

They did.

316

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:50,000

They got here at 4 a.m. and they were here till the following evening.

317

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:56,000

And during his stay here, he asked for a razor and shaving cream and he shaved his mustache off.

318

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:59,000

So this is where he cleaned up quite a bit?

319

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:01,000

This is where he cleaned up and changed his appearance.

320

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:04,000

And changed his appearance, exactly.

321

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Knowing it would be painful for Booth to ride a horse, Dr. Mudd and David Harreld searched for a carriage.

322

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:12,000

But none were available.

323

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Harreld returned to the farm and Dr. Mudd rode on to Bryantown where he saw Union cavalry

324

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:25,000

and learned that President Lincoln had died that morning, killed by John Wilkes Booth.

325

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:27,000

He didn't tell the soldiers.

326

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:30,000

He rushed back here to tell John Wilkes Booth, what have you done?

327

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:32,000

You've implicated me. You've endangered me and my family.

328

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:35,000

You've got to go. I'll protect you.

329

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:37,000

I won't tell them you were here.

330

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:40,000

But you have to leave right now. You can't be found here.

331

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:44,000

John Wilkes Booth knew the cavalry was just a few miles away in Bryantown,

332

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:47,000

but he felt safe and familiar on this spot.

333

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:53,000

But once Mudd sent him down that road to the great Sakaya Swamp, he was heading into territory unknown to him.

334

00:31:53,000 --> 00:31:59,000

From the time John Wilkes Booth left Dr. Mudd's farm, he had to make it up as he went along.

335

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:05,000

This is an individual that almost commits a perfect crime, but because he broke that bone on his leg,

336

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:09,000

he started to have to improvise and that's where these criminals always go wrong.

337

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:10,000

That's right.

338

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:19,000

Hobbling on crutches, Booth pressed on, determined to elude the spreading Union dragnet.

339

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:28,000

When he left Mudd, he then connects with Thomas Jones, an agent who specializes in faring spies and agent across the river here.

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00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:32,000

And Jones gave him the most important advice that Booth got during the entire escape.

341

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:35,000

Jones said the cavalry's going to be close.

342

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:43,000

I suggest we hide in place, wait for the Union forces to sweep through the area and move on past us.

343

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:52,000

For five days, Booth and Harold hid in the pine thicket, waiting for a chance to cross the Potomac River into Virginia.

344

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:56,000

They finally crossed into Virginia on April 24th.

345

00:32:56,000 --> 00:33:03,000

There they met three Confederate soldiers and were ferried across the Rappahannock by William Rollins.

346

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:06,000

The soldiers then guided them to Garrett's farm.

347

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Now Rollins is still in the same place the following day when pursuers from the 16th New York Cavalry come along.

348

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:20,000

And he says, yeah, they were here about 24 hours ago.

349

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:24,000

Willie Jett is one of the soldiers who is with them.

350

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:31,000

You can go ask Willie, everybody knows where he is because he's got a girlfriend down in Bowling Green, Virginia.

351

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:40,000

And they pull Willie out of bed and Colonel Everton Conger puts a gun to his head and says, we know that you were with Booth.

352

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:45,000

So Willie Jett tells them, I left him at the Garrett farm.

353

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:53,000

The Union soldiers returned with Jett to Garrett's farm and surrounded the barn where Booth and Harold were hiding.

354

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:57,000

When the fugitives wouldn't surrender, soldiers set fire to the barn.

355

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:06,000

After Harold gave himself up, a sergeant named Boston Corbett saw Booth move toward the door holding a rifle and shot him through the neck.

356

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:13,000

Dr. Robert Arnold disputes that account.

357

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:21,000

A Navy surgeon for 30 years and an assistant county coroner, he was inspired to write his own book about the Lincoln assassination.

358

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:29,000

There was a little journal published by the Navy and there was an article about the autopsy of the man that was killed in Garrett's barn.

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00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:33,000

And it questioned the identification of the corpse.

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00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:40,000

That article by Leonard Guthridge is among the Neff Guthridge papers housed at Indiana State University.

361

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:44,000

A collection like this is often labeled a conspiracy collection.

362

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,000

In fact, it is not a conspiracy collection.

363

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:55,000

It's a collection of research materials and it can be interpreted different ways by different researchers.

364

00:34:55,000 --> 00:35:01,000

Dr. Arnold joined Art Rodrick at Indiana State to share his theory about the corpse at Garrett's farm.

365

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:11,000

Central to his argument are three vertebrae that were removed from Booth's body during his autopsy aboard a Navy gunboat, the USS Montauk.

366

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:17,000

The vertebrae are now kept at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland.

367

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:27,000

I finally went to the medical museum to look at the actual specimen to see the vertebra from the corpse that was on the Montauk.

368

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:32,000

This looks like a picture from the medical museum I know you had talked about. You actually saw this.

369

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:40,000

Yes, this is the three vertebrae that the pathologist removed and it shows the downward inclination of the bullet.

370

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:47,000

That's the trajectory which I measured out at 20 degrees. This is almost one vertebra lower here.

371

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:50,000

You're saying a shot from a higher up angle.

372

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:51,000

Yes.

373

00:35:51,000 --> 00:36:00,000

Since Boston Corbett was a short man standing on the ground, Dr. Arnold believes he could not have fired the deadly shot from overhead.

374

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Boston Corbett could not have killed a man in the barn. Corbett would have had to be 18 feet in the air to have fired that.

375

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:10,000

Trajectories don't lie, people do.

376

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Dr. Arnold also points out issues surrounding Dr. Frederick May's role in the autopsy.

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00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:22,000

A highly regarded surgeon, Dr. May had removed an infected groove from the back of Booth's neck two years earlier.

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00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:26,000

He was brought aboard the Montauk to identify Booth's body.

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00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:34,000

You were a pathologist. I mean, Dr. May was a surgeon. I don't know how many times he would come across a body that was into decomposition.

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00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:41,000

He would ordinarily never do that, especially with surgery. He said this man does not resemble John Wilkes Booth.

381

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:47,000

But the most interesting thing to me is when he said his right leg was black from a fracture.

382

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:54,000

Now, May is smart enough to know that a fracture does not cause your leg to turn black. That's soft tissue.

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00:36:54,000 --> 00:37:04,000

The injury that Booth received on the stage, and it was corroborated by Dr. Mudd, was a simple fracture two inches above the end step.

384

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:12,000

But Mudd did not describe any soft tissue damage whatsoever. He even noted the lack of tumefaction, which is swelling.

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00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Yet the corpse on the Montauk had enough soft tissue damage that it had turned black.

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00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:26,000

Dr. Arnold notes that Dr. May indicated the body had an injured right leg. Booth fractured his left leg.

387

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:33,000

And his son said if he said it was the right leg, it was the right leg. He didn't make those kind of mistakes.

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00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:37,000

For these reasons, Dr. Arnold makes a bold assertion.

389

00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:51,000

The man that May saw on the Montauk could not possibly have been the same one that broke his ankle on the stage and that Mudd saw.

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00:37:51,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Some believe the description of John Wilkes Booth's dead body by Dr. Frederick May raises questions about who actually died in Garrett's barn.

391

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:13,000

They point to an article Dr. May wrote years later about the autopsy aboard the USS Montauk, in which he states that at first he didn't recognize the body as Booth's.

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00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:23,000

To further investigate that autopsy, Art Roderick met with Graham Hettrick. A coroner for three decades, Hettrick has conducted more than 3,000 autopsies.

393

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:29,000

They examined the report by the Army surgeon who actually conducted the autopsy.

394

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:40,000

This here is a statement by the Surgeon General Barnes. I made it 2 p.m. this date, April 27th, a post-mortem examination of the body of J. Wilkes Booth.

395

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:50,000

The left leg and foot were encased in an appliance of splints and bandages upon the removal of which a fracture of the fibula was discovered.

396

00:38:50,000 --> 00:39:04,000

The cause of death was a gunshot wound in the neck, the ball passing through the bony bridge of the fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae, severing the spinal cord, paralysis of the entire body was immediate,

397

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:12,000

and all the horrors of consciousness of suffering and death must have been present to the assassin during the two hours which he lingered.

398

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:29,000

His description of the person being totally aware is true because he has the capacity of thought. He is paralyzed and he was dying really of asphyxiation because the diaphragm and not being able to move to help with the breathing.

399

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:40,000

The overall autopsy was not what we expect today. There would probably be a hundred autopsy photos. They had a photographer there but there was only one plate.

400

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:54,000

That one photo has never been seen, fueling conspiracy theories ever since, especially since one of the primary purposes of the examination was to make a positive identification of Booth's body.

401

00:39:54,000 --> 00:40:06,000

None of Booth's family members or co-conspirators were present to ID the body, but Dr. John Frederick May was, and May's initial reaction was that the body did not resemble Booth.

402

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:16,000

I'm not surprised that he said this doesn't even look like a likeness of Mr. Booth because you have somebody who's been running through the swamps in the woods, he hasn't been eating regularly, he hasn't been sleeping.

403

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:22,000

He probably didn't look like that handsome actor that May was used to seeing in Ford's Theater.

404

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:30,000

He died approximately at 5.30 a.m. on April 26th. The tenet d'ority sewed him into the blanket at around 8.30.

405

00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:43,000

The wrapped body was placed face down in a horse cart and taken to the Potomac River where it traveled by boat to the Washington Navy Yard and was brought aboard the Montauk.

406

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:46,000

The autopsy did not start till 2 p.m.

407

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Wow, there's a lot of post-mortem changes going on there. The first one, you get an o-rigin mortis, you're stiffen.

408

00:40:53,000 --> 00:41:03,000

Another one simultaneously to that is called levidity. If you're laying somebody face down, that blood is going to go towards the face during decomposition.

409

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:17,000

By the time they got him, his face probably didn't look too good. It could be deceiving. But Dr. May, looking at the back of the neck, did say that although it isn't what I would consider a likeness of him, that is the scar.

410

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:20,000

It's consistent with what I did.

411

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:30,000

The Schlesinger Library at Harvard University holds the personal papers of Isola Page Forester, a celebrated author.

412

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Her 1937 book, *This One Mad Act*, tells a story in which Booth was not the dead man on the Montauk.

413

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:44,000

Forester believed she was the granddaughter of John Wilkes Booth and Martha Isola Mills.

414

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Based on all of the writings that we're finding in here of all these letters, it's pretty clear that Isola Mills, or Martha Isola Mills, was married to John Wilkes Booth.

415

00:41:56,000 --> 00:41:59,000

Is that something that has always been known?

416

00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:10,000

Always in our family and all the generations and all the different branches. Always known, always accepted, always acknowledged, talk of the deed of when they were married.

417

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:22,000

And while historians see no convincing evidence of that marriage, Joanne Hume believes the proof exists in a document written by the minister who is alleged to have officiated their wedding.

418

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:29,000

What it looks like is a marriage certificate that was stated January 9, 1859 by Reverend Weaver.

419

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:41,000

This is to certify that on January 9, 1859, I performed a ceremony joining in Holy Matrimony, John Byron Wilkes Booth and Martha Mills at my home in Dingelton, Connecticut.

420

00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:45,000

And there's a further shocking revelation in This One Mad Act.

421

00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:53,000

There's an historic record of Martha I.M. Booth marrying John Stevenson in Baltimore in 1871.

422

00:42:53,000 --> 00:43:07,000

But Forrester's book claims Martha Isola's marriage to Stevenson was an arrangement to cover for Booth's escape and to conceal the identity of Booth's newborn son, Harry, by giving him Stevenson's name.

423

00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:15,000

One Mad Act refers to his conversation that Harry has with his father at the end of his father's life. His father is dying.

424

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:26,000

According to Forrester, the man Harry believed was his father confessed that Harry was really the son of his friend, John Wilkes Booth.

425

00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:34,000

You can't father a child, you know, five years after you have been dead.

426

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:40,000

There are plenty of stories about John Wilkes Booth having children, being married.

427

00:43:40,000 --> 00:43:47,000

I can believe that he probably got a woman pregnant. I would find it hard to believe that he never did.

428

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:59,000

But as for the marriage, I'm very skeptical about it. Now in this age of genealogy done through DNA, I'm expecting we'll see an answer before too long.

429

00:44:04,000 --> 00:44:17,000

A critical step in investigating whether John Wilkes Booth escaped after killing President Lincoln and fathered a son named Harry Jerome Stevenson is the DNA testing of Harry Jerome Stevenson's descendants.

430

00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:23,000

Dennis Farley and his sister Linda Casey are the great-grandchildren of Harry Jerome Stevenson.

431

00:44:23,000 --> 00:44:29,000

The official historical record says that Harry was the son of Martha Isola and John Stevenson.

432

00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:35,000

But Dennis and Linda recall learning that their ancestors' father was really John Wilkes Booth.

433

00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:42,000

We were all at my grandmother's house. I think it was Joanne Gordo who started telling people, you know, we're related to John Wilkes Booth.

434

00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:48,000

Of course, most of us didn't believe it, but my grandmother's house just dropped because she never wanted the story to get out.

435

00:44:48,000 --> 00:44:54,000

She thought people would take retribution on the family. She asked people to just keep it within the family.

436

00:44:54,000 --> 00:45:01,000

And this would have been Harry Jerome Stevenson's daughter. Did you guys ever know of John Henry Stevenson?

437

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:07,000

Uncle Tom was the one that told us that this man Stevenson took the kids under his name.

438

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:10,000

So that they could mask the identity again of the child.

439

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:17,000

Yeah, we did hear that Stevenson was a convenience thing to help with her and the child.

440

00:45:17,000 --> 00:45:25,000

And you never heard of the story of Martha Isola meeting John Wilkes Booth in California and taking a boat to India.

441

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:28,000

I didn't hear about the boat trip.

442

00:45:28,000 --> 00:45:35,000

In that story, they go to India with John using an alias John Byron Wilkes.

443

00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:38,000

There's a will that was created in India.

444

00:45:38,000 --> 00:45:44,000

Those who believe Booth escaped to India cite, as proof, the will of John Byron Wilkes.

445

00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:48,000

A certified copy of the will was found in Clay County, Indiana.

446

00:45:48,000 --> 00:46:01,000

The unsigned will apparently executed in Bombay in 1883 gives sums of money to wives, lovers, and heirs of my body, known to be associated with Booth.

447

00:46:01,000 --> 00:46:04,000

And in that, Harry Jerome Stevenson is listed.

448

00:46:04,000 --> 00:46:06,000

Ogarita is also listed.

449

00:46:06,000 --> 00:46:08,000

Isola is listed.

450

00:46:08,000 --> 00:46:10,000

Well, whether it's all true or not.

451

00:46:10,000 --> 00:46:11,000

Yeah.

452

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:12,000

DNA will tell.

453

00:46:12,000 --> 00:46:13,000

DNA will tell.

454

00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:19,000

Author Troy Cowan believes Booth escaped and fathered Harry Jerome Stevenson.

455

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:24,000

Cowan's interest in the Booth story was sparked by his own family lore.

456

00:46:24,000 --> 00:46:28,000

I became interested in the John Wilkes Booth story because of my Aunt Jane Davis.

457

00:46:28,000 --> 00:46:33,000

Her grandfather was John Riley Davis and he was a cousin of Jefferson Davis.

458

00:46:33,000 --> 00:46:41,000

After Jefferson Davis got out of prison, John Wilkes Booth wrote him a letter saying that he was alive, well, and living in Mexico.

459

00:46:42,000 --> 00:46:45,000

But Cowan doesn't believe Booth died in India.

460

00:46:45,000 --> 00:46:54,000

In his version, Booth returned from India very much alive and went to Mexico, where many Confederate veterans fled after the Civil War.

461

00:46:54,000 --> 00:47:02,000

Booth left Mexico and went to Glen Rose, southwest of Dallas, and he opened a business selling liquor and tobacco.

462

00:47:02,000 --> 00:47:08,000

About this time, a U.S. marshal from Parris, Texas was coming to Glen Rose for his marriage.

463

00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:10,000

Booth did not want to be seen.

464

00:47:10,000 --> 00:47:15,000

He went east and he wound up in Swanee, Tennessee, and he got a job as a carpenter.

465

00:47:15,000 --> 00:47:18,000

There he met Louisa J. Payne.

466

00:47:18,000 --> 00:47:30,000

The fugitive Booth's alleged travels out west were of particular interest to the late Arthur Ben Chitty, who did extensive research into local Booth lore in Franklin County, Tennessee.

467

00:47:30,000 --> 00:47:34,000

The team met with his daughter to explore his theories.

468

00:47:34,000 --> 00:47:36,000

He started collecting oral histories.

469

00:47:36,000 --> 00:47:41,000

He never called himself a historian because he didn't do all the comparative analysis.

470

00:47:41,000 --> 00:47:47,000

He called himself a historiographer, and the distinction was that he collected this stuff and then let's see what happens with it later.

471

00:47:47,000 --> 00:47:52,000

So a gentleman came from Fayette Hill to give one of these oral histories to your dad.

472

00:47:52,000 --> 00:47:54,000

His name was Reese.

473

00:47:54,000 --> 00:47:56,000

He had known Maccager Payne.

474

00:47:56,000 --> 00:48:04,000

Now, Maccager Payne was the purported stepson of John Wilkes Booth, who was nine years old at the time Booth entered their lives.

475

00:48:04,000 --> 00:48:07,000

Here's something from Maccager Payne.

476

00:48:07,000 --> 00:48:08,000

Oh, yes.

477

00:48:08,000 --> 00:48:15,000

This John Wilkes Booth made the acquaintance with my mother at Swanee, Tennessee.

478

00:48:15,000 --> 00:48:19,000

And the 25th of February, 1872, he married my mother.

479

00:48:19,000 --> 00:48:28,000

He told mother and me that he was the man that killed Lincoln, that he was a rich man if he could get to Little Rock, and we got as far as Memphis, Tennessee.

480

00:48:28,000 --> 00:48:31,000

There he disappeared and we never heard of him anymore.

481

00:48:31,000 --> 00:48:38,000

While in Memphis, he was recognized. He got frightened and went back to Glen Rose, Texas.

482

00:48:38,000 --> 00:48:42,000

Louisa was four or five months pregnant when he left.

483

00:48:42,000 --> 00:48:48,000

Louisa gave birth to a daughter. She named Laura Ida Elizabeth Booth.

484

00:48:48,000 --> 00:48:53,000

He was married here, and then your dad went looking for proof of that, and he actually found it.

485

00:48:53,000 --> 00:48:58,000

So this is a certified copy of the actual marriage certificate.

486

00:48:58,000 --> 00:49:03,000

It says a John W. Booth married to a Louisa Payne, February of 1872.

487

00:49:03,000 --> 00:49:05,000

There's also a marriage license.

488

00:49:05,000 --> 00:49:11,000

That's C.C. Rose, who's the Justice of the Peas, and you have J.N.O. W. Booth.

489

00:49:11,000 --> 00:49:14,000

And the other thing I see is an E at the end of it.

490

00:49:14,000 --> 00:49:21,000

Is it possible that E was an effort on Booth's part to disguise his true identity?

491

00:49:21,000 --> 00:49:26,000

Okay, but look at this. Rose. A C.C. Rose was on the marriage certificate.

492

00:49:26,000 --> 00:49:28,000

I believe it was a judge.

493

00:49:28,000 --> 00:49:30,000

We, John Wilkes Booth, and I see...

494

00:49:30,000 --> 00:49:37,000

C.C. Rose are held and firmly bound to the state of Tennessee in the sum of \$1,250.

495

00:49:37,000 --> 00:49:42,000

John Wilkes Booth owed C.C. Rose \$1,250, according to this document.

496

00:49:42,000 --> 00:49:46,000

Which is a lot of money. It's like \$25,000. It's huge.

497

00:49:46,000 --> 00:49:52,000

Whereas the above bound Booth has this day obtained a license to marry Louisa Payne,

498

00:49:52,000 --> 00:49:54,000

this obligation to be void.

499

00:49:54,000 --> 00:49:55,000

He had to...

500

00:49:55,000 --> 00:49:56,000

She was pregnant.

501

00:49:56,000 --> 00:50:02,000

He had to void his debt with C.C. Rose, and the way he did it was marrying Louisa Payne.

502

00:50:02,000 --> 00:50:04,000

Was this a shotgun wedding?

503

00:50:04,000 --> 00:50:06,000

Maybe C.C. Rose was like an uncle.

504

00:50:06,000 --> 00:50:09,000

He was rescuing her reputation.

505

00:50:10,000 --> 00:50:19,000

To test this theory, Art Roderick brought the Payne marriage papers to forensic document examiner Robert Flohberg for analysis.

506

00:50:19,000 --> 00:50:25,000

Well, Rob, I know you spent quite a few years in law enforcement. How long have you been doing document examinations?

507

00:50:25,000 --> 00:50:27,000

Been doing it now for 30 years.

508

00:50:27,000 --> 00:50:34,000

This is a series of documents from the state of Tennessee, Franklin County, from 1872,

509

00:50:34,000 --> 00:50:41,000

which purport to be marriage licenses and accompanying documents between Louisa Payne and John Wilkes Booth.

510

00:50:41,000 --> 00:50:45,000

They do appear to be from that timeframe, 1872.

511

00:50:45,000 --> 00:50:50,000

The middle name is not really evident, so it's John W. Booth. We don't know that it's Wilkes.

512

00:50:50,000 --> 00:50:55,000

Booth is spelled B-O-O-T-H-E. Why would they add an E to Booth?

513

00:50:55,000 --> 00:51:00,000

The story is that after they got married, he confessed to her that, hey, I'm John Wilkes Booth.

514

00:51:00,000 --> 00:51:05,000

And being the religious woman that she was, she wanted to be married under his real name.

515

00:51:05,000 --> 00:51:07,000

And the question is, did he alter his handwriting?

516

00:51:07,000 --> 00:51:08,000

Right.

517

00:51:08,000 --> 00:51:13,000

You can disguise your handwriting, but it's difficult. There are so many aspects you have to disguise.

518

00:51:13,000 --> 00:51:17,000

And I doubt that he could have done that under the pressure of signing a court document.

519

00:51:17,000 --> 00:51:20,000

What do you think about this particular document?

520

00:51:20,000 --> 00:51:25,000

It's an agreement between a justice of the peace and a John W. Booth.

521

00:51:25,000 --> 00:51:31,000

We can compare the actual groomed signature with the known John Wilkes Booth signature.

522

00:51:31,000 --> 00:51:37,000

There are inconsistencies to where I doubt that this would be John Wilkes Booth.

523

00:51:37,000 --> 00:51:42,000

There's an inconsistency with the T-crossing and how the lower case letters are created.

524

00:51:42,000 --> 00:51:43,000

So it's two different people.

525

00:51:43,000 --> 00:51:44,000

Not John Wilkes Booth.

526

00:51:44,000 --> 00:51:46,000

Not John Wilkes Booth.

527

00:51:47,000 --> 00:51:51,000

Floberg also examined that John Byron Wilkes will.

528

00:51:51,000 --> 00:51:55,000

That's unfortunate. There's no handwriting on the wheels. It's just a typewritten document.

529

00:51:55,000 --> 00:51:59,000

Filed in Clay Circuit Court in a state of Indiana.

530

00:51:59,000 --> 00:52:01,000

Did the typewriter exist in 1883?

531

00:52:01,000 --> 00:52:06,000

Well, yes it did. At that time, typewriters had been around at least ten years.

532

00:52:06,000 --> 00:52:12,000

And this specific typeface was in existence in the 1880s.

533

00:52:12,000 --> 00:52:14,000

The early typewriters were all capital letters.

534

00:52:14,000 --> 00:52:17,000

So it is conceivable that this is a legitimate document.

535

00:52:17,000 --> 00:52:21,000

Unfortunately, there is no cursive signature from the testator.

536

00:52:21,000 --> 00:52:24,000

And that would have been John Byron Wilkes.

537

00:52:24,000 --> 00:52:27,000

John Wilkes Booth had a very unique cursive signature.

538

00:52:27,000 --> 00:52:33,000

And if he would have signed this alias name with a lot of the similar letters and the letter connections,

539

00:52:33,000 --> 00:52:35,000

we could conceivably make a match.

540

00:52:35,000 --> 00:52:36,000

Right.

541

00:52:39,000 --> 00:52:42,000

To further investigate the mystery of John Wilkes Booth,

542

00:52:42,000 --> 00:52:47,000

the team went to Massachusetts and the grave of the assassin's oldest brother,

543

00:52:47,000 --> 00:52:49,000

Junius Brutus Booth Jr.

544

00:52:49,000 --> 00:52:52,000

Their guide is his great grandson, Tony Booth.

545

00:52:52,000 --> 00:52:56,000

So right over here is your great grandfather.

546

00:52:56,000 --> 00:53:00,000

How were you told that you were part of the Booth family?

547

00:53:00,000 --> 00:53:05,000

Actually, it was probably when I was 13 or 14, there was a trunk that was hidden away in the attic.

548

00:53:05,000 --> 00:53:09,000

And one day I got in there and opened it up and I found all these costumes.

549

00:53:09,000 --> 00:53:13,000

Then I asked my mom and she said, well, you're a Booth.

550

00:53:13,000 --> 00:53:16,000

And I said, what does that mean particularly, you know?

551

00:53:16,000 --> 00:53:19,000

And she said, well, you're related to John Wilkes Booth.

552

00:53:19,000 --> 00:53:23,000

And it was sort of a stigma, but it wasn't anything that I couldn't handle.

553

00:53:23,000 --> 00:53:25,000

I'm not a fan of John Wilkes Booth.

554

00:53:25,000 --> 00:53:28,000

He's the same to me as everybody else.

555

00:53:28,000 --> 00:53:30,000

He's a villain and a killer.

556

00:53:30,000 --> 00:53:33,000

And I had no desire to be related to the guy.

557

00:53:33,000 --> 00:53:39,000

Did your mom ever tell you about your great grandfather or any of your uncles?

558

00:53:39,000 --> 00:53:42,000

She mentioned that they were actors.

559

00:53:42,000 --> 00:53:49,000

And that the stuff that I'd found was costume that they wore, like for Julius Caesar

560

00:53:49,000 --> 00:53:53,000

and for some of these other plays that they did on stage.

561

00:53:53,000 --> 00:53:58,000

To help solve the mystery, Tony Booth agreed to provide his DNA.

562

00:53:58,000 --> 00:54:03,000

It will be compared to those who believe they may be descended from children fathered by Booth

563

00:54:03,000 --> 00:54:05,000

after history says he died.

564

00:54:05,000 --> 00:54:11,000

You can prove that somebody was born after the date of John Wilkes' death, supposed death.

565

00:54:11,000 --> 00:54:15,000

That would be proof that John Wilkes never did die in the barn, that he lived after that.

566

00:54:15,000 --> 00:54:20,000

I'm in a way, hope that he did die because he deserved to die right there in the barn.

567

00:54:20,000 --> 00:54:23,000

But if he didn't, then let's find out why.

568

00:54:23,000 --> 00:54:24,000

Or where.

569

00:54:24,000 --> 00:54:26,000

And how he escaped.

570

00:54:27,000 --> 00:54:33,000

Theories about Booth's possible escape often include a mysterious figure named James William Boyd.

571

00:54:33,000 --> 00:54:42,000

The majority of historians agree that John Wilkes Booth was killed at the Garrett Farm by Union troops on April 26th, 1865.

572

00:54:42,000 --> 00:54:50,000

His accomplice, David Herald, was arrested and later hanged with fellow co-conspirator Louis Powell, George Atzerot and Mary Serrat.

573

00:54:50,000 --> 00:55:00,000

After his arrest, David Herald had given testimony that Booth was using the alias Boyd when they crossed into Virginia and met the Confederate cavalrymen.

574

00:55:00,000 --> 00:55:08,000

And one of those rebel troopers, Willie Jett, testified that Booth gave his name as James William Boyd when they took him to Garrett's Farm.

575

00:55:08,000 --> 00:55:14,000

Yet some researchers and Booth family members believe Booth wasn't at Garrett's Farm that night.

576

00:55:14,000 --> 00:55:19,000

Some suggest he escaped the manhunt in the company of a young man named Edwin Hinson.

577

00:55:19,000 --> 00:55:25,000

But if Booth wasn't traveling with David Herald, then who was the man with Herald in that burning barn?

578

00:55:25,000 --> 00:55:28,000

And who was James William Boyd?

579

00:55:30,000 --> 00:55:41,000

It's well documented that a Confederate soldier named James W. Boyd existed and that while a prisoner of war, he petitioned Secretary of War Edwin Stanton for his release.

580

00:55:41,000 --> 00:55:46,000

What happened to Boyd after his release is where the mystery lies.

581

00:55:46,000 --> 00:56:00,000

In a statement purportedly made by the Confederate officer John Singleton Mosby shortly before his death in 1916, Mosby claims he sent James William Boyd to help Booth kidnap Lincoln.

582

00:56:00,000 --> 00:56:04,000

If Mosby's statement is authentic, it's a stunning claim.

583

00:56:04,000 --> 00:56:14,000

Author Troy Cowan asserts that when the kidnap plot failed and Booth impossibly killed the president instead, Boyd fled south along the same path as Booth.

584

00:56:14,000 --> 00:56:22,000

John Wilkes Booth and David Herald met up with him by accident at Cox's Farm, the Knicks House after a year.

