

# Where did John Wilkes Booth die?

By Bob Bowman

When John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln in 1865, he not only found a dark corner in American history; he may have become a part of Texas history, too.

An enduring legend in Granbury, Texas, says a man known as John St. Helen

worked as a bartender at A.P. Gordon's saloon. His true identity is still being debated in Hood County.

When St. Helen fell seriously ill and believed he was dying, he supposedly confessed to a priest that he was really Booth. But, after recovering, St. Helen reportedly left Granbury and wound

up in Enid, Oklahoma, where he died for real, again claiming to be the infamous assassin. His mummified remains were then sold to a sideshow until the mummy vanished.

And at Timpson, in East Texas, Booth also supposedly died after fleeing to the Shelby community where relative Zack Booth, a well-known

lawman, was living. Malcolm Weaver of Shelby County said he was told the story by his father, M.M. Weaver.

History says that when Booth shot Lincoln, he jumped onto the stage at Ford's Theater and broke a leg, but hobbled to a waiting horse and, with fellow conspirator David Herold, rode to an inn owned by Mary Surrat, and later to the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd, who set

Booth's leg. Learning his patient was Lincoln's assailant, Mudd ordered Booth from his property.

After hiding out for several days in a forest, Booth and Herold made their way across the Potomac River into Virginia and rode to Richard Garrett's farm.

The 16th New York Cavalry discovered Booth and Herold hiding in Garrett's barn. While the offi-

cer in charge of the cavalry was negotiating with Booth, someone set fire to the barn. Booth was shot, paralyzed, and died on the porch of Garrett's farmhouse at 7 a.m.

Booth's body was carried back to Washington and buried beneath the floor of a local prison.

But did he really escape and travel to Texas and Oklahoma? You decide for yourself.

## LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

### NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

**THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT WILL MEET FOR A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE LEON COUNTY ANNEX I COURTROOM LOCATED AT 113 W. MAIN, CENTERVILLE, TEXAS.**

**AGENDA AT 9:00 A.M.**

1. Open meeting with prayer and pledges
2. Discuss proposed "2009 -2010" budget
3. Commissioners' open forum
4. Adjourn

Certification:

Signed and dated August 5th, 2009

Byron Ryder, Leon County Judge

I, the undersigned County Clerk, do hereby certify that the agenda for the above named Commissioners Court is a true and correct copy, and that it was posted 72 hours preceding the schedule of this meeting.

Carla McEachern, County Clerk

Pursuant to the authority under Government Code Sections 551.071 – 551.088, the Commissioners Court may convene a closed session to discuss any of the above agenda items. Immediately before any closed session, the specific section or sections of Government Code, Section 551 that provides statutory authority will be announced.

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**AGENDA AT 9:30 A.M.**

1. Open meeting with prayer and pledges
2. Discuss and possibly take action on adopting the "2009 – 2010" budget
3. Discuss and possibly take action on adopting the "2009" tax rate
4. Discuss and possibly take action on resolution levying a tax rate for Leon County for the "2009" tax year
5. Commissioner's open forum
6. Adjourn

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