
MAZE 2014 MAY/June Edition

Submitted by: Charles S. & Jo Middlebrooks



GHOST OF THE SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Georgia's Haunted Opera House

First and foremost, the beautiful Springer Opera House in Columbus, Georgia is a remarkable monument to the arts that rose in a Deep South city in the midst of the difficult Reconstruction era.

Remarkable personalities including Oscar Wilde, Edwin Booth, Lillie Langtrety, John Philip Sousa, Ethel Barrymore, Will Rogers, and even William Jennings Bryan and Franklin D. Roosevelt have graced its stage over the years, making the Springer one of the most significant preserved theaters in America.

Although the theater management does not promote the fact, it is also rumored to be one of America's most haunted historic theaters.

Popular Columbus legend holds that the magnificent old Springer Opera House is haunted by restless (and sometimes playful) ghost of the famed actor, Edwin Booth. A major celebrity of his day, Booth is sadly best remembered to our generation as the brother of John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.

The two had performed together, along with their even more famous father, in an acclaimed production of "Julius Caesar" in 1864, but the killing of President Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth in 1865 forced the family into seclusion.

A decade later, Edwin Booth came to Columbus to perform "Hamlet" on the stage of the Springer Opera House, then only five years old. His performance there was widely applauded and was an important step in the rebuilding of the actor's career after it had been shattered by the actions of his brother.

Many Columbus residents believe quite firmly that Booth liked the Springer so much, he never left.

Over the years since his death, strange events have been reported at the theater. Quite often these are quite playful in nature and usually involve female members of the cast and crew or guests. They often take place in the prop room where the ghost seems to enjoy playing with wardrobe and props.

Other ghosts - including the figure of a man sometimes seen on the stage - have been reported at the Springer, but the most convincing evidence was video obtained there a decade ago that showed orbs of light bouncing around and even touching a visitor.

Tours that focus on the theatrical significance of the Springer Opera House are hosted on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$5. Guests are also welcome, of course, at the many public performances held at the theater. The Springer is located at 103 10th Street in Columbus, Georgia.

This article was published at:

<http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/springerghost.html>

**MIDDLEBROOKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION 2014 MEETING
OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA**

SAVE THE DATE

October 30th is a great day to visit the Springer Ghosts
and celebrate Halloween.



Hotel Reservations

FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES COLUMBUS

4510 East Armour Road, Columbus, GA 31904

Phone: 706-317-3600 Fax: 706-317-2400

Name of Organization Group: Middlebrooks Family Association

Room with 2 Double = \$89.00

Room Executive King = \$99.00

MFA has a new web site <http://middlebrooksfamily.org/>
Come and check out our resources.

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MAZE by Team Leaders and published by Joyce Arnold
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Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. (MFA) was founded in 2001 for the purpose of assembling and preserving genealogical and historical material for future generations. MFA has two publications, as below.

THE MAZE, issued each February, May, August, and November, is sent to everyone on the MFA mailing list. It is free to both paid and non-paid members. If you want to be removed from this list, please contact Joyce Arnold, at joycenjim@sbcglobal.net.

MFA Quarterly Newsletter is published four times a year (December, March, June, and September) by the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029. Subscription to the Quarterly is included in membership dues. Articles for inclusion in the Quarterly, or suggestions for topics, may be sent to Jarrelyn Lang, Editor, at MFAeditor@gmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

MFA Membership is \$20.00 per year, September 01 thru August 31. If you would like to become a member, please make check payable to MFA and mail to: MFA, % Kathleen Hunter, P.O. Box 125, Tupelo, AR 72169

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