

# DR. CHARLES S. TAFT DEAD.

Was the First Surgeon to Reach Lincoln's Side After the Assassination.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Dr. Charles S. Taft, the first surgeon to reach the side of President Lincoln after he had been shot in Ford's Theatre, Washington, died to-day at his home, 39 South Seventh Avenue, this city. He had lived in Mount Vernon for about a year. He was born in New York, and after graduating as a physician shortly after the outbreak of the war he entered the Army Medical Corps.

On the night Booth shot the President Dr. Taft occupied a seat in the orchestra of the theatre just below the box occupied by the President. When the shot was fired Dr. Taft arose and called out he was a surgeon and would attend the President. Willing hands lifted him into the air and he was dragged into the box.

Dr. Taft did what he could and remained with the dying President during his removal from the theatre, and was in constant attendance with other physicians until the end came. With the death of Dr. Taft only three persons now remain who were in the room when Lincoln died. They are Secretary of State Hay, Robert Lincoln, and a physician living in New York City.

Dr. Taft continued in the army service until about fifteen years ago when he retired. He was born in 1835. He is survived by a widow and three children.

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