Copy

May
18th
1925

Mr S J Worley
1011 3rd Avenue N E
Ardmore Oklahoma

Dear Mr Worley:

Thanks for your very interesting letter of May 12th regarding John Wilkes Booth. How do you reconcile the claims of James Bentley with the sworn statement of Booth's surgeon, with the pin taken from his undershirt after he was shot in the Garret barn, with the tattooed initials on his hand, and with the identification of others who had known him previous to his death, who saw him on the gunboat, including Chas Dawson, the hotel clerk at the National Hotel where Booth had lived for at least one-third of the time beginning with August 1864? Under what circumstances was Bentley enabled to see the body on the gunboat? Did he have an opportunity to examine it or did he merely looked see it at a distance? Of course, it didn't look like Booth before the assassination due to the hardship and suffering he had endured while making his attempted escape.

I am not doubting in the least that Mr Bentley is honest in what he believes but I can cite you dozens of other statements which are not true with reference to Booth and which would not agree with Bentley's, as well as the true statements taken under oath at the various trials. You and I know from our own good common sense that it is not true "that all Washington officialdom knew Booth was never captured." It would have been impossible for such a state of affairs to exist without at least some of the officials giving the story away. Where are the proofs, if any, in the Dearborn Independent statements which lack adequacy in proving the points made? We were interested principally in the beginning that Booth did escape but couldn't find anything except the most circumstantial stories like Bentley's to support our contentions, and were finally compelled to accept the story as we have printed it. If anyone can give us one single bit of evidence to show that he was not killed in the Garret barn, we shall be delighted to reverse our position.

Very truly yours
THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO
F L Black

FLB/L