Miller Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

FIFTH AND CLEARFIELD STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Rev. Thompson W. McKinney, D. D., Minister
3046 N. FIFTH STREET

Financial Secretary
JOSEPH S. LOCUSON, 3153 N. Franklin St.

Secretary of Official Board
FRANK DESJARDINS, 7121 Bingham St.

FORD MOTOR CO.
DEARBORN

SEP 10 1927

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9/8/'27.

Mr. F.L.Black,
Dearborn, Mich.

My dear Mr. Black:-

I this morning recieved the M S S, together with the photostatic picture of the Bates side-show. I cannot sufficiently thank you for your kindness in this matter, for it furnishes me with much data of valuable character in view of my discussion of this matter with Dr. Wilson. I am specially pleased to get a line on Dr. Wilson's view of the ~~matter~~ case. It appears that he will make much of the statement of Blanche Booth.

Dr. Wilson and I have been friends for a number of years. He is a good campaigner, and with the "stuff" which he has gathered will make quite an impression upon the uninformed. He has had unusual opportunity of travel, for his work has kept him in the field. In his travels he has interviewed many people, and like Mr. Bates, he has preserved such findings as will best serve his purpose. I fail to see how he can get by the undisputed facts of history, and why he takes the Bates attitude, and specially so since he has all the records at his door, in Washington.

In a recent letter from him he informed me that the Babcock book has his approval, being founded upon the Bates book, which is true to history, etc. He farther stated that he takes up the story where Bates leaves off.

I am informed that Dr. Wilson has quite a room full of Boothsonia, and that he now has a man employed to clip, classify, etc. I believe that the Wilson book will appear within a few months.

When this matter first came to my attention(that is that Dr. Wilson would soon issue a book), I wrote to my good friend, Miss Ida Tarbell, asking her what value she assessed to the Booth myths. She replied that when she wrote her life of Lincoln, she made quite a thorough investigation and found that there was no real evidence of Booth's escape.

I will meet Dr. Wilson on this matter, some Monday morning in October, and if you will allow me to keep the M S S until that time I will greatly appreciate it. Be assured that I will make no use of your valuable material save for the purpose of debate.

I would be pleased to know how you support the statement that D.E.George did, before he passed, write the name J.W.Booth. If that can be proven, then it follows that George was not St. Helen, etc.

I have a photostatic copy of the signature of J.W.B. taken from the McHenry Hotel, in Meadville, Pa. (This is my home town). This was reproduced by the Century Magizine some years ago. Doubtless you have it. It is identical with the Booth signature on the Booth check as shown be the Dearborn Ind.

In your Dearborn Ind., articles you relate that George, prior to death stated that he had gotten out of Washington in a trunk, etc. How do you support that statement?

Bates dramatic pictureof the identification of the body at the Penniman place; his intense sorrow for his friend; is in strange contrast with his side show, with the mummified body as exhibit A.

I am a busy pastor, and have given some time to this strang tale of Bates, Wilson, et al however, since the immortal Finis L. did his work to "Correct History", and according to his wifes statement, profited thereby; I, following the spirit of my calling, will persue the thing in the interest of truth.

When I can find time I will outline my argument and will send you a copy for criticism.

Again thanking you,

I am sincerely yours,

Thompson H. McKinney

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