C 3

FORD MOTOR CO.
DEARB

Goodwater Ranch,
Winifred, Mont. 2-17-26

FEB 23 1926

Dear Mr. Black:-

The enclose letter has been laid aside until nowbut I enclose as evidence of the thought in my mind at the time i last May.

The more I reflect on your "explode of the Bates Myth" the more I am convinced that your own thesis also needs some "explosion."

I have wondered whether boots at that time were not so markedly different as to right and left as now made and whether it were likely as men often have done, that Booth in his highly exasperated state of mind had pulled his boots on left for right on the day of the assasinati ,so in that case, if the boot is the only proof of which leg was broken, that after all it may be that Bates thirty year old memory is right as to the right leg.

Howver the fact that he put so little emphasis on so import ant matter argues that you are right as to the leg broken and that Bates is right as to the mummyidentified --and specially so if a scientific examination proves that the left lg of the Bates mummy has been broken and healed.

Next week I puprose to reread your thesis and write a briff summary of my thinking on the subject. You have left open some serious gaps for any critical thinker who really wishes to adopt your thesis. I am still a doubter.

The subject has also more interest for me in view of the fact that I was writing the Ford Corporation about the time you commenced your investigation, to put up the money to buy the mummy for purposes of a draw card to attrct crowds to hear discussions of the Money and Banking problems. I figured that so far as a draw card is concerned it makes little difference to the public hwether the mummy be identical or framed."

My idea was to have the exhibit free and trust the influence of the right kind of a lecture to secure enough remuneration through voluntary support to carry on the campaign and I am still of the conviction that such a crusade with the novelty attraction would succeed in the hands of a competent manager--and specially so if there be strong reasons for the identity of St Helen--George--Booth.

Situated so far out from libraries rare books are hard for me to get and if you will be kind enough to register to me your copy of "John Wilkes Booth" by Thomas Jones" I will read it immediately and register it back to you

In what year did you begin your investigation of the Bates' Booth matter ?

Have you any other proof of the survival of Franklin Robey at a later date than 1866?What is the proof that the Robey you cite is the person who was overseer of the Cox ranch, rather than one of his sons or some other Robey?

It seems strange that in a case where a man had lived so many years in the same community no one could be found to identify him and prove the point at issue except an affiant who could not sign his name nor write his own affidavit and so it seems had not seen the said Robey very many times nor any person who had seem him often. In the case under discussion the tax record should divulge some evidence and perhaps also marriage and death certificates.

At a time when aliases were frequent it is not a far fetched possibility that Franklin Robey at the Cox ranch was an assumed name and that his real name was J.W.Brown, hence the tatoo J.W.B. and the later devise

and "framed" scarf pin to help win the Hundred thousand dolar reward.

In other words "there is a long,long trail a winding."

There are two definite and fixed matters in the case for you to reconsider and dream over;

First: One of the legs of Booth was broken about six inches above the ankle and that mark of God on the knitted bone will identify the skeleton in the Booth cemetery or the mumy in the Bates garrarge.

Second: The scar on the back of the neck of St.Hellen made by a knife in the fight he was in at Grandbury,Texas,is themark of God on the Bates mummy that unmistakably identifies St Hellen and David E.George .

I am willing to throw away all the balance of the mess of contradictory evidence and settle the case on those two points alone.

It is absolutley certain that if the ~~right or left~~ fibula of the burried skeloton in the Booth cemetery at Baltimore was never broken then the man buried was not John Wilkes Booth .

On the other hand if the right or left fibula of the Bates' mummy of David E.George has been broken and healed by the hand of God then all the lies of all the historians that ever dipped a pen in political or historical ink cannot convince a cahdid thinker that David E.George was not in very fact John Wilkes Booth.

In case you are right as to the left leg being the one broken,and that leg in the Bates'-George mummy has been broken it vindicates the honesty of Bates in his argument and makes his case all the stronger.

Of course if neither leg of the mummy has been broken it is not the mumy of John Wilkes Booth and there is still the question for historians to answer ;What became of John Wilkes Booth? Is he still living and where?

Personally I would like to know what became of Brainbridge and Ruggles who are represented as helping Booth to escape from the Garrett home ? Are they living and why have they not testified. Where did they get the horse for Booth's escape and was there any talk soon afterwards about a stolen horse or a sale to Ruggles and Bainbridge?

With the abundance of evidence collected by you,I am sure the public would enjoy an article from your pen under the following heads:

I. The lies,contradictions and exagerations.

2. The points of disagreement as to the facts narrated.
3. The points of agreement as to facts recorded.

Summing up the matter under these heads would serve to clarify the history of the case.

Of course it is needless to point out to you that through the whole record there runs a string of lies and exagerations-- some for one cause and some for another--a far worse mix up than the evidence as to the resurrection of Christ which Gilnert West so ably untangled.

No one should expect Mr.BBates after a lapse of thirty years to put down an exact record of the St. Hellen story nor even weave one of his ownfree from blemishes.It takes a Shakespeare to pull off a stunt like thtt harmonious in all its parts. Even Jupiter and Homer Nod--not even Black is exempt--for he denies the identity of St hellen and George atnd at the s same time makes a recǿ ord thatrefutes his claim,for waiving any strength of the knife scar in the Grandbury fight as evident on the neck of the George mummmy,you have photographed the psychic image of John Wilkes Booth in David E.Geroge by your analysis of the mental and moral traits of the Booth family,to the satisfaction of any shrewd psychoanalyst.

But I must not chide you too much or you won't send me the book I want to read.

For Christ sake quit the foolish thing of choppping up articles and dumping them from page to page in the Independent,so a fellow has the paper worn out and also his pantience by time he reads it through. What ǿ possible good aside from aggravation comes from continueing an article towat a back page. Just the same sense of starting it on the back page and continuing it tow ard the front with here and there a skip.

The large magazines and dailies do it to get the readers to read the ads along side of continued articles,but thatreason cannot hold in a magazine like the Independent, in which all articles are important and all advertising incidental.

More anon,

Respectfully,

James W.Zachary