THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT

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Mr G C Allen
504 Public Library Bldg
Los Angeles Calif

Dear Mr Allen:

Your letter of April 25th to the editor has been referred to the writer.

I shall first deal with the questions that are answered by the article in the Dearborn Independent of May 2nd, which will be rather late reaching you due to the change in size of the paper. The reward has been paid, as you will find by this article and the Treasury Department holds the receipted vouchers. You will also find in this story that the Government was justified in being thoroughly satisfied that they had the body of Booth. With reference to Mr Penniman's attitude, this may be explained by the fact that he didn't object to whatever advertising value he got out of claiming that it was the body of Booth in his undertaking establishment. The burial place of the body is thoroughly covered in the May 2nd story. I do not understand how you could have any doubt as to David George not being John Wilkes Booth after comparing the handwriting of the two. George's eyes were blue, Booth's black. Booth and George had nothing in common as to education and culture. The only statement that George ever made with reference to the assassination was that to Mrs Harper. It did not agree in any of its details with the facts of the assassination or the escape. The only point they did agree on was that Lincoln was assassinated.

History does record that Gen Grant left Washington on the afternoon of the day of the assassination. It also records that when the Lincolns first asked the Grants to go to the theatre that night Gen Grant said that they would accept providing they remained in town but that if it was at all possible they wanted to go to Burlington, N. J. to see their children who were in school there and whom they hadn't seen for sometime. Gen Grant repeated this to President Lincoln between two and three o'clock of that Friday afternoon during a conversation at the close of a cabinet meeting.

Lincoln's very last note, which is quoted in our

articles and which is on file in the Oldroyd Lincoln Museum at Washington, states that no passes were needed to go from Washington to Richmond as the war was over. "T.B." was a little village a few miles south of Surrattsville. The road to Surrattsville on was known as the "T.B. Road." The guard at the bridge (whose vigilance was naturally lax due to the secession of hostilities) stated in his sworn testimony May 16, 1865, that when he asked Booth where he was going, the answer was "Beantown," which was another name for "T.B." The records in the Washington papers show that during the week of April 14, 1865, there was free passage across the Anacostia Bridge down to lower Maryland.

If you are at any time in Washington, I would suggest that you spend a couple days in the Congressional Library going over the National Intelligencer and the Washington Star for that week. You will find from these publications that people did not use a pass-word but had been required to have passes if they were going on down to Richmond.

We are not trying to make out a case for Andrew Johnson - Lord knows he was bad enough - but we are absolutely sure that no case can be made against him as to any connection with the assassination. What do you read in his speech when he took the oath of office that would lead you to believe that there was a connection?

If we attempted to analyze every mis-statement in the Bates book, we would be publishing stories for a year. There is no doubt but that he "laboriously recorded" whatever he said but unfortunately he was unacquainted with the truth. Can you read our article of April 25th and doubt this? I am not in the least surprised that you have been interested in the Booth mystery since you first saw the Bates mummy. Who wouldn't be? We are planning to publish five or six additional articles giving more details as to the family life of "The Mad Booths," the other plots of the abduction and assassination of Lincoln and the story of the conspiracy trials. After these are published, the articles will be incorporated in a book, which naturally will contain a tremendous number of notes and references that cannot be given in magazine articles.

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING COMPANY

F L Black

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