March 3, 1938

Mr J W Connolly
Ford Motor Company
Alexandria Va

Dear Mr Connolly:

Thank you for your letter of February 24 enclosing the joint resolution providing for the safe keeping and exhibition of the Wright brothers' plane. From talks I have had with Orville Wright, I doubt that he will consent to having the plane located at Kitty Hawk. We still hope that he will let us have it for the Edison Institute.

I appreciated having your letter of February 28 about the Garrett heirs. If Mr Hamilton has an opportunity, we would like to have the date Richard Garrett was born, and also the date when he and his wife were married. That would certainly settle the Shortridge matter. Some time that Mr Hamilton is down in that territory we would like him to find out what actually happened to Captain Willie S Jett, who was compelled to disclose to the Federal soldiers the hiding place of Booth. There are various stories that Jett brooded over the matter and finally became insane and died in an asylum. If this is true, it is just one more link in the chain of proof that the man captured was Booth; otherwise Jett wouldn't have worried about having been compelled to lead the posse to his hiding place.

The story from "A History of Caroline County" by Marshall Wingfield which gives the Beall execution as the motive for the assassination did have at one time considerable circulation. It has been completely disproved, however. There is no evidence that Booth or Beall ever met. Captain Beall, however, had a great many friends who did make an effort to save him, and they have denied that Booth had any part in such an effort.

Did you read "'John Wilkes Booth' On Tour" by Alva Johnston in the February 19 Saturday Evening Post? If you haven't, do so. It is very funny.

Very truly yours,

FLB:EGH

F L Black