Ewing Ky. Mar 24, 1926

Mr J. T. Cameron
Editor of the Dearborn Indemdent

Dear Sir;

In the early part of last year some articles appeared in your paper, dealing with the question whether John Wilkes was killed as is the general belief. The articles were able but based on the testimony of the men that brought back the dead body. I commenced to investigate more than twenty five years ago, a man who came into Kentucky tramping more than fifty years ago. whom the people suspected of being J. W. B. from the beginning. I saw Booth's picture in 1901 and was convinced the the suspicion was based on fact. I have investigated the sub-

ject at intervals from that day till this, and from my study of the man himself, his Character, his form, his feature his voice, his speech, scars on his face and neck, broken ankle and other things I have learned about him, this is the only conclusion I could form. He escaped, was a sailor for five or six years turned up in Texas, as John St. Helen, came tramping and ragged into Kentucky, taught school for forty three years retired at the age of 80, and died in 1924 at the age of 85.

I looked him over carefully for scars and marks of identification and found sufficient number on him and on Booth's pictures to convince any reasonable person beyond a question of a doubt that the suspect was really Booth. I can see the mark even in the magazine picture of

John St. Helen that tells me he was Booth. The mummy was not, it dont look like Booth nor does it have the scar. I have been trying to get the picture or a copy of the picture of John St. Helen that I may look at it with a magnifying glass to see if what I want to see shows plainly. I was in the Enquirer office Christmas talking about the subject and Mr Prince gave me your name and advised me to write to you, and request a loan of the Copy of the picture that he thought you might have, and authorized me to mention his name. I tried to borrow the picture from Mr Bates fifteen years ago and he declined to loan it. I sent Mrs Bates a check to have me a copy made and she declined, and I am the only man in the world that can show by their

pictures that Booth and St. Helen were the same. If you will loan me the copy, if you have it, I will return it in a short time, and let you know the result of the investigation.

I hope that you have the copy. (I see you printed it in the Independent) and that you don't think that I am asking too much when I ask you to loan it

Very truly yours

Bruce H. Franks