W. A. Dumas

Dec
20th
1920

Dr W A Dumas
1165 David Whitney Bldg
Detroit Michigan

Dear Doctor:

Answering your letter of December 9th.

We are enclosing herewith the article you requested, also copy of the article contained in the Free Press under date of February 8th 1920. We are glad to know that Mr Bate's book has been of interest to you.

With kindest regards, we are,

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO.

E G LIEBOLD

General Manager

EGL Z

Enclosures

This article was written in February vs Ferguson's article that appeared in Detroit Free Press Feb 8 1920

Article 2

Detroit, Mich.,
October 8, 1920.

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

The New Version of Lincoln's Murder by W. J. Ferguson, contradicted by Dr. W. A. Dumas, of Detroit ad indiscreet and utterly false with full description of the night's tragedy.

Mr. Editor it is rather amusing and also ridiculous after a laspe of 55 years to have the author of this "New Version" declare that he and he alone was the only eye witness of the slaying of the Great Emancipator.

How does he know that all that vast audience are sleeping their last sleep, but himself. Did he take a census of those present that night, and has kept record of their earthly departure, until he finds himself the only one left? If his "New Version" does not stand on a better foundation how much reliance can you place upon it's authenticity?

I am alive and thank God same—with no desire for publicity—rather do I intend that the American people shall have the untarnished truth—and not an illusionary and unreasonable made up yarn of the slaying of our beloved President Abraham Lincoln.

There is not one word of truth as published in Sunday's "Free Press" February 8, 1920, regarding the assassination of Lincoln on the night of April 14, 1865. He claimed that his modesty prevented him from so doing until now. Does it require that one shall lose his modesty before he dare summon enough courage to tell the truth?

I have written for publications several articles of that night's scene. Have been asked hundreds of time to portray same to friends and strangers from the time it occurred April 14, 1865 until the present. I chalange any living person—believing (contrary to Mr. Ferguson) many are still alive—to say that I even deviated from my first description to those of the very last.

Several years ago I wrote an article in "Detroit Free Press" contradicting remarks made by one

Harry Hawk, who was an actor in that night's play, who quoted Booth as saying as he crossed the stage, "The South shall be free." Booth did not utter those words, but the words that he shouted were "revenge for the South."

Lee's army had surrendered, Jounson's army was surrounded, the South was whipped, they had forfeited the four hundred million dollars offered them by the President for the liberation of the slaves, would the slaying of the President at this time have freed the South?

Is it not strange that those Hibernating beings should wait 55 years and only when they have the audacity to say "all are dead but themselves," ere they spring upon the American people some new and visionary tale of the slaying. The people of the world are entitled to the untarnished truth.

On the night of the assassination a couple of my companions and myself repaired to Ford's Theatre at an early hour, obtaining seats directly opposite and above that of the President's box, between the dress circle and pit, gallery, the president's box was on the right side as you enter the theatre, we were on the left, merely the movement of the eye would be sufficient to tell us what was taking place on the stage or in the box, our vision was entirely free and unobstructive. The president's box opened from the dress circle, between two doors was a hall. I do not vouch for this that the locks after the assassination were found to have been placed in such a condition that they would not have offered any resistance to Booth's way into the President's box.

It was also the common rumor that the boy who held Booth's horse was hit on the head by the hilt of Booth's knife--rendering him unconscious so as to be unable to tell which way he went or escaped.

After the play had been in progress for some time my vision followed the last actor make his exit on the right side of the stage and as he retired I saw a man in dark clothing enter the President's box. There was no apparent loss of time ere he shot the President, stabing Major Rathbone, and amid the shrieks of Mrs. Lincoln and Miss Harris, leaped or vaulted from the stage saying in mid air, "Sic semper tyrannus." He did not shake his fist at the audience while in the box, nor did he as he landed upon the stage turn to the audience (as you have noticed in the "Birth of a Nation" throw his arms around and above his head.) He seemed in too great a hurry to pick himself up and to get out--he did not even turn his face towards the audience. He acted as if he had no time to lose. He regained his half standing position and took a diagonal direction across the stage, when about the center of the stage, holding in his right uplifted hand a gleaming dagger, half turning his face to the audience, shouted "revenge for the South."

After Booth had left the stage, I saw a man enter the President's box, and taking two or more steps down the dresscircle, announced to the audience, "The President, Mr. Lincoln is shot." Until then no one moved. People could not understand what this shot meant, many supposing it a part of the play. At the words that "the President was shot" the whole audience rose enmassed, there was no noise, people were stunned. A man from the orchestra climbed down the stage and few others followed. No one attempted to gain the box from the stage, no one from the stage announced the President was shot, nor did the curtain come down. There was no riot, no one hurt, none killed in the audience in leaving the theatre. All was quiet as attending a funeral.

People were loath to retire, choosing rather to remain until one of the noblest and best friend of mankind, sent from God, who scarcely two hours ago received a greeting applause from the audience, was now in death's embrace, being borne from our sight.

Mr. Ferguson says Laura Keene was on the stage. Had she then been on the stage, hearing the shot and have seen Booth vaulting from the box and shouting the motto of Virginia, a dagger in his hand, she would have been so terrified that she would have fled in mortal terror and not have stopped to take protection under Mr. Ferguson in the entrance, which was Booth's way of exit.

No person will believe for one moment that Booth had undertaken this rash act without first having removed all obstacles in his way and escape. He knew the play and timed himself when to enter the Box and to land on the stage when the passage was not barred by actors thereon.

Very truly yours,

Dr. W. A. Dumas,
1165 David Whitney Bldg.,
Detroit, Mich.

WAD/SM

DR. W. A. DUMAS
DENTIST
ROOM 1165 DAVID WHITNEY BLDG.
DETROIT, MICH.

E.G. Liebold ;

Dear Sir;

Not hearing from you in regards to articles pertaining to Lincoln,s assasination -I take it for granted that you do not wish to use them. If so will you plese return them that I may get them in some reliable Magazine by Feb,12

Ishould like that article that the Free Press published last February or a copy of same.

I intend to quote some of Mr Bates knowledge of Booth &c&c. inthe article giving Mr Bates credit for it.

I am very much obliged for the book , It surely very interesting -although there are two or three points -not of much account that are not feasible.

Resp Yours

W. A. Dumas

12/9/1920

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

The only true, reliable, complete and authentic story of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, then President of the United States, April 14, 1865, at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C. by Dr. W. A. Dumas, of Detroit, Mich., an eye witness of that night's tragedy.

This story is no dream nor made up fabrication, a story that has been told and published for oner half a century, more than a thousand times.

From the time that Booth stood before the President's box and entering therein, to the time of his exit from the stage, I saw every move he made and heard every word he uttered. I have written proof in my possession that this story was published twenty years ago. I have an article contradicting the story of W. J. Ferguson, that appeared in the "Detroit Free Press" February 8, 1920, as misleading and untrue.

I have also one rebutting as illogical and untrue, one that appeared in the "American Magazine" August number, 1920, written or caused to be written by W. J. Ferguson.

I am able to convince the intelligent readers that my story, without question, is the absolutely true and reliable one. Which will you believe, the eye witness who has repeated it from the time it occured without any deviation, or one who has waited 55 years, and when he says he is the only person living who witnessed it, and all other versions are untrue?

The American people loved Abraham Lincoln and are entitled to the untarnished truth and I am able to give it to them under oath:

I saw Booth standing before the President's box,
I saw Booth enter the hall to the box,
I saw Booth had on a dark Prince Albert coat,
Booth did not carry a 3-ft. scantling,
Booth did not bore hole with gimlet in door that night,
I saw Booth enter President's box,
I saw Booth stab Major Rathbone,
Booth did not utter Motto of Virginia in box,
Booth did not place right hand on rail of box
as he vaulted,
Booth did not whirl in air,
I saw Booth place left hand on rail,
I heard Booth shout "Sic semper tyrannis" in
mid air,
I saw Booth land on stage,
Booth did not break his leg in leap,
Booth did not exit from the 1st. wing,
Booth took a diagonal course and when in about
center of stage shouted, "Revenge for the South."
Major Rathbone did not lean over the box and shout,
"Stop him! Stop him!
Had Major Rathbone uttered those words to the
audience, Booth would have been riddled with
bullets, ere he had left the stage.

If you are desirous that your readers and the world should know the absolute truth, I will send you the three different articles written at different times, and if after inspection you may state what value you place upon a true story, if not return and oblige,

Respectfully,

Dr. W. A. Dumas,
1165 David Whitney Bldg.,
Detroit, Mich.

P. S. I have a "New York Herald" published April 15th, 1865, giving an account of the tragedy, etc., in my possession belonging to Dr. Bell. Everyone advises me to place this in your magazine.

(Signed) W. A. Dumas.