D E P A R T M E N T A L

Memphis, Tenn. May 28th, 1926

MR. W. K. EDMUNDS - Manager #3

With reference to the attached.

Finas L. Bates died in December 1923. His wife Madge Doyle Bates resides at 1224 Harbert Avenue, Memphis. His daughter Mrs. E. W. Ford and son Pat Bates also live in Memphis. Mr. Bates' widow sold the mummy of Jno. Wilkes Booth to a Professor Wilson, supposed to have been from Washington State. The Mummy was sold October 1925 for $1,000.00 cash. Mr. Bates, as far as records are available, was never an Atterney General of Tennessee. He at one time acted as Ass't Attorney General under Attorney General Peters, back about 1890.

Additional information can no doubt be secured from Mr. Bert Bates, whom I understand is a relative but such information could hardly be secured without Mr. Bates knowing who it was that wanted the information. The above information was secured without ~~disposing~~ DISCLOSING our interest in the matter.

About five years ago the Dearborn Independent made a request somewhat similar to this one. At that time we made quite an investigation of this subject. I went through the news paper files at the Cossitt Library and sent the Dearborn Independent copies of quite a number of articles published by the Commercial Appeal some fifteen or twenty years ago. I also secured a copy of a book written by Mr. Bates which gave the supposed life of Jno. Wilkes Booth. These clippings and the book were sent to the Dearborn Independent at that time.

I do not think Mr. Bates ranked very high as an Attorney and as I recall, at the time of the previous investigation, Mr. Bates stated that he was then in receipt of an invitation from Mr. Ford to visit him at Detroit, with reference to this Jno. Wilkes Booth affair. I have been unable to locate copy of our letter and no doubt it has been destroyed, as the time probably exceeds five years.

WTA RR

ACTING CHIEF CLERK