Mr Henry C Bell,

Chief Record Division,

Pension Bureau, Wash. D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and in reply to same I have to state that when I was a boy I went to school to Miss Bettie Garrett, the daughter of the man in whose barn, in Caroline County, Virginia, John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Abraham Lincoln, was said to have been killed by Boston Corbett, on the morning of April 26, 1865, and I have often heard Miss Garrett, now deceased, say that Booth was not killed in her father's barn, as was supposed; that she saw the man indicated after he was shot and after he was dead, and that he did not look like the man, said to have been John Wilkes Booth, who stayed at their home on the night of April 24th, 1865; that the man killed had large coarse hands, was rough looking, and had not the appearance of the man said to have been the assassin of Lincoln, - in fact she said that he was not John Wilkes Booth, according to her best knowledge.

My father, Dr. Frank Byington, of West Virginia, who knew John Wilkes Booth, was always of the opinion that Booth was not the man killed in Mr. Garrett's barn.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) F. D. Byington.