COPY

PALMER HOUSE
CHICAGO
Stenographers Office

Kenzel

Chicago, April 3, 1922.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,
225 E. Boston Blvd.,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

I am herewith sending you the latest results of my investigation, which I hope you will read with interest.

I suppose the exhibition will be made here within a few days, dependent upon being able to secure a location in the loop. If this cannot be done, it will be transferred from here to Coney Island, where extensive preparations have been made, and would be glad to have you let me hear from you at once whether it will be possible for you to call on me here, if pleasant and convenient. You could see the exhibit at any time, on which occasion I should be glad to accompany you personally.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your very earliest convenience, addressing me at the Palmer House, in this city.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours

(Signed) F. L. Bates

C O P Y

Beloit, Wisconsin, March 31st. 1922.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Wison D. Kenzie, seventy-seven years of age, make the following statement of how I became acquainted with John Wilkes Booth, the actor and assassin of President Lincoln and how I know he was not killed.

I enlisted the 5th. day of August 1861 in the Federal Army at Niles, Michigan in Company "F", Sixth Michigan Volunteers and was ordered to New Orleans and in 1863 in May and re-enlisted in Co. "F" First United States Artillery, in November 1862 and was quartered in New Orleans. Our Quarters in New Orleans was a very attractive place and visited by a great many people, among them being John Wilkes Booth, who was a frequent caller.

The first time he came there he had a pass and all were required to have passes who came there to enter our quarters. He attracted my attention and the second time he called I introduced myself to him and at that introduction he told me he was John Wilkes Booth.

Booth was very fond of good horses and we had a great many in the service and during these meetings and interviews we became very good friends and associates, covering a period of about four months so that my knowledge and acquaintance with him was impressed upon my mind. Afterwards the whole Company knew him. Joe Zisgen of our Company knew Booth as well as I did. In May 1863 we were ordered out on the Red river expedition and took part in the battle of Marchville Plains on Banks' retreat, when we went into the battle we had 140 men in our Company and when we came out, we had only 23 men left and from there we marched to Plackumen on the banks of the Mississippi river, there we got transportation by steamer back to New Orleans.

I was First Sergeant of Company "F" and had charge of these

men our return to New Orleans and quartered in a cotton press for a while and Lieut. Haskin (W.L. Haskin) was the commanding officer of the Company and he went to Washington about June 1863 and made application to have the Company sent north which had never been in the north since the Mexican war and was the oldest company in the service of the U. S. Army.

Then after he went to Washington I had orders to bring the Company consisting of twenty-three men, including myself to Washington.

I left New Orleans and landed at New York with my twenty-three men, where they all deserted me, so I went on to Washington alone from New York and at Washington I reported to General Auger's headquarters, who was in command of the defenses at Washington, where I also met General D.D. Dana Provost Marshall. General Augers refused to have anything to do with me as he had no jurisdiction over the regular army; but he instructed me to report to the War Department for instruction, which I did and after several hours I was admitted to the presence of E.M. Stanton, Sec'y. of War.

I identified myself with Company "F", by showing my credentials to the satisfaction of Sec'y. Stanton, then he turned around and introduced me to his assistant as Company "F" of the First United States Artillery which company had not been north since the Mexican War. I was sent by Sec'y. Stanton to a hotel on "F" street in Washington City with instructions to report every morning to Sec'y. Stanton, until further orders.

I remained at the hotel for two weeks until every man came back, then we were ordered to Camp Barry in Washington City. After we went to Camp Barry Haskin returned and took charge of the Company and began to recruit the Company up to the standard of 124 men, Lieut. Haskin being the only commissioned officer, Sec'y Stanton appointed Hardmen P.

Norris as 2nd. Lieut. in Co., "F", First United States Artillery, who married Sec'y. Stanton's niece at Norristown, Pa.

Haskin was transferred to another command after Norris was appointed 2nd. Lieut. who took charge of the Company. Soon afterwards we were transferred to Fort Morton on Arlington Heights where we remained at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln. Norris left the Company while we were at Arlington Heights about the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, which left the Company in my charge as First Sergeant, acting as Quarter-Master Sergeant which entitled me to a monthly pass which gave me the privilege of going anywhere in Washington, night or day and I frequently went to the theaters.

"On the night of the assassination of President Lincoln, "I went to Ford's theater and was present at the time that Booth killed President Lincoln. I was looking at my program and did not see Booth when he jumped. I heard the shot and saw Booth standing on the platform and recognized him instantly. I then looked on my program to see if Booth was in the play but did not find him. Then I discovered the commotion on the stage and in Lincoln's box, then I stood up and saw Booth with his hand raised shouting "Sic semper tyrannus." As Booth turned to move off, I noticed that he was dressed with high riding boots and limping in his right leg. I was badly scared and jumped up and beat it and got my horse and went over to Georgetown as fast as the horse would carry me and reported it over there.

Joe Zisgen had been discharged from my company who also knew Booth in New Orleans. When Lincoln's last call came for troops Zisgen re-enlisted in Sergeant Corbett's Co. of the 5th. Mass. Cavalry. Everybody was looking for Booth in a kind of free for all game as there

those pictures as the pictures of John Wilkes Booth and as the body of John Wilkes Booth.

I was discharged from the service at Fort Trumbull, Conn. on the 13th. of Nov. 1865 and as I was taking leave from the Officers Quarters, I was handed this recommendation to Lieut. Haskin.

C O P Y

"Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn.
November 14th. 1865.

To all whom it may concern:-

I take great pleasure in recommending to your favorable notice, the Bearer Wilson Kenzie, late 1st. Sergeant of Company "F", 1st. U. S. Artillery. We have been attached to the same Company for three years and I have never found him wanting either in knowledge of his duties or in willingness to perform them. He has been an honest, faithful, sober and intelligent soldier and an ornament to his station.

(Signed) W.L. Haskin,
1st. Lt. Bvt. Major, 1st.U.S. Arty."

I rode in Lincoln's funeral procession as escort from the White House to the Capitol down Pennsylvania Avenue. We had in the neighborhood of one hundred horses, half of which were white and half were black. The horses were all draped in mourning, the white ones in black and the black ones in white. I rode a white horse draped in black. Everything was kept draped in mourning on parade for six months, horses and men.

Signed, executed and delivered in triplicate.

(Signed) W.D. Kenzie

State of Wisconsin,)
) ss.
County of Rock )

Personally appeared before me J. Sherwood Dow, a notary public duly qualified and acting for the state and County aforesaid, Wilson D. Kenzie, well known to me to be the person

executing this instrument, who states that the matters and things set forth in the above and foregoing statement is true in substance and in fact.

(Signed) J. Sherwood Dow
Notary Public for Rock Co. Wis.

My Coms. expires 11/30/24.