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May
5th
1925

Mr Roy J Wilson
Winchester
Tenn

Dear Mr Wilson:

With reference to your letters of April 25th and 27th. The question raised about the burial place of Booth, in your letter of April 27th, is answered by our issue of May 2nd, which has been somewhat delayed by the change in size of the Dearborn Independent. We are, however, herewith enclosing proofs.

Your letter of April 25th is indeed interesting. The writer ran into the Laura Ida Booth story in Enid, Oklahoma. The impression among those I interviewed there who knew her story was that she was more interested in the mythical estate of David George than in any other phase of the Booth story.

It is rather hard to know just what to say to you without knowing whether you have read our sixth article. If so, you have the proofs of the difference in the handwriting of David George and John Wilkes Booth. There isn't the slightest similarity. George's eyes were blue while Booth's were black. A change like this could not have happened as the pigment in a man's eyes remains always the same. Furthermore, the story told Mrs Harper by David George as to his method of escape from Washington, his years in Europe and Palestine, does not agree in any particular with the true story as told by witnesses under oath at the two great trials and the impeachment investigation. If you will also get the material in your local library on the Booth family, you will find that the education, character and personality of John Wilkes Booth and David George had great variance. Other than the Laura Ida Booth story, there are no additional proofs in the October 1919 "Historia" or in Mr Campbell's book published in 1922 than that submitted by Mr Bates. This book is a 90% repetition of the Bates' story, taken from his "The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth."

David George may have been Laura Ida and Cager Payne's father and may have told them and their mother that he was John Wilkes Booth, but that isn't proof that he was the man he claimed. George was a dope fiend and undoubtedly a paranoiac. You will find that a great number of this type were wandering around the country after the Civil War. As a matter of fact, after any great war, you will have an increase in the

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number of unbalanced mentally brought on by the extra stressed conditions. In connection with this it is interesting to note that people interviewed claimed that the wife and daughter of the Rev James Glasgow Armstrong were not certain that he was not Booth. As a matter of fact, there was a greater similarity from all standpoints between Armstrong and Booth than between Booth and St Helen or Booth and George.

I would be glad indeed to have copies of any material in the possession of Mr Payne. Not that there is any doubt in our minds, but that I might be able to throw further light on how they have actually been misled. An interesting thing developed when I spent an afternoon with Mr Campbell and Jim Duffy four years ago. Mr Campbell told me that he had a picture of Booth taken by a Mrs Dupont after his escape which had been used in the "Historia" article. Later, Jim Duffy who was then a night watchman at the Capitol told me that Campbell had obtained this picture from him and he in turn from a medium in Washington, D.C. by the name of Mrs Dupont Lee. I am afraid both Mr Campbell's and Mr Duffy's eyesight was not very good for when Duffy showed the picture to me I found it to be a re-touched copy of the St Helen tintype and up in the right-hand corner was "Copyrighted by F L Bates."

Will you re-read the Historical Society Report and our articles in connection with this letter and then write me further as to your reaction?

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO

F L Black

FLB/L