KENZIE'S GROCERY

315 Eighth Street - - - - Telephone 2097.

BELOIT WIS

Jan 27
1922.

Mr F L Bates
Memphis Tenn

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 21st to hand and contents noted. I would be glad to give you a true history of the subject which you request as I know I am one of the very few that ever knew just what become of Booth, but I suffered a stroke four years ago which left my right hand in such shape that it is difficult to write and which I could not do justice to the subject. I can talk it but can't write and as you are interest would like to meet you and relate to you the true story of his escape, which if I had done soon after the time it took place I would have been arrested. I will say in as few words as possible as for the man who was killed by Sergeant Corbet and was said to be Booth, was far from true as Booth was a clean cut man with very dark hair, the man claimed to be Booth as a clear Virginian of Sandy hair and complexion. No, Booth got out of the U.S. and I have known for 40 years the name of the ship on which he made Havana Harbor. I have seen his finger ring which he took off and gave a lady who was the wife of the Ship Captain, all of which I can prove if the parties are alive and live in Chicago. I could talk all day but I cannot write on this subject. In a most remarkable way I was brought into the whole business concerning Lincoln and Booth, for the public was fooled, which satisfied the whole country, and the way I look at it you might as well let it go. If I should state what I positively know 1000 to 1 would not believe it and I have been quoted several times in the press, little things like how they found out what Booth said on

the stage at the time he shot Lincoln.

Well I must close as I have got to the limit of my ability as a writer.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) W. D. Kenzie

700 Euclid Ave.,

Beloit, Wisconsin.