

Amos T. Harrington, M. D.

179 Allyn St.

Hartford, Connecticut

Nov. 12-24,

Mr. Fred L. Black,
Oran, Michigan,

My dear sir and friend:-

Your interesting letter received. I wondered why I had not received some answer to my letter. The reason is plain. The auditory echo was not sufficiently clear so I thought I heard Mr. Hicks - who by the way is a mighty fine fellow and one whom I would not have met had I not been for my talk on Booth before you last spring - say Frank when really it was Fred.

Now my good friend I am open to all arguments about this matter of research, and what material I

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gan to you I obtained from Clarence True Wilson. My memory is very retentive and I have written you about some things, and I will add a few more.

Samuel Colonna is dead but his daughter - Mrs Jones - is living at Princes Anne, Md.

Dr. Wilson - who is a Methodist layman - told me last May in Springfield, when the Methodist denomination was holding a Triennial conference, lasting a month, in a conversation lasting one and one-half hours, that when he was fourteen years old, in 1886, Samuel Colonna told him about meeting John St. Helen on the steamer going from New Orleans to Newburg.

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He also told me he had a photo-static copy of the register of the Pacific Hotel of Fresno, I think he must mean the Pacific States Hotel, that showed the registration of St. Helen and the Booths. She did not take copies of the registers of the one at Fresno, or Denver, but had seen them.

Francis Wilson, who has just brought out a book about himself that is published by Haffline of Cambridge, lives at Lake Mahopac, New York. He told Dr. Clarence about the entry of July 25, 1878. The memoirs of Edwin Booth will probably be his next.

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If you recall correctly, Booth stopped at Warfield, Ky. and was taken care of by a widow for about two weeks. That widow had a son ten years old. I have forgotten the name of the boy but until recently he was General Passenger Agent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. In this one particular, my memory fails me, but I can get the name for you.

Dr. Wilson told me, he had the vouchers, cancelled checks and receipts that were in the possession of George E. Smith, formerly of Colfax, Iowa, but now of Racine, Wisconsin, who had received for a number of years

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\$5000. from the Booth family, later \$4000, part of all \$3000. which money had been distributed to John St. Helen or David E. Reage.

Have you read W. P. Campbell's book? It is the greatest hodge-podge I ever read, merely a congeries of statements. The only thing in it that interested me was the address of the wife of Temple Houston, who is now post-mistress of Warburd, Oklahoma. I have often thought of writing her to ask if her husband - she is a widow - ever told her about the time General Albert Pike fainted away when he thought he saw Booth.

Dr. Wilson also stated he had the affidavit of Blanche Booth - John Wilkes' niece - in which she stated she often met her

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uncle at various places.

She is one member of the Booth family living, Mr. Wilfred Clarke. She is on the Keith circuit. We have no theatre here associated with Keith and he never comes to Hartford, but if he ever did, I would ask for an interview.

There have been a number of things written about Booth that are erroneous. I never understood Baker's description of his dying moments. Every physician in the world and every anatomist, certainly every neurologist would agree that a man shot thro the cervical vertebra as Booth was shown to be, in that the vertebra is on exhibition at the Lincoln

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museum in Washington, would not, could not were he to try to, be throwing his arms about and shouting "useless" "of no avail." Every man with a broken neck is dead to the world, from the standpoint of any motion of arms.

But you have not informed me where you received your
A. B. I should like to know.

Seems to me you - because of your connection with the Ford organization - have a wonderful opportunity to run down clues. Simply ask your agent at Fresno, California, to carefully look over all the registers of the hotels that existed in the late '60s, and when the combination

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that I noted in my last letter is found have him secure a photo-static copy. Educate your agents so that they will be good for something other than selling Fords.

Altho my experience with the machine about used up my nervous system I will state that Mr. Ford has given a vast amount of health and pleasure to millions of people, who otherwise never would have had such health and pleasure.

Have you read Shepherd's article in November Harper's? Also have you investigated the disappearance of Cox's

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our seer? Aldroyd has never settled that question. Stanton never satisfied the our seer's family by glossing over the sudden disappearance of the man.

The next time you go into Detroit, see Dr. Fred T. Murphy, the eminent brain surgeon. Tell him "Commodore" Harrington sent you to him. Show him the two photos of Booth in Bates' volume. Ask him if they are the same individual. Note what he says.

Very cordially

Your friend

Amos T. Harrington.

P.S. Why don't you get in touch with Dr. Clarence. He began lecturing on this subject about 1889 or '90 when he

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was at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md. ? He graduated at
some university in southern California, and is a Ph.D.
He is a fine man and has a world of material.

Remember in your next, I want your college, class and
anything else you wish to add,

Best wishes.

Should you ever meet me you would not find me as
pugnacious and set in my ways as you may possibly infer
from my letters. Ask Fred Murphy.