

See Bates file

448 Nona Ave
Dearborn Mich
July 6, 1921.

Mr N C Newman
Linton
Indiana

Dear Sir:

I have just recently heard from F. L. Bates and am quite interested in a statement which you made with reference to your relationship to John Wilkes Booth and his stay with your family after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

You state that your mother and Booth's mother were half sisters and that the maiden name of Booth's mother was Mary Ellen Martindale, which name does not agree with the Booth family records. Would you kindly give us some further details about the Booth family history?

Where did the parents of your mother and Mrs. Booth reside? When was your mother born and where? Did your folks and the mother of Booth ever communicate? Where did John Wilkes Booth go between the times he was at your home and where did he go after he left your place the last time? Did any of your people ever hear from him again? How did you know that he was John Wilkes Booth while at your home? Under what name did he go at that time? Did he talk about the assassination while at your place? If so, what did he say? Did he give any explanation as to how he broke his leg? It may be of interest to you to know that the Government records show that a left leg was broken. Would you have recognized the mummy as John Wilkes Booth without the picture your father took, and was there more than this one picture taken of Booth while he was at your home? Enclosed, is self-addressed stamped envelope for a reply and I will indeed appreciate hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours

F L BLACK