

April  
16th  
1925

Editor  
Minneapolis Daily Star  
Minneapolis Minnesota

Dear Sir:

The writer has just received clippings of the story "Booth Letter, Supressed 60 Years, Bared," in your issue of April 11th. You are unfortunately the victim of historical fiction. This letter was published in practically every large newspaper in the country during the week April 17th to 23rd, 1865. The Washington D.C. Evening Star, April 20, 1865, published the letter and its history. Later one of the Washington papers published the affidavits of J S Clarke, the brother-in-law of John Wilkes Booth who had voluntarily turned the letter over to the government. I am enclosing a copy typed from a clipping of Mr Clarke's statement which was published in the Washington D.C. papers in May 1865. The New York Daily Tribune, April 20, 1865, republished the letter and Clarke's story from the Philadelphia Enquirer. It was also published in the New York World at the same time.

If you will go to your local library, you will find the letter and its history in the books entitled, "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" by David Miller Dewitt, the McMillan Company, 1909, page 18; "The Death of Lincoln" by Clara E Laughlin, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1909, pages 20 to 24; "Reminiscences and Souvenirs of the Assassination of Lincoln" by J E Buckingham, Sr., press of Lucius H Darby, Washington, D.C.; "The Life of Lincoln" by Henry J Raymond, pages 793-796, published by Derby & Miller, New York, 1865.

In view of the tremendous publicity given the letter in the past, it seems unfair on your part to intimate that the government was interested in suppressing it and that it has only been preserved by having been copied from the confidential records of the government by a Secret Service Agent. An hour's research either in the Library of the University of Minnesota, or in your own Public Library would have saved you from being the victim of another Booth myth. Articles like yours are the basis for the numerous popular myths surrounding Lincoln's life, death, and the



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fate of his assassins. In the interest of historical accuracy,  
why not publish the true story.

Very truly yours

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