

COLONEL WILLIAM A. BROWNING

Private Secretary of President Johnson.

May 16, 1865 C.T. P.70.

Testified:-

Between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 14th of April last, I left the Vice-President's room in the Capitol, and went to the Kirkwood House, where we both boarded. On going to the office of the hotel, as was my custom, I noticed a card in my box, which was adjoining that of Mr. Johnson's, and Mr. Jones, the clerk, handed it to me. It was a very common mistake in the office to put cards intended for me into the Vice-President's box, and his would find their way into mine; the boxes being together. (A card was here handed to the witness)

I recognize this as the card found in my box. The following is written upon it in pencil.

Don't wish to disturb you; are you at home?

J. Wilkes Booth.

I had known J. Wilkes Booth when he was playing in Nashville, Tenn; I met him there several times; that was the only acquaintance I had with him. When the card was handed to me, I remarked to the clerk, "It is from Booth; is he playing here?" I thought perhaps he might have called upon me, having known me; but when his name was connected with the assassination, I looked upon it differently.

The Vice-President was, I believe, at the Capitol the greater part of the forenoon of that day. He was at dinner at the Kirkwood at 5 o'clock, and I do not think he was out afterward. He was in his room for the balance of the evening. I was there, I think, up to 6 or 7 o'clock, when I left, and did not return until about 11 or 12 o'clock, after the assassination.

*No other explanation for the card could ever be made other than that Johnson being an intended victim, Booth wished to learn what his plans would be for the evening and the location of his room with relation to that taken <sup>at 11 AM of the 14th</sup> by Othello, the conspirator selected to assassinate Johnson.*