

6
Maine
Jan. 17th - 1898

P. L. Bates Esq.

Dear Sir

Your favor.

of Jan 8th at hand and read.
I must say that I was somewhat surprised at the turn things took, for I expected that the likeness of Harold had some of the features in it of the man you wrote me about. But it seems that Booth was the one instead, and as you have invited me to help you "correct history" it is my duty to present to you certain facts, in relation to the matter, of Booth's death, although if I had a copy of the confession you have I would be better able to do so. 1st I was as I wrote you before I knew J. W.

JAN 13
P. M.
1898
ME.



P. L. Bates Esq

297 Second Street

Booth and it was him that I followed through Maryland, he had broken his leg and Dr Mudd set it for him, but in his travel he had undone the setting so that it was in a worse condition when he was killed than when first broken, for gangrene had set in and he could not have lived over two weeks longer at the most.

When the body lay on board of the gun boat, at Navy Yard bridge I went on board and saw him as he lay there, he had grown poor and thin, his features were drawn and pinched as if he had suffered a great deal, which undoubtedly he had. The surgeons who examined him knew him well in life and they pronounced the Corp to be that of John Wilkes Booth. His brother Edwin Booth claimed the body

6
as that of his brother and asked the
government to give it up to him
for burial, which they did after it
had lain in the old arsenal yard
for two years and it was put in
the Booth Vault in the Baltimore
Cemetery. "The old arsenal yard and
the old prison yard and the old jail
yard are all one." It was used as
a arsenal yard 1st then as a prison
and last as a jail. § 2

Booth had a Brother J. B. Booth
who was almost an exact counter
part of J. W. in looks, who if I
am not very much mistaken
died some years ago of Consump-
tion down south. It would be hard
to tell their likeness apart, put the
two together. Could it not have been
J. B. you saw and knew. He
must at that time ^{have} been very
poor. You ask about Lt Col.

4
Baker. He at that time was not
connected as one might say with
the army although he held a 1st
Col's Commission. He was at that
time at the head of the Secret
Service and was under the control
of the War Department alone.

As I sent in my reports from day
to day the Department ^{know} every move
I made. In one of my reports I mapped out a
route and only route Booth was
to take to effect his escape into
Canada and the Department sent Col
Baker with a Squad of Cavalry
to intercept him which he did as
you have read. When the conspira-
tors were ^{tried} all the officers who performed
such wonderful feats in capturing them
had to own that all the information they
had concerning their movements came
from me and you will so find it
in this evidence. So I care nothing about
what they write or what they claim. Will it
ask too much for you to send

25
a copy of the Confession which you
ave I would like it for my own
ratification. If I can be of any
lf to you will gladly aid all
I can.. regarding J. B. Booth
I shall write to some one of the
family and learn all I can of
his death and where. When re-
quired will send to you

Respectfully yours
David D Dana