

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO.

PUBLISHERS OF

The Dearborn Independent

The Ford International Weekly

DEARBORN, MICH.

3 PM 7/12

July
8
1921

Mr. W. B. Penniman
Glen Elks Circle
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. Penniman:

Your letter received yesterday, was not a surprise to me. I had figured that the situation was about as you outlined it.

Bates is again exhibiting the body - at present in Illinois and picking up affidavits from people who claim they cared for John Wilkes Booth after he escaped.

Some of these old fellows about eighty-five or ninety years old are so childish that they can imagine almost anything. Bates will soon have enough statements to prove that John Wilkes Booth was in at least six states at one time. I am going to again impose on you to the extent of answering some more questions.

do not know

Do you know whether Bates saw the letter and wills which George left? You filed these at the Court House about the time Bates arrived.

Bates in his book tries to claim that George did not die until the 14th and alters Dumont's and Brown's affidavit to help him prove this. Have you any idea as to how he got that impression?

Have often wondered myself

Do you know of any reason for George committing suicide?

Busted - down and out

How did Bates learn of George's death? You wired Smith but not Bates. Was Bates' delay due to wash-outs on the Erie lines as he says?

read it in the newspapers and wired me asking if he could see the body if he came to Erie

Rock Island

Is there anything at all to Bates' story that he impersonated a furniture salesman in order to keep the Erie people from taking the body and burning it?

nothing to this burning dope

fully - yes

Did Bates register at the Hotel as Chas. O'Connor, of New York?

Don't know

yes

Did the right leg of George show signs of having been broken? *yes*

Were his eyebrows mismatches as Bates says in his book, Page 262? Was the thumb on his right hand deformed? Was there a scar on the back of George's neck that might have been the result of an operation?

I think there was

Did you ever get an inkling as to who D. E. George really was?

The Harper people and the Harper part of Bates' story is about right

Bates on Page 292 says that a couple men whom you took for Government secret service agents, called on you with pictures of John Wilkes Booth to identify the body "and having satisfied themselves that the body was that of Booth, they appealed to the Territorial legal authorities to compel the burial of the body. What do you know about this?

Two mysterious strangers nothing else. There were lots of them

How did Bates finally obtain possession of the mummy?

After I sold out I had no place to put him and wished Bates asking if he wanted him taking from

Again I wish to assure you of a thousand thanks for your trouble and to urge upon you that should you come to Detroit at any time, to call me up.

Bates a written agreement to surrender to me upon demand

Very truly yours,

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO.

FLB GLC

F.L. Black

Business Manager

*might have been I never thought so
A dead man's thumb by muscular contraction is drawn toward the palm of the hand and a very unnatural look*