

GEO E SMITH
HUBBARD MILLING CO
764 BARTLETT AVE
MILWAUKEE WISC

July 16, 1921.

Mr F L Black
Dearborn
Mich

Dear Sir:

Just received your favor of July 14th, and complying with your request will do my best to answer your questions of July 1st.

"I first met D. E. George in my store at El Reno, Okla. about a year before his death.

"D. E. George told me very little about his past, he intimated to me at one time that he had killed a man in Texas, never intimated to me that he was John Wilkes Booth, but several times while under the influence of liquor, assured me he was a man with a past, and that I would be very much surprised after his death to learn who he was.

"I did believe and still do after D. E. George died that he was really John Wilkes Booth and that big money could be made by exhibiting the remains. After his death I went to Enid, looked the situation over and then went South to consult some lawyers, whom I was acquainted with in El Reno, but was advised by these lawyers that in the eyes of the government John Wilkes Booth was buried and exhibiting the remains of John Wilkes Booth, would constitute a felony, by obtaining money under false pretenses. There is no question that at that time while excitement was high, about getting the crowds at an exhibition. However I did not want to get into trouble with the Government over the matter, so allowed the proposition to drop.

"I never attempted to communicate with any of the Booths.

"I never knew that George was addicted to morphine.

"George never appeared to have a surplus of money, but appeared to have plenty for ordinary purposes, except when he got on a spree, when he

used to borrow small sums from me.

"He appeared to work steady, but sometimes was out of town for a week or two at a time, claiming he had been doing some jobs elsewhere. I believe he always worked on his own contract.

"I cannot tell accurately how much money I loaned him, as the amounts were usually small and promptly returned, except the last two loans. As I recollect it, one amount was for \$10.00 and the last amount was for \$25.00 just before he died. These loans I never got.

"I expected to be reimbursed for the loans I made before he died, and was not worrying particularly, whether he paid me back or not, as I enjoyed his company, he was always honest about returning the loans, and until the last two when he advised me he would leave me some property to more than cover the amounts due in case he did not return same before his death.

"I decided to return home and let the matter rest until I could get more information as to whether or not I would be able to exhibit the remains. As I got very little encouragement from the lawyers I spoke to and time passed on I dropped the whole matter.

"I believe this is about all that would interest you, but will call you up the first time I am in Detroit. Since seeing you I wrote my nephew in Los Angeles where the body had been on exhibition and enclose his reply. I have also had a number of letters from Mr. Bates, requesting an interview and wanting me to join him by advancing some money to help meet expenses. I expected to see Mr. Bates before this, but have not been South and as for putting any money in the proposition I do not feel inclined to do so.

Yours truly,

Geo E. Smith."