

National News Service

GEORGE M. BATTEY, JR., Editor and Manager.

An organization furnishing to the press of the country a weekly News-Feature Clip Sheet devoted to the advancement of American interests in all parts of the world, and especially to the development of an adequate Air Force. Covers all government departments, with particular emphasis on Education, Exploration and Discovery, Science and Invention, Outdoor Activities, Romance and Adventure, and the "Genesis and Revelations of Political Movements."

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Business Manager
Dearborn Independent
Dearborn, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed is 20 cents in stamps, for which please mail me copies of Apr. 11 and Apr. 18 issues of The Independent, as I wish to complete my files on the John Wilkes Booth article.

I find Mr. Black's articles on Booth very interesting but not always accurate. He seems to be so eager to explode the George and St. Helen myths that he overlooks evidence on the other side that only fairness should suggest he present.

After an investigation of several months I am of the opinion that Booth was the man killed at the Carrett barn, but I am of the view that positive proof of his death and that he was slain by Boston Corbett never has been established. Dr. May did not state that the scar was on Booth's neck, three inches below the left ear, as stated in the concluding article (May 2); the author has evidently confused Dr. May with Surgeon General Barnes, who testified as much at the trial of the conspirators. Dr. Barnes did not examine the neck of Booth after Dr. May had described it, but before, according to what I have been able to learn. A re-reading of the "Sign of the Scalpel" should clear up some of these points. Dr. May said the scar was at the back of the neck, a little to the left. He also said, as it was fair to state, that when he looked at the body he said it bore no resemblance to the man he had treated; also, at the conclusion he said nearly every vestige of resemblance had disappeared. Dr. May gives the impression in his article that he made a partial identification but was not positive. It is also worthy of note that he stated that the details of the ~~area~~ scene were as fresh in his mind in 1887 as when he made his examination, and then he proceeded to say that Booth's right leg was contused and almost black; we have to reconcile that statement of the leg with the fact that the War department has always claimed Booth fractured his left leg, in testimony whereof it exhibits a boot for the left foot.

Any way you take it, here is the mystery of all the ages. Of course there is a plot behind a plot, a story within a story, for keen observers to find.

Very truly,

Geo. M. Battey, Jr.