

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLOTTESVILLE  
ALDERMAN LIBRARY

HARRY CLEMONS  
LIBRARIAN

MARY LOUISE DINWIDDIE  
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

JACK DALTON  
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

March 1, 1939

My dear Miss Tarbell:

John Wilkes Booth did not attend the University of Virginia. His schooling, according to The Dictionary of American Biography, consisted of grammar school training and work at several academies near his Maryland home.

In his brochure "President Lincoln and the Case of John Y. Beall", Isaac Markens has this to say about the Booth-Beall relationship:

From the execution of Beall and the assassination of Lincoln has sprung a weird and lurid story for years industriously circulated and eagerly devoured -- that Booth's deed was inspired by the President's broken promise of a pardon made to Booth... John W. Forney in 1876 publicly branded the story so far as it relates to his knowing or meeting Booth during his lifetime, as an utter fabrication... Extensive research fails to disclose the slightest evidence of any acquaintance or intercourse of Beall and Booth prior to or during the war. (Op. cit. p.10-11)

We have not been able to run down further evidence.

I am sorry that I cannot offer more in partial payment of many pleasant hours which your works have given me.

Very truly yours,

Jack Dalton  
Jack Dalton  
Reference Librarian

Miss Ida M. Tarbell  
120 East Nineteenth Street  
New York, N.Y.