

Franklin Pa.,
Friday
March 3, 1939

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Thank you for the information given in your letter of Feb. 24th. I am re-writing one or two scenes of my screen play and think that, when completed, I will mail it to Miss Holly who, probably, will have returned to New York by then. But please do not make any special effort, or use any of your time, to see her in my behalf; if I may tell her that you have recommended her it will be amply sufficient.

I am strongly inclined to believe, although not entirely convinced, that Izola Forrester is Booth's grand-daughter; but her evidence that he was married is weak and unconvincing. However, she seems to have convinced herself on that point and I am so tolerant as to have no wish to disturb her belief.

I have often regretted, lately, that I did not ask Wilfred Clarke about his uncle John Wilkes Booth. We were together, and on such friendly terms, for so long; and he so often talked to me about other members of his family, and of his boyhood in London and Paris, that in such a mood he might not have resented inquiries about John Wilkes. I was often tempted to bring up the subject, but it was such a delicate matter; and he was such an honorable and likable chap, that I refrained in the hope that he, himself, might sometime bring up the question - which he never did. If I knew where he is I would write him and I think that I will try to locate him. He was, until quite recent years, the owner of the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, the oldest Theatre in the United States, but, so far as I know, he never operated it directly - probably had leased it, and may, perhaps, still own it. I may be able to get in touch with him through the manager there.

Mrs. Burr told me, some days ago, that you are now interested in tracing Booth's movements during March and the first half of April 1865, and asked me if I knew of any evidence that he was in Franklin during that period. I know of no such evidence that is reliable but it afterward occurred to me that there might be something on file in Washington. So I wrote the enclosed letter, but did not mail it because Mrs. Burr thinks that you have been through the Washington files. However she advised that I mail it to you, for such action as you see fit to take, because she is not certain that you have examined the report I mention. It is not such a letter as you will care to write, should you decide to follow the suggestion, but I enclose the letter merely because it states my reason for believing that such a report exists. Since it may not have been pertinent to the point at issue in the trial of the conspirators, it may not have been admitted in evidence.

Should you know of any other information that I can dig up for please do not hesitate to write me. Seventeen years as a bank examiner has given me some experience in going after obscure facts, and I want you to write that book.

Very Resp'y.,

Chas. A. Keele