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# POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY


OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SIXTH DISTRICT, EASTERN DIVISION
KEENAN BUILDING

H. SCRIVENS
SUPERINTENDENT


PITTSBURG, PA., January 29, 1939.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

First I wish to thank you again, very sincerely, for the time you devoted to me at Franklin Friday, and for the very interesting, instructive and pleasant visit I had with you. I shall always remember it with gratitude.

Of course I have been thinking a great deal since my visit about the Booth matter and I am wondering if you have, or have access to, the report of the trial of the conspirators of the assassination, which gives a comprehensive report of all the testimony in the trial compiled by Benn Pitman. The title is:-

The Assassination
of
President Lincoln
and the
Trial of the Conspirators.

Compiled and arranged by Benn Pitman,
Recorder to the Commission.

Publishers:

Moore, Wilstach & Baldwin,
25 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati.
New York, 60 Walker Street.

1865.

I secured my copy of this book over 40 years ago, but do not recall where I secured it. On page 45 it contains the testimony of Jo Simonds and I am attaching herewith a copy of that testimony as it appears in the above book. I think that Booth must have acquired his interest mentioned by Simonds through some one in Franklin, possibly through Simonds, who may have worked through Mo Coleman, who was engaged in the real estate business in Franklin, I believe, prior to Simonds arrival there. Simonds and Coleman were acquainted in Boston. My information is that Booth did not go to Franklin until April, and you have the date of his engagement elsewhere in March.

The foregoing and the attached may interest you and I am sending it along in accordance with our understanding.

Very truly yours,

Louis J. Mackey

328 Emerson, St.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.,

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BOOTH'S OIL SPECULATIONS.

Joseph H. Simonds.

For the prosecution - May 13, 1865.

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I was acquainted with J. Wilkes Booth in his lifetime, and was his business agent, particularly in the oil region. I did some little business for him in the City of Boston, but it was very little, and was entirely closed up before I left there.

Mr. Booth's interest in the oil speculations was as follows: He owned a third undivided interest in a lease of three and a half acres on the Alleghany River, near Franklin. The land interest cost $4,000. He paid $2,000-that being one-half of it. He also purchased, for $1,000, an interest in an association there owning an undivided thirtieth of a contract. That is all that he ever absolutely purchased. There was money spent for expenses on this lease, previous to his purchase of the land interest. He never realized a dollar from any interest possessed in the oil region. His speculations were a total loss.

The first interest he acquired in any way was in December, 1863, or January, 1864. I accompanied him to the oil regions in June, 1864, for the purpose of taking charge of his business there. The whole amount invested by him in this Alleghany River property, in every way, was about $5,000, and the other investment was about $1,000, making $6,000 in all.

His business was entirely closed out there on the 27th of September, 1864.

One of the conveyances was made to his brother, Junius Brutus Booth, which was without compensation; but a consideration was mentioned in the deed. The other transfer was to me, and it was done in consideration of my services, for which I never received any other pay. There was not a dollar paid to J. Wilkes Booth at all for these conveyances, and he paid all the expenses on the transfer and the conveyances.

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