

September 28, 1933

My dear Mr. Davis:

Do forgive my delay in replying to your inquiry of September 6th. I have been very busy this month and have neglected many things - your letter among the rest.

Now as to your question, the name of the man who watched Booth approach Lincoln's box in Ford's Theatre I was certain that I had it, but looking up my notes I think that the name of the man I had in mind when I received your note was not the name of the man I had in mind when I wrote the paragraph to which you refer.

Judge John J. Henderson for many years a distinguished member of the Bench in Pennsylvania, a resident of Meadville, Pa., was at Ford's Theatre the evening of the assassination. With him were two Army officers, Major Ashley and Lieutenant McKelvey. Ashley called Henderson's attention to a handsome young man loitering in the corridor near the Lincoln box, told him that it was the son of Junius Booth. Judge Henderson did not see Booth again until he jumped from the box. Ashley seemed to know at once what had happened.

But I have nothing in my notes from Henderson to show that as I write he "wanted to see who in the Presidential box it could be (Booth) knew well enough to call on in the middle of the act" ^{he}

I know that somewhere I have the authority for this statement, but at the moment I cannot put my hands on it. Later I may be able to do so for my notes are in the process of classification.

I'll keep your inquiry on my desk and when I come across the name you want I shall send it. I am sorry to be so unsatisfactory.

Very truly yours

Mr. Royal J. Davis
New York Evening Post
New York City