

June 8, 1931

My dear Mr. Woods:

I have your letter of May 21st, wondering why I never paid any attention to the escape of John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of Lincoln. I take it you mean, why I never paid any attention to the repeated reports that he was not killed in the barn, as believed, but fled living in one or another part of the country under an assumed name.

The reason I have never done this, my dear Mr. Woods, is that I have always believed there was sufficient proof that it was Booth who was shot in the Garrett barn. If you are interested in pursuing the matter you should read the voluminous testimony that was taken in Washington in the weeks immediately after the capture. I believe that they would convince you that the accepted account of his end is a true one. At least that testimony seems to me many times more weighty than any of the contradictory reports that have come in later years - most of them founded, I believe, on a lot of ~~upsetting accepted facts~~.

At least I have never been able to get up enough interest in the matter to write about it. I should call your attention, if you want to pursue the matter, to Francis Wilson's book - Francis Wilson, the Actor. He has probably made a more thorough study than anybody else.

Thanking you for your letter, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Rufus Woods, President
The Wenatchee Daily World
Wenatchee, Washington

*anybody but
convincing testimony.*