

1800 K STREET NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 17, 1940

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Sometime ago I was delighted to read this article in the Sunday Washington Star and to know that you were thinking of writing about John Wilkes Booth.

I have always been ignorant of any facts about him or his life and had thought of him as mentally unbalanced or a fanatic until two years ago when I was in Baltimore for the day. After lunch, my friends drove me to Belair and we spent the afternoon with Mrs. Mahoney in Tudor Hall the birth place of John Wilkes Booth.

I wonder if you have ever been there? The house is full of all kinds of data about the Booth family and is much more attractive than it appears in this picture. Of course it was summer when I was there and that may have made some difference but I felt an atmosphere about the old place - of a happy family who had lived and laughed there and of tragedy, too. And this in spite of the clutter with which Mrs. Mahoney has filled it.

Mrs Mahoney may not have facts, about that I do not know, but she drew a picture

of "that misguided young man", that aroused both my interest and sympathy.

I presume that you know all of this, however, I am enclosing the clippings and folder in case you might like them and I shall look forward with eagerness to reading your book.

Because I know how busy you are, please do not bother to acknowledge this note.

Sincerely yours,

Lilla M. Davis