

March 4, 1967

Rev. Johnnie Mae Hackworth

Regarding my mother's claim that my father was "framed," and her claim that Carl C. Booth was the guilty party (even being the reason he murdered her... and killed her husband not expecting him to be at home that Monday morning, March 30, 1923): I quote a letter written by an aged relative, a distinguished woman, living in Eagle Lake, Texas, dated April 17, 1941: (P. O. Box #12, Eagle Lake, Texas) "Dearest Jonnie Mae and Victor (my father Victor Wass Hackworth): Just a line, my dears, to tell you how much I enjoyed your little visit; and how much I appreciate all the sweet thoughts of your kind hearts. Yes, our mutual love for each other is the tie that binds more closely to us the living presence of all our precious ones in heaven whose spirits forever dwell in the sacred memory's hall of our souls. And though we miss them and yearn for them, O, so much, we still rejoice in their ecstasy, their unutterable happiness in that land where there's no more suffering or tears; and where they were waiting for us.

And, Jonnie Mae, in your sweet indimitable way, in those few reminiscent moments, you seemed to bring them all into our midst even more than ever.

"Hence we must banish all the unpleasant things from our minds which we know are only fabrications of the visions which originated solely in the evil minds of Satan's followers. And I want to tell you, honey, that when I was in Dallas visiting Lucille Korthouer Newman (her daughter), which time you may remember (I do, for I went with mother to see Cousin Florence Korthouer), that your dear mother, Gertrude (Ralston Hackworth), told us all about how your father was "framed." I've even forgotten some of the details; but the point is, that Victor was innocent, an innocent victim of circumstances... all, of which you, of course, know. I have seldom mentioned it, but since you mentioned about your Austin experience (with Congressman James Buchanan of Brenham, Texas... whom Johnson followed into Congress), I wanted you to know that I now how unjustly their accusations had been, both as regarding Uncle Steve (Stephen F. Austin Hackworth) and your father. Gertrude was a wonderful woman, too, and I loved her dearly.

And as I told you, the erroneous reports about Uncle Steve that you mentioned were instigated by false and wicked political enemies. He (Uncle Steve) was indeed the very soul of honor and high principles. Even his admiration at one time for Ingersoll's expressions, was based entirely on the beautiful language in which his ideas were clothed, and not his ideas.

O, I am so proud of all our family (Hackworth family). I hope your plans for a permanent home for Victor will materialize soon. That will indeed be wonderful, and I think you are a wonderful girl to want to do it. (I was in the process then of purchasing the Braham Country Club property.)

I hope, too, that you received the carbon copy I sent you of the memorial tributes to all our departed ones. I won't forget my promise to write you the prayer book when and if I am physically able to do so. Am not much account, am afraid, for much of anything, but to give you all my love and best wishes. Love to all the family, Lovingly, Cousin Florence Korthouer."

You see, it has always been my claim that my mother wished to turn over to me the evidence she had gathered so carefully regarding my father's estate for which she was administratrix for... and she could not let her sister, Mrs. Nettie Mae Booth, know what was in her mind as she asked that I send for my father shortly before her murder... when she sent my younger sister Edith to me it was my understanding that someone was threatening to harm her if my mother did not do such and such at the courthouse... and through this sister I learned it was Carl C. Booth who was threatening mother... to such an extent that mother's second husband had insisted the telephone be removed to prevent my mother's being tormented with calls during the night. Mr. Anderson told me on March 28, 1925 he thought the man mother meant was my father (her first husband) and when I told him it was not, he was indeed glad. He said that on account of believing it was my father he had felt it was not his right to interfere... but since it was evident that it was Carl C. Booth he would take steps to prevent further harassment. (The next day, Sunday, my Aunt Nettie Mae and my first husband (hersel Ambrose Watson) went through all of mother's things to search out for weapons, for Booth said my mother was dangerous... and so her pistol was taken to the Booth home... the first time she had been without it for years... and there is other testimony recently from H. A. Watson that another gun appeared... and I have suggested that Anderson could have gone after one when he learned mother's pistol had been taken... I know he suspected Carl Booth; for we talked of this thing... even as I talked to him almost two hours on Saturday, March 28, 1925.

But this woman's letter in her own handwriting proves that mother believed my father "framed" and she freely accused Carl Booth of the act... there was known animosity between the two... out on account of my Aunt Nettie Mae my mother was secret around Aunt Nettie Mae... and this was far from true cause Aunt Nettie Mae Booth to have suspicions of Mr. Anderson... and this was far from