

AFFIDAVIT

State of Florida
County of Brevard

My name is Mary Bradwell. I own a home and about 15 acres of land at Midway, in Gadsden County, Florida. I have lived in that county practically all of my life. I have a daughter (Reginer Hendley) and two sons (Leroy Bradwell and Levechia Bradwell), both of whom have served in the armed forces of the United States. Levechia is still in service.

My son, Leroy Bradwell, was born at Midway, Gadsden County, Florida, November 3, 1920. He was inducted into the army November 21, 1942, at Camp Blanding, Florida. He went overseas November 7, 1943, and saw service in the Battle of France and the Rhineland. He was awarded the following decorations: (1) Good Conduct Medal, (2) Bronze Medal, and (3) World War II Victory Medal. Leroy returned to the United States December 21, 1945, and he was given an honorable discharge at Camp Blanding, Florida, on December 23, 1945. The following description is on his discharge paper: "LEROY BRADWELL, 34 531 699 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS 4229TH QUARTERMASTER SERIALIZING COMPANY".

Leroy came home December 29, 1945. On the afternoon of January 7, 1946, Sheriff Otha Edwards and Deputy Maple of Gadsden County came to our house and asked for Leroy, but Leroy was not at home then. When I asked why he wanted Leroy, the Sheriff said: "I just want to see him about cutting some pulp wood". That same night Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple came back to our house and found Leroy home. At home also were my daughter, Reginer Hendley, and my son-in-law, Arthur Hendley. Sheriff Edwards arrested Leroy in the house. He took Leroy's wallet and discharge paper out of his pocket and threw them on the shelf. Then they started out with Leroy without explaining anything. I then asked the officers why they were arresting my son. Sheriff Edwards answered: "I am fixing to tell you now. He did some writing". Arthur Hendley followed them into the yard and tried to get more information about the arrest. The sheriff said: "He wrote to a white girl, and we are going to carry him out of the county before something happens to him".

The next morning, January 8th, I went to the Sheriff's office in Quincy and asked about Leroy. The Sheriff said: "He is not in jail. I put him off at the foot of the bridge and told him to get going and not to be caught in the county again". Arthur Hendley and Reginer Hendley were in the Sheriff's outer office when this was said. We went to the Sheriff's office several times, but we could not find out where Leroy was.

Arthur and Reginer Hendley finally went to Tallahassee and paid Atty. Clyde Atkins \$50.00 to help us on this case. Atty. Atkins notified us to be in Quincy the next week for the trial. On that day Arthur and Reginer Hendley and I went to the Sheriff's office. We then started up to the court room where the trial was to be held, but Sheriff Edwards made us stay in his office. The Sheriff finally came back down and told us that Leroy was not guilty. I then asked why they would not turn Leroy loose and let him go home. Sheriff Edwards said: "No, we can't turn him loose now. The judge says R. T. Parker (a Negro living in Midway) must have written that letter because he left town". Sheriff Edwards came to our home several times after this and asked if we had heard from Leroy.

R. T. Parker liked the same colored girl that Leroy had been courting. Before Leroy got home from the army, Parker warned us that Leroy was not to go to this girl's home, but Leroy was going to see her anyway. Leroy told us that Parker shot at him

... and tried to run a car over him once. Maggie Lee Thomas, a colored teacher who lives in Midway, told us that Parker came to her and asked her to recall the name of his white girl (Caroline Baskely). The Sheriff talked with Parker the Sunday after Leroy was arrested, and Parker left that same night.

We have neither seen nor heard from Leroy since he was carried off by Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Madsen on the night of January 7, 1946.

Signed:

State of Florida
County of Broward

My name is Mary Bradwell. I own a home and about 15 acres of land at Midway, in Gadsden County, Florida. I have lived in that county practically all of my life. I have a daughter (Regina Hendley) and two sons (Leroy Bradwell and Levenosa Bradwell), both of whom have served in the armed forces of the United States. Levenosa is still in service.

My son, Leroy Bradwell, was born at Midway, Gadsden County, Florida, November 7, 1920. He was inducted into the Army November 21, 1942, at Camp Blanding, Florida. He went overseas November 3, 1943, and saw service in the Battle of France and the Rhineland. He was awarded the following decorations: (1) Good Conduct Medal, (2) BARRETT Medal, and (3) World War II Victory Medal. Leroy returned to the United States December 21, 1945, and he was given an honorable discharge at Camp Blanding, Florida, on December 28, 1945. The following description is on his discharge paper: "LEROY BRADWELL 34 FEB 699 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS 4229TH QUARTERMASTER SQUAD HAWKING COMPANY".

Leroy came home December 29, 1945. On the afternoon of January 7, 1946, Sheriff Otha Edwards and Deputy Marble of Gadsden County came to our house and asked for Leroy, but Leroy was not at home then. Then I asked why he wanted Leroy. The Sheriff said, "I just want to see him about cutting some pulp wood". That same night Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Marble came back to our house and found Leroy home. At home also were my daughter, Regina Hendley, and my son-in-law, Arthur Hendley. Sheriff Edwards arrested Leroy in his house. He took Leroy's wallet and discharge paper out of his pockets and threw them on the shelf. Then they started out with Leroy without explaining anything. I then asked the officers why they were arresting my son. Sheriff Edwards answered, "I am fixing to tell you now. He did some writing". Arthur Hendley followed them into the yard and tried to get more information about the arrest. The sheriff said, "He wrote to a white girl, and we are going to carry him out of the county before something happens to him".

The next morning, January 8th, I went to the Sheriff's office in Quincy and asked about Leroy. The Sheriff said, "He is not in jail. I put him off at the feet of the bridge and told him to get going and not to be caught in the county again". Arthur Hendley and Regina Hendley were in the Sheriff's outer office when this was said. We went to the Sheriff's office several times, but we could not find out where Leroy was. Arthur and Regina Hendley finally went to Tallahassee and paid Atty. Clyde Atkins \$1000 to help us on this case. Atty. Atkins notified us to be in Quincy the next week for the trial. On that day Arthur and Regina Hendley and I went to the Sheriff's office. We then started up to the court room where the trial was to be held, but Sheriff Edwards made us stay in his office. The Sheriff finally came back down and told us that Leroy was not guilty. I then asked why they would not turn Leroy loose and let him go home. Sheriff Edwards said, "No, we can't turn him loose now. The judge says that T. Parker (a Negro living in Midway) must have written that letter because he is a 'nigger'". Sheriff Edwards came to our home several times after this and asked if we had heard from Leroy.

Mr. T. Parker took the same colored girl that Leroy had been courting. Before Leroy got home from the army, Parker warned us that Leroy was not to go to this girl's home, but Leroy was going to see her anyway. Leroy told us that Parker shot at him.

once and tried to run a car over him once. Maple Lee Thomas, a colored teacher who lives in Midway, told us that Parker came to her and asked how to spell the name of this white girl (Caroline Blakely). The Sheriff talked with Parker the Sunday afternoon Leroy was arrested, and Parker left that same night.

We have neither seen nor heard from Leroy since he was carried off by Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple on the night of January 7, 1946.

Signed :

REGISTRATION - JANUARY
1944

WALT	Col. Rep.	Col. Rep.	Total	Total
12	282	277	12,120	1,086
21	21	21	2,520	12
71	420	70	14,700	122
11	280	22	4,920	127
60	0	200	0	1,274
1,200	242	122	14,072	1,227
0	0	2	2,200	2
0	60	162	2,040	222
12	0	22	2,724	140
21	127	27	2,720	20
0	0	17	1,700	21
11	222	22	2,210	21
7,111	2,227	2,227	27,222	2,221
11	22	22	2,222	22
0	0	0	0	0
24	2,222	2,222	27,222	2,222
12	2,222	2,222	26,222	2,222
11	2	2	1,222	12
0	222	222	2,222	222
0	22	0	2,222	0
1	10	1	2,222	1
0	22	0	2,222	0
7	21	1	2,222	2
22	20	10	2,222	22
22	11	1	4,222	22
11	1	1	2,222	11
17	22	22	2,222	17
1,200	1,227	1,227	42,222	2,222
22	22	27	2,222	22
0	22	2	2,222	0
20	20	22	2,222	20
12	22	22	12,222	21
0	22	22	2,222	0
1	0	0	2,222	1
217	211	22	7,222	217
22	214	22	2,222	22
21	227	221	12,222	221
0	22	22	2,222	0
0	0	0	2,222	0
0	0	0	2,222	0
27	22	22	12,222	27
41	1,222	122	12,222	221
21	22	22	2,222	21
20	22	22	4,222	20
12	211	12	5,222	20
27	2	21	2,222	27
0	22	7	1,222	0
2,227	22	1,222	22,222	2,227
2,222	22	211	2,222	222
2,222	1,222	212	22,222	1,221
7,222	22	0	7,222	222
2,222	212	222	22,222	2,222
2,222	1,222	212	24,222	1,227

E. K. MCILRATH

June 21, 1946

Mr. Harry Moore
Box 4
Mims, Florida

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have your letter of June 20 and as per your request enclose two copies of my notes taken at the conference in Titusville on June 16. As you know, I do not take shorthand and the statements may not be as complete as I would like but they are satisfactory for my purposes.

I note with great interest the fact that the Federal Government is already bringing *draft* in connection with the Madison, Florida, situation. I saw the report of this in the Florida Times-Union early this week. I can only assume that the Department of Justice is moving right along and having undertaken one case will probably undertake others.

I want to say further that I was more encouraged by the conference we held at your home June 16 than most any other development since the Titusville situation came to me for handling. I am going to try to have suits prepared against Bailey and the precinct registration officer in each instance sometime this coming week and then I want to come to Titusville and get each one of the plaintiffs to sign the complaint personally. For that reason I ask that you advise me what time you will be out of town attending your conference. If I come to Titusville, naturally, I would like to come when you are there.

With the kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

E. K. McIlrath

E. K. McIlrath

em/c

Affidavit
STATE OF FLORIDA

State of Florida

County of Bradford

My name is Rogner Handley and I have lived in Godsdan County, Fla., practically all of my life, my husband, Arthur Handley, and I have been living at No. 1245, in Godsdan County, with my mother, Mary B. Rodwell.

On Dec. 28, 1945, my brother, Leroy Rodwell, came home with an honorable discharge from the army. Leroy had been in the army about 3 years, and he had served in Europe about 2 years.

On the afternoon of Jan. 7, 1946, Sheriff Othe Caldwell and Deputy Waple of Godsdan County came to our home and asked for Leroy, ~~when he was not~~ but Leroy was not there at the time. That same night they came back again and found Leroy home. ~~They arrested~~ ~~my~~ ~~mother,~~ and I also ~~was~~ ~~at~~ ~~home.~~ The officers arrested Leroy. They took his discharge paper out of his pocket and threw them on the shelf. The officers started out with Leroy ~~without~~ ~~making~~ ~~any~~ ~~explanation,~~ my mother asked them what they wanted with Leroy. The Sheriff then said "we are fixing to tell you now, he did some writing".

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FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

Mims, Florida
 March 20, 1946

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Gov. Millard F. Caldwell
 Capitel Building
 Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Governor :

On Feb. 2 three deputy sheriffs of Volusia County raided a "juke joint" near Pierson. During the raid James Fuller, a Negro was shot to death by one of the deputies. The deputies claim that Fuller had a gun, but other witnesses seem to dispute this. Some claim that Fuller was shot in the back while he was running in an effort to getaway.

There also seem to be certain irregularities in connection with the inquest. After Fuller was shot, the deputies made some Negroes help carry Fuller to Deland. In doing this they passed from one

(37)

My husband followed the officers out into the yard and tried to get a fuller explanation. The Sherry said: "He wrote to a white girl, and we are going to carry him out of the county before something happens to him."

The next morning my mother, my husband and I went to the Sheriff's office in Gaines to ask about Leroy. ~~The Sheriff~~ We went to the Sheriff's office several times, but we could not learn where Leroy was.

My husband and I finally went to Tallahassee and paid Atty. Clyde Atkins \$50.00 to find out about Leroy. Atty. Atkins told us he would see that Leroy was found, and that there would be no bloodshed more.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

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 ATTY. L. E. THOMAS
 EDWARD D. DAVIS

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Miami, Florida
July 24, 1946

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Dear Co-workers:

Although there has been remarkable

(3)

they found out about the writing of the letter. We gave Atty. Atkins a letter that Leroy had written. When my husband and I went to Atty. Atkins the second time, he told us that they had seen the letter off to find out about the handwriting and that we should be at the trial in January that Wednesday.

My mother, my husband, and I went to the Court House that Wednesday, we started up into the court room, but the sheriff told us to have a seat in his office. The sheriff finally came back down and told us that Leroy was not guilty. My mother then asked why they would not turn Leroy loose and let him go home. Sheriff Edwards replied, "No, we can't turn him loose now. The judge says he will have to get more true evidence. He says R. T. Parker (a negro living in Hudson) must have written that letter, because he left town."

Sheriff Edwards came to our house several

Affidavit

State of Florida

County of Broward

Sherry Bradwell and Regina

We the undersigned, Sherry Bradwell and Regina
Kendley (the mother and the sister of Leroy Bradwell), hereby
relate the following facts relative to the arrest and
disappearance of Leroy Bradwell, which occurred at
Medway, in Bradford County, Fla, Jan 7, 1948.

(4)

times after this and asked if we had heard from
Leroy. On his last trip out the Sheriff asked me
if we had heard from Leroy. I said, "no". The Sheriff
said: "I wonder why that boy doesn't write his mother
he got her all worried up like this". I replied "Leroy
would write if he could". The Sheriff said: "I'll do
everything I can to make it possible for Leroy to
live in the county again".

After the trial in Timney my husband and I
went back to Atty. Atkins. He told us that Leroy
was not guilty. I then asked Atty. Atkins to find
out where Leroy was. Atty. Atkins said: "It will
be hard to do, since they turned him loose. He
might write later. He could be somewhere in
Georgia".

(5)

We have neither seen nor
heard from Leroy since he
was arrested by Sheriff
Otha Edwards and Deputy
Waple on the night of Jan.

7, 1946.

Signed

STAPLES

A GENERATION OF
LYNCHING
IN THE
UNITED STATES, 1921-1946

A SUPPLEMENT TO: THIRTY YEARS OF LYNCHING IN THE UNITED STATES,
1889 - 1918

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
West 40th Street New York 18, N.Y.

FORWARD

Because the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People believes Drumm to be the most eloquent spokesman of the message it wishes to convey, we are presenting in this pamphlet a documentary record of lynchings that have occurred in the United States within the past twenty-five years.

And because we sincerely believe a Federal law to be the only means of stamping out this heinous crime, we have also included a summary account of the fight carried on by the N.A.A.C.P. over a period of years to secure the passage by Congress of adequate anti-lynching legislation.

This pamphlet is a sequel to THIRTY YEARS OF LYNCHING IN THE UNITED STATES, 1889-1918. Within that period 3,224 persons were killed through mob violence. The data contained in this supplement does not include the year 1919 during which eighty-three lynchings occurred, nor does it list the sixty-five lynchings which took place in 1920.

While increased public expression against lynching has been an important factor in lessening the extent of this crime, the same public expression has forced lynching "underground". We feel we should call this to your attention. Newspapers no longer advertise lynching events. The mob is currently being succeeded by smaller bands of determined hatelers who murder with less spectacle but with the same grim efficiency. Bodies of victims are more hastily disposed of. Little news, if any, "leaks out" for general circulation. For this reason reports of many instances of lynch murders that have actually occurred are not available for publication. We apologize for this omission.

No effort is made here to describe the deep personal loss experienced by families of lynch victims nor the dread of whole southern Negro communities terrorized by the spectre of uncertain death. We do not feel, however, that these factors can be overlooked. The resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan is spreading with amazing rapidity. Number one with hate is the Negro. "We're supposed to be bigots," declared William H. Morris, one of Alabama's Klan incorporators, "but the Klan is made up of Christian gentlemen. All we want to do is keep the Negro in his place."

Next Klan hate is the unions. Grand Dragon Samuel Green of Georgia announced recently, "We have officially declared war against the CIO." Union organizers are reporting threats of Klan murder.

Klan anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic propaganda can be expected to produce large harvests of hate. Its campaign against minority groups makes the personal issue closer than any. Unchecked, its lawless power will leave few free from fear of personal safety and few hearts of our American breed free from distrust.