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September 17, 1946

Rev. J. E. Shepard
President, Lee County Branch, NAACP
336 W. Main Street
Mariana, Arkansas

In re: Willie Henry

Dear Reverend Shepard:

With reference to our letter of August 27th, concerning the above-named person, we have been informed by James Henry, who originally brought this case to our attention, that further information concerning his brother's case can be obtained from Mrs. Mary Spencer, Route 2, Box 113, Helena, Arkansas, who is the aunt of Willie Henry.

Sincerely yours,

MWP:GS
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Marian Wynn Perry
Assistant Special Counsel
Mr. James W. Penny
Ass. Special Counsel
The N. Y. R. & P.
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Penny:

I am writing to thank you for your efforts in initiating an
investigation concerning my brother's
(Wilkie Henry) death.

I am certain that my Aunt and
Uncle can furnish helpful information.
My Aunt's address is Route 2, Box
113, Helena, Ark. Her name is

Mrs. Mary Spencer. You may find
them living in the suburban Midtown

Thanking you very kindly,

Respectfully yours,

James Henry, Jr.
August 27, 1946

Mr. James Henry, Jr.
1273 W. Brand Blvd.
Detroit 3, Michigan

Re: Willie Henry

Dear Mr. Henry:

This will reply to your letter of August 14, which was received in this office on August 25, concerning the killing of your brother in Arkansas. Your letter was addressed to Mr. Marshall, who is out of the office ill, and I have undertaken to answer it in his absence.

I have written to the President of our branch in Marianna, Arkansas, and asked him to secure a report for us on this incident. It would be helpful if you would furnish us with the name of your aunt and uncle in Helena, Arkansas, since they might be able to direct our investigators to eye-witnesses of this shooting.

Very truly yours,

Marian Wynn Perry
Assistant Special Counsel
August 27, 1946

Rev. J. E. Shepard
President, Lee County Branch
NAACP
336 West Main Street
Marianna, Arkansas

Re: Willie Henry

Dear Rev. Shepard:

We have received a letter, a copy of which is enclosed, from the brother of Willie Henry, a Chicago resident and veteran of World War II, who, it is alleged, was shot and killed in cold blood by police in Helena, Arkansas, on August 1.

I wonder if it would be possible for you to determine the facts in this case and to report them to me, together with your recommendations for action to be taken if the facts substantiate the letter which we have received.

Very truly yours,

Marian Wynn Perry
Assistant Special Counsel

MWP/rg
Enclosure
Mr. Horace Marshall
The M. C. A C. P.
New York, New York
August 14, 1946

Dear Sir:

This letter contains a terrible tragedy that happened to my brother, Willie Henry, disabled war veteran.

Willie was released from the Armed Forces in the care of my oldest brother, Emy Henry, of Chicago. After being in the Pacific Theatre, while in the Pacific he contracted malaria fever and was sent back to the States to a hospital where he remained until my oldest brother asked for his release. His mind seemed to have been slightly affected.

A short while ago Willie went to Helena, Ark. To visit my youngest Uncle. Just two weeks ago (Aug.) he was shot down in cold
flood by two white policemen.

The incident happened following
a misunderstanding at Brocolli bus
lines station where he went to
inquire about bus fare to another
county. He was given two different
prices, and when he objected he
was struck by one of the white men.
He was struck with a piece of pipe
across the face. He fell and was
helped up by another white man
and a negro. When he realized
he was being led by two men, he
broke away and ran. He didn't
know the men meant to help
him. He ran a half block and
jumped into a concrete ditch and
sat down. When the officers
arrived at the scene they found
Willie seated in the ditch. When they
called to him to come out, he refused
with the statement "I won't come
up for you to beat me to death." The
officers fired two warning shots
but when he still refused to move

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Patrolman Jones fired the first shot that entered Willie's left side and emerged at the right hip. The other Patrolman was J.E. White, he died three hours later.

Incidents like this one have been occurring quite frequently in recent months. And I sincerely hope that soon we can see justice done.

I know that the NAACP is one of the greatest organizations ever created among our race.

If I were a man with sufficient money I would have walked to my witness to see that justice is rendered—not only in my brother's case but in every personal case. But I don't have a lot of money. That is why I am writing to you. I would greatly appreciate your every effort to investigate this case as you have done many others.

I am a member of an insurance company (the Metropolitan Life) in Detroit, Mich. We insured four thousand dollars within five
Organization to get toward the Georgia Lynching.

I shall be ever so grateful to you for anything you can do. Thank you immediately.

Respectfully yours,

James Henry, Jr.