An Open Letter to Governor Holland

Dear Sir:

May I second with all my might the urgent request of Bishop Wing that you suspend from office Sheriff Luten of Quincy, who allowed a prisoner in his custody to be lynched, if your investigation shows him guilty of negligence in his duties as seems to have been the case.

Today all Americans, whatever our attitudes towards American participation in the war, are appalled at the lawlessness of Hitler's "government". Do we not realize that the Nazi slavery is based squarely on the denial of the human and legal rights of the individual, such as his right to trial by law? We Americans ought to understand this, for we, in common with Englishmen, have an invaluable inheritance from long centuries of the development of principles and practices to safeguard the rights of the individual — every individual.

I am a new citizen of Florida. But both my grandfathers fought in the Confederate army. One of them was a lawyer and country preacher and sometime member of the Tennessee legislature. Once a negro in his community was accused of exactly the crime charged to the man lynched at Quincy. My grandfather was able to prevent a lynching in this case. He understood very well, even in the grim period of the Reconstruction, that only by scrupulous and thorough respect for the human and legal rights of the individual — every individual, black or white — could we hold and strengthen our democratic liberties. I am fully as proud of that incident in my grandfather's career as of his honorable record as a Colonel in Lee's army. Sharing his conviction, I urge you to see that justice is done in this case.

Respectfully,

Alice C. Cramer

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Tampa