June 18, 1943.

Sheriff Barkley Gause
Marianna, Florida

Dear Sheriff:

As you know, Governor Holland is out of the State at this time attending the National Governors' Conference in Columbus, but I request that you make a full investigation and report on the recent death of Celios Harrison, colored, who was taken from the county jail at Marianna. I would like to have this report available for the Governor's inspection when he returns here on June 28th.

We were glad to furnish you assistance through the Highway Patrol and if you are in need of a state investigator I will be glad to send one in immediately.

At Governor Holland's request I also have asked State Attorney L. D. McRae to make a complete report on this matter.

With best regards, I am

Yours very truly,

Executive Secretary.

RD/J
Sheriff, Jackson County
Marianna, Florida
June 24, 1943.

Hon. Spessard L. Holland,
Governor
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Governor:

In reply to a request by your office for a statement relative to the recent death of Cellos Harrison who was taken from the Jackson County Jail and later found dead. I would like to submit a copy of the evidence produced at the Coroner's Inquest. The testimony is herewith enclosed.

There is very little light that I am able to shed on the matter other than what appears in the transcript of the testimony.

At the time of this incident I was attending the State Sheriff's Convention at Ocala, Florida.

We maintain a jailor who resides in the County Jail, viz: Lewis Rodgers, also one of the deputies, Joe Sims, resides at the jail. In addition to this personnel I employed one Tom Belser as a special night watchman to be up and on the alert at night while Harrison was in jail. It is my information that at the time the incident occurred deputy Sims had made an arrest in Cottondale of a person driving an automobile without a tag, and had him in his custody there where he had requested an opportunity to make a long distance call to Orlando, Florida to procure permission from the man for whom he worked to use certain monies he had in his possession as a cash bond. While there deputy Sims received word that another person was driving an automobile while drunk on the high-way between Cottondale and the Alabama State Line. He left Cottondale to apprehend the drunk driver and before reaching Campbellton met Deputy Reddick and Kirkland coming towards Marianna, who advised him that a negro had been taken from the jail. He immediately returned to Marianna.

Deputy McMullian resides in Marianna and was called to the jail immediately after the incident happened by Jailor Rodgers.

If there is anything further I can do in this matter I will be glad to have you advise me.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Barley Jones
Sheriff.
July 7, 1943

Honorable Barkley Gause
Sheriff Jackson County
Marianna, Florida

Dear Sheriff Gause:

The Governor has asked that I acknowledge your letter of June 24 in which you make a report of Collos Harrison who was taken from the Jackson County jail.

Thanking you for your report and with best regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Executive Secretary