Laurel Miss
11-25-42
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I, Allen Welborn Pryor, Route 2 Laurel do hereby voluntarily make the following signed statement to John L. Sullivan who has properly identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. Department of Justice. I have been advised that I am entitled to Counsel and that this statement maybe used against me in a Court of law. No threats, promises, or rewards have been made or offered to me in order to obtain this statement which I make of my own free will.

I was born on a farm near Laurel Jones County, Miss on 11/4/08. I have lived in Jones County, Miss. practicaley all of my life.

Allen Welborn Pryor

44-11

On or about 5 O'Clock on the afternoon the day that Howard Wash was tried in the Circuit Court of Jones County at Laurel, Miss. by Judge Collins for the murder of my third Cousin Clint Welborn, I left my work at the Masonite Plant at Laurel, Miss. I went into Laurel, Miss. I met my wife Flora Mae and my Mother Eula Pryor at the Jones County Courthouse. They had attended the trial and they took the 5:40 P.M. bus to Shady Grove, Miss. I hitch hiked home to Shady Grove Miss and got home about 7 or 8 P.M.

About 8:00 P.M that nite I started to walk on #15 highway towards Laurel, Miss. I was going to Laurel to see what was going to happen to Howard Wash. I figured that something was going to happen. I got a ride with ~~Ellis~~ Jan Off Frankie Powell who lives at the Shady Grove School District a N.P.

Allen W. Pryor
Welborn

near Laurel, Miss. We drove to Laurel, Miss - We had a bottle of beer at Horsey Horsey Cafe in Laurel, Miss. We drove back to Shady Grove and went to Ford's store 2 miles north of Shady Grove, Miss. on highway #15. There were about 50 men at Ford's store on the outside. It was about 10:00 P.M.

I recognized Hillard H. Welborn brother of Clint Welborn at Ford's store. I also saw J.W.P. Mr. Ford and his brother whose name I don't know at Ford's store. It was dark and I don't remember recognizing anyone else there. Someone said: "Let's kidnap the Sheriff." I said to the crowd, "That's the last thing we want to do". Then we all decided to meet on 5th St near the Jones County Jail before taking Howard Wash out of the Jones County Jail.

Allen Welborn Pmyr

We left Fords store about 11:00 P.M. I don't remember who I drove back to Laurel with.

We surrounded the Jones County Jail about 11:30 P.M. Sheriff J. Ross Reddoch arrived at this jail about 11:45 P.M. There was about 100 men around this jail at this time.

I helped to pull the screen off the window located on the right of the door to the front entrance of the Jones County Jail on Yates Ave. I said to the men that the jailer's wife and children may be in this room so let's try some other entrance.

I pulled the screen door open with a pick axe that leads into the main entrance of the jail. About 15 men came in with me. I don't remember how the jail door was opened A.M.O. leading into the prisoners quarters on the second floor I went up the stairs

Allen W. Pryor
Welborn

to the ellerbee Howard Wash was a prisoner and with several other men whose names I can't recall took Howard Wash out of this jail.

We placed him in a car. I don't know whose car. I drove in the car ~~that~~ Wash was in. Wash was sitting in the front seat and I was setting in the back seat. This car was a new black Coach. I don't remember the model. I was very excited.

We drove out to Welborn's Bridge located about 4 miles north of Shady Grove on the Mascville Road.

We arrived at the Welborn's bridge between 12:30 and 1:00 A.M. and parked this car on the far side of the bridge. I did not put the rope around Wash's neck nor heave him over the bridge. I don't know who did the actual

Allen Welborn Pryor

hanging. Someone said, "It is all over." So I caught a ride and came home. I don't know with whom I rode.

I went to work the next morning. I was never arrested by any officer at any time for the hanging of Wash or intimidating officers. I have made no other statement to any other officer of the law.

I saw no guns in this crowd at this jail at any time. The only gun there was held by Sheriff J. Bess Peddock and it was a .22 caliber rifle.

I have read the above statement consisting of 6 pages and I certify this statement to be true and correct. I sign my name of my own free will to every page and I approve any or all corrections by my initials.

Allen Welborn Pryor

witnesses:
John L. Sullivan
Special agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Otis Brasher, Special agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice