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Department of Justice

Division of

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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By order of the Attorney General

Buckley 312 FTB ✓

8/26/81

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See also Nos.



151
54A-594
16/59-53-4

FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER

144-19-82

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4594
#157

AMC:BNH:efr

144-19-82

KEE

April 29, 1949

J. Saxton Daniel, Esquire
United States Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mr. Daniel:

HOLLIE

Attention: Henry H. Durrence, Esquire
Assistant United States Attorney

Re: Johnnie Johnson, Jim A. Johnson - Subjects;
Isaiah Nixon - Victim; Civil Rights and Do-
mestic Violence

Reference is hereby made to your letter of March 30, 1949, in which you express the opinion that the prosecution of the subjects in the State court was bona fide and that, consequently, the case should be closed without federal prosecution.

Since the receipt of your letter, the Department has received the investigative report referred to therein and, also, a Federal Bureau of Investigation report dated April 4. As a result of an examination of the reports, the Department concurs in your opinion and you are, therefore, authorized to close the matter without further action.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files



United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

SAVANNAH, GA.

March 30, 1949.



The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

HOLLIE

In re: Johnnie Johnson, and
Jim A. Johnson, subjects.
Isaiah Nixon - Victim
Vio: Civil Rights and Domestic Violence
Dept. of Justice File No.
AMC:MWH:efr 144-19-82

Reference is made to your letter of March 8, 1949, with which you enclosed a copy of a memorandum forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all in reference to this matter.

This office has received a copy of the investigative report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene, of the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, dated March 28, 1949, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Department. From this report it appears that the prosecution of the subjects in the State court of Montgomery County, Georgia was bona fide; that two able lawyers conducted the prosecution and that all of the witnesses known to have any knowledge of the occurrence were sworn and testified at the trial. I am personally acquainted with Hon. Eschol Graham, who presided at the trial as Judge of the Court and I know that he is not only an able lawyer and Judge but that he is also an honest, conscientious and courageous man and that he would not countenance anything that would further or tend to further an injustice in this trial.

For these reasons I am of the opinion that further investigation into this matter is not warranted and authority is, therefore, respectfully requested to close out file without prosecution.

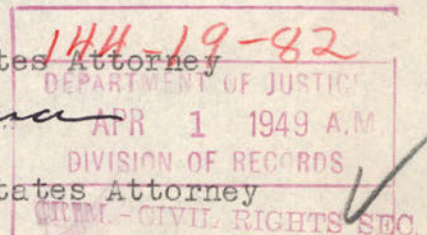
File
mwp

Respectfully,
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence

Henry H. Durrence

Assistant United States Attorney



March 30, 1949.

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

In re: Johnnie Johnson, and
Jim A. Johnson, subjects.
Isaiah Nixon - Victim
Vio: Civil Rights and Domestic Violence
Dept. of Justice File No.
AMC:MWH:efr 144-19-82

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For these reasons I am of the opinion that further investigation into this matter is not warranted and authority is, therefore, respectfully requested to close out file without prosecution.

Respectfully,
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence
Assistant United States Attorney

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

April 29, 1949

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MMH:efr
144-19-82

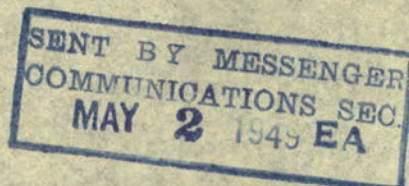
Johnnie Johnson, Jim A. Johnson;
Isaiah Nixon - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence;
Your File No. 44-112 Savannah

The United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia has expressed to the Department an opinion to the effect that the trial of the subjects in a Georgia State court was bona fide and that, therefore, the matter should be closed without federal prosecution.

Upon examination of the investigative reports submitted with your memoranda of April 11 and April 19, 1949, the Department concurs in the opinion of the United States Attorney. Therefore, no further investigation is requested. We are closing our files in the matter.

HOLLIE

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell DATE: April 19, 1949

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON;
ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Your reference 144-19-82, (MWH)

RECEIVED

APR 21 1949

Criminal Division

Reference is made to my memorandum dated April 11, 1949

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent RUDOLPH A. ALT dated April 4, 1949 at Miami, Florida. The investigation which has been requested by you has now been completed and no further investigation is contemplated unless requested by you.

Enclosure

Id. 72
RECORD

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 20 1949 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC

April 19, 1949

JOHNNIE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON;
ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Your reference 144-19-82, MWH

my

April 11, 1949

RUDOLPH A. ALT

April 4, 1949

Miami, Florida

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAVANNAH

FILE NO.

44-134

000

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 4-4-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-22-49	REPORT MADE BY HUDOLPH A. ALT
TITLE JERRINE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON; ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Victim's widow, SALLIE NIXON, Jacksonville, Fla., advised that victim voted at Alston, Ga., the morning of 9-8-48, and that evening between sun down and dark subjects came to their home and JIM A. JOHNSON with a revolver shot him down and he died the following Friday. Upon return from voting victim made no mention of any trouble occurring while in town voting. JIM A. JOHNSON's trial lasted about 2 hours on November 4, 1948 at Mt. Vernon, Ga., and he was acquitted of the murder of victim. At the trial JIM claimed victim drew a knife on him and he had to kill him.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Letter from Savannah Office dated 3-18-49.

DETAILS: AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

SALLIE NIXON, victim's widow, 25, and her six children, ranging in age from six months to ten years, is presently residing with relatives at 1237 Albert Street, and 1319 Oakley Street. She was interviewed at the latter address by the writer and Special Agent JOHN RILEY SMITH.

She stated that on Wednesday, September 8, 1948, between sun-down and dark she was at her farm home about a mile and a half from Alston, Georgia with her husband, ISAIAH NIXON, the latter's mother, DAISY DAVIS, a friend

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT		PROPERTY OF FBI	
3 - Bureau 1 - Savannah (1 - USA, Savannah) (44-112) 2 - Miami		This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.	
		144-19-82 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APR 20 1949 A.M. DIVISION OF RECORDS CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.	

GEORGE CORNELTHS, (phoenetic), and another friend, ROSSIE REED BROWN, and JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON drove up to the yard in a black car with two seats. As soon as they drove up, JOHNNIE doing the driving, JIM A. inquired of GEORGE CORNELTHS, who was on the porch, whether he had seen EVAN JOHNSON, a cousin of subjects, he replied that he had not seen EVAN since ten o'clock that morning; then JIM A. asked CORNELTHS if ISALAH was there and he replied that he did not know then he turned and asked SALLIE if ISALAH was there and she replied that he was, then JIM A. told her to tell ISALAH to come out of the house and he came out of the house on to the porch. Then JIM A. asked ISALAH whether he had seen EVAN JOHNSON and he replied that he had not seen him. Subjects were then still in the car. Then JIM A. told ISALAH "to come here". ISALAH walked off the porch toward the wire fence (the gate being nailed up to keep the hogs away from the house", and JIM A. got out of the car with a revolver in his hand and JOHNNIE got out the other side of the car with a shot gun. JIM A. did all the talking, JOHNNIE did not say a word. He told ISALAH to come and get in the car, pointing the revolver at him when he gave this command. ISALAH began backing off toward the porch, not saying a word, and JIM A. crawled over the wire fence. JOHNNIE standing on the other side near the car with the shotgun pointing toward the house. When ISALAH was only a few feet from the house JIM A. fired the revolver into him, she thinks four times; then he crawled back over the fence and he and JOHNNIE got into the car and drove away.

SALLIE picked her husband up and shortly a neighbor, A. C. BROWN, arrived and BROWN went to Uvalde, Georgia and obtained a taxi with a white driver and the cab carried ISALAH to Claxton Hospital in Dublin Georgia, where he died the following Friday morning.

SALLIE NIXON stated that she had been knowing the subjects for about seven years but ISALAH had known them all his life. The JOHNSONS were loggers and live in Alston.

SALLIE stated that during the morning of September 8, 1948 ISALAH and his mother, DAISY DAVIS, went to Alston to vote and returned home about noon and neither said anything about having any trouble when they were voting.

SALLIE stated that the three persons named previously and she saw JIM A. shoot her husband at least four times.

SALLIE stated that a week after the shooting subjects were arrested by the Sheriff of Mt. Vernon, Georgia, and jailed there. She said that on the first Monday of last November JIM A. was brought to trial in Mt. Vernon for the murder of her husband. The trial lasted about two hours. She, SALLIE, was on the witness stand for about fifteen minutes, and ROSIE BROWN for about the same length of time. A white doctor from Dublin Hospital also testified. When JIM A. testified he admitted that he killed victim, giving as his reason that when he went to victim's home the latter drew a knife on him and he had to shoot him. SALLIE said that ISAAH had no knife on his person when he was shot. She said the jury was out for about two hours and returned a not guilty verdict and JOHNIE JOHNSON has never been brought to trial.

She said that so far as she knows ISAAH had never been involved in any trouble with the law. She said that on November 20, 1948 she came to Jacksonville with her children to live with relatives since she was afraid to remain in Georgia. She concluded by stating that she has no means of support for herself or six children.

DAISY DAVIS, victim's mother, can be located at 1237 Albert Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

ROSIE REED BROWN lives in Alston, Georgia, with her relatives who are known there by the name of REED.

GEORGE CORELTHS lives on a farm between Alston and Uvalde, Georgia, and gets his mail out of Uvalde.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

MWT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: April 11, 1949

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE JOHNSON,
JIM A. JOHNSON;
ISAIAH NIXON - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HOLLIE

RECEIVED

APR 14 1949

CRIMINAL DIVISION

With reference to your memorandum of March 8, 1949 there is attached a copy of the report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene, dated March 28, 1949 at Savannah, Georgia, which sets forth the results of the state prosecution against the captioned individuals and comments of the Judge and the prosecuting attorneys thereon. It is intended that Sally Nixon, the victim's widow, will be interviewed at Jacksonville, Florida.

If you desire anything further, it will be appreciated if you will advise the Bureau.

Enclosure

File
Mud

144-19-82

72-178
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 13 1949 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CIVIL - CIVIL RIGHTS

144-1482
no correct numbersee
72-178

Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General
Director, FBI

April 11, 1949

JOHNNIE JOHNSON,
JIM A. JOHNSON;
ISALAH NIXON - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

With reference to your memorandum of March 8, 1949 there is attached a copy of the report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene, dated March 28, 1949 at Savannah, Georgia, which sets forth the results of the state prosecution against the captioned individuals and comments of the Judge and the prosecuting attorneys thereon. It is intended that Sally Nixon, the victim's widow, will be interviewed at Jacksonville, Florida.

If you desire anything further, it will be appreciated if you will advise the Bureau.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **44-112 LPB**

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 3/28/49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/12, 16, 17, 18, 24/49	REPORT MADE BY BRUCE B. GREENE
TITLE JOHNNIE JOHNSON JIM A. JOHNSON ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation reflects Solicitor General of the Oconee Circuit was ill at time of trial; however, a Solicitor pro tem was appointed, also two additional prosecuting attorneys assisted State in prosecution of this case. Nolle prosequi entered in open court as to **JOHNNIE JOHNSON** following verdict of not guilty of **JIM A. JOHNSON**. Court officials interviewed. **SALLY NIXON**, wife of victim, presently residing Jacksonville, Fla.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of SA **BRUCE B. GREENE**, 1/18/49, Savannah.

DETAILS: This investigation was instituted upon receipt of a communication under date of March 8, 1949, from Assistant Attorney General **ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL** to the Director. Mr. **CAMPBELL** requested additional investigation be conducted in this case in order that the Department could render a decision in this matter.

AT MOUNT VERNON, GEORGIA:

Mr. **J. H. PETERSON**, Clerk of Superior Court, Montgomery County, Georgia, made his records available, and a check of these records revealed that subjects **JIM A. JOHNSON** and **JOHNNIE JOHNSON** were jointly indicted by a State Grand Jury and were charged with the murder of victim **ISAIAH NIXON**. The indictment alleged that **JOHNNIE** and **JIM A. JOHNSON** shot and killed **ISAIAH NIXON** on or about September 8, 1948, in Montgomery County, Georgia.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 1 - USA, Savannah 2 - Miami 2 - Savannah		PROPERTY OF FBI This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned. 44-112-82 APR 18 1949 A.M. DIVISION OF RECORDS CIVIL RIGHTS SEC	

SV. 44-112

These court records reflect that JIM A. JOHNSON was tried by a trial jury in the Superior Court of Montgomery County, Georgia, for the offense of murder on November 4, 1948, and was acquitted. The records also reflect that the indictment against JOHNNIE JOHNSON for the offense of murder was nol prossed on November 4, 1948.

The form of the verdict as to JIM A. JOHNSON was:

"We, the Jury, find the defendant not guilty."

The verdict was signed: "F. E. DIXON, Foreman", and was dated November 4, 1948.

The form of the nolle prosequi as to JOHNNIE JOHNSON was:

"This bill nol prossed as to JOHNNIE JOHNSON."

The order of nolle prosequi was dated November 4, 1948, and was signed: "N. G. REEVES, JR., Solicitor pro tem, Oconee Circuit".

The records reflected that JIM A. JOHNSON entered a plea of not guilty on November 4, 1948, and was represented by J. WADE JOHNSON and JOE UNDERWOOD.

AT McRAE, GEORGIA:

Judge ESCHOL GRAHAM, Superior Court, Oconee Circuit, advised that he was the trial judge in the case of JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON who were charged with the offense of murder in Montgomery County, Georgia. Judge GRAHAM advised that at the time this case was ready for trial, which was during the November term of Superior Court for Montgomery County, Georgia, the Solicitor General, Mr. M. A. BOYER, was ill and had been so for the past twelve months and was unable to try this case; that in view of the amount of publicity and magnitude of this case, he had appointed a very able lawyer, Mr. N. G. REEVES, JR., of Soperton, Georgia, to act as Solicitor pro tem for Superior Court in Montgomery County, Georgia.

Judge GRAHAM stated he also requested and secured the services of Mr. FRED T. LANIER, Solicitor General of Superior Court for the Ogeechee Circuit, to aid in prosecution of this case. He stated he considered Mr. LANIER to be a very able and capable Solicitor General and a man who had had several years of experience in this work.

Judge GRAHAM advised that in addition to the two Solicitors pro tem who were appointed by the court, Mr. WILLIAM H. DAMPIER, a competent attorney of Dublin, Georgia, had also been employed by the wife of victim ISAIAH NIXON to assist in the prosecution of this case. Judge GRAHAM stated that numerous witnesses for the State testified and that the case was ably presented. Judge GRAHAM added that the verdict could have been a verdict of guilty as easily as a verdict of not guilty. He further advised that it was his best recollection that there was no evidence submitted by either the State of Georgia or the defense counsel pertaining to the question of the voting by the victim. Judge GRAHAM advised that following the verdict of not guilty as to JIM A. JOHNSON, he called the prosecuting attorneys to a conference, and it was unanimously agreed that the State had presented the strongest case against JIM A. JOHNSON, and there was no need to present the case against JOHNNIE JOHNSON inasmuch as JIM A. JOHNSON was the person who did the actual shooting and there was conflicting testimony as to whether or not JOHNNIE JOHNSON got out of the car in which JIM and JOHNNIE JOHNSON had driven to the home of the victim.

Judge GRAHAM stated that in view of the above, an order of nolle prosequi was entered as to JOHNNIE JOHNSON. Judge GRAHAM pointed out that the two JOHNSON boys were arrested in September following the killing of victim NIXON and remained in jail without bond until their trial in November, 1948.

AT SOPERION, GEORGIA:

Mr. N. G. REEVES, JR., attorney at law, advised that he was acting as Solicitor pro tem of the Oconee Circuit for a short time during the November, 1948, term of Superior Court in Montgomery County, Georgia, at the request of Judge ESCHOL GRAHAM due to the illness of the duly elected Solicitor, Mr. M. A. BOYER. He stated that soon after his appointment as Solicitor pro tem, he was contacted by Mr. WILLIAM H. DAMPIER, attorney at law, Dublin, Georgia, and that Mr. DAMPIER had advised him that he had been employed to serve as special prosecuting attorney to assist in prosecution of this case on behalf of the State.

Mr. REEVES advised that he and Mr. DAMPIER had had several conferences pertaining to the drawing up and preparation of the indictment against JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON in order that it would not be defective. He stated that JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON were jointly indicted for the murder of victim ISALAH NIXON; that this indictment was returned in November, 1948, by a Grand Jury of the Superior Court for Montgomery County, Georgia. Mr. REEVES stated that the defense elected to try JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON and that JIM A. JOHNSON was tried first, as this, in the opinion of Mr. FRED T. LANIER, Solicitor General of Superior Court for the Ogeechee Circuit, who was assisting the State in prosecution of this case, Mr. DAMPIER and himself, was the strongest case. He stated that the State used several witnesses in this matter and the case was, he thought, very ably presented.

Mr. REEVES stated that when the jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of JIM A. JOHNSON, a conference was had between Judge GRAHAM, Mr. DAMPIER, Mr. LANIER and himself, at which time it was unanimously agreed that an order of nolle prosequi should be entered as to the indictment against JOHNNIE JOHNSON in view of the fact that the strongest case had been presented, this being the case against JIM A. JOHNSON, and also in view of the conflicting testimony as to whether or not JOHNNIE JOHNSON had actually gotten out of the car in which he and JIM A. JOHNSON had driven to the home of victim ISALAH NIXON.

Mr. REEVES stated that his investigation disclosed that possibly three people were eye-witnesses to the shooting of victim NIXON. These witnesses were: GEORGE CARRUTHERS, ROSA BROWN, and SALLY NIXON, wife of the victim, all of whom are Negroes. He stated that the testimony of SALLY NIXON and ROSA BROWN was used during the trial; however, the testimony of GEORGE CARRUTHERS was not used in view of the fact that his story varied from that of ROSA BROWN and SALLY NIXON in that CARRUTHERS would testify that the victim actually had his hands in his pockets or placed them in his pockets and that JIM A. JOHNSON told him on two occasions to take his hands out of his pockets.

ELLA MAE FRYE, who resides at RFD, Alston, Georgia, advised that SALLY NIXON had moved from Montgomery County, Georgia, about Christmas, 1948, and was presently residing at 1237 Albert Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

- P E N D I N G -

144-19-82

March 22, 1949

Mr. Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
20 West Fortieth Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Marshall:

This will further refer to your letter of December 1, 1948, and to that of the Department dated January 19, 1949, addressed to Mr. Franklin H. Williams, concerning the complaint of Mr. Dover V. Carter.

You will, no doubt, recall that Mr. Carter's complaint was to the effect that he was beaten by one Johnnie Johnson with the assistance of Thomas Wilkes (correct name Thomas Jefferson Wilson) on September 8, 1948, at or near Ailey, Georgia, and that the beating was administered in order to intimidate and prevent him from assisting Negro voters in getting to and from the polls, September 8 being the day of the Georgia primary election.

The Department has caused an investigation to be made of the matter. The investigation indicates that, during the day of the election, while Mr. Carter was returning a Negro woman to her home after she had cast her ballot, an automobile containing Johnson and Wilson suddenly pulled in front of Carter's car, forcing it to stop. This occurred just after Carter had picked up a son of his female passenger. According to Carter's passengers, immediately after Mr. Johnson stopped his automobile, he approached Carter's car, opened the door, and demanded that Carter get out as he, Johnson, wanted to talk to him. Both of Carter's companions agree that Carter had a shotgun in his automobile; that, as he brought it up from the floor, Johnson seized the barrel end of it; and that a struggle for possession then ensued between the two. According to Carter's companions, Thomas Jefferson Wilson then came from the Johnson automobile with a second shotgun and put an end to the struggle by threatening Carter. At this point,

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files

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COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
MAR 22 1949 AJ

Carter's companions left the scene without having seen any blows struck and without having heard any words concerning the election or the transportation of voters.

According to Johnson and Wilson, Carter stopped his automobile suddenly, without warning, when he picked up his second passenger, almost causing a collision because of the closeness of Johnson's car in the rear. Johnson and Wilson claim that, when Carter threatened Johnson with the gun, the latter seized the gun barrel and an iron tool lying on Carter's car floor. Carter was struck with the tool several times by Johnson in an effort, it is said, to force a surrender of the gun. The beating, however, continued after the gun had been taken. Both Johnson and Wilson state that neither of them had a gun; that the beating had nothing to do with Carter's election activities; and that his attempt to use his gun (a Remington Automatic, loaded with five shells) was the sole cause of the fight. There were no other witnesses to the affair.

It thus appears that there is no corroboration of Carter's statement that he was beaten because of his primary election activities. The persons in Carter's automobile make it clear that Carter drew his gun first (assuming that there were two guns at the scene) and, thus, they appear to lend some support to the claim that the beating of Carter was occasioned by his own act. In view of the lack of corroboration, it is not believed that a successful prosecution could be maintained. In fact, the weakness of the evidence would seem to preclude even the salutary effect which prosecutions may sometimes have when they result in not guilty verdicts. We, therefore, have no alternative except to close the matter without further action. This conclusion has been reached without definitely deciding whether Mr. Carter, on his statement, was deprived of a right protected by Section 241 (formerly Section 51), Title 18, United States Code (1948 ed.).

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

ROUTE SLIP

(Fold here)

Date 3/22/49

To Mr Meltzer

Room No 2116

- ☐ Approval
- ☐ Comment
- ☐ Necessary action
- ☐ Note and return
- ☐ Note and file
- ☐ Signature
- ☐ See me
- ☐ As requested
- ☐ For your information
- ☐ Per telephone conversation

REMARKS

This letter, originally dated March 9th was held up & returned by Mr Whearty because of its length & detail. I have explained the situation to him & he agrees that it should go as is, without again sending it through his office.

(Fold here for return)

From Hughes

Division

Room No

AMC:MMH:efr

144-19-82

March 8, 1949

KEP

J. Saxton Daniel, Esquire
United States Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

HOLLIE

Dear Mr. Daniel:

Attention: Henry H. Durrence, Esquire
Assistant United States Attorney

Re: Johnny Johnson, Jim A. Johnson - Subjects;
Isaiah Nixon - Victim; Civil Rights and
Domestic Violence

For your information, there is enclosed a copy of
a self-explanatory memorandum sent today to the Federal Bureau
of Investigation.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure No. 202712

FILED AND MAILED
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
MAR 8 1949 AJ

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files

MMH
AMC
Glas

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

March 8, 1949

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MWH:efr
144-19-82

Johnny Johnson, Jim A. Johnson;
Isaiah Nixon - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 7, 1949, requesting the advice of the Department as to further investigation in the above-entitled matter.

The information in the Department's files indicates that it has been alleged that the victim was killed because he had exercised his right to vote in the Georgia primary in September 1948, which primary involved the nomination of candidates for Federal office. Our files further reflect that the subjects were indicted for the murder of Nixon and that, at the trial of Jim A. Johnson, a verdict of not guilty was rendered and the indictment as to Johnny Johnson was not proessed. Nothing in our records indicates whether the prosecution was bona fide or whether it was, more or less, a matter of form. Further, we have not had the statement of any eyewitness or other person having personal knowledge of the matter which would enable us to reach a conclusion as to the likelihood that a violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code (1948 ed.), is involved. The statute, as you will note, prohibits conspiracy to injure, oppress, etc., any citizen because of his having exercised a right secured under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Under the circumstances, therefore, an inquiry is requested so that we may be informed as to the bona fides of the State prosecution and as to the circumstances of and motive for the shooting of Nixon. This inquiry may be limited to interviews with the State prosecuting attorney or other official familiar with the trial in the State court and to an interview with the widow of the victim, who, according to our information, was an eyewitness of the shooting. The names of other possible witnesses should be noted if they become available in connection with the preceding interviews, but no interviews with such witnesses are requested at the present time.

Reports on the basis of the foregoing investigation should be sent to the Department and to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. When the report has been received, the Department will be in a position to advise you as to its course in the matter.

SENT BY MESSENGER
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
MAR 8 1949 AJ

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files
USA, Savannah

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell DATE: February 7, 1949

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE JOHNSON;
JIM A. JOHNSON
ISAIAH NIXON - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Your reference 144-19-82 MWH



Reference is made to my memorandum dated November 1, 1948.

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene dated January 18, 1949, at Savannah, Georgia.

You will note that the United States Attorney has stated he desires no further investigation concerning this case. It would be appreciated if you will advise whether you concur in the opinion of the United States Attorney.

Enclosure ✓

RECORDED

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 8 1949 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. ✓

EX-111

Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell

February 7, 1949

Director, FBI

JOHNNIE JOHNSON;
JIM A. JOHNSON
ISAIAH NIXON - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Your reference 144-19-82 MWH

Reference is made to my memorandum dated November 1, 1948.

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene dated January 18, 1949, at Savannah, Georgia.

You will note that the United States Attorney has stated he desires no further investigation concerning this case. It would be appreciated if you will advise whether you concur in the opinion of the United States Attorney.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAVANNAH

FILE NO. 44-112

AMT

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH	DATE WHEN MADE 1-18-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-13, 15, 22; 10-10; 1-2, 3, 11-49	REPORT MADE BY BRUCE B. GREENE
TITLE JOHNNIE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOHNNIE JOHNSON (white) and JIM A. JOHNSON (white) shot and killed ISAIAH NIXON (negro) on the night of 9-8-48 in Montgomery County, Ga. Shooting alleged to have resulted from victim's activities in voting in the Georgia Democratic Primary in Montgomery County on 9-8-48. Investigation in this case held in abeyance awaiting outcome of action of State Court. Subjects JOHNNIE JOHNSON and JIM A. JOHNSON indicted by State Grand Jury in Montgomery County, Ga. in November, 1948 term of the Superior Court of said county, charging them with the offense of murder. Subject JIM A. JOHNSON acquitted by trial jury and case against JOHNNIE JOHNSON nol-prossed. USA, SDGA, advised he desires no further investigation to be conducted.

- C -

REFERENCES:

Savannah teletype to Bureau and Atlanta dated September 13, 1948.
Atlanta teletype to Bureau and Savannah dated September 13, 1948.
Report of Special Agent THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR. dated September 20, 1948 at Atlanta.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 1 - USA, Savannah 2 - Savannah		PROPERTY OF FBI This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.	

44-19-82
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEB 8 1949 A.M.
 DIVISION OF REG. & IDS
 CIVIL RIGHTS SEC

Bureau letter to Savannah dated October 8, 1948.

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon information furnished by DOVER CARTER to the Atlanta Office to the effect that the victim had told him that he had been shot by subject JIM A. JOHNSON on the night of September 8, 1948 on account of his voting in the Georgia Democratic Primary Election in Montgomery County, Georgia on September 8, 1948.

Referenced report of Special Agent THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR. dated September 20, 1948 at Atlanta reflects that the victim died on September 9, 1948 in a hospital in Dublin, Georgia.

This investigation was held in abeyance at the request of Mr. Henry H. Durrence, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of Georgia, Savannah, Georgia, due to the fact that the subjects had been indicted by the State Court in Montgomery County, Georgia charged with the offense of murdering ISALAH NIXON. Mr. DURRENCE advised that he was making this request in view of the fact that an investigation by the FBI might tend to prejudice the State Court's case.

Mr. J. H. PETERSON, Clerk of the Superior Court, Montgomery County, Georgia, made his records available, and a check of these records revealed that subjects JOHNNIE JOHNSON and JIM A. JOHNSON were indicted by the State Court Grand Jury in Montgomery County, Georgia, charging them with the offense of murder. The indictment alleged that JOHNNIE JOHNSON and JIM A. JOHNSON did shoot and kill ISALAH NIXON on or about September 8, 1948 in Montgomery County, Georgia. The records further reflected that JIM A. JOHNSON was tried in Montgomery County in November, 1948 for the offense of murder, and that he was acquitted by a trial jury. The records also reflected that the indictment against subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON for the offense of murder was nol-prossed.

The above information was submitted to Mr. HENRY H. DURRENCE, Assistant United States Attorney, Savannah, Georgia, who advised that in view of the acquittal of JIM A. JOHNSON in the State Court, and the nol-pros of the indictment against subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON, he did not desire any further investigation to be made. In view of this decision by Mr. DURRENCE, no further investigation was conducted in this case.

- C L O S E D -

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

March 7, 1949

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MMH:efr
144-19-82

Johnnie Johnson, wa Johnny; Thomas Jefferson
Wilson, wa Thomas Wilkes; W. Claude Sharpe, wa
Claude Sharp; Dover V. Carter, aka Dovie Carter,
Dobbie Carter - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence;
Your File No. 44-111 Savannah

PA'S W

RECORD

HOLLIE

Regarding the above-entitled matter, the United States
Attorney at Savannah, Georgia, has expressed the opinion that success-
ful prosecution cannot be maintained under the circumstances disclosed
in the investigative reports.

The Department concurs in this opinion and our files in the
matter are, therefore, being closed.

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files

MMH
LM
AMC by waf

SENT BY MESSENGER
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
MAR 7 4 9 CP

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division DATE: February 3, 1949

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE JOHNSON, wa Johnny; THOMAS JEFFERSON
WILSON, wa Thomas Wilkes; W. CLAUDE SHARPE, wa
Claude Sharp; DOVER V. CARTER, aka Dovie Carter,
Dobbie Carter - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Your reference 144-19-82 MWH



Reference is made to your memorandum dated January 19, 1949.

Attached hereto is the report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene at Savannah, Georgia, dated January 25, 1949. This report contains the results of investigation requested by the United States Attorney at Savannah.

Please advise whether you desire further investigation of this matter.

Enclosure ✓

~~EX-111~~

RECORD

File
MWH

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 7 1949 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division
Director, FBI

February 3, 1949

JOHNNIE JOHNSON, wa Johnny; THOMAS JEFFERSON
WILSON, wa Thomas Wilkes; W. CLAUDE SHARPE, wa
Claude Sharp; DOVER V. CARTER, aka Dovie Carter,
Dobbie Carter - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Your reference 144-19-82 MWH

Reference is made to your memorandum dated January 19, 1949.

Attached hereto is the report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene at Savannah, Georgia, dated January 25, 1949. This report contains the results of investigation requested by the United States Attorney at Savannah.

Please advise whether you desire further investigation of this matter.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAVANNAH**

FILE NO. **44-111 EIC**

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH	DATE WHEN MADE 1-25-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/13, 15, 27; 10/10, 13/48; 1/4, 11-14/49	REPORT MADE BY BRUCE B. GREENE
TITLE "CHANGED" JOHNNIE JOHNSON, WA Johnny; THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON, WA Thomas Wilkes; W. CLAUDE SHARPE, WA Claude Sharp; DOVER V. CARTER, AKA Dovie Carter, Dobbie Carter - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Victim DOVER V. CARTER Negro, alleged in affidavit and signed statement that he was stopped on highway on 9-8-48 and beaten by subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON, white, while THOMAS WILSON, white, was pointing a gun at him and that the beating was a result of his activity in the Georgia Democratic Primary election held in Montgomery County Ga., on 9-8-48. CARTER also alleged that subject W. CLAUDE SHARPE, Sheriff-elect of Montgomery County, Ga., passed by during beating and sanctioned what was going on. Subjects JOHNNIE JOHNSON and WILSON furnished signed statements admitting beating of victim, but said it was not due to allegation but was due to victim's careless driving and his attempt to shoot them with a shotgun. Subject SHARPE, present Sheriff of Montgomery County, Ga., in signed statement denied passing scene where beating was taking place; however, admitted in statement that he talked to JOHN D. HARRIS, Negro, and advised him not to vote or have anything to do with the election. Additional interviews and signed statements set forth. -P*- REFERENCE: Atlanta tel to Director and Savannah, 9-13-48. Savannah tel to Director and Atlanta, 9-13-48. Bulet to Savannah, 10-8-48. Report of SA THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR., Atlanta, 9-20-48.			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - USA, Savannah 2 - Savannah		PROPERTY OF FBI 144-19-82 This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEB 7 1949 DIVISION OF RECEPTION CRIM. CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.	

DETAILS:

The title of this report is being marked "CHANGED" to reflect the true name of subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON, to set forth the true name of subject THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON, and to reflect the names of victim as DOVIE and DOBBIE CARTER, by which names he is known around Alston, Georgia, and also the true name of Sheriff W. CLAUDE SHARPE.

This is a joint investigation by Special Agent DONALD L. KIMBLE and the reporting agent.

This investigation originated when Victim DOVER CARTER, a Negro appeared at the FBI Field Office in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 10, 1948, at which time he furnished a signed statement to the effect that he had been stopped on a highway on September 8, 1948, and had been beaten by subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON, white, and THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON, known to him as THOMAS WILKES, also white, held a shotgun on him at the time JOHNSON was beating him. CARTER alleged the beating took place in Montgomery County, Georgia, on September 8, 1948, the date of the Democratic Primary Election, and that the reason for the beating was due to his activity in the State Democratic Primary Election. CARTER also alleged that W. CLAUDE SHARPE, the Sheriff-elect of Montgomery County, was aware of the beating and passed by in a car while the beating was taking place; that subject SHARPE had also advised a Negro named JOHN D. HARRIS, who resides at Alston, Georgia, not to vote in the election on September 8, 1948.

The following investigation was conducted at Savannah, Georgia, by Special Agent JOSEPH J. PAIGUTA.

Mr. HENRY H. DURRENCE, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of Georgia, advised that an investigation pertaining to the case involving the beating of victim DOVER V. CARTER near Alston, Georgia, by subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON, and the participation of subjects WILSON and SHARPE should be investigated.

AT ALLEY, GEORGIA:

Mr. WILLIAM J. PETERSON, President, Montgomery County Bank, was interviewed, and he advised that Victim DOVER V. CARTER was a Negro living in Montgomery County, Georgia, near Alston, and that CARTER had come to him on the afternoon of September 8, 1948, and had told him

SV. 44-111

'a man named JOHNSON and another man had whipped him'. Mr. PETERSON stated CARTER did not furnish any details concerning the so-called whipping, and could not recall who had sent the Negro to him. He stated he did not examine the Negro, but noticed that CARTER was bleeding around the forehead, and one of his arms seemed to be injured. He stated he then advised the victim to contact Dr. PALMER, whose offices are in Ailey, and have the wounds treated.

Mr. PETERSON stated he then telephonically notified Sheriff R. M. McCRIMMON at Mt. Vernon, Georgia, and advised him that there was trouble in the lower part of the county near Alston, Georgia. The Sheriff advised him that he would immediately proceed to the scene of the trouble. Mr. PETERSON stated he had not talked to the Sheriff since that time and did not know whether he went to Alston. He added that he had not seen victim CARTER since the late afternoon of September 8, 1948.

Dr. J. WILL PALMER, M.D., upon interview advised that the victim came to his office on September 8, 1948, and requested him to treat him for wounds which he had apparently received in some sort of fight or altercation. Dr. PALMER said he did not make any record of the exact location or condition of the wounds as he only gave the victim first aid treatment, and requested that CARTER return the following day for a more thorough examination. Dr. PALMER said he has not seen victim CARTER since that time. Dr. PALMER furnished the following statement concerning his treatment of victim CARTER. He declined to furnish any additional signed statement.

"Ailey Ga
1-11-49

"To Whom it May Concern:

"I, Dr. J. W. PALMER, duly licensed to practice medicine in the state of Georgia, did examine and treated one DOVER C. CARTER at my office in Ailey Ga on Sept 8th, 1948, for severe bruises & lacerations on arms, legs, face & head, in my opinion these injuries were produced by some heavy instruments.

Yours truly

J W PALMER Md"

The original of the above statement is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Office.

AT MOUNT VERNON, GEORGIA:

Mr. R. M. McCRIMMON, former Sheriff of Montgomery County, Georgia, advised that he received a call from Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE of Alston, Georgia, on September 8, 1948, the exact time he doesn't recall, but thinks it was about 2:00 P M. McCRIMMON stated that McBRIDE told him to come to Alston as they were having some trouble about the election. McCRIMMON said he and a Georgia Highway Patrolman, whose name he could not recall, went to Alston and, upon his arrival there, he saw CLAUDE SHARPE, Sheriff-elect of Montgomery County, who told him there was no trouble, and McCRIMMON then turned around and went back to Mount Vernon without conducting any investigation or inquiry inasmuch as SHARPE had told him that there had been a little disturbance but that everything was under control. McCRIMMON stated he had never talked to or seen victim DOVER V. CARTER; however, he had JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON in jail at Mount Vernon for about 60 days for the murder of ISAAH NIXON, but at no time had he ever mentioned anything about the DOVER CARTER matter. He stated he had not conducted any investigation pertaining to DOVER CARTER; however, he stated he had obtained the original affidavit of DOVER CARTER, which was made at Atlanta, Georgia, on September 18, 1948. He advised that he had secured the affidavit from ROBERT DUBAY, an Agent of the FBI, who had in turn secured the affidavit from an attorney by the name of WALDEN in Atlanta, Georgia. The following is the affidavit which was furnished by McCRIMMON, the former Sheriff of Montgomery County, Georgia:

"GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY.

"Before me, an officer duly authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared DOVER V. CARTER, who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

"That on September 4, 1948, a Klu Klux Klan demonstration came by my home which is one mile North of Austin, Georgia, at which time I was not at home but seem the demonstration as it came through Austin, Georgia. As they passed me in Austin, one man threw his hand out the car door and said there he is now.

"On September 7th, 1948, I was requested by Mr. WILLIE PETERSON (white) of Ailey, Georgia, Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE (white) of Austin, Georgia, and Mr. LEROY DOWNIE (white) from Ailey, Georgia, to assist the colored people in the rural district in getting to and from the polls, offering to pay my expenses.

"On September 8th, 1948, as I arrived at the polls there were a group of colored people standing around and I noted a white man, Mr. CLAUDE SHARPE, sitting in his car. A few moments after I arrived he called one of the bystanders, JOHN D. HARRIS (colored). After talking with JOHN D. HARRIS about five minutes, he came back to the group. He was asked what Mr. SHARPE told him by the group. JOHN D. HARRIS told the group that Mr. SHARPE told him that if he knew what was best for him he would go home and not vote. JOHN D. HARRIS said he told Mr. SHARPE he didn't know what was best for him but he came out to vote and he reckon that's what he would do. Shortly after this the group went in and voted then I went for my wife and on the way from home to the polls a distance of about one mile, I met Mr. CLAUDE SHARPE. I saw Mr. CLAUDE SHARPE driving a light blue Ford car coming towards me. He ducked twice across on my side, the last holding the line on my side, this time I pulled my car on shoulders and kept going and when I arrived at the polls Mr. SHARPE also arrived immediately afterwards. My wife went and voted. After which the Poll Manager, Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE (white) gave me a list of all the registered colored that had not voted and requested me to get them to the polls as quickly as possible. I taken my wife back home and went to ELLA MILLS (colored) and taken her to the polls. After she had voted she requested me to take her back home which was around one mile and three-quarters from the polls. On the way back to her home we over taken her son, COLLINS MILLS (colored) we stopped to pick him up and immediately a blue car curved from behind in front of me with a sudden stop. I saw a white man, Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON, leap out of the car advancing to my car. He told me to get out of my car he wanted to talk with me. I told him it was urgent that I take ELLA MILLS home. He told me I could wait and they were going to beat the hell out of me. At this time he snatched my car door open and began striking me with a piece of iron that was fasten to his arm. After he had given me three strokes, I tried to defend myself. At this time I heard another man say don't do it or I will blow your damn head off. I looked and it was Mr. THOMAS WILKES (white) with a shot gun pointed at me. I realized at this time that they were determine to hurt me and there wasn't anything I could do. Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON continued to beat me with a piece of iron and fist knucks and Mr. THOMAS WILKES (white) continued to advance toward me with his gun pointed on me until he was close enough to point the gun through my right car door to my side demanding that I get out of the car stating that they were going to kill me. I could not answer both of them at this time be-

cause Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON was continuing to beat me as fast as he could with both hands until he stop_{ed} to rest a moment- then he began attacking me again. At this time I noted a blue Ford pass and Mr. CLAUDE SHARPE was driving. Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON stopped long enough to see who was passing and laughed at Mr. CLAUDE SHARPE, the driver and Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON laughed back and then he continued beating me until another car came from the same direction. I didn't know who was driving but the car belonged to Mr. JAMES ALLEN (white) and at this time the same performance was made by each of them. They continued to beat me until my head was bloody, my hands felt as though they were paralyzed and when he decided to quit Mr. THOMAS WILKES continued to keep the gun pointed on me demanding that I turn the car around, go home and not haul any more people to the polls nor be caught at the polls any more and they had better not hear anything that I said about him. I then went back to the polls and reported what had happened to Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE and asked him to get me some protection. He asked me who did it and I told him Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON and Mr. THOMAS WILKES and he told Mr. GUY MORRIS (white) to go down town and get someone to call someone else.

"I left the polls and went home and later went to Doctor J. W. PALMER (white) at Ailey, Georgia. I then went home from the doctor and then came to Atlanta, Georgia. The reason I came to Atlanta was that I feared that another attempt might have been made on my life.

"This statement is made by me freely, without any threats or intimidations or without any promise of reward.

/s/ "DOVER V. CARTER

"Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this 18th day of September, 1948.

/s/ MARY E. PRICE
NOTARY PUBLIC, Ga. State at Larg_
Notary Public, Ga. State at Large
My commission Expires Dec. 12, 1950"

AT ALSTON, GEORGIA:

CHARLIE SHARPE, father-in-law of victim who is 77 years old, practically blind and hard of hearing, resides on a farm approximately three miles from Alston. Upon interview, he advised that he knew nothing regarding the incident involving DOVER V. CARTER except what CARTER had told him. He stated CARTER told him that a JOHNSON boy and man named WILKES had whipped him. CHARLIE further stated he had talked to CARTER after he was beaten and that CARTER had a hole in his head just above one of his eyes; that victim's right arm appeared to be broken, and he had several bad bruises on his leg; also, victim's fingers were swollen. CHARLIE stated he preferred to have nothing to do with this matter as he knew nothing at all about it. SHARPE was questioned as to where CARTER is living at the present time, and he stated CARTER was now living some place in Philadelphia with his wife and children; however, the exact address he did not know. SHARPE further advised that RUBIN LAMB, a brother-in-law of CARTER, could probably furnish further information pertaining to the beating of victim.

MARY SHARPE, mother-in-law of DOVER CARTER, advised that she did not talk to or see him after the beating took place on the highway. Therefore, she did not know anything about the incident or his condition after the beating. She stated he was presently living at 3708 Mantau Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

RUBIN LAMB, brother-in-law of victim DOVER CARTER, upon interview was reluctant to talk about the alleged beating of victim. LAMB, however, said he did not want to have anything to do with this matter as he lived in this vicinity and did not wish to stir up any trouble. He advised that on the afternoon of election day, sometime in September, 1948, he saw DOVER CARTER after CARTER had been beaten. He stated there was a hole in CARTER's head, his arms were swollen and bruised, and CARTER told him he was beaten by a couple of white men, known to him only as JOHNSON and WILKES. LAMB stated he did not know what caused the men to beat victim CARTER; however, he said "he would not be surprised if it was not because of the fact that CARTER was taking a leading part in the NAACP organization in the county". CARTER is the President of this organization in Montgomery County, and LAMB had advised CARTER to leave the NAACP activities alone. He stated CARTER told him the beating took place on the paved road just about one mile from Alston near the Sand Hill School Section. He stated that CARTER also told him that a Negro man by the name of COLIN MILLS and his mother were with him at the time the beating started, but that they left him during the beating.

Mr. CLIFFORD McBRIDE, merchant, advised he called Sheriff R. M. McCRIMMON at Mt. Vernon, Georgia, to come to Alston, Georgia, on September 8, 1948, as they were having some trouble about the election. He said McCRIMMON and a Georgia State Highway Patrolman came to Alston, but he could not recall the name of the patrolman, and did not talk to either of the officers. He said he did not see victim CARTER or talk to him after the beating had occurred. He stated he was not sure as to what actually occurred or who gave him the information regarding the alleged beating of the victim and requested him to call the Sheriff, but he thought it was Mr. JOHN C. PETERSON, Senator-elect from the Fifth Senatorial District of Georgia. He advised that he had no personal information as to what caused the beating or how badly the victim was injured. He had only heard that the beating was inflicted by JOHNNIE JOHNSON and THOMAS WILSON. McBRIDE said that neither JOHNSON nor WILSON had taken any part in politics or even indicated that they were interested in politics around Alston in the past.

ELLA MILLS, a Negro woman, age 78, residing on a farm about two miles from Alston, Georgia, advised she did not want to have anything to say or do in regard to this matter; that she could not read or write and did not desire to furnish a signed statement. However, after talking to ELLA MILLS, she furnished the following information:

ELLA stated that on the morning of election day in September, 1948, sometime about noon DOVER V. CARTER, known to her as "DOBBIE" CARTER, came to her house and requested that she go to the polls and vote. She said CARTER told her that Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE had sent him after her in order that she might go to the polls and vote in the Democratic Primary Election being held that day. She stated she told CARTER she did not desire to vote, but victim CARTER insisted that she go with him to Alston and vote. She got in the truck which CARTER was driving, and on the way to Alston CARTER asked her if she had been instructed by any white people not to vote; she told CARTER that no one had been talking to her in this respect and she felt that there was no use in voting as she did not care about the outcome of the election. Upon arriving at Alston, she voted without any trouble and was helped in voting by people holding the election and after remaining at the polls for a few minutes, she got in the truck with CARTER and they started back to her house. About one mile from Alston on the highway toward her home they saw her son, COLA MILLS, walking on the highway toward her home; however, he was on the opposite side of the road, and as CARTER passed by COLA MILLS he stopped his truck and offered COLA

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a ride home with them. About the time CARTER stopped his truck, a black car drove up from behind and stopped just in front of CARTER'S truck, and a white man named JOHNNIE JOHNSON got out of the car and came up to CARTER and said, "Get out. I want to talk to you". She said she did not see anything in JOHNSON'S hand when he was talking to CARTER, and when CARTER acted as if he was picking something up from the floor of the truck, JOHNSON said, "You'd better not come up with anything". She said that during this time she was getting out of the truck while the two men were talking. She said she saw another white man, known to her as THOMAS WILKES, get out of the black car with a shotgun in his hand, and WILKES started walking toward the side of the truck in which CARTER was sitting. She stated she did not see any fight and did not know what happened after she left the truck. She stated that during the time she was opening the door of CARTER'S truck CARTER was picking up a shotgun which was on the floor of the truck, and that she had not seen this shotgun when she got in the truck, adding that if she had seen the shotgun at first, she would not have gone to Alston with the victim. She said she did not know what had happened to the shotgun which was in the floorboard of CARTER'S truck, but the last time she saw the gun, CARTER and JOHNSON were "tussling" over the gun. She stated that during the time she was opening the door of CARTER'S truck, CARTER was picking up a shotgun from the floor of the truck and she and her son started walking away and continued on their way home. She stated she did not see any cars pass the truck while she was in the truck, but that one car did pass CARTER'S truck after she and her son had started walking away from the truck. She did not know who was in the car and could not recall what kind of car it was as the car did not slow up when passing them.

The following signed statement was obtained from A. R.

COLA MILLS:

"Alston, RD, Ga.
Jan 12, 1949

"I, A. R. COLA MILLS, make the following voluntary statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE, who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was born March 1, 1908, Montgomery County, Georgia. I presently live on a farm near Alston, Ga.

"Some time during the month of September, 1948, the day of the election, I was walking on the paved highway leading from Alston to Uvalda Ga, going home. I think it was about noon time. DOVIE CARTER, who was driving a pick-up Chevrolet truck stopped to pick me up. About the time he stopped to pick me up a 38 or 39 Chevrolet car driven by JOHNNIE JOHNSON, pulled up and stopped in front of DOVIE's truck. As the car driven by JOHNSON passed and stopped, I came across the highway and got in the back of the truck driven by CARTER. About the time I got into CARTER's truck, JOHNSON got out of his car and came over to CARTER's truck. JOHNSON then said to CARTER, 'Get out _ I want to talk to you'. CARTER then said 'What is it you can talk to me here as I am in a hurry'. JOHN-SON then began to open the truck door of CARTER. CARTER then pulled the door back shut. JOHNSON then opened the door again, at this point I saw a shotgun with JOHNSON holding the barrel end of the gun and DOVIE CARTER had a hold of the other end. JOHNSON pulled the gun on out. JOHNSON then beckoned to a THOMAS WILSON, who was still in JOHNSON car. About this time WILSON came out of the car with a shot gun and pointed it at CARTER and said 'You don't believe I will kill you'. About this same time I got off of the back of CARTER's truck and started to walk away. CARTER then called to me and said, "Go tell Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE to come out here'. At this point JOHNSON said, 'Don't go, don't have anything to do with this'. WILSON then said to me keep going and pointed a shot gun at me. I walked away, with my mother and we came on home. I did not see anybody hit anyone. I left before the fight started. I did not hear anything said about the election or the hauling of voters.

"I have read the above statement_ it is true.

/s/ " A. R. COLA MILLS

"Witness --

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent, F.B.I.

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent, F.B.I."

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As a matter of clarification, the place where this alleged beating took place is located approximately one mile southeast of Alston, Georgia, on Georgia Highway No. 135, running from Alston to Uvalda, Georgia. A. R. COLA MILLS pointed out to the reporting agent and Special Agent DONALD L. KIMBLE the spot where CARTER had stopped his truck, and it was noted that this place was at the top of a hill.

At the time the reporting agent and Special Agent DONALD L. KIMBLE, together with A. R. COLA MILLS, were viewing the scene on Georgia Highway No. 135 where the beating of victim DOVER V. CARTER allegedly took place, MILLS stated, "I do not know what could have caused this trouble; DOVER CARTER seemed to get along well with everybody and was a hard church worker and President of NAACP in Montgomery County, Georgia". MILLS stated he had known CARTER for a considerable length of time and had been a member of CARTER'S NAACP organization for the past three years.

Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE, merchant, Alston, Georgia, upon being interviewed, furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Division:

"Alston Ga.
Jan. 12, 1949.

"I, MARVIN P. McBRIDE, make the following voluntary statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"On Sept. 8, 1948, I was an election holder at the colored voting place in Alston, Georgia. DOVER CARTER, a local Negro man, was hauling Negro voters to the voting place in Alston, Ga. Somewhere about three or three-thirty PM on this date, that is election date, Sept 8, 1948, DOVER CARTER came up to the colored voting place and said to me 'call the sheriff or the Road Patrol as one of the JOHNSON boys and WILSON had beaten him up'. I told DOVER to go down to my store and some one would call the sheriff for him. CARTER left and went some place. I have not seen him since he left. DOVER CARTER did not tell me why he had been beat up and I did not ask him. I did not examine CARTER, but could see some blood about his face and head. The wounds appeared to be fresh as they were bleeding.

/s/ "MARVIN P. McBRIDE

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"Witness --

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent, F.B.I.

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent, F.B.I."

Mr. JAMES J. ALLEN, merchant, Alston, Georgia, upon interview furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Division:

"Alston Ga.
Jan 13, 1949

"I, JAMES J. ALLEN, make the following voluntary statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was born April 1, 1902 in Johnson County, Georgia, and presently live at Alston, Georgia, where I operate a general merchandise store.

"On Sept 8, 1948, the election date in Georgia_ I did not leave my store during the day except to go over and vote about noon time and then I think I used my V8 Ford Pickup truck. I also went to dinner to my home located on the Long Pond road. At no time during the day of election did I drive my car on the Uvalda highway. I did not see any fight between DOVER CARTER, JOHNNIE JOHNSON and THOMAS WILSON.

"In addition to operating a store I have a farm about 2½ miles from Alston Ga located just off of the Long Pond (dirt) Road. I own a 1942 fleetline Chevrolet and a 1941 V8 pick-up Ford truck. No one ever uses my car except my immediate family, my son MAURICE ALLEN, drove my car on the day of election. I do not know where he went. I have never heard him say anything about seeing a fight on a highway. My son is presently living on my farm. I have read the above statement and is correct.

/s/ "JAMES J. ALLEN

"WITNESS --

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent, F.B.I.

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent, F.B.I."

MAURICE LANIER ALLEN, Alston, Georgia, upon interview furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Division:

"Alston, Ga.
Jan 13, 1949.

"I, MAURICE LANIER ALLEN, make the following voluntary statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE who have have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was born July 21, 1927 in Truetalen County Georgia, I presently live on a farm about 2½ miles from Alston Ga.

"During the September election 1948, the exact date I don't know, I was hauling voters to Alston Georgia so they could vote. About 2'o clock pm, to the best of my belief _ I was driving my father's 1942 fleetline 2-door blue Chevrolet on the paved highway running from Alston, Ga to Uvalda, Ga., when I noticed a truck and a chevrolet car parked on the road about a mile out from Alston. I saw two white men and one Negro; I recognized the white men as JOHNNIE JOHNSON and THOMAS WILSON, the Negro as DOBBIE CARTER. I think all three of them were standing between the front of CARTER's truck and the back of the Chevrolet car. I did not see any fight or did not see anything unusual. I did see what I thought was a shot gun in the hands of WILSON. It seems to me that he was holding the gun along by his side. I don't believe he was pointing it any body, he seemed to be just holding it. I did not stop as I did not think anything was wrong. I think I had some one in the car with me, but I do not recall who it was. I do not recall anything being said by me or the person who was in the car about the car and truck being parked on the road, as I did ___ consider it unusual to see cars and trucks parked on the road and people talking. I made several trips on this same highway and I do not recall which trip it was that I saw the truck, car and the men, namely, JOHNSON, WILSON and CARTER_ talking.

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"I have read the above statements and it is true and correct.

/s/ "MAURICE LANIER ALLEN

"Witness

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent, F.B.I.

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent, F.B.I."

JOHN D. HARRIS, colored, R.F.D., Alston, Georgia, upon interview furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Division.

"Alston, RFD, Ga.
Jan 12, 1949.

"I, JOHN D. HARRIS, make the following voluntary statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was born Jan 5, 1907 in Montgomery County Georgia. I presently live on a farm about 2 miles from Alston, Georgia.

"On Sept. 8, 1948 I went to Alston, Ga. to vote and while I was at the place where colored people vote Mr. CLAUDE SHARP, the new sheriff, called me off to one side and said to me, 'I am a friend to you and want to be a friend to you, but the best thing for me to do was to turn around and go on back, that he was not trying to scare me, and for me to suit myself'. However, I went on and voted and then went on about my work, no one bothered me or said anything else to me. When I went back to my wagon there were several colored people at my wagon among them was DOVER CARTER. Either DOVER CARTER or some one else asked me what the sheriff had to say to me and I told them what the sheriff had said. I do not recall wether or not DOVER CARTER or any one else made any statement about what CLAUDE SHARPP, the new sheriff said. I did not have any trouble when I voted and did not see any trouble while I was there at the voting place.

"I read the above statement and it is true.

/s/ "JOHN D. HARRIS
Alston, Ga

"WITNESS--

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent, F.B.I.

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent, F.B.I."

AT MOUNT VERNON, GEORGIA:

THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being retained in the files of the Savannah Division:

"Mt. Vernon, Georgia
January 12, 1949.

"I, THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON, make the following free and voluntarily statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised that I do not have to make this statement and any statement that I might make can be used against me in court. I have also been advised that I have the right to consult my attorney before I make this statement. I make this statement with the full knowledge of my attorney.

"I was born May 14, 1914 in Toombs County, Georgia, and I presently live at Alston, Georgia.

"On election day which I think was on the 8th day of September 1948, JOHNNIE JOHNSON and I left Alston Georgia about 10'Oclock or 11'Oclock in the morning part of the day. We were on our way to Uvalda, Georgia to get some auto parts for a Ford truck. About a mile from Alston on the highway going toward Uvalda, a pick-up Chevrolet truck made a sudden stop right in front of me. This sudden stop by this pick-up truck almost caused me to have a wreck, so I pulled up by the truck and saw that it

was being driven by a Nigger known to me as DOBBIE CARTER. I asked DOBBIE CARTER what he me^{nt} by stopping like he did and he said to me 'I will stop any where I dam please'. At this remark by CARTER I got out of my car and said 'We will see about that'. I began getting out of my car and JOHNNIE JOHNSON who was riding with me began getting out of the car. JOHNNIE was on the side next to CARTER'S car and he was the first one to go toward CARTER. As we approached CARTER'S car, CARTER reached down in the foot of his car and was trying to get a shot gun he had in the car. The shot gun had gotten hung under a negro woman's frock tail who was setting in the front of the truck with CARTER and this is the reason that CARTER could not get the gun out fast enough. JOHNNIE grabbed a tire tool out of the foot of the CARTER'S car and began beating him on the arms making him release the shot gun. As CARTER turned the shot gun loose JOHNNIE grabbed it and handed it to me. JOHNNIE hit CARTER several times with this tire tool the exact places I do not know. I kept the shot gun in my hands during the fight. I did not at any time tell CARTER I would blow his brains out or make any threat toward him. This shot gun was a twelve gauge Remington automatic, and it was loaded. It is my belief that CARTER would have used this gun if JOHNNIE had not taken it away from him. I also wish to say that the Nigger woman who was ridding with CARTER got out of his truck about the time the fight started and walked away. I do not know her name. I think CARTER stopped to pick up a Nigger man who was walking along the highway, as there was one there when the fight began and he walked away with the woman. I do not know his name or where he lives. After the fight was over CARTER turned his truck around and drove his truck back toward Alston.. JOHNNIE and I went on down the road for a piece and then decided not to go on but to go back to Alston. I turned my car around and went back to Alston. I have never had any previous trouble with CARTER and never had any since.

"During the time the fight was going on a car passed us, who was in the car I do not know, as they did not stop. During the fight there was nothing said about the election, and this fight had nothing to do with the election, it was due to CARTER stopping in front of me and almost causing me to have a wreck. I did not take any part in the election_ I only voted.

"I have read above statement and it is true.

/s/ "THOMAS J. WILSON

Witness

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent FBI

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent FBI."

Upon interview, JOHNNIE JOHNSON furnished substantially the same information as that furnished by THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON, and executed the following signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Division:

"Mt. Vernon, Georgia
January 12, 1949.

"I, JOHNNIE JOHNSON, make the following free and voluntarily statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised that I do not have to make this statement and any statement that I might make can be used against me in court. I have also been advised that I have the right to consult my attorney, and I make this statement with the full knowledge and consent of my attorney.

"I was born at Alston, Georgia in Montgomery County, on January 3, 1926. I live at Alston Georgia.

"On the 8th day of September 1948, the election day in Georgia, me and THOMAS WILSON, my brother-in-law, started to Uvalda, Georgia in THOMAS WILSON's car. We were going to Uvalda for the purpose of getting some parts for a truck that WILSON was working on. About a mile out of town a Chevrolet truck made a sudden stop in front of us almost causing us to have a wreck. We pulled up to the side of this truck and I saw it was driven by a Nigger known to me as DOBBIE CARTER. I asked DOBBIE why he stopped in front of us the way he did for, at which time DOBBIE said 'I will stop where I dam Please'. At this remark by CARTER I stepped out of the car and started toward CARTER who was setting in his truck. CARTER began trying to get a shot-gun

which he had in the foot of his truck, but he was having trouble getting it as it seemed to be caught in the clothing of a Nigger woman who was setting in the front seat of the truck with CARTER. As CARTER came up with the shot-gun I grabbed the barrel and took it away from him, however during this time I had picked up a iron tire tool which was laying on the floor of CARTER'S truck and began hitting him on the arms and head making him release the gun. After he released the gun I handed the gun to THOMAS WILSON who was standing right by me. I hit CARTER several more times after he turned the gun loose. The gun was a 12 gauge Remington Model 11 Automatic and was loaded with five shells. It is my belief that if CARTER could have gotten the gun in time he would have used it. I have had this gun in my possession ever since I took it away from CARTER. During the fight the nigger woman and a Nigger man who CARTER stopped to pick up walked off down the highway. I do not know the name of the Nigger woman who was with CARTER in his truck, however the Nigger man was named COLIN MILLS, who lives near Alston, Georgia. Neither of these Niggers said anything nor was there anything said to them. It is my best recollection that this fight happened about noon time on the highway going from Alston to Uvalda, Georgia. During this fight there was nothing said about the election or about CARTER connections with the election. This fight with DOBBIE CARTER was due to the fact that he stopped in the middle of the road and did it suddenly and almost caused us to have a wreck. There possibly would not have been any fight had CARTER not acted and said what he did. I did not have any brass knucks and I only hit CARTER with the iron tire tool which I had gotten out of CARTER'S truck. Neither myself or WILSON had a gun. The only gun that was involved in the fight was the gun that I took away from DOBBIE CARTER.

"During the fight a car passed us but I do not know who it was as he did not stop. After the fight WILSON and I decided not to gon on Uvalda and we turned the car arround and returned to Alston. CARTER, after the fight was over, turned his car arround and went back toward Alston. I have never had any trouble with CARTER either before this fight or since. I have been knowing CARTER all my life, as he has lived in the Alston section as long as I can remember. I did not take any part in the election. I only voted.

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"I have read the above statement and it is true.

/s/ "JOHNNIE JOHNSON

"Witness

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent FBI

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent FBI"

Sheriff CLAUDE SHARPE furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in the files of the Savannah Division:

"Mount Vernon, Ga.
January 12, 1949.

"I, W. CLAUDE SHARP, make the following free and voluntary statement to DONALD L. KIMBLE and BRUCE B. GREENE who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised that I do not have to make this statement and any statement that I might make can be used against me in court. I also have been advised that I have the right to see my attorney before I make this statement.

"I was born April 30, 1919 Montgomery County, Georgia. I am presently the sheriff of Montgomery County, Georgia having been elected sheriff of said county in March 1948 to take office January 1, 1949. I was sworn in as sheriff of Montgomery County on January 3, 1949.

"On September 8, 1948, the election date in Georgia, I was at my home voting present most all day. At one time during the early part of the day I drove over to the colored voting place and while I was there I saw a colored man, named JOHN D. HARRIS. I have known this man all my life as a matter of fact he and I have been friends every since I was a small boy. JOHN HARRIS worked for my daddy and he and I have plowed many a day together. I saw HARRIS at the colored voting polls and called him over to where I was and told him, that we were friends and had been friends all my life and that there was quite a bit of tension about this election and that he could do as he

pleased but I would suggest that he not have anything to do with the election. I also told him he could vote or let it alone just as he saw fit to do that was up to him. I did this as a friend to HARRIS as I have always been found of HARRIS and think lots of him due to the friendship which has existed between us for about twenty-five years.

"Sometime during the 8th day of September several persons came to me and told me that JOHNNIE JOHNSON and THOMAS WILSON had beat DOVER CARTER because he had almost caused them to have an accident while in there car. I did not make any investigation or pay any attention to it as I was buisy at the voting polls and did not have time to leave, also I was not the sheriff at that time. I did not pass by where the fight between CARTER, WILSON and JOHNSON was taking place. If I had passed by during this fight, I would have stopped to see what was going on. At no time during the day did I see DOVER CARTER driving his car and I did not at any time try to run him off of the road. I did not see DOVER CARTER after he was beat__ and I do not know if he was injured or not.

"I have read the above statement and it is true and correct.
"Witness

/s/ DONALD L. KIMBLE, Special Agent FBI

/s/ BRUCE B. GREENE, Special Agent FBI /s/ "W. CLAUDE SHARPE
Sheriff, Montgomery
County, Ga."

In addition to the signed statement furnished by SHARPE, he furnished the following information. SHARPE stated he had heard of no disturbances at any of the white or colored voting places on election day. SHARPE stated he was not involved in this election as the Montgomery County primaries had been held in March, 1948, at which time he had been elected Sheriff of Montgomery County, Georgia. SHARPE said he was in possession of an automatic-type Remington shotgun, model 11, which gun had been given to him by Mr. WADE JOHNSON, an attorney-at-law at Mount Vernon, Georgia, who had been the attorney for JIM A. JOHNSON and JOHNNIE JOHNSON in a recent murder case and that he understood this was the gun which was taken away from CARTER by JOHNNIE JOHNSON and THOMAS WILSON. The shotgun

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was examined by the reporting agent and found to be a Remington automatic 12 gauge shotgun, model 11, bearing serial No. 176703, with a 30 inch modified barrel.

The gun which was in possession of Sheriff SHARPE was identified by the following persons as being the shotgun, or as being very similar to the shotgun belonging to CARRIE CURRY, a sister of victim DOVER CARTER:

LESSIE MAE CURRY
Daughter of CARRIE CURRY

CHARLES H. SHARPE
Brother of CARRIE CURRY

4(3)

JAMES LAMB
Nephew of CARRIE CURRY

CARRIE CURRY was not interviewed inasmuch as she is presently in Cleveland, Ohio, her address being 2570 East 83rd Street, Cleveland, in care of ARTHUR SHARPE.

After the shotgun was identified by the above-mentioned individuals, it was left in custody of Sheriff W. CLAUDE SHARPE at Mount Vernon, Montgomery County, Georgia.

The following description of subject JOHNNIE JOHNSON was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Born	1/3/26, Montgomery County, Ga.
Height	5'8½"
Weight	148 lbs.
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Blond
Race	White
Sex	Male
Complexion	Fair
Build	Medium

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Scars	1½" scar on upper right side forehead; 2" scar between eyes, protruding up into forehead
Occupation	Logging work; farmer
Education	8th grade
Marital status	Single
Criminal record	None admitted

The following description of subject THOMAS JEFFERSON WILSON was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Born	5/14/14 Toombs County, Ga
Height	6'0"
Weight	155 lbs.
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Black
Race	White
Sex	Male
Complexion	Ruddy
Occupation	Auto mechanic
Marital status	Married - 4 children
Education	5th grade

The following description of subject W. CLAUDE SHARPE was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Born	4/30/19
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6'2½"
Weight	225 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Large
Education	2 yrs. junior college
Occupation	Sheriff Montgomery County, Ga.

- P E N D I N G* -

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LEADS:

THE SAVANNAH DIVISION will conduct such investigation
as may be requested by the Department.

March 7, 1949

J. Saxton Daniel, Esquire
United States Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mr. Daniel:

Attention: Henry H. Durrence, Esquire
Assistant United States Attorney

~~HOLITE~~

Re: Johnnie Johnson, alias Johnny; Thomas
Jefferson Wilson, alias Thomas Wilkes;
W. Claude Sharpe, alias Claude Sharpe;
Dover C. Carter, alias Dovie Carter,
alias Dobbie Carter - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

This will acknowledge your letter of February 2, 1949, wherein you express the opinion that prosecution could not be successfully maintained in the above matter.

Our examination of the investigative reports has led us to the same conclusion. We are, therefore, closing our files in the matter, and you are authorized to do likewise.

The Department will advise you within a day or two regarding the killing of Isaiah Nixon. We have nothing in our files indicating the circumstances under which the individual charged with the killing was acquitted and, therefore, no decision has been reached regarding the disposal of that matter.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General



cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

SAVANNAH, GA.

February 2, 1949.

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

In re: Johnnie Johnson, alias Johnny;
Thomas Jefferson Wilson, alias
Thomas Wilkes;
W.Claude Sharpe, alias Claude
Sharpe.
Dover C. Carter, alias Dovie
Carter, alias Dobbie Carter - Victim.
Vio: Civil Rights and Domestic Violence.

Reference is made to your letter of December 17, 1948 relating to this matter.

Your attention is directed to the investigative report of Special Agent Bruce B. Greene, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, dated January 25, 1949, a copy of which has been furnished to the Department.

It appears that none of these subjects are now being, or have been, prosecuted in connection with this matter in the State courts.

It appears from this investigative report that the victim now resides at 3708 Mantau Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

From this report it appears that the immediate cause of the altercation in which victim was beaten was the sudden stopping of the truck driven by the victim thus almost causing a collision between victim's truck and subjects' automobile which was being driven close behind.

Although the statement of the victim does not so disclose, it appears from the statements of the subjects Johnson and Wilson and of the colored woman, Ella Mills, who was riding in the truck with the victim at the time the altercation commenced that the victim had a loaded Remington automatic shotgun on the floor of the truck in which he was riding. Ella Mills further states that as subject Johnson approached victim Carter's truck that he, Johnson, said, "Get out, I want to talk to you", but that she did not see anything in his hands; that when

victim Carter "acted as if he were picking something up from the floor of the truck, Johnson said, 'You'd better not come up with anything'". At this time it appears that the beating had not commenced for this witness states that she left the scene at this point and did not see any fight and did not know what happened after she left the truck. She is corroborated in this by the witness A.R. Cola Mills, who states "I did not see anybody hit anyone". The victim in his statement says that subject Claude Sharpe passed him on the road and apparently attempted to force him off of the road, which statement subject Sharpe denies.

Subjects Johnson and Wilson both state that they had no gun in their car and that the only gun in evidence at the scene during the time the beating was being administered was the shot gun which victim removed from the floor boards of his truck and attempted to draw on them. They further deny drawing a gun on victim or attempting to shoot him. They both state that they did not attempt to strike or beat victim until after he had attempted to get his gun from the foot of the truck in which he was riding. They also state that the sole cause of the altercation was the sudden stopping by victim Carter of his truck thus almost causing a collision with their car.

With this evidence this office is of the opinion that a successful prosecution could not be maintained against the subjects and that no further investigation is warranted. Authority to close this file, without prosecution is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence

Henry H. Durrence

Assistant United States Attorney.

February 2, 1949.

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

In re: Johnnie Johnson, alias Johnny;
Thomas Jefferson Wilson, alias
Thomas Wilkes;
W.Claude Sharpe, alias Claude
Sharpe.
Dover C.Carter, alias Dovie
Carter, alias Dobbie Carter - Victim.
Vio: Civil Rights and Domestic Violence.

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victim Carter "acted as if he were picking something up from the floor of the truck, Johnson said, 'You'd better not come up with anything'". At this time it appears that the beating had not commenced for this witness states that she left the scene at this point and did not see any fight and did not know what happened after she left the truck. She is corroborated in this by the witness A.R. Cola Mills, who states "I did not see anybody hit anyone". The victim in his statement says that subject Claude Sharpe passed him on the road and apparently attempted to force him off of the road, which statement subject Sharpe denies.

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Respectfully,
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence
Assistant United States Attorney.

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

SAVANNAH, GA.

January 19, 1949.

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

In re: Johnnie Johnson and Jim A. Johnson
Victim: Isiah Nixon
Vio: Civil Rights and Domestic Violence
Dept. of Justice File 144-19-82

Further reference is made to your letter of September 28, 1948 and our letter of September 30, 1948, relating to this matter.

This office has just been advised by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that subject Jim A. Johnson was tried before a jury in the Superior Court of Montgomery County, Georgia during the November 1948 thereof and that on November 4, 1948 said jury returned a verdict finding him not guilty. Said trial and verdict being upon an indictment charging him and Johnnie Johnson, jointly, with murder for the killing of Isiah Nixon. After the return of the verdict of not guilty as to Jim A. Johnson the indictment as to Johnnie Johnson was nolle prossed. It, therefore, appears that the state case against these two subjects for the killing of Isiah Nixon has been concluded.

In view of the outcome of the state prosecution against these two subjects for the murder of Isiah Nixon this office is of the opinion that further investigation into this matter is not warranted and authority is, respectfully, requested to close our file insofar as the violation of the civil rights of Isiah Nixon is concerned.

Respectfully,
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence
Henry H. Durrence

Assistant United States Attorney

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 24 1949 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

File
MMH

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

5
January 19, 1949

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MWH:efr
144-19-82

Johnny Johnson, Thomas Wilkes, Claude Sharp;
Dover V. Carter - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence;
Your File No. 44-271 Atlanta

RECORD

R.I.P.

In connection with the above-entitled matter and the Department's memorandum to you dated December 17, 1948, we have been advised by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the victim, Dover V. Carter, presently resides at 3708 Montua (possibly Mantua) Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files

HOLLIE

MMW
LW
AMC by WAP

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 20 1949

AMC:MMH:efr

144-19-82

January 19, 1949

Mr. Franklin H. Williams
Assistant Special Counsel
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
20 West Fortieth Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Williams:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 5, 1949, informing us of the present address of Mr. Dover V. Carter. Acknowledgment is also made of a previous letter in this matter from Mr. Thurgood Marshall.

You are advised that our inquiry is not yet completed in the matter and, therefore, the Department's action cannot now be determined. The Department will be glad to communicate with you further when it is in possession of sufficient information upon which appropriate steps may be based.

Thank you for the information set forth in your letter of January 5.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files

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LONGACRE 3-6890

January 5, 1949

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RECEIVED
JAN 7 1949
Criminal Division

OFFICE OF THE
RECEIVED
JAN 6-1949
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Honorable Tom C. Clark
Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In the month of October, 1948, this office and Attorney Austin T. Walden of 28 Butler Street, N.W., Atlanta 3, Georgia, contacted your Department concerning the assault and intimidation of one D. V. Carter of Montgomery County, Georgia, a former President of our Montgomery County Branch. Mr. Carter claims to have been brutally beaten and assaulted as a result of his activity in getting Negroes to the polls to vote in the Georgia Primary Election held on September 8, 1948.

I have been informed that Mr. Carter is presently residing at 3708 Montua Street, Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania. I forward this information to you in case you desire to contact him personally in connection with your investigation.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin H. Williams

Franklin H. Williams
Assistant Special Counsel

fhw/rg

144-19-182
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 7 1949 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECEPTION
CRIM. CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. WED

M. W. L.
Recd. 12/13/48

From

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

to

Official indicated below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

Solicitor General	
Assistant to the Attorney General	
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General	
Assistant Attorney General, Anti-Trust	
Assistant Attorney General, Tax	
Assistant Attorney General, Claims	
Alien Enemy Control Section	
Alien Property Section	
Assistant Attorney General, Lands	
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal	✓
Assistant Solicitor General	
Director, FBI	
Director of Prisons	
Director, Office of Alien Property	
Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization	
Liaison Officer, Immigration and Naturalization	
Administrative Assistant	
Division of Accounts	
Division of Communications and Records	
Division of Supplies	
Pardon Attorney	
Parole Board	
Board of Immigration Appeals	
Librarian	
Director of Public Information	
Mr. Brown	
Col. Naramore	
Mr. Hyatt	
Mr. Coblenz	
Miss O'Donnell	
Miss Healy	
Mrs. Kroll	
Miss Adams	
Miss Doyle	
Mrs. Willey	
Mrs. Burke	
Mrs. Kelly	

RECEIVED
DEC 10 1948
CRIMINAL DIVISION

8

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December 1
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*12/7
Campbell
Please expedite*

OFFICE OF THE
RECEIVED
DEC 7-1948
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED
DEC 10 1948
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Tom C. Clark, Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am forwarding herewith a copy of an affidavit of one Dover Carter, former President of our Montgomery County, Ga., Branch, to supplement the information contained in a letter from this office dated October 25, 1948.

No Record.

You will note from Mr. Carter's affidavit that he was a resident of Montgomery County, living just a few miles from the home of Isaac Nixon, the young Negro veteran who was recently murdered by two white men as the result of his insistence upon registering to vote in the September 8 Georgia Democratic Party Primary. You will further note that one of the two individuals who so brutally assaulted Mr. Carter, namely, Johnnie Johnson, is also one of the two brothers recently charged with the murder of Isaac Nixon. Thomas Wilkes, the other man who participated in the assault upon Mr. Carter, interestingly enough, is the brother-in-law of the two Johnson men.

Another interesting fact which we believe your Department should take cognizance of is that the recent murder of another Negro, the husband of Mrs. Amy James Mallard, occurred within the same general area as the above-mentioned killing and assault, though in another county.

These three incidents of brutality and murder directed against Negro citizens of Georgia, all

*File
Moss
L.J.R.*

144-19-82
144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DEC 10 1948
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

Hon. Tom C. Clark

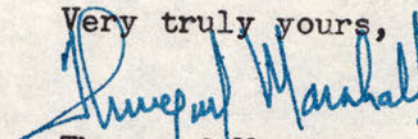
-2-

December 1, 1948

occurring within a few weeks of one another and in the same general area, seem to establish a pattern of violence which deserves immediate and vigorous investigation if it is to be brought to a halt.

May we urge your Department to take whatever steps it feels warranted to bring those individuals guilty of these charges to justice so that Negroes in this and other communities may feel secure, in the future, in the right to participate in the electoral process. We will be happy, of course, to cooperate with you in any manner that you deem advisable or necessary.

Very truly yours,



Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel

TM:rg

enclosure ✓

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY.

Before me, an officer duly authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared DOVER V. CARTER who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on September 4, 1948, a Klu Klux Klan demonstration came by my home which is one mile North Austin, Georgia, at which time I was not at home but saw the demonstration as it came through Austin, Georgia. As they passed me in Austin, one man threw his hand out the car door and said there he is now.

On September 7th, 1948, I was requested by Mr. Willie Peterson (white) of Ailey, Georgia, Mr. Marvin McBride (white) of Austin, Georgia, and Mr. Leroy Downie (white) from Ailey, Georgia, to assist the colored people in the rural district in getting to and from the polls, offering to pay my expenses.

On September 8th, 1948, as I arrived at the polls there were a group of colored people standing around and I noted a white man, Mr. Claude Sharpe, sitting in his car. A few moments after I arrived he called one of the by-standers, John D. Harris (colored). After talking with John D. Harris about five minutes, he came back to the group. He was asked what Mr. Sharpe told him by the group. John D. Harris told the group that Mr. Sharpe told him that if he knew what was best for him he would go home and not vote. John D. Harris said he told Mr. Sharpe he didn't know what was best for him but he came out to vote and he reckoned that's what he would do. Shortly after this the group went in and voted then I went for my wife and on the way from home to the polls a distance of about one mile, I met Mr. Claude Sharpe. I saw Mr. Claude Sharpe driving a light blue Ford car coming towards me. He ducked twice across on my side, the last holding the line on my side, this time I pulled my car on shoulders and kept going and when I arrived at the polls Mr. Sharpe also arrived immediately afterwards. My wife went and voted. After which the Poll Manager, Mr. Marvin McBride (white) gave me a list of all the registered colored that had not voted and requested me to get them to the polls as quickly as possible. I taken my wife back home and went to Ella Mills (colored) and taken her to the polls. After she had voted she requested me to take her back home which was one mile and three-quarters from the polls. On the way back to her home

her son, Collins Mills (colored) we stopped to pick him up and immediately a blue car curved from behind in front of me with a sudden stop. I saw a white man, Mr. Johnnie Johnson, leap out of the car advancing to my car. He told me to get out of my car he wanted to talk with me. I told him it was urgent that I take Ella Mills home. He told me I could wait and they were going to beat the hell out of me. At this time he snatched my car door open and began striking me with a piece of iron that was fasten to his arm. After he had gave me three strokes, I tried to defend myself. At this time I heard another man say don't do it or I will blow your damn head off. I looked and it was Mr. Thomas Wilkes (white) with a shot gun pointed at me. I realized at this time that they were determine to hurt me and there wasn't ANYthing I could do. Mr. Johnnie Johnson continued to beat me with a piece of iron and fist knucks and Mr. Thomas Wilkes (white) continued to advance toward me with his gun pointed on me until he was close enough to point the gun through my right car door to my side demanding that I get out of the car stating that they were going to kill me. I could not answer both of them at this time because Mr. Johnnie Johnson was continuing to beat me as fast as he could with both hands until he stoped to rest a moment then he began attacking me again. At this time I noted a blue Ford pass and Mr. Claude Sharpe was driving, Mr. Johnnie Johnson stopped long enough to see who was passing and laughed at Mr. Claude Sharpe, the driver, and Mr. Johnnie Johnson laughed back and then he continued beating me until another car came from the same direction. I didn't know who was driving but the car belonged to Mr. James Allen (white) and at this time the same performance was made by each of them. They continued to beat me until my head was bloody, my hands felt as though they were paralyzed and when he decided to quit Mr. Thomas Wilkes continued to keep the gun pointed on me demanding that I turn the car around, go home and not haul any more people to the polls nor be caught at the polls any more and they had better not hear anything that I said about this. I then went back to the polls and reported what had happened to Mr. Marvin McBride and asked him to get me some protection. He asked me who did it and I told him Mr. Johnnie Johnson and Mr. Thomas Wilkes and he told Mr. Guy Morris (white) to go down town and get someone to call someone else.

I left the polls and went home and later went to Doctor J. W. Palmer (white) at Ailey, Georgia. I then went home from the doctor and then came to Atlanta, Georgia. The reason I came to Atlanta was that I feared that another attempt might have been made on my life.

This statement is made by me freely, without any threats or intimidations or without any promise of reward.

/s/ DOVER V. CARTER

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this 18th day of September, 1948.

/s/ Mary E. Price
NOTARY PUBLIC, Ga State at Large

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20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

October 25, 1948

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Assistant Secretary
Special Council
Assistant Special Counsel

Mr. A. Abbot Rosen, Chief
Civil Rights Section
U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Austin T. Walden of 28 Butler Street, N.E., Atlanta 3, Georgia, informs us that he has previously contacted you relative to the assault and intimidation of one D. V. Carter of Montgomery County, Ga. As he has probably told you, Mr. Carter is the President of the Montgomery County Branch of the NAACP and as a result of his activity of getting Negroes to the polls to vote in the primary election held on September 8, he was severely assaulted and beaten and his left wrist broken by several white men.

Since the details of this incident have been previously called to your attention, I shall not repeat them here. However, we request an immediate investigation by your office of this incident and, if as a result thereof you find a Federal violation has been committed, prosecution of the parties guilty of this assault.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin H. Williams

Franklin H. Williams
Assistant Special Counsel

fhw/rg
uopwa 19 cio

RECORD
FILE

File in 144-19-82

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 26 1949
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM. - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

December 17, 1948

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MMH:efr
144-19-82

Johnnie Johnson, Thomas Wilkes, Claude Sharpe;
Dover V. Carter - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence;
Your File No. 44-271 Atlanta

HOLLIE

Reference is hereby made to my memoranda of September 28 and October 27, 1948. In those memoranda, investigations were requested relative to the matter involving the above-named victim and, also, Isaiah Nixon, subject to the concurrence of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. As you are aware, these investigations were held in abeyance in order to avoid interference with the State prosecution of the parties involved in the alleged killing of Isaiah Nixon. The Department understands that the persons alleged to have killed Nixon have now been acquitted in a State court in Georgia.

If it is true that the prosecution has been concluded in the Nixon matter, it is believed that the matter involving the victim Dover V. Carter should now be investigated, as we understand that no State prosecution is involved in the Carter matter. Accordingly, it is requested that the investigation go forward. I am enclosing herewith a copy of an affidavit by Mr. Carter, which was forwarded to the Department by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I am advising the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia of this memorandum.

Enclosure No. 202680

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files
USA, Savannah



AMC:MMH:efr

144-19-82

December 17, 1948

EXB

J. Saxton Daniel, Esquire
United States Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mr. Daniel:

Attention: Henry H. Durrence, Esquire
Assistant United States Attorney

Re: Johnnie Johnson, Thomas Wilkes, Claude Sharpe;
Dover V. Carter - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

I am enclosing herewith a self-explanatory memorandum sent today to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Department understands that the State prosecution in the Nixon matter has been concluded. It is not believed, therefore, that there is any objection to any investigation being made with respect to the incident involving victim Dover V. Carter. However, if your opinion is to the contrary, kindly advise the Department.

MMH
L.M.
AMC by WAP

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure No. 202681

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNY JOHNSON, JIM A. JOHNSON
THOMAS WILKES, CLAUDE SHARP
ISALAH NIXON AND DOVER V. CARTER - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DATE: November 1, 1948



Reference is made to your letter of September 28, 1948, your reference AMC:MMH:efr, 144-19-82, requesting that investigation in this matter desired by the office of the U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia be conducted.

In this connection you are advised that Assistant U. S. Attorney Henry H. Durrence of Savannah, Georgia, telephonically contacted our Savannah Division on October 5, 1948. Mr. Durrence stated that he was of the opinion that no investigation should be conducted at this time relative to this case inasmuch as trial of the subjects is pending in the State courts and investigation by the FBI might prejudice the State's case.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary from you, this Bureau will abide by the opinion received from Assistant U. S. Attorney Durrence and conduct no investigation in this case at the present time. After the State case in this matter has been completed, the office of the U. S. Attorney at Savannah will be recontacted for an opinion as to the investigation desired.

*File
MMH*

144-19-82

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NOV 3 1948 A.M.

DIVISION OF RECORDS

CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

RED

RECORD

Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General

November 1, 1948

Director, FBI

JOHNNY JOHNSON, JIM A. JOHNSON
THOMAS WILKES, CLAUDE SHARP
ISAIAH NIXON AND DOVER V. CARTER - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to your letter of September 28, 1948, your reference
AMC:MMH:efr, 144-19-82, requesting that investigation in this matter desired by
the office of the U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia be conducted.

In this connection you are advised that Assistant U. S. Attorney Henry
H. Durrance of Savannah, Georgia, telephonically contacted our Savannah Division
on October 5, 1948. Mr. Durrance stated that he was of the opinion that no investi-
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the subjects is pending in the State courts and investigation by the FBI might
prejudice the State's case.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary from you, this Bureau
will abide by the opinion received from Assistant U. S. Attorney Durrance and con-
duct no investigation in this case at the present time. After the State case in
this matter has been completed, the office of the U. S. Attorney at Savannah will
be recontacted for an opinion as to the investigation desired.

AMC:MWH:efr

144-19-82

October 27, 1948

J. Saxton Daniel, Esquire
United States Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mr. Daniel:

Attention: Henry H. Durrence, Esquire
Assistant United States Attorney

Re: Johnnie Johnson, Jim A. Johnson, Thomas
Wilkes, Claude Sharp - Subjects;
Isaiah Nixon, Dover V. Carter - Victims;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

This will acknowledge your letter of September 30, 1948, relating to the above matter and expressing the opinion that the investigation earlier requested by me should be held in abeyance until the conclusion of the State prosecutions which have been instituted.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a memorandum to the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the matter involving the victim Dover V. Carter. As stated in the memorandum, the Department has not been previously advised that prosecution has been instituted or contemplated with reference to the alleged assault upon Carter. It is recognized, however, that an investigation of the matter involving him might adversely affect State prosecution relating to the death of Nixon. Consequently, the Bureau has been requested to confer with your office and be guided by your opinion. I, of course, concur in the view that the Nixon matter should be held in abeyance until the State prosecutions have been concluded.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure No. 291705

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SAVANNAH, GA.
September 30, 1948

Hull
RECEIVED
OCT 4 - 1948
CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Sir:

In re: Johnny Johnson, Jim A. Johnson,
Thomas Wilkes and Claude Sharp,
subjects
Isaiah Nixon and Dover V. Carter,
victims - Civil Rights and Domestic
Violence - Dept. of Justice File
144-19-82

Reference is made to your letter of September 28,
1948, relating to these matters.

It is noted from copy of letter to the Director
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which you enclosed,
that you have requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation
to conduct an investigation into these matters.

Information has just been received by this office
that the State authorities of Montgomery County, Georgia
have taken out warrants against these subjects with the
apparent intention of prosecuting them for these violations
in the State Court.

Since the State apparently intends to prosecute
them, it appears that an investigation made by the Federal
Bureau of Investigation at this time might seriously interfere
with their prosecution by the State authorities. Therefore,
it is thought advisable that our investigation be postponed
until after the State prosecutions have concluded, and in view
of the last paragraph of your letter, this office respectfully
requests that the Federal Bureau of Investigation be instructed
to make no further investigation until after the conclusion of
the State prosecutions.

Respectfully
For the United States Attorney
Henry H. Durrence
Henry H. Durrence
Assistant United States Attorney

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OCT 4 1948 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.
144-19-82

September 30, 1948

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Sir:

In re: Johnny Johnson, Jim A. Johnson,
Thomas Wilkes and Claude Sharp,
subjects
Isaiah Nixon and Dover V. Carter,
victims - Civil Rights and Domestic
Violence - Dept. of Justice File
144-19-82

Reference is made to your letter of September 28, 1948, relating to these matters.

It is noted from copy of letter to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which you enclosed, that you have requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an investigation into these matters.

Information has just been received by this office that the State authorities of Montgomery County, Georgia have taken out warrants against these subjects with the apparent intention of prosecuting them for these violations in the State Court.

Since the State apparently intends to prosecute them, it appears that an investigation made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at this time might seriously interfere with their prosecution by the State authorities. Therefore, it is thought advisable that our investigation be postponed until after the State prosecutions have concluded, and in view of the last paragraph of your letter, this office respectfully requests that the Federal Bureau of Investigation be instructed to make no further investigation until after the conclusion of the State prosecutions.

Respectfully
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence
Assistant United States Attorney

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

October 27, 1948

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MMH:efr
144-19-82

Johnnie Johnson, Thomas Wilkes, Claude Sharp;
Dover V. Carter - Victim;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence;
Your File No. 44-271 Atlanta

This will acknowledge your memorandum of September 28, 1948, together with the report of Special Agent Thomas A. Erwin, Jr., attached thereto.

My memorandum of September 28 requested an investigation of this matter and, also, of the case involving the Subjects Johnnie Johnson and Jim A. Johnson; Isaiah Nixon - Victim. My request, however, was subject to the concurrence of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. Since that time, the Department has been advised by the United States Attorney that, since State prosecutions have been initiated, investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation should be held in abeyance until the State prosecutions have been concluded.

While the Department concurs in the views of the United States Attorney, we have not previously been advised of the prosecution in the matter involving the victim Dover V. Carter. However, it is conceivable that, even if no prosecution has been begun in the Carter matter, an investigation of the same might interfere with State prosecution in connection with Isaiah Nixon's death in view of the fact that at least one of the subjects is the same in both cases. It is requested, therefore, that your agents at Savannah confer with the United States Attorney's Office in that city and be guided by the opinion of the United States Attorney as to whether an investigation should or should not be conducted at this time.

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Sec. Files
USA, Savannah

1948 JCL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Alexander M. Campbell

DATE: September 28, 1948

JCH FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE JOHNSON; THOMAS WILKES;
CLAUDE SHARP; DOVER V. CARTER - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RECEIVED

SEP 28 1948

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated September 14, 1948 concerning the above-captioned matter.

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent Thomas A. Erwin, Jr., dated September 20, 1948 at Atlanta setting forth the details concerning this complaint.

It would be appreciated if you would advise whether investigation is desired.

Enclosure

A.I.R.
RECORD

144-19-82

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SEP 29 1948 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

144-19-82

Assistant Attorney General
Alexander M. Campbell

September 28, 1948

Director, FBI

JOHNNIE JOHNSON; THOMAS WILKES;
CLAUDE SHARP; DOVER V. CARTER -- VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated September 14, 1948 concerning the above-captioned matter.

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent Thomas A. Erwin, Jr., dated September 20, 1948 at Atlanta setting forth the details concerning this complaint.

It would be appreciated if you would advise whether investigation is desired.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAVANNAH

FILE NO.

44-271

DLS

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 9-20-48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-10-48	REPORT MADE BY THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR.
TITLE JOHNNIE JOHNSON; THOMAS WILKES; CLAUDE SHARP; DOVER V. CARTER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DOVER V. CARTER, Negro, age 41, Ailey, Ga., says voted in Georgia Democratic Primary, Alston, Ga. 9-8-48, saw CLAUDE SHARP, farmer and sheriff-elect of Montgomery County, Ga., talk to JOHN D. HARRIS. HARRIS told CARTER that SHARP told him if he knew what was best for him he would go home and not vote. Later, while taking wife to polls, CARTER saw CLAUDE SHARP drive toward him on CARTER'S side of road but CARTER did not stop; wife voted without trouble. CARTER advised had been asked by local campaign manager for Acting Governor M. E. THOMPSON to carry colored people to polls; took ELIA MILLS to polls. On way back to her house was beaten by JOHNNIE JOHNSON while THOMAS WILKES held shotgun on him; both men told him to go home and quit taking people to polls; neither man was an officer. CLAUDE SHARP drove by but did not stop; SHARP not an officer now.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

On September 10, 1948 DOVER V. CARTER, Negro, Route 1, Ailey, Georgia, came to the Atlanta Office and provided the information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Atlanta, Georgia
September 10, 1948

"I, DOVER V. CARTER, Route 1, Ailey, Georgia, hereby make the following voluntary statement to THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR. who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 3 - Savannah (1-USA) 2 - Atlanta		PROPERTY OF FBI This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned. 144-19-82 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SEP 29 1948 DIVISION OF RECORDS CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.	

Atlanta, 44-271

"I live on a farm outside of Ailey, Georgia, in Montgomery County. On September 8, 1948, I drove to Alston, Georgia about 8 A.M. in my truck to vote in the Georgia Democratic Primary. At the house where the voting was going on, there was a group of colored people standing outside. About 8:10 A.M. Mr. CLAUDE SHARP, the Sheriff Elect who will take office the first of the year, drove up by himself. He called JOHN D. HARRIS over to him. I could not hear the conversation, but HARRIS came back to the group after Mr. SHARP left and said that Mr. SHARP told him that if he knew what was best for him he would go home and not vote. I asked HARRIS what he told Mr. SHARP and he said he told him he didn't know what was best but that he had come out to vote.

"I voted about 8:30 A.M. without any trouble, then went back home and got my wife to take her to vote. On the way to the polls, I saw Mr. SHARP coming towards me, going about twenty-five miles an hour. Mr. SHARP cut over on my side of the road, then back to his own side, then back to my side again. Mr. SHARP didn't say anything or make any sign so I pulled off on the side of the road and kept going. I took my wife to the polls where she voted without any trouble and I took her home.

"The day before, Mr. WILLIE PETERSON at Alston, Georgia, had asked me to transfer all the colored people who didn't have rides to the polls. He told me to see Mr. LEROY DOWNEY as he was handling 'that' in my district. I understood him to mean that Mr. DOWNEY was financing Mr. M. E. THOMPSON'S campaign for Governor in that district. Mr. LEROY DOWNEY asked me when I went to the polls to vote to do the same thing. He said that he would see that I was paid for my expenses. I told him that I would help.

"After I took my wife home, I picked up a friend, ELLA MILLS, and took her to the polls where she voted shortly after noon. I started back to her home and was about a mile out of Alston when I overtook her son COLAN MILLS and stopped to pick him up. At that time, a black car came up from behind me, went around me and parked in front of my truck. Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON jumped out of the left side of the car and walked toward me. He told me to get out of the truck, that he wanted to talk to me. I told him that it was urgent that I take ELLA MILLS home to finish her work. Mr. JOHNSON told me that I could wait. He said, 'We're going to beat the hell out of you.' Mr. JOHNSON snatched the door of my truck on the left hand side and hit me on the head with a short piece of iron about four or five inches long. He put some iron knuckles on one hand. After Mr. JOHNSON hit me two or three times, I reached down to the floor of my truck for something to defend myself.

Atlanta, 44-271

I got hold of one end of a shotgun which belonged to my wife's sister CARRIE CURRY and which I had borrowed. I had just had some work done on it and picked it up on Monday, September 6 but just had not left it at home yet. About that time I heard the second man, Mr. THOMAS WILKES say 'I'll blow your dam brains out' so I dropped the gun. I saw Mr. WILKES as he was about half way out of the black car. He was holding a shotgun pointed at me. He came on till he was at the right hand door of my truck, then he stuck the gun in the door and said if I didn't get out he would kill me in the car. Mr. JOHNSON was beating me with both hands during this time, except for the time that he took the shotgun from the truck and laid it on the bank at the left side of the road. He also took about three rest periods of about one minute each. I stayed in the truck and kept asking what I had done. Both men asked me I would go home and quit taking people to the polls. I said I would. Then Mr. WILKES said 'Turn it around right now and go home.' Both men said that they had better not hear any more from me. I started the truck, turned it around and drove back to the polls, where I told Mr. MARVIN McBRIDE who was managing the polls then, and asked him for some protection.

"The whole thing lasted about twenty or twenty-five minutes. ELIA MILLS and her son left sometime during the beating. While the trouble was going on two cars passed going in the same direction as my truck was headed. One car was driven by Mr. CLAUDE SHARP and was going about thirty or thirty-five miles an hour. I could not see if there was anyone else in the car. The car did not stop.

"Mr. JOHNSON stopped beating me long enough for Mr. SHARP to go by, then he started hitting me again. The second car was a 1946 Torpedo Chevrolet two-door green and gray color. I couldn't see who was in it but I recognized it as being the property of Mr. JAMES ALLEN, a farmer at Alston. JOHNSON was beating me when Mr. ALLEN'S car went by. Mr. WILKES kept his gun pointed at me the whole time.

"Mr. JOHNSON hauls logs and pulp wood and Mr. WILKES is a mechanic. Both of them live in Alston and neither of them are police. Mr. SHARP is a farmer and is not an officer now.

"I have had this statement read to me, and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ DOVER V. CARTER

"Witnesses:

THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR., Special Agent, FBI, Atlanta, Ga.
CHARLES H. EDWARDS, Special Agent, FBI, Atlanta, Ga."

Atlanta, 44-271

"The original of this statement is being forwarded to the Savannah Office as an enclosure with this report.

"The following descriptions of the subjects and victim were provided by CARTER:

Name	JOHNNIE JOHNSON
Address	Alston, Georgia
Age	22 or 23 years
Height	Short
Weight	125 pounds
Build	Small
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Sandy
Scars and marks	Space between front teeth
Occupation	Pauls logs and pulpwood
Race	White

Name	THOMAS WILKES
Address	Alston, Georgia
Age	35 to 40 years
Height	Medium
Weight	140 to 145 pounds
Build	Slender
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Dark brown
Scars	None
Occupation	Mechanic
Marital Status	Married
Race	White

Name	CLAUDE SHARP
Address	Alston, Georgia
Age	30 years
Height	Medium
Weight	175 pounds
Build	Large
Eyes	Gray
Hair	Dark brown
Scars	None
Occupation	Farmer
Marital Status	Single
Race	White

*-----

Atlanta, 44-271

Name	DOVER V. (initial only) CARTER
Address	Route 1, Ailey, Georgia
Age	41 years
Born	9/16/06, Johnson City, Georgia
Height	5'8"
Weight	165 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Dark brown
Race	Negro
Nationality	American
Occupation	Farmer
Marital status	Married
Wife	BESSIE SHARP CARTER
Children	Ten

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Alexander M. Campbell

DATE: September 28, 1948

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON;
ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated September 14, 1948 concerning the above-captioned matter.

There is enclosed one copy of a report of Special Agent Thomas A. Erwin, Jr., dated September 20, 1948 at Atlanta, setting forth details concerning this matter.

No investigation is contemplated in this matter unless requested by you.

Enclosure ✓

144-19-82

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SEP 29 1948 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

Assistant Attorney General
Alexander M. Campbell

September 28, 1948

Director, FBI

JOHNNIE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON;
ISAIAH NIXON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated September 14, 1948 concerning the above-captioned matter.

There is enclosed one copy of a report of Special Agent Thomas A. Erwin, Jr., dated September 20, 1948 at Atlanta, setting forth details concerning this matter.

No investigation is contemplated in this matter unless requested by you.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAVANNAH

FILE NO.

44-272

DLS

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 9-20-48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-10-48	REPORT MADE BY THOMAS A. ERWIN, JR.
TITLE JOHNNIE JOHNSON; JIM A. JOHNSON; ISAAH NIXON - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Victim shot three times by subject JIM JOHNSON, at dusk on September 8, 1948. Victim died in Claxton Hospital, Dublin, Ga., 9-11-48. Victim told DOVER V. CARTER that while JOHNNIE JOHNSON held a shotgun on him, JIM JOHNSON asked him how he voted, and that he, NIXON, said, "guess I voted for Mr. THOMPSON".

- C -

REFERENCE:

Atlanta teletype to Director and Savannah, 9-11-48.

DETAILS:

DOVER V. CARTER advised, while reporting another matter, that on September 9, 1948, he talked to ISAAH NIXON, at the Claxton Hospital, in Dublin, Georgia. NIXON, who lives about a mile and a half southeast of Alston, Georgia, told CARTER that about dusk on September 8, 1948, he had been shot by Mr. JIM A. JOHNSON, brother of JOHNNIE JOHNSON. NIXON told CARTER that the shooting took place at his home and his wife and children witnessed it. He said that Mr. JIM JOHNSON and Mr. JOHNNIE JOHNSON drove up to his house and asked him how he voted. He said he guessed he voted for Mr. THOMPSON. They told him to get in the car with them. While he hesitated JOHNNIE JOHNSON shot him three times with a pistol. One of the bullets hit NIXON in the stomach and two hit him in the legs. CARTER said that neither of the JOHNSONS is a police officer, and that he knew nothing further concerning this incident.

WILLIAM FOWKES, Managing Editor, "Atlanta Daily World", colored newspaper, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that victim had died at the Claxton Hospital, Dublin, Georgia, on September 11, 1948.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 3 - Savannah (1-USA) 2 - Atlanta		PROPERTY OF FBI This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned. 144-19-82 SEP 29 1948 DIVISION OF CRIM - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.	

Atlanta, 44-272

The following descriptions of the subjects and victim were provided by CARTER:

Name	JOHNNIE JOHNSON
Address	Alston, Georgia
Age	22 or 23 years
Height	Short
Weight	125 pounds
Build	Small
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Sandy
Scars & Marks	Space between front teeth
Occupation	Hauls logs and pulpwood
Race	White

Name	JIM A JOHNSON
Address	Alston, Georgia
Age	32 years
Height	Medium
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Medium
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Scars	None
Occupation	Hauls logs and pulpwood
Marital Status	Married
Race	White

Name	ISAIAH NIXON
Address	Alston, Georgia
Age	30 years
Height	5'9"
Weight	160 lbs.
Build	Medium
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Complexion	Dark brown
Race	Negro
Nationality	American
Occupation	Farmer

- CLOSED -

PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF ARIZONA
WALLACE FOR PRESIDENT HEADQUARTERS
242 W. Washington Tel. 2-0265
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
October 11, 1948

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR CONSIDERATION
AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Justice
William D. Turner
Secretary to the President

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Attached is a copy of a resolution which was passed at a political rally of the Progressive Party, held on Sunday, October 10th, at which 250 people were in attendance.

Sincerely yours,

Dick Turner
DICK TURNER
State Director

DT/cb

RECEIVED
OCT 18 1948
CRIMINAL DIVISION

144-19-82

144-19-82

File
MM

72-180
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OCT 18 1948 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

C.F.T.

RECORD
10/21/48

C.F.T.

RESOLUTION

The Ku Klux Klan rides through the south threatening violence against Negro Citizens for daring to exercise their constitutional rights.

Isaiah Nixon was shot down in cold blood for insisting on his right to vote, yet Attorney General Tom Clark looks in the other direction. However, he finds time to arrest twelve Communist leaders on charges of violence. But we have seen the Communists fighting Jim Crow on all fronts.

We are forced to the conclusion that those who deny Negroes and other minorities equal rights, such as the Ku Klux Klan, are the real authors of force and violence. We demand that the charge of force and violence be dropped against the Communist leaders, and that a charge of force and violence be filed against the Ku Klux Klan and similar organizations.

AMC:MBH:efr

144-19-82

September 28, 1948

J. Saxton Daniel, Esquire
United States Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mr. Daniel:

Attention: Henry H. Durrence, Esquire
Assistant United States Attorney

Re: Johnny Johnson, Jim A. Johnson, Thomas
Wilkes, Claude Sharp - Subjects;
Isaiah Nixon, Dover V. Carter - Victims;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

This will acknowledge your letter of September 21, 1948, regarding the above matter. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a memorandum to the Federal Bureau of Investigation authorizing the investigation recommended in your letter.

You will note that the Department had some hesitancy, prior to receiving your letter, in requesting an investigation for fear that it might inflame local sentiment and, thus, interfere with any prosecution which may be made by State authorities. However, since you are undoubtedly familiar with local conditions, we have authorized an investigation under your direction, unless you feel, upon further consideration, that it should not be made. I might add that it is the intention of the Department that the Bureau make the type of investigation you feel to be necessary under the circumstances.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure No. 291695

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SAVANNAH, GA.

September 21, 1948

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Sir:

In re: Johnnie Johnson; Thomas Wilkes;
Claude Sharp and Jim A. Johnson
Victims: Dover V. Carter and
Isaiah Nixon - Civil rights and
domestic violence - Montgomery
County, Georgia

This office is today in receipt of a copy of report of Special Agent Thomas A. Erwin, Jr. of the Atlanta office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in relation to this matter, copy of which has been furnished to the Department.

From the report it appears that victims Dover V. Carter and Isaiah Nixon are negroes; that they voted in the Democratic Primary election held in Montgomery County, Georgia on September 8, 1948, and victim Carter was beaten by subject Johnnie Johnson and Thomas Wilkes while engaged in the transportation of other negroes to the poles at Alston, Georgia, for the purpose of voting; that victim Nixon was shot by subject Jim A. Johnson with a pistol, one of the shots penetrating his stomach, from which he later died.

The above mentioned report discloses that none of the subjects were interviewed and the only other person questioned appears to be the victim Carter, and that interview took place in the Atlanta office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It appears to this office that a thorough investigation of this matter should be made and the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation should be instructed to proceed to make such investigation.

This office would appreciate your views in this connection.

Respectfully
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence
Henry H. Durrence
Assistant United States Attorney

144-19-82
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SEP 23 1948 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC

HHD/g

September 21, 1948

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Sir:

In re: Johnnie Johnson; Thomas Wilkes;
Claude Sharp and Jim A. Johnson
Victims: Dover V. Carter and
Isaiah Nixon - Civil rights and
domestic violence - Montgomery
County, Georgia

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From the report it appears that victims Dover V. Carter and Isaiah Nixon are negroes; that they voted in the Democratic Primary election held in Montgomery County, Georgia on September 8, 1948, and victim Carter was beaten by subject Johnnie Johnson and Thomas Wilkes while engaged in the transportation of other negroes to the poles at Alston, Georgia, for the purpose of voting; that victim Nixon was shot by subject Jim A. Johnson with a pistol, one of the shots penetrating his stomach, from which he later died.

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This office would appreciate your views in this connection.

Respectfully
For the United States Attorney

Henry H. Durrence
Assistant United States Attorney

HHD/g

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

September 28, 1948

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

AMC:MMH:efr
144-19-32

Johnny Johnson, Jim A. Johnson,
Thomas Wilkes, Claude Sharp;
Isaiah Nixon and Dover V. Carter - Victims;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

RECORD
H. E.

Q. A. T. I.

Acknowledgment is hereby made of your memorandum of September 14, 1948, relating to victim Isaiah Nixon, and also your memorandum of the same date relating to victim Dover V. Carter. Inasmuch as the incidents relating to both victims occurred in the same county in Georgia and grew out of the Georgia primary election of September 8, 1948, and since at least one of the subjects above named appears to be involved in both incidents, we are considering them together.

Your memoranda reflect that, on September 8, 1948, victim Isaiah Nixon, a Negro, who had voted during the day in the Georgia primary election, was shot and killed at his home near Alston, Montgomery County, Georgia, by the subject Jim A. Johnson. It appears that this victim, after he was shot and before he died, informed the victim Dover V. Carter that, at about dusk, the subjects Johnny Johnson and Jim A. Johnson appeared at his home and that the subject Jim A. Johnson shot Nixon three times upon being told by the latter that he had voted in the primary for Governor Thompson. According to the memoranda, subject Johnny Johnson held a gun on Nixon as the latter spoke as stated. Other information in one of the memoranda indicates that the subject Johnny Johnson is being held by the Sheriff of Montgomery County on a charge of accessory to murder and that Jim A. Johnson is being sought by the Sheriff on a murder charge.

According to the memorandum relating to the victim Carter, he has advised the Bureau's Atlanta Division that, on the day of the primary election, he was engaged in transporting Negroes to the polls at the instance of a local campaign manager for Governor Thompson. According to Carter, while transporting a voter from the polls to her home, he was beaten by the subject Johnny Johnson while the subject Thomas Wilkes held a shotgun on him. It would appear from Carter's story that the beating was administered in order to prevent him from transporting other Negroes to the polls. The memorandum further indicates that the subject Claude Sharp, said to be Sheriff Elect of Montgomery County, Georgia, may have been implicated in this incident.

In view of the apparent intention of the State authorities to prosecute the subjects, the Department originally felt that it would not request an investigation for the present in order to avoid

cc: Records
Chron.
Sec. Files
USA, Savannah

RECEIVED BY MESSAGE
COMMUNICATIONS SEC
SEP 28 1948

MMH
Camp
R

possible interference with prosecution by the State. However, the Department received a letter, dated September 21, 1948, from the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, in which the writer, Mr. Henry H. Durrence, Assistant United States Attorney, expressed the opinion that a thorough investigation of these matters should be made. In view of the United States Attorney's greater familiarity with local conditions, the Department feels that his wishes should govern. Accordingly, such an investigation is requested. However, before the Bureau begins the investigation, it is suggested that your agents confer with the United States Attorney's Office. If the United States Attorney still feels that the inquiry should be made, please proceed in accordance with his instructions.

Reports on the basis of the foregoing investigation should be sent to the Department and to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

9/14/48
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

for TO : Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General
FROM : Director, FBI
SUBJECT: JOHNNY JOHNSON, JIM A. JOHNSON
ISAIAH NIXON - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DATE: September 14, 1948

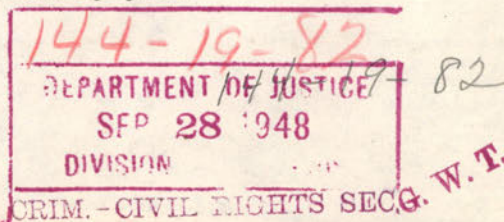
The following information has been submitted by the Atlanta Division of this Bureau concerning the above-captioned matter:

Mr. Dover V. Carter, colored, advised that he had talked with Isaiah Nixon in the Claxton Hospital, Dublin, Georgia, on September 9, 1948, and Nixon advised him that at about dusk on September 8, 1948, Johnny Johnson and Jim A. Johnson appeared at Nixon's home located one and one-half miles south-east of Alston, Montgomery County, Georgia, and while Johnny Johnson held a gun on Nixon, Jim A. Johnson asked him how he had voted in the September 8, 1948, Democratic Primary. According to Carter, Nixon stated "Guess I voted for Mr. Thompson." Nixon told Carter that they both told him to get in the car with them and when he hesitated Jim A. Johnson shot him three times with a pistol. One shot hit him in the stomach and two shots hit him in the legs. Carter advised that neither of the subjects was a police officer and he had no further information concerning the matter.

On September 11, 1948, William Fowlkes, managing editor, "Atlanta Daily World," telephonically advised the Atlanta Division that the victim had died.

The "Savannah Morning News" dated September 12, 1948, date line Mt. Vernon, Georgia, reflects that Sheriff R. M. McCrimmon announced he is holding Johnny Johnson, white, age 22, on a charge of accessory to murder and is seeking to arrest Johnny's brother, Jim A. Johnson on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of Isaiah Nixon on the night of September 8, 1948. The newspaper article reflects that Nixon was killed because he insisted on voting in the Georgia Democratic Primary Election on September 8, 1948. Sheriff McCrimmon announced that the two Johnson brothers went to Nixon's home and that Jim A. Johnson fired the fatal shots in front of Nixon's wife and children.

Mr. Dover V. Carter, original complainant in this matter, furnished additional information concerning the beating which he received in connection with the voting in this primary. The facts concerning his beating are set forth in a memorandum to you of even date entitled "Johnny Johnson; Thomas Wilkes; Claude Sharp; Dover V. Carter, Victim, Civil Rights and Domestic Violence." You may desire to consider these complaints together. No investigation is contemplated unless requested by you.



Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General
Director, FBI

September 14, 1948

JOHNNY JOHNSON, JIM A. JOHNSON
ISAIAH NIXON - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Assistant Attorney General

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHNNY JOHNSON;
THOMAS WILKES; CLAUDE SHARP
DOVER V. CARTER - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DATE: September 14, 1948

RECEIVED

SEP 17 1948

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Mr. Dover V. Carter furnished the following information to the Atlanta Division. He furnished information concerning the killing of Isaiah Nixon by Jim A. Johnson, a memorandum concerning which is being forwarded to you on even date entitled "Johnny Johnson; Jim A. Johnson; Isaiah Nixon, Victim, Civil Rights and Domestic Violence." You may desire to consider these matters together.

Victim Carter, colored, age 41, who resides at Ailey, Georgia, advised the Atlanta Division that he voted in the Democratic State Primary in Alston, Georgia, on September 8, 1948, and while voting, he saw Claude Sharp, who he said is Sheriff Elect of Montgomery County, Georgia, talking to John D. Harris. Harris later told Carter that Sharp had indicated that Harris should go home and not vote. Carter advised that later while he was taking his wife to the polls he saw Sharp drive toward him on the highway on his, Carter's, side of the road. However, Sharp did not hit him and Carter proceeded to the polls where his wife voted without incident. Carter explained that he had been asked by the local campaign manager for acting Governor M. E. Thompson to transport colored persons to the polls. He stated he took Ella Mills to the polls and on the way back to her home he was beaten by Johnny Johnson while Thomas Wilkes held a shotgun on him. According to Carter, both men told him to go home and to stop taking people to the polls. Carter stated that at this time Claude Sharp drove past them but he did not stop. He advised that neither Johnson nor Wilkes are police officers. A signed statement has been obtained from Carter concerning his complaint. A report will be submitted to you in the near future containing the details of this matter.

No investigation is contemplated in this matter unless requested by you.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
SEP 16 1948	
DIVISION	ROOM
CRIM. - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.	

RECORD UNIT

Mr. Alexander M. Campbell
Assistant Attorney General
Director, FBI

September 14, 1948

JOHNNY JOHNSON;
THOMAS WILKES; CLAUDE SHARP
DOVER V. CARTER - Victim
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