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Copy of Letter from Emmet County, Iowa Attorney F. J. Kennedy to Attorney General Langer Regarding the Death of Carl Maier, January 2, 1919

F. J. Kennedy
Emmet County, Iowa

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OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

EMMET COUNTY, IOWA

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA,

January 2, 1919.

COPY

Mr. William Langner,

Bismark, N.D.

Dear Sir:-

IN RE CARL MAIER.

Anna Bortvet, the nurse who took care of Carl Maier after he was shot until he died, called the other day and gave me the following information.

It seems she had a sister living in the Maier neighborhood at the time Mr. Maier was shot. The next May, after the death of Mr. Maier, this sister and her husband went away on a vacation and Miss Bortvet stayed with the sister's children. While there a young lad by the name of Fred Lang, about 15 years of age, whose sister was married to a party by the name of Russie White, was working for his sister's husband. It seems Mr. White is a man considerably older than his wife. That the wife's parents compelled her to marry Mr. White, that she did not like him but seemed to like John Maier. It seems that John Maier had teased or tormented Mr. White about his young wife and from what the boy said she gathered that probably Mr. White shot Carl Maier thinking he was John. The Lang boy seemed to give the impression that Carl was shot by mistake indicating that the old man thought he was hooting John. The boys says Russie White was away from home from early in the morning until late that night and told the boy that he had been over to his brother's. The boy intimated that his sister told Mr. White that she would not have married him had she known she could have gotten John.

The nurse says she did not say anything to any of the officials about the conversation with Fred Lang while she was in North Dakota because her sister still lived in the neighborhood and they did not want to get mixed up in the affair. People around there seemed to be afraid of Mr. White.

OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY
EMMET COUNTY, IOWA

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA,

I do not know how much this information is worth but it might put you on the trail of evidence that would be beneficial. She does not know where the boy is at this time. The nurse seemed to be frank and conscientious in her statements. She does not like to get mixed up in the matter but on the other hand thinks that Mr. White ought to be prosecuted if he is the guilty party.

If I can be of any further assistance to you I shall be glad to.

Yours very truly,