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Letter from John Moses to William Langer regarding the Carl Maier Case, March 10, 1919

John Moses

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JOHN MOSES
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
HAZEN, NORTH DAKOTA

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
RECEIVED 3-13
ANSWERED 3-13
Referred to _____

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March 10, 1919.

Hon. William Langer,
Attorney General,
Bismarck, North Dakota.

Dear Sir:

I went down to Beulah the last part of last week with a view to investigate the Carl Maier case. I find that people do not seem to know very much about the young woman in question, nor about her present husband. I had a long talk with the physician who was called and who had charge of Carl Maier for the few hours he lived after the shooting, and he did not seem to attach much weight to the woman. As far as I can gather, Carl came into town, Beulah, in the morning to get some money and with the view of going to visit this girl in or near Hannover. He had received a letter from her wherein she broke off the engagement with him, saying she had a better man and so on, and so forth. Carl returned from town, and shortly afterwards his brother John was in town to get a load of lumber. Johnny came to the Doctor's office some time afterward and told him that he had found Carl lying near the road, 10-12 feet from the road, about midway between town and their place. ^{case} The Doctor and Mr. Howard Kenyon went with John. He was still alive and lived several hours afterward. On being questioned, he answered, "Don't ask me, I want to die". I believe that this answer, together with the circumstances convinced the people that it was either suicide or an attempt to shield the brother. I must say that John was freely suspected at the time. The Doctor admits that a suicide was probable, and especially ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ the view of the fact that two shots entered the body, ^{but} did not believe that it was probable. He did not want to express himself one way or another definite-

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ly, however. John and Carl did not get along very well, and were about to separate. There was some talk in the community at the time of two mysterious strangers. Some farmer had seen Carl talking with these two strangers after he returned from town. It is to be noted that he went from town in his working clothes and when he was found, he had been home to change clothes for he had his Sunday clothes on him.

It is hardly possible for me to investigate very much into the particular facts regarding the girl. She lived at Hannover at the time, and as far as I can learn nobody in this neighborhood knows her. I shall investigate as I may have opportunity from time to time, but under the instructions given me by you, it is somewhat of a delicate task. Please give me any further instructions that you may have.

Yours very truly,

John Moses

jm/em

*Hannover is in Oliver County
25 miles South of Hazen*