

Letter From Brown Henley

Edinburg, PA
April 12, 1922

Hon. Commissioner of Lawrence County
New Castle, Penna.

Gentlemen: I desire you to kindly consider this written statement as to my son Thomas Henley, whom you have now confined in the Asylum at Dixmont, Pa. My son showed to me at various times since he was injured while in the employ of Stone and Webster Corp. as a lineman. That he has been suffering from attacks of indigestion. I have gave him the best of care and through my care he had improved very much. And I am sure that he had not shown to me at my time that he was dangerous.

Any person would become restless while an attack of indigestion might fast. And when he was arrested and removed from my home and from my bed he was suffering from an attack of indigestion and was in no condition to be removed to a padded cell. In fact he had not committed no intentional unlawful act. Therefore he could not be guilty of any misdemeanor or unlawful act. Law is based upon common sense. I am the head of my home and family: Therefore I am the authority in my home and to my family whom I may support.

Prof. Hoffmaster reported my son to the state police without a just cause and in order to frame a charge against my son, he and the state police entered my premises without a search warrant and my home without my consent and they made it very undesirable in my home. Hoffmaster represented to me he wanted to put him in a hospital for treatment. I said no. Hoffmaster did not know no. Is a padded cell better for sick man than a comfortable bed to rest in?

Further, the article printed in the news of 2-6-22 is one of the most outrageous article that ever could be printed against my family that is and has been doing right all the time.

My opinion is that my son is not an insane man and that he is being illegally held in Dixmont. I did not represent to the commission what they claimed in the report and I have been informed my wife and daughter did not accuse. I desire that this commission report be set aside and my son be returned at once to my home.

Yours respectfully,
Brown Henley

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