

In compliance with the request contained in your note to which this is a reply. I might have foreborne to do more than indicate how the language of my communication to the Legislature at the opening of the Session, was containing all I desired to say in the premises, but in conformity with the Order expressed in your letter, & the accompanying resolutions of the House of Delegates, I thought it best to point out the way in which on my return the matter would be treated.

I have the honor to be  
Very respectfully,  
Yours Obedt. Servt.  
S. Nathan Ligon.

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis, June 30th 1856

To the Honorable Delegates:

In compliance with an order of the House of Delegates of the 22d inst. requesting the Governor to furnish the House with the list of names of persons, which influenced his decision in granting a writ of Habeas Corpus in the case of the State of Maryland vs Wm. Herman indicted at the September Term 1854, of the Circuit Court for Carroll County in the murder of Thomas Seabrook, I have the honor to transmit herewith all the official papers embraced by the order and a full copy of the decision upon which Executive Order was granted in the case.

The same occurred with the said occurrence, referred to in the order, to wit: That in the case of the deceased William Herman indicted for murder, one of the pupils of the said students of Carroll College in Carroll County in the State.

It seems that on some occasion in the month of June 1854 there was a number of other students of the College who on an occasion of pleasure, by permission of the Faculty, and the permission of the said Governor, a friendly contest took place (without the intention of any ill-will) about the possession of a gun, which was unfortunately discharged in the possession of one of the parties on this occasion. Herman having obtained possession of the gun was observed to have fired the gun, making use of the expression, "supposed the signal," "to shoot him" at the Sheriff & Constable of the present time, an individual he was upon, the person of young Seabrook, being subjected in the same to a few blows. Herman was so shocked at the occurrence & mortified with a gony at what he had done, that he fled, the sympathy of all the true friends of the Union, which was at that time in much excited, in which the Government, in the immediate truth, who had just met with a striking & entirely fatal.

On the day after the death of Herman a coroner inquest was held upon the body, in the presence of the jury, and the jury returned a verdict that the killing was committed by the said & intentional homicide of a gun.