

"E. G."  
E. G.

State of Pennsylvania )  
County of Cumberland ) SS

Julia Hardin, being first duly sworn by Inspector E. B. Linnen, on oath deposes and says:

My name is Julia Hardin, I am eighteen years of age. I am the same Julia Hardin who has heretofore given testimony before you, and I am the same Julia Hardin who has heretofore given testimony before the Joint Congressional Investigating Committee of Congress.

Q. Were the statements which you have heretofore made under oath before me as Inspector, and before the Joint Congressional Committee of Congress the absolute truth?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And did you then before said Joint Congressional Committee and before me state the whole facts and the truth with relation to the whipping given you by one C. M. Stauffer?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You were called out of line one evening by the matron, Miss Ridenour, were you not?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And were you brought to her room in the girls' building and requested to sign a paper?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was that paper all prepared in typewriting when you went there to her room?

A. Yes sir.

Q. It was there feady for you to sign?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was all written out on a paper and you were asked to sign it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was it in typewriting?

A. In typewriting.

Q. Who asked you to sign the paper?

A. Miss Ridenour.

Q. Miss Ridenour, the matron?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did she tell you what that paper contained, what the contents of it was before you signed it? Or did she read it to you?

A. I don't know whether that lawyer said anything about it or not, but he had a paper and he asked me some questions off it, I don't know whether it was the paper or not.

Q. Well, when you first went into the room with Miss Ridenour, into her room, did she then ask you to sign a paper.

A. Yes sir.

Q. And did you sign it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was that before the contents of the paper was made known to you?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did Miss Ridenour read the paper to you?

A. Miss Ridenour didn't, I think the lawyer. I won't say whether he did or not, but he had the paper there.

Q. Did you sign the paper before he talked to you about it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When you signed that paper, did you know the contents of it, did you know what it contained?

A. No sir.

Q. Well then, if you signed this paper, Julia, what was said to you by this man you call attorney, just as near as you can recall?

A. He asked me my age and where I was from, and what I was taking up here in school, how long I had been here. He asked me who reported this to Washington, if the folks at home knew anything about it, and he asked me if Mr. Whitwell had called me in his office and said anything about it. He said Mr. Whitwell did call

me in his office and talked about it. I said he didn't and he told me somebody was getting this up on Mr. Stauffer for spite and somebody had something against him now, and the only thing they had against him was this. He asked me if I went down to Mr. Stauffer's for chicken suppers and he asked me if I was in the mandolin club. I told him yes, and he asked me what I was going to do after I left the school, whether I was going to get in the Service or not.

Q. Was that about all that you can recall?

A. Miss Ridenour said something, I don't remember.

Q. Who was there present in this room at the time?

A. Mr. Stauffer, Miss Ridenour, and that man.

Q. Do you know what his name was?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he swear you to any paper?

A. No sir.

Q. Who else was present?

A. Miss Herman.

Q. This lady taking this down?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What was she doing?

A. She was taking notes down.

Q. She was taking shorthand notes of what was said to you?

A. She was there for the first part of it. She went out then and the other two times just Mr. Stauffer, Miss Ridenour and the lawyer were there.

Q. Well now, on this first occasion, tell me what Miss Ridenour said to you, when you were there in the room, after she had gotten you to sign this paper?

A. She explained about the whipping. She said that she didn't think that whipping was so severe as they were making it out to be.

Q. She told you that?

A. Yes sir. She said when I said she held my hands they didn't hold my hands so that he could whip me, they held my hands to keep him from hitting my hands, and she asked if I remembered her saying "Don't hit her so rough," and telling him not to hit me on the head.

Q. What did you tell her?

A. I told her I didn't remember. She said I had a poor memory. And she said Mr. Whitwell came in and said that if I didn't sign and go to the country, that meant reformatory for me for five years.

Q. Did Mr. Whitwell ever state that to you?

A. Yes, he said it to me at that time, and so she says "Yes, you know he was right there when they were whipping you," but he wasn't, he came in after the whipping was over. She said that I wrote her a letter during the summer. I told her she was mistaken, I didn't. I sent her a card thanking her for my clothes.

Q. Did she say you had written a letter thanking Mr. Stauffer for whipping you.

A. Yes sir. That is what she said.

Q. Was that true?

A. No sir.

Q. Did you ever send her a letter, or Mr. Stauffer, or any other person a letter thanking them or him for whipping you?

A. No sir. I didn't. I sent her a card in the summer. All I said was "Thank you for the dress you sent me." She sent me a dress.

Q. Well, after you had signed this paper, did they then tell you something that was on the paper, something it contained?

A. No sir.

Q. What else did Miss Ridenour say to you on that first occasion there in the room when she got you to sign this paper?

A. She didn't say much that evening. She told me I wasn't to say anything about this, not to tell anyone. As for their part, they wouldn't.

Q. What did Mr. Stauffer say to you that evening?

A. He said that he had always been my friend. He had always

liked me and he had always gone out of the way to do favors for me, and I couldn't do one for him, and he had been suspended for nearly a month on account of this.

Q. Well, was there anything else that took place there worthy of mention at that first meeting that you haven't told us about, Julia?

A. No sir.

Q. And during this first meeting Miss Herman was there taking notes of what you said, was she?

A. She was only there just a few minutes.

Q. She wasn't there during all of the time?

A. No sir.

Q. When were you again called to the room and who called you there?

A. Miss Ridenour called me to the office after breakfast, before school.

Q. Who was there?

A. Mr. Stauffer and herself.

Q. What did Miss Ridenour say to you then?

A. She said they had destroyed the paper.

Q. Destroyed the paper you had signed?

A. Yes sir, and they were going to write a new one and she asked me to sign it.

Q. Did she have it there for you to sign.

A. No, she didn't have it then. They were going to write it and at 11:30 when I came back from school I was to go to the office and she would have it ready for me to sign.

Q. What else did she say as near as you can recall?

A. They asked me if I was scared when I went up before the Committee. Miss Ridenour understood I cried. I said I didn't. She said it was no more than natural I would, she said she couldn't get up before a crowd of men like that. She said I was embarrassed and I told her I didn't feel like it.

Q. Well, what else did she say? Did she say you hadn't told the truth before that committee?

A. Yes sir. Miss Ridenour said I hadn't told the truth before the committee, the reason I told it was I was forced to tell it.

Q. Who did she say forced you to say it?

A. She blamed it on Mr. Whitwell, said he had been calling me in his office every day and telling me what to say.

Q. Did Miss Ridenour say that?

A. Yes sir. She said Mr. Whitwell was backing all of this.

Q. Was that true, Julia?

A. No sir. Mr. Whitwell hasn't said a word about it to me. One time one of the girls in his office said he said, "I don't want to say anything about it to Julia, she can tell the truth about it and I will tell the truth."

Q. How did Miss Ridenour know what you had said before that Committee?

A. She said you told her. She said, "Mr. Linnen told me every word you said." She said she knew what I said.

Statement by Mr. Linnen:

Well, I want to say to you, Julia, that is absolutely false. I never told Miss Ridenour, or any other person, what you had said before that committee, or before me. It is absolutely false.

A. That is what she said. She said you told her all about it.

Q. Did Miss Ridenour or Mr. Stauffer say to you that Mr. Whitwell had kicked you?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Which one was that?

A. Miss Ridenour said it. She said Mr. Whitwell, in fact, was to blame more than Mr. Stauffer, because she said they sent for Mr. Whitwell first, but he happened not to be at his house, so they sent for Mr. Stauffer, and he was obliged to do that.

Q. But she said Mr. Whitwell had kicked you?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was that true?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he ever kick you?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he ever strike you?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he ever treat you in any other way than with kindness?

A. No sir. She said Mrs. LaFlesche was the one that got me to sign the check. I told her it was Mr. Whitwell, but she said Mrs. LaFlesche was the one that handed me the check.

Q. Well, was anything further said there that morning when Mr. Stauffer and Miss Ridenour were present that is worthy of mention?

A. She said I said they had a board to whip me with. She said it was only a shingle.

Q. Well then, she told you to come back at 11:30 to her room. Did you go back at that time?

A. In the meantime, that morning, I reported to one of the girls that worked in Mr. Whitwell's office, I didn't want to say anything to him about it because he said it was best not to do so. But this girl told Mr. Whitwell about it, so Mr. Whitwell reported it to Mr. Lipps and Mr. Whitwell told me I wasn't obliged to sign it, but Miss Ridenour said so. He said they were trying to work up a scheme. Then I went back at noon, she called me in the office and told me to go down to her room. She took me in. The lawyer and Mr. Stauffer were there. They had a paper. They said, "we have changed this paper and want you to sign this." I told him I couldn't sign it. They sat there and coaxed me to sign it.

Q. Did you read the paper?

A. No, I didn't read it until after awhile Mr. Stauffer said, "Why don't you want to sign it?" They said you can read it then. They gave me the paper and I told them I didn't want to sign it, after I had read it, and then Mr. Stauffer says, "~~if I would sign it it would help him out a great deal, and Miss Ridenour went on and asked me why. I told her because. They said it was so about Mr. Whitwell, said he started it and backed it and was doing it for spite. I told them it wasn't so and didn't sign it.~~"

Q. They had statements on that paper that they wanted you to sign that were not true, and they tried to force you to sign it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What did Miss Ridenour say to you?

A. She went on telling about myself. She said if I couldn't do a favor as all that to help. It would leave a mark on him for life, she didn't want me to ask any favors of her, and she asked me if I had told anybody about this. I told one of the girls, and she told Mr. Whitwell, and so she said she thought I was an honest girl but she found out I wasn't, the statement that you told her that I told the committee, she knew everything, all about it. I didn't sign it and it was dinner time, the girls were marching to the dining room, so Mr. Stauffer says, "I know you would like to sign it, but since you won't, it is all right," and she told me I could go.

Q. What did this man that you call a lawyer, what did he say to you at that time?

A. I stated I didn't want anything more to do with it, as I didn't fully understand. As someone stated this morning, I am getting myself into it by signing it and I didn't care to sign it and Mr. Stauffer said I told him last night they would have saved that other paper. He said it would have been just as good.

Q. He said they destroyed the other paper?

A. Yes, he had confidence in me I would sign the next one.

Q. Do you remember what they had on the paper they wanted you to sign, and that you didn't sign?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What was on there?

A. I, Julia Hardin, went up before the Committee and was nervous and embarrassed, and they were all asking me questions. I didn't know what I was saying and I felt so badly over it I cried, and said that Mr. Stauffer has always been a friend to me. I have been in the mandolin club and he invited me down to chicken dinners, and the whipping wasn't what it was told to be; that he did not hit me on the head with a stick, he hit me on the head with his hand, and that the two matrons that held my hands were the only ones present in the room, and then they brought about Mr. Whitwell, said he had been telling me all these things right along; he was the one that brought it up; I had been going in his office and he had been telling me what to say; Mr. Whitwell



was right in with the whipping; he was trying to get out of it now and blame it on Mr. Stauffer. They had something about Miss Sweeney, bringing it up to Mr. Whitwell and Miss Sweeney.

Q. Did they have anything in that paper about Mr. Whitwell kicking you?

A. Yes sir. They had it in there about him kicking me.

Q. Do you recall anything else that was in that paper?

A. They had on the paper I went to Miss Ridenour one day and told her that she was to punish Maggie, my sister, and I said that I thanked Mr. Stauffer that time that he whipped me because it did me a lot of good, and I had been such a good girl afterwards, and I told her I didn't remember saying that and she said, "Well, you did."

Q. Well, were the statements, or the majority of the statements, contained in the paper they wanted you to sign untrue?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And so you refused to sign it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What did Miss Ridenour then say to you?

A. She said that she always had a good opinion of me, thought I was a nice girl, but since I couldn't do a favor like this for him, she would never think the same of me. She said she didn't want me to ask any favors or anything to do with her anymore. Mr. Stauffer spoke of how he had taught me in the mandolin club; all he had done for me, and I couldn't do this for him. He said, "Well, if you are not going to sign it, you can go." So I left the room and that was all.

Q. Has Miss Ridenour, since that time, shown her displeasure toward you in any way?

A. Yes sir, she has.

Q. How?

A. In line, in the dining room, and all over. She came up in assembly the other day. There was a piece of paper on the floor. She said, "Julia Hardin, pick that up, take it down stairs and throw it in the box." I didn't throw it on the floor, there were some girls there, but I picked the paper up and took it down. When I go down to the office,- I never go down in fact,- but

when I do go down, she always cuts me off short. The other day I went down after a dentist card, sometime about 2:30. At 4:00 we had mandolin practice and I told her. She says that didn't make any difference. There were two girls before me that said the same story that they had to go to the mandolin practice and she marked them between two and three, and when I told her she marked mine exactly at four, so I missed mandolin practice, that day.

Q. Has your conduct card, or anything, been returned bad since this time?

A. Returned poor.

Q. Has she given you any work to do to show her displeasure?

A. I have been on every morning for sweeping the assembly halls, and dinner helper, and was room girl too, and I had to clean the hall, so Saturday night I went down and saw Miss Knight, one of the matrons, and told her about it. I told her I understood why Miss Ridenour was doing this, told her I wasn't going to take any more of it, and Miss Knight says, "Well, I don't think you understand Miss Ridenour." I told Miss Knight I could see why she was trying to do this toward me, because she had always acted so nice to me before, and just lately called me down in assembly. Miss Knight said the only thing I could do was to take it. She talked to me.

Q. Well now, Julia, when Miss Herman was in the room on the first occasion, taking notes of what you said, did this attorney, or whoever he may have been, tell her what to take down and what not, of your answers.

A. Yes, sir. He said, "You needn't mind taking this down."

Q. What did he refer to then?

A. When he said Mr. Stauffer hit me on the head.

Q. Told her not to take that down?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What else?

A. She didn't take any more down.

Q. Well now, did they give you to sign any notes she had taken of your conversation there at that time.

A. Yes sir. That was the paper I think. They brought it down to me and I didn't sign it, and so then they had it written over.

Q. Why didn't you sign it?

A. Because they had a statement in it about Mr. Whitwell that wasn't so.

Q. Was it anything you had said?

A. No sir.

Q. Did the paper they gave you to sign, contain statements made by you.

A. Some of it was, and I don't know where they got the rest of it.

Q. Did you swear to any paper that you signed?

A. No sir.

Q. Were you sworn at all, at any time, by him?

A. No sir.

Q. Now Julia, state if you know anything else that I should know of that you haven't mentioned in connection with this matter, any occurrence that took place, or anything that was said to you by any of these people; Mr. Stauffer, Miss Ridenour, or this man you call attorney.

A. Mr. Stauffer said if I would sign that paper this case would be dropped, there wouldn't be any more to it. It might last down until June, and so on that it would worry me all the more. I said I told Mr. Linnen just how it was and if I would go and do that it would mean more trouble. He said it wouldn't, Mr. Linnen wouldn't know anything about this. He asked me when I went home and I said in June. Miss Ridenour said, "If this isn't settled, you won't go home."

Q. Can you recall anything else, Julia?

A. I can't recall, only that Miss Ridenour has been reporting me for things that aren't so. She reported me to Mr. Lipps. Said I had such a temper. Said I gave her impudence. And Mrs. Stauffer accused me of throwing a note to one of the boys in her school. Sent for Mr. Whitwell, and I told her I didn't and I proved I didn't for I didn't know the boys. She said one of the boys said I did. Mr. Whitwell said, "That is something else they are trying to get on you. You have got to watch yourself. I have heard more complaints about you this last month than I have all the year round."

Q. Now, do you recall anything else, Julia, that is worthy of mention.

A. No sir.

Witness:

Julia Hardie

Harvey K. Meyer

Sworn and subscribed before me at Carlisle, Pa.,  
this eighteenth day of March, A. D. 1914.

E. J. Simmen  
U. S. Inspector