

23
May 10, 1928

Mrs. Louie Dean White
24 Vista Avenue
Oak Crest
Alexandria, Va.

My dear Mrs. White:

I was glad to have your letter of May 4. Don't think for a moment that I thought you remiss in not having written me. On the contrary I didn't expect a letter. I know how absorbing this kind of work is - and how exhausting. You must not have me on your mind, though of course if there is the least thing that you think I can do I shall be most glad to take a try at it.

I did write Mr. Warren, and I have received from him the enclosed - to me astonishing - letter. I had not understood that the document disappeared two years ago. I am enclosing a copy of the letter that I have just dictated to Mr. Warren.

Of course it is clear now that he should have found out at once where the document had gone, if the clerks knew. And if they didn't - that is, if someone had taken it without permission - he should have made the matter public. It is not always easy to see at the moment what is the right thing to do, and I don't want to be harsh on a young man, whom I believe to be as honest and painstaking as Mr. Warren.

If it would be embarrassing for him to do anything about the matter now, as he seems to think, I should be inclined to think that you or I - preferably you - should write to the county clerk, asking if it could be arranged to send somebody to have the document photographed. That would bring out a letter. If the reply were that the document had been taken away and he could not tell us where it was, then we could "write a letter to the newspapers." I would be glad to try to get the New York Times to take a whack at it, and possibly you could enlist some Boston paper. I think the Louisville Courier-Journal would help us, and perhaps the Lexington paper. We could make it quite lively and interesting, and perhaps our little campaign might bring out information that would help in the general inquiry. When a thing of this kind gets started, my experience has been that it is sure to

drive out something unexpected. What do you say? Will you write independently of Mr. Warren to the county clerk?

I hope, dear Mrs. White, that you are not wearing yourself out in this research, and that you are enjoying the country as you go. It must be rarely beautiful there now.

With all good wishes, believe me

Sincerely yours