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Witnesses

People v. Maynard, 80 Misc. 2d 279 - NY:  
Supreme Court, New York 1974

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1970

## William Styron (Character Witness)

New York Law School



Mr. Lewis M. Steel  
di Suvero, Meyers, Oberman, Steel  
351 Broadway  
New York 10013

**WILLIAM STYRON  
VINEYARD HAVEN  
MASSACHUSETTS 02568**

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SEP 8 1971

September 4, 1971

Dear Lewis:

I was delighted to learn from Anna Frank that we had raised such a surprisingly large amount of money to go toward the investigation. She seemed a little amazed at how much loot had come in. I have received from her a number of extra mailings, with the nice brochure, and these I'm sending out with personal notes in the hope that I can extract a few more dollars from some of my repulsively rich friends. Steel & Meyers should be proud of the good work that you have already accomplished, and it will be a shame and an outrage if Tony is not eventually vindicated. Do keep me posted and let's get together again before too long.

I'd certainly also like to talk to you about your "problems" with Nat Turner, especially since -- three years after the attacks on the book -- virtually every responsible American intellectual or historian has resolved those problems in favor of myself. I suspect that you're not aware of how totally disreputable those attacks have come to appear to be in the intellectual community -- ranging from right to extreme left -- or that you have never, for instance, read the scathing indictment of the black attacks by Eugene Genovese, a far-left Marxist and the leading modern historian of American slavery, who in detail pointed out how scurrilous and distorted were the blacks' own counter-interpretation of the Turner story. I could supply you with all this in overwhelming abundance -- there has even been an entire book published on the controversy, which illuminates the blacks' own racism in a hard, hard light -- but certainly if we talked face to face I feel we could get at the root of those problems you say you have. I'd certainly welcome the opportunity since one of the saddest aspects of the viciousness of those attacks is that in their total one-sidedness (a book of 10 essays, for instance, which offers nothing but a 100% negative point of view is an inequitable and unfair performance unique in American publishing) is that they have in some cases caused intelligent laymen like yourself, who nonetheless have only a passing acquaintance with the historical issues involved, to believe or half-believe that their hysterical allegations are true.

I've gone on too long about this. So long after the original controversy, I think I still tend to

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over-react when anyone (no, not really anyone, just anyone I respect) indicates that they have been influenced by those attacks which by now have been thrown into such thorough and universal disrepute.

But let's get together sometime fairly soon and talk about this, and the appeal, and other things of mutual concern.

Yours,

*Bill*

Try to contact

Call <sup>6019</sup> Nancy Washley -  
John Simon -

-754-4010

LEWIS

~~203 - 354 - 5939~~

H Roxbury Conn. -  
Russum Conn. -

Wife is Rose #  
Styron #

William Styron

10/20/70

Re: William A. Maynard, Jr.

By: Lewis M. Steel

10/19/70 - Spoke to William Styron this evening. He stated that he would be available as character witness - must have a few days notice.

12/31/70.

wrote Styron a note asking for  
a letter to probation for sentencing  
LMS.



WILLIAM STYRON

PARIS

NOVEMBER 10, 1967

Mr. William A. Maynard, Jr.  
Prison Holstenglacis 3-5  
Hamburg, Germany

Dear Tony,

I was sorry and troubled to hear about your very bad predicament. I am presently in Paris, but will be back in New York soon. I also expect to see Jimmy Baldwin within the next few days and of course will talk with him about your trouble.

I honestly do not know what I can do at the moment, but please believe me when I say that your predicament is very much in my mind and that I will do whatever I can to see that this thing stays under control.

I wish I could give you some further assurance at the moment, but your letter took me so much by surprise that I haven't had time to give it the thought it deserves. However, as I say, I will do what I can, and remember that I am thinking of you.

As ever,

*Bill*

William Styron

WS:klw