

JOHN O. SPENCER
Chairman

JESSE L. NICHOLAS
Secretary

HARRY E. PARKHURST
Treasurer

MARYLAND INTERRACIAL COMMISSION

Appointed by Governor Albert C. Ritchie under Act of
General Assembly, 1927

WHITE:

Judge Morris A. Soper
U. S. District Court*
Senator George C. Peverley
Mechanicsville
Ralph P. Gilmore
Overlea*
Harry E. Parkhurst
Gunther Building*
Robert F. Roberts
4319 Charles St. Ave.*
Louis Binder
Court Square Building*
Mrs. Geo. Abram Moss
Annapolis
John J. Stump
Cumberland
J. O. Spencer
Morgan College*
Albert S. Cook, ex-officio
Lexington Building*

Secretary's Office:

1012 ARLINGTON AVENUE, GOVANS,
BALTIMORE, MD.

December 16, 1931.

His Excellency,
Albert C. Ritchie, Governor,
State House,
Annapolis, Md.

My dear Governor Ritchie:-

COLORED:

Rev. George F. Bragg
1425 McCulloh St.*
Jesse L. Nicholas
1012 Arlington Ave.*
J. F. Stewart
Salisbury
Truly Hatchett
900 N. Eutaw St.*
Rev. B. T. Perkins
Annapolis
W. L. Fitzgerald
1208 Druid Hill Ave.*
Bishop A. L. Gaines
1522 McCulloh St.*
T. J. Calloway
Glendale
Mrs. Anna L. McMechen
2007 McCulloh St.*

*Baltimore City

The Interracial Commission of Maryland at its Annual Meeting held on December 7th had before it several items of business. During the session the regrettable incidents on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and other points, and culminating in the lynching of Matthew Williams on Dec. 4th at Salisbury were presented.

The white members of the Commission were impressed with the dignified restraint of the colored members, and yet it could be readily seen that the colored members were very deeply stirred, recognizing the difficulties involved in bringing the lynch leaders to justice. It was clear to all members of the Commission that every effort should be made to do this.

It was pointed out by the member from the Eastern Shore that Matthew Williams was from boyhood feeble-minded, and had been so regarded by his teachers in the public schools. This fact was advanced, not to excuse Williams for the crime with which he is charged, but to indicate the responsibility of the governing public for the timely consideration of such cases. We are pleased to know that steps have been taken for the early care by the State of such mental cases.

The Commission adopted a communication to Your Excellency, copy of which is herewith enclosed.

We express the confident hope that every effort will be made by the officials to bring to public condemnation the perpetrators of this crime against good order and against the State. If this is not done there is no assurance that such crimes will not be repeated. To your sense of fair play, justice and good order we confidently appeal.

Yours sincerely,

JOS*JHC

J. O. Spencer.