

3021 Walden Street,  
Seattle, Wash.  
April 2, 1923

*Gardner*

His Excellency, Governor Mayne  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sir:-

May I take the liberty of writing to you in behalf of a poor condemned man, namely George Gardner, his crime was the killing of Deputy Sheriff Gordon Stewart and Joseph Irvine, (my brother-in-law) which crime I deplore deeply. However I do know in the case of Joseph Irvine, the killing was provoked, the trouble had been getting worse daily for a year before the tragedy growing out of a dispute about a partnership concerning a partnership in the stock and farm where the trouble occurred at Welby, Utah.

There was a partnership between them as Joseph Irvine and his wife, (my sister both told me of it at the time the partnership was effected and they wanted me also to go in with them which offer I declined.

The reason I mention this partnership is because ( I am very sorry to say) both my sister Mrs. Margaret Irvine and my brother-in-law Mr. Joseph Irvine denied having a partnership with George Gardner, the condemned man and Mrs. Martha Gardner also a sister of mine.

It is very hard indeed to cast discredit on Mr. and Mrs. Irvine in connection with this matter but as so much terrible trouble and suffering and very precious lives have been sacrificed as a consequence I feel it my solemn duty to say what is true. I also know that when I was in Salt Lake City a year before the tragedy that Mr. and Mrs. Irvine's dislike of George Gardner amounted to actual hate. Because of a 25 cent of Mr. Irvine money that Mr. Gardner borrowed without Irvine's consent to buy a saddle that Gardner said he needed to ride a very spirited horse with safety to himself. That was a very small amount to start trouble about but to use Mrs. Irvine's own words to me when I asked her not to notice such a trifling thing and to think of how much work Gardner had done on the farm she declared she just hated him. Now I feel that it is just this awful hate so freely expressed and their denial of a partnership that existed that has caused the whole trouble and that Mr. Gardner was only defending his own property and his rights when this terrible tragedy happened.

Now Governor Mayne I have outlined the circumstances leading up to this affair and I trust that you will let your human love and sympathy rule your heart regardless of the strong sentiment that now exists against this poor unfortunate man. I would not ask you to pardon him entirely as I feel that he should not have lost his control of his temper to such an extent, although