

Hopewell, N. J.
Residence of Col. C. A. Lindbergh,
March 10, 1932.

Statement of: Mrs. Elsie Mary Whately,
(Residing at home of Col. Lindbergh, Hopewell, N. J.)
Age: 47 years.
Occupation: Housekeeper.

Statement made to Lieutenant John J. Sweeney, (Newark Police Headquarters)
Detective Hugh J. Strong, (Newark Police Department.)

STATEMENT:

I was born in Warwickshire, Birmingham, England, on November 2, 1904. I attended school until I was about 15 and then went into an office as an office girl. My parents are dead. I have a brother named William Glover Lee and a sister, Emily A. Lee Ward, both of whom are now living in Birmingham, England. I worked at clerical work for about six years and also took up singing lessons for approximately eight years and then I got married to Ollie Whately in Birmingham. We kept house for about nineteen years. We have no children. My husband and I left for America on March 1, 1930 and arrived on March 13, 1930 with my husband on the Steamship Cythia, Cunard Line. We went to New Rochelle and lived with Miss Valinsitz, 71 Franklin Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y. Then I went to Mr. Potter of Mendham, N. J. This position I obtained through Hutchinson's Employment Agency on Madison Avenue in New York City. We stayed with them about four months and left voluntarily and then went back to New Rochelle where we took up residence again with Miss Valinsitz. My husband and I stayed at this place for about two weeks when we obtained another position through the same employment agency as caretakers for a man by the name of Grosvenor of Old Westbury, L. I. We were there about seven weeks. This was only a temporary arrangement and we kept this job for about seven weeks. We then went back to New Rochelle and lived with Miss Valinsitz. We stayed there about three weeks. I secured a position with the Rare Stores Co. in New Rochelle where I was employed in the Art Department. I was with them about two weeks until we obtained a position, through the same employment agency, in Mr. Lindbergh's home in Princeton. We started there with them in the middle of October 1930. We stayed there for almost a year when we moved to Mr. Lindbergh's new home in Hopewell. I have been here as housekeeper since that time. It was the custom of the family to bring the baby to Hopewell from Englewood almost every week-end. They would come on Saturday evening around five o'clock and would stay until Monday morning when my husband would take the baby and Mrs. Lindbergh back to Englewood. The baby had not been in Hopewell for two weeks prior to Saturday, February 27th, 1932. On February 27th, Mrs. Lindbergh and the baby and Miss Root came to the Hopewell house in one of the Morrow cars, driven by, I think, ~~Miss~~ ^{Mr.} Breckenridge. Later on in the evening Col. Lindbergh, Col. Breckenridge and Mrs. Breckenridge arrived. Saturday night Mrs. Lindbergh put the baby to bed; the baby was sneezing; the following morning, Sunday, I took the baby up some orange juice and fed it.

Nothing eventful happened Sunday. Sunday night Col. Lindbergh and Mrs. Lindbergh, Col. and Mrs. Breckenridge and Miss Root left the Lindbergh estate. Mrs. Lindbergh put the baby to sleep before she left. Mr. Whately and I remained in the house with the baby. Mrs. Lindbergh asked me if we had some milk of magnesia in the house, as the baby had developed a light cold during the day. I looked for the milk of magnesia; we found

Elsie Whately

none and Whateley went to Hopewell and got some. Shortly after Mr. Whateley returned from Hopewell Col. and Mrs. Lindbergh returned to the house. We all retired as usual and all got up the next day.

On Monday morning I went to the nursery and washed and fed the baby and rubbed his chest and put him back in his bed.

On Monday morning at breakfast Mrs. Lindbergh said she didn't think she would take the baby to Englewood. She said that if she did decide to go to Englewood she would go after lunch. Col. Lindbergh left the house sometime in the morning. We had lunch at 1:30. It was then that Mrs. Lindbergh told me that due to the baby's condition she decided to keep it here in Hopewell. My husband told me that Mrs. Lindbergh called the Morrow's home in Englewood and told her mother about the baby's condition and said she decided to keep it here Monday. About 7 P.M. Colonel Lindbergh called up and said he would be late and thought it would be too late to be out here at all that night. About 8:30 that evening I brought some food to the baby and Mrs. Lindbergh put the child to bed. Knowing that it was customary for Mrs. Lindbergh to visit the baby at ten o'clock every night I accompanied her up to the nursery and helped her administer to the child. After that we all retired.

I got up next morning, Tuesday, about 6:30 A.M., rubbed his chest, first I gave the baby some orange juice, a bit of toast and then rubbed his chest and tucked him in bed. About nine o'clock Mrs. Lindbergh came down and had breakfast. I had been upstairs arranging the beds and when I came down about ten o'clock Whateley told me that Mrs. Lindbergh had asked Whateley to find out the trains that came to Hopewell as she decided to phone for Betty, the nurse, as she intended to stay over Tuesday owing to the child's condition. Whateley got the train times and forwarded the information to Englewood to Betty by telephone. On the same call Mrs. Lindbergh spoke to Betty and asked her if she would come down as soon as she could, as she decided to stay over Tuesday, as she wouldn't risk taking the baby out. At about 11:30 Whateley told me that he had just received a call from Betty and Betty told him that Mrs. Morrow decided to let her come down by auto, so that she would save time. About one P.M. she arrived in the Morrow car, driven by Henry. Betty and Henry had lunch and Henry left soon after. After Betty had her lunch she went in the nursery; she washed and bathed the baby and fed him. After this Betty remained in the nursery while the baby was playing around until about four o'clock when Mrs. Lindbergh and myself went up to the nursery and the three of us watched the baby playing. After staying in the nursery for a short time I came downstairs to get some tea. About four-thirty Betty came down with the baby and brought the baby into the living room where Mrs. Lindbergh was having tea and the baby romped around the floor and then Betty and Whateley and I had tea in the sitting room in the rear of the first floor. About six o'clock Betty, Whateley and I were in the kitchen and the baby came running in and said to me, "Hello, Elsie," and Betty had to run around the table and caught him and took him upstairs and Mrs. Lindbergh followed. As far as I know the baby was bathed and fed and tucked away to bed. Betty didn't come down until about eight o'clock. Whateley and I were busy in the kitchen preparing dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Lindbergh. Betty went into our sitting room and started to read. She put the paper on the table and the

room in his basket. About seven o'clock the Colonel called and told Mrs. Lindbergh that he would be a little late. After Whateley found out that the Colonel would be late he decided to have a bite to eat. He ate in the sitting room. After Whateley ate he came into the kitchen and helped me with the dinner. About a quarter past eight at the suggestion of Whateley, Betty and I had a bite to eat. Just as I was finishing I heard the Colonel blow his horn and I went back into the kitchen to hurry up the dinner and Whateley assisted me and Betty stayed in the sitting room reading and listening to the radio. The Colonel came in. After he came he and Mrs. Lindbergh came into the kitchen and spoke to Whateley and I for a few minutes. This was about eight-thirty. We then served the dinner.

About nine o'clock while Whateley and I were in the kitchen still serving dinner we heard the phone ring and Whateley answered it and went to the sitting room and called Betty to the phone. She came out and answered the phone and after she hung up she said that that was Henry and that he was sorry that he didn't see her. She told me afterwards that she had had an appointment with him for that night, that he was sorry that he couldn't see her before she left for Hopewell, because he was going to go to Hartford.

A little after nine o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Lindbergh finished the meal and Whateley and I cleared up the table, washed and dried the dishes and Betty was still in the sitting room reading and listening to the radio. Then Whateley and I went into the sitting room where Betty was and Whateley started to read the papers. Then Betty and I went upstairs to my room where I showed her a dress that I had bought. After we talked up in the room for awhile Betty looked at her watch and said, "Oh, it's ten o'clock, I have got to go to the baby." When Betty went to the nursery Mrs. Lindbergh rang and I went to her bedroom and she asked me to get her a hot lemon and she wanted me to take a hot water and lemon to her; she intended to take a bath. I said, all right, Mrs. Lindbergh. When I came out of Mrs. Lindbergh's room to get the hot lemon and water I saw Betty coming along the corridor and she said to me, "Is Mrs. Lindbergh there?" and I said, no, she is taking a bath. She said, "I wonder if she wants to see the baby" and I said, I guess if she does she will go through the connecting door. Betty went back toward the nursery and I went to the kitchen to prepare the hot lemon. When I came down to prepare the lemon and water I told Whateley and he came into the kitchen and put on a kettle of hot water.

Betty ^{then} came down the stairs and into the kitchen very excited and deathly pale and she grabbed Whateley by the shoulder and said, "Whateley, quick, go to Colonel Lindbergh, the baby is gone", and Whateley went upstairs right away and I said to Betty, what is the matter, pull yourself together. Betty says, "The baby is gone, Elsie." Then I left her in the kitchen and went upstairs and Betty followed after me and there I met Colonel Lindbergh and Whateley and I said to Colonel Lindbergh, where is Mrs. Lindbergh? and he pointed toward the baby's bedroom. I went in there and said to Mrs. Lindbergh, you must get dressed, as she only had a dressing gown on. She seemed to be in a sort of a daze. She said, "All right, get the clothes and I will dress in here." Then said, "I will dress in my room, Elsie", and I went through the bathroom and into her room where she got

dressed. As far as I can recall I think it was in the neighborhood of ten-thirty when I was helping Mrs. Lindbergh to get dressed and she said, "I think I hear a noise" and she opened her bedroom window wide and she said, "I guess it must have been a cat". The noise seemed to come opposite Mrs. Lindbergh's window. We looked out and couldn't see anything. She finished dressing and I accompanied her and looked into every nook and corner and every closet. During this search Betty assisted us. Mr. Lindbergh and Whateley went outside and searched around the grounds.

There is no doubt in my mind that this happening has disturbed Betty to a great extent. I base this opinion on my observation of her since that night.

Oleie Whateley

(Statement stenographically taken and
transcribed by Samuel B. Finklestein,
Newark Police Department.)

Samuel B. Finklestein