

Doc. work

✓ Please fill out and return in order that we may complete our records on former Rosenwald Fellows:

Name: ALGER L. ADAMS FELLOWSHIP

Present position: PROBATION OFFICER COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS, NYC, NY. (2) ASSISTANT & DIRECTOR OF

Address: SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAM, ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1110 DEAN ST. (3) MEMBER AHSW NARE

Significant recent activities: BKLYN PROBATION ASSOCIATION, DEPT OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL RELATIONS, DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND 170 REMSON ST. BKLYN



1939 - 41 DISTRICT OFFICE CASE SUPERVISOR DEPT. WELFARE

(Use additional sheet if desired) PROFF STARKS 130 Y



SCHOLARSHIP

graph measuring not more than 2"x4"

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

900 South Homan Avenue

Date March 16, 1932

DRY

Mr. Alger Se Roy Adams

142 High St. Geneva, N.Y.

ess 2213 North 21st St Omaha, Nebraska

Place of birth Omaha Nebraska Date of birth August 1, 1910

Single, married, widowed, divorced Single

Name and address of wife or husband

Number of children — Age and sex —

Dependents None To what extent — Relation —

Father's name J. H. Adams Address 2213 Cuming St Omaha Neb Occupation Barber

HEALTH OF APPLICANT

Weight 138 Height 5 6 feet inches Previous illnesses None details and date

Illnesses during past twelve months None

Physical impairment—degree and how long existing None

Most recent complete physical examination—when and by whom April 1931

Dr. A. D. Heist

Physician's recommendations None

Have these been acted upon? —

General health of family good

FISK UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION

Give a summary of your education in the following form:

	Name of Institution	Period of Study	Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates (give dates)
ACADEMIC:			
High School	Omaha Central High	Four years	Certificate 1928
Normal			
College or University	Hobart College	Completing - Four years	Candidate 1932
Graduate			
PROFESSIONAL:			
Music			
Art			
Technical			

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Positions held (professional, teaching, scientific, administrative, business):

Name of Institution or Organization	Title of Position	Years of Tenure (give dates)	Under Direction of
Hobart College	Laboratory Assistant	Mar. 1931 - June 1932	Psychology - Dr. Dumnick
Trinity Church	Supply Minister	Jan. 1931 - June 1931	Rev. F. Brown Rev. S. E. Reed

REFERENCES

Submit a list of references from whom further confidential information may be obtained:

Name of Reference	Where and in what way does this person know you?	Address
Dr. J. M. Williams	Professor	Hobart College Geneva N.Y.
Dr. F. L. Dumnick	Professor	Hobart College, Geneva, N.Y.
Dr. A. D. Hirst	Friend and advisor	Grand Bldg, Geneva, N.Y.
Prof. H. H. Yeames	Professor	Hobart College

Give a list of the scholarships or fellowships you have previously held or now hold:

Worthington Scholarship 1928-1929-1930-1931 to June 1932  
Student aid - to deserving men 1929-1930-1931 to June 1932

Present position? student From — To — Salary? —

Do you seek further training for this or another position? Another What and where? —

Urban League Worker - New York School of Social Work

Have you positive assurance of a position after completion of further study? No

If so, what is the position? —

By whom is assurance given? —

What course of study do you wish to take? Social Service Work

For what degree are you working? New York School of Social Work does not grant degree.

What institution offers best opportunity for this study? New York School Social Work

When does the course begin and when does it end? September 1932 - June 1933

Have your credits been accepted without condition? They will be.

Courses you propose to take:

Major Labor Problems

Minor Community Organization

What financial assistance can you depend upon from present employer, school, family, or organization?

None

If you are a student and employed outside of school, how many hours per day do you work? 7 1/2 hrs.

What are they? I 5:00 P.M - 10:00 P.M II 2:00 P.M to 4:30 P.M - I Room Board Laundry

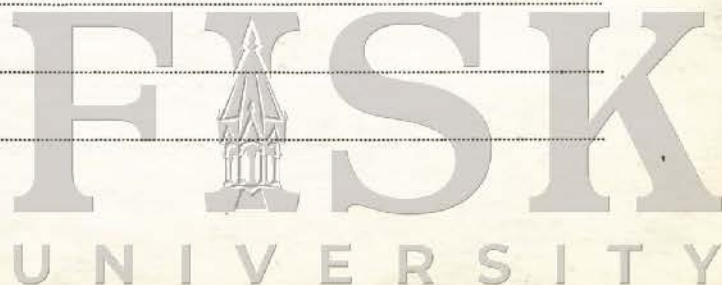
Where employed? Dugan Hobart College How much do you earn? II 3.00 per wkr

Will this continue? No How long? —

What is the total amount required for the proposed period of study? 1200.00

How much can you provide?

None



SUBJECTS STUDIED SINCE COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL

Please group courses by subjects, such as English, Science, History, etc.

Name of Subject	Institution (school or college)	Number of Semesters	Year
<b>I English</b>	<b>Hobart</b>	—	
Freshman English	"	2 semesters	1928 - 1929
History of English Lit	"	2 semesters	1929 - 1930
19 <sup>th</sup> Century Poetry	"	1 semester	1930 - 1931
20 <sup>th</sup> " "	"	1 semester	1931
Anglo Saxon - Alfred	"	2 semesters	1930 - 1931
" " Beowulf	"	2 semesters	1931 - 1932
Daily Theme	"	1 semester	1931 - 1932
Weekly Theme	"	1 semester	1932
<b>II GREEK</b>	"	—	
Elements -	"	4 semesters	1928 - 1930
Plato & Homer	"	2 semesters	1930 - 1931
New Testament	"	2 semesters	1931 - 1932
<b>III Sociology</b>	"	—	
Social Evolution	"	2 semesters	1929 - 1930
The Family	"	2 semesters	1930 - 1931
Case Work	"	2 semesters	1930 - 1931
Social Psych.	"	2 semesters	1930 - 1931
Crime	"	2 semesters	1931 - 1932
<b>IV Psychology</b>	"	—	
General -	"	2 semesters	1930 - 1931
- Seminar -	"	1 semester	1931
Social Psych-critical	"	1 semester	1932
- Seminar -	"	1 semester	1932
Contemporary schools	"	1 semester	1932
Applied Psychology	"	2 semesters	1931 - 1932
Experimental "	"	2 semesters	1931 - 1932
Spanish - Advanced	" (OVER)	4 semesters	1928 - 1930
Science - General Science	" 4	2 semesters	1928 - 1929
Biology	"	2 semesters	1929 - 1930

In addition to filling out the application blank, we are asking that you write an essay of not more than five hundred words, stating the major problem in your field, as you see it, and your reason for believing that additional training will enable you to help solve that problem, or, at least to make a contribution as a result of a wider experience. (Please use pages 5 and 6 for this essay.)

To state the major problem in the field I have selected is to describe the entire field. To expect to solve or resolve the intricate meshes of the race problem by one's self in one or even five years is folly. To hope to make some small contribution to the ultimate resolution of even one of its parts is a fasting desire. That training is an indispensable and vital prerequisite to any approach by one who wishes to contribute to its ultimate solution is an axiom that seems so self-evident as to almost escape definition or elaboration. It would be somewhat like trying to define red. But for all the completeness of these self-evident truths there are certain things that may be said to limit them to application to my particular case. Not so much that the matters themselves need elucidation but rather in order that the profile of my own attitudes and ideas may cast an identifying shadow.

The major problem — as it appears to me — is justice, first, last and always. When color no longer is a bar to the pursuit of a man's peaceable life, then the question may be considered settled. But justice in this complete sense is little better — at this time — than a mirage, a mirage not even to think of but to dream of. But to simply say that such things be is not to progress. The question must be constantly assailed and worked out step by step. The obvious step of progress for today is thru the economic. As long as color remains a bar to the desire of a man to earn his daily bread honorably, we can not say we are receiving justice. But the problem should not be met in a burst of emotionalism. When prejudice answers prejudice and

That answers that there can certainly be no understanding and without mutual understanding progress or accomplishment is impossible. So if I am asked why I desire to study the race problem in its social aspects, my reply is to try to gain that understanding of both sides that will guide me along the logical path and preserve me from the muddle of emotionality. The logical procedure is to study the entire matter as dispassionately as one would observe the convolutions of a paramedical — interestedly, yes, but impersonally so. If, then, we can understand the rudimentary factors that exist, we should be better able to evaluate the total situation — not understand it completely perhaps, but at least we may escape approaching the question with the innocence of babes and the rage of lions. In my own case I feel that such a study is the natural culmination of my education. My training has been almost entirely directed towards being able to interpret facts in an impersonal way, from Greek and Beowulf to Sociology and Psychology. If then I have acquired something of the scientific attitude, the time is now ripe to turn whatever poor powers I may possess towards that question which has for so long been fraught with emotionalism and prejudice.

Such, in review is my object in seeking to specialize in social science and the race problem in particular.

Alger LeRoy Adams —

# SCHOLARSHIP

January 15, 1935

My dear Mr. Adams: This will acknowledge your letter of December 30, asking for a fellowship from the Julius Rosenwald Fund to study certain aspects of the work of "Father Divine." As you stated in your application, you received a fellowship from this Fund a few years ago. In general we do not make additional awards to persons who have already held fellowships from us. Our awards are now very few in number. We feel that we should hold these to persons who come to us with unusual promise and who have not recently had this kind of help from us. Under all the circumstances I fear that we cannot consider favorably your present application.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMPREE

ERE:MWC

~~Mr. Alger LeRoy Adams~~  
General Theological Seminary  
Chelsea Square  
New York City

JAN 16 1935

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

1/11/35

Mr. Embree:        This young man received a \$1,000 scholarship from the JRF (recommended by the National Urban League) two years ago to study at the New York School of Social Work. He seems to have strayed ever so slightly from the social service path! Shall I send him one of our regular turn-downs, or do you think he should have a "special letter?" I thought you'd be interested in seeing what our scholarship did for him.

VH

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Chelsea Square  
New York City

SCHOLARSHIP

December 30, 1934

Julius Rosenwald Fund  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I am writing to ask nomination to fellowship or grant to study certain aspects of the cult of peace of the so-called "Father Divine." I feel that the peculiar circumstances of my background and training make me particularly able to interpret what is certainly one of the most interesting religious, social, and psychological phenomenon of Negroid background that has risen in the course of the present era of depression.

Briefly, the movement centers around a certain Negro who is known as "Father Divine". Tho he himself has made no formal statement, he is credited with being the incarnation of God on earth by his followers. At this time his following numbers thousands of simple Negroes and a not too negligible number of other racial groups. His movement has created a real unrest in the Harlem, Metroplitan, and Long Island area of New York and in Northern Jersey. Certain aspects of the movement make it a definite social nuisance, but there are no grounds for legal prosecution.

At present, there is no organized knowledge about the movement beyond a certain half-informed ridicule that burlesques it. But the movement has gained impetus in the last year and is gaining more and more momentum as the Negro ministers and pastors of area will readily testify. There is at present appearing an embryonic theology, and there are certain qualities about it that give one the impression that some basic need in human nature has been touched their simple creed which is that "Father is God". It will be no exaggeration to say that the cult is real menance to the Negro religious community and a coming factor to be recognized in racial development.

My plan of investigation would be simple. First, a period in which to acquire a more complete and technical knowledge of primitive religion in general and Christianity in partiucular. Secondly, a period of field work in which (a) the origin of the man "Divine" and his idea would be uncovered, (b) the growth of their ideology would be traced, (c) their historical growth would be traced, (d) their present beliefs concerning the person of "Divine" systematized, (e) some official pronouncement from the leaders as to the matter of their belief, and (f) what is the probable future for them as they see it. Thirdly, the reorganization of that material and an interpretation of the facts to give the fullest possible knowledge about the movement and an evaluation of it as a force or agent in Negro America.

**JAN 16 1935** If there is anything in such a study which your foundation would be interested in, I would be very glad to enter into correspondence with you about specific details. However in any event, I will appreciate some reply.

Sincerely yours,

*Alger LeRoy Adams*  
Alger LeRoy Adams

UNIVERSITY

## PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Name: Alger LeRoy Adams

Sex: Male

Race: Negro

Education, training, and experience:

Attended Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y. 1928-1932.

Supply minister in St. Phillip's Mission.

Laboratory assistant in Department of Psychology.

Cobb Literature prize for best English Essay 1931.

White Prize for general excellence in English 1932.

Elected member of Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta Chapter 1932.

Graduated A. B. Magna cum laude with honors in

English Literature, Greek, and Psychology 1932

Offered University Scholarship at Harvard University to study Psychology in the Department of Philosophy 1932, rejected in favor of another grant.

Awarded Rosenwald grant to study social work, won thru nation competitive contest of the National Urban League 1932.

At New York School of Social Work year of 1932-1933

With Essex County Tuberculosis League, Newark, N. J.

for six months of the time doing community organization in North Jersey.

With National Urban League for five months in the department of Industrial Relations, N. Y. C.

At General Theological Seminary, N. Y. C. 1933-34

Curate and Director of Religious Education to

Dr. George Marshall Plaskett, Orange and Montclair, N. J.

Investigator on staff of Home Relief Bureau of N. Y. C. July 6, 1934-November 1, 1934. Resigned to continue in Seminary.

General Theological Seminary at present and associated with the National Urban League.

In summary, I think that I could offer such a study a well balanced combination of psychological training and knowledge; definite training and experience in the field of sociology, social work, and social investigation and interpretation; religious knowledge and training; experience in and knowledge of the area that would be the focal point of the investigation, i. e. New York and Northern Jersey; and lastly an adequate intelligence to do justice to the facts in the case.

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## REFERENCES

Registrar of Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y.

Dr. James Mickel Williams, professor  
Hobart College  
Geneva, N. Y.

Dr. Forrest L. Dimmick, professor  
Hobart College  
Geneva, N. Y.

New York School of Social Work  
122 East 22nd St.  
N. Y. C.

Mr. Rowan Whealdon  
Essex County Tuberculosis League  
21 Park Place  
Newark, N. J.

Mr. Eugene Knickle Jones (On leave of absence in Washington.)  
National Urban League  
1133 Broadway  
N. Y. C.

Mr. T. Arnold Hill  
National Urban League  
1133 Broadway  
N. Y. C.

Dr. George Marshall Plaskett  
Church of the Epiphany  
Orange, N. J.

General Theological Seminary  
Chelsea Square  
N. Y. C.

Miss Constance Ball, personnel secretary  
Emergency Home Relief Bureau of New York City  
20 East 21st St.  
N. Y. C.

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
900 South Homan Avenue  
Chicago.

CONFIDENTIAL

YEAR 1932-1933

Name Alger S. Adams  
Address New York School of Social Work  
Present Address Hobart College, Geneva, New York  
Occupation Senior Student  
Plan. \_\_\_\_\_

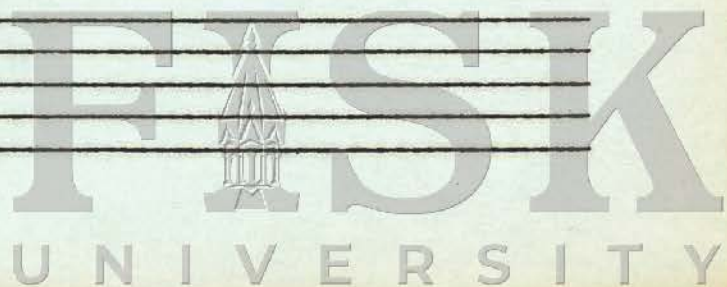
Aid to secure training to enable him to do social service work

Comments National Urban League scholarship. First colored person to enter  
Hobart College. Second in class and received Phi Beta Kappa key.  
"fine character, great energy and moral stamina".

Applicant's References Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones  
Professor J. W. Williams, Dept. of Sociology, Hobart College

Other References \_\_\_\_\_

Action of Standing Committee April 2, 1932 - \$1,000



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

**SCHOLARSHIP**

The Julius Rosenwald Fund is making a review of the Negro fellowships which it has granted during the past seven years. Since an appraisal of our activity thus far in this field will naturally have some effect on future policy, it is requested that all persons who have received fellowship grants from the Fund cooperate by filling in carefully the brief information asked for on the following blank and returning the information promptly to the Fund.

Name ALGER LEROY ADAMS

Position at time grant was made STUDENT

Specific purpose of the fellowship study SOCIAL WORK TRAINING

Subject studied under the fellowship (or special work accomplished)

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION & CASE WORK

Institution at which fellowship study was carried on (or, if no specific institution was attended, state nature and place of the work carried out under the grant)

NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK NYC.

Present position or occupation ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR FAMILY SERVICE

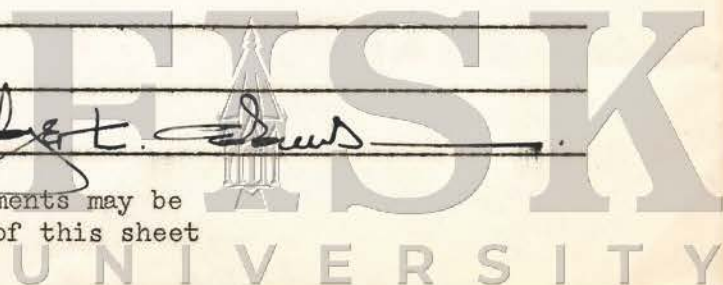
DIVISION OF DIVISION OF UNATTACHED & TRANSIENT MEN OF EMERGENCY  
RELIEF BUREAU OF CITY OF NEW YORK

Your opinion of benefits received from the fellowship

PROVIDED SPLENDID BACKGROUND FOR PRESENT JOB — RESPONSIBLE FOR  
ME HAVING REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS. FIRM FOUNDATION FOR CON-  
TINUED DEVELOPMENT.

Alger L. Adams

Other reports or comments may be written on the back of this sheet





SCHOLARSHIP

April 20, 1932

My dear Mr. Adams: I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the Committee on Fellowships of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, you were awarded a grant of \$1,000 to study social work during the year 1932-1933.

It is our understanding that you plan to study at the New York School of Social Work.

Further correspondence concerning your work, the procedure in payments on the fellowship, and other details should be carried on with Mr. George R. Arthur of this office.

The Trustees and Officers of the Fund take much satisfaction in being able to cooperate with you in your plans for further study.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMBREE

ERE:VH

Mr. Alger S. Adams  
Hobart College  
Geneva, New York

MAY 7 1932

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