

FELLOWSHIPS

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Fitchett, E H

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Claflin College
Orangeburg, S. C.
September 26, 1939

Mr. George M. Reynolds
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

In reply to your recent communication I am enclosing herewith the information which you requested. I consider the tenure of my fellowship to have provided me with very fruitful opportunities. I am grateful to you personally as well as to your Fund for the courtesies and the privileges which have been afforded me in this connection. I shall keep in touch with you relative to any outcomes from this year's study and research.

Very truly yours,

E. Horace Fitchett
E. Horace Fitchett.

encl.



1. Present Address: - Claflin College, Orangeburg, S. C.
2. Institutional connection: - Dean of the College
3. Rank or Title: - Dean of the College and Professor of Social Science.
4. Has there been any change in your rank, position, or salary, since the completion of your fellowship? If so, please indicate: - There has been no change.
5. Publication since you were awarded the fellowship: - "Occupational Preferences and Opportunities for Negro College Students" - THE JOURNAL OF NEGRO EDUCATION. Volume VII.. October 1938.

During the tenure of my fellowship two quarters were spent in residence at the University of Chicago and one quarter in field work, on my problem, in Charleston, S. C. The residence at the University was spent in pursuing courses preparatory to the taking of language and preliminary examinations; in consultation with my adviser, Professor W. Lloyd Warner; in organizing the materials which I had already collected for a report before a Seminar on "Race and Culture Contacts" at the University of Chicago; and in preparing for a quarter in field work in Charleston.

I wish to make a brief statement relative to my research activities while on the field, in the Spring Quarter. On account of the existing folkways, special arrangements had to be made for getting access to the sources which my study required. The institutions and sources from which material was obtained were: The Charleston Free Library, where bound volumes of verbatim typewritten copies of old wills have been placed; the library of the College of Charleston, where I consulted the newspaper files; and the libraries of Claflin and State Colleges in Orangeburg, S. C., in which books have been placed from the private collections of a late Negro Congressman and a Negro Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, during the Reconstruction period. I also studied the records of the Probate Court, where additional wills were consulted; the Mesne Conveyance office where deeds were recorded; the office of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and the Rector of St Philip's Church where minutes, marriage, baptism and funeral registers were made accessible. All of these sources gave a very valuable fund of source material bearing upon the economic, social and legal position of the free Negro in the community life during the slave period.

Moreover, the interviews with the descendants of free Negroes provided an avenue through which such documents as personal and business letters, wills, receipts, invitations, rules and regulations of old societies and minutes, etc., were placed at my disposal. Many of these rare documents were photographed by the machine which your Fund made available for my use.

At the beginning of the Summer Quarter I returned to the University for three more months of residence work. During this time I was invited to read a paper, on my findings, before the section on Cultural Interaction, at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Research. The subject discussed was: "The Traditions of the Free Negro in Charleston, S. C. The paper which was

prepared for this occasion, with some modifications, has also been submitted to and accepted by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, for Publication in one of its forthcoming numbers. It will appear in the Journal of Negro History. As soon as it is released, I shall forward copies to you.

During the months of August and September I have devoted time to preparing the first draft of my manuscript. I hope to have it completed to submit to Professor W. Lloyd Warner, for criticism, by the early part of this quarter.

My major emphasis has been upon the problem which I am investigating.
This I felt was a more profitable pursuit at this time.

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