

Julius Rosenwald Fund

Edwin R. Embree
President

Margaret S. Simon
Secretary

D. A. Elvidge
Comptroller

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

October 16, 1939

J. C. Dixon
Director for Rural Education

M. O. Bousfield, M.D.
Director for Negro Health

George M. Reynolds
Director for Fellowships

Dear Mr. Kennedy: We are preparing a full report for our trustees on persons who have held fellowships, and would like to have up-to-date information. It will be of great service to us if you will give the information called for below, and return the sheet to us at once. In addition to these bare facts we should be glad to know of anything interesting that has happened to you, or that you have accomplished either during your tenure of fellowship or since you finished your work. Our trustees have a continuing interest in the fellows and we like to keep them informed. Use additional pages if necessary.

GMR:MLU

Very truly yours,

George M. Reynolds

Mr. Melvin D. Kennedy
6357 Langley Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Present address: 6357 Langley Ave., Chicago, Illinois

Doing what: Completing work for degree at University of Chicago

Rank or title: Research assistant, dept of history

Status of work toward degree: admitted to candidacy, December 1938.

Am now completing research in preparation for writing the dissertation.

Publications since you were awarded the fellowship. Please give publisher.

Book Notice: Review of E. Leslie Suggs, Thomas Clarkson, the friend of slaves, in Journal of Modern History for October, 1938.

Additional information:

During the tenure of the grant and its extension, my time was spent as follows:

Until January 1939, at the University of Chicago

From February until the end of August in Paris, doing research on the project of the grant.

This work was interrupted by the outbreak of the war, or its imminence. I left Paris on Aug.

28th and went to Le Havre, where I secured passage for home at the last hour in the Ile-de-France on Sept 2.

In Paris, my work was done at the Archives Nationales and the Bibliothèque Nationale. I also catalogued the material at the Arsenal and the Bibliothèque de Protestantisme français. It was possible to do a little work at the Ministry of the Colonies, but for the most part, such material that there is in these archives on my subject is not yet communicable. It was impossible to use the archives of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Marine, the first because they were packed for removal during my whole stay in Paris, and second for the reason that I never did receive the necessary authorization although no explanation was given. This creates a serious, but I hope not insurmountable, deficiency in my preparation.

In addition, both the large amount of work in Paris, and the recurring periods of uncertainty, made it impossible for me to go to either the port towns (Nantes, etc.) or London. Finally my hurried departure meant the last five or six weeks were cut off my preparations. During three of these, I could do nothing, and during the rest three it was necessary to remake my plans for this year.

I am this year on leave of absence from Atlantic University, and hope to finish my dissertation before the end of the summer of 1940. The greatest problem is that of assembling the sources available in this country, and may involve the necessity of spending a few weeks in Boston and New York.

Quite aside from the very obvious benefits of travel abroad, the seven months in France made possible by the Rosenwald Grant were of considerable profit to me by making possible many friendships among both Europeans and Americans and a very considerable improvement in both my attitude and methods of historical research.