

ADDENDUM

To Darwin W. Esmond¹

Malden W.Va. Sept. 13th 1879

Mr. Esmond: I learn through Miss Mary Mackie that I am indebted to you for your kindness in securing law-books for me.

My greatest difficulty since I began the study of law² has been the want of books.

The books that you secured for me will be very valuable helps to me, and I feel very grateful to you for your kindness.

I have been receiving instruction this summer from a white lawyer,³ but not very regularly.

I expect to go to Hampton in two weeks, where I shall teach this year. I think I shall have a very good opportunity to study there. ~~I think.~~ Any help that you can give me there will be gladly received. The advice that you wrote to me a year or two ago has been very valuable to me.

With many thanks, I am Yours truly

B. T. Washington

ALS In possession of M. A. Harris, New York City.

¹ Darwin W. Esmond (ca. 1846-ca. 1922) was a lawyer in Newburgh, N.Y.

² On BTW's study of the law, see above, 1:26, 391. While a student at Hampton Institute he expressed to Nathalie Lord, one of his teachers, his desire to be a lawyer. She arranged for him to study law under a teacher who had had legal training. (Lord, "Booker Washington's School Days," 257-58.)

³ Romeo Hoyt Freer (1845-1913) was born in Trumbull County, Ohio. He attended Oberlin for one year. In 1861 he volunteered in the Union Army and served until the end of the Civil War. Settling in Charleston, W.Va., he taught school for two years, read law, and was admitted to the bar in 1868. An eloquent