

OCTOBER · 1900

From Amanda Ferguson Johnston

Malden, W Va Oct. 2 1900

my Dear Brother the death of Aunt Sopha was a Shock to me. James Wright¹ was down Sunday & said She was as well as usual Thursday I got the Phone Sh was dead. The money yu sent I sent eight dollars to Cousing Sallie & two dollars to the white Preacher for His Ser[v]ises at the grave as there was no Colord one Heare. the men are all gone out to work up the river She died Happy.

Brother I Lost my Cow Last night dont know what Caused Here deth² She seemed Crazy it is a Heavy Lost to me I got the Pitchure Of mrs. washington I Caried it all eaveing showing to the whites tell Dr. W. F. Shirkey³ is Looking for His Pitcure. Love to all from your sister

Mrs Johnson

ALSr Con. 176 BTW Papers DLC. "Mrs Johnson" is in another hand, perhaps added later at Tuskegee.

¹ James Wright, according to the 1900 census, was a twenty-two-year-old coal miner who boarded in the home of BTW's cousin Sallie Agee Poe.

² BTW had apparently sent his sister the money to purchase the cow as she had requested in Mar. 1900. (Johnston to BTW, Mar. 4, 1900, Con. 176, BTW Papers, DLC.)

³ Wilbur F. Shirkey of Malden, W.Va., was a white physician, born in West Virginia in 1858.

From Jesse Lawson

Washington, D.C., Oct. 3, 1900

My dear Sir: Your very kind favor, of recent date, was duly received, and contents noted.

Did I make it plain that Mr. Birney¹ is to work up the case from the beginning? Start it in Louisiana and take it through the U.S. Supreme Court. He wants \$500 as retaining fee.

I have heard nothing from Mr. McGhee² as yet. I understood you to say, when we were in Indianapolis, that you had received \$100 from parties in the North to assist in the matter of testing the