

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

strongest church supporters, but our note was sounded — and I think if our course had been taken throughout the South there would never have been another negro “burning,” with all its imbruting consequences. I had almost forgotten about it until I chanced upon something which reminded me that Mrs. Murphy had a copy of the paper.

Pardon my sending it to you — and with so much of detail about myself. I have wanted you to see this, however, in order that you may understand how long and how deeply my heart has been in this whole question. I was then twenty three; and you can easily see that it all happened long before I knew you — long before I knew one intelligent educated negro man — and before the period of my many friendships at the North. Faithfully Yours,

Edgar Gardner Murphy

You may show this to Mr. Bruce if you think he would be interested.

ALS Con. 865 BTW Papers DLC.

From Elizabeth Hyde Botume¹

Whitney School Port Royal, S.C. January 1st 1902

Dear Mr. Washington I am very desirous to consult with you in regard to the future of my school for negro children known as “Whitney School.”

The time has come when I must give up my work here. Circumstances & especially my age & increasing disability demand this.

I see by the daily papers that you are to be in Charleston to attend the Exposition. Will you not come to Port Royal & see what is doing for, & the needs of the negroes here? I live a little more than a mile from the R. R. Station at Port Royal. I shall be happy to send for you there & entertain you at my own house.

I came to this place in 1864 to take charge of the “Contraband Refugees” located here. Like so many others I came as an independent worker — a volunteer from Rev. James Freeman Clarke’s Church of Disciples, Boston. I had a Certificate from the Freedman’s Aid Society.