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# THE MONITOR

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A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## Noted Jew Gives Another \$25,000

Members of Race Are Paying Their Subscriptions Promptly for St. Louis \$180,000 Y. M. C. A. Building.

St. Louis.—Mr. Julius Rosenwald, the Chicago philanthropist and president of the Sears-Roebuck company, played Santa Claus to the St. Louis citizens by sending his check for \$25,000 to help out in the erection of the new Pine street department, Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Rosenwald's offer of \$25,000 was conditioned upon St. Louis raising \$75,000 for a Young Men's Christian association for Colored men. St. Louis went beyond the condition and is erecting a building costing \$180,000 for Y. M. C. A. purposes.

Twenty-six thousand dollars of this amount has already been paid in by Colored people on their pledge of \$50,000. This includes a \$5,000 subscription by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Malone and a \$1,000 subscription by F. L. Williams, principal of the Summer High school, both of which have been paid in full. Two other subscriptions of \$1,000 were made by W. C. Gordon, the undertaker and laundryman, and Dr. W. L. Perry, pastor of Antioch Baptist church, both of whom have made substantial payments on their subscriptions. Over 1,400 persons have paid in full their pledges to this fund for the new Y. M. C. A. since the new movement began in 1915.

## FIRST COLORED ASSEMBLYMAN IN NEW YORK SEATED

Albany, N. Y.—Edward A. Johnson, republican assemblyman from the Nineteenth district, New York, was seated in the 19.8 legislature, the first Colored man to sit in any lawmaking body in the state. Assemblyman Johnson was delighted at the cordiality of other lawmakers. "Why, Speaker Sweet even paid me the honor of asking me to be seated with him," said Mr. Johnson.

## NEWS FROM CAMP FUNSTON

Co. 3, Officers' Training Camp, Camp Funston, Kan., Jan. 20.  
Editor The Monitor:

I suppose you think me a fine one, not to keep my word and send you the camp news each week, but the fact is study has kept me hard at it. Sergeant Earl Wheeler, Sergeant Elmer Morris, First Class Private Thos. E. (Tommy) Mason and myself are trying for a commission in the Third Officers' Training Camp and you know what that means. We have been at it two week now, with ten more ahead of us, and I mean ten hard weeks. There is no need to explain about the routine, as it is practically the same as at Des Moines. The Third company is instructed entirely by Colored officers, who are efficiency itself. The instructors are Captain Milton T. Dean, commanding; Captain Barbour and First Lieutenant Richardson. There are at present about sixty members of the Colored companies. Two white companies are also in camp. Eighteen of the candidates are recent graduates of Wilberforce university, which school was the only school (Colored) allowed a quota to this training camp. They are a fine bunch of fellows.

Activities in camp are about the same, only progressing more rapidly and with more precision. I tell you the Ninety-second Division (Colored) is there. General Ballou is still in command of the camp during the absence of General Wood. A censorship is on news which is sent to the newspapers, so therefore I cannot give you as many details as I would like.

The weather here is very cold, but the boys go at everything with a snap. Major York, formerly commanding the Liberian frontier force, is attending the school. I make mention of this fact, as he knew Mr. Guy Robbins and it might be of interest to others, who, perhaps, remember his appointment to Liberia by Secretary of State Bryan.

It looks like "over the top" for the boys soon and the fire of adventure seems to be burning in the breasts of all.

The Omaha boys join in regards to all and those of us who have not thanked the "Crispus Attucks Chapter" for the useful Xmas presents wish to do so now, (better late than never). Success and enthusiasm are the bywords of all. We wish your prayers and hope that the time may soon come when all will be together in "the old home town."

Until you hear from me again,  
ANDREW T. REED.

## METARRICK FULLER, DATING SCULPTOR OF COLORED RACE

The first sculptor of the race in America was Vaux Warrick Fuller. She was born in Philadelphia June 9, 1877, and received her first recognition as a sculptor by her work in the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Art, for which she had won a scholarship and where she attended for four years. She won a prize in her graduating year in 1898 and also won the famous George K. Crozier prize for the best general work in modeling in a post-graduate year. In 1899 she went to Paris and there worked and studied for three years. Here her work attracted the great Rodin himself and he declared, "Mademoiselle, you are a sculptor; it is in your fingers." Later years have added many laurels to her crown and though the happy mother of three boys and residing peacefully at Framingham, Mass., she still finds time for the practice of her art.

Benjamin Brawley, in an article in the Southern Workman, has this to say of Mrs. Fuller's work:

"Her work may be said to fall into two divisions—the romantic and the social. The first is represented by such things as 'The Wretched' and 'Secret Sorrow'; the second by 'Immigrant in America' and 'The Silent Appeal.' The transition may be seen in 'Watching for Dawn,' a group that shows seven figures, in various attitudes of prayer, watchfulness and resignation, watching for the coming of daylight, or peace. In technique this is like 'The Wretched'; in spirit it is like the later work. It is as if the sculptor's own seer, John the Baptist, had summoned her away from the romantic and esoteric to the every-day problems of needy humanity. There are many, however, who hope that she will not utterly forsake the field in which she first became famous. Her early work is not delicate or pretty; it is gruesome and terrible; but it is also intense and vital, and from it speaks the very tragedy of the Negro race."

## A Remarkable Coincidence

How Two Virginians, One Black and the Other White, Land Alabama's Best Educational Plums.

In the Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald Dr. Frank Willis Barnett tells the following story of Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, and Dr. George Denney, president of the University of Alabama, both Virginians, who, as children, just after the civil war, played together:

Dr. Denney's father was a Presbyterian minister and used to visit the family in which young Moton's father served, and that he himself waited on the table. After dinner was over, he and "George" (they were boys then) used to go fishing together. In concluding Dr. Barnett says:

"I know of no stranger thing in the history of education than that story of the white boy and the 'pickaninny' who roamed the fields and fished the streams of old Virginia together just at the close of the war. The Colored boy freed, but handicapped, started an uphill fight to learn how to read and write and made good, and is today the president of the greatest Negro school in the world; while the white lad, though shackled by the awful days of reconstruction, yet made his way through college, and is now the head of the University of Alabama. Can you beat this story of two boys reared in Virginia; the one white, the other black, but fast friends, who, in the whirl of time, landed the best educational plums in Alabama? It is stranger than fiction, because truth is stranger than fiction. I, for one, take pride that we have them both in my home state."—Tuskegee Student.

## EAST ST. LOUIS FACING BANKRUPTCY

St. Louis, Mo.—Suits aggregating more than \$700,000 have been filed against the city of East St. Louis, Ill., for damages caused by the recent race riots. The treasury of the city is now empty and it is facing bankruptcy.

## GENERAL CHAPLAIN OF CANTONMENTS

Columbus, O., Jan. 15.—Rev. Dr. E. W. Moore, pastor of the Second Baptist church, has accepted an appointment from the National Baptist Convention as general chaplain of army cantonments.

## OUR GRUESOME CUSTOMS

[At the request of numerous readers, ministers, doctors and laymen we are reproducing this very timely and logical article from the pen of one of the race's greatest and most courageous writers and thinkers, and hope it will take root and develop into a reality.—Editor Kansas City Sun.]

By JOE E. HERRIFORD, in the Kansas City Sun.

MOST people agree that the customs which we continue at funerals are little short of ghoulish and that certain reforms in these ceremonies are long past due. Yet it seems that no great number of our people have had the courage to take a stand strong enough to accomplish any tangible changes.

Other races, except those uncivilized, have long ago abandoned the gruesome burial rites which we still cling to even in the face of our better intelligence.

In the first place, we refuse to give up the notion that all funerals should be held on Sunday, even if the body of the dead must be kept unburied several days for this purpose. This is only the catering to a vain desire for show and for the attendance of as many curious, disinterested persons as possible. Our funerals are all too long, especially in the cases of persons in any way prominent in social or professional life. Bereaved relatives of the dead are put through the terrible ordeal of sitting sometimes for nearly a whole day in uncomfortable, ily-ventilated churches while countless eulogies of doubtful sincerity are being poured out by apparently every one whom the deceased ever met. Common sense strongly appeals against this sort of indulgence, but it is kept up just the same, supposedly with the idea that it measures the popularity of the dead.

No one can explain just why our people believe that the spirit of the dead cannot repose in peace if the body is honored in a place open to the outdoor air. Suffice it that from the time breath leaves the tortured clay it is kept either closely shut up in a small room of a home or in the sacred precincts of a church into which no fresh air is allowed to enter. The embalmed body is kept in an embalmed atmosphere filled with embalmed germs of all sorts of diseases ostensibly to hurry up other funerals.

The practice of opening the casket at the close of the services in order that the morbidly inclined may pass in review over the pallid features of the dead has long fallen into disuse by everybody except the Colored people. No one will dispute that it is unsanitary and unholy. It serves no aim whatever that has the slightest claim upon a reverent treatment of the dead. Those who have any distinct reason for desiring to view the face of the dead could much better indicate the element of respect by calling at the residence of the family prior to the hour of the public funeral.

There ought to be a law carrying the death penalty for those who insist upon lifting the suffering mourners up to take what they call "a last view" of the deceased and to display their soul's deepest anguish in the presence of many who happen to be present out of a curious desire for this very heartrending climax. Nothing could be more inhuman and more lacking in good, common sense. There is no more reason why the family should be the last to view the body than that they should be the first to meet the departed spirit in the other world.

If certain secret societies insist upon holding ritualistic ceremonies over the dead at the unholy hour of midnight the attendance of the family should by no means be allowed and no place should be arranged for this display of physical endurance and despair from those already bowed down in nerve-breaking grief. This all looks like barbarism, at least like mediaevalism.

The long string of resolutions and condolences, all of which sound alike and are usually poorly read, should not be imposed upon the ceremonies at all, but might be sent to the mourning family to be read, if desired, at some future time and preserved for what they are intended to be worth. I have been asked many times to write such condolences for persons whom I never knew in life and concerning whom I could have no intelligent knowledge. All this is supreme vanity and all of it should have been discontinued long ago.

## AMHERST COLLEGE HONORS STUDENT

For the first time in the history of Amherst college John B. Garret, a Colored boy, has been elected vice president of the senior class. Garret is from South Carolina and prepared for Amherst at a state college in Orangeburg, S. C. Amherst is the alma mater of several famous Colored men and also that of Secretary Lansing, Governor Whitman of New York and many other famous men of the present day. Garret is a member of the Gamma chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

## ASK PRESIDENT FOR CLEMENCY

Washington.—The A. M. E. ministers of this city have sent a petition to President Wilson asking clemency for the five other Colored soldiers of the Twenty-fourth infantry recently sentenced to death for alleged participation in the Houston, Tex., mutiny. In their petition they say there are extenuating circumstances which merit executive clemency.

## CHICAGO INCREASES POLICE FORCE

Chicago.—Chief of Police Herman F. Schuetler has appointed one captain, one lieutenant, six sergeants and fifty-five patrolmen (all Colored) to duty on the police force (as reserves) to help clean out crime in this city.

## PASS EXAMINATION FOR RED CROSS NURSES

Washington, D. C.—Six young nurses who graduated from Freedmen's hospital recently have succeeded in passing the examination for Red Cross nurses and have been put on the reserve corps, an honor never before given in American history. The names are: Misses S. M. Building, A. B. Cole, E. E. Edwards, L. J. Gillard, S. A. Hill and G. M. Lecount. They fought hard and won.

## DUNBAR "HIGH" HAS 200 STARS IN SERVICE FLAG

Washington, D. C.—Floating to the breezes at Dunbar High school, the Colored high school here, is a service flag with more than 200 stars, proving that more than 200 young Colored men, formerly Dunbar, or old M street (as it was formerly called), pupils have answered the government's call for fighting men.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR IN AVIATION CANTONMENT

Philadelphia.—Captain Samuel B. Hart, for ten years sanitary inspector for the city government, has been appointed as chief sanitary inspector, with the rank of first lieutenant, at the aviation cantonment at Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La.

## DESCENDANTS WAR OF 1812 ASSIST AT FLAG RAISING

New Orleans.—Descendants of the Colored soldiers who helped General Jackson defeat the British at Chalmette, 102 years ago, participated in the ceremonies attending the raising of a flag at St. Louis' Roman Catholic church in commemoration of the battle of New Orleans. The banner was presented by Drs. P. M. Lavinge and J. M. Surlo, prominent Colored dentists.

## THREE STATES VOTE FOR PROHIBITION AMENDMENT

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—The legislatures of three states, Mississippi, Virginia and Kentucky, have voted in favor of the prohibition amendment to the federal constitution.

## Second Smith Murder Trial

Only Sensational Feature Netheway's Refusal to Be Cross-Questioned by Attorney Scruggs Until Commanded to Do So by Judge Sears.

The second trial of Charles Smith, charged with the murder of Mrs. C. L. Netheway at Florence, Neb., August 26, is being held before Judge Sears this week and will hardly reach the jury before Saturday.

No new evidence has been introduced. Every witness has testified in the main to the same facts as in the first trial. Netheway has had a remarkable lapse of memory as to time since the first trial. Then he could account for every minute with wonderful particularity. This time he doesn't know the exact time that he was at his office and other places.

The fact was again established by Dr. McClenehan that Mrs. Netheway had not been ravished by her assailant or assailants.

Up to the present the only special sensation of the trial occurred Tuesday afternoon, when, after Netheway's direct examination by the state, he was turned over to the attorneys for the defense for cross-examination. Attorney Timlin quietly exchanged seats with Attorney Scruggs, who began to cross-question the witness. At Attorney Scruggs' first question Netheway half turned in his chair, and instead of replying made a negative gesture with his hand. State's counsel warned him to answer, but he refused until ordered to do so by Judge Sears. He asked the judge to have a white lawyer question him. Judge Sears ordered him to answer Mr. Scruggs, who subjected him in a gentlemanly way to a grilling cross-examination. The defense brought out the fact that Netheway had told the engine crew that "he believed a murder had been committed in the cut" and "for God's sake to look out for a nigger" and have him arrested. This was according to Netheway's own testimony before his wife's body was found. They also brought out the fact from Netheway's testimony that Colored men as well as white men had frequently gone up and down the right-of-way and that he had no apprehension until that day.

Netheway said when his wife failed to meet him and he was told that a "nigger" had been seen around he was "sure that something funny" had happened.

Attorney Scruggs asked him if he thought murder was something funny. Herdman, the operator, also testified that when Netheway asked him to go with him in search of his wife he told him that he feared she had been "murdered, assaulted or carried off in an automobile."

The defense grilled Netheway as to why he had searched only in the section of the cut where his wife's body was found. It brought out the fact that while he said he thought his wife might have gone on to her sister Ada's, who was sick, he never attempted to communicate with her there. He didn't call up her sister Ada's nor go there, although it was as near to his office as his own home.

The trial is attracting large crowds. At the first trial the verdict stood nine for acquittal and three for conviction.

## General Blanding Proud of Troops

The Famous Eighth Illinois Regiment, Commanded by Colored Officers, Finishes Course of Training With Signal Success.

Camp Logan, Houston, Tex., Jan. 4.—Soldiers of the 370th Infantry (formerly the Eighth Illinois regiment from Chicago) have a good reason for feeling proud. They have just finished two weeks of strenuous training under the critical eyes of Brigadier General A. H. Blanding, commander of the unit of which they are part, and have come through with colors flying.

"They are as fine a set of soldiers as I ever hope to command," said General Blanding, who is regarded as one of the army's strictest disciplinarians. "Their work along military lines, as well as their personal conduct, has been beyond reproach and I am extremely proud of them."

Forty-nine privates and non-coms of the regiment have been selected for promotion to commissions. The Colored fighters were submitted to the hardest of tests before qualifying for a command.

Colonel Franklin A. Denison submitted eighty names for the consideration of General Blanding. After "sizing up" each, General Blanding ordered the most promising among the candidates to take a squad or company on the drill field and put them through the paces. Few failed to come up to the expectations.

Every man selected has either a high school or college education. They were judged as to personality, learning, business experience, handling of men and military training.

The regiment, which is "attached" to the Thirty-third Division, though brigaded with the 369th Infantry (formerly the Fifteenth) of New York, has a quota of 2,500 men at the present time. Most of the soldiers served on the border last year, and it is estimated there are more veterans of the Spanish-American war in the Colored organization than any other single guard unit in the country.

The equipment of the regiment is complete and the men are eager for the word when they will board transports for the French front.

## COMPETENT COLORED WOMAN GETS APPOINTMENT

Had Been Refused Position by the National Council of Defense Because of Her Color.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Mrs. Carrie Burton Overton of Wyoming, who a few weeks ago, although well qualified and ordered to report for duty, when her racial identity was disclosed was refused a position in the office of the Council of National Defense here, has been appointed to a position as stenographer in the Agricultural Department, paying \$1,000 a year.

When she was refused a position in the Council of Defense, Mrs. Overton took up her case with the N. A. A. C. P., and later with the congressman from her home, with the result that she received her present appointment.

Dr. Joseph I. France, senator from Maryland, is also said to have been interested in Mrs. Overton's case.

## OPEN ELEGANT CAFE FOR COLORED PATRONS

Messrs. James Silk and Peter Rooney have purchased the elegantly appointed Top Notch Cafe, 1322 North Twenty-fourth street, near Hamilton street. It is to be run as a first-class chop suey and short order house for Colored patrons who appreciate good service. All the delicacies of the season will be served. All patrons are assured of courteous and satisfactory treatment and elegant service.

A first-class place of this character for our people is needed and Messrs. Silk and Rooney are to be complimented upon meeting this need. We feel sure that they will receive the liberal patronage deserved.

## SHERWOOD ON WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

St. Paul, Minn.—Jose A. Sherwood of the postoffice department has been assigned by Postmaster Otto Rath to deliver a series of educational addresses to various Colored organizations on the war savings certificates and thrift stamp plans and has communicated with several secretaries of lodges requesting that Mr. Sherwood, "one of the trusted employes of this office, be given an opportunity to address your meeting and explain these plans."

BUY  
ANOTHER  
WAR SAVINGS  
STAMP