

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LIBRARY COMMISSION

RALEIGH

MARJORIE BEAL,
SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR

February 1, 1935

Miss Mollie Huston, Librarian
Shaw University Library
Raleigh, N.C.

My dear Miss Huston:

Yesterday I had a very satisfactory talk with Mayor Iseley concerning the negro library. He is interested and has it as one of his projects for the new year. He feels that it would be possible for the city to appropriate approximately \$2500 for the salary of the librarian and for books if the negro groups would raise enough for rent, furniture and supplies, so that is something very definite to bring before the group. Please don't mention this sum until the meeting for I think Mayor Iseley should have an opportunity to make this statement. He will be very glad to attend the meeting on February the 11th but says that he would have no real speech to make except a statement of what he hopes to do.

Both Mrs. Neal and Mr. Newbold are out of town this week. I will get in touch with them as soon as they return.

Yours very truly,

Marjorie Beal

Secretary and Director

MB:EP

On Monday evening March 11th, 1935 at 8 o'clock a group of citizens met in the Christ Church to discuss further plans for a Colored Public Library in Raleigh.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Lawrence.

Reports were made by the Finance, Book, Location, and publicity committees. All reports were adopted by the group.

It was moved and properly seconded that Miss Snodgrass, Miss Beal and Miss Huston work with the Location committee to secure a suitable location.

Plans were discussed for bringing The Dance, by the Physical Education Dept. of Hampton to Raleigh as one of the outstanding projects of the Finance committee.

Several suggestions were made for creating interest in the Colored Public Library movement, namely-asking the colored and white high school art classes to make poster to be distributed; talks to parent-^{talks to}teachers meetings; extension classes; young peoples groups; churches; ^{and} schools; ^A essay contest writing for children; and etc.

The problem of the library serving the people in the county was brought up. Mr White was appointed to go to the county commissioners to see what appropriation they would be willing to give the colored library.

Two young men from the Genne's Turner Hi Y club were present and they pledged their support to the movement and said they would do all they could to stimulate interest of this project in their Hi Y club. One also suggested securing aid from Miss Effird of the Hugh Morson high school regarding the poster making.

2.

Monday April 8th was the date set for the next meeting to hear reports from the committees and of the conference with the county commissioners.

May 14, 1935
Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Citizens Committee of Raleigh,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are sure you are familiar with the movement of a group of citizens who are trying to interest the people of Raleigh in establishing a Public Library for Negroes. We have already raised one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) and have more than one hundred books on hand.

We, the Library committee, are trying to launch a drive to supplement the money already on hand in order that we might go to the city fathers with a liberal contribution from the people of Raleigh and in turn ask them for a substantial appropriation for this library.

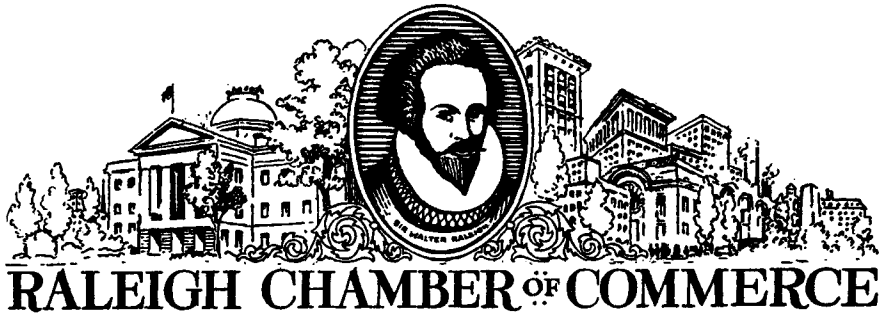
Our plans are to canvass every business concern in the city for fund. We want the endorsement of your committee first of all and through you we hope to obtain the endorsement of the Chamber of Commerce or Merchants Association. We shall be happy to have an immediate endorsement from you and other parties in order that our drive might start immediately.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, we are

Very truly yours,

Temporary Library Finance Committee.

Rev. O.S. Bullock, chairman
Mrs. P.L. Byrd, sec.
Mr. N.H. Harris
Mr. T. White
Dr. C. Dunston
Rev. Lawrence
Mr. H. Trigg
Mrs. H. Trigg
Miss M. Huston



RALEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"THE PROGRESSIVE CAPITAL
OF A PROGRESSIVE STATE"

RALEIGH

NORTH CAROLINA

May 22, 1935

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

There is a movement underway in Raleigh to establish a library for the colored people of our city and county. Miss Majorie H. Beal, director of the State Library Commission, is chairman of the local committee interested in this undertaking. We are advised that a suitable place will be made available for this purpose. It is planned to employ a whole-time librarian.

The Mayor states that the city plans to co-operate in its support. The funds collected for this purpose will be turned over to the Mayor pending its establishment under a permanent organization.

This appears to be a most worthy proposal and if you agree we hope you will give it financial support in the present effort to raise \$1,000 for this purpose.

Yours very truly

H. B. Branch,
Secretary

B:R

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LIBRARY COMMISSION

RALEIGH

MARJORIE BEAL,
SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR

May 23, 1935

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

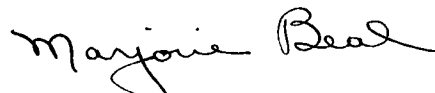
The inter-racial committee and a group of interested negroes have been working with me in making plans to open a public library for negroes.

Raleigh and Wake County have the largest negro population in the State, with no provision for public library service. 13 places in North Carolina now have public libraries for negroes.

Mayor Iseley has expressed his interest in the project, and we hope for an appropriation from the city when the budget is made up. Additional funds will be needed for the initial book collection, equipment, etc.

Your interest in this cause will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Secretary and Director

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LIBRARY COMMISSION

RALEIGH

MARJORIE BEAL,
SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR

June 20, 1935

Miss Mollie H. Huston, Librarian
Shaw University Library
Raleigh, N.C.

My dear Miss Huston:

This morning I talked with Mr. Newbold, who of course is very much interested in the project for a negro library for Raleigh, and is ready to help all he can. He will attend the hearing before the City Commissioners if he is town, or if he can arrange to be in town at that time. I hope that word will come in advance so that all plans can be well made. He suggested that I put on paper some of the things which I said to him and so I am enclosing for you four copies of the statement and have sent one to Mr. Newbold. He has also the mimeographed sheet of information about negro service and the statistic sheet, and he will do some work with Jonathan Daniels on publicity if it seems advisable. So I think you can call on him very freely and he now understand the situation and how far the project has developed.

I still do not know when I am leaving.

Yours very truly,

Marjorie Beal

Secretary and Director

MB:EP

A PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR NEGROES

Raleigh is the largest city in North Carolina, without public library service for negroes. Negroes number 1/3 of the population of Wake County.

Raleigh- Population 37,379 Negro 12,575

Wake County-Population 94,757 Negro 33,916

13 places in North Carolina have public library service for negroes. Some of these are branches of the main library, some are separate libraries.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC LIBRARY?

A public library provides free to people of all ages and all classes, books and printed information. It has a carefully selected book collection arranged so that books may be easily located and is in charge of a trained librarian who knows books and people. The library is located in a suitable neighborhood within easy reach of the citizens it is to serve.

WHOM WILL THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVE?

It will serve all the people, from the professional down to the laborers. It's selection of books will be such as to include reading matter for all kinds and types of people.

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY?

The public library aims to bring together books and people by means of attractive book displays, publicity, book talks before clubs and organizations, posters, story hours and reading circles. A library is not simply a reservoir of books, it should be the center of civic activity contributing to better citizenship and the right use of leisure.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY ?

To make available for use books and factual materials.
To provide efficient service.
To create an atmosphere favorable to the growth of reading habits.
To stimulate an appreciation for books.
To demonstrate the desirability of books and libraries as the companions of leisure.

WHAT KIND OF BOOKS WILL THERE BE?

Books on all subjects will be available, with up-to-date material on science and good books of travel and history, books about people who have done things, books of poetry and plays, books of adventure stories and books of romance. Books for children and for adults.

WILL THERE BE MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS?

Yes, there will be good magazines and newspapers.

WHY DO WE NEED A PUBLIC LIBRARY WHEN WE HAVE LIBRARIES IN THE SCHOOLS?

The public library and the school library supplement each other. The school teaches reading habits. The public library helps to provide books to read. The school library serves a special group of citizens. The public library serves all the people from the pre-school child to the grand parents.

HOW IS A PUBLIC LIBRARY GOVERNED?

For the government of such a library there shall be a board of six trustees appointed by the governing body of the city chosen from the citizens at large with reference to their fitness for such office. They shall hold office for six years from their appointment. No compensation shall be allowed any trustee.

Library trustees compile the budget, designate expenditures under each item, employ the librarian and make the rules and regulations governing the library.

HOW IS A PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCED?

A public library like all other departments of government is financed by public funds.

IS A TRAINED LIBRARIAN NEEDED?

A trained librarian is one who is skilled in book selection, cataloging and maintenance as well as one who knows books and people.

North Carolina Certification requirements for public librarians for a county the size of Wake County for appointments made after May 1933-

The completion of a four year course in a four-year standard college or university.

One full year's work in an accredited library school with evidence of satisfactory completion.

One year of experience.

WILL THERE BE A BUDGET TO INCLUDE NEW BOOKS FROM TIME TO TIME?

The book budget will be set up with a percentage of the money to be spent for fiction and non-fiction, reference books and children's books. Regular additions of new titles will be planned for.

CAN THE PUBLIC OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR BOOKS THEY WANT TO READ, TO BE PURCHASED IF HIS MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

The librarian will welcome suggestions from the public. This enables him to know the reading interest of the borrowers and helps him to select books accordingly.

CAN ONE CALL ON THE LIBRARY FOR INFORMATION AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS?

The librarian will always be glad to answer questions from the reference books and materials in the library.

WILL IT BE KEPT OPEN EVERY DAY?

The library will be open every week day.

BUDGET FOR A COLORED PUBLIC LIBRARY

RALEIGH, N.C.

Rent and janitor service @ \$50.00 per mo.-----\$ 600.00

Light, water and phone (City)

Furniture

5 3'5' tables @ \$23.00 ea.----- 115.00

31 chairs @ \$4.60 ea.----- 142.60

1 round table (children) ----- 39.85

6 14" chairs (children)----- 18.00

1 charging desk ----- 29.35

1 drawer and catalog cabinet ----- 18.00

1 bulletin board ----- .50

shelving----- 50.00

12 newspaper holders----- 11.50

1 typewriter (second hand)----- 18.00

Books ----- 1500.00

books in general

1 set of encyclopedias

1 large dictionary (unabridged)

library cataloging tools

newspapers and magazines

N.C. cards.

Supplies ----- 100.00

Salary ----- 900.00

Total \$3543.00

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
RALEIGH

Because space was very limited on our programs, it was impossible to carry the names of our patrons, therefore we are taking this opportunity to publish their names. We are indeed grateful for all the help received whether it was a school child's ticket, a general admission ticket or a patron ticket. Besides those who helped by buying tickets, we wish to acknowledge special help given by the Raleigh Public Schools. The teachers worked very hard and with the cooperation of their pupils our performance was a financial success. In addition to the Public schools, Shaw University and St. Augustine College cooperated in every possible way. The churches cooperated as usual and the ministers deserve much praise for the fine cooperation given this project which was our first big effort to raise money for a public library for Negroes.

Besides our churches and schools, many individuals gave their whole hearted support and helped in many ways. Some of these individuals are white and some colored. The news papers gave publicity, and a large crowd came out, we are truly thankful to all.

The Patrons are those who purchased tickets for \$1.00 They are

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Douglas

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Carnage

Mr. Foster P. Payne

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Roberts

Mr. and Mrs. S. Neal

Mr. O. D. Chavis

Dr. George Evans

Mrs. B. M. Edwards

Mr. James S. Lee

Dr. James E. Shepard

Dr. and Mrs. L. E. McCauley

Mrs. Kliza Allen Davis

Mrs. Sadie Love

Mrs. Man Perry Frazier

Miss Hilda A. Davis

Miss Dorothy S. Lane

Mr. Glenwood Jones

Mrs. C. B. Ligon

~~Mrs. C. B. Ligon~~

Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Hall

Miss Rachel McCauley

Miss Josephine H. Otey

Miss Mollie H. Huston

Mrs. Henry Jeffries Stredwick

Mrs. Cecelia J. Wortham

Miss Bertha Richards

Miss Mary Phillips

Mrs. P. L. Byrd

Miss Louise R. McKenny

Rev. Lawrence

Rev. O. B. Bullock

~~Miss Ruth H. Davis~~

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Trigg

Mr. Nelson Harris

Miss Eugene Doras

Mr. E. A. Johnson

Miss Ruth Stevenson

Mrs. M. B. O'Kelly

Mr. Charley Otey

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
RALEIGH

Mr. W.R.Johnson

~~Mr. and Mrs. Harold Briggs~~

Mr. Glenwood E.Jones

Mr. M.W.Akins

Miss Jessie E.Guernsey

Miss Pearl A Snodgrass

Miss Elsie M.Cook

Miss Geneva S.Collins

Miss Mary L.Gates

Miss Estella G. Grayson

Dean Charles H.Boyer

Mr. Charles Haywood

Dr. Jones

Mr. Collis Walker

Dr. Wade

Mr. C.F.Pope

Dr. L.Delaney

If any error has been made in making up this list, we will gladly make the correction in the next week issue of this paper. A number of white people bought patron tickets at the window on the evening of the performance and unfortunately a record was not made- their names were not recorded.

Raleigh, N. C., Sept 18, 1935

Drs. Delany & Evans,
Raleigh, N. C.

Gentlemen:

This to advise you that the committee named by Mayor G. A. Isley to select a site for the Negro Library has made choice of the first floor of your building. This committee was informed that you would give the entire first floor and make such changes and renovations as would meet the needs of a public library. Below we are listing the things that will have to be done.

All walls, wood work and ceilings to be painted.
Colors: walls and ceiling Buff and woodwork Ivory.

Three (3) partitions to be removed.

Present toilet on east side to be removed to a better location, probably under stairs.

Ladies toilet to be installed in suitable location provided none now exists.

Floors to be cleaned, repaired and varnished.
West wall of tailor shop to be extended to south wall
office room.
Sink in rear east room to be removed to west room.

Sink in large room (or tailor shop) to be taken out.

Suitable lighting fixtures to be installed.

Two (2) windows to be installed in east wall to give light and ventilation.

Lease to be made for a period of Three (3) years at a rate of \$50.00 per month with the privilege of two (2) more years at the same rate.

Please see that these conditions are written into the lease or write a letter to Mayor G. A. Isley stating that these repairs and renovation will be made.

Yours very truly,

A. T. White
A. T. WHITE, CHAIRMAN
Location Committee