

January 19, 1935

Dear Mr. Stringfield:

I am writing to you to get some information about the recent trouble at Franklinton. This information is wanted just for my own good, and for the good of the colored people in the community.

While I was out there at Star Creek, I was always afraid that I might do something that would bring harm or suspicion directed against the Negroes with whom I dealt. My interest was entirely in trying to do my job for the Rosenwald folks. I was trying to find out how the school could be improved in that community. Knowing how delicate was the situation already, I did not discuss the trouble either with Negroes or with white people, but tried to keep entirely out of it.

Now, I understand from reports being circulated around here that the Negro teachers have either left or been run out of town, and that things there are still tense.

You understand, of course, that I value my own life; but I am sincere in saying that what worries me most is the effect my presence in the community has had, or would have, upon the lives of the Negroes.

Now, I would like to ask you several questions about this matter, and I am sure you will give me the correct slant on the situation.

1. Do you think it would be advisable for me to return to that community, as I was supposed to do, on February 8th?
2. Are there any feelings among the white people that connect me with the affair in any way - any suspicion as to my purpose - any feeling that I was a spy or something of that sort?
3. Is there any possibility that it would not be safe for me to return to live in that community for two or more months?

I am also writing to Mr. Greenlaw and to Mr. Fletcher Smith about this matter. I will drive up there and talk the matter over with you if you think it advisable, before I think of returning permanently.

A stamped, addressed envelope is inclosed for reply.

Thanking you for these and for past favors, I am,

Sincerely,

H. H. Bond