

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE

TAE:BS

THOMAS A. EARLY
SCHOOL EXTENSION

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, MISS.

February 21, 1916.

Supt. J. M. Hatfield,
Cookville, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Hatfield:-

I am enclosing herewith copy of letter to Mr. Jerry Whitson which is self explanatory. I trust that you will think the matter over carefully and if you think I can do a constructive work with your school at Cookville, I shall be glad to have you say a good word for me to Mr. Whitson and other good people of Cookville.

I have been in Mississippi for the past year and a half and my work has been most satisfactory, but I feel that this school of technology offers an opportunity for definite work and I shall be glad to take charge of it if the people of Cookville and the Tennessee Board of Education are satisfied that I am the man for the place. It is needless to say that the success of your school will depend largely upon the driving power of the President or Superintendent.

I remember with a great deal of pleasure my associations with you upon several occasions. Please advise me frankly about the matter. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Thomas A. Early

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February 21, 1916.

Mr. Jerry Whitson,
Cookville, Tenn.

My dear Sir:-

Several members of the Tennessee State Board of Education have interested me in the new Polytechnic Institute located in your city and I regret that my work has been such for the past two months that I have not found time to make you a visit and look over the plans and prospects. It has been represented to me that this school promises much for the young men and women of Tennessee, particularly to those of the counties within easy reach of Cookville, but that it will require unusual ability from the man at the head of the school to make it as successful as you people hope for. I have been told that he must be a good school man with plenty of business acumen and organizing ability to enable him to handle the legislative situation, and also secure money from private sources. I know you will be interested in getting the right man for this important place.

Now, I am going to ask that you make personal investigation and find out for yourself whether I am the right man. I am not going to submit a maze of testimonials--anybody can get people to sign attractive recommendations as you know, so I trust that you will find it convenient at an early date to go to Nashville and talk with men who know me and have worked with me in the campaign for funds for the Knapp School of Country Life and Peabody College, and also men who know of my work as one of the pioneers in the organization of the Boys Corn Club work of the

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South and particularly in Tennessee; and my work with the Agricultural High Schools of Georgia and Mississippi. I respectfully refer you to Dr. Bruce R. Payne, President of Peabody College, Prof. W. K. Tate of Peabody College, Mr. Jas. E. Caldwell of the Fourth and First National Bank, Mr. Robt. L. Burch, President and Mr. A. P. Foster, Secretary of the Industrial Bureau, Mr. C. H. Brandon of Brandon Printing Company and Ex-President of the Commercial Club, Judge Robt. Ewing, Mayor of Nashville, and Dr. Carey Morgan, Pastor of the Vine Street Christian Church. These men can give you such information as you would desire as to my character and my ability to work with the legislature and secure funds from private ^{Sources}, that is, from wealthy people of the country.

I have had successful experience in all lines of high school work, and the central idea of your school should be to give to the State men and women of the highest efficiency to lead the people to higher spiritual and material life.

I have done four years of the hardest work of my life in Tennessee and I do not want to be regarded as an "outsider". For the past year and a half I have been Professor of Secondary Education for the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. In addition to my work in the College, I have supervision of the County Agricultural High Schools.

I had the honor of starting Miss Virginia P. Moore in the Girls Canning Club work in Tennessee.

I have written you at length, for I have heard of

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your interest in this project from many sources and I know you are vitally interested, so please investigate as soon as convenient, and give me some idea what you will do. My work here is satisfactory, and I am interested in your school because it offers a larger field for constructive service.

I want to be assured of strong support if I take the time and expense to attend another meeting of the Board of Education. Thanking you for an early reply, I remain,

Very truly yours,
