A young woman recently asked me to tell her of my connection with the lynching agitation which was started in 1892. She said she was at a Y.W.C.A. vespers service when the subject for discussion was Joan of Arc, and all each person was asked to tell of some one they knew who had traits of character resembling this French heroine and martyr. She was the only colored girl present and not wishing to lag behind the others named me and asked me to tell why she thought I deserved such mention. She said, "Miss Barnett, I couldn't tell her why I had often heard people call you Miss, but I did not know why. I was dreadfully embarrassed. May you please tell me what it was you did, so the next time I am asked such a question, I can give an intelligent answer."

When she told me she was twenty-five years old, I realized that one reason she did not know was because the happenings about which she acquired knowledge before she was born. And another was that there was no record from which she could inform herself. I then promised to set it down in writing so those of her generation could know how the agitation against the lynching evil began, and the debt of gratitude we owe to the English people for their splendid help in that movement.

It is therefore for the young people who have
Chicago, Oct. 25, 1925.

Dear Friend:

This is written to call your attention to the Appeal of the Children’s Defense Fund Committee in behalf of five colored boys, the oldest of them 16 years old, the youngest 13 years old, all charged with murder. The enclosed circular gives details, which we hope will be favored with your earnest consideration, and a collection from your church.

Our time for raising funds is short and we want to present this appeal to all who believe these boys should have the benefit of a fair and impartial trial. Will you kindly favor this movement with a contribution to the Defense Fund in such amount as you may be pleased to determine.

Please send your donation to the Children’s Defense Fund Committee, 1821 Fulton Street, making check or money order payable to George O. Jones, Treasurer. All donations will be promptly acknowledged through the colored press.

Respectfully,

CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND COMMITTEE

Samuel R. Wheat, Chrmn.
Walter E. Rogers, Sec.
of our race's history recorded that I am for the first time in my life writing about myself. I am all the more constrained to do this, because there is such a lack of authentic race history of Reconstruction times written by the negro himself.

We have Frederick Douglas' account of slavery that he knew and experienced at hand. The Dock Oak and the completed and emphasized that story. Out of the time that storm and stress immediately after the Civil War, the Ku Klux Klan, fellowship of fox stuffing, wholesale murder of negroes who tried to exercise their new found rights of free men and citizens, the carpetbag invasion about which the white south has not published as much that is false, and the negro's political life of that era lead the negro had nothing definite or authentic of its own.

The gallant fight and marvellous bravery of the black men of the South fighting to exercise and maintain their new born rights as free men and citizens with little protection from the government which gave them those rights, and with no previous training in citizen ship or politics, is a story which would fire the race pride of all our young people if it had only been written down.

It is a heritage of which they would be proud to know how their fathers and grandfathers handled their brief day of power during the Reconstruction period. How in the first 25 years following the war, they put two Senators and more than a score of Representatives in the United States Congress.
Chicago, Oct. 25, 1926.

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period which reflected glory on the race, should be known. Yet most of it is buried in oblivion and only the Southern white man's misrepresentations remain in the libraries, and college textbooks of the land. The men who made the history of that day were too modest to write of it, or they did not realize the importance of the written word to their posterity.

1 came upon the stage of action when this brief day of glory had closed, and knew and so, because our youth are entitled to the facts of our history which only the participants can give, I thus turn to ask both the facts contained in this volume which I dedicate to them this contribution to race history.
Chicago, Oct. 25, 1926.

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CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND COMMITTEE

Samuel R. Wheat, Chrmn.
Walter E. Rogers, Sec.
Before.

A young lady asked me not long ago to tell her what I had about lynching evil as I had figured in it. She said that at a Y.W.C.A. supper, service the subject for discussion had been Joan of Arc and all present had been asked to tell if someone they knew who resembled this heroine. When it came her turn she mentioned my name. The leader asked her to tell why she thought I deserved such mention. She said "Mr. Barnett, I can't tell why I thought so. I have heard you mentioned so often by that manager I gave it. Won't you please tell me just what you did of late time I am asked, I can give an intelligent answer." I asked her how old she was, and when she said she was 25 years old I told her no wonder she did not know because the happenings about which she inquired transpired before she was born. She then asked if I would not please write about them as the generation which had since been born, could know.

All these years before I have refused to consider that I should write about myself even when I was not too busy trying to do what I was brought upon as my share of the work. But those who were on the stage of action at the time knew and could tell by word of mouth. But they are now being gathered in by that grim reaper death and it has been borne in upon me many times of late that some record of the beginning of the agitation against lynching and the after-
First Precinct Neighborhood Club

Herman K. Barnett, President

3504 Grand Boulevard

Phone Douglas 2200

Chicago

April 10, 1926.

Mr. Henry Leflore,
3624 S. Parkway Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois,

My Dear Friend:

I have always been proud and appreciative of your loyalty and support to the Regular Third Ward Republican Club, which I represent as precinct captain and our neighborhood Club of which I have the honor to be president.

Both organizations have endorsed all the candidates sponsored by the Wm. Hale Thompson-Crowe-Barrett-Wright-Kersey-Republican Organization whose names appear on the column to the left.

I am intensely interested in the success of the entire ticket — and each candidate upon it.

Our leader Hon. Geo. T. Kersey is a candidate for the legislature and is entitled to the exclusive and unqualified support of every intelligent, loyal Republican. A vote before his name alone counts three for him and assures the return of the one man whose record shows him to be deserving of re-election.

There is also Hon. Joe. Savage for County Judge — Geo. F. Harding for County Treasurer — Martin E. Madden for Congress — Senator Adelbert Roberts for State Senator, etc. If you vote for the entire ticket you will also vote for me as my name also appears — endorsed by the Regular Republicans of our great city, thereby enabling me to be of increased service to you as your representative.

Thanking you for favors in the past and as ever desirous of assisting you in any way at any time, I am

Respectfully yours,

Herman K. Barnett

President
Y, but help of the English people should be written by the one who was an instrument in starting the movement which is about to make of that disgrace a thing of the past.

It is for the young people who have little of their race's history recorded that I wrote for the first time about myself. I am all the more constrained to do this because I have felt the lack of authentic race history of reconstruction times. We have Frederick Douglass' history of slavery as he knew and experienced it. But of that time of atrocity and stress, immediately after the Civil War, of Radclyffe Hall, of political chaos, of Spanish rule in Cuba, and about which the South has printed so much in error, we have nothing definite and authentic.

And there was the reconstructed South, of Governor Pinchback, Senator Revels, and Bruce, who went in the U.S. Senate, of Robert Troup. Among them, Elliott of S. C., who represented his state in the House of Representatives, and many others who talked with Julius Caesar, all of which I saw and part of which I was. We have John R. Spalding's history of reconstruction. It is a gallant fight and marvelous bravery of the black men in the South, fighting and dying to maintain and exercise their new born rights of free men and citizens with little protection from the government which gave them these rights—both no previous training in citizenship or politics—yet handled their brief day of power in such a way that reflected glory on the South.

The entire history is known, but much of that is buried in oblivion and only the southern white man's misrepresentations remain.

Because our youth are entitled to the facts of race history, which only the participants can give, I am apologizing for this narrative.
DEAR VOTER:

We the undersigned, citizens of Chicago, having the best interest of OUR RACIAL GROUP at heart, wish to call your attention to the clipping herewith enclosed. This news article appeared in the 'CHICAGO ENTERPRISE', Jan. 30, 1926. You will notice that Coroner Oscar Wolff dismissed one Davis, a deputy coroner, from his office for failure to conduct inquests FAIRLY AND IMPARTIALLY. You will also notice that the people mentioned in this article were colored. Coroner Wolff's manly stand in conducting the affairs of his office stamp him as an official worthy of the support of EVERY ONE OF OUR RACE WHO BELIEVES IN FAIR PLAY. We wish to further call your attention to the fact that the deputy who was dismissed by Coroner Wolff for discriminating against our people was appointed to another position by his political sponsors, State's Attorney Robert E. Crowe and Charles V. Barrett, candidate for Board of Review, thereby placing their stamp of approval upon a man who is prejudiced against our group.

We further find that Coroner Wolff is the only Coroner that Cook County ever had, that appointed colored deputy coroners.

If we expect to obtain friends in public office who have the courage to recognize the fact that our group should be treated as FAIR as other groups of people, we should support them with our votes. For the above reasons we should support Coroner Wolff in his campaign for MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW. We therefore most respectfully recommend him and ask you and your friends to vote for him April 13th.

Yours for race progress,

Rev. B. U. Taylor, Pastor
Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church
24th and Wabash.

W. A. Wallace,
Pres. of the U.N.I.A. Div. 23
4901 So. State St.

Rev. W. D. Cock, D.D.
Community Church,
39th & Prairie Ave.

Verona L. Biggs,
Pres. Musicians Union, Local 208
3934 So. State St.

J. C. McKinney,
Pres. of Taylor & McKinney Florist
4758 So. State St.

Geo. M. Porter, PH.G.
Druggist,
3510 So. State St.

Rev. J. R. Harvey,
Pastor of Cosmopolitan Church
5239 So. Wabash Ave.

Rev. C. H. Clark,
Pastor of Ebenezer Bapt. Ch.
4501 Vincennes Ave.

Allen A. Wesley, M.D.
Grand Chancellor Knights of Pythias, Jurisdiction of I11

A. Wilberforce Williams, M.D.
Public Health Editor of the Chicago Defender,
3545 So. State St.

Wm. H. Bell,
Trustee of Calvary Bapt. Ch.,
10 W. 47th St.

R. A. Crosby,
Pres. Seven Links Ice Cream Co.
Inc., 5314 So. State St.
Chapter I

I was born in Holly Springs, Miss., at the close of the Civil War. My parents, who had been slaves and married at the time, were married again after freedom came. My father had been taught the carpenter's trade, and she was a famous cook. As the erstwhile slaves had performed most of the labor of the South, they had no trouble in finding plenty of work to do.

My father was the son of his master who owned a plantation in Tippah County, Miss. The slave had no children by his wife "Polly," and my father grew up on the plantation the companions and comforts of his old age. When young, Jim was 15 years old, and his father took him to Holly Springs and apprenticed him to learn the carpenter's trade which he expected him to do on the plantation.

My mother was cook to the old man Bolling, the contractor and builder to whom my father was apprenticed. She was born in Virginia and was one of ten children. She and two sisters were sold to slave traders when young and taken to Mississippi and sold again. She often told her children that her father was a half-breed Indian because his father was a full-blood. But she often wrote back somewhere in Virginia trying to get back to her people but was never successful. It was too young to realize the importance of her efforts and I have never learned the name of the country or people to whom they belonged.

After the war was over Mr. Bolling wished his able young apprentice to remain with him. Needed 20 more section titles. Mr. Bolling wanted him to vote the Democratic
Dear Madam:

We are enclosing a reproduction of our advertisement announcing NATIONAL BEDELL WEEK OF SALES! This ad will appear in the papers on Friday, April 16th, for Saturday's selling.

This great sale is inaugurated in 20 Bedell stores, from coast to coast; tremendous purchases have been in progress for months, and this will be the gigantic nation-wide selling event of the year!

We wish to extend to our patrons the courtesy of a PRIVATE SALE--when they will be able to make their selection without the inconveniences that result from a public sale. On Thursday and Friday, April 16th and 16th, we will place this new merchandise on sale to give you the privilege of an early choice. Every garment is fresh and new and straight from the makers—and they are the smartest modes of the Spring season. Coats—dresses—suits—millinery—footwear and smart accessories are offered in wide variation, and at sensationally low prices.

The standard for values that we have established will be greatly strengthened by this Spring sale, as never before have we been able to offer such marvelous savings.

We invite you to attend these

TWO COURTESY DAYS

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

April 15th and 16th

Trusting you will take advantage of this PRIVATE SALE, where you will find the smartest apparel you have ever seen at such extremely low prices, we are

Yours very truly,

THE BEDELL CO.
which he refused to do. Then he returned from town, but went down town, bought a new set of tools, went to the store and rented another house. Then Mr. Boling returned he found he had lost a workman and a tenant, for Mr. Viles had moved his family off the Boling place.

I do not remember when I started to school. My earliest recollections are of reading the newspaper to my father and an admiring group of his friends. He was interested in politics and I heard the words Ku Klux Klan long before I knew what they meant. I knew briefly by the newsboy war. My mother walked the floor at night when my father was in a political meeting that it meant something fearful yet after and I can remember there were no riots in Holly Springs though there were plenty in other parts of the state.

Our job was to go to school and learn all we could.

The Freedmen's Aid had established one of its schools in town - as it was called then - named New Hope College. My mother was one of the trustees and my mother went to school with me until she learned to read the Bible. She visited the school regularly three times a week getting me after that. A deeply religious woman, she won the prize for regular attendance at Sunday School the year before she died! She taught me how to do the work of the home - each had her regular tasks - besides school work and I often thought compare her work in training her children to that of other women who had mothers handicaps. She was not 40 when she died but she had borne eight children.

She used to tell me how she had been beaten by slave owners and the hard times she had as a slave.

The only thing I remember about my father's reference to slave days was when his mother came in town on one
ACTION AND RESULTS

Dear Friend:

As a race we are rapidly coming into our own, if we will use just a little judgment and forethought. We can only protect ourselves politically by our vote. We must vote for men who do real things for our race and have our interest at heart. This principle is found only in 100% Republicans.

No colored men or women can honestly vote a Democratic ticket, or a bi-partisan ticket, which is composed of Democrats, because that type of politician held our fore parents Slaves; the 100% Republicans abolished slavery forever.

What have the Democrats or so-called Republican leaders, such as Aldermen, etc., ever done for our race? Simply have us vote for a Democratic Mayor, and then we can't find them until they have someone of the same caliber they want to elect for their own material benefit.

We colored voters want Action and Results,—here we have both:

"Senator Deneen renews right to save bench for race." (This is found on front page Chicago Defender Saturday, March 27, respt.) Owing to the death of Judge Terrell (colored) of Washington, D. C., U. S. Senator Deneen is doing his utmost to have James A. Cobb (colored) appointed to the Municipal Judgeship."


Representative Warren B. Douglas opened the doors for our race by placing (for the first time) colored men as Gas Meter Readers in the Peoples Gas Co. Douglas has also placed colored conduit layers in the service of the Commonwealth Edison Co. Douglas has placed men and women of our race as stenographers, typists, secretaries, U. S. Custodians, U. S. Prohibition agents, etc.

Vote the Deneen National Republican Ticket.

Be sure and put a cross in the square in front of:

☑️ Warren B. Douglas—Representative in the General Assembly.
☑️ Daniel P. Trude—County Judge.
☑️ John F. Devine—County Treasurer.
☑️ William S. Bradden—County Commissioner.

Respectfully yours,

Supervisor and Captain

S. OLIVER MORRIS.

S. Oliver Morris 3604 Grand Blvd.
The annual visit. She and her husband worked and tilled many acres of land and every fall bought their cotton and sent it to market. She also bought as many conveniences from her blackened time. One such occasion she told about: "Miss Polly," her former mistress, and said: "Son, Miss Polly wants you to come and bring the children. She wants to see them.

"Mother," said he, "I have never done that old woman as long as I live. I'll never forget how she had you whipped and whipped the day after the old man died and I am not going to see her. I guess it's all right for you to take care of her and forgive her, but she could have starved to death if I had my say-so. She certainly wouldn't have, if it hadn't been for you."

I was burning to ask what he meant. But children were not heard in those days. We didn't break into old folk's conversation—never forgot those few words that brighten the slavery of those after I grew old enough to understand!

I was visiting this grandmother down on the farm when life became a reality to me. The yellow fever which had been raging in Memphis, Tennessee, fifty miles away, was taking its toll, and the mayor of our town refused to quarantine against her. Even healthy little boys opened its doors to her. One healthy little boy opened it to an old woman. Who wanted to come in. That summer for the first time, it took root in Holly Springs. When we heard the fever was there, we were sure my father would take the family out in the country and because the mail was coming regular didn't expect letters.

One day after a hard chill I was sweating off the resultant fever when a hail at the gate brought me to the door. Three horsemen were there who came in. My grandmother's aunt and uncle were picking the first fall cotton out in the field. They
First Precinct Neighborhood Club
Herman K. Barnett, President
3504 Grand Boulevard
Phone: Douglas 2300
Chicago

April 10, 1926.

Miss Ida B. Barnett,
3624 S. Parkway Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear friend:

I have always been proud and appreciative of your loyalty and support to the Regular Third Ward Republican Club, which I represent as precinct captain and our neighborhood Club of which I have the honor to be president.

Both organizations have endorsed all the candidates sponsored by the Wm. Hale Thompson-Crowe-Barnett-Wright-Kersey-Republican Organization whose names appear on the column to the left.

I am intensely interested in the success of the entire ticket - and each candidate upon it.

Our leader Hon. Geo. T. Kersey is a candidate for the legislature and is entitled to the exclusive and unqualified support of every intelligent, loyal Republican. A vote before his name alone counts three for him and assures the return of the one man whose record shows him to be deserving of re-election.

There is also Hon. Jos. Savage for County Judge - Geo. F. Harding for County Treasurer - Martin B. Madden for Congress - Senator Adelbert Roberts for State Senator, etc. If you vote for the entire ticket you will also vote for me as my name also appears - endorsed by the Regular Republicans of our great city, thereby enabling me to be of increased service to you as your representative.

Thanking you for favors in the past and as ever desirous of assisting you in any way at any time, I am

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]
President
The men all known to me were refugees from Hollingsworth's house, who had some part of the railroad track on a nearby farm. After they were dealt and asked if they had any news from home. Therefore one of them handed me a letter to read that had just been received by a woman from her husband who was still in town. They were next door neighbors of ours and I was glad to have first hand information as to conditions there, but never dreamed there would be anything of personal interest if we were once on family way in the country with my Aunt Belle on the other side of town from us. I read the first page that told of the progress of the fever and there three whole families that had died of the yellow fever. They died within 24 hours of each other.

The children are all there, but the Howard association has put an old woman there to take care of the children. Send word to Old Matt to go. If you are as I go. The next thing I knew was my grandmother, aunt, and uncle were there and uncle

Indeed a house of shock and mourning. I wanted to go home at once, but not until 3 days after, and on the receipt of a letter from the doctor in charge who said I ought to come home—were they willing to let me go.

Then my uncle and I got to the nearest railroad soon, all the people near the station urged me not to go—they felt that I not fall a victim like those and if were better for me to stay away until the epidemic was over and I not then be able to take care of the children if anyone left. They assured me no home doctor would have advised me to come into the district that it was one of the
First Precinct Neighborhood Club

Herman K. Barnett, President

3504 Grand Boulevard
Phone Douglas 2200
Chicago

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President
Stranger doctor who had been here three and who tol
d me go soon & have no responsibility about those
left. I consented to stay there and write home. But when
night came and I thought of my child's sister, of the
smallest children back the nine months old baby brother,
and how I shd be with them, I went back to the station
and the train that shd have carried my letter took me
home.

It was a freight train - no passenger trains were
running or added for carboose in which I rode
was draped in black for two previous conductors who
had fallen victims to the dread disease. The conductor
who told me that was one I had made a mistake too
home. I asked him why he was running the train when
he knew he was likely to get the fever as had those other
for whom the car was draped. He shrugged his shoulder
and said somebody had to do it. That's exactly why I am
going home. I am the oldest of the seven living children.
There's nobody but me to look after them now. Don't you think
I should do my when I got home. I found two of the children in bed
with the fever. I all had had slight attacks of it. Anna,
Eugenia my older sister who had a paralytic and seemed
immune - and the baby Stanley had died. Everybody asked
why did you come, and the family physician exploded
yet withal my sister was greatly relieved I was home
there. She told me how the Irish nurse who came on my
father went about his work, nursing the sick, making coffins
but not come back. Every day bringing good and finding
out how all was getting on. How the mother was first
taken and an Irish woman was sent to nurse her, how
she took the 9 months old baby from the breast and set
mother's milk clotted and how when she knew she
ACTION AND RESULTS

Dear Friend:

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☑ William S. Bradden—County Commissioner.

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S. OLIVER MORRIS.

S. Oliver Morris 3607 Grand Blvd.