

Daniels

*File  
orig. to cabinet*

December 12, 1963

Mrs. Ruby Daniels  
1349 Ann Street  
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Mrs. Daniels:

I recently received a letter from Mrs. Bernice Williamson who states that you have a copy of the oratorio entitled "The Last Supper", by Hiram Simmons, which you would be willing to have me purchase. I grew up in the Norfolk area, having attended the Abraham Lincoln grammar school and the Booker Washington high school.

Mr. Simmons was organist at two of my father's churches, the St. James in Berkeley and Immanuel in Portsmouth during my childhood. I believe that his contributions are sufficiently outstanding so that some of his works should be perpetuated in some museum of Negro history. History and music are both hobbies of mine, and I have been especially interested in Negro history, musical, medical and otherwise. My thought would be eventually to deposit the book either with the Moorland collection at Howard or the Shomberg collection in Harlem. I had particularly been interested in a copy of Mr. Simmons' book of anthems, but I will be glad to have either or both.

Please let me know your price for the book, either the one mentioned by itself, or in addition to the second one if available. I feel sure that your efforts and mine will be a significant contribution to Negro history. I trust that the book is in a fairly good state of repair, or that it can be repaired. As soon as I hear from you I will be pleased to forward you a check. Your cooperation, as well as that of Mrs. Bernice Williamson, is greatly appreciated.

Sincerest regards and best wishes,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

LHB vlh

Copy: Mrs. Bernice Vaughn Williamson