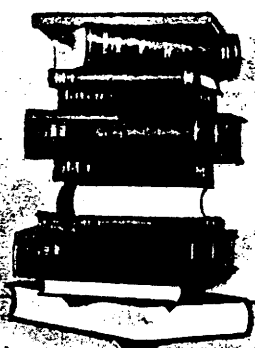


PROPRIETOR OF

# ELLEN G. WHITE Publications



Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

December 15, 1969

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Dr. Roy Branson  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104

Dear Dr. Branson:

Returning from Berrien Springs to Washington several weeks ago I got in touch with Elder Singleton and asked him to send out to you information along the lines which we discussed. You were seeking information on the matter of John Byington operating an underground railway station in Bucks Bridge, New York. I presume that you have received information on this point by now. He may also have sent you some information on Sojourner Truth.

I have just been talking with Miss Ethel Young, who I knew had been doing some research on both of these points, and she tells me that we cannot find any documentation which would support the point of Sojourner Truth becoming a Seventh-day Adventist. It comes down to us through word of mouth from the children and grandchildren of our early workers in Battle Creek. Mark Bouvée is one of these. Mark is a grandson of Uriah Smith and works at one of the newspaper offices in Battle Creek. He is a Seventh-day Adventist and a member of the Tabernacle church. But Miss Young does have quite a full folder of materials on Sojourner Truth and she is willing to make any of these materials available to you if you wish them. You might write to Miss Ethel Young here at the General Conference and she will be happy to help you.

She tells me also that they secured a microfilm setting forth all the materials that some public library in Michigan has on Sojourner Truth, possibly the Battle Creek library and after transcribing these materials for her files here in Washington, Miss Young has sent this to the Heritage Room at Andrews University. You may know all about this. You may have had access to it. Miss Young also has some documentation on John Byington and the underground station which he ran. She tells me that she'll look this up and next week we'll have it ready to send to you.

Another matter which you and I discussed while I was over there was the Ron Graybill thesis. Our men feel that Ron did some valuable work in this. It has been read by some of our negro leaders and from time to time we receive inquiries as to the availability of the document. Our Board feels that it should be made available and at a very recent meeting, after discussing the matter at some length, this action was taken: "Voted, that the White Trustees inform Ron Graybill of the inquiries which are from time to time received

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relative to his thesis 'Historical Context of the Ellen G. White Statements Concerning Race Relations' and that we suggest to the author that he prepare it in book form and submit it for publication to the Review and Herald Publishing Association. I have passed this word to Ron and just have word back from him that he is undertaking this work looking forward to the publication of the thesis in a book. The manuscript will be submitted to the Review and Herald.

I think that Ron's careful and diligent work will be of service to the denomination in such a volume. I thought you would be interested to know the steps which are being taken. I think you and I talked about the possibility of the publication of the thesis.

With the best of wishes, I am

Sincerely your brother,



Arthur L. White, Secretary  
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

ALW:pb

Dictated Dec. 12