


3-31-1913

Letter from the Trustees of Dixieland College to Theophilus Brown Larimore

Dixieland College Trustees

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Gainesville, Fla. Mar. 31, 1913.

Dear brother and sister Larimore:-

After going over the College proposition thoroughly and prayerfully, it seems best to us to consider the following, which we submit, in the best of faith, in the hope that the way may yet be opened up for our success in the undertaking:

First: Before we can proceed further with the work we will have to get a loan of twenty five or thirty thousand dollars, preferably thirty thousand, and the interest should not exceed six (6%) per cent, and we should not offer more than that for the loan.

Second: It is our first desire to have the school, and if in your travels during the coming months you can find party who will make the loan, or who would prefer to finance the whole proposition, we will turn over everything to them, at the amount of cost of same at the time of the transfer, provided you can find such a party, who would be satisfactory to you. We would of course render all the assistance possible in case such an arrangement is made.

Third: We have assumed about \$20,000.00 to date, solely on account of our earnest desire to get the school, and whether the school is built or not we will have to see that the payments on the land is taken care of, as we cannot afford to lose what has been advanced. Our limit has been reached in the matter of responsibility for the payment of these amounts.

Fourth: We realize that it will take time for us to see if this proposition can be worked out, and this being the case, we are willing to do our best to hold all the land together just as it is now, until Jan. 1st, 1914 to see if the loan can be secured by that time, and if the loan has not been secured by that date and there is strong probability of getting it within a reasonable amount of time after that date, we are willing to hold on to it longer, to allow all the time possible to get the money. The reason we put the time Jan. 1st, 1914, is that we are able to rent it at that time if it is not to be devoted to school purposes; after that date it would be too late to rent. The idea is that we will try and hold the land until all hope of being able to get the school established shall have been abandoned.

Fifth: That all further expenses be suspended until the loan is secured, that the work may proceed upon the school building. Except that we would want you to make this your winter home, until the school is established, and ofcourse after the school is established, and we would provide you with the place of abode, rent a place for your home, and also provide boarding place, and give you all the weekly contributions of the church while here.

Sixth: We will return the \$600.00 paid on the truck farm tracts, also the \$625.00 paid on lots in the Studstill tract. Brother Bowers leaving it optional with you as to whether or not you will cancel the trades on the

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Sixth contd:

Manning purchases, upon which you have paid \$1000.00, or let them stand. He would return the money on these trades, if you so desired, and receive the property back as it was before any trade was made.

Seventh: To further cut down the expenses, we would suggest that the paper "Our Florida Friend" be suspended after the next issue, as it required too much time and is too expensive for the visible results, and that in lieu of the paper we send each subscriber a copy of the book--"From Maine to Mexico, From Canada to Cuba"--and that when the school gets into operation, we issue a quarterly bulletin or paper in the interest of the school. This would not be so expensive, and would not take the time and attention that the publication of a weekly paper takes.

Eighth: Upon the suspension of the paper, all the time could be devoted to correspondence, personal letters, which bring such good results, and also to personal work in the field.

Ninth: Every suggestion that has been made is in the hope that the School shall be established. We have stated the proposition as it appears to us, frankly and freely, and with the greatest respect and love for you both, it being our earnest desire that the way will yet

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open up, and that we will see our hopes realized. Great bodies move slowly, and ours is a great proposition, and will have to be worked out as it goes along. The proposition is somewhat of an experiment in the financial world, but we feel sure that it has the merit to it that shall win, if we can only get the buildings under way and show the people in earnest that we are going to succeed. We have the determination, but we lack the cash. To get the necessary cash then is our only trouble in the way at present. We still have hopes that we can succeed if we can only get the loan, and believe that within the time mentioned we will be able to see just what can be done. In the mean time, however, we cannot afford to let expenses be piling up against the proposition.

All the above is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

G. M. D. Bowers, Chairman.

Trustees Dixieland College

B. R. Colson, Secty.