

11-19-1962

## Bell to Jim, 19 November 1962

Bell Irvin Wiley (1906-1980)

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EMORY UNIVERSITY

ATLANTA 22, GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

November 16<sup>19</sup>, 1962

Professor J. W. Silver  
University of Mississippi  
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

Harvey tells me that he has invited you to come over and teach next summer. I hope very much that you will accept. It would be very nice to have you and your family here again.

I have gotten pretty full reports on the meeting from various colleagues who attended. One of my Ph.D. students, Tom Wells, attended the session where you and John Moore spoke. He says that this was a very interesting session; he enjoyed it thoroughly. He is an unusual person; he graduated from Annapolis in 1940, did twenty years in the navy and during the Korean War commanded a destroyer. He retired as commander in 1960 and came to Emory as a beginning graduate student. He wrote his master's thesis on the slave ship Wanderer and is now beginning his dissertation on the administration of the Confederate navy. He published a book just as he began his master's work, Commodore Moore and the Texas Navy, published by the University of Texas Press.

I am very happy about Joe's election to the vice-presidency, as I know you are. I understand that there was some opposition but this was to be expected. Certainly, his election is a great tribute to him personally. Walter Posey tells me that both he and I opposed Eaton's choice at the Houston meeting and helped put a motion through the council to the effect that nobody should be elected vice-president while he was out of the country. I have no recollection of this. If it is true, I am guilty of inconsistency. But this is not the first time and I do not intend to lose any sleep over the matter.

Mary Frances and I had a wonderful trip to New York and New Jersey. We flew up Wednesday afternoon to New York, went to a play that night, went to Atlantic City for the day Thursday, November 8, and then returned to New York for Friday and Saturday and flew home Sunday. We saw three plays, I did a lot of browsing in old bookstores, and Bill Hogan who, with Jane Hogan, joined us for the week-end, worked in the New York Public Library. Mary Frances and Jane spent the days seeing the sights. Saturday night, the tenth, we, with the Max Lowrys of the Ford Foundation, went to the Roosevelt Grill to dance to the music of Jan Garber. We pushed up our wedding anniversary so we could celebrate it that night. We had a wonderful time.

I spoke on November 8 at Atlantic City to a meeting sponsored jointly by the New Jersey Civil War Centennial Commission, the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies, and the New Jersey Education Association. This speech paid the expenses of Mary Frances and me to New York. I understand that I got some criticism for not attending the Southern Historical Association. But, this is only the fourth meeting that I have missed since the organization was founded, and I do not have a guilty conscience. I shall be on hand for your speech at Asheville next fall.

I went to Springfield on October 26 to make a speech; as I went through Memphis on the 25th, I tried to phone you at Oxford but found that you were in Indiana on a speaking jaunt. I spent the night of the 25th with the Harry Woodburys. They are getting along well. I made a flying trip to Jackson, Tennessee to spend the afternoon of the 25th with Seale. He has been a little below par lately (this in confidence). I don't know what the trouble was but he seems to be all right now. He is running far behind on his publishing schedule. The Nisbet book that I am editing for him has been in page proof for well over a year. He promises to get it out in the next few months. He is such a grand fellow that I don't have the heart to put the pressure on him.

I noticed in the paper that you testified before the grand jury in Oxford early this week. I would like to have a transcript of your testimony.

I must run along home. All the family join me in greetings and good wishes to you and yours.

As ever,

*Bell*  
Bell Wiley

W/h

I am disturbed by the reports in the press that Meredith is about to flunk out of Ole Miss. If this happens, I suppose we'll have to go through again the ordeal of getting another Negro admitted to Ole Miss!