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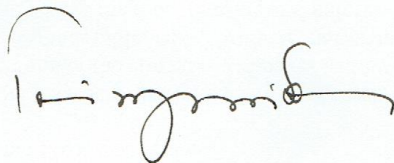
Dear Professor Jessee:

I've been so overwhelmed with research for my soon-to-be published novel, I can hardly remember the channels and caves and by-roads I traveled for *Paradise*. Early on: Brazil and Candomblé; next "Colored" newspapers of the period—as well as other regions. They were the most riveting and helpful. Then a narrowing—a book on Lost Towns; early railroads, banks etc.

I am so skeptical of written records I tend to rely on my own common sense and imagination. The "only surviving" theme suggests collapse of the others—when in fact, they merged (for survival) with "white towns" or were bought out by them i.e. Prairie View in Texas, i.e.

Anyway, this letter can easily become an essay, so I look forward to seeing you in Charleston. I don't arrive until noon on Friday so will miss your session, but I hope to get at least a précis of our "Blowing up the Race House," as well as a chance to talk.

Regards,



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