

THANK YOU!

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Subject: THANK YOU to Ms. Lisha West - FCCS - re: ZORA Elizabeth Miller-Sprouse-Roby's children
Date: 2017-11-17 08:03
From:
To: cro@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us
Reply-To:

11-17-2017

Dear Ms. West (Lisha), Client Rights Officer - [FCCS](#),

Thank you for your letter - dated 11-9-2017. It arrived 11-14-2017.

I have posted your letter ([PDF](#)) onto the "ZORA" page of my personal web site: <http://hansandcassady.org/> Please CLICK my "ZORA" page to see.

I will post this "thank you" message there also. Related to this project's organization and "hyper-linked" historical references, etc. – a web site presentation is really very efficient.

I was pleased to learn that a response to my "Appeal" [narrative](#) is in progress. I look forward to hearing from **Ms. Katie Congrove - Deputy Chief Legal Counsel - Franklin County Children Services;** However, please do not trouble (Katie) to arrange for a meeting "regarding my concerns". Rather, I seek ONLY to know what I request in my Appeal [narrative](#) :

1) Why were my grandmother's children "taken from her" in a legal proceeding - at the Franklin County Court House? [circa 1928]

2) Did the facts:

a) that my maternal grandmother had "dark skin"; and, **b)** perhaps had married a negro man – (which was [illegal](#) – in many states – in the USA – until 1967) play a role in the

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treatment - that she received - in the Franklin County, Ohio Court System, circa 1925? [I realize that Ohio repealed its ban on interracial marriage in 1887.] However, I grew up in Columbus, Ohio (1954 to 1972). And, I have personally experienced "racist" views – sentiments – actions and RE-actions – in my six plus decades of life – spent all over the USA – as a "high-tech" worker.]

Civil Rights:

3) If, I am "mixed race"- and/or my maternal grandmother [Zora Elizabeth Miller Sprouse-Roby 1883-1953] was African American - I feel (at present) that I have the right to know - if FCCS records state - or indicate - this. As was made famous by Author "Aaron Sorkin" - perhaps my belief - that I have this "right" is incorrect. (I have placed a snippet - of the dialogue from his famous play "[A Few Good Men](#)" - onto my ZORA web page. [Click to SEE dialogue.](#)) Many legal professionals find this presentation [of the concept of "right"] entertaining.

4) Moreover, I feel, as a "direct descendant", that I have the right to know why were my grandmother's children "taken from her" in a legal proceeding (circa 1929) - at the Franklin County Court House - and, placed into the FCCS-"Home"? Consider, if the records do exist, hundreds of other people already know – what ZORA did; or, was accused of.

Moreover, if it is possible for my questions to be answered, Ms. Congrove should (please) do so - in writing. Clearly, I will require a formal response – in writing – should any subsequent actions – be required. On the other hand, if, by law - or FCCS policy, she cannot answer my questions - then, she can just let me know this as well (in writing).

In fact, I cannot travel to Columbus, Ohio – from the Dayton, Ohio area. I have surrendered my personal Driving License (related to my stroke event); and, I suffer from a continuing seizure disorder – which, makes it very difficult for me

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to travel – in vehicles (at all) – without “special measures”.

As an option, if a **“Skype-type” meeting** could be arranged (Or, is necessary) – I would be willing to investigate this possibility (the cost, etc.). My husband [a business owner] participates in “Skype” meetings – with people all over the world. Hans is a nationally known Science & Medical Illustrator – and a “fine artist”.

Related to "Genetic testing": the 23andMe Company Team has responded to my legal validity inquiry: *"... it is important to note that your results from 23andMe are not considered a confirmatory test or proof of such ancestry or relative in a legal context. ..."* – Letter from employee “Kate”

Also, Professors Bamshad and Olson - and others - have addressed the issue of "racial genetics" in recent scholarly papers – which, I will place these onto my Zora page also. Mr. Stephen Francis (and, his City of Columbus, Ohio Diversity Team) will find this information of interest. We chatted a few years ago – when, Mayor Ginther had first appointed him. That is, basically, all Americans (and humans) are so genetically similar - that, my grandmother's skin color has negligible bearing on my "ethnicity". Rather, the fact that I was raised - and have passed - without question - for over six decades as a Caucasian girl - is much more significant - insofar as my “ethnicity”.

Moreover, my mother's instinct - to tell me to declare myself as "white" - was based ONLY [I am certain] on her concerns - related to the turbulent 1960s. If she knew Zora was African American, she denied this knowledge (to me). It disturbed her greatly (in fact), when the issue was even touched on. Thus, it was never openly discussed - due, in large part to her personal health concerns (after my father (Milo Gerald Cassady) passed - circa 1963) – due to mesothelioma/cancer. My mother became very ill – and, disabled – after my father’s death.

I will say, that my mother was very sympathetic and supportive of the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I grew up in the “inner-

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city" of Columbus, Ohio [1954 - 1973]. My mother was always very gracious with people of any color. I attended Columbus public schools (from Avondale Kindergarten to Central High School). In fact, the ease that I feel - around persons of all races and ethnicities - in fact, paid dividends - throughout my years as a "high-tech" worker - in job markets - all over the USA. And, because of my "in-demand" skills, I did not have to tolerate (silently) the few racist practices - that I experienced. Nor, did I.

In fact, [AND, I have been earnestly ask this question recently] WHY? WHY, do I seek to know "*what*" Zora Miller was? Black? White? German? AND, "*why*" do I care what happened (to her) & to her children? Of which, my mother was ONLY one. Again, I never did meet Zora. My mother was very uncomfortable - when ask about her.

The Answer, is complicated. First, Zora chose to bear my mother. And, my mother was a great, warm and generous lady. Second, I seek to know What "*happened*" - that my mother is documented (just as she said she was) as a resident of the FCCS "HOME" (Census Image [Link](#)) . In addition, I want, to understand "*how*" I was able to do - what I was *forced* to do - due to financial circumstances - that I personally faced circa 1977. That is, I literally "gave" physical custody - of my very young daughter - to her biological father [George Billy Burton] at our divorce - when this was literally "un-heard" of - in Ohio. (So said, Ohio Judge Thomas Tyack - then, merely a young attorney. Tom was my legal counsel). I did this, so that I could enroll in the University of Wisconsin - at Green Bay, WI (as a full-time student) - and, pursue (full-time) an education in STEM. My deliberate actions (unheard of at that time - by "nice girls") - made - eventually - a tremendous difference in my (and my daughter's) lives. Specifically, as a woman "armed" - with a BS in STEM (from UWGB) -I was able to secure very well-paid employment with NCR, General Electric, Battelle Research, etc. AND, the impact on my daughter (who is - today - the Deputy Chief of Staff - for the USA FBI) - was very consequential. In

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fact, because of what I taught her to do [in my company: [Hans & Cassady, Inc.](#)] my young daughter (Dawn) was a significant part of the re-election campaign - of Congressman John Conyers (still serving in the USA Congress - for Detroit, Michigan). John's subsequent recommendation (of Dawn) got her started in the USA-DOJ - where she first worked with [Mr. James Comey](#).

A] Did I obtain the "strength", to take the atypical actions that I took (1977-1982) from Zora?

B] Did Zora - in fact - "place" her 13 children - into the care of the FCCS - at the height of the Great USA Depression - after my maternal Grandfather [George Allen Sprouse] took severely ill? [George passed in 1929.]. In fact, many Americans were forced to do this sort of thing. See, USA Great Depression - children in orphanages - and, even on "[trains](#)".

C] Was Mr. Jerry Roby - Zora's subsequent husband (the "colored man" who called on my mother) - in fact - at first, some sort of "helper" to Zora - on her Ohio farm? That is, before he was Zora's lover - and her husband? Please note Zora's tombstone says "Roby". Yet, one of my Uncles - a Sprouse - purchased it.

D] Are the "missing" nine children, Mr. Jerry Roby's children - perhaps, from a previous marriage?

E] After my SAH @ MCA (stroke event), I contacted every blood relative - that I knew of - at the suggestion of the [neuro-surgeon \[Victor Perry\]](#).

F] Did my "*statistically unusual for a white lady*" [stroke](#) - result from the genes of Zora? If the stroke gene (contributing to a weakened brain artery wall) did come from Zora, then - ALL of Zora's grand children need to be checked - for an inherited "tear" - in their CMA artery wall. It is a simple painless test - a kind of MRI procedure - conducted with an arterial die. Perhaps, telling Zora's story - (the success of our efforts!) will help other "Zora descendants" to be informed & tested.

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I look forward to hearing from (the FCCS) - and, providing additional information - as it becomes necessary. Again, thank you for your efforts – in this matter.

Very Truly, Mrs. Susan [Cassady] Neuhart
(A granddaughter of Zora Elizabeth Miller- Sprouse - Roby [1883- 1953])

[end]