

BRIGHT WILLIAMSON
DARLINGTON, S.C.

My dear Mr Dargau:

Jan'y 15 - 1916.

Woods Dargau came to see me some three weeks ago with the Commission you entrusted to him. I was quite unwell with a bad cold and was confined to my bed for several days immediately after I first saw him, and until the first of the year, I was barely able to get to my office and back.

Woods came in later and gave me your message - and he also delivered to me 41 Shares of Darlington Manufacturing Co. Stock and a deed, all in my name, for 16 lots in the Town of Florence -

I told Woods that I was so impressed, in fact, I was so feelingly impressed, that it was impossible for me to express myself at that time -

It is seldom in life that such instances come into ones life - and that such appreciation and deeds as yours one exhibited. I myself am fully mindful of my feeble worth and merit, for you to entertain

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the appreciation and expressions of me you have shown on so many occasions - However short of it I may be, I am most fully conscious of my appreciation and esteem for you and your noble husband, whose memory all of us revere, and whom everyone admired & loved - That two souls should have lived together in such full sympathy, and with such high and exalting ideals of things and of life, shows an influence of each upon the other.

Beyond the generous and substantial offering and donation you have made to me, I appreciate even more the high spirit of yours which prompted it.

I will not say more, except to say that this act of yours, and the motives that prompt you, is the greatest of its kind that has come into my life or perhaps ever shall and impresses me with better & higher thoughts of life.

Margaret and I thought of and spoke of you when we were recently in California - when I returned Sam promised me, in a conversation I had with

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him in enquiring of you, that
just as soon as you were able to see
me and Margaret that he would let
me know.

I do hope you are regaining your
health and strength, and that I may
see you again, ere long.

Most Sincerely Yours
Bright Williamson

Mrs M. E. Dargau
Darlington, S. C.

Bright Williamson To
Mrs. M. E. Dargan
Shares, 1916

BRIGHT WILLIAMSON
DARLINGTON, S. C.

April 8, 1924.

Mrs. Olive Tilford Dargan,
Almond, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Dargan:

The committee in charge of the erection of the Outdoor Theatre wishes to communicate with you in regard to the style and name that it shall bear, with the suggestion that in order to best carry out the perpetuation of the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Dargan, that the name should be both appropriate and brief so that in reference to the Theatre in ordinary conversation the full name will always be used.

The committee presumes that you wish the idea you endorsed of naming and dedicating the Theatre to the memory of both Mr. and Mrs. Dargan will be carried out and with that in view we suggest the name

"The Dargan Memorial Theatre."

We think that this name, together with the marble tablet erected on the front at the base of the stage, or some other suitable place, bearing a full inscription, and among other things that it is a memorial in memory of E. Keith Dargan and his wife Mary E. Dargan and dedicated to (if I may suggest) the youth of future generations, with the date of the birth and death of each and such other additional inscription as you may indicate in order to fully carry out the purpose you have in view, and in which we so heartily join in with you.

We think that a long name like "The E. Keith Dargan Memorial Theatre" or, "The E. Keith Dargan & Mary E. Dargan Memorial Theatre" might cause reference to the Theatre to be abbreviated to some such name as "The School Theatre", "St. Johns Theatre", or some other abbreviation. In behalf of the committee, I will ask you at this time to think over the matter and prepare a complete inscription which you would like to have placed upon the memorial tablet.

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In order that the Theatre may be known by its proper name at the very beginning we think the matter should have the earliest attention, also because we want the stone prepared in time that it may be placed in the course of erection at the proper place and time.

I presume that when the Theatre is completed sometime during the school session, which may not be until the beginning of the next session, that ~~the~~ fitting and proper exercises will be held formerly dedicating and presenting the Theatre.

This, however, will be taken up and discussed with you later on.

The actual work ~~was~~ just recently begun. I intend to send you a (Kodak) photograph as soon as I am able to take one in the next week or so. The present sketch shows an amphi-theatre with circular rows made of brick each twelve inches ~~and~~ higher than the preceding, and about three feet apart. These seats rise to the height of about twenty-two feet, and at the back is to be ~~the~~ foyer. The stage will be made of earth hauled in at the base of the Theatre and perhaps will have a concrete surface or what I think would be better, of small gravel tightly packed. At the back of the Theatre, while the plans do not show, it is probable some evergreens will be planted. So far the sketches do not show columns or work of any kind. It has been my idea that a few columns at the back and perhaps two at each end of the stage on the front would be most appropriate.

I do not know until the work proceeds further whether we will have the funds to do this with at present. It is a right big undertaking and I am quite sure that you will be pleased with it.

With kind regards, and trusting that you are quite well and enjoying this beautiful spring weather.

Yours sincerely,

Bright Williamson

BW/H

*Perhaps some other word than Theatre
might be more suitable.*

Theatre
for Mr and Mrs Dargan

return to
Mr. [27]