King. In the life of the school he is playing an important part and is president of our student body this year. In an organization such as we have at Crozer, the president of the student body is a position that carries much responsibility. He is held universally in high regard by faculty, staff, and students and is undoubtedly one of the best men in our entire student body. He reflects fine preparation, an excellent mind, and a thorough grasp of material. King seems to know where he wants to go and how to get there. Furthermore, he is making remarkable progress in arriving.

PD. The Achievements of Morehouse Men in the Great Universities (Atlanta: Morehouse College, n.d.): 5; copy in CKFC.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

To Sankey L. Blanton

[January 1951]
[Chester, Pa.]

This letter to Blanton applying for a postgraduate fellowship from Crozer is not in King’s handwriting, but was probably written on his behalf during his last year at Crozer. King received a $600 fellowship for his first year (1951–1952) at Boston University.

Prisident

Dear Dr. Blanton:

I anticipate graduating from Crozer—in May 1951. In the forthcoming academic year I plan to continue my study toward the Doctor of Philosophy in the field of Systematic Theology.

In accordance with my plans, I have made application at the following schools: Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, Scotland; Boston University, Boston, Mass, and Yale University, New Haven, Conn. I have {already} been accepted at the former two named schools, however, I have not yet taken the graduate examination which is a prerequisite for acceptance. (It so happens that Yale University is my preference).

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, and wish to hereby make application for the J. Lewis Crozer Fellowship Grant my inability to pursue work in this field without financial aid, I hereby make application for the J. Lewis Crozer Fellowship Grant.

Your favorable consideration of this matter will be highly appreciate. I remain

Sincerely,

M. L. King

HLd. MLKP-MBU: Box 116, folder 49.

1. Sankey Lee Blanton (1898–1974) earned an A.B. at Wake Forest College (1925), a Th.M. at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1929), and an S.T.M. degree at Andover Newton

Jan 1951
Bean taught King in two courses, Outline History of Christianity and American Christianity.

Mr. King is the outstanding student in his class and one who would be outstanding in any institution. His work is always of the highest grade. The few questions he has asked in class have revealed a real interest in the subject under discussion.

I think Mr. King will always be a credit to Crozer. It is gratifying to know that he plans to continue for his doctorate.

THFmS. CRO-NRCR.

“The Origin of Religion in the Race”

King wrote this paper for Davis’s Philosophy of Religion course. In the essay, which is largely drawn from D. Miall Edwards’s The Philosophy of Religion, King examines various philosophical and anthropological arguments for the origin of religion. The word “race” in the title refers to the human race, not a particular group. Davis gave King an A and praised his “thoughtful, critical analysis.”

The question of the origin of religion in the human race still remains one of the insoluble mysteries confronting the mind of man. Men have attempted to solve this problem through scientific research, only to find that the results lead to inevitable antinomies.

Theological Seminary (1931). He served at Baptist churches in New Haven, Connecticut, and in Wilmington, North Carolina. Blanton was dean of the school of religion at Wake Forest from 1946 to 1950, when he became president of Crozer. He remained there until 1962 when he became director of public relations at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina.