

Resource Sheet #8

Source H  
Letter from a Southerner Wishing to Move North

Lutcher, La., May 13, 1917.

Dear Sir: I have been reading the Chicago defender and seeing so many advertisements about the work in the north I thought to write you concerning my condition. I am working hard in the south and can hardly earn a living. I have a wife and one child and can hardly feed them. I thought to write and ask you for some information concerning how to get a pass for myself and family. I don't want to leave my family behind as I can't hardly make a living for them right here with them and I would know they would fare hard if I would leave them. If there are any agents in the south there haven't been any of them to Lutcher if they would come here they would get at least fifty men. Please sir let me hear from you as quick as possible. Now this is all. Please don't publish my letter, I was out in town today talking to some of the men and they say if they could get passes that 30 or 40 of them would come. But they haven't got the money and they don't know how to come. But they are good strong and able working men. If you will instruct me I will instruct the other men how to come as they all want to work. Please don't publish this because we have to whisper this around among our selves because the white folks are angry now because the Negroes are going north.

From: Emmet J. Scott, comp. "Additional Letters of Negro Migrants of 1916-1918,"  
Journal of Negro History 4 (October 1919):412-75