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Benjamin Griffith Brawley Collection
Collection 8-1

Prepared & Revised by:
Karen L. Jefferson
June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The Benjamin Griffith Brawley Collection totals « linear foot, and is comprised primarily of materials concerning persons and subjects of interest to Benjamin Brawley. The subjects center around writers and include autographed writings, newsclippings, programs and notes. These subject files include, Paul L. Dunbar, Matilda Dunbar, Roland Hayes, James W. Johnson, John Merrick, and Newman I. White.

The collection contains no biographical or career information about Benjamin Brawley. However, there is a significant portion of the collection about Benjamin Brawley's father, Rev. Edward McKnight Brawley. Rev. Brawley, teacher, minister, and college president, is recognized for his efforts in organizing the Colored Baptist Churches and Sunday Schools in South Carolina. This series include a holograph biography of Rev. Brawley.

The collection does include some of Benjamin Brawley's correspondence from 1917-1936. The correspondents include such notables as Frances Grimke, Arthur Huff Fauset, Alain Locke, Newman I. White, and Rayford W. Logan, Also included in the collection are notes written by Brawley as well as some poetry.

Biographical Sketch

Benjamin Griffith Brawley

- 1882, April 22 Born to Edward M. and Margaret Saphronia (Dickerson) Brawley, in Columbia, S.C.
- 1898-1901 Attended Atlanta Baptist College (Morehouse College), Atlanta, GA. Received a B.S. degree.
- 1901 Taught in Georgetown, Florida
- 1902 Served as Instructor of English, Morehouse College.
- 1906-1910 Served as Professor of English, Morehouse College.
- 1906 Received an A.B. degree, University of Chicago, IL.
- 1908 Received an A.M. degree, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 1910-1912 Served as Professor of English, Howard University.
- 1912 Served as Dean of Morehouse College. Married Hilda Damaris Prowd, of Kingston, Jamaica.
- 1920 Journeyed to Liberia to do a study of the republic.
- 1921, June 2 Ordained as a Baptist minister in Boston, MA.
- 1923-1931 Served as Professor of English at Shaw University, Raleigh, NC.
- 1931 Accepted a Professorship at Howard University.
- 1939 Feb. 1 Died in Washington, D.C.

Biographical Sketch

Edward McKnight Brawley

- 1851, Mar. 18 Born to James M. and Ann L. Brawley (both parents free) in Columbia, S.C.
- 1870 Entered Howard University, as the first theology student.
- 1871-1875 Attended Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, (being the first black student) received a B.A. degree.
- 1871 Licensed to preach in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania,
- 1875 Ordained a Baptist minister. Commissioned by the American Baptist Publication Society to South Carolina as a missionary; organized the State Sunday School Convention.
- 1877 Married Mary Dorrick, of Lynchburg, VA. (died 1878)
- 1878 Received a M.A. degree, Bucknell University
- 1879 Married Margaret S. Dickerson, of Columbia, S.C.
- 1883 Elected President of Alabama Baptist Normal and Theological School (Selma University).
- 1885 Received an honorary Doctor of Divinity, State University of Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1887 Began publication of the Baptist Tribune, a weekly newspaper.
- 1890 Accepted the call to pastorate the First Baptist Church of Petersburg, Virginia the oldest colored Baptist Church in the U.S.
- 1891 Elected President of the National Baptist Convention
- 1923 Died in Raleigh, N.C.

Series Description

- Series A**
Box 8-1 **Edward McKnight Brawley**
Biographical material about Benjamin Brawley's father. Includes programs, and periodicals about Rev. Brawley's church in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Series B**
Box 8-1 **Correspondence**
Correspondence of Benjamin G. Brawley spanning the period 1917-1936. Includes such notables as Francis J. Grimke, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke and Carter G. Woodson.
- Series C**
Box 8-1 **Notes By Benjamin G. Brawley**
Typewritten and holograph notes on subjects of interest to Benjamin Brawley. Includes notes on English literature, Jessie Fauset, "Notable Negroes" and some poetry.
- Series D**
Box 8-1 **Subject Files**
Primarily printed biographical materials about people of interest to Benjamin Brawley materials include, news articles, reprints, programs, and broadsides about such notables as Thomas Paine, C. V. Roman, Matilda Dunbar, and John Merrick.

Container List

- Series C** **Notes By Benjamin G. Brawley** continued
Box Folder
8-1 30 The Minister As A Professional Man
 31 Negro Painters and Sculptors
 32 The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, and other poems
 33 Thirty Notable Negroes
 34 Notes
- Series D** **Subject Files**
biographical 35 Cotter, Joseph S., and Maria Cox - writings and
 information
 36 Dillard, James H. writings by Dillard
 37 Dunbar, Matilda T. biographical sketches
 38 Dunbar, Paul Laurence - newsclippings
Dedication 39 Paul Laurence Dunbar, Jr. High School, Dayton, Ohio
 Program - 1933
 40 Hayes, Roland, and Lawrence, M. W. - programs, article
 41 Johnson, James Weldon - reviews of Johnson's writings
 42 Merrick, John - biographical sketch
 43 Murphy, Meta Hunt - poem (autographed)
 44 Thomas Paine, the Great Liberator of Man
 45 Roman, C. V. - writing by Roman (autographed)
 46 Rose, James E. - program, report
 47 White, Charles Fred - press notices
 48 White, Newman I. - writings by White (autographed)
 49 English Literature - newsclippings on various writers