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### BRUCE, Blanche Kelso

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BLANCHE K. BRUCE PAPERS  
Collection 9-1 to 9-5

Prepared & Revised by:  
Wilda D. Logan  
June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION  
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

## Scope Note

The Blanche Kelso Bruce papers were purchased in 1954 from Martha A. Smoot of Washington, D.C. The Blanche K. Bruce papers total two linear feet and span the years 1870 to 1891. Blanche K. Bruce had the distinguished honor of being the first of his race to serve a full six year term in the United States Senate, 1875 to 1881, and the first of his race to preside over the National Republican Convention of 1880 held in Chicago.

The collection primarily consists of correspondence between members of his family, constituents of the state of Mississippi and other political allies. Letters in support of candidates for particular appointments, letters requesting aid in seeking appointments, pensions, and other general requests, form most of the general correspondence received by Bruce while serving as a U.S. Senator. Most of the official correspondence requesting aid have holographic notes by Bruce on what action, if any, was taken as a result of that particular letter.

Throughout the correspondence, are comments on the national political developments. This is especially noted in the correspondence with political ally, P.B.S. Pinchback. Other important correspondents include James Hill, John R. Lynch, J.J. Spelman and Booker T. Washington.

Extensive clippings are a part of the collection, some are biographical in nature, others are editorials on Bruce. Some of the clippings are related to political issues and controversies of the late 1800's. Other materials, in the collection, include documents, petitions, financial papers and biographical information on the Plummer family, dated 1787 to 1852.

### Scope Note continued

Of special significance to the Bruce papers, is a collection of research notes, a bibliography, an abstract and documents used for a dissertation on Bruce by Sadie Daniel St. Clair. Items of interest include a photocopy of his wedding and death certificate, chapter ten of the dissertation, a script copy of his will, a page from the Congressional Record dated March 8, 1875 and correspondence by Mrs. St. Clair in pursuit of her research.

## Biographical Sketch

- 1841 March 1 Born a slave in Farmville, Prince Edward County, Virginia.
- 1866-1868 Attended Oberlin College, Oberlin Ohio.
- 1869 Feb. Moved to Mississippi - worked as a planter.
- 1870 Jan. Elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the Mississippi Senate.
- 1871 Elected Sheriff and tax assessor of Bolivar County, Mississippi.
- 1872 Delegate to the National Republican Convention - Bruce was for all his life, a
- 1876 Staunch follower of the G.O.P. - the first of his race to preside over a national convention, which he did in Chicago in 1880.
- 1874 Elected to U.S. Senate representing the State of Mississippi.
- 1875-1881 Began his fall term as a U.S. Senator.
- 1878 June 24 Married Josephine of Cleveland, Union produced one son - Roscoe C. Bruce.
- 1881-1885 Appointed Register of the Treasury by President Garfield.
- 1889 Appointed Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia by Pres. Benjamin Harrison.
- 1893 Howard University conferred upon him the Honorary degree of LL.D.
- 1894-1898 Elected trustee of Howard University.
- 1897 Reappointed Register of the Treasury by President McKinley.
- 1898 March 17 Died in Washington, D.C.

## Series Description

- Series A Correspondence**  
Box 9-1 to Box 9-3 Primarily correspondence between members of family and constituents of Mississippi.
- Series B Manuscripts**  
Box 9-4 A holographic poem by Bruce plus holographic covers and notes by Bruce, manuscripts by others are included.
- Series C Printed Material**  
Box 9-4 Printed material include a mail receipt and a printed map of Mississippi.
- Series D Financial Papers**  
Box 9-4 Include Bruce's bank account book, bank receipts and financial papers.
- Series E Documents**  
Box 9-4 Include credentials for Bruce as a delegate to Republican Convention of 1889, U.S. bills, petitions, statistics.
- Series F Newspaper Clippings**  
Box 9-4 Include biographical and editorial clippings on Bruce and other political issues of the late 1800's.
- Series G Artifact**  
Box 9-4 Include a memorandum book of Bruce, which include holographic notes, dates 1885.
- Series H Plummer Family Records  
Box 9-4 Clippings on the Plummer Family dated 1787 to 1832.
- Series I Sadie Daniel St. Clair Research Materials  
Box 9-5 Includes a bibliography, an abstract correspondence, appendices, chapter ten of research for a dissertation on Bruce; also include a copy of his death and wedding certificate, his will and other extensive notes.

Container List

A Correspondence

- Box 9-1      Folder      1 Calvin Bruce -Family  
Correspondence - 1878  
2 E. Bruce - Family Corres-  
pondence - 1879  
3 H.C. Bruce - Family Corres-  
pondence -1876-1877  
4 Josephine Bruce - Family  
Correspondence - 1896  
5 Josephine Bruce - Family  
Correspondence - 1897  
6 Josephine Bruce - Family  
Correspondence - undated  
7 Roscoe C. Bruce - Family  
Correspondence - 1896  
8 Roscoe C. Bruce - Family  
Correspondence - 1897

General

- 9 General Correspondence - A  
10 General Correspondence -  
Badges to Bauman  
11 General Correspondence -  
Bell to Bliss  
12 General Correspondence -  
Bolton to Bowyer  
13 General Correspondence -  
Brackett to Bricewell  
14 General Correspondence -  
Brooks to Brown  
15 General Correspondence -  
Bruce  
16 General Correspondence -  
Bryant to Bryson  
17 General Correspondence -  
Buchanan to Bynum  
18 General Correspondence -  
Campbell to Church  
19 General Correspondence -  
Clarke to Curtis  
20 General Correspondence -  
Dallas to Davis  
21 General Correspondence -  
Deddick to Downing

A Correspondence cont'd

- Box 9-1 Folder      22 General Correspondence -  
                                    Dunbar
- 23 General Correspondence -  
                                    Eaton to Ellinger
- 24 General Correspondence -  
                                    Embry to Eyrich
- 25 General Correspondence - F
- 26 General Correspondence - G
- 27 General Correspondence -  
                                    A. Hall to J. Hall
- 28 General Correspondence -  
                                    P.C. Hall to Halliday
- 29 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hamilton to Hancock
- 30 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hardy to Harrington
- 31 General Correspondence -  
                                    Harris
- 32 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hart to Hazlewood
- 33 General Correspondence -  
                                    Heiderhoff to Helper
- 34 General Correspondence -  
                                    Henderson
- 35 General Correspondence -  
                                    Henly
- 36 General Correspondence -  
                                    Henry to Heywood
- Box 9-2                37 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hichborn to Highgate
- 38 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hill
- 39 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hines to Hitz
- 40 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hodges to Holstead
- 41 General Correspondence -  
                                    Horton to Howe
- 42 General Correspondence -  
                                    Howgate to Hunt
- 43 General Correspondence -  
                                    Hunters to Hutchins
- 44 General Correspondence - I



A Correspondence cont'd

- Box 9-2 Folder      45 General Correspondence - J  
46 General Correspondence -  
    Kelles to Kennedy  
47 General Correspondence -  
    Kennon  
48 General Correspondence -  
    Kern to King  
49 General Correspondence -  
    Knode to Kornman  
50 General Correspondence -  
    Lamar to Larned  
51 General Correspondence -  
    Leachman to Leas  
52 General Correspondence -  
    LeDuc to Lee  
53 General Correspondence -  
    Leverett to Lindsey  
54 General Correspondence -  
    Linte to Live  
55 General Correspondence -  
    Livingston, H.L.  
56 General Correspondence -  
    Longstreet to Lowery  
57 General Correspondence -  
    Lockett to Lumer  
58 General Correspondence -  
    Lynch, J.R.  
59 General Correspondence - M  
60 General Correspondence - N  
61 General Correspondence -  
    O'Connor to Oldsoyd  
62 General Correspondence -  
    Osborn  
63 General Correspondence -  
    Overton to Ousley  
64 General Correspondence -  
    Parke, A.M. to Pearce,  
    A.G.  
65 General Correspondence -  
    Pease to Perry  
66 General Correspondence -  
    Peusiane to Pierrepoint  
67 General Correspondence -  
    Pinchback -June 1878

A Correspondence cont'd

- Box 9-2 Folder to June 20, 1879
- 68 General Correspondence -  
Pinchback -June 1879  
to Feb. 17, 1880
  - 69 General Correspondence -  
Pinchback -March 5, 1880  
to Oct. 5, 1880
  - 70 General Correspondence -  
Pledfr to Power
- Box 9-3
- 71 General Correspondence -  
Randolph to Ray
  - 72 General Correspondence -  
Raymond, J.B.
  - 73 General Correspondence  
Ray ... to Reeds
  - 74 General Correspondence -  
Reeve to Rexroat
  - 75 General Correspondence -  
Rives to Roberts
  - 76 General Correspondence -  
Robinson to Ross
  - 77 General Correspondence -  
Sampson to Saville
  - 78 General Correspondence -  
Scott to Shannon
  - 79 General Correspondence -  
Sharpe to Shattuck
  - 80 General Correspondence -  
Shelby to Simmons
  - 81 General Correspondence -  
Simonton, W.F.
  - 82 General Correspondence -  
Sloanmaker to Smith, E.
  - 83 General Correspondence -  
Smith, G. to Smith, W.
  - 84 General Correspondence -  
Symth to Spear
  - 85 General Correspondence -  
Spellman, J.J. to  
Spotford
  - 86 General Correspondence -  
Sterling to Stites
  - 87 General Correspondence -

A Correspondence cont'd

- Box 9-3 Folder Storrs to Strunger
- 88 General Correspondence -  
Sullivan, C.K.
  - 89 General Correspondence -  
Sullivan, M.B.
  - 90 General Correspondence -  
Sullivant, J.W.
  - 91 General Correspondence -  
Sykes to Syphax
  - 92 General Correspondence -  
Tanner to Thomas
  - 93 General Correspondence -  
Thompson to Tobin
  - 94 General Correspondence -  
Tomas to Tucker
  - 95 General Correspondence -  
Turner, H.M to Turner,  
J.M.
  - 96 General Correspondence -  
Tyler, J.S.
  - 97 General Correspondence -  
Underwood, B.G.
  - 98 General Correspondence -  
Vance to Vosburg
  - 99 General Correspondence -  
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  - 100 General Correspondence -  
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  - 101 General Correspondence -  
Yates to Young
  - 102 General Correspondence -  
Zadeck to Zimmerman
  - 103 General Correspondence -  
First Name Only
  - 104 Other Correspondents -  
Adams to Hardee
  - 105 Other Correspondents -  
R.B. Hayes
  - 106 Other Correspondents -  
Hill to Wright

## B Manuscripts

- Box 9-4 Folder 107 Manuscript -Blanch K.  
Bruce - "Our Hero"  
108 Manuscripts  
109 Notes  
110 Covers

## C Printed Material

- 111 Printed Material  
112 Map. County map of the  
State of Mississippi.  
n.d.

## D Financial Papers

- Box 9-4 Folder 113 Financial Papers -  
Blanche K. Bruce - Bank  
Book  
114 Financial Papers - Bank  
Receipts - 1875-1877  
115 Financial Papers - 1876-  
1893

## E Documents

- 116 Credentials as a delegate  
of the Chicago  
Republican National  
Convention.  
June 2, 1880.  
117 H.R. 4318. Act providing  
for the Mississippi  
River Improvement  
Commission.  
Feb. 6, 1879  
118 List of Appointees from  
Mississippi in the  
Treasure. 1 p. n.d.  
25cm.  
119 Petition to Charles  
Devens, Attorney  
General from  
Republicans of the

E Documents cont.

- Box 9-4 Folder [119 cont.] Southern District of Mississippi. George S. McMillian as District Attorney.  
n.d.
- 120 Petition to Congress in the interest of Wilberforce Univ. receiving a portion of the Unclaimed Volunteer Soldier's Bounty.
- 121 Petition to Pres. Chester A. Arthur from Daniel A. Adams offering his service for appointment as vice-consul at Tuxpan, Mexico. With testimonials and signatures attached.  
Nov. 5, 1881. 115 cm.
- 122 Petition to President Rutherford B. Hayes and Congress from the Colored citizens of James City North
- 123 Petition to the Postmaster General of the U.S. from citizens of Grenada(?) Co. Miss. endorsing Capt. Matthew K. Mister, Jr. over Dr. James H. Campbell as postmaster.
- 124 Petition recommending Randolph Peyton for employment. Signed by John A. Moss, Frederick Douglass Jr., and D.P. Holloway
- 125 Senate Bill 117 amending the charter of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company.  
Annotated. May 8, 1880.

E. Documents cont.

- Box 9-4 Folder 126 Statistics of 22 institutions for the instruction of the colored race for 1878 as called for by B.K. Bruce.
- 127 Subscriptions to the colored newspaper, The Virginia Post. May 1, 1880. With signatures and pledges.
- 128 Summary of Bounty Laws from T.W. Tallmadge. Columbus, Ohio. May 5, 1880.
- 129 Supervisor's District in Mississippi. n.d. lp. 25cm

F Newspaper Clippings

- 130 Clippings 1873-1897
- 131 Clippings 1891
- 132 Clippings 1937-1971
- 133 Clippings -undated

G Artifact

- 134 Memorandum Book 1885

H Plummer Family Records

- 135 Plummer Family Record, 1787-1832. Includes Barlett and Greenleaf

I Sadie Daniel St. Clair  
Research Materials

- Box 9-5 136 St. Clair Research -  
Bibliography

I Sadie Daniel St. Clair cont.  
Research Materials

- Box 9-5 Folder 137 St. Clair Research -  
Correspondence
- 138 St. Clair Research -  
Abstract of The National  
Career of Blanche Kelso  
Bruce. 2 copies
- 139 St. Clair Research -  
Appendices p.245-311  
copy 1
- 140 St. Clair Research -  
Appendices p.245-311  
copy 2
- 141 St. Clair Research -  
Appendices p.245-311  
copy 3
- 142 St. Clair Research -  
Appendix C -  
Post-Senatorial Period
- 143 St. Clair Research -  
Chapter 10
- 144 St. Clair Research -  
Documents - Wedding &  
Death
- 145 St. Clair Research - Real  
Estate once owned by  
B.K. Bruce.
- 146 St. Clair Research -  
Congressional Record  
March 8, 1875
- 147 St. Clair Research -  
Script copy of Bruce's  
Will and notes
- 148 St. Clair Research -  
Notes - Congressional  
Record
- 149 St. Clair Research -  
Notes
- 150 St. Clair Research -  
Notes