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CROMWELL FAMILY

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CROMWELL FAMILY PAPERS
Collection 24-1 to 24-16
(42 scrapbooks)

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June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The Cromwell Family Papers total 20 linear feet, spanning the period 1849 to 1955. The papers begin with documents recording the manumission of Elizabeth and Willis Cromwell and their seven children. The remaining materials are arranged by family members; Willis, Levi, John W. Sr., Otelia, Mary, John W. Jr., and Martha Cromwell Brent. These papers consist primarily of materials about the many organizations and activities which members of the Cromwell Family have been associated with in Washington, D.C. Materials include minutes, reports, financial data, constitutions, and publications about the various organizations. The organizations include the American Negro Academy, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Dunbar High School, St. Anna's Home and the Lindsey Social Centre. There are also included some personal papers consisting of correspondence, writings, and memorabilia.

There are 42 volumes of scrapbooks the John Wesley Cromwell, Sr. Collection. These scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings that span the period 1859 to 1915. Many of these scrapbooks document the events and atmosphere in the United States during and after the Civil War. The other scrapbooks are of various subjects including: A History of Philadelphia, murder trials and cases, sermons and religious matters, and Masonic matters.

Twenty-seven bound volumes of Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*, New York, 1855-1883, accompanied the Cromwell Family Papers. These newspapers along with numerous books, pamphlets, and periodicals have been integrated into the collections of the Library Division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

Biographical Data

John Wesley Cromwell, Sr,

1846 Sept. 5 Born in Portsmouth, Virginia the 7th son and 12th child of Elizabeth and Willis Cromwell.

1864 Graduated from the Institute for Colored Youth, Philadelphia, Pa.

1872-1885 Worked as a clerk, and chief examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department

1873 Married Lucy A. McGuinn (children: Otelia, Mary E., Lucy A., Willis R., Martha, John Wesley Jr., and Fannie)

1874 Received LL.B. degree from Howard University Washington, D.C. and admitted to the District of Columbia Bar.

1875-1883 Elected first president of the Virginia Educational Historical Association.

1876 Editor of the *People's Advocate*

1887 Attorney with W.C. Martin for *William H. Heard vs. The Georgia Railroad Company*, becoming the first Black lawyer to appear before the Interstate Commerce Commission

1889 Became a principal for the grammar schools of the District of Columbia

1892 Married Annie E. Conn

1897 Secretary and one of the original members of the American Negro Academy .

1927 Died

Biographical Data

Othelia Cromwell

- 1874 Born in Washington D.C., daughter of Lucy and John W. Cromwell, Sr.
- 1900 Received on A.B. in Education from Smith College, M Northampton, Mass., becoming Smith's first Black graduate
- 1900-1931 Taught in the public school system of the District of Columbia.
- 1910 Received a masters degree from Columbia University, New York
- 1926 Received a doctoral degree from Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
- 1931-1940 Professor of English, Miner Normal School, Washington, D.C.
- 1950 Received an honorary degree from Smith College.
- 1972 April 25 Died.

Mary E. Cromwell

- 1876 May 6 Born in Washington, D.C., daughter of Lucy and John W. Cromwell, Sr
Received A.B. degree from University of Michigan
- 1917 Received M.A. degree from University of Pennsylvania, Taught mathematics at Dunbar High School, Washington, D.C.
- Officer & Trustee of St. Annals Home for Aged Colored Women
- Secretary of the National Federation of Colored College Women
- 1966 May 26 Died

Biographical Data

John Wesley Cromwell, Jr.

- 1883 Born in Washington, D.C., son of Lucy and John W. Cromwell, Sr.
- 1901 Received Preparatory Certificate from Howard University
- 1906 Received bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
- 1907 Received master's degree from Dartmouth College
- 1908-1930 Taught math, German and bookkeeping in District of Columbia high schools.
- 1918 Married Yetta Mauritte (children: Adelaide)
- 1921 Passed the examination for Certified Public Accountant in New Hampshire, becoming the first black C.P.A.
- 1930-31 Comptroller of Howard University.
- 1931 Began private practice as C.P.A.
- 1932 Founded the American Bridge Association,
- 1971 Dec. 16 Died.

Series Description

- Series A**
Box 24-1 **Cromwell Family Manumission Papers**
Documents recording the selling and manumission of Elizabeth and Willis Cromwell and their seven children.
- Series B**
Box 24-1 **Willis Cromwell**
Letter from James Cromwell to his father Willis, 1863.
- Series C**
Box 24-1
Board **Levi Cromwell**
Letter from the Theodore Starr Savings Bank, Philadelphia, PA. , to “its of Trustees,” 1897.
- Series D**
Box 24-1
about
to Box 24-3
the **John Wesley Cromwell, Sr.**
Biographical data, writings, correspondence, memorabilia and information organizations which he was affiliated with, including the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. Also, there are materials relating to John W. Cromwell as counsel in the case *Heard vs. Georgia Railroad Co.*, before the Interstate Commerce Commission and memorabilia relating to Frederick Douglass.
- Series E**
Box 24-4
to Box 24-6
and **Othelia Cromwell**
Printed materials and records of the Book and Quill Club, Miner Teachers College, Washington, D.C. There is also a collection of over 1000 postcards reprints of paintings. Personal papers include financial data, and reviews of her book, Lucretia Mott.
- Series F**
Box 24-6
affiliated
School, **Mary E. Cromwell**
Primarily information relating to the many organizations which &he was to Box 24-14 with. These organizations include; St. Anna's Home, Dunbar High College Alumnae Club, National Association of College Women, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and others. Also, there are materials about Mary E, Cromwell as a student, her writings, memorabilia and her travels
- Series G**
Box 24-15 **John Wesley Cromwell, Jr.**
Biographical data,

Series Description continued

Series H Martha Cromwell Brent

Box 24-15 Materials about the Neighborhood Improvement Club, and a draft of a paper, "Education for Negroes in the District of Columbia."

Series I Memorabilia

Box 24-15 Programs, cut (newspaper engraving), newspaper clippings, E. Smythe Jones, Thomas McAtee

Series J Printed Materials

Box 24-16 Pamphlets and reports arranged alphabetically.

Series K Scrapbooks (Fragile: Do not circulate)

42 volumes News clippings primarily relating to Blacks from 1859 to 1915, Also includes volumes on various other subjects including Japan and China, newspaper columns - "Notices to Correspondents," "To Readers and Anxious Inquires" "European Correspondence." Many of the scrapbooks were compiled by J.W.H.Cathcart.

Container List

- Series A Cromwell Family Manumission Papers**
- | Box | Folder | |
|--|--------|---|
| 24-1

Twine

Registration of | 1 | Sale of Betsey Cromwell's children to her by Thomas Twine |
| | 2 | Sale of Betsey Cromwell to B. W. Dodson by Thomas Twine |
| | 3 | Transfer of Betsey Cromwell and children to Thomas Twine by Sarah |
| | 4 | Manumission of James Cromwell by Betsey Cromwell |
| | 5 | Sale of Willis Cromwell to Elizabeth Cromwell by Yeates Free School |
| | 6 | Manumission of the Cromwell children by Elizabeth Cromwell; |
| | 7 | Esther Cromwell
Manumission of Willis Cromwell by Elizabeth Cromwell; Registration of
Willis Cromwell |
| | 8 | Clipping on the Cromwell Family from The Afro-American Newspaper |
- Series B Willis Cromwell**
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | 9 | Letter to Willis Cromwell from James Cromwell, 1863 |
|--|---|---|
- Series C Levi Cromwell**
- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| | 10 | Letter from the Theodore Starr Savings Bank, Philadelphia, PA to its
Board
of Trustees, 1897 |
|--|----|--|
- Series D John Wesley Cromwell, Sr.**
- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| | 11 | Biographical data |
| | 12 | Correspondence
Arthur Schomburg Correspondence |
| | 13 | Mar.- July 1912 |
| | 14 | Aug. - Dec. 1912 |
| | 15 | January - July 1913 |
| | 16 | Aug. - Dec. 1913 |
| | 17 | March - Sept. 1914 |
| | 18 | 1915 |
| | 19 | 1916 |
| | 20 | 1917 |
| | 21 | January - April 1918 |
| | 22 | May - Dec. 1918 |
| | 23 | Feb. - July 1919 |
| | 24 | Aug. - Dec. 1919 |

25 1920

Container List

Series D	John Wesley Cromwell, Sr. continued	
Box	Folder	
24-2	26	1921
	27	1922
	28	1923
	29	1924
	30	1925
	31	1926
	32	no date
	33	partial letters
		Writings by John W. Cromwell, Sr.
	34	Biosketch of Martha B. Briggs
	35	Biosketch of Rev. John Albert Johnson
	36	Extract from an oration
	37	First Negro churches in the District of Columbia
	38	The Negro in American History
	39	Heard vs. Georgia Railroad Co.
		Organizational Affiliations
	40	American Negro Academy
	41	Asbury Chapel, Washington, D.C.
	42	Cromwell Memorial Fund
	43	Frederick Douglass Memorial, 1895 (xerox copies)
	44	Frederick Douglass Memorabilia
	45	Frederick Douglass Programs
24-3	46	Free and Accepted Masons Metropolitan A.M.E. Church
	47	Records
	48	Printed materials
	49	Invitations
	50	Programs
	51	Record book 1907
	52	Record Book 1919-26
	53	Scrapbook 1889-90
	54	Scrapbook 1915

Container List

Series	E	Othelia Cromwell	
Box		Folder	
			Financial Data
24-4		55	Bank statements 1969-68; 1970
		56	Financial receipts
		57	Washington Gas Light Co., stock
		58	Lucretia Mott (reviews)
			The Book and Quill Club
		59	Origin, constitution, membership 1936
		60	Program schedules 1932-40
		61	Programs, invitations
		62	Miner Teacher's College - program, bulletin, newspapers
		63	Smith College - bulletin, report
		64	Notes
		65	Memorabilia
24-5		66	Post cards
24-6		67	Reprints of paintings
Series	F	Mary E. Cromwell	
		68	Correspondence
			Student
		69	Assignments
		70	Notes
		71	Notes
24-7			Travels
		72	Journal
		73	Maps
		74	Memorabilia
			Writings by Mary E. Cromwell
		75	C is for Cromwell...(poem)
		76	Efforts for Social Betterment in Washington, D.C.

Container List

Series	F	Mary E. Cromwell continued	
Box		Folder	
24-7		77	The Human Side of a Washington Alley
		78	Secondary Education in Medieval Times
		Writings by Others	
		79	Blandina D. Wright, Social Service
		80	Invitations
		81	Programs
		82	Attendance Record/Financial Record
		83	Printed materials
		Organizational Affiliations	
		84	The Associated Charities and Citizen Relief Assn.
24-8		85	Auxiliary to the Summer Outings Committee
		86	Citizen's Law and Order League
		College Alumnae Club	
		87	Constitution
		88	Correspondence
		89	Reports
		90	Programs
		91	Journals
		92	The Correspondent Club
		Dunbar High School	
		93	Correspondence
		94	Notes
		95	Mathematics
		96	Evaluations
24-9		97	"A High School Generation"
		98	Rosenwald Fund
		99	Child Welfare Group
		100	Memorabilia
		101	Periodicals
		102	Programs
		103	Yearbook, 1946

Container List

Series F		Mary E. Cromwell continued
Box	Folder	
24-9	104	Hostess House No. 2
		Helping Hand Club
	105	History
24-10	106	Draft of History 1-5
	107	Draft of History, 6-10
	108	Draft of History, 12-17; 19-20
	109	Draft of History, 21-28; 30
	110	Draft of History,
	111	Draft of History,
		Lindsey Social Centre
	112	Constitution, incorporation
	113	Correspondence, photo, brochure
	114	Financial reports
	115	Minutes, reports
	116	Ministers' Wives' Herald
	117	NAACP
		National Assn. of College Women
	118	Constitution
	119	Correspondence
	120	Reports
	121	Brochures, ballot
	122	Programs
24-11	123	Journals
	124	Negro Fresh Air Committee
	125	Phyllis Wheatley YWCA
		St. Anna's Hoke
	126	Certificate of incorporation
	127	Constitution and by-laws

Container List

Series F		Mary E. Cromwell continued
Box	Folder	

		St. Anna's Home
24-11	128	Rules
	129	Resolutions
		Correspondence
	130	A - Z
	131	Cromwell, Mary E.
	132	Looker, Bertha H
	133	Stokes, Anson Phelps
	134	Members, notes
	135	Publications
	136	News articles
	137	Applications
	138	Applications
24-12	139	Residents
	140	Residents
	141	Scrapbook of residents 1928-48
	142	Scrapbook of records 1926-29
24-13	143	Minutes, 1914-25
	144	Minutes, 1928-30
	145	Minutes, 1929-45
	146	Minutes, 1948-51, 55
	147	Financial report
	148	Financial reports
	149	Financial reports
	150	Financial reports
	151	Financial reports
	152	Reports
	153	Reports
	154	Reports

Container List

Series F	Mary E. Cromwell continued
Box	Folder
	St. Lukes Church

24-14 155 St. Luke Church
 156 Fact-finding committee
 157 Fact-finding committee
 158 Shakespearean Pageant
 159 Shakespearean Pageant - Financial Report
 160 Shakespearean Pageant - Financial Receipts
 161 Shakespearean Pageant - Financial Receipts
 162 Shakespearean Pageant - Financial Receipts
 163 Southeast House

Series G John Wesley Cromwell, Jr.

24-15 164 Biographical data

Series H Martha Cromwell Brent

165 Education for Negroes in the District of Columbia
166 Neighborhood Improvement Club
167 Memorabilia

Series I Memorabilia

168 Memorabilia
169 E. Symth Jones
170 Thomas McAtee - discharge card from Maryland Cav., 1863
171 Programs
172 Cut (newspaper engraving)
173 Newspaper clippings
174 Newspaper clippings
175 Newspaper clippings
176 Newspaper clippings
177 Newspaper clippings

Container List

Series J	Printed Materials
Box	Folder
24-16	<p>178 Cobb, W. Montague, Education: Priority No. 1</p> <p>179 Congressional Record, v. 43. no. 21, Jan. 12, 1909</p> <p>180 Douglass Joseph H. Statement of the Washington Urban League...</p> <p>181 Headquarters Charles Sumner Post No. 9 ... (Colored soldiers in the Civil War)</p> <p>182 Kerlin Robert T. Contemporary Poetry of the Negro</p> <p>183 The Late Detroit Riot, March 6, 1863</p> <p>184 Memorial of Thirty Thousand Disenfranchised Citizens of Philadelphia..</p> <p>185 Miller, Kelly. Address to Graduating Class of the College Dept. Howard University, 1898</p> <p>186 Miller, Kelly. An Appeal to Reason</p> <p>187 Miller, Kelly, As to the Leopards spots</p> <p>188 Miller, Kelly, The Primary Needs of the Negro Race</p> <p>189 Miller, Kelly. Social Equality</p> <p>190 Nance, Lee. The Industrial or Material Status of the Colored Race in the U.S.</p> <p>191 An Official Statement from the Trustees of Howard University</p> <p>192 A Plea for Social Justice for the Negro Woman</p> <p>193 Report of the Alley Dwelling Authority, 1936</p> <p>194 Report of the Principal of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, 1878</p> <p>195 Schurz, Carl. Can the South Solve the Negro Problem</p> <p>196 Storey, Moorfield. The Negro Question</p> <p>197 Turner, H. M. The World's Exposition</p> <p>198 Woodward, D. W. Negro Progress in a Mississippi Town/Bank Charles Negro Banks of Mississippi</p> <p>199 Printed Materials</p>
Series K	Scrapbooks (Fragile: Do not circulate)
24-S1	John Brown's Insurrection at Harper's Ferry (newspaper clippings 1859-60)
24-S2	On the Rebellion (newspaper clippings 1859-62)
24-S3	On the Rebellion (newspaper clippings 1859-62)
24-S4	Slavery (newspaper clippings 1860-62)
24-S5	Slavery v. 3 (newspaper clippings 1863-65)
25-S6	Slavery v. 4 (newspaper clippings 1863-65)
25-S7	Camp William Penn (newspaper clippings on Colored soldiers and slavery)

1862-63)

Container List

- Series K Scrapbooks (Fragile: Do not circulate) continued**
- 25-S8 Newspaper clippings - speeches by political leaders in U.S. including Pres. Abraham Lincoln - 1860
- 24-S9 Newspaper clippings - Politics in the U.S. 1861
- 24-S10 Incidents in the Life of Jefferson Davis, v. I [newspaper clippings, 1863-71]
- 24-S11 Incidents in the Life of Jefferson Davis, v. 2 [newspaper clippings, 1867-71]
- 24-S12 Assassination of Lincoln and Trial and Execution of the Conspirators
newspaper clippings, 1865]
- 24-S13 The Black man after the Passage of the Civil Rights Bill (newspaper clippings 1876-78)
- 24-S14 The Black man After the Passage of the Civil Rights Bill (newspaper clippings 1876-78)
- 25-S15 Enfranchisement's Last Chapter; 15th Amendment v. I (newspaper clippings 1867-71)
- 24-S16 Enfranchisement's Last Chapter; 15th Amendment v. 2 (newspaper clippings 1869-73)
- 24-S17 Enfranchisement's Last Chapter; 15th Amendment v. 3 (newspaper clippings 1872-74)
- 24-S18 Newspaper clippings about Blacks 1865-69
- 24-S19 Newspaper clippings about Blacks 1866-69
- 24-S20 Newspaper clippings about Blacks 1872-99
- 24-S21 Newspaper clippings about Blacks 1885-1915

24-S22 Records of Murders and Executions in Philadelphia from 1862-1867 v. 1
newspaper clippings on various murder cases and trials, 1866-67]

Container List

- Series K Scrapbooks (Fragile: Do not circulate) continued**
- 24-S23 Murder Cases & C. Trial of Mr. & Mrs. Twitchell for the murder of Mrs. Hill
[newspaper clippings on various murder cases and trials, 1867-69]
- 24-S24 Japanese and China (newspaper clippings) 1863-70]
- 24-S25 Sermons and religious matters [newspaper clippings, 1863-65]
- 24-S26 Masonic matters from the New York Dispatch, 1861 [newspaper clippings]
- 24-S27 History of Philadelphia v. 3 by Thompson Wescott (newspaper clippings)
- 24-S28 History of Philadelphia v. 4 by Thompson Wescott (newspaper clippings)
- 24-S29 History of Philadelphia v. 5 by Thompson Wescott (newspaper clippings)
- 24-S30 History of Philadelphia v. 6 by Thompson Wescott (newspaper
clippings)
- 24-S31 “Notices to Correspondents” newspaper clippings of a column. Also
includes
“To Readers and Anxious Inquires” 1863-68]
- 24-S32 “To Readers and Anxious Inquirers” [newspaper clippings of column and
poetry,
1872-76]
- 24-S33 Col. Forney's Letters and European Correspondence v. 1 (newspaper
clippings of
correspondents in Europe 1867-63)
- 24-S34 Col. Forney's Letters and European Correspondence v. 2 (newspaper
clippings
of correspondents 1874-75)
- 24-S35 Comic Sketches [newspaper clippings on various subject with

illustrations,

1867-77]

24-S36 Newspaper clippings on various subject 1858-60

24-S37 Newspaper clippings on various subjects 1859-60

Container List

Series K Scrapbooks (Fragile: Do not circulate) continued

24-S38 Newspaper clippings on various subjects 1862-63

24-S39 Newspaper clippings on various subjects 1866-75

24-S40 Newspaper clippings on various subjects 1882-89

24-S41 Newspaper clippings on various subjects 1882-89

24-S42 Newspaper clippings on various subjects 1889-90