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JAMES STANLEY DURKEE PAPERS  
Collection 32-1 to 32-12

Prepared & Revised by:  
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June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The papers of James Stanley Durkee span the years 1831-1938 and are contained in eight boxes measuring approximately six linear feet along with three individually wrapped oversized materials. Among these papers are land indentures of his father Joseph James Durkee, and a copy of the will of Susan Durkee, his mother. Also included are a scrapbook of clippings containing a comprehensive genealogy of the Durkee family from 1630- 1898, a diary for the year 1879 kept by "R.F.D.T sermons, sermon outlines, pastoral prayers, eulogies, manuscripts, letters, postal and greetings cards, a marriage record book and a record of sermons.

In addition, there are photographs, original water colors by S.D. Corning, Russian propaganda posters, newspaper clippings, and the front pages from five Boston newspapers for the period March 14 to July 2 1918.

## Biographical Data

- 1866 November 21 Born in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia,
- 1885 Came to the United States.
- 1890 Graduated from Batavia High School, Batavia, New York.
- 1897 Graduated from Bates College, Lewiston, Maine.
- 1897 Married Florence Marian Robbins of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia,
- 1898 Ordained into the Free Baptist Ministry at Auburn, Maine.
- 1901 Called to Boston as pastor of First Free Baptist Church.
- 1905 Received M.A. degree from Bates College.
- 1906 Received Ph.D. degree from Boston University,
- 1909 Called to South Congregational Church, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1918 Elected President of Howard University,
- 1920 Received D.D. degree from Bates College,
- 1926 Received LL. D. degree from Howard University.
- Resigned as President of Howard University.
- Accepted pastorate of Plymouth Congregational Church, Brooklyn New York.
- 1940 Resigned as pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Brooklyn, New York.
- 1951 September 28 Died in Hyattsville, Maryland, Convalescent Home.

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 32-1  
**Family Papers**  
Includes land indentures, legal papers, a diary of his father and last will and testament of Susan Durkee, his mother.
- Series B**  
Box 32-1  
**Correspondence**  
Greeting cards, post cards and letters of James Stanley Durkee.
- Series C**  
Box 32-1  
**Diaries**  
Autographs and messages from friends and acquaintances of the Durkees, apparently written while Durkee and wife were on a trip abroad; plus a diary with scattered entries covering the years 1912-1938.
- Series D**  
Box 32-1  
**Legal Papers**  
Agreement to purchase a cemetery plot.
- Series E**  
Box 32-1  
**Poems and Prayers**  
Typescript and printed poems and prayers.
- Series F**  
Box 32-1  
**Programs**  
Programs from the inauguration of James Stanley Durkee; a memorial to George Eldon Keith and programs from the Plymouth Church of Brooklyn, NY.
- Series G**  
Box 32-1  
**Record Books**  
A marriage record book from 1910-1918 and a book of sermons (see also Series S).
- Series H**  
Box 32-2  
**Sermons, Pastoral Prayers**  
Primarily sermons prepared and delivered in 1940. Includes notes for eulogies and sermons, plus vesper services programs (see also Series S).
- Series I**  
Box 32-2  
**Manuscripts**  
Typescript and holographic papers, including novels, written by Durkee.

## Series Description

- Series J**  
Box 32-3  
**Clippings**  
Newspaper and other article clippings primarily concerned with the Howard University vs. Durkee controversy. Includes a number of articles from the "Alumnus" series of the Afro-American newspaper and its anti-Durkee campaign.
- Series K**  
Box 32-3  
**Statements**  
A sworn statement concerning charges against Durkee and an official statement from the Board of Trustees of Howard University regarding the situation.
- Series L**  
Box 32-3  
**Scrapbook**  
Contains clippings regarding Durkee's religious and work related endeavors; and also an extensive genealogical study of the Durkee family from 1630 to the late 1800's.
- Series M**  
Box 32-4  
to Box 32-7  
**Photographs and Prints**  
Photos of Durkee, and other identified and unidentified photographs and prints (see also Series S)
- Series N**  
Box 32-4  
**Paintings**  
Original water colors by S. D. Corning.
- Series O**  
Box 32-5  
**Negatives**  
Unidentified negatives found in the collection number 1-129.
- Series P**  
Box 32-6  
to Box 32-8  
**Newspapers**  
Printed pages from five Boston newspapers from March - July 1918 and the Washington Post for October 15, 1918.
- Series Q**  
Box 32-9  
**Publications**  
Various publications including a Chinese Sunday School lesson book dated 1892.
- Series R**  
Box 32-9  
**Posters**  
Russian propaganda poster.

## Series Description

### **Series S**

### **Wrapped Materials**

Box 32-10

An oversized framed photograph, a record of sermons and a scrapbook  
to Box 32-12

## Container List

### **Series A**

#### **Family Papers**

Joseph James Durkee

Box

Folder

32-1

- 1 Land indentures, 1834-1859
- 2 Land indentures, 1863-1900
- 3 Papers pertaining to estate of Joseph Durkee
- 4 Receipts, 1901
- 5 Legal statements, 1864
- 6 Diary, September 28-November 17, 1879 by R.F.D.
- 7 Susan Durkee Will 1900

### **Series B**

#### **Correspondence**

James Stanley Durkee

- 8 Greeting cards
- 9 Letters
- 10 Post cards
- 11 Other correspondents

### **Series C**

#### **Diaries**

- 12 "My Trip Abroad" - autographs, 1913-1920
- 13 "A Line A Day" - January 1, 1912 June 15, 1938

### **Series D**

#### **Legal Papers**

- 14 Agreement with Carrton Cemetery Co., for a plot, May 1923

### **Series E**

#### **Poems and Prayers**

- 15 Poems and prayers - typescript
- 16 Poems and prayers - printed

### **Series F**

#### **Programs**

- 17 Inauguration as President of Howard University - November 12, 1919
- 18 Eighth Anniversary of Henry Ward Beecher's first sermon. Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, NY- May 15, 1927
- 19 In Memoriam - George Eldon Keith, December 11, 1920



## Container List

- Series F      Programs**  
Box          Folder  
32-1        20 Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. December 4, 1931
- Series G      Record Books**  
21 Marriage record book - 1910-1918 (including 4 loose licenses, 1924-1926)
- Series H      Sermons, Pastoral Prayers**  
32-2        22 Half Success-Half Failure, 1938  
23 Sermons, pastoral prayers, Feb, 1940  
24 Sermons - pastoral prayers, March, 1940  
25 Sermons - pastoral prayers - April, 1940  
26 Sermons - pastoral prayers - May 1940  
27 Sermons - pastoral prayers June 1940  
28 Sermons - pastoral prayers September 1940  
29 Sermons - pastoral prayers October 1940  
30 Sermons - pastoral prayers no date  
31 Extract sermons - "Barbarism vs. Civilization  
32 Notes-eulogies and sermons  
33 Programs - Vesper services - some sermon outlines
- Series I      Manuscripts**  
34 From the Camp Door  
35 Introducing others and to the Bible  
36 Musings of A Woodland Wanderer  
37 Simon-Peter Fisherman and Apostle (notebook part 1)  
38 Simon Peter-Fisherman and Apostle  
39 The Swamp Murder  
40 Unfinished stones (label on brown envelope)  
41 Miscellaneous notes (notebook part 11)  
42 Manuscript Notes
- Series J      Clippings**  
32-3        43 Alumnus series of anti-Durkee articles in Afro-American, 1925  
44 Alumnus series of anti-Durkee articles in Afro-American, 1926  
45 Alumnus series of anti-Durkee articles in Afro-American  
        undated

## Container List

- Series J**      **Clippings continued**  
Box            Folder  
32-3          46 Durkee vs Faculty and Alumni 1924-26  
                47 Student strike and aftermath, 1925  
                48 Story ideas, miscellaneous  
                49 Durkee, Kelly Miller, Howard University 1917-1926
- Series K**      **Statements**  
50 Sworn statement concerning Durkee's charges at Howard An official statement from the Trustees of Howard University (Xerox copies)
- Series L**      **Scrapbook**  
52 Scrapbook, 1886
- Series M**      **Photographs and Prints**  
32-4          53 Photographs of James Stanley Durkee  
                54 Photographs, individual - identified  
                55 Photographs, individual - unidentified  
                56 Photographs, group  
                57 "Victory Liberty Loan" Poster  
                58 Photograph - Places  
                59 Photograph album- Camp Waninda, Aug. 1904  
                60 Prints & paintings
- Series N**      **Paintings**  
61 Original water colors by Corning, S. D.
- Series O**      **Negatives**  
32-5          62 Unidentified negatives, 1-129
- Series P**      **Newspapers**  
32-6          63 Boston American - March - June, 1918  
                64 Boston Evening Globe March- April, 1918  
                65 Boston Evening Record April June, 1918  
                66 The Boston Post - March - July 1918  
                67 The Boston Travelers April, 1918  
                68 Brockton Enterprise March April, 1918  
                69 Brockton Times, March June, 1918  
                70 The Washington Post - October 1918

## Container List

### **Series P**      **Newspapers continued**

- Box              Folder  
32-7            71 The Boston Herald - March, 1918  
                  72 The Boston Herald - April, 1918  
  
32- 8            73 The Boston Herald    May, 1918  
                  74 The Boston Herald    June) 1918  
                  75 The Boston Herald    July, 1918

### **Series Q**      **Publications**

- 32-9            76 Antiques and Amber by Anne Lloyd, 1928  
                  77 Chinese Sunday School Lesson Book, 1892  
                  78 Sonnets from the Portuguese by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1900  
                  79 Tale of a City  
                  80 The Independent Weekly - An Independent Income Planned for 1,250 of our  
                      subscribers NY, 1915

### **Series R**      **Posters**

- 81 Russian Propaganda Posters

### **Series S**      **Wrapped Materials**

- Item 32-10    Record of sermons  
Item 32-11    Scrapbook 1898-1932  
Item 32-12    Photograph (unidentified group)