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LEE ANDREW GILL PAPERS

Collection 195-1 to 195-4

Prepared by:  
Zora Martin Felton  
March 1999

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The papers of Lee Andrew Gill, M.D. (1878-1981), medical doctor, civic, fraternal, and religious lay leader, document the life and times of a Howard University medical school alumnus whose life spanned more than 100 years. The papers date from ca. 1878 to 1981, and document the everyday struggles and triumphs of a much honored black physician during and after the period of segregation in the District of Columbia. Correspondence, writings, photographs, publications, and information on local churches and civic, social, fraternal, and medical groups are featured in the collection which totals two linear feet.

Some of the collection highlights are an 1837 diary of Eliza Armstrong and correspondence from then Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt (1901) and Edith Roosevelt, and Eleanor Roosevelt (1938). (Dr. Gill's mother cooked for the Theodore Roosevelts in the summertime.) Additionally, there is a small notebook filled with painstaking notes detailing Dr. Gill's treatments of his patients and their small payments (1911). Also found are medical school notebooks and examinations, and numerous handwritten talks given at churches and other venues on religious, moral, and medical topics.

Generous in his giving, Dr. Gill donated his medical and engineering skills as well as his money to a wide assortment of organizations. These included black churches, schools and other institutions, including both his alma maters of Hampton Institute and Howard University. Further emphasizing his wide ranging interests, the collection also contains programs, brochures, pamphlets and other written materials. The bulk of the collection was acquired from Dr. Gill's daughter, Mrs. Vivian Gill Lee Douglas in 1991. Other materials were added in 1998.

## Biographical Data

- 1878 July 21 Born to F. James Gill and M. Millie (Norman) in Washington, D.C.
- Attended Stevens Elementary School, first black elementary school in Washington, D.C.
- 1895 Entered Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. Worked his way through as a janitor; played football and was a member of the Hampton Players.
- 1899 Awarded diploma for the three-year trade course in engineering and steam fitting, with honors.
- 1902 Married Margery Rencher, who later died in 1931. Three children born from this union: Vivian Frances, Lee Douglas, Lee Rencher, and Sheffield Oliver.
- Accepted position as wireman in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.
- 1908 Earned degree from Howard University medical school.
- 1946 Retired from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing after 44 years in the electrical department.
- 1956 Completed a postgraduate course at the George Washington medical school at age 78.
- 1976 Retired from medical practice.
- 1981 Died at age 103 of congestive heart failure.

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 195-1  
to Box 195-2
- Personal Papers**  
These papers include a notebook of patient to treatments and payments, notification of medical appointments, certificates, licenses and permits, academic records, and professional affiliation records. There is also a series of letters, spanning more than two decades, documenting his promotions from laborer to wireman at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, as well as financial records, an 1837 autograph book, and Howard University and Hampton school curricular materials, notes, and examinations.
- Series B**  
Box 195-3
- Correspondence**  
Includes White House correspondence as well as personal and professional letters, memoranda, and postal and greeting cards.
- Series C**  
Box 195-3
- Writings by Lee Andrew Gill**  
This series contains manuscripts, some handwritten, of talks given before various church, civic, and fraternal groups.
- Series D**  
Box 195-3
- Photographs**  
Included here are photographs of family and friends.
- Series E**  
Box 195-4
- Organizational and Institutional Affiliations**  
This series contains newsletters, programs, brochures, reports and other information about Dr. Gill's numerous affiliations.
- Series F**  
Box 195-4
- Printed Material and Oversize**  
Programs include a 1916 Fisk Jubilee Singers program, invitations to local events, and programs highlighting arts performances. Printed Materials dating from ca. 1898 include journals, newsletters, advertisements, brochures and booklets. Oversize items of Howard University Medical School notebooks, collards, photographs, and certificates.

## Container List

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Series A</b> | <b><u>Personal Papers</u></b>   |
| Box             | Folder  |
| 195-1           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Biographical Articles Notebook of patient treatments, payments, 1911 Savings passbook, 1901 Miscellaneous tax, real estate, and other receipts and financial records, permits, licenses, biographical materials, 1894 - ca.1976 Letters of appointment and promotion, 1911-1925</li> <li>2 Church, civic, and Hampton alumni and Howard University programs and invitations, 1901-ca.1967 Medical association membership cards Engineering drawings and notes Stationery</li> <li>3 George Washington University Medical School Correspondence and Curricular Materials, 1952-1955</li> <li>4 Patient Records, 1910-1963</li> <li>5 Handwritten Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute Notebook, 1899</li> <li>6 Eliza Armstrong Autograph Book, 1837</li> <li>7 Medical forms, prescription blanks</li> <li>8 Clippings</li> <li>9 "In Memoriam" Funeral Book for Dr. Lee A. Gill, 1981</li> <li>10 Howard University Medical School Notes and Exams, ca.1905-1909</li> <li>11 Howard University Medical School Notes and Exams, ca.1906-1907</li> </ol> |
| 195-2           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Howard University Medical School Notebooks, ca.1905-1909</li> <li>2 Howard University Medical School Notebooks, ca.1905-1909</li> <li>3 Howard University Medical School Notebooks, ca.1905-1909</li> <li>4 Howard University Medical School Notebooks, ca.1905-1909</li> <li>5 Howard University Medical School Notebooks, ca.1905-1909</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Series B</b> | <b><u>Correspondence</u></b>  |
| 195-2           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 A-Z<br/>Anderson, Charles E., 1931<br/>Bannister, Ella E., 1966<br/>Booker, Henry J., 1942<br/>Brown, Walter R.<br/>Conaway, Minnie T., to Minnie Butler, 1949<br/>Davis, Edward P., 1918<br/>Dillard, A. Fleet, 1945<br/>Fisher, Irving, 1927<br/>Fowler, W.C., M.D.1919, 1922<br/>Fowler, W.C., M.D. 1923<br/>Fraction, W.W., 1904<br/>Gill, Sheffield to Mrs. Margery Gill, 1931<br/>Gill, Lee, to Edward S. Copper, ca. 1971</li> </ol>  |

## Container List

<b>Series B</b>	<b><u>Correspondence</u> continued</b>
Box	Folder
195-2	<p>6 A-Z</p> <p>Gill, Margery, n.d.  Gill, Margery, 1912  Gill, Lee A., to Vivian Gill, 1942  To Gill from ?, postcard, 1900  Hewitt, A.C., 1923  Holland, Jerome H., 1968  Holomon, Jacob, Jr., 1975  Johnson, Campbell, 1924  Johnson, Mordecai W., 1958  Knight, Alphonso W., 1982  Martin, Franklin, 1918  Montgomery, J.O., ca. 1982  Moore, Jerry A., Rev., 1955  Motley, Elder Mary Mae  Moton, Robert R., 1933  Porter, Winder L., M.D., 1967  Peebles, Araminta, 1949, ca. 1954, and 1959  Rencher, J. A., n.d.  Robb, Carter  Tancil, A.W., 1909  Scott, Emmett J., 1923.  Simpson's Dairy, 1929  Thomas, Wm. H., Rev., 1935  Warfield, W.A., 1913  Woodward, Wm.C., M.D., 1913</p> <p>7 White House Correspondence  Carter, President Jimmy, 1980  Ford, President and Mrs. Gerald P. Ford, 1976  Loeb (?), William, on behalf of Mrs. Roosevelt, 1901  Roosevelt, Edith, 1894  Roosevelt, Edith K., July 15, 19?  Roosevelt, Theodore, 1901</p> <p>8 Postcards/Greeting Cards An assortment of postcards and greeting cards,  ca. 1929-1970</p> <p>9 Postcards/An assortment of postcards, many to his mother Mrs. Millie Butler,  and greeting cards, ca.1948-1951</p>

## Container List

- Series C**      **Writings by Lee Gill**
- Box                      Folder
- 195-2                  10      Talk to Christian Endeavor Society. Handwritten, n.d.  
                                     Talk to unidentified group at its fifty-first (anniversary?) handwritten, n.d.  
                                     Talk honoring Hampton Institute and its graduates.  
                                     Delivered in Washington, D.C. Handwritten, n.d.  
                                     "General Samuel Chapman Armstrong." Handwritten, n.d.  
                                     "Booker T. Washington." Handwritten, n.d.  
                                     Talk on the first anniversary of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of  
                                     "Toussants(?)." Handwritten, n.d.  
                                     Talk to Pathfinders Club on its thirty-fifth anniversary includes list of  
     deceased members, 1945.  
                                     Notes on Pathfinders Club (?) outing sites, 1964.
- 11      Talk on the occasion of the cornerstone laying of Monrovia Baptist Church  
     (Maryland?). Handwritten, n.d.  
     "The Church and Christians exert the best influence on youth," n.d.  
     Poem dedicated to Dr. Gill, Pathfinders president emeritus, n.d.  
     Notes on an envelope regarding marriage, ca. 1937.  
     Other notes, mostly brief and all handwritten, include thoughts on  
     "Capturing Politics for God," 1915; "The Greatness of God," 1916;  
     "How to Work with Others," n.d.; "The Consecration of Time,"  
     1916; the operation of a church clinic with which he worked, n.d.;  
     "The Lord," n.d., and "Writing up a talk with Nature," n.d.  
     "Some effects of Sunday School Training.  
     "Typewritten, 1910;  
     "Tuberculosis." Typewritten, n.d.  
     Notebook with Bible lessons. Handwritten, n.d.  
     Untitled manuscript, handwritten, on the Bible,                      n.d.  
     "Samuel Chapman Armstrong," handwritten, n.d.  
     "The Influence of the Mother Upon the Child," n.d.
- 195-3                  1      Untitled manuscript, handwritten on the Bible, n.d.  
     "Samuel Chapman Armstrong," handwritten, n.d.  
     "The Influence of the Mother Upon the Child," n.d.

- Series D**      **Family Photographs**
- 195-3                  2      Lee Gill at Hampton reunion, n.d.  
                                     Lee Gill, in uniform (?), n.d.  
                                     Lee Gill, n.d.  
                                     Vivian Gill Lee with Dr. Jonathan C. Gibbs, Sr.  
                                     Lee Gill at 101 years of age Mary Gill, n.d.  
                                     Children of Lee Gill's sister-in-law in Abington, Virginia, n.d.



## Container List

- Series D**      **Family Photographs** continued
- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| Box   | Folder   |
| 195-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Margery Emma Rencher Gill, n.d. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lee Rencher Gill, son of Lee Gill at Stevens School, n.d.</li> <li>Sheffield Gill, son of Lee Gill, ca. 19 years old.</li> <li>Aretha Jones, a cousin in New York, n.d.</li> <li>Margery Rencher Gill's niece by marriage at age 20, n.d.</li> <li>Safronia May Harris, age 2. n.d.</li> <li>Lee Gill, with Lee Rencher, Mrs. Pierre (widow of Dr. Pierre), and others, ca. 1960s</li> <li>Lee Gill on board cruise ship, n.d.</li> <li>Lee Gill, Howard University medical students and professor, ca. 1908</li> </ul> </li> <li>3 Identified Photographs of Friends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essie Jackson Rodriquez and children Gloria and Ray</li> <li>Dr. Samuel Pierre and Howard University Medical school classmates, n.d.</li> <li>Alexander (no last name), age 2 years and ?, n.d.</li> <li>Samie and Mary Pierre, 1910</li> <li>Charles Isham (?), 1901</li> <li>"Billy" Baynes, n.d.</li> <li>Frederick A. Mullen, n.d.</li> <li>Dr. C.A.A. Gordon, n.d.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4 Unidentified Women</li> <li>5 Unidentified Men</li> <li>6 Unidentified Infants and Children</li> <li>7 Unidentified Groups</li> <li>8 Washington, D.C. Buildings: Morse's Pharmacy (interior); and 2221 G Street, N.W.</li> <li>9 Hampton Institute</li> </ul> |
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- Series E**      **Organizational and Institutional Affiliations**
- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 195-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 First Baptist Church (27th and Dunbarton Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. (1910-1917) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miscellaneous programs</li> <li>Prayer Meeting Topics, 1915</li> <li>Letter from Rev. E.E. Ricks, First Baptist Church, to Dr. Gill, 1912</li> </ul> </li> <li>11 Howard University (1907-1978) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journals and programs include the Installation of Wilbur Patterson Thirkield, D.D., LL.D. as president of Howard University, 1907</li> <li>Inaugural Address of Dr. W.P. Thirkield on "The Meaning of Mission of Education," 1907</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## Container List

- Series E**      **Organizational and Institutional Affiliations**
- Box              Folder
- 195-3          12 Nineteenth Street Baptist Church (1946-1966)  
                             Publication: "Chronicle of the Selection, Election and Installation of Reverend Jerry A. Moore, 1946 Order of Service programs - January and November 1947, 1961, 1963, July and October 1966 Programs for special events, notices, dedicatory poem, color photograph of church Funeral program for Dr. Nannie Helen Burroughs, 1961
- 13 Howard University Medical Alumni Association (1962-1971)  
                             Publication. MedicAnnales, with supplement. May 1962  
                             Howard University Medical Alumni Association constitution, n.d.  
                             Office of Continuing Medical Education, 1971 Newsletter, July 1963
- 14 Medico-Chururgical Society of the District of Columbia  
                             Bulletin, rosters, schedule, programs, 1949-1968
- 15 National Medical Association (ca. 1950-1976)  
                             Certificate of Award to Dr. Gill, 1955  
                             Reprint of Journal of the National Medical Association article on Dr. Gill, 1976  
                             Articles, programs, bulletins, constitution and by-laws
- 16 Prince Hall Masons  
                             Certificate of Master Masonry for Dr. Gill, 1954  
                             Letter from the Right Worthy Grand Council appointing Dr. Gill a local medical examiner, 1929 Investigation Blank and Application for Membership By-Laws of Redemption Lodge No. 24 F. & A.M. of Washington, D.C., 1972
- 17 Washington Educational Touring Club  
                             Itinerary, 1947  
                             Membership card, 1949  
                             Program. Thirteenth Annual Reception, 1948
- Series F**      **Printed Material and Oversize**
- 195-4          1 Official Inaugural Program (William H. Taft), 1909  
                             Fisk Jubilee Singers at Metropolitan AME Church, 1916  
                             Various civic, social, fraternal, and religious programs
- 2 Programs (Performing Arts, ca.1966-1970)  
                             Theater, opera, musicals, symphony programs
- 3 Several addresses, including "The Colored American Working Man of the New Time," by Rev. A.D. Mayo, 1898. Also found are pamphlets, booklets, tracts, and an oral history of historic Stevens Elementary School, Washington, D.C., 1984, and other printed material

Container List

- Series F**      **Printed Material and Oversize** continued
- Box              Folder
- 195-4          4 Engineering publications and notes, electrical drawings, newsletters, and an 1895 journal
- 5 District of Columbia medical and surgical license (1909) and Virginia examining board certification for same (1922).
- Elder Men's Immediate Relief Association report, 1902-1904
- Elder Men's badges
- Photograph (rolled) Co. B, 365th Infantry, Camp Grant, Illinois, n.d.