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THOMAS JEFFERSON GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION
Collection 117-1

Prepared & Revised by:
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June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The Thomas Jefferson Genealogical Collection was developed in 1948 as a result of correspondence between Pearl M. Graham and Lucy Williams. Ms. Graham was researching a project which involved tracing the ancestry of Blacks who claimed to be direct-descendants of Thomas Jefferson. In Lucy William's letters to Pearl Graham she relates the historical tradition of Sally Hemings and her offspring, fathered by Thomas Jefferson, indicating genealogical relationships up to her own generation.

The collection includes correspondence of Mrs. Dorothy Porter while assisting in the research and in acquiring the Jefferson mementoes donated by Mrs. Lucy Coles Williams. These mementoes which include a bronze, bell, a hand-carved cane, a platter, and a rolling Pin are stored in the vault.

There are 28 items in this collection. They include correspondence, articles about Black descendants of Thomas Jefferson, two photographs of the bronze bell, and one photograph of Mary Frances C. Kenny, granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson.

Series Description

Series A Correspondence

Box 117-1 Correspondence generated from the research project about Black descendants of Thomas Jefferson, and acquisition of the Jefferson mementoes.

Series B Articles about the Black Descendants of Thomas Jefferson

Box 117-1 Articles from periodicals by various authors

Series C Photographs

Box 117-1 Photograph of Mary Coles Kenny, Black descendant of Jefferson; and a bronze bell (a Jefferson memento)

Container List

Series A

Correspondence

Box

Folder

117-1

- 1 Graham, Pearl M. and Porter, Dorothy
- 2 Sadler, Bertha B. to Porter, Dorothy
- 3 Bullock, Charles H., Sr. to Graham, Pearl M.
- 4 Williams, Lucy Cole to Graham, Pearl M.

Series B

Articles about the Black Descendants of Thomas Jefferson

- 5 The Great Jefferson Controversy
- 6 The Great Jefferson Taboo
- 7 The myth of "Black Sally"

Series C

Photographs

- 8 Mary Coles Kenny
- 9 Bronze Bell