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CHRISTOPHER H. PAYNE, SR. COLLECTION

Collection 216-1

Prepared by:
Omare Kinsey
March 2007

SCOPE NOTE

The collection of Christopher H. Payne (1845-1925), pastor, diplomat, and elected official, spans the period from 1875 to 1918, and measures one-half linear foot. The collection documents Payne=s family life through photographs and real estate papers, as well as his career as Baptist church leader, prominent official from the State of West Virginia, co-founder and editor of the West Virginia Enterprise, the only Black weekly in the state at that time, and as U.S. Consul to St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies.

In 2001, Moorland-Spingarn acquired the collection (through Beverly Cox of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery) from Mrs. Mary Jane Trent, the granddaughter of the Honorable Rev. Christopher H. Payne.

Biographical Data

Christopher H. Payne, Sr.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1845 September 7 | Born in Huntington, West Virginia to Thomas and Bersheba Payne. |
| 1865 | Married Ann Hargo Swinney. |
| 1866 | Lived in Charleston, SC, where he worked in a salt mine and went to school at night. |
| 1876 | Licensed as a preacher in West Virginia, where later he helped organize Baptist churches. |
| 1877 | Entered the Richmond Theological Seminary at Richmond, VA. |
| 1884 | Retired from ministry because of poor health; became the first president of the West Virginia Baptist State Convention, and co-founder, <u>West Virginia Enterprise</u> , the only weekly newspaper published by Blacks in the State of West Virginia. He also represented the Third Congressional District of |

	West Virginia as alternate in the National Republican Convention.
1889-1893	Served as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue of West Virginia.
1894	Married Belle Payne and by 1918
1898-1899	Served as District Revenue Agent.
1899	Became the 1 st Black member of the
1903	Appointed U.S. Consul at St. Thomas Danish West Indies.
1917	Asked to resign at age 72 because of his race.
1925	Christopher H. Payne died at the age of 80.

Sources: AResearch Notes,@ Christopher H. Payne Collection,
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

Pegues, A.W. *Our Baptist Ministers and Schools*.
Willey & Co. 1892.

Series Description

Series A

Personal and Family Papers

Box 216-1

Encompasses biographical information; Payne=s performance evaluation as U.S. Consul to St. Thomas, and family real estate transactions documented by correspondence, contracts, receipts, deeds and other legal papers.

Series B

Photographs

Includes various portraits of Christopher Payne before and during his consular duty in the Danish West Indies. There are also photographs of his family, primarily his children and grandchildren.

Container List

Box	Folder	
		A <u>Personal Papers</u>
216-1	1	Biographical information from <i>Men</i>
	2	Biographical information from the
	3	Biographical information from <i>Our Baptist Ministers and Schools</i>
	4	<i>Republican Campaign Textbook, 1912</i>
	5	Consular Record, Summary of
		<u>Real Estate Documents</u>
	6	Map and description, property on
	7	Property tax receipts, Red Sulphur Springs, Monroe Co., West Virginia
	8	Record of payments and receipts,
	9	Deeds, Summers Co., West Virginia,
	10	Lawsuit re: Red Sulphur Springs
	11	Contracts re: Hinton, West
	12	Purchase agreement, Huntington,
	13	Business cards

B Photographs

14 Portraits, Christopher H. Payne,
15 Payne in St. Thomas
16 U.S. Consulate, 1926
17 U.S. Consulate staff
18 Payne with family members
19 Payne=s gravesite, St. Thomas,

20 Payne=s children and grandchildren
22 Eggert, Ingeborg
23 Residents of Hinton, West Virginia
24 Rose (last name unknown)