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PINCKNEY BENTON STEWARD PINCHBACK PAPERS
Collection 81-1 to 81-2

Prepared & Revised by:
Wilda D. Logan
November 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The Pinckney Benton Steward Pinchback papers, consist of approximately 130 items which spans 1 linear foot.

P.B.S. Pinchback was an active participant in the Reconstruction politics in Louisiana, having being elected Lt. Governor of Louisiana in 1871 and serving briefly as Governor before being elected to the U.S. Senate, The primary focus of the collection is information on Pinchback's struggles in state politics and his pursuit of his U.S. Senate seat which he ultimately lost. The struggle for his Senate seat, surrounded by controversy has been called "The Louisiana Case." His personal appeal to the Senators, as well as those of the other organizations to the U.S. Senate, to correct the injustice, are included in the collection.

The collection includes an excellent biographical sketch, correspondence, manuscripts, Documents, printed material and clippings. Also included are minutes from two black prominent organizations of the 1870's, the Colored Newspaper Men and the Union Progressive Club.

The clippings examine the diverse political issues that created the controversial political atmosphere during Reconstruction in Louisiana.

Biographical Sketch

- 1837 Born May 10, near Macon, Georgia, to a slave mother, Eliza Stewart, and a white Mississippi planter, said to be William Pinchback, who subsequently manumitted the mother of his children.
- 1848-1861 Forced to make his own living, he followed steam boating on the Ohio, Missouri, Red and Mississippi Rivers, becoming a steward, the highest position a man of his race could then attain in this line of employment.
- 1860 Married Nina Emily Hawthorne.
- 1862 Recruited to a company of black soldiers (Corps d'Afrique) in response to call of Major General Benjamin F. Butler that free men of color take up arms in defense of the Union.
- 1867 Entered the political arena, organizing the fourth-ward Republican Club.

Elected a member of the Republican State Committee and a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1868, where his major achievement was the successful introduction of the Thirteenth or Civil Rights Article of the Constitution of Louisiana.
- 1868 Elected State Senator and delegate-at-large to the National Republican Convention at Chicago.
- 1870 Began publication of the semi-weekly "Louisiana" which he ran for eleven years.
- 1871 Elected President of the Senate of Louisiana, and Lieutenant Governor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lieutenant Governor Oscar J. Dunn.
- 1872 Nominated Governor of Louisiana by the Republican State Convention but in the interest of the party, accepted a compromise which made him a candidate for Congress from the State at large.

Ran the celebrated Rail Road Race with Governor Warmoth.

Biographical Sketch continued

- 1875 Elected by the Legislature of Louisiana as United States Senator for a term of six years, a seat which he was denied by action of the Senate three years later.
- 1873 Appointed Commissioner to the Vienna Exposition.
- 1875 Reelected United States Senator in case of a vacancy.
- 1876 Elected by the Republican State Convention delegate-at-large to the National Convention at Cincinnati.
- 1879 Appointed Internal Revenue Agent. Elected delegate to the State Constitutional Convention called by the Democratic state government.
- 1880 Elected delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago.
- 1882 Appointed Surveyor of Customs by President Arthur for the Port of New Orleans.
- 1883 Appointed member of the Board of Trustees of Southern University.
- 1884 Elected delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago.
Was a member of City and State Boards of Education throughout the Republican regime in Louisiana.
- 1885 Graduated from the Law Department of Straight University (now Straight College) in New Orleans, LA.
- 1886 Admitted to the bars of the Federal and State Courts of Louisiana.
- 1921 December 21 died in Washington, D.C.

Series Description

- Series A**
Box 81-1 **Biographical Material**
An extensive typewritten biographical sketch of Pinchback and six copies of the original.
- Series B**
Box 81-1 **Correspondence**
General correspondence of Pinchback primarily concerned with political issues – those addressed to the U.S. Senate cover the controversy of Pinchback being granted his seat in Congress.
- Series C**
Box 81-1 **Documents**
Documents from prominent organizations, state and federal bills, most concern with the "Louisiana Case."
- Series D**
Box 81-1 **Manuscripts**
A draft by Pinchback on his reason to reject advice to withdraw as a candidate for governor of Louisiana. A manuscript authored by Pinchback explaining the political controversy in Louisiana plus holographic notes.
- Series E**
Box 81-1 **Printed Material**
Printed material from various civil and political organizations, U.S. Senate report form, voter forms from Mississippi and a picture of Pinchback printed on the Republican National Convention Supplement dated 1872.
- Series F**
Box 81-1 **Minutes**
Minutes of prominent Negro organizations of the 1870's. The Colored Newspaper Men and the Union Progressive Club.
- Series G**
Box 81-1
to Box 81-2 **Addresses And Speeches**
Addresses and speeches by Pinchback, most are political in nature. All are on the topic of the Negro, many are original and holographic.

Series Description

Series H
Box 81-2 **Newspaper Clippings**
Clippings on political issues and controversies in Louisiana which affected Pinchback, editorials on Pinchback's reign as lieutenant-Governor and Governor of Louisiana and his denial of his seat in the U.S. Senate.

Container List

Series A Biographical Material

Box Folder
81-1 1 Biographical Sketch

Series B Correspondence

- 2 General Correspondence - Doctor
- 3 General Correspondence - Hon. James Lewis
- 4 General Correspondence - Gov. Francis T. Nichlos
- 5 General Correspondence - U.S. Senate-Sept. 1875
- 6 General Correspondence - U.S. Senate-n.d.-draft
- 7 General Correspondence - U.S. Senate-n.d.-draft
- 8 General Correspondence - U.S. Senate-n.d.-draft

Series C Documents

- 9 Afro-American Council An Appeal to officers of Southern States. n.d.
- 10 Committee of the Convention of Colored People of LA Presentation of Louisiana Case to U.S. Senate 11-17-1873
- 11 General Assembly of Louisiana An act to appropriate money n.d.
- 12 P.B.S. Pinchback. In re: Senate Bill #446. n.d. Draft
- 13 Central Executive Committee Republican Party. Resolutions. 12-13-1867
- 14 The Colored Citizens League Resolutions. Feb. 26, 1901
- 15 Resolution that U.S. Senate recognize validity of Pinchback claim. Draft.

Series D Manuscripts

- 16 P.B.S. Pinchback. Rejection of advice to withdraw as candidate for Governor of Louisiana. n.d.
- 17 P.B.S. Pinchback. "The Great Railroad Race..." September, 1872
- 18 P.B.S. Pinchback - Notes

Series E Printed Material

- 19 American Citizen's Equal Rights Asso. Letter to Members 2-12-1890
- 20 Convention of Colored People of Southern States. Address 10-21-1871
- 21 Executive Committee of National Conference. Letter to leading colored men. May 6, 1879.
- 22 "Extra Louisianian"
- 23 Invitation to complimentary dinner in honor of P.B.S. Pinchback 3-17-1873
- 24 National Lincoln Asso. Mobile, Ala. A call for a convention 1865
- 25 The Press. Republican National Convention Supplement. June 5, 1892

Container List

Series E Printed Material

Box Folder

- 81-1 26 Republican Party of Louisiana a call for parish elections 1872
27 O.P. Morton Letter to Indianapolis Journal n.d.
28 Voters' Registrations Form Parish of Orleans, LA 1868-1887

Series F Minutes

- 29 Convention of Colored Newspaper Men - Minutes 8-4-1875
30 Union Progressive Club Minutes June 20, 22, 1870.

Series G Addresses and Speeches

- 31 P.B.S. Pinchback Address to U.S. Senate. n.d. Galley proof
32 P.B.S. Pinchback Speech. Montgomery, Ala. 1865 or 1866.
33 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. Urges use of Franchise. June 19, 1867
34 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On Thirteenth Amendment. January 4, 1869
35 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. Urges passage of reform legislation. 1872?
36 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. Concerning Louisiana Case, etc. 9-4-1873.
37 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On constitutionality of state constitutions.
Testimonial banquet. n.d.
38 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On equal rights. June, 1874.
39 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. At Inauguration of Gov. Kellogg n.d.
- 81-2 40 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On the Negro in the Civil War. n.d.
41 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On need for equality in education. n.d.
42 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On the Negro as a soldier. n.d.
43 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On State Constitution Amendments. n.d.
44 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On State Constitution Amendments. Pittsburgh,
PA. n.d.
45 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On effect of Hayes-Tilden Campaign. n.d.
46 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. On Southern Representation. Pen & Pencil Club.
Wash., D.C. n.d.
47 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. To Negro Representatives. Intro. n.d.
48 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. Delivered at Straight University. n.d.
49 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. Delivered at A.M.E. Zion Church. n.d.
50 P.B.S. Pinchback. Speech. New Orleans Cotton Centennial. n.d.

Series H Newspaper Clippings

- 51 The Daily Picayune
52 P.B.S. Pinchback -Clippings
53 P.B.S. Pinchback -Clippings
54 P.B.S. Pinchback -Clippings
55 P.B.S. Pinchback -Clippings
56 Xerox copies of newspaper clippings