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SIMMS FAMILY PAPERS
Collection 89-1 to 89-2

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June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

Mr. James W. Jones donated the Simms Family Papers to Howard University in 1972. The papers total one linear foot spanning the period 1802-1965. However, the majority of the materials are concentrated in the period 1830- 1930. The papers begin with biographical information about John A. Simms, Sr. his wife Martha Ann, his son John Jr., and his grandson John, III. The Simms were very active in the A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. The papers consist primarily of materials documenting the history of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, and its forerunner, the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church.

The collection also contains materials about the Columbian Harmony Society of which John Simms III was the Secretary-Treasurer. This society was organized in Washington, D.C. for the benefit of its members and it also maintained a cemetery for Black people in the area. Also, noteworthy is some correspondence to John III, from John Franklin Adams and his wife Harriet Chalmers Adams, the first woman geographer. Finally, the collection contains various items of printed materials, programs, articles, periodicals, and information about the A.M.E. Church.

Series Description

Series A Family Papers

Box 89-1 Primarily certificates of John A. Simms, Sr.; also includes biographical information about John A. Jr. 2nd, John III, and Martha Ann Simms.

Series B Columbian Harmony Society

Box 89-1 Financial papers and briefs from the court case *McDonald vs. Cook*.

Series C Union Bethel A.M.E. Church

Box 89-1 Materials documenting the history of the church, includes biographical sketches, to 89-2 and rosters of members, minutes, and financial papers.

Series D Metropolitan A.M.E. Church

Box 89-2 Historical sketches of the church and Methodism in Washington, D.C., financial papers, and programs.

Series E Printed Materials

Box 89-2 Periodicals, articles, and programs.

Container List

- Series A Family Papers**
Box Folder
- 89-1 John A. Simms Sr. (b. 1830)
- 1 Biographical data
 - 2 Correspondence - re.: Oddfellows
 - 3 Employment record (holograph)
 - 4 Certificate - Supreme Court of D.C.
 - 5 Certificates - Washington Asylum
 - 6 Certificates - Executive Mansion
 - 7 Certificate - Discharge from the U.S. Army
 - 8 Certificates - War Department Office of Chief of Ordinance
 - 9 Certificate - Delegate to the Methodist Ecumenical Conference
 - 10 Certificates - Navy Department; Office of Judge Advocate
 - 11 Resolution - Condolence from the Board of Trustees, A.M.E. Church
- on
- the death of his wife
 - 12 Certificate - Delegate to the General Conference of the A.M.E. Church
 - 13 Program (picture of Simms inside)
- John A. Simms. Jr.
- 14 Obituary, Sept. 23, 1930
- John A. Simms, III (1886-1966)
- 15 Biographical data
 - 16 Obituary, March 28, 1966
 - 17 Employment reference, Jan. 21, 1926
 - 18 Correspondence
 - 19 Pan American Union
- Martha Ann Simms (1824-189?)
- 20 Obituary
- Series B Columbian Harmony Society**
- 21 Financial reports
 - 22 Escrow settlement papers
 - 23 Income tax exemption papers
 - 24 Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return & Withholding papers
 - 25 Correspondence - re.: Riggs National Bank
 - 26 *McDonald vs. Cook* (court case)

Container List

Series C Union Bethel A.M.E. Church

- Box Folder
- 89-1 27 Biographical sketches of members
- 28 Membership roster
- 29 Register of members, baptisms, marriages & subscribers, ca. 1839-1853
- 30 Minutes - Board of Trustees, May 20, 1850
- 31 Minutes - Board of Trustees Nov. 20 1861 March 11, 1865
- 89-2 32 Minutes - Board of Trustees Nov. 6, 1878 - Sept. 14, 1881
- 33 Minutes - Committee on purchasing Ground and Building, Sept. 14, 1881
- 34 Certificate of Incorporation and Election of Trustees - Nov. 1880
- 35 Financial receipts
- 36 Financial statement for the conference year 1881-1882
- 37 An address, June 13, 1881
- 38 History of the Bethel Literary & Historical Assn.
- 39 Union Relief Assn. Notes on origin
- 40 Union Relief Assn Constitution
- 41 The *Bethel Metropolitan Church Organ* (newspaper)

Series D Metropolitan A.M.E. Church

- 42 Origins of the church & Methodism in D.C. (holograph notes)
- 43 Origins of the church & Methodism in D.C. (typescript notes)
- 44 A Century of Methodism at Metropolitan by Charles H. Wesley
- 45 The History of the Memorial Windows by
Jefferson S. Coage
- 46 List of articles placed in the cornerstone
- 47 Recollection of the Organ-Mite Club
- 48 Account of the Charity Dinner
- 49 Mortgage papers
- 50 Thanksgiving service and mortgage burning (program)
- 51 Order of divine service (program and hymnal)
- 52 Clean sweep rally ... 83rd Anniversary (program)
- 53 Grand mortgage burning rally (program)

Series E Printed Materials

- 54 Bishops of the A.M.E. Church (broadside)
- 55 2 unidentified men (negative)
- 56 Banneker's Appeal to Jefferson for Emancipation
- 57 Letter from Daniel Bread in Answer to resolution of the House
- 58 Memorial poem to Mrs. H.D. H. (holograph)

Container List

Series E Printed Materials

Box
89-2

Folder

- 59 Origins of A.M.E. Church by Charles H. Wesley
- 60 Pages from Scraps of African Methodist Episcopal History, James A. Handy
- 61 The Society of Woman Geographers, In Memory of Harriet Chalmers Adams
- 62 The Story of the Declaration of Independence by James C. Boykin
- 63 The A.M.E. Church Review - Jan. - Mar. 1963
- 64 The Retired Men's News - April 1932
- 65 Map of Washington D.C. [1860?]
- 66 Abraham Lincoln Centenary - Wash., D.C. 1908 (program)
- 67 The S. Coleridge Taylor Choral Society "Hiawatha" (program)
- 68 Partial text