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EDWARD WALTER TURNER COLLECTION  
Collection 105-1

Prepared & Revised by:  
Denise Harbin  
June 1980

## Scope Note

The Edward Walter Turner Collection consists of manuscript materials that document his association with the Masonic Order and the Howard University. These materials are correspondence, certificates, invitations, programs, reports, and resolutions.

There are personal items of memorabilia such as the sprig of the decoration from the stand where President Ulysses S. Grant gave his inaugural speech, and a broadside with Howard University songs. Turner also kept personal diaries of his expenditures and a diary on the historical account on the unveiling of the Lincoln Statue at Lincoln Park, Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1876.

The collection strengths are the mounted newspaper clippings from various papers that are on selected individuals, events, institutions and places. The collection does not contain a significant amount of materials that document Edward Walter Turner's life nor the activities he was involved in.

The collection dates span the period 1871-1926. The collection size is approximately ½ liner foot. The collection was received as a gift to the Howard University from Sara A. Turner.

## Biographical Data

- 1850 Oct. 25 Born in the District of Columbia, mother Sarah Turner Mercer.
- Attended private school in Washington, D.C. before the establishment of public schools.
- 1866 Traveled with his mother to Springfield, Mass., continued his studies there.
- Attended Lincoln University, Oxford, Pa., where he finished a two year preparatory course.
- 1868? Commissioned by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., to travel south as a missionary and teacher. Opened a school in Granville County, N.C., taught there until 1869.
- 1869 Induced by General O. O. Howard to work part-time for Freedmen's Bureau. Entered Howard University.
- 1872 Completed academic and scientific courses at Howard University.  
Became reporter for "The Daily Chronicle".
- 1873 Returned to North Carolina, and organized the Franklin Seminary, near Franklin town North Carolina.
- Married Lucy Ann Scott.
- 1884-1890 Served as principal of the Kittrell Academy, Kittrell, N.C.
- 1890 Moved to Washington, D.C. with his family.
- Served an appointment with the Census Bureau.  
Served as confidential mailing clerk to the Post Master General, the first assistant Post Master General, and the Assistant Attorney -

General of the Post Office Department. Served  
a total of 23 years with the Post Office  
Department.

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1919      Founder and President of the Federation of  
Men's Church Clubs of the District of  
Columbia.

1927 Jan. 31    Died at emergency room in a hospital in  
Washington, D.C.

Source of information:

History of The American Negro Washington, D.C. Edition  
A.B. Caldwell Ed. 1921, Atlanta: Caldwell  
(contains photograph).

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## Series Description

- Series A      Correspondence
- Box 105-1    A-Z period (1888-1926)
- Series B      Certificates & Documents
- Box 105-1    Appointment to the Grand Lodge of  
North Carolina, authorization to receive  
funds, certificates, and by-laws of  
Mt. Olive Lodge, St. Christopher, West Indies.
- Series C      Memorabilia
- Box 105-1    Twig of decorations from the stand where  
General Grant delivered inaugural, broadside  
from Howard University, autograph book  
page, Sunday school lesson.
- Series D      Invitations
- Box 105-1    Wedding invitations.
- Series E      Programs
- Box 105-1    Social and religious events.
- Series F      Mounted Newspaper Clippings
- Box 105-1    Articles on individuals, North Carolina  
Mutual Insurance Company, G. A. R. (Grand  
Army of the Republic), Washington, D.C.,  
Howard University and the Masonic Orders.
- Series G      Reports and Resolutions
- Box 105-1    Howard University, Masons and Ohio  
Republican League.
- Series H      Brochures and Periodicals
- Box 105-1    Religious and fraternal

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Series I Diaries

Box 105-1 Diary #1, 1871-1872, 1876  
Diary #2, 1877

Series J Scrapbook

Box 105-1 Newsclipping from newspapers  
1865-1871.

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Container List

A Correspondence

Box 105-1 Folder 1 Correspondence A-Z  
(1888-1926)

B Certificates and Masonic Documents

2 Certificates and Masonic  
Documents

C Memorabilia

3 Memorabilia

D Invitations

4 Invitations - Wedding invitations

E Programs

5 Programs - social and  
religious events

F Mounted Newspaper Clippings

6 Bryan, William Jennings

7 Dancy, John Campbell

8 Howard University

9 Various newsclippings

10 Masonic Orders

11 North Carolina Mutual  
Insurance Company

12 Shepard, James Dr.

- 13 Young, Charles Col.
- 14 Washington Eagle - G.A.R.  
Edition
- 15 Washington, D.C.

G Report and Resolutions

- 16 Report and Resolutions

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H Brochures and Periodicals

Box 105-1 Folder 17 Religious and fraternal

I Diaries

18 Diary #1 1871-1872, 1876  
Diary #2 1877

J Scrapbook

19 Newsclippings from newspapers  
1865-1871

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