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Robert Shaw Wilkinson Papers
Collection 205-1 to 205-2

Prepared by
Zora Martin Felton
December 2001

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The papers of Robert Shaw Wilkinson (1865-1932), educator and president of the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina (now South Carolina State University), document his career as an original faculty member and as president from 1911 until his death in 1932. As president, also, of the Association of Land Grant Colleges for Negroes, Dr. Wilkinson continually assessed the condition of these segregated schools and addressed the disparities between colored and white teachers' salaries, and between the colored and white facilities, equipment and buildings. Under his leadership, the South Carolina school experienced enormous growth in its physical facilities as well as in its academic and extra-curricular offerings.

The collection was donated in 1979 by Dr. Wilkinson's son, Robert S. Wilkinson, M.D., and consists of 1½ linear feet.

The bulk of the collection consists of a bound scrapbook (928 pages along with a detailed table of contents) compiled by Mabel C. James, Dr. Wilkinson's secretary from 1917 - 1930. The volume dates from 1925 (?) - 1932. Included are general statements about Dr. Wilkinson's life and work, reports, correspondence, news clippings, lectures, printed programs, articles, addresses, and information on the state of Negro education.. There is also material related to his service as District Deputy Grand Master of the Second Mason District Free and Accepted Masons.

Biographical Sketch

Robert Shaw Wilkinson
(1865-1932)

- 1865 February 18 Born in Charleston, S.C., to Charles and Lavinia A. Wilkinson
- n.d. Attended Avery Institute in Charleston, S.C.
- 1884-1885 Attended West Point Military Academy, N.Y.
- 1891 Earned A.B. degree, Oberlin College, Ohio
Appointed Professor of Latin and Greek, State University of Kentucky
- 1896 Appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina, Orangeburg, S.C.
- 1897 Married Marion Raven Birnie. Children born to this union: Helen Raven, Robert Shaw, Jr., Frost Birnie, and Lula Love Wilkinson.
- 1900 Named Professor of Chemistry, Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina, Orangeburg, S.C.
- 1904 Earned Ph.D. degree, Columbia University, N.Y.
- 1922 Earned A.M. degree, Oberlin College
- 1930 Appointed Professor of Greek and Latin of the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina
Appointed Professor of Physics and Chemistry at the same institution
- 1911- 1932 Named President of the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina
- 1932 March 13 Died at age 67.

Source: Papers of Robert Shaw Wilkinson, Box 205-1 MSRC, Howard University

Series Description

Series A Personal Papers

Box 205-1 Papers include the memorial service program for Dr. Wilkinson, writings and photographs.

Series B Scrapbook

Box 205-1a This scrapbook contains articles, news clippings, and writings by Dr. Wilkinson.

Series C Oversize

Box 205-2 Contains honorary degree from Allen University, 1927.

Container List

- Series A** **Personal Papers**
Box Folders
205-1
- 1 Memorial service program for Dr. Wilkinson, May 22, 1932
Certificate of Membership, Pi Gamma Mu (National Social Science Honor Society), 1927 Note from W.L. Moseley to Dr. Wilkinson, 1926
White House invitation to attend conference on Child Health and Protection, 1930
 - 2 Photographs of Dr. Wilkinson
 - 3 Writings by Dr. Wilkinson
Baccalaureate Address delivered to the graduating classes of State College, 1927
Thanksgiving Address, 1931
“Suggestions for a Study of Superstitions,” n.d.
Suggestive Questions in Ethics, n.d.
Presentation of Doctor of Letters to John Warren Davis, West Virginia State College President, n.d.
Notes for a talk/class roll, n.d.
 - 4 Printed Material
The Collegian, college newspaper, May 1929
State College-Claflin College Joint Thanksgiving Service program, 1931
State College Commencement Exercises, 1932
- Series B** **Scrapbook (bound)**
(See attached index)
- Series C** **Oversize**
205-2 Honorary Degree, Allen University, 1927

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Source: Papers of Robert Shaw Wilkinson, Box 205-1
MSRC, Howard University

Series Description

Series A Personal Papers
Box 205-1 Papers include the memorial service program for Dr. Wilkinson, writings and photographs.
Series B Scrapbook
This scrapbook contains articles, news clippings, and writings by Dr. Wilkinson.
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Container List

A Personal Papers
Box Folders

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