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Collection Inventory for the Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr. Papers

Coll. 010

Finding aid prepared by Wilda D. Logan

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 21, 2014

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University
June 1980
500 Howard Place, NW
Washington, DC 20059
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Summary Information

Repository	Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University
Creator	Bruce, Roscoe Conkling, 1879-1950
Title	Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr. Papers
Date	1897-1924
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Language	English

Biographical Sketch

Sources: Marquis' Who's Who in America, 1919 The Afro-American, August 26, 1950 (obituary).

After retirement in 1922, Bruce served as principal of a high school in West Virginia, as manager of the Dunbar Apartments in New York City, and engaged in various Real Estate activities.

His specific contribution to public education in Washington lay in setting the foundation for the school system as organized under the Act of 1906. Until that time, there was a Board of Education for white schools and another for Negro schools, with a separate Superintendent heading each.

Roscoe Conklin Bruce Sr.

1879, April 21	Born in Washington, D.C. only son of Blanche Kelso Bruce and Josephine B. Bruce
1896-1898	Trained at the Phillips' Academy - Exeter, New Hampshire
1898-1902	Studied at Harvard University and graduated Magna Cum Laude - member - Phi Beta Kappa
1903, June 3	Married Clara Washington Burrill
1902-1906	Director, Academic Department, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, AL
1906-1907	Supervising Principal, 10th Division, Public Schools, Washington, D.C.
1907-1922	Assistant Superintendent in charge of D.C. Public School, 10th Division
1922	Retired from D.C. Public School System
1950 August	Died in New York City

Scope Note

The Roscoe Conkling Bruce, Sr. papers measure two linear feet and primarily consist of personal and holographic correspondence, spanning the years 1897 to 1924.

The family correspondence include personal correspondence between Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr. and the following members of his immediate family: his father, the former U.S. Senator Blanche K. Bruce; his mother, Josephine B. Bruce; his wife, Clara Burrill Bruce (both before and after marriage); and his son, Roscoe C. Bruce, Jr. The family correspondence cover a spectrum of personal and financial matters, such as Roscoe Bruce's service at Tuskegee Institute, tuition payments made by Blanche K. Bruce and the reaction of Roscoe Bruce to the elopement of his daughter in 1922. This family correspondence reveals intimate thoughts and feelings between the corresponding members of the family.

The general correspondence reflects Bruce's official duties as Assistant Superintendent of D.C. Public Schools. Of special note is a copy of an investigative report relating to Bruce's controversial administration as a public school official in Washington, D.C. Other important correspondents include W.E.B. DuBois and Carter G. Woodson.

The financial and legal papers deal with the management by Bruce and his mother of the Blanche K. Bruce Plantation in Mississippi and the Kelso Farm in Washington, D.C. Other real estate and insurance documents are also included. Other items of special interest are Roscoe C. Bruce Sr's drivers license and car registration, photographs, and a holographic draft of his will. There are clippings relating to Roscoe Bruce Sr's academic training and professional life, including a clipping related to Roscoe C. Bruce Jr. being barred from the freshman dormitory at Harvard in 1923 because of his color.

Printed materials include items from *The Crisis*, and *The Exonian*, dated 1897, which is a Phillip's Exeter Academy publication.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University June 1980

Source

The papers were acquired through purchase from Martha A. Smoot, of Washington, D.C., in 1954.

Series A: Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Series A: Correspondence		
	Box	Folder
Blanche K. Bruce-family correspondence 1897	1	1
Blanche K. Bruce-family correspondence 1897	1	2
Blanche K. Bruce-family correspondence 1897	1	3
Blanche K. Bruce (cousin) Family correspondence undated	1	4
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence 1896-1898	1	5
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Jan. 1900	1	6
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence 61	1	7
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence May-July 1900	1	8
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Aug. 1900	1	9
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Oct. 1900	1	10
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence November-December 1900	1	11

Series A: Correspondence

Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence January-April 1901	1	12
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence May-June 1901	1	13
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Aug. 1901	1	14
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Sept. 1901	1	15
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence October-December 1901	1	16
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Jan. 1902	1	17
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence February-July 1902	1	18
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Aug. 1902	1	19
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Sept. 1902	1	20
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence Oct. 1902	1	21
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence November 3-5, 1902	1	22
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence November 6-18, 1902	1	23
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence November 25-December 1902	1	24
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence January 2-10, 1903	2	25

Series A: Correspondence

Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence January 17-31, 1903	2	26
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence February 1-19, 1903	2	27
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence February 20-27, 1903	2	28
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence March 4-16, 1903	2	29
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence March 18-April, 1903	2	30
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence 8919	2	31
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence undated	2	32
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence undated	2	33
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence undated	2	34
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence undated	2	35
Clara B. Bruce-family correspondence undated	2	36
Clara B. Bruce-general correspondence: A-H	2	37
Clara B. Bruce-general correspondence: J-R	2	38
Clara B. Bruce-general correspondence: S-Z	2	39

Series A: Correspondence

Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1889-1891	2	40
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1896	2	41
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence January-September 1897	2	42
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence October 1897	2	43
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence November-December 1897	2	44
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1902	2	45
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1903	2	46
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1904	3	47
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence October 1-9, 1907	3	48
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence October 15-23, 1907	3	49
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1916	3	50
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1917	3	51
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1921	3	52
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence 1922	3	53

Series A: Correspondence

Josephine Bruce-family correspondence undated	3	54
Josephine Bruce-family correspondence undated	3	55
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence A-B	3	56
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence: C	3	57
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence: D-H	3	58
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence: L-P	3	59
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence: R-T	3	60
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence: W-Z	3	61
Josephine Bruce-general correspondence: first name only	3	62
Roscoe C. Bruce, Jr.-family correspondence 1922-1924	3	63
General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: A-B	3	64
General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: C-D	3	65
General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: E-H	3	66
General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: I-M	3	67

Series B: Financial Papers

General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: N-S	3	68
General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: V-W	3	69
General correspondence-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.: first name only	3	70

Series B: Financial Papers

	Box	Folder
Financial papers-Josephine Bruce 1882-1900	4	71
Financial papers-Josephine Bruce 1901-1907	4	72
Financial papers-Josephine Bruce 1910-1924	4	73
Legal papers-Josephine B. Bruce 1886-1899	4	74
Legal papers-Josephine B. Bruce 1900-1906	4	75
Legal papers-Josephine B. Bruce 1910-1911	4	76
Legal papers-Josephine B. Bruce 1912-1913	4	77
Financial papers-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.-canceled checks July 1918-July 1919	4	78
Financial papers-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.-canceled checks Aug. 1919	4	79

Series C: Printed Material

Financial papers-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.-canceled checks 1920-1921	4	80
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Financial papers-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr. 1917-1923	4	81
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Financial papers-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr. undated	4	82
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Series C: Printed Material

	Box	Folder
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The Crisis	4	83
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D.C. Public School Appropriations Acts 1916-1921	4	84
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Driver's license; car registration	4	85
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The Exonian	4	86
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Harvard Endowment Fund	4	87
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Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	4	88
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Prince Hall Lodge No.14	4	89
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Results of investigation of educational and administrative efficiency of Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr. Oct. 22, 1919	4	90
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Who's Who in America-Roscoe C. Bruce, Jr.	4	91
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Series D: Manuscripts

Printed materials-miscellaneous	4	92
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Series D: Manuscripts

	Box	Folder
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Manuscripts-Clara B. Bruce	4	93
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Manuscripts- Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.	4	94
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Manuscripts-Roscoe C. Bruce, Sr.-incomplete draft of will	4	95
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Series E: Clippings

	Box	Folder
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Bruce Roscoe Conklin Jr.	4	96
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Bruce, Roscoe C. Sr. re: Phillips Exeter Academy	4	97
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Guy Barrington	4	98
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Bruce, Roscoe C. Sr.-re: Howard University	4	99
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Bruce Roscoe C. Sr.-Obituary	4	100
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Bruce Roscoe, C. Sr.-re: Washington, D.C. Public School System	4	101
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Series F: Photograph

Series F: Photograph		
	Box	Folder
Photograph-Roscoe C. Bruce Sr.	4	104