TURNER, Edward

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MSRC Staff

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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


          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 0. 0. 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.
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:

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
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.
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.
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