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TURNER, Henry McNeal

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HENRY MCNEAL TURNER PAPERS
Collection 106-1 to 106-2

Prepared & Revised by:
Karen L. Jefferson
June 1980
The Henry McNeal Turner Papers were donated by his granddaughter, Charlotte Lankford, in October 1961. The papers total one linear foot spanning the period 1835-1916. Consisting primarily of biographical materials, the papers include a typescript of a biography of Bishop Turner, and materials documenting events in his life. Henry Turner was appointed by President Lincoln as the first Negro chaplain in the U.S. Army in 1863. Documenting some of Turner's activities as chaplain, is a record book and a military pass. Other documents include addresses of welcome during Turner's visits to Pretoria and Johannesburg in 1898.

The papers also include photographs of Bishop Turner, his family, friends and organizations he was associated.
Biographical Sketch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1834 February 1</td>
<td>Born in South Carolina, the son of Hardy and Sarah Greer Turner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Licensed to preach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Admitted to the ministry and itinerant work of the A.M.E. Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Ordained Elder in Israel A.M.E. church, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Appointed by President Lincoln as the first Negro chaplain in the U.S. Army.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Re-appointed by President Johnson as chaplain in the Regular Army (resigned position the same year).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Served as a member of the State of Georgia Constitutional Convention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870-72</td>
<td>Served as a representative in the State Legislature of Georgia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Pennsylvania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wilberforce University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Ordained Bishop in the A.M.E. Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Received an honorary Doctor of Canonical Law degree from the Liberia College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915 May 8</td>
<td>Died in Windsor, Canada.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series Description

Series A  Personal Papers
Box 106-1  Biographical data includes a brief sketch, a diary with several entries, and

Series B  Family Papers
Box 106-1  Brief biographical data an a few family members include expression of
remembrance, a news article and letter.

Series C  Life and works on Henry M. Turner
Box 106-1  Typescript of a biography of H.M. Turner similar in content to M.M.
Ponton's Life and Times of Henry M, Turner, including verbative excerpts
from H.M. Turner's The Black Man's Doom. There are also original
news clippings of articles by and about Bishop Turner.

Series D  Writings by H.M. Turner
Box 106-1  Published writings, primarily news articles.

Series E  Documents related to H.M. Turner
Box 106-2  Includes petitions, record book, pass, program, and letters related to Turner's
activities in the A.M.E. Church and as chaplain in the U.S. Army, including
addresses of welcome from his visits to Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Series F  Photographs
Box 106-2  Includes photographs of Bishop Turner, family and friends, as well as group
photographs of the National Negro Business League 1909 and Transvaal
Annual Conference A.M.E. Church 1898.
## Container List

**Series A**  
**Personal Papers**  
Box Folder  
106-1  
1 Biographical data  
2 Diary 1859-62  
4 Acknowledgment of sympathy for H.M. Turner

**Series B**  
**Family Papers**  
5 Lankford, J.A. - news article  
6 Lankford, J.A. from Townsley L.A. - April 18, 1916 (letter)  
7 Peacher, Charlotte - in memoriam  
8 Turner, Martha Elizabeth Dewitt in memoriam

**Series C**  
**Life and works on Henry M. Turner**  
9 Typescript  
10 Typescript  
11 Typescript  
12 Typescript  
13 Typescript  
14 Typescript  
15 Typescript  
16 Typescript  
17 News articles - in memoriam (originals)  
18 News articles - in memoriam (xerox)

**Series D**  
**Writings by H.M. Turner**  
19 Most Urgent Endowment Day Appeal (re.: Morris Brown College)  
20 An Outline of the Oration... Jan. 1, 1866 being the celebration of the 1st anniversary of freedom  
21 Speech before the National Council of Colored Men, Nov. 28, 1893  
22 Statement on the lynching at Palmetto, Georgia, n.d.

**Series E**  
**Documents related to H.M. Turner**  
106-2  
24 Address of Welcome to H.M. Turner Pretoria - March 1898  
25 Address of Welcome to H.M. Turner, Johannesburg, March 1898  
26 Program Ordination of Bishops of the A.M.E. Church Columbus, Ohio, May 23, 1900  
27 Military pass, June 22, 1865 for Chaplain H.M. Turner
## Container List

### Series E
**Documents related to H.M. Turner** continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28 Record book 1863-1865  
29 Petition...Rev. Thomas Nelson against the Rev. Sterling Harris Part I, & II n.d.  
30 Beard, J.E. - platform as candidate for church extension secretary-ship - n.d.

### Series F
**Photographs**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Turner, H.M. - individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Turner, H.M. - individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Turner, H.M. - group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>W.H. Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Abraham Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>H.B. Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>W.S. Pittman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Eliza Peacher Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Harriet Wayman Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Martha Elizabeth Dewitt Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Sarah Greer Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>National Negro Business League Louisville, KY. 1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>St. Phillips Monumental A.M.E. Church, Savannah, GA. (photo and historical note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>South African Students and Missionaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Transvaal Annual Conference A.M.E. Church 1898, Pretoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Unidentified group and individual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>