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TURNER, Henry McNeal

MSRC Staff

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

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June 1980

## Scope Note

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

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

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 106-1  
**Personal Papers**  
Biographical data includes a brief sketch, a diary with several entries, and memorabilia on the death of H.M. Turner.
- Series B**  
Box 106-1  
**Family Papers**  
Brief biographical data on a few family members include expression of remembrance, a news article and letter.
- Series C**  
Box 106-1  
**Life and works on Henry M. Turner**  
Typescript of a biography of H.M. Turner similar in content to M.M. Ponton's *Life and Times of Henry M. Turner*, including verbatim 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**  
Box 106-1  
**Writings by H.M. Turner**  
Published writings, primarily news articles.
- Series E**  
Box 106-2  
**Documents related to H.M. Turner**  
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**  
Box 106-2  
**Photographs**  
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**  
Box  
106-1
- Personal Papers**  
Folder
- 1 Biographical data
  - 2 Diary 1859-62
  - 3 H.M. Turner Memorial Edition of the *Christian Recorder*, July 8, 1915.
  - 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
106-2
- Documents related to H.M. Turner**
- 23 Bolton, W.W. to H.M. Turner Jan. 18, 1899 (letter)
  - 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**

Box

106-2

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

Folder

- 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**

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