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WEST, CHARLES

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CHARLES I. WEST PAPERS

Collection 133-1 to 133-4

Prepared by
Wilda Logan Willis
July 1983

Scope Note

Dr. Charles I. West served as a professor of anatomy of Howard University Medical School from 1907 to 1933. The Charles I. West Papers, spanning 1/2 linear foot, were donated by his niece, Mrs. Marea Ogle, in 1973, and in 1975, Mrs. Ogle donated Dr. West's Howard University medical degree. The time period of the papers is from the 1880s to the 1920s.

Dr. West's papers include an important photographic scrapbook. The first section deals with his travels around the world with the U.S. Navy (1887-1891). Photographs of his ship, the USS Enterprise, along with photographs of historic landmarks during the four year around-the-world tour are included. Dr. West's humor is revealed in the holographic and typescript notes describing some of the scenic photographs. The second half of the scrapbook is a pictorial history of the early Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University Medical School. Starting with Dr. West's Freedmen's Hospital internship in 1895-1896, the photographs document the early hospital staff and facilities. There is also a group of anatomy class photographs. Most of these photographs include Dr. West, as instructor, with medical students dissecting a cadaver.

Many of the anatomy class photographs are identified by each individual student's name and class year. Of special note are several photographs of the Howard University Medical School faculty. Dr. Daniel Smith Lamb, author of Howard University Medical Department, 1900 is in several photographs. One large framed photograph, taken in 1926, includes Dr. West, Dr. Lamb, Dr. William A. Warfield, and Dr. Edward Davis Williston. Other items in the collection include a scrapbook of newsclippings, single clippings, and some printed material.

Biographical Data

Charles I. West

- 1868 October 23 Born in Washington, D.C. to John and Elizabeth Simms West.
- 1874-1886 Educated in the public school system of Washington, D.C.
- 1887-1891 Served in the United States Navy.
- 1892-1895 Attended and graduated from the Howard University Medical School.
- 1895-1896 Interned at Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D.C.
- 1896 Appointed Assistant in Anatomy at Howard University Medical School.
- 1896-1902 Appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy Howard University Medical School.
- 1898-1907 Appointed Lecturer on Topographic Anatomy, Howard University Medical School.
- 1902 June Married Rebekah Baldwin. The union produced four children.
- 1902-1904 Appointed the first Assistant Surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D.C.
- 1907 Appointed Professor of Anatomy.
- 1933 Retired from Howard University as Professor Emeritus of Topographical and Clinical Anatomy.
- 1935 Died in Washington, D.C. Dr. West was buried in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Series Description

Series A Personal Papers

Box 133-1 An excellent biographical sketch and vita are included in the first folder. Dr. West's license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia and an article by West complete this series.

Series B Printed Material

Box 133-1 This series include newspaper clippings, printed speeches, and a copy of Alpha Phi Alpha journal, The Sphinx. A xerox of the newsclippings is provided in this series. The original items are fragile, and isolated in Series D.

Series C Photographs

Box 133-1 This series include individual photographs of Dr. West; his mother Elizabeth West, and his children. Removed from Dr. West's scrapbook are photographs and prints covering his travels around the world from 1887 to 1891. Notes written by West on his travels are located at the beginning of this group of pictures. Arranged in alphabetical order by country, the photographs depict scenes where West traveled. The second half of the scrapbook photos deal with Dr. West's internship at Freedmen's Hospital and his teaching career at Howard University Medical School. The photographs depict the early hospital staff and facilities. A number of anatomy class photographs have individual student's names on the back.

Series D Oversize Items

Items 133-2 to 133-4 There is a framed photograph of distinguish Howard University Medical School staff that was taken in 1926 and includes Dr. West, Dr. Warfield, Dr. Lamb and Dr. Williston. The second item is Dr. West's medical degree from Howard University, 1896. Also included are the original newsclippings and scrapbook, noted in Series B. The scrapbook and newsclippings are fragile and do not circulate.

Container List

Series A Personal Papers

Box	Folder
133-1	1 Biographical sketch and vita - 1909
	2 License to practice medicine - 1897
	3 Article - "Re-Placement in Adjusted Colles Deformity" - 1910

Series B Printed Material

- 4 Address of the President of the U.S. - 1921
- 5 Jacobi, Abraham - "Medical Science on The Side of Alcohol" - 1917
- 6 The Sphinx, 1937
- 7 Clippings, 1904 and 1905 (xerox)
- 8 Clippings 1909 and 1911 (xerox)
- 9 Clippings 1916 and 1921 (xerox)
- 10 Clippings N.D.
- 11 Scrapbook of Clippings 1898-1917 (xerox)

Series C Photographs

- 12 Charles I. West
- 13 Elizabeth West (mother of C. West)
- 14 John & Charlotte West
- 15 M. Elizabeth West
- 16 Dr. Henry Furniss and Haiti
- 17 Unidentified
- 18 Holographic note on Trip Around the World (1887-1891)
- 19 Typescript notes on Trip Around the World (1887-1891)
- 20 USS Enterprise
- 21 USS Dispatch
- 22 Arabia
- 23 Azore Islands
- 24 East India
- 25 England
- 26 Finland
- 27 France

Container List

Series C Photographs continued

Box	Folder
133-1	28 Italy
	29 Morocco
	30 Suez Canal
	31 Zanzibar
	32 Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University Medical School
	33 Filifiner Execution 1900

Series D Oversized Items

Item 133-2	Framed Photograph (See Box 133-1) H.U. Medical Staff M.D.'s - 1926
Item 133-3	Medical Degree from Howard University 1896
Item 133-4	Scrapbook of clippings 1898-1917 (original - Fragile Do Not Circulate)

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to 133-4

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- 25 England
- 26 Finland
- 27 France
- 28 Italy

 - 7 -

C Photographs (con't)

Box	Folder
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	30 Suez Canal
	31 Zanzibar
	32 Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University Medical School
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