WILKINSON, Robert

MSRC Staff
Scope Note

The papers of Robert Shaw Wilkinson (1865-1932), educator and president of the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina (now South Carolina State University), document his career as an original faculty member and as president from 1911 until his death in 1932. As president, also, of the Association of Land Grant Colleges for Negroes, Dr. Wilkinson continually assessed the condition of these segregated schools and addressed the disparities between colored and white teachers’ salaries, and between the colored and white facilities, equipment and buildings. Under his leadership, the South Carolina school experienced enormous growth in its physical facilities as well as in its academic and extra-curricular offerings.

The collection was donated in 1979 by Dr. Wilkinson's son, Robert S. Wilkinson, M.D., and consists of 1½ linear feet.

The bulk of the collection consists of a bound scrapbook (928 pages along with a detailed table of contents) compiled by Mabel C. James, Dr. Wilkinson's secretary from 1917 - 1930. The volume dates from 1925 (?) - 1932. Included are general statements about Dr. Wilkinson's life and work, reports, correspondence, news clippings, lectures, printed programs, articles, addresses, and information on the state of Negro education. There is also material related to his service as District Deputy Grand Master of the Second Mason District Free and Accepted Masons.
Biographical Sketch

Robert Shaw Wilkinson
(1865-1932)

1865 February 18 Born in Charleston, S.C., to Charles and Lavinia A. Wilkinson

n.d. Attended Avery Institute in Charleston, S.C.

1884-1885 Attended West Point Military Academy, N.Y.

1891 Earned A.B. degree, Oberlin College, Ohio
Appointed Professor of Latin and Greek, State University of Kentucky

1896 Appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina, Orangeburg, S.C.

1897 Married Marion Raven Birnie. Children born to this union: Helen Raven, Robert Shaw, Jr., Frost Birnie, and Lula Love Wilkinson.

1900 Named Professor of Chemistry, Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina, Orangeburg, S.C.

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Appointed Professor of Physics and Chemistry at the same institution

1911-1932 Named President of the Colored, Normal, Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina

1932 March 13 Died at age 67.

Source: Papers of Robert Shaw Wilkinson, Box 205-1 MSRC, Howard University
## Series Description

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<td>Papers include the memorial service program for Dr. Wilkinson, writings and photographs.</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
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<td>This scrapbook contains articles, news clippings, and writings by Dr. Wilkinson.</td>
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## Container List

**Series A Personal Papers**

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1. Memorial service program for Dr. Wilkinson, May 22, 1932
   - Certificate of Membership, Pi Gamma Mu (National Social Science Honor Society), 1927
   - Note from W.L. Moseley to Dr. Wilkinson, 1926
   - White House invitation to attend conference on Child Health and Protection, 1930

2. Photographs of Dr. Wilkinson

3. Writings by Dr. Wilkinson
   - Baccalaureate Address delivered to the graduating classes of State College, 1927
   - Thanksgiving Address, 1931
   - “Suggestions for a Study of Superstitions,” n.d.
   - Suggestive Questions in Ethics, n.d.
   - Presentation of Doctor of Letters to John Warren Davis, West Virginia State College President, n.d.
   - Notes for a talk/class roll, n.d.

4. Printed Material
   - The Collegian, college newspaper, May 1929
   - State College-Claflin College Joint Thanksgiving Service program, 1931
   - State College Commencement Exercises, 1932

**Series B Scrapbook (bound)**

(See attached index)

**Series C Oversize**

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Source: Papers of Robert Shaw Wilkinson, Box 205-1

MSRC, Howard University

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Series A Personal Papers

Box 205-1 Papers include the memorial service program for Dr. Wilkinson, writings and photographs.

Series B Scrapbook

This scrapbook contains articles, news clippings, and writings by Dr. Wilkinson.

Series C Oversize

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