



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Godfrey Nurse papers

1932-1937

Sc MG 350

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Nurse, Godfrey, 1888-1967

Title: Godfrey Nurse papers

Date: 1932-1937

Size: 0.27 linear feet (1 reel, 1 box)

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: The Godfrey Nurse Papers pertain to his political career as a member of the Electoral College in 1932 and 1936. The collection consists of correspondence, programs, invitations, speeches, newsclippings, a broadside and a medal. The collection does not contain any material regarding Dr. Nurse's medical career. Material originally was mounted in scrapbooks.

Conditions Governing Access:

Researchers restricted to microfilm.

Preferred citation: [Item], Godfrey Nurse papers, Sc MG 350, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Godfrey Nurse, a surgeon who practiced in Harlem for over fifty years, was instrumental in the establishment and support of two hospitals in the late 1920s, the Edgecombe Sanatorium and the International Hospital, which provided facilities for black physicians and surgeons when all other New York hospitals were barred to them. Born in Guyana, Nurse received the M.D. degree in 1914 from the Long Island College of Medicine. In the 1920s he established the Godfrey Nurse Research Laboratory, which was the first clinical laboratory operated by a black person to be certified by the Health Department. As head of the Manhattan Medical Society, composed of black physicians, Nurse was a leader in the successful efforts for the admission of black doctors to Harlem Hospital. In 1956 he

donated \$100,000 to that hospital for equipment and operation of a laboratory for surgical investigation.

Active in the Democratic Party, Nurse was the first black elector in the Democratic Party and the first black presidential elector from New York State. As a delegate to the first State Democratic Convention, with Commissioner Thomas E. Dyett, he secured the first endorsement in the state platform of the Wagner-Costigan Anti-Lynching Bill.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American physicians -- Political activity

Names

Nurse, Godfrey, 1888-1967
Democratic Party (N.Y.)
Electoral college

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 r. 1 Medal
- b. 1 f. 2 r. 1 Cards - F. D. Roosevelt and James Garner
Electoral College
- b. 1 f. 3 r. 1 Certificate of Election 1933-1936
Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 4 r. 1 1932-1934
- b. 1 f. 5 r. 1 1936-1937
- b. 1 f. 6 r. 1 Outgoing 1932-1937
- b. 1 f. 7 r. 1 Letters of Congratulations 1932-1934
- b. 1 f. 8 r. 1 Speeches
- b. 1 f. 9 r. 1 Invitations 1933-1937
- b. 1 f. 10 r. 1 Programs 1933-1937
- b. 1 f. 11 r. 1 Broadside 1934
- b. 1 f. 12 r. 1 Clippings 1932-1937