



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

Guide to the

Luther Hooey collection

1941-1976

Sc MG 545

Summary

Creator: Hooey, Luther, 1913-1969

Title: Luther Hooey collection

Date: 1941-1976

Size: 0.03 linear feet (3 folders)

Source: Gift of Alex R. Bagwell, Jr., June 2004.06/14/2004

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Luther M. B. Hooey began working as a fire fighter for the New York City Fire Department (NYCFD) in 1942. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1954, and captain in 1962. When the Fire Prevention Unit was established in 1956, Hooey, one of 35 Blacks in the department, was one of the two officers appointed. Working mainly with audio-visual aids, Hooey addressed thousands of New Yorkers yearly in every borough, wrote his own scripts for radio and television appearances, and prepared various Fire Department pamphlets and brochures. In the 1950s, Hooey served as president of the Vulcan Society, a fraternal organization of Black fire fighters employed by the NYCFD. While president of the society, Hooey conceived the idea of forming a study group within the society for the promotion to lieutenant. He received six decorations of valor. The Luther Hooey collection consists primarily of letters of appreciation and commendation written by schools, hotels, and social and other organizations to which Hooey had given presentations concerning fire safety. A 1941 letter from Walter White congratulates Hooey on his high score for appointment to the NYCFD, and letters to and from fire commissioners Robert O. Lowery, Edward F. Cavanagh, Jr., and other officers commend Hooey's professionalism. A letter from Thurgood Marshall presents a monetary gift to the Vulcan Society from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1956). There are also two certificates presented by Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., as well as two papers Hooey wrote about chief Wesley Williams of the NYCFD and the dangers involved in using kerosene oil heaters. Several news articles feature stories about Hooey, and two Vulcan Society programs for memorial services list Hooey (1975-1976).

Preferred citation: [Item], Luther Hooey collection, Sc MG 545, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Related Materials:

Also found in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

Vulcan Society collection, Sc MG 467

Wesley Williams papers, Sc MG 379

Creator History

Luther M. B. Hooey began working as a fire fighter for the New York City Fire Department (NYCFD) in 1942. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1954, and captain in 1962. When the Fire Prevention Unit was established in 1956, Hooey, one of 35 Blacks in the department, was one of the two officers appointed. Working mainly with audio-visual aids, Hooey addressed thousands of New Yorkers yearly in every borough, wrote his own scripts for radio and television appearances, and prepared various Fire Department pamphlets and brochures. In the 1950s, Hooey served as president of the Vulcan Society, a fraternal organization of Black fire fighters employed by the NYCFD. While president of the society, Hooey conceived the idea of forming a study group within the society for the promotion to lieutenant. He received six decorations of valor.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American fire fighters -- New York (State) -- New York
African American fraternal organizations
Authors, Black
Fire departments -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Hooey, Luther, 1913-1969
Lowery, Robert O. (Robert Oliver), 1916-

Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993
Williams, Wesley A., 1896-1984
New York (N.Y.). Fire Department. Vulcan Society