Summary

Creator: Nurse, Godfrey, 1888-1967
Title: Godfrey Nurse papers
Date: 1932-1937
Size: .2 linear feet; 1 microfilm reel

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, newscuttings, a broadside and a medal. The collection does not contain any material regarding Dr. Nurse's medical career. Material originally was mounted in scrapbooks.

Access: Advance notice required.

Physical Location: Sc Micro R-4843

Conditions Governing Access: Researchers restricted to microfilm.

Alternative Form Available: Microfilmed; New York Public Library; call number, Sc Micro R-4843

Preferred citation: Godfrey Nurse papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

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 1920's, the Edgecombe Sanitorium 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 1920's 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

**Titles**
Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

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