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WILLIAM PICKENS PAPERS

**The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research
in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Blvd.
New York, New York 10037**

PREFACE

This inventory is one of several prepared as a part of the archival preservation program at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a research division of The New York Public Library.

The Schomburg Centers's archival preservation program involves the organization and preservation of primary source material held by the Center and of significance to the study of the black experience. It, furthermore, included the preparation of detailed inventories of these records, making the information contained therein accessible as well as available to scholars.

The necessary staff and supplies for this program were made available through a combination of Library, National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and State of New York grant funds.

INTRODUCTION

The papers of William Pickens were donated to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library in 1966 by his daughters, Miss Harriet Pickens and Mrs. Ruby Pickens Holbrook with the hope that in this way his ideas and philosophies might be preserved for posterity and made readily available to students, scholars, and anyone interested in black America's continuing struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. Single photocopies of unpublished materials may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

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WILLIAM PICKENS (1881-1954). PAPERS, 1911-1954.
12 boxes (5.9 lin. ft). Available on 6 microfilm reels.

Chronology

| | |
|------------------|---|
| January 15, 1881 | Born in Anderson County, South Carolina |
| 1902 | Received B.A. degree from Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama |
| 1904 | Received B.A. degree with honors from Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut |
| 1904-1909 | Instructor of Latin and German at Talladega College |
| 1906 | Received diploma from British Esperanto Association |
| 1908 | Received M.A. degree from Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee |
| 1909-1914 | Professor of Greek, Latin and German at Wiley College, Marshall, Texas |
| 1914-1915 | Professor of Greek and Sociology at Wiley College |
| 1915 | Received Litt.D. degree from Selma University, Selma, Alabama |
| 1915-1920 | Dean of Morgan College, Baltimore, Maryland |
| 1920 | Received L.L.D. degree from Wiley College |
| 1920-1942 | Field Secretary and Director of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People |
| 1937-1938 | Forum Leader of the Federal Forum Projects of the United States, Department of Interior |
| 1940 | Member of the Selective Service System Appeals Board of New York City, Local Board #5 |
| 1941-1952 | Director and Chief of the Interracial Section of the Savings Bond Division, United States Treasury Department |

1952

Took extended Mediterranean trip

April 6, 1954

Died aboard the S.S. Mauretania off
Kingston, Jamaica, British West
Indies

See biographical sketch in William Pickens Papers (Additions)
also in the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division.

Scope and Content

The William Pickens Papers is a collection of personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, editorials, and financial and medical records of William Pickens, Field Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1920-1942. The papers are divided into four series that correspond to William Pickens' own arrangement of his papers.

The first series, **CORRESPONDENCE** is subdivided chronologically and topically into five parts. The first subseries, General Correspondence, 1911-1954, is further subdivided into six chronological units, alphabetically arranged. The second subseries Lecture Correspondence, 1918-1923, contains letters relating to a series of lectures Pickens delivered in various cities across the country while serving as Dean of Morgan College, Baltimore, Maryland. These letters are arranged alphabetically by location. The third series, Selective Service Correspondents, 1937-1941, contains materials relevant to his activities as a member of the Appeals Board of Draft Board #5 in New York City. The fourth subseries, U.S. Treasury Correspondence, 1942-1951, contains material relevant to his activities as Director of the Interracial Section of the Savings Bond Division of the Treasury Department. The final subseries, Personal Family Correspondence 1946-1951, includes correspondence between William Pickens and his family.

EDITORIALS BY WILLIAM PICKENS, 1922-1953, the second series of the Pickens Papers, includes essays, editorials, manuscripts, news releases, clippings, and some letters relating to editorials. The series is subdivided chronologically with Pickens' writings on his 1952 Mediterranean trip filed at the end. Within each unit the material is arranged alphabetically according to person or subject.

The series, **FINANCIAL RECORDS**, 1905-1953, includes four subseries. The first two, General Receipts, 1905-1949 and General Receipts, 1920-1933, comprise such records as insurance policies, banking and property taxes, water and rent receipts. The bulk of the material covers the period up to the 1930's. Later material includes New York City tax receipts, and water bills, 1928-1949. The latter two subseries, Income Tax Matters, 1946-1953 and Tax and Financial Records, 1950-1954, contain material relating to income and real estate taxes, leases, property upkeep finances, and social security records. The last group includes a number of photocopies of unsorted financial records which were filed as received.

The final series, **MORGAN COLLEGE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN**, 1918-1919, is comprised of letters, programs and leaflets,

pertaining to a fund raising drive while Pickens served as Dean of Morgan College.

Provenance

Gift of the Pickens Family

Processed: August, 1968

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | CORRESPONDENCE |
| | | | General Correspondence, 1911-1931 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | A |
| | 2 | | B (2 folders) |
| | 3 | | C |
| | 4 | | D |
| | 5 | | F |
| | 6 | | G |
| | 7 | | H,I,J |
| | 8 | | L,M,N,O,P (2 folders) |
| | 9 | | P |
| | 10 | | R,S |
| | 11 | | S |
| | 12 | | T |
| | 13 | | W |
| | 14 | | X (X-rays) |
| | | | 1931-1935 |
| 2 | 15 | | A |
| | 16 | | B |
| | 17 | | C |
| | 18 | | D |
| | 19 | | E |
| | 20 | | G |
| | 21 | | H,I,J |
| | 22 | | K,L |
| | 23 | | M |
| | 24 | | N |
| | 25 | | P |
| | 26 | | R |
| | 27 | | S |
| | 28 | | T |
| | 29 | | W |
| | | | 1935-1938 |
| | 30 | | A |
| | 31 | | B |
| | 32 | | C |
| | 33 | | D |
| | 34 | | E,F |
| | 35 | | G |
| | 36 | | H,I,J |
| | 37 | | K,L |
| | 38 | | M |
| | 39 | | N,O |
| | 40 | | P |
| | 41 | | R |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2 | 42 | 1 | S |
| | 43 | | T |
| | 44 | | W |
| 3 | 45 | 2 | 1937-1941 |
| | 46 | | A |
| | 47 | | B |
| | 48 | | C |
| | 49 | | D |
| | 50 | | E, F |
| | 51 | | G |
| | 52 | | H, I |
| | 53 | | L |
| | 54 | | M |
| | 55 | | N, O |
| | 56 | | P |
| | 57 | | R |
| | 58 | | S |
| | 59 | | T, U, V |
| | 60 | | W |
| | | | X, Y, Z (X-rays, etc) |
| | | | 1946-1951 |
| | 61 | | A |
| | 62 | | B |
| | 63 | | C |
| | 64 | | D |
| | 65 | | E, F |
| | 66 | | G |
| | 67 | | H, I, J |
| | 68 | | K, L |
| 4 | 69 | | M |
| | 70 | | N, O |
| | 71 | | P |
| | 72 | | R |
| | 73 | | S |
| | 74 | | T, U, V |
| | 75 | | W |
| | 76 | | Y |
| | | | 1952-1954 |
| | 77 | | A |
| | 78 | | B |
| | 79 | | C |
| | 80 | | D |
| | 81 | | E, F |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | | | |
|------------|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | 82 | 2 | H,I,J | | |
| | 83 | | K,L | | |
| | 84 | | M | | |
| | 85 | | N,O | | |
| | 86 | | P | | |
| | 87 | | Photographs and Clippings | | |
| | 88 | | R | | |
| | 89 | | S | | |
| | 90 | | T,U,V (Including Income Tax Returns for 1949 through 1954) | | |
| | 91 | | W | | |
| | 92 | | Y,Z | | |
| | 5 | | 93 | 3 | Lecture Correspondence, 1918-1920 |
| | | | 94 | | A |
| 95 | | B | | | |
| 96 | | C | | | |
| 97 | | D | | | |
| 98 | | F | | | |
| 99 | | G | | | |
| 100 | | H,I,J | | | |
| 101 | | L | | | |
| 102 | | M | | | |
| 103 | | N,O | | | |
| 104 | | P | | | |
| 105 | | R | | | |
| 106 | | S | | | |
| 107 | | T,U,V | | | |
| 108 | | W | | | |
| | | Y | | | |
| | | Selective Service Correspondence, 1937-1941 | | | |
| 109 | | A | | | |
| 110 | | B | | | |
| 111 | C | | | | |
| 112 | F | | | | |
| 113 | Five County Federal Forum Project, 1938-41 | | | | |
| 114 | G | | | | |
| 115 | H | | | | |
| 116 | K,L | | | | |
| 117 | M | | | | |
| 118 | N,O | | | | |
| 119 | P,Q | | | | |
| 120 | R | | | | |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|---|--|
| 5 | 121 | 3 | S | |
| | 122 | | T,U,V | |
| | 123 | | W | |
| | | | U.S. Treasury Correspondence, 1942-1951 | |
| 6 | 124 | | A | |
| | 125 | | C (2 folders) | |
| | 126 | | E,F | |
| | 127 | | G | |
| | 128 | | H,I,J | |
| | 129 | | K,L | |
| | 130 | | M | |
| | 131 | | N | |
| | 132 | | R | |
| | 133 | | S | |
| | 134 | | T,U,V | |
| | 135 | | W | |
| | | | | Personal Family Correspondence, 1946-1954 |
| | | 136 | | A |
| | | 137 | | B |
| | 138 | | C | |
| | 139 | | E | |
| | 140 | | H,I,J | |
| | 141 | | M | |
| | 142 | | N,O | |
| | 143 | | P | |
| | 144 | | R | |
| | 145 | | S | |
| | 146 | | W | |
| | | | EDITORIALS BY WILLIAM PICKENS, Editorials, 1922-1923, n.d. | |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | A | |
| | 2 | | B | |
| | 3 | | C | |
| | 4 | | D | |
| | 5 | | F | |
| | 6 | | G | |
| | 7 | | H | |
| | 8 | | K,L | |
| | 9 | | M | |
| | 10 | | N,O | |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 7 | 11 | 4 | P,Q | |
| | 12 | | R | |
| | 13 | | S | |
| | 14 | | T,U,V | |
| | 15 | | W,X,Y,Z | |
| | | | Editorials, 1923-1928, n.d. | |
| | 16 | | A | |
| | 17 | | B | |
| | 18 | | C | |
| | 19 | | D | |
| | 20 | | E,F | |
| | 21 | | Garvey, Marcus | |
| | 22 | | H,I,J | |
| | 23 | | Ku Klux Klan | |
| | 24 | | L | |
| | 25 | | Lynching | |
| | 26 | | M | |
| | 27 | | N,O | |
| | 28 | | P | |
| | 29 | | R,S | |
| | 30 | | T-Z | |
| | | | Editorials, 1929-1932, n.d. | |
| | 8 | | 31 | A |
| | | | 32 | C |
| | | | 33 | D |
| | | | 34 | E,F |
| | | | 35 | H,I,J |
| | | | 36 | L |
| | | | 38 | M |
| | | | 39 | R |
| | | Scottsboro Case, 1931 | | |
| | | Editorials, 1932-1937, n.d. | | |
| 40 | | A | | |
| 41 | | B | | |
| 42 | | C | | |
| 43 | | D | | |
| 44 | | E | | |
| 45 | | F | | |
| 46 | | G | | |
| 47 | | H | | |
| 48 | | I | | |
| 49 | J | | | |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| 8 | 50 | 4 | L | | |
| | 51 | | M | | |
| | 52 | | N (4 folders) | | |
| | 53 | | P | | |
| 9 | 54 | 5 | R | | |
| | 55 | | S | | |
| | 56 | | T | | |
| | 57 | | U | | |
| | 58 | | W | | |
| | 59 | | Y, Z | | |
| | | | Editorials, 1950-1953, n.d. | | |
| | 60 | | A | | |
| | 61 | | B | | |
| | 62 | | C | | |
| | 63 | | D | | |
| | 64 | | E, F | | |
| | 65 | | H, I, J | | |
| | 66 | | K, L | | |
| | 67 | | M | | |
| | 68 | | N, O | | |
| | 69 | | P, Q | | |
| | 70 | | R | | |
| | 71 | | S | | |
| | 72 | | T, U, V | | |
| | 73 | | W | | |
| | 74 | | Manuscripts of Mediterranean Trip, 1952 (7 folders) | | |
| | | | | FINANCIAL RECORDS | |
| | | | | General Receipts, 1905-1949 | |
| 10 | 1 | | Index | | |
| | 2 | | A | | |
| | 3 | | B | | |
| | 4 | | E, F | | |
| | 5 | | G | | |
| | 6 | | K, L | | |
| | 7 | | N, O | | |
| | 8 | | P, Q, R | | |
| | 9 | | T | | |
| | 10 | | W | | |
| | | | General Receipts, 1920-1933 | | |
| | 11 | | A | | |
| | 12 | | B | | |
| | 13 | | C | | |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10 | 14 | 5 | D |
| | 15 | | E, F |
| | 16 | | G |
| | 17 | | H, I, J (including Income Tax forms) |
| | 18 | | K, L |
| | 19 | | M |
| | 20 | | N, O |
| | 21 | | P, Q |
| | 22 | | R |
| | 23 | | S |
| | 24 | | T, U, V |
| | 25 | | W |
| | 26 | | Y, Z |
| 11 | 27 | 6 | Income Tax Returns, 1946-1953 |
| | 28 | | Income Tax Figures and Records |
| | 29 | | A |
| | 30 | | B |
| | 31 | | C |
| | 32 | | D |
| | 33 | | E, F |
| | 34 | | G |
| | 35 | | H, I, J |
| | 36 | | K, L |
| | 37 | | M |
| | 38 | | N, O |
| | 39 | | P, Q |
| | 40 | | R |
| | 41 | | S |
| | 42 | | T, U, V |
| | 43 | | W |
| | 44 | | Y, Z |
| | 45 | | Tax and Financial Records, 1950-1954 |
| | 46 | | A |
| | 47 | | B |
| | 48 | | C |
| 49 | E, F | | |
| 50 | G | | |
| 51 | H, I, J | | |
| 52 | K, L (Leases) | | |
| 53 | P, Q | | |
| 54 | R (Real Estate Matters) | | |
| 55 | S | | |
| | T, U, V | | |
| | W | | |

Container List

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Reel</u> | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| 11 | 56 | 6 | Unassorted Financial Papers, ca. 1940-51 |
| | 57 | | Taxes-Water, Rent, Tax records, 1950 |
| | | | MORGAN COLLEGE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN, 1918-1919 |
| 12 | 1 | | A |
| | 2 | | C |
| | 3 | | D |
| | 4 | | E, F |
| | 5 | | H |
| | 6 | | L |
| | 7 | | M |
| | 8 | | N |
| | 9 | | P |
| | 10 | | S |
| | 11 | | T, U, V |
| | 12 | | W |
| | 13 | | Y |