



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

Guide to the

Shivery family papers

1865-1975

Sc MG 257

Summary

Creator: Shivery family

Title: Shivery family papers

Date: 1865-1975

Size: 3.46 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: Gift of Veoria Shivery, June 1986.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: The Shiverys, Smiths and Blazes were three branches of a southern African-American family. The Shivery Family papers document the life, history and relationships of the three families in the South, from the Reconstruction to the present.

Preferred citation: [Item], Shivery family papers, Sc MG 257, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Two individual accessions consolidated into one collection; accessioned by Andre Elizee, July 1986-1987.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: etchings.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

The Shiverys, Smiths, and Blazes were three branches of a southern African American family. Five generations of intra-family relationships are well documented in this collection. Charles and Emanuel Smith, from Apalachicola, Florida, were born during slavery. During the Reconstruction, they were

respectively appointed postmaster and school instructor in the County of Franklin, Florida. Also born during slavery and trained as cooks since their childhood, the children of Charles Smith moved to Savannah after the Civil War, where they worked as seamen. Charles Smith, Jr. eventually became a ship steward on a coastal steamship line between Savannah and New York. Married to Josephine Blaze, he had three daughters: Melinda, Emily, and Lula. He died in 1914. Madeline Shivery (1877-1974) described her grandfather, George Richard Shivery, as a former slave who settled with his family in Gainesville, Florida, at the close of the war. He was both a minister and a prosperous merchant tailor. At the time of his death in 1891 or 1892, he had built a large house for his family, a church, a hotel, and owned substantial amounts of land. Two of George Richard Shivery's sons, Cornelius and Alexander, had moved to Savannah and married two of the Blaze sisters, Melinda and Janet, respectively. The children of Cornelius Shivery were Madeline and George Smith (1880-1934). Madeline and her three cousins, Melinda, Lula, and Emily, grew up in Savannah and lived together in the same house for 70 years. They were dedicated school teachers and attended several universities, both in the South and the North. George Shivery graduated from the Meharry School of Dentistry in 1909. His son, George Shivery, Jr., a social worker and a painter, moved to New York, where he married Veoria Warmasley.

Scope and Content Note

The Shivery Family papers document the life, history and relationships of the Smith, Shivery, and Blaze families in the South, from the Reconstruction to the present. The collection is divided into two family groups, the Smiths and the Shiverys. This collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, legal and financial documents, educational and professional papers, minutes of religious and civic organizations in Savannah, Georgia, and scrapbooks. Correspondence includes letters from W. E. B. Du Bois to members of the Shivery family and the love letters of Melinda Smith. Letters between family members, particularly the women in the Smith and Shivery families, chronicle African American middle class life.

Arrangement: Arranged into four series: I. Smith family; II. Shivery family; III. Scrapbooks and printed matter; and IV. Additions.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American families
African American women
African Americans -- Social life and customs
African Americans -- Societies, etc
Genealogy
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Geographic Names

Southern States -- History -- 1865-1877

Names

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963
Shivery family
Smith family

Container List

- Smith family 1869-1975
 - b. 1 f. 1 Smith, Emanuel 1869-1883
 - Smith, Charles
 - b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1876-1913
 - b. 1 f. 3 Financial and memorabilia
 - b. 1 f. 4 Smith, Josephine Blaze 1876-1913
 - b. 1 f. 5 Smith, Anthony 1910-1912
 - b. 1 f. 6 Smith, Van 1882
 - b. 1 f. 7 Smith, Lucy 1876-1910
 - Smith, Melinda
 - b. 1 f. 8 Personal
 - b. 1 f. 9 Correspondence 1889-1975
 - b. 1 f. 10 Educational and professional
 - b. 1 f. 11 Financial
 - b. 1 f. 12 Writing
 - b. 1 f. 13 Sewing books
 - Smith, Lula
 - b. 1 f. 14 Personal
 - b. 1 f. 15 Correspondence
 - b. 1 f. 16 Financial and Mary Hunter letters 1912-1952
 - b. 1 f. 17 Educational and professional
 - b. 1 f. 18 Writing
 - Smith, Emily
 - b. 1 f. 19 Correspondence 1909-1974
 - b. 1 f. 20 Educational and professional
 - b. 1 f. 21 Smith, Romeo 1932-1934
- Shivery family 1865-1973
 - b. 1 f. 22 Shivery, Isabelle 1865
 - b. 1 f. 23 Shivery, Cornelius 1875
 - b. 1 f. 24 Shivery, Janet Blaze 1876
 - b. 1 f. 25 Shivery, George Richard 1880-1934
 - Shivery, Madeline
 - b. 1 f. 26 Biographical
 - Correspondence
 - b. 1 f. 27 Sent 1938-1973
 - b. 2 f. 1 Received 1899-1973
 - b. 2 f. 2 Legal
 - b. 2 f. 3 Writing and speeches
 - b. 2 f. 4 Clippings and printed matter

Shivery family (cont.)

Shivery, Madeline (cont.)

Notebooks

- b. 2 f. 5 Atlanta University Club 1920-1926
- b. 2 f. 6 Congressional Aid minutes 1945-1952
- b. 2 f. 7 English grammar
- b. 2 f. 8 Rachel Moore Sunshine Workers 1944-1953
- b. 2 f. 9 St. Cecilia Musical Club minutes 1910
- b. 2 f. 10 Savannah State College Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
- b. 2 f. 11 Teachers' Culture Club minutes 1913-1921

Shivery, George, Jr

- b. 2 f. 12 Correspondence 1930-1971
- b. 2 f. 13 Professional
- b. 2 f. 14 Shivery estates, legal settlement
- b. 2 f. 15 Notebook
- b. 2 f. 16 Smith, Veoria
- b. 2 f. 17 Speed, Willie
- b. 2 f. 18 Woodward, Alfred 1874
Paternal ancestor of Veoria Warmesley Shivery.

Du Bois, W. E. B

- b. 2 f. 19-20 Letters and memoranda to Mrs. Louis Shivery 1933-1943
- b. 2 f. 21 Letters to Dimples Shivery 1933-1939
- b. 2 f. 22 Letters to George Shivery 1940-1950

Scrapbooks and printed matter

- b. 2 f. 23 Warmesley, W. A 1880-1951
- b. 2 f. 24-25 Shivery, Madeline
- b. 2 f. 26 Clippings
- b. 2 f. 27 General printed matter
- b. 2 f. 28 Miscellaneous

Additions 1905-1962

Shivery, George

- b. 1 additions f. 1 Correspondence 1929-1962
- b. 1 additions f. 2 Personal 1930s
Includes rent receipts and work and trade-union membership identification cards.

- b. 1 additions f. 3 Shivery, Madeline 1960s
Includes miscellaneous personal and professional papers.

Warsmley, W. A

- b. 1 additions f. 4 Miscellaneous family papers 1905-1936
- b. 4 additions-5
additions W. A. Warsmley Tie Company ledgers 1943-1947

- b. 1 additions f. 5 Miscellaneous

- b. 1 additions f. 6 Shivery, Louie Delphia 1929
Includes bound typescript of thesis, "The History of Organized Social Work Among Negroes, 1890-1935: A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of University in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of Master of Arts" for the Department of Sociology, Atlanta University, Georgia.

Additions (cont.)

- b. 2 additions Warmsey, Veoria (Shivery) 1929
 Includes 3 college notebooks from Atlanta University.
- b. 3 additions Copies of Du Bois correspondence