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THEOPHILUS GOULD STEWARD
PAPERS

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STEWARD, THEOPHILUS GOULD. PAPERS. 1861-1924
6 boxes. Also available on 4 reels of microfilm.

Biography

Theophilus Gould Steward was born in 1843 in Gouldtown, a community of free blacks in Cumberland County, New Jersey that dates to pre-Revolutionary War days. The town was named after one of Steward's ancestors. Steward became an African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church minister in 1861, and served congregations in Macon, Georgia; South Carolina; Brooklyn, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware; and Washington, D.C. His work in Georgia, which began following the Civil War, included organizing the first black school in Marion, serving a Macon congregation from 1867-1871, assisting in the writing of the Georgia Republican platform in 1868, and leading a successful protest by Americus freedmen against compulsory labor contracts. In 1873 he undertook a missionary journey to Haiti where he established a church in Port-au-Prince.

At the age of thirty-four, Steward began his formal education. He wrote, "I had never attended even a graded school" nor high school, nor previously sought a college education. Nevertheless, in 1877, he enrolled in the Protestant Episcopal Church's Divinity School in Philadelphia. In 1884 he nearly achieved election to the presidency of Wilberforce University, a traditionally black college established by the A.M.E. Church, where he had received the degree of Doctor of Divinity three years previously.

In 1891 Steward accepted a commission as a chaplain in the 25th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment, and initially was assigned to Fort Missoula, Montana. He served in Cuba in 1898, the Philippines in 1900, and Fort Niobrara, Nebraska in 1902 before he retiring in 1907 to become vice-president, chaplain, and professor of history, French, Spanish, logic, Biblical theology, and Christian sociology at Wilberforce University. While in the Philippines, he served as government superintendent of schools for the province of Luzon.

Steward also wrote several books and articles. His first book was Memoirs of Mrs. Rebecca Steward (1877). His next volume, Genesis Reread (1885) dealt with the then highly controversial issue of Darwinian theory and its relation to the Genesis version of creation. While serving as a military chaplain he wrote The Colored Regulars in the U.S. Army (1899, reprinted 1969), perhaps the best of several efforts to commemorate the heroic service of the black regulars during the Spanish-American War. Another book he wrote was The Haitian Revolution 1791 to 1804 or Sidelights on the French Revolution (1914). Steward also wrote a personal memoir, Fifty Years in the Gospel Ministry (1920), and a family history, with his brother William, Gouldtown, A Very Remarkable Settlement of Ancient Date (1913).

Steward had eight children by his first wife, Elizabeth Gadsden. Several of his sons achieved considerable professional success. Frank, a Harvard graduate and the author of several magazine articles, served as a captain of the 49th Infantry during the Philippine Insurrection. He later practiced law in Pittsburgh. Charles, also a Harvard graduate, was a Boston dentist. Theophilus B. taught English in the Kansas City, Missouri colored high school, and Gustavus was cashier for the Supreme Life and Casualty Company of Columbus, Ohio, after teaching in the Philippines and at Tuskegee Institute. Steward's second wife, Susan Maria (Smith) McKinney, was one of the earliest female medical college graduates.

For further information on Steward's life see: entry in Dictionary of American Negro Biography, Logan, Rayford W. and Michael R. Winston, ed., 1982 and "Theophilus G. Steward, Intellectual Chaplain, 25th US Colored Infantry" by William Seraile in Nebraska History, Fall 1985.

Scope and Content

The Theophilus G. Steward Papers date from 1861-1924. The papers provide information on his career as a clergyman, a chaplain in the U.S. military service, his teaching career at Wilberforce University, as well as his children's education, and consist of correspondence, writings, deeds, documents related to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and journals. The journals constitute the greatest body of material in terms of quantity of material and diversity of subject matter. They contain a variety of items including drafts of sermons, essays and speeches; accounting notes; lecture and course notes; and records of baptisms, marriages and deaths in the Philippines. Because of the format of the journals, they have been maintained together. Steward did not keep the journals in any chronological order, thus they have been arranged partially by series. Additionally, topics belonging to different series often appear in each journal, and the sequence of the journal entries may not follow logically. The major items in each journal have been listed in the container list; because of various complications and difficulties with identifying each of the many items in most journals, not every item has been listed. The majority of the papers are written in English; however, a few items such as some correspondence, sermons, a speech and a book are written in French and Spanish; one published book is written in the Philippine language of either Tagalo or Pampunga.

The collection is divided into seven series: Personal Papers; Writings; African Methodist Episcopal Church; Military Career; General Religious Writings, School Lectures and Children's School Lessons; and Wilberforce University.

Personal Papers (ca. 1879-1924) include letters to Steward from his sons, Frank, Charles, Theophilus Bolden, Gustavus, and his brother William. There is also a letter from John W. Cromwell pertaining to a book written by Steward. Included are deeds to property Steward owned in Ohio, New Jersey, and Brooklyn, New York. The following provides examples of the folders which belong to this series: Box 1, folders 1-7; and Box 2, folder 10.

The series Writings (1869-ca. 1920) include Steward's lectures, speeches and articles. Of interest are a journal entitled "The Life of T. G. Steward" and a description of a trip to Italy. His writings can be found in: Box 1, folders 8-11; Box 2, folders 8 and 10; Box 5, folder 2; and Box 6, folders 1 and 6.

The series African Methodist Episcopal Church (1867-1881) includes descriptions of the A.M.E. mission at Port-au-Prince in Haiti, which Steward helped to establish, and the text of an

address given before the president of Haiti while Steward served as a missionary. One journal refers to his missionary work in Macon, Georgia. There are also various account books. A.M.E. Church documents can be found in Box 1, folder 5; Box 2, folders 1, 2, 6, and 9; and Box 5, folder 7.

The series Military Career (1891-1901) consists of journals Steward maintained while in the Philippines recording baptisms, marriages and funerals he performed there and at Fort Missoula, Montana; writings regarding the establishment of a school in Luzon, Philippines, and a sermon written in Spanish. There is a book of biblical stories written in either of the Philippine languages of Tagalo or Pungpunga, and a book in Spanish, El Regimen Municipal en las Islas Filipinas. Additional records pertaining to Fort Missoula consist of an account book and a journal of his trip to Fort Missoula.

General Religious Writings (1872-1907) include biblical notes Steward made in preparation for sermons or for classes he taught or in which he was enrolled. There are various lists and descriptions of people he encountered in Philadelphia, and published texts of six sermons.

The series School Lectures and Children's School Lessons (1861-1913) consists of a variety of themes, written by Steward and his sons. There are essays on ancient Middle Eastern and European history, biblical stories, notes on a New Testament history lecture given by Dr. Hare of the West Philadelphia Divinity School, and grade books and school notes. Included are notes on history, math, bookkeeping, English grammar, logic and philosophy, in addition to test questions. There are also several students' papers. It is not always apparent exactly who maintained the journals; sometimes two people's handwriting appear in one journal.

Papers related to Steward's involvement in Wilberforce University (1881-1914) include essays, list of names of individuals associated with the church at Wilberforce but who were members of churches elsewhere, and a class record book.

Provenance

Donated by Mrs. Anna Bishop, daughter of Theophilus G. Steward, 1987.

SCM87-24

Janice Quinter

April 1990

Container List

Box Folder Reel

			PERSONAL PAPERS
1	1	1	Correspondence - General, 1883-1923
	2		Letters - William Steward to T. G. Steward, 1913-1924
	3		Letters - to T. G. Steward from his children, 1902-1924
	4		Letters - Family members to T. G. Steward and Gustavus A. Steward, 1922-1952
	5		Property deeds, 1906-1923
	6		Miscellaneous, 1879-1923
	7		Photocopies of documents from other repositories, [1865-1925]
			WRITINGS
	8		Lectures, speeches, articles, ca. 1913
	9		Trip to Italy, 1909
	10		Fragments, ca. 1920
	11		Published articles written by Steward, 1899-1913: "Some Glimpses of Ante Bellum Negro Literature," 1913 "How the Black St. Domingo Legion Saved the Patriot Army in the Siege of Savannah, 1799," 1899
			AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
	12		Church documents
			GENERAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS
	13		Miscellaneous
	14		Publications by Steward: <u>Pioneer Echos</u> (Photocopy) Six special sermons preached by Steward from 1866-1871, [1889] "Angels" in <u>A.M.E. Church Review</u> , 1922

Box Folder Reel

GENERAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SCHOOL LECTURES AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL
LESSONS
WRITINGS
MILITARY CAREER

2	1	<p>First half of journal: "The Mission at Port-au-Prince, Haiti African A.M.E. Church," 1870's Biblical notes List of visitations Notes for sermons Names Lectures - Dr. Mesmersmith's lecture, 1877 Second half of journal: "Subscriptions to the Haitian Mission A.M.E. Church" Sermons "The Political Situation" (U.S.) Georgia Journal, 1867-1869 Conference - A.M.E. Text of first sermons "Skeleton & Sketches" Resolution to establish Branch of Freedmen's Bank in Macon (?) Establishment of Lyceum in Macon Speech Accounts, 1869 Memorandum - "Men and Things" July 1867 (re A.M.E. Church events)</p>
	2	<p>Quotations, 1906 Good Fellowship</p>
4	2	Class notes or notes for sermons, n.d.
5		Class notes or notes for sermons, n.d.
6		<p>"The Legislation of the Pentateuch" Collection of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Wilmington, Del., 1881 "The Kingdom of Heaven" Poem - "The New Baby" "Delaware Politics" "The Resurrection" Speech Facts: [An account of an incident experienced by Steward when he was a chaplain in the Army] "Christ in the Heart and the Mystery of Religion"</p>

Box Folder Reel

2	7	Essays re religious themes, 1890
	8	Manuscript for one of Steward's books on the Haitian Revolution (?), n.d.
	9	Journal of the voyage to Port-au-Prince from New York, June-July 1873 Speech to group of Masons Address to president of Haiti, June 1873 (in French)
	10	"Life of T. G. Steward," 1869-1870
	11	Lectures, biblical references, 1878

GENERAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS
SCHOOL LECTURES AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL
LESSONS

3	1	Account book (Shopping list?) Lists Sermon (in French)
	2	"Miscellaneous records of persons kept for my own benefit...in Philadelphia," 1880's Letter from Steward to Bishop James Brown (?), 1883 Latin lessons Children's school lessons
	3	Account book, 1906-1907 Address book Notes for sermon List of readings
	4	T. G. Steward (?) - Romans (1st semester), 1907
	5	3 Notes for Isiah, n.d.

SCHOOL LECTURES AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL
LESSONS

PERSONAL PAPERS
WRITINGS

GENERAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4	1	"Treatise on Surveying Logarithms" Daybook Religious essay
	2	Class book, 1862 Account book, 1869 Subscription list for <u>Christian Recorder</u> Sermons (notes)
	3	Diary, March-May 1876 Latin lesson

Box Folder Reel

4	3	Roman history Biblical stories (?) Professor Huxley's first lecture Other lecture notes Speech Notes for sermons Letter to bishop
	4	Lectures on New Testament history by Dr. Hare. West Philadelphia Divinity School, 1878
	5	Senior year - notes with Dr. Hare, n.d.
	6	Notebook of Gustavus A. Steward, 1908 Zoology notebook Essays on Roman history and the history of Paris
	7	Notebook of Gustavus A. Steward, 1913 St. Paul School, Laurenceville, Virginia "Journal of happenings"
	8	First half of journal: child's notebook - notes on Egypt and other ancient civilizations, n.d. Second half of journal: Steward's notebook - religious themes, n.d.
	9	Lecture notes, n.d. - Fifteenth and 16th century English kings Logic Trade unionism Biographical notes - "Some Facts" Lecture notes - American history Civil War Freedmen and the Church
	10	T. G. Steward - bookkeeping notes, 1878 James Steward - school notebook
	11	4 T. G. Steward (?), n.d. "Spanish Work in America" - student notebook
	12	Grade book, 1910 Test questions Lessons
	13	Students' papers, n.d.

Box Folder Reel

MILITARY CAREER
 PERSONAL PAPERS
 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 GENERAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS
 WRITINGS
 SCHOOL LECTURES AND CHILDREN'S LESSONS

5	1	Book: <u>El Regimen Municipal en las Islas Filipinas</u> (in Spanish) Record of marriages performed by Steward, Chaplain 25th U.S. Infantry, the Philippines, 1900 List of seeds, Manila
	2	Journal - Luzon, Philippines, 1900 Sermon in Spanish (telegram glued in re establishing a school in Iba) Essay: "The Color Problem Worldwide". Includes description of Philippine life
	3	Letters written in Spanish, 1900 Published biblical stories in the Philippine language of Tagalo or Punpunga, 1901
	4	Notes for sermons (?) Notes - Egyptian and Persian history List of books Essay on the Philippines
	5	Records kept by Steward, Chaplain of the 25th Infantry, Fort Missoula, Montana and Fort Niobrara, Nebraska Marriages, baptisms, funerals, 1891-1906 Typed copy of a letter from J. W. Cromwell, 1921
	6	Account book Bakery Fund, Fort Missoula, Montana, 1892-1897
	7	Account book (account with A.M.E. Publishing House) Journal of trip to Fort Missoula, Montana

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY
 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 MILITARY CAREER
 GENERAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS
 PERSONAL PAPERS

6	1	Journal of ship's voyage to Hawaii and the Philippines, 1899 Essay re Wilberforce University Letters Essays - some re Philippines
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Box Folder Reel

6	2	<p>Letters of recommendation - Wilberforce University</p> <p>Religious writings</p> <p>Essays</p> <p>A.M.E. Church - Union A.M.E.</p>
	3	<p>Minutes of the trial of Rev. B. F. Lombard held in Zion A.M.E. Church</p> <p>[The journal is not that of T. G. Steward. Author is unknown. Note written by William Seraile, August 19, 1888. The years for the journal are 1880-1898.]</p> <p>Wilberforce University</p> <p>1898</p> <p>Biblical notes</p> <p>Lists</p> <p>1895</p>
	4	<p>Names of persons who have associated themselves with the church in Wilberforce but who are members of churches elsewhere, 1912.</p> <p>"Peace by Force"</p> <p>"Debating Clubs"</p> <p>"How the Colored Man Sees this War"</p> <p>Comparative Religion</p> <p>Wilberforce University</p>
	5	<p>Wilberforce University class record book</p> <p>Grade book lists students' names and grades</p>
	6	<p>Writings, n.d. include:</p> <p>"Wilberforce's need to be modernized"</p> <p>"Shirking Responsibility"</p> <p>"The Message of the San Domingo Negroes to the Negro Race"</p>