

Frederick D. Patterson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Michael Spangler



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2008

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Collection Summary

Title: Frederick D. Paterson Papers

Span Dates: 1861-1988

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1965-1988)

ID No.: MSS77597

Creator: Patterson, Frederick D. (Frederick Douglass), 1901-1988

Extent: 15,000 items; 41 containers; 18.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: African-American educational administrator and advocate. Correspondence, journal, writings and speeches, notes, reports, organizational records, clippings, printed materials, memorabilia, and miscellaneous items relating chiefly to Patterson's efforts, following his retirement as president of Tuskegee Institute in 1953, to preserve and develop African-American institutions of higher learning.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943.

Clayton, Robert L.--Correspondence.

Colley, Nathaniel Sextus, 1918- --Correspondence.

Foster, Luther H. (Luther Hilton), 1913- --Correspondence.

Harriman, E. Roland (Edward Roland), 1895-1978--Correspondence.

Harris, Patricia, 1924-1985--Correspondence.

Jenkins, Matthew--Correspondence.

Kemp, Maida Springer--Correspondence.

Mays, Benjamin E. (Benjamin Elijah), 1894-1984--Correspondence.

Moon, Henry Lee, 1901- --Correspondence.

Moton, Robert Russa, 1867-1940.

Patterson, Frederick D. (Frederick Douglass), 1901-1988.

Pierce, Ponchitta Anne, 1942- --Correspondence.

Player, Willa B.--Correspondence.

Price, Hollis F., 1904- --Correspondence.

Purves, Robert Ogden, 1895-1976--Correspondence.

Simon, Paul, 1928-2003--Correspondence.

Weinberger, Caspar W.--Correspondence.

Williams, Franklin, 1917- --Correspondence.

Organizations

Phelps-Stokes Fund.

Robert R. Moton Memorial Institute.

Tuskegee Institute.

Tuskegee Institute. School of Veterinary Medicine.

Subjects

African American universities and colleges.

African Americans--Civil rights.

African Americans--Education.

Education--Africa.

Education--Nigeria.

Endowments--United States.
Federal aid to higher education.
Segregation--United States.

Places
Southern States.

Occupations
College administrators.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Frederick D. Patterson, African-American educational administrator and advocate, were donated to the Library of Congress by Patterson's son, Frederick D. Patterson II, in 1988, 1989, and 1991.

Processing History

The Patterson Papers were processed in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

The Patterson Papers form part of a sizable group of materials in the Manuscript Division relating to black educators and the African-American community. The Division's [Booker T. Washington Papers](#), [Moton Family Papers](#), and Frederick D. Patterson Papers constitute an important group of research materials relating to the first three presidents of Tuskegee Institute. The Moton Family Papers include correspondence between Patterson and Robert Russa Moton during the 1930s.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Frederick D. Patterson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Frederick D. Patterson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frederick D. Patterson, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1901, Oct. 10	Born, Washington, D.C.

1923	Doctor of veterinary medicine, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa
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1923-1927 Instructor, veterinary science, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.

1927 Master of science, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa

1927-1928 Director of agriculture, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.

1928-1933 Head, Veterinary Division, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

1932 Doctor of philosophy, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

1933-1935 Director, School of Agriculture, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

1935 Married Catherine E. Moton, daughter of Robert Russa Moton, second president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

1935-1953 President, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

1943-1944 Established United Negro College Fund

1944 Published essay in *What the Negro Wants*, edited by Rayford W. Logan (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press. 352 pp.)

1953-1954 Inspected and evaluated educational resources in Nigeria on behalf of the World Bank/International Bank Commission

1953-1958 Director of Education, Phelps-Stokes Fund, New York, N.Y.

1956 Co-editor with William Hardin Hughes of *Robert Russa Moton of Hampton and Tuskegee* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press. 238 pp.)

1958-1970 President, Phelps-Stokes Fund

1964-1966 President, United Negro College Fund, New York, N.Y.

1969-1973 President, Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute, New York, N.Y.

1973-1984 Director, College Endowment Funding Plan, New York, N.Y.

1976 Published *College Endowment Funding Plan* (Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education. 120 pp.)

1985 Received White House Private Sector Initiative Commendation

1987 Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

1988, Apr. 26 Died, New Rochelle, N.Y.

1991 Posthumous publication of Patterson's autobiography, *Chronicles of Faith*, edited by Martia Graham Goodson (Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press. 220 pp.)

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frederick Douglass Patterson (1901-1988) span the years 1861-1988, with the largest group of materials dating from the period after 1965. The collection is composed of the personal papers of Patterson, third president of Tuskegee Institute and founder of the United Negro College Fund. They largely reflect his career following his retirement from Tuskegee in 1953 and highlight his efforts to preserve and develop historically black institutions of higher learning. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, reports, organizational records, printed materials, writings and speeches, notes, clippings, memorabilia, and other miscellaneous items.

The [Correspondence](#) series of the Patterson Papers contains separate groupings of personal and general correspondence. Included in the personal correspondence are felicitations regarding Patterson's election to the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in 1935, his White House Private Sector Initiative Commendation in 1982, and his receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan in 1987. A few family letters from the early 1930s are also contained in this portion of the file. Items in the general correspondence include communications with organizations and individuals concerned with education, educational administration, business, fund-raising, and government.

The greatest concentration of materials in the Patterson Papers is found in the [Subject File](#). The papers in this series cluster chiefly around Patterson's association with the Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute and the College Endowment Funding Plan. Established by Patterson in the late 1950s in memory of his father-in-law and second president of Tuskegee Institute, the Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute provided financial planning and training for historically black colleges. Operating under the auspices of the institute was the College Endowment Funding Plan, devised by Patterson to endow small, poorly financed black colleges, thereby securing their long-term stability. The file pertaining to the College Endowment Funding Plan traces the development of this program throughout the 1970s and 1980s, focusing on the passage of legislation that established federal matching grants for black colleges. The materials document Patterson's work with educational administrators, financial officers, and government officials. Prominent correspondents include Caspar W. Weinberger, Willa B. Player of the United States Office of Education, and Congressman, later Senator, Paul Simon.

Other papers in the [Subject File](#) relate to the latter years of Patterson's tenure as president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, a foundation devoted to improving housing and educational opportunities for blacks and other disadvantaged persons. Franklin H. Williams, Patterson's successor, is a prominent correspondent in the papers relating to the fund. A key file pertains to education in Africa, including a handwritten journal of Patterson's travels through Nigeria in 1953-1954 inspecting educational resources on behalf of the International Bank Commission. Materials relating to Tuskegee Institute in the Subject File reflect Patterson's continued interest in the school and include extensive correspondence with his successor as president, Luther H. Foster. Also present are brief items relating to aviation and low-cost housing at Tuskegee, as well as a sizable file concerning the institute's veterinary medicine school. Patterson's interest in Robert Russa Moton and botanist George Washington Carver is also exhibited in the Subject File. A typescript draft of a biography of Moton is among various biographical materials found in the file. Patterson served as executor of Carver's estate and participated in various memorials recognizing his achievements. The file contains copies of Patterson's speeches honoring Carver. Also included are transcripts of oral history interviews with Patterson conducted in 1980 and 1981 for the Phelps-Stokes Fund and the United Negro College Fund.

The [Clippings File](#) consists of newspaper clippings and magazine articles from the late 1930s through the 1970s, which Patterson annotated and organized according to a detailed classification system. Topics treated include civil rights, desegregation, regional education, the South, higher education, philanthropy, and other related issues. Also included are a significant group of draft and printed copies of Patterson's writings and speeches, as well as notes relating to various topics.

Other writings and speeches not included in this classification scheme are located in the [Miscellany](#) series.

The [Miscellany](#) series holds, among other materials, a collection of personal clippings relating to Patterson's career and his work with the College Endowment Funding Plan. Included also are draft and print copies of speeches and writings by Patterson, as well as a small group of his published articles among the printed matter. Other materials include certificates, biographical data, telegrams, and memorabilia.

Prominent or frequent correspondents include Robert L. Clayton, Nathaniel Sextus Colley, E. Roland Harriman, Patricia Harris, Matthew Jenkins, Maida Springer Kemp, Benjamin E. Mays, Henry Lee Moon, Ponchitta Anne Pierce, Hollis F. Price, and Robert Ogden Purves.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1931-1988](#)
- [Subject File, 1909-1988](#)
- [Clippings File, 1939-1981](#)
- [Miscellany, 1861-1988](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5	<p><u>Correspondence, 1931-1988</u></p> <p>Personal and general correspondence, with attached and related matter, organized into separate groupings and alphabetically therein by name of person or organization or by type of material. Chronologically arranged within folders.</p>
BOX 6-32	<p><u>Subject File, 1909-1988</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, memoranda, circular letters, minutes, financial records, printed materials, occasional writings and speeches, notes, and miscellaneous items.</p> <p>Organized alphabetically by topic or name of organization and within these headings by subject or type of material. Chronologically arranged within folders.</p>
BOX 33-37	<p><u>Clippings File, 1939-1981</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and articles culled from academic journals and popular magazines. Also included are a number of draft and printed copies of Patterson's writings and speeches located primarily under the headings "Authors" and "Frederick D. Patterson" and scattered elsewhere in the series under various topics. Patterson's original subject classification scheme has largely been maintained.</p> <p>Materials are arranged alphabetically first by broad subject headings and then narrower ones. A list of the subheadings with their assigned numerical classifications is located at the beginning of the first folder of each broad heading. Also, a master index is located in the first folder of the series. Items in the "Authors" and "Public Figures" folders are not filed by the original classification number but have been rearranged alphabetically by name. Similarly, the "Frederick D. Patterson" file under the "Authors" heading has been rearranged so that the materials are filed chronologically.</p>
BOX 38-41	<p><u>Miscellany, 1861-1988</u></p> <p>Draft and printed copies of speeches and writings, personal clippings, printed materials, notes, land and financial documents, biographical materials, certificates and awards, and assorted memorabilia.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic, name of organization, or type of material.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Correspondence, 1931-1988 Personal and general correspondence, with attached and related matter, organized into separate groupings and alphabetically therein by name of person or organization or by type of material. Chronologically arranged within folders.
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Correspondence, 1931-1988

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	<i>The Changing Status of Southern Agriculture</i> , 1972
	<i>Low Cash Cost Housing</i> , 1950
	<i>Report of the Tuskegee Institute Task Force on its Visit to the Republic of South Africa</i> , 1974
	<i>Rural America and Its People: The Forgotten Area and the Forgotten Species</i> , 1978
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Miscellany, 1861-1988
Draft and printed copies of speeches and writings, personal clippings, printed materials, notes, land and financial documents, biographical materials, certificates and awards, and assorted memorabilia.
Arranged alphabetically by topic, name of organization, or type of material.
- BOX 38
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Notes, drafts, etc., undated
Résumés and related items, 1935-1988
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(2 folders)
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Notes and unidentified drafts, 1959-1981, undated
(5 folders)
- BOX 40
Printed material
Articles by Patterson, 1943-1975, undated *See also Container 33, Patterson, Frederick D.; and Container 41, Speeches and writings by Patterson*
Awards and memorial publications, 1953-1987

Miscellany, 1861-1988

Container

Contents

BOX 41

Clippings about Patterson, 1935, 1946-1988, undated *See also Container 33, Patterson, Frederick D.*
(9 folders)
Miscellaneous items, 1940-1985
Programs, 1953-1986
Signs and Services Co., 1966-1973
Speeches and writings by Patterson
Black colleges, 1959-1979, undated
College speeches, 1963-1984
Eulogies for black leaders, 1971-1977
Letters to editors, 1963-1987
Miscellaneous items, 1972-1982, undated
"Personal notes," 1963-1968
"Spirit of Moton," undated
Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., 1935-1983
(2 folders)
United Negro College Fund, 1963-1985, undated
Telegrams, 1956-1979