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Scott C. Harrison Bible finding aid

Title: Scott C. Harrison Bible
Collection No: MSS.0236
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1880s-1910s

Abstract: This collection consists of a leather-bound Bible owned by Scott C. Harrison, a Black attorney, in the 1880s-1910s. Inside the Bible are clippings, hand-written notes, lists of family genealogy, and a pamphlet for a social club meeting.

Processed by: Grace Neeley, 2023.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Scott C. Harrison Bible, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

Publication date: 2023 August

Biographical Information

In 1801, Phillip and Matild La Coste Pochon, enslaved persons, fled with their young son, the French colony, Saint-Domingue (now known as Haiti). This was at the time of the slave uprising and revolutionary movement under Toussaint L'Ouverture. They settled in Baltimore, Maryland, as freemen of the Roman Catholic faith until their deaths in the early 1810s. Their son, Solique La Coste Pochon (later Benjamin Charles Harrison, or also known as, Solique La Coste Benjamin Charles Pochon Harrison), was a groom, jockey, and stage driver who made his way to Richmond, Virginia. He worked in the service of the Harrison family, where he met his future wife, Isabelle Pigrom. He was a freeman and purchased his wife's freedom after the birth of their first born in 1831. They would go on to have eight more children. In the late 1830s, the family relocated to Columbus, Mississippi, along with the white Harrison family, whose children Isabelle continued to care for even after her freedom.

One of their nine children was Mansfield C. Pochon Harrison, born in 1835, in Richmond, Virginia. As a young man, he rode horseback to the Mexican border and remained there during the Mexican-American War. He was a traveler, farmer, and trader. He married Jimya E. Holman and had two children, one of which was Scott Charles Harrison, born on May 6, 1874, in Macon, Mississippi. Scott C. Harrison attended Howard University, in Washington, D. C., at a young age and was enrolled in their Normal School from 1887-1889, graduated from their Preparatory School in 1893, from their College of Arts and Sciences in 1897, and eventually graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1901. Harrison was also on the law school's Executive Committee. During his time at Howard University, he was one of twelve students who were chosen to serve as ushers at Frederick Douglass' funeral on February 25, 1895, held at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C. In the 1910s, Harrison possibly practiced law in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Harrison married Sadie Dillon Johnson of West Chester, Pennsylvania on August 19, 1913, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Miss Johnson was a granddaughter of Benjamin Tanner, a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and editor of the *Christian Recorder*, niece of the famous painter, Henry Tanner, cousin of Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, the first black woman in the United States to earn a Ph.D., and daughter of Halle Tanner Dillon Johnson, who was the first woman to be licensed as a physician in the state of Alabama. Scott and Sadie had one daughter together, Hallie (Halle?) Tanner Harrison, born on September 14, 1914, who was named after her maternal grandmother. They separated in May 1917 and divorced later the same year. Upon leaving the marriage, Sadie returned to her home state of Pennsylvania, with her daughter, where she was employed as a teacher in the Cheyney Institute. Scott C. Harrison died in Macon, Mississippi, on June 4, 1925, and was buried in Harrison Cemetery in Macon, Mississippi.

Scope and contents

This collection consists of a leather-bound Bible owned by Scott C. Harrison. Included inside the

Bible are pasted pages of newspaper clippings, notes and thoughts on the Bible and Christianity, and hand-written sheets listing family genealogy. Also, included is a pamphlet for "The Bethel Literary and Historical Association" meeting at The Metropolitan A. M. E. Church in Washington, D. C., on 1900 March 27.

Subject terms

Enslaved persons.

Freemen.

Howard University. School of Law

Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church (Washington, D.C.)

Mississippi--Noxubee County.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1** Bible: leather bound, belonging to Scott C. Harrison, circa 1880s-1910s.
- 2** Documents: handwritten pages that were inserted and pasted into the Bible listing family genealogy, undated (2).
Newspaper clippings: regarding life events and information about the family name "Harrison", 1909 and undated (3).
Pamphlet: "The Bethel Literary and Historical Association", The Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, Washington, D. C., 1900 March 27.
- 3** Documents: copies of newspaper articles, web articles, and Howard University catalogue records regarding Scott C. Harrison and Sadie D. Johnson (14).