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INTRODUCTION

“One of the great American women of her time.”
California Eagle [Los Angeles]

“Exhibit No. 1 for all who have faith in America
and the democratic process.”
Black Dispatch [Oklahoma City]

“A great American and a world citizen.”
Washington Afro-American

“One of the most dramatic careers ever enacted at any time
upon the stage of human activity.”
Atlanta Daily World

“In any race or nation she would have been an outstanding personality and
made a noteworthy contribution because her chief attribute was her
indomitable soul.”
Pittsburgh Courier

“One of the titans fell....”
Journal and Guide [Norfolk, Virginia]¹

These observations typified black press responses to the May 18, 1955, death of Mary McLeod Bethune of a heart attack at her home in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The broader media acknowledged also the passing of this educator, women’s leader, and civil servant extraordinaire. *Time* noted, “nothing on earth could stop Mary Bethune.” The nondenominational *Christian Century* asserted “the story of her life should be taught every school child for generations to come.” The *New York Times* linked Bethune to race relations as “one of the most potent factors in the growth of interracial goodwill in America.” The *Atlanta Constitution* declared, “Her courage was equal to any crisis.” The *Washington Post* affirmed, “So great were her dynamism and force that it was almost impossible to resist her.... Not only her own people but all

America has been enriched and ennobled by her courageous, ebullient spirit.” But capturing both her character and popular white feelings, the *Daytona Beach Evening News* editorialized: “To some she seemed unreal, something that could not be.... What right had she to greatness? ... The lesson of Mrs. Bethune’s life is that genius knows no racial barriers.”²

Background

The unprecedented cornucopia of tributes to a Negro woman in separate-but-equal America, as exemplified in the preceding press comments, commemorated a personality whose initial impact was visual. Five feet four and broad-boned, Bethune was endowed with ethnic facial features and hair. Consistently well-dressed, she sported a sharply defined waistline in her mid-thirties that expanded a decade later into matronly fullness. After 1927, she often strutted with a cane, but not for support; she carried it for “swank.” To her contemporaries, the most salient aspect of Bethune’s appearance was an extremely dark complexion. Like so many other African Americans, she had jet black skin in an era when prejudice toward dark-skinned persons permeated society, identifying blackness with an ugly, inferior people lacking significant historical roots. While going to church in Daytona Beach one Sunday morning, Bethune encountered a fair-skinned African American professional who was inebriated. Wanting better for him, she declared, “Why, Mr. Perkins, you’re drunk!” Perkins sneered, “Yes! I am, Mrs. Bethune. But tomorrow, I’ll be sober and tomorrow you will *still* be black.”³

Indeed, Mary McLeod Bethune’s greatest personal struggle was overlooking the snubs, slights, and insults occasioned by prejudice. The fifteenth of seventeen children born to former slaves, she grew up in rural Mayesville in post-Reconstruction South Carolina. Mary always refused to consider her ebony complexion a stigma. Her mother, Patsy McLeod, instilled in her a confidence that God did not discriminate and that she could achieve. Mary became a true believer.

The young Miss McLeod’s confidence in God and self grew with her Christian education. She progressed through a local mission school and through Scotia Seminary (today the coed Barber-Scotia College), a girls’ boarding school in Concord, North Carolina. In 1894, upon graduating from Scotia’s normal and scientific course, she enrolled in Dwight Moody’s Institute for Home and Foreign Missions, now Moody Institute, to become a missionary. There, in Chicago, she tested her abilities to positively influence diverse people. She excelled.

When African Americans were colored or Negro and most thought that black meant “nigger,” Bethune’s confidence in God and self led her to completely embrace a blackness that carried no inherent limitations. Consequently, she believed that she could “achieve whatever was worth achieving in our society.” From this orientation, “she gave out faith and

hope” to the psychologically battered “as if they were pills and she some sort of doctor.”⁴ And she built programs and institutions. Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, begun as a girls’ school, is the monumental proof of her faith and skills.

Despite a widespread perception that Bethune dropped from virtually nowhere into a career of wondrous works, she actually enjoyed excellent training and experience. Scotia Seminary gave her a model school to emulate. Bethune completed a five-year educational internship of sorts in Palatka, Florida, about fifty miles northwest of Daytona. Additionally, two dynamic black women set a standard for her to follow: Emma Jane Wilson, founder in 1892 of the Mayesville Educational and Industrial Institute of South Carolina, and Lucy Craft Laney, founder in 1886 of the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute in Augusta, Georgia.

Three years out of the Chicago Bible School and six years before moving to Daytona, Mary McLeod found romance while teaching in Sumter, South Carolina. The dashing Albertus Bethune, age twenty-eight, “a very handsome, tall brown young man”⁵ clerking in a dry goods store, swept her into marriage on May 6, 1898. The couple moved to Savannah, Georgia, where their only child, Albert McLeod Bethune, was born on February 3, 1899. Afterwards, Mrs. Bethune’s school interests determined the family’s residence: first in Palatka and then in Daytona. Albertus Bethune remained with his wife until late 1907. Then for unknown reasons, he relocated to South Carolina, where he died on October 22, 1918. While always believing that women could manage both marriage and career, Mary Bethune’s failure to achieve this balance ultimately caused her to view marriage and family as secondary priorities in the progress of African Americans.

Achievements in Education

For the gifted and charismatic Bethune, the high road was education. Following her mentors, she created a substantial institution, the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. According to tradition, she began the school on October 3, 1904, in a rented house west of the railroad tracks “with five little girls, a dollar and a half, and faith in God.” Bethune taught from a curriculum of reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, cooking, cleaning, sewing, and religion. Her resources were so meager that the girls sat on dry goods boxes and wrote with charred splinters dipped in elderberry juice.

The school survived, in part, because the Daytona area was an ideal locale. While both blacks and whites helped, most money came from those with the most: white, northern, liberal, and Republican winter tourists. Bethune cultivated this group by marching her students into their resort hotels and leading the girls in enchanting renditions of Negro spirituals. Afterwards, she pleaded her cause eloquently. She also lured tourists by the hundreds to her

Sunday afternoon community meetings. Refusing to tolerate the segregation that jim crow custom and law decreed, Bethune developed the school into an outstanding interracial center. The founder's most prominent and consistent tourist contributors were James Norris Gamble of Ivory Soap fame and Thomas H. White of White Sewing Machines. When the state of Florida incorporated the school in 1905, white male tourists were prominent on a trustee board of nine and female tourists on a ladies advisory board of six. The former brought the institution respect; the latter, hands-on oversight.

Inevitably, the school grew. So many clamored to attend that in September 1907 Bethune relocated it to Second Avenue (now Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard), where students and faculty lived and studied in the partially unfinished, four-story frame Faith Hall. In 1910, 102 students enrolled, seventy-six of whom were boarders. A decade later, 351 enrolled and 149 were boarders. During this period the faculty increased from six to fourteen and the staff from zero to five. In 1923, the student body leveled off to about 315 while the faculty and staff climbed to twenty-five. A debt-free campus, appraised at \$250,000, included eight buildings.

Mary McLeod Bethune believed fervently in the head-heart-hand educational concept that she and contemporaries knew as emphasizing Christianity, job training, and mastery of at least elementary school subjects. Heart education was Bethune's highest priority. It involved creating an environment to foster knowledge of Jesus Christ through formal Bible study, fellowship, worship, and outreach. Given the challenges of maintaining an unendowed school, Bethune's outreach was especially notable. It embraced a Sunday mission for temperance that gave at least 250 community children numerous reasons to abstain from alcohol; a reading room for young men and boys; a weekly mission in the Tomoka Turpentine Camp; and most importantly, the McLeod Hospital. Although some students became nurses via its training program, the cost of maintaining the hospital between 1912 and 1927 was justified more as community service than education.

Bethune subscribed to hand education too. Usually called industrial education, but more aptly vocationalism, it translated into training blacks for jobs the marketplace offered them. In 1910, about 93 percent of the more than two million black women gainfully employed worked in farming and service, both domestic and personal. Bethune taught her students in these fields. While sewing instruction was prominent, most teaching revolved around growing food on the school's farm, preparing food in the kitchen, and serving food in the dining room. Yet Bethune's vocationalism stemmed from more than expediency: it was central to developing girls as homemakers. Bethune accepted the late nineteenth-century notion of women as the "civilizers" of the species. Thus, in 1910 her school's first aim was to send forth Christian "women who will be rounded homemakers and Christian leaders."⁶

The white Daytona High School, which graduated its first class in 1902, incorporated vocationalism too. But it also offered four languages, chemistry, physics, trigonometry, and other advanced courses. In contrast, racist policy denied the Daytona Colored Public School even an eighth grade. This situation prevailed during much of the 1910 to 1920 period despite a rough equality of numbers between the city's black and white populations. Therefore, to promote a modicum of educational equality for blacks in central and south Florida, the Daytona School had to stretch upward. Bethune aspired to do this. In the raging debate between the Booker T. Washington school of industrial education and the W.E.B. DuBois school of higher education, she landed on both sides. But as a practical matter, she emphasized Washington's industrialism first, then implemented as far as possible DuBois' higher education. Achieving these goals demanded the development of a high school. While holding on to kindergarten and elementary programs, Bethune responded after 1915 by enrolling students in grades nine through twelve. Compared to the 14,521 white high school students enrolled in the state in 1921-22, her enrollments were meager. But in terms of Florida's black schools, these numbers were impressive. In 1920-21, Bethune had seventy-two high school students, with seven in the twelfth grade. A year later, all of Florida enrolled only 505 black secondary students, with eighteen in the last grade.

Teacher training was integral to Bethune's secondary curriculum. Changing the school's name to the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute publicized this. An agent of the philanthropic General Education Board, the dispenser of Rockefeller money to southern education, lauded the Normal Institute: "Daytona is probably the best school for Negroes in Florida (in quality but not in extent)."⁷ The state desperately needed qualified black teachers from the institute and elsewhere. Yet in the 1920s, it was loath to educate children who were potential black teachers of the future: Florida spent an average of \$30 for a white student's education and \$5.75 for a black one.

Desiring higher standards for teachers, Bethune moved next to establish teacher training within a junior college. On April 17, 1923, the Board of Education for Negroes of the Methodist Episcopal Church decided the matter. It merged the venerable Cookman Institute in Jacksonville, Florida, with Bethune's school to create the coed Daytona-Cookman Collegiate Institute, which became Bethune-Cookman College (BCC). Consequently, in the fall of 1923, Bethune formally enrolled young men and the next year, college students on the Daytona campus. With Methodist sponsorship, the founder saw on the horizon an endowment eliminating her ceaseless struggling for operational expenses. But she saw a mirage.

Beginning in 1925, Bethune faced years of fiscal touch-and-go. Macroeconomic calamities sustained bad times. The Florida land bubble burst. Two catastrophic hurricanes rocked the state. The New York stock

market crashed. Consequently, Bethune watched funds shrivel. During the 1920s, the Methodist Board could not meet the additional \$100,000 expense for an anticipated plant expansion. And the General Education Board, her most likely philanthropic source for assistance with capital improvements, would not do so until the Methodist Board invested more substantially. Concurrently, the contributions of Bethune's tourist patrons dwindled. In most of the decade's annual budgets, she was forced to slash not just muscle but bone—needed maintenance, utilities, the business course, scholarships, and, most of all, teacher salaries.

Still, BCC weathered the worst of the Great Depression. It consistently met the rating standards of the Florida Department of Education and the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Thus, it rendered great service to peninsular Florida, primarily through teacher education. The Methodist Board made possible these achievements. Not only did it supply annual appropriations, but by virtue of its oversight it assured all interested parties, especially prospective donors, that the college was a bona fide institution. The chief donor was the General Education Board, which in 1934–35 gave its largest sum to BCC—\$55,000. In the fall of 1935, the college reflected growth. It enrolled 256 college students and sixty-one high school students. In addition, it ran an elementary school for 154 pupils in conjunction with the local public school board. Its \$732,306 physical plant included fourteen buildings and a farm.

From 1936 to 1942, Bethune functioned as only a part-time president while also holding a government job in Washington, D.C. During this period, the college suffered in comparison with similar schools, even though BCC received a \$50,000 Methodist endowment grant, dedicated a new library, and for all practical purposes acquired a trades building that Bethune had finagled through her government agency. A leadership vacuum existed because Bethune refused to surrender control. Yet with her presidential control she added junior and senior year programs counter to the advice of educational pundits. In the face of many obstacles, this grand dame was the lone woman in America to grow a small elementary school into a senior college.

Bethune experienced an ever-changing relationship to BCC as president emeritus. She assumed this status on December 15, 1942, because life-threatening illness dictated that she surrender her impossible college-plus-government workload. She turned the BCC presidency over to the competent and energetic James A. Colston. The new president awarded the first bachelor degrees in 1943 and achieved the essential accreditation of the four-year teacher education program. Despite Colston's success, Bethune reclaimed the presidency in 1946, seeing her personal interest and that of the college as the same. Like mentors Emma Wilson and Lucy Laney, she could not let her school go. But her post-World War II tenure held surprises: the dean's

resignation, an exploding veterans' enrollment, flowing red ink for greatly expanded operations, and a new breed of students less attuned to the missionary dimension of her leadership. Consequently, she vacated the office again after a year. BCC's operations, however, continued to attract her like a magnet.

Combating Racism and Building Women's Organizations

While the promotion of education was laudable, education alone could not provide opportunities for Bethune and other black women to participate in mainstream America. Rampant racism and, to a lesser degree, sexism had conspired to place them as a group on the outermost fringe of opportunity, economic security, and civic participation. Fortunately, in 1896, progressive leaders had banded together in a secular organization, the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), to collectively espouse their concerns. It was a womanist organization: its members faced the handicaps of race and gender simultaneously without disparaging black men, who bore little responsibility for their societal oppression.

Yearning to enhance the contributions and visibility of black women, the farsighted Bethune attained leadership of the NACW via a record of solid club achievement. From 1917 to 1925, as president of the NACW's Sunshine State affiliate, she promoted World War I homefront activities. Later, despite Ku Klux Klan intimidation, she set an inspiring example of getting out the vote and voting herself. With whites marginalizing the black vote in the 1920s and thereafter, Bethune endeavored to keep political hope alive among her Florida club sisters. Another aspect of her presidency was opening and maintaining, through erratic donations, a state residential facility in Ocala for delinquent girls. Beyond the five-hundred-member Florida Federation of Colored Women Clubs, Bethune presided over the twelve-state Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1920 to 1925. She organized the federation to give black women a collective voice in expressing their aspirations for opportunity and equality across racial boundaries and fashioning regional solidarity for greater service within the South and the NACW. Her aggressive actions in the state and region coupled with her NACW vice presidency earned her the top NACW office in August 1924.

In 1926, at the organization's stellar biennial convention in Oakland, California, President Bethune unveiled a vision worthy of her exalted position. "This organization must assume an attitude toward all big questions involving the welfare of the nation, public right and especially the present and future of our race," she proclaimed. "These questions are both national and international."⁸ The NACW had already become nationally and internationally oriented particularly through enlarged female networks. These networks enabled the NACW to maintain a comprehensive awareness of organized women's activities; of these, the National Council of Women of

the United States was the most highly prized network. Through it, the NACW enjoyed affiliation with the Eurocentric International Council of Women (ICW). In an unprecedented initiative, Bethune got sixty-five NACW executive board members from twenty-two states to Washington, D.C., for the ICW's seventh quinquennial conference in May 1925. Experiencing the council meeting with its contacts, rituals, and sweep of issues doubtless expanded the perspectives of NACW officials. But they remembered most the unfortunate segregation of blacks at a council musical and their own emphatic protest. The ICW responded positively to the protest and to Bethune. On her European tour in the summer of 1927, some of its leading British members welcomed Bethune as the emissary of black American women.

Bethune's interracial activities at home and abroad were mostly pleasure compared to her arduous NACW agenda for projecting African American women into the public policy arena. To accomplish this goal, she needed to transform the NACW into a more unified organization exhibiting a greater "continuity of programs extending from the National through the Regions, States, Counties, Cities to the Individual Clubs."⁹ She believed that such unity necessitated a permanent headquarters with a paid executive secretary. Bethune's determination to accomplish this in almost depression-like conditions became the Herculean battle of her administration. The NACW had numerous financial responsibilities and was divided over the advisability of acquiring an edifice exclusively for headquarters. Yet, with Rebecca Stiles Taylor, her chief NACW aide, Bethune persevered, finally opening a handsome, detached, \$25,000 headquarters building in Washington, D.C., with over half the purchase price paid. Moreover, she installed there an executive secretary. In this way, just before her administration ended at the 1928 biennial, Bethune saw the NACW become the first black-controlled association poised to operate in Washington like scores of other national organizations.

As a NACW president emeritus, Bethune tried to solidify support for a functional headquarters that facilitated greater public roles for its members. But the newer leadership made self-help within the black world its priority. Therefore, on December 5, 1935, Bethune created her own organization in New York, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), which she headed until December 1949. It succeeded in attaining for women of color a sustained presence, however symbolically, in national affairs particularly through its World War II-era government-related activities. Starting as a federation of approximately eight national organizations, the NCNW numbered twenty-two organizations at the end of Bethune's watch. Concurrently, it developed both a regional organization and eighty-two local affiliates known as metropolitan councils. Through these structures, Bethune achieved a likeness to the "continuity of programs extending from the

National through the Regions...to the Individual Clubs” that she had desired earlier for the NACW. Moreover, the council paid for a national headquarters building in Washington, D.C.

Claiming a membership of eight hundred thousand while involving directly only a tiny fraction of that number, the council pushed into public affairs. It forcefully projected positions on “big questions involving the welfare of the nation” such as war and peace; on “public right” including free speech and other constitutional guarantees; and “especially the present and future of our race” as it related to colonialism, lynching, denial of the franchise, segregation, and discrimination, particularly in public education, employment, health, and housing. In 1938, the media took greater notice of the NCNW when it sponsored a White House Conference on Negro Women and Children. This launched council members on many subsequent treks to the White House that, in turn, allowed them to create a sharp image of black women as citizens in American democracy. Bethune and the council were proudest of getting black officers in the Women’s Army Corps and subsequently enhancing their service opportunities during World War II.

Emphasizing the inherent international focus of the NCNW as the war wound down, Bethune brought a significant number of NCNW stalwarts to the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco, California. She, however, was the only African American woman there in an official capacity, as associate consultant to the U.S. delegation. She represented the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) along with W.E.B. DuBois and Walter White. Bethune regarded the United Nations work as of the highest priority because through it, “the Negro” became “integrated into the structure of peace and freedom of all people, everywhere.”¹⁰

National Youth Administration

One factor permitting Bethune to sensitively attune the NCNW to governmental affairs was her employment in Washington. She worked in the National Youth Administration (NYA), a federal agency created in 1935 to offer young people aged sixteen to twenty-four an escape from the gloomy prospect of joblessness during the Great Depression. With a budget of at least \$685,000,000 over its life span, the NYA assisted, according to one estimate, almost five million youths. It offered work study relief for youth in school, work relief and vocational training for those out of school, and placement services for trained job seekers. Spending roughly \$55,000,000 in 1942–43, its last year, the NYA taught youth a single skill needed in war industries, such as operating a lathe, drill press, or welder; afterwards, it placed them in jobs. In fact, the NYA virtually guaranteed employment. All these activities ended when Congress denied NYA operational funds in July 1943, on the grounds

that war training could be more effectively accomplished through other avenues. The agency was liquidated in January 1944.

Sensing early that the NYA was needy black youths' biggest boon, Bethune aggressively promoted their participation. As one of thirty-five members of the NYA National Advisory Committee, she did this effectively enough to land a full-time staff position in June 1936. Two and a half years later the Civil Service Commission officially upgraded her position from administrative assistant to director, Division of Negro Affairs. This was one of approximately twenty of the highest offices New Deal women occupied and the highest federal office a black woman had held. Regardless of title, Bethune's essential responsibility was the same as that of other New Deal "Negro Specialists": to counter institutionalized racism long enhanced by prejudice and legalized segregation. She facilitated equitable black participation in NYA component programs. Regarding the NYA as fairer to blacks than other federal agencies, African Americans deemed her services exemplary, and Aubrey Willis Williams, NYA's sole administrator, concurred.

Bethune exhibited the same resourcefulness and determination within the NYA as within her school and female networks. Her grand strategy required Negro leadership of NYA activities for blacks in order to extend more benefits to youth and to promote democratic values. Out of a series of proposals to implement Negro leadership came the employment of at least twenty-five assistants to powerful state directors plus assistants in the District of Columbia and New York City. These appointments constituted a milestone of sorts because Bethune, alone among black New Dealers, could claim a quasi field staff. During the early phase of the NYA, Bethune achieved the most success in extending aid to minority students through school-based programs. She found creative ways to release allocated funds that previously had failed to trickle down. She secured more equitable allocations also, in part through the creation of a Special Higher Education Fund, which over seven years totaled \$609,000. In administering the fund herself, she became the only black New Dealer directly dispensing money. Moreover, Bethune ensured that six black colleges participated in the Civilian Pilot Training Program when it was under NYA aegis, thus paving the way for black pilots in the military. When national defense training topped NYA priorities, Bethune achieved success in obtaining outstanding projects preparing young minority men and women, who were not in school, for the skilled labor market. And after June 25, 1941, armed with President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 8802 barring discrimination in government and defense employment, she facilitated the placement of thousands of black youth in jobs formerly off-limits to them.

Secure in her NYA bailiwick, Bethune assumed the role of race leader at large in government. In this era when the nation ignored constitutional guarantees of civil rights to its largest minority and only one African American sat among 530 others in the U.S. Congress, the races typically interacted politically through the medium of plenipotentiaries or leaders. Therefore, on the one hand, Bethune had to interpret the Democratic administration to the black masses. She did so zealously in both the depression and war, fueled in part by her loyalty to President and Mrs. Roosevelt. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, in particular, enjoyed a close political and personal relationship with Bethune and supported her multiple agendas. On the other hand, as an at-large race leader, Bethune had to apprise the administration of critical black concerns and to obtain, when possible, favorable responses. More specifically in New Deal Washington, race leadership involved keeping abreast of the ever-multiplying federal programs, devising strategies to offset discrimination or its prospect within them, and implementing these strategies. Bethune achieved hearings for black concerns at the highest governmental levels, thus nurturing the principle that blacks were integral to the American mosaic. In the short term, her activities helped to win for African Americans specific exceptions to unfavorable governmental practices; in the long term, they helped to place civil rights on the national agenda.

Bethune accomplished so much because of her sterling national reputation and White House accessibility, and because she commandeered the services of highly talented and knowledgeable professionals who, like herself, had come to Washington as assistants to monitor black participation in New Deal relief. As a group, the “assistants” constituted a black political presence in the nation’s capital that had been lacking since the end of Reconstruction. On August 7, 1936, in her Washington residence, Bethune met with Dr. Robert Weaver and six other black government professionals to begin a cooperative relationship “for the greatest service” to blacks. “Let us band together and work together as one big brotherhood,” she suggested, “and give momentum to the great ball that is starting to roll for Negroes.”¹¹ In two years this informal caucus had grown to thirty. It called itself the Federal Council on Negro Affairs but others labeled it the Black Cabinet. Frequently at the council’s ad hoc meetings, Bethune listened. Then armed with facts and figures, she articulated the council’s consensus to decision makers and molders of opinion.

The most publicized council work was organizing national conferences in 1937 and 1939 on the “Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth,” which Bethune persuaded the NYA to sponsor. Both meetings identified similar sets of problems and solutions. In 1937, the conferees determined that the basic

problems of Afro-America were unemployment and lack of economic security; inadequate educational and recreational facilities; poor health and housing conditions; and fear of mob violence and lack of protection under the law. The council then recommended pragmatic solutions to address these difficulties, and Bethune distributed these recommendations throughout government.

Conclusion

In the 1950s, a “retired” Bethune remained an active and towering symbol of dignity and achievement. In association with others, she represented the U.S. government at the inauguration of William Tubman as president of Liberia. She championed the Moral Rearmament cause of eliminating artificial barriers among the world’s people. She furthered the development of Bethune-Volusia Beach, an ocean resort for blacks. And she transformed her home into the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation to preserve her papers and to promote her ideals.

During her life, this extraordinary woman garnered myriad tributes including the highest awards of Haiti and Liberia, then the world’s only black republics; the NAACP’s Spingarn Medal; and a dozen honorary degrees. Since her death, within the more liberal climate that she had helped to shape, the country has honored her in a manner befitting a national heroine. She has been depicted both on a postage stamp and in a larger than life bronze statue in the nation’s capital. Her residence in Washington is a national landmark. Her achievements are celebrated in the halls of fame in Tallahassee, Florida; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and Seneca Falls, New York. At the time of her death, sages predicted that Bethune’s good works would endure. Some realized even more: this black female icon was beyond destructibility.

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Notes

¹ *California Eagle*, May 26, 1955, p. 4; *Black Dispatch*, reprint found in the *Jackson Advocate* [Mississippi], June 4, 1955, p. 4; *Washington Afro-American*, May 21, 1955; *Atlanta Daily World*, May 22, 1955, p.4 (The editorial in the *Atlanta Daily World* appeared as an editorial in *Memphis World*, May 27, 1955, p.8; *Alabama Tribune* [Montgomery], May 27, 1955, p. 6; and *Birmingham World*, May 22, 1955, p.8); *Pittsburgh Courier*, May 28, 1955; *Journal and Guide*, May 28, 1955, p.10.

² *Time*, May 30, 1955, pp. 45–46; *Christian Century* 72, June 8, 1955, p.676; *New York Times*, May 19, 1955, p.29; *Atlanta Constitution*, May 20, 1955, p.4; *Washington Post*, May 21, 1955, p.16; *Daytona Beach Evening News*, May 19, 1955, p.1. The *News* editorial was reprinted in the *Chicago Defender*, June 4, 1955, p.10, under “What Other Newspapers Say.”

³ The author first heard of this incident as a youth in Daytona Beach.

⁴ Louis E. Martin, *Dope ‘n’ Data* [column], *Tri-State Defender* [Memphis], June 4, 1955, p.5. Martin wrote arguably the best article to appear after Bethune’s death analyzing the significance of her life. In the absence of a scholarly biography, the standard book-length narratives of Bethune are Catherine Owens Peare, *Mary McLeod Bethune* (New York, 1951) and Rackham Holt, *Mary McLeod Bethune*

(Garden City, 1964). For an annotated bibliography see Delores C. Leffall and Janet L. Sims, *Mary McLeod Bethune—The Educator*, *Journal of Negro Education* 45 (Summer 1976), 342–359. For a recent encyclopedia interpretation of Bethune’s life see Elaine M. Smith, “Mary McLeod Bethune,” in *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, Darlene Clark Hine, ed. (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing Co., 1993), 113–127.

⁵ Bethune to Hallie Marie Bethune, April 28, 1952, Bethune Foundation, Bethune-Cookman College.

⁶ Sixth Annual Catalogue of the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls, 1910–11, p.17, Mary McLeod Bethune Papers, Florida State Archives, Tallahassee, Florida.

⁷ Jackson Davis, Report on the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute after a visit on April 9, 1921, “Florida, 38” File, General Education Board Papers, Rockefeller Foundation Archives, New York City, New York.

⁸ Bethune, Mary McLeod, “President’s Address to the Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the National Association of Colored Women,” August 2, 1926, p.11, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, Louisiana.

⁹ “National Association of Colored Women,” *Year Book and Directory of the National Council of Women* (New York, 1928), p.147.

¹⁰ *Cashin Tells Need for Africa Self-Government*, *Chicago Defender*, May 12, 1945, Bethune Vertical File, Atlanta University Center, Woodruff Library.

¹¹ Minutes, Federal Council on Negro Affairs, August 7, 1936, Bethune Foundation, Bethune-Cookman College.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the administrative records of Mary McLeod Bethune as president of Bethune-Cookman College. Although Bethune founded the college as an elementary school in 1904 and served as its resident head until the late 1930s, the earliest records in the collection date from 1923. The bulk of the collection begins in the early 1930s, although there are substantial materials from the 1920s. More material covering the 1920s is deposited in the archive of the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation at Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida. A companion edition of foundation records is envisioned for the future. The very earliest records documenting the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute are found among the archive of the General Education Board at the Rockefeller Archives, Pocantico Hills, New York.

The Bethune-Cookman College collection is divided into four archival series: General Correspondence, Special Correspondence, Subject Files, and Financial Records.

General Correspondence, 1928-1954.

The General Correspondence spans Reel 1 through Frame 0553 of Reel 6 and is chronologically arranged. It is primarily routine correspondence between Mary McLeod Bethune and financial contributors, student applicants, foundation officers, people extending speaking invitations, and applicants for teaching positions and other forms of employment. The correspondence with donors is the most voluminous of the General Correspondence. Bethune's solicitations and thank-yous often shed light on the college's financial condition, its problems, and its recent accomplishments. Her diplomatic tact is apparent, as is her energetic executive style. Donors' correspondence includes the Rockefeller Foundation (and its General Education Board), the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, among others.

Teacher applications provide biographical data on African American college graduates and schoolteachers. The Bethune correspondence reveals BCC standards and expectations. Requests for other employment assistance include applications for National Youth Administration and for BCC administrative staff positions.

A significant fraction of the General Correspondence relates to students. There are many inquiries into the possibility of student aid, particularly NYA-financed scholarships. Some of the correspondence pertains to student rules, regimen, discipline, and occasional expulsions.

Incidentally, many of the letters touch upon Bethune's personal life, including her often precarious health, her extended family, and her eventual retirement.

For most years the correspondence is separated according to an incoming and outgoing scheme. Telegrams are filed separately from correspondence.

Special Correspondence, 1927–1951.

Special correspondents include Bethune's replacements as president of BCC, one of the college deans, and one of the executive secretaries. They also include two of the foundations that were critical to the college's survival in the 1930s. There are a number of smaller files of correspondence with individuals ranging from Bethune's son, Albert, to BCC donors and BCC staff. All files are alphabetically arranged.

The files concerning BCC presidents are those for James Colston (1942–1945), Richard V. Moore (1947–1955), and Abram L. Simpson (1937–1940). These files cover some of the same subjects found in the General Correspondence described above—fund-raising thank-yous and solicitations, faculty recruitment, and general college administration. Simpson's files are especially valuable on establishing the link between BCC and the NYA financial aid program in the late 1930s. In addition to the NYA funding sources, the files depict Simpson's work to secure private scholarship sources for BCC students. It was during this period also when serious plans were made to expand BCC into a four-year program, and those plans are also well documented. President Richard V. Moore's files also provide a very rewarding vein of correspondence between himself and Mary McLeod Bethune documenting the maturity of the college in the late 1940s when enrollment reached one-thousand students. The Moore correspondence documents Bethune's lifelong fund-raising efforts on behalf of the college and contains detailed reports on BCC administration and finances. The Colston files are less substantive. (However, there are separate collections for the Colston and Moore administrations on deposit at Bethune-Cookman College).

The files of Bertha Loving Mitchell correspondence are the most extensive of the Special Correspondence. Mitchell was the college secretary and then, after 1940, the secretary-treasurer. The topics in her correspondence mirror those described above in the General Correspondence.

Another college employee was Gerald E. Allen, who served as a field representative (fund-raiser) in the 1930s. Allen's files provide a wealth of information on fund-raising sources, particularly in northern cities, such as New York, where he diligently cultivated relationships with African

American sororities and churches as well as with foundations and private philanthropists. Allen's papers also document his comprehensive publicity campaigns in northern cities on behalf of BCC. Many of the financial contributors who receive thanks from Mary McLeod Bethune and the other BCC president's files initially turn up in Allen's reports.

Correspondence with the General Education Board and with the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church (BEMEC) constitute separate files in the Special Correspondence. While the General Education Board materials are relatively thin, the BEMEC files provide a great wealth of information on the often precarious state of BCC finances.

Among the other files in the Special Correspondence, Albert Bethune's file documents his career as a mortuary student at Morehouse College. It also touches upon a bizarre episode in which the younger Bethune was falsely linked to a murder. The Charles Flint file provides additional information on the relationship between BCC and BEMEC. Emma Goodman's file documents the coordination of book donations for the BCC library. Helen R. Stuart's file offers some evidence on the support to the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs for higher education. Senator F. C. Walcott (R-Conn.) documents Mary McLeod Bethune's determination as a fund-raiser and also provides evidence of her stout commitment to the Republican Party. Harold Whitehurst's file documents the BCC Alumni Association. Panchita Williams administered the girls dormitory, and her file documents rules and regulations affecting female students of BCC. Joe Youngblood was a NYA official. His file covers NYA financial aid to BCC students.

Subject File, 1922–1951.

The Subject File documents a wide array of activities, including awards and fund-raising programs, commencement exercises, large financial bequeaths to BCC, the administration of the Keyser elementary school at BCC, teacher and staff applications, Board of Trustees records, and veterans service programs that the college offered, all alphabetically arranged.

The extensive Annual Prize Awards files document Mary McLeod Bethune's genius as a promoter and fund-raiser. She devised an exhaustive list of prizes for student accomplishments that she used both to showcase student achievement and to raise funds for scholarships and financial aid. There were prizes for excellence in virtually every academic subject as well as public speaking, artistic expression, public spiritedness, and many other categories. Bethune assiduously cultivated private financial sponsors for each of these.

The Estates and Bequeaths provide some of the very earliest material in the collection. Several of the files document legal issues in conveying estates and bequeaths to the college in the 1920s.

The National Youth Administration file complements many of the president's and college secretary's files described earlier in the Special Correspondence. In addition, it documents Mary McLeod Bethune's administration of her Washington, D.C., NYA office.

Teacher and Staff Applications provide many biographical sketches of African American college graduates in the 1930s.

Files for the Trustees and Advisory Board provide additional material on plans to expand BCC to a four-year institution. There is a noteworthy vein of correspondence between Bethune and Board of Trustee member Emmett Scott.

Financial Records, 1928–1950.

The Financial Records provide additional light on BCC funding sources and on the financial management of the institution. There are files on the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, further documenting financial assistance from that organization. Insurance files shed light on financial difficulties at BCC during the 1930s. Financial Statements offer a comprehensive picture of the institution between 1933 and 1944. The Fund-Raising Bazaar documents another instance of Mary McLeod Bethune's prowess as a fund-raiser. This annual event, managed by the Women's Advisory Board of BCC, provided sales of college-made embroideries and foods. The Fund-raising Lists provide insight on yet another aspect of Bethune's fund-raising strategy—identifying and soliciting wealthy Floridians and tourists.

Related Collections

Archival collections documenting Mary McLeod Bethune's career are diverse, and several are presently available on microfilm through UPA. Bethune's role as president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs is documented in *Records of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, 1895–1992*. Her office files during her tenure as director, Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration are contained in *New Deal Agencies and Black America*. Bethune's relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt is exceptionally well documented in *The Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt 1933–1945*. Several series of the *Papers of the NAACP* include substantive Bethune materials, particularly *Part 11A, Special Subject Files, 1912–1939*, which documents the reasons for presenting Bethune with the Association's Spingarn Medal in 1935, and also *Part 14: Race Relations in the International Arena, 1940–1955*, which depicts her role as an NAACP delegate to the United Nations founding convention in 1945.

Records of Bethune's role as a member of the NAACP Board of Directors can be found in *Parts 1 and 16B of The Papers of the NAACP. Parts 11A and B, Special Subjects 1912–1939*, include documentation of selected episodes of

Bethune's career, such as her protest against segregation in the International Council of Women in 1925 (11A) and the challenge to Republican Supreme Court nominee John J. Parker in 1930 (11B). *Parts 18B and 18C, Special Subjects, 1940–1955* document red-baiting investigations of Bethune in the 1940s and 1950s (18B), her role in post-WW II black political networks (18B and C), and her input on President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights (18C). Bethune's relationship with the NAACP youth movement is covered in *Part 19A, Youth File, 1919–1939* and *Part 19B, Youth File, 1940–1955*. Bethune's affirmation of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* is documented in *Part 3: The Campaign for Educational Equality, Series C, Legal Department and Central Office Records, 1951–1955*.

In addition to the microfilmed collections, Bethune materials can be found at the Amistad Research Center, Tulane, University; the Bethune Foundation Archive and the administrative files of President's Colston and Moore at Bethune-Cookman College; the General Education Board Records at the Rockefeller Archive, Pocantico Hills, New York; and the archive of the National Council of Negro Women in Washington, D.C.

SOURCE NOTE

This collection has been microfilmed from the Archives of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida. All documents from the Bethune administration files have been microfilmed.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used frequently throughout this guide and are spelled out here for the convenience of the researcher.

BCC	Bethune-Cookman College
BEMEC	Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NCNW	National Council of Negro Women
NYA	National Youth Administration
UBSCOT	United Beauty School Owners and Teachers

The collection of papers, articles, and documents of Mary McLeod Bethune is the exclusive property of Bethune-Cookman College. Any use of these materials without the written permission of Bethune-Cookman College is strictly prohibited.

REEL INDEX

The following is a listing of files from the *Mary McLeod Bethune Papers: The Bethune-Cookman College Collection, 1922–1955*. The four-digit number on the far left is the frame number at which a particular file folder begins. This is followed by the file title, the date(s) of the file, and the total number of microfilm frames.

Reel 1

File Folder
Frame No.

General Correspondence

- 0001 **General, 1928–1933.** 24 frames.
Major Topics: Fund-raising; BCC Endowment Fund; letters of former students; donations; purchases of library books from Julius Rosenwald and General Education Board funds; impact of depression on BCC.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0025 **Incoming, 1934.** 54 frames.
Major Topics: Grants and donations; General Education Board; Women's Home Missionary Society; Bethune-Cookman Association of New York.
Principal Correspondents: Agnes Bogue; Merrill J. Holmes; Josephine Guerin; Lillian B. Carroll; Fannie A. Evans.
- 0079 **Outgoing, 1934.** 124 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC building construction.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0203 **Incoming, 1935.** 77 frames.
Major Topics: Rockefeller Foundation; donations; Young Women's Christian Association National Student Conference; Bethune-Cookman Association of New York; Mary McLeod Bethune appointment to Roosevelt administration; NYA; National Occupation Conference.
Principal Correspondents: Fannie A. Evans; Elizabeth Carter-Brooks; Rayford Logan; Eugene Kinckle Jones.
- 0280 **Outgoing, January–April 1935.** 128 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, Florida; BCC Publicity Quartet; donations; BCC building program; impact of depression on BCC instructors' salaries.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0408 **Outgoing, May–December 1935.** 115 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; impact of depression on financial obligations and instructors' salaries; BCC building program; Mary McLeod Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, Florida; health of Mary McLeod Bethune; NYA.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.

- 0523 **Incoming, January–June 1936.** 117 frames.
Major Topics: Black Elks Club oratorical contest; Bethune-Cookman Association of New York; donations; BCC charitable work; Civilian Conservation Corps contributions to BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements; International Business Machines Corp.; letters from BCC alumni.
Principal Correspondents: Louisa L. Meigs; Mary K. Simkhovitch; F. D. Patterson; James Watson; John D. Rockefeller Jr.; George Foster Peabody.
- 0640 **Incoming, July–December 1936.** 135 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; requests to Mary McLeod Bethune for assistance in securing positions and scholarships; BCC financial improvement; Bethune-Cookman Mothers Club of Miami, Florida; Julius Rosenwald Fund; Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements.
Principal Correspondents: Mary Van Kleeck; Louise L. Meigs.
- 0775 **Outgoing, January–February 1936.** 110 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; impact of depression on BCC finances.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0885 **Outgoing, March 1936.** 103 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC fund-raising among Florida tourists; General Education Board \$12,000 matching grant; American Bible Study evaluation of BCC programs and financial assistance to BCC; BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; J. B. Von Krause.

Reel 2

General Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Outgoing, April–June 1936.** 92 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; financial improvement at BCC; BCC fund-raising; BCC finances; Black Order of Elks.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0093 **Outgoing, July–September 1936.** 60 frames.
Major Topics: General Education Board support for BCC; donations; BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0153 **Outgoing, October–December 1936.** 158 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC Publicity Singers; Mrs. Leonard Elmhirst Committee; BCC financing teachers' salaries; International Business Machines Corp.; General Education Board support of BCC; BEMEC; elimination of BCC high school.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0311 **Telegrams, 1935–1936.** 40 frames.
Major Topics: Meetings of BCC Board of Trustees; BCC application to General Education Board for financial aid; BCC financial obligations; Mary McLeod Bethune itinerary.
Principal Correspondents: Merrill J. Holmes; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0351 **Incoming, January–March 1937.** 136 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; requests for employment assistance; requests for NYA assistance; requests for BCC Publicity Singers; NAACP antilynching campaign; placement of BCC graduates.
Principal Correspondents: N. W. Collier; Hamilton Holt; Daisy Lampkin.
- 0487 **Incoming, April–June 1937.** 101 frames.
Major Topics: Requests for employment assistance; BCC Publicity Singers; BCC fund-raising; donations; Bethune-Cookman Emergency Campaign; scholarship requests; Shorter College of Arkansas.
Principal Correspondents: G. A. Gregg; George E. Cohron; H. F. Coleman.

- 0588 **Incoming, July–December 1937.** 96 frames.
Major Topics: John D. Rockefeller Jr. donation; requests for BCC appointments; fund-raising; Bethune-Cookman Emergency Campaign; requests for employment assistance.
- 0684 **Outgoing, January–February 1937.** 83 frames.
Major Topics: Management of BCC Farm; donations; Eleanor Roosevelt chairs BCC Endowment Fund campaign; BCC student aid programs.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Abram L. Simpson.
- 0767 **Outgoing, March 1937.** 122 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC student aid programs; Birthday Club program; BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0889 **Outgoing, April 1937.** 77 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; NYA work; BCC student aid programs.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.

Reel 3

General Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Outgoing, May 1937.** 109 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC tuition and board; BCC dress code; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; BCC student aid scholarship programs; death of John D. Rockefeller Jr.; BCC financial procedures.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0110 **Outgoing, June 1937.** 63 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune dismissal of BCC instructors; Mary McLeod Bethune negotiations of faculty renewals; donations; Mary McLeod Bethune negotiations of delinquent student accounts.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0173 **Outgoing, July–August 1937.** 70 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; appointment of Abram Simpson as acting president of BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune dismissal of BCC instructors; assistance with teacher's placement; BCC student aid programs (NYA and private benefactors); BCC administration and financial management; NYA; Mary McLeod Bethune disapproval of nightlife.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0243 **Outgoing, September–October 1937.** 94 frames.
Major Topics: Requests for employment assistance; BCC administration; Mary McLeod Bethune salary negotiations with Abram Simpson; BCC fund-raising; donations; BCC student aid programs; NYA; BCC relations with Tuskegee Institute; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0337 **Outgoing, November–December 1937.** 89 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC student aid programs; NYA aid to BCC; donations of shoes to BCC students.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0426 **Telegrams, 1937.** 81 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune negotiations of instructors' positions; BCC administration; BCC fund-raising.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Abram L. Simpson; Merrill J. Holmes; Gerald Allen; Charlotte Hawkins Brown.

- 0507 **Incoming, 1938.** 142 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; Florida Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes; training African American social workers in Florida; NYA in Indianapolis, Indiana; inquiries about BCC student aid; Mary McLeod Bethune Choir (New York City); National Catholic Interracial Federation; Young Women's Christian Association interracial work; destruction of BCC building by fire; request for employment assistance.
Principal Correspondents: Gerald E. Allen; George A. Beavers Jr.; Charles L. Rawlings; Nannie Burroughs; Leslie Pinckney Hill; Mary Davidson; E. H. Mack; Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
- 0649 **Outgoing, January–February 1938.** 130 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; Mary McLeod Bethune family (daughter-in-law); McLeod Hospital; BCC summer school; Mary McLeod Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, Florida; BCC student aid programs (NYA); BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0779 **Outgoing, March–April 1938.** 144 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC finances; industrial scholarship program.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.

Reel 4

General Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Outgoing, May–June 1938.** 137 frames.
Major Topics: Applications for employment at BCC; donations; Eleanor Roosevelt meeting with African American women leaders; BCC unmet financial obligations; Mary McLeod Bethune recruitment of BCC faculty; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising solicitations; NYA in Alabama; NYA aid to Grambling Normal School, Louisiana.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0138 **Outgoing, July–September 1938.** 109 frames.
Major Topics: NYA assistance to historically black colleges; donations; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising trip to California; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising solicitations; Mary McLeod Bethune recruitment of BCC faculty; Mary McLeod Bethune responses to employment assistance requests; NYA student aid at BCC; gender composition of BCC.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0247 **Outgoing, October–December 1938.** 130 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising solicitations; NYA financial aid to BCC students; Mary McLeod Bethune correspondence with BCC student applicants; BCC cooperation with Tuskegee Institute; Methodist Home Missionary Society solicited for funds; BCC administration; Mrs. Leonard Elmhirst Committee; Mary McLeod Bethune advice to job-seeking college graduates.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Abram L. Simpson.
- 0377 **Telegrams, 1938.** 160 frames.
Major Topics: Student fees; student expulsion; BCC financial obligations; Charlotte Hawkins Brown relationship with Mary McLeod Bethune; Mary McLeod Bethune assistance with Federal Housing Authority appointments; BCC relations with BEMEC; Mary McLeod Bethune relations with Eleanor Roosevelt; Florida Intercollegiate Interracial Committee Conference; pacifism; Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements; Bethune family funeral; recruitment of BCC faculty and librarian; NYA and National Council on Negro Affairs (Black Cabinet).
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Gerald E. Allen; Charlotte Hawkins Brown; Frank Horne; Merrill J. Holmes; Abram L. Simpson; Ellen Woodward; Albert Bethune; Lawrence Oxley.

- 0537 **Incoming, January–July 1939.** 128 frames.
Major Topics: Student requests for scholarships; donations; requests for Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements; efforts to schedule BCC Publicity Singers in Miami, Florida, hotels; requests for employment; BCC publicity campaign.
Principal Correspondents: Lester B. Granger; John W. Davis; Eva Jessye; Adam Clayton Powell Jr.; Mary H. Loines; H. F. Coleman; Daisy Lampkin.
- 0665 **Incoming, August–December 1939.** 196 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; requests for employment; requests for positions at BCC; BCC financial obligations.
Principal Correspondents: George C. Grant; Judson L. Cross; John W. Davis; W. E. B. Du Bois.
- 0861 **Outgoing, January–February 1939.** 104 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; financial aid for BCC students; BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondents: Bertha L. Mitchell; Mary McLeod Bethune.

Reel 5

General Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Outgoing, March–April 1939.** 177 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; replies to requests for BCC staff positions; BCC Endowment Fund; Mary McLeod Bethune testimonial dinner; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising solicitations; Mary McLeod Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, Florida; BCC student aid.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0178 **Outgoing, May–August 1939.** 175 frames.
Major Topics: Replies to requests for BCC staff positions; donations; BCC Endowment Fund; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising solicitations; donation of library books to BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune Club of Newark, New Jersey; Mary McLeod Bethune recruitment of BCC faculty; Mary McLeod Bethune collection of overdue student balances; scholarship aid for BCC students.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0353 **Outgoing, September–December 1939.** 128 frames.
Major Topics: Replies to employment requests; donations; Mary McLeod Bethune support for African American inventor; Daytona Beach public housing authority; donation of a piano to BCC; Birthday Club of BCC; New York World's Fair "Bethune-Cookman Day"; BCC policy against permitting female students to board off campus; BCC Teacher Training enrollment; defects in newly purchased school bus; student aid at BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitations for funds.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0481 **Telegrams, 1939.** 80 frames.
Major Topics: Bethune family problems; NYA in Florida; Spanish civil war relief; Mary McLeod Bethune speech before four thousand in Tampa, Florida; Mary McLeod Bethune requests Eleanor Roosevelt to visit Southern University; Bill "Bojangles" Robinson; Daytona Beach lynching.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; C. Blythe Andrews; Merrill J. Holmes; John W. Davis; Hattie Wilson.

- 0561 **Incoming, January–April 1940.** 119 frames.
Major Topics: Requests for Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements; requests for information about Mary McLeod Bethune; Association of Business Officers in Schools for Negroes; requests for employment assistance; antilynching bill; Eleanor Roosevelt visit to BCC; Association for the Development of Negro Music; Negro Birth Control Project; requests for maid service; conditions among blacks in Brazil.
Principal Correspondents: Walter F. White; Harriet Gibbs Marshall; Eichetta Randolph; Woodbridge E. Morris; Joaquim Ludz Santos.
- 0680 **Incoming, May–December 1940.** 110 frames.
Major Topics: BCC financial obligations; letters from former students; Work Projects Administration of Florida; requests for NYA positions; requests for employment assistance; correspondence about African American domestics; biographical details about Mary McLeod Bethune; NCNW; donations; Mary McLeod Bethune assistance in marketing Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery*.
Principal Correspondents: George F. Scott; Margaret Simms.
- 0790 **Outgoing, January–February 1940.** 96 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; discipline and expulsion of BCC student.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0886 **Outgoing, March–April 1940.** 99 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of contributions; donations; BCC student applications for Civilian Conservation Corps in South Carolina; Friends of Refugee Teachers; Mary McLeod Bethune recruitment of BCC faculty; BCC Sunday Chorales of spirituals and plantation songs; *The American Teacher* issue on racial equality; donations of musical instruments to BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell.

Reel 6

General Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Outgoing, May–December 1940.** 84 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; NYA student aid; hospitalization of Mary McLeod Bethune; BCC book repair project; scholarships for Civilian Conservation Corps men; Book Drive for BCC; assessment of deficiencies of BCC Library; Bethune-Cookman Club of New York City; replies to requests for BCC positions; broken health of Mary McLeod Bethune; requests for assistance in college placement; Mary McLeod Bethune support for vocational education; Mary McLeod Bethune family correspondence (son); BCC graduates at Morehouse College; BCC stormwater drainage problems; BCC gardening program.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0085 **Telegrams, 1940.** 8 frames.
Major Topics: Requests for biographical information on Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0093 **Incoming, 1941.** 31 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; applications for teaching positions; requests for Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements; BCC requests for foundation funding; NYA network; Denison College donation to BCC.
- 0124 **Outgoing, 1941.** 71 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; responses to requests for employment assistance; NYA; Mary McLeod Bethune retirement; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of contributions; BCC commencement planning; network with Methodist Church; history of BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune commitment to vocational education.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.

File Folder
Frame No.

- 0195 **Incoming, 1942.** 32 frames.
Major Topic: Donations.
- 0227 **Outgoing, 1942.** 43 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC financial situation; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of contributions.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0270 **General, 1943.** 31 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC network in Chicago, Illinois; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of contributions.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Maybeth H. Paige.
- 0301 **General, 1944–1947.** 34 frames.
Major Topic: Donations.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0335 **General, 1948–1954.** 38 frames.
Major Topics: Conference on Adult Education and the Negro; request for publication assistance; Mary McLeod Bethune protest against saloon license in Daytona Beach, Florida; honorarium to Mary McLeod Bethune from NCNW; NCNW work with African American veterans; BCC fund-raising; proposed creation of BCC credit union; Florida attorney general consultation with Mary McLeod Bethune over *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.
Principal Correspondents: Carrie Guerpahn Hargrave; Mary McLeod Bethune; Joseph F. Albright; Mabel Lee; Ralph E. Odum.
- 0373 **Incoming, Undated.** 107 frames.
Major Topics: BCC Publicity Singers at James Roosevelt home in New York City; donations; requests for employment; BCC Publicity Singers; Vida Mulholland; fund-raising for BCC in Lake George, New York, region; Methodist Federation of Social Services; United Christians Council for Democracy.
Principal Correspondents: Elizabeth W. Frothingham; Alida E. S. Whitmarsh.
- 0480 **Outgoing, Undated.** 17 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0497 **Telegrams, Undated.** 30 frames.
Major Topics: BCC fund-raising in Chicago; NYA relief for African American youths.
Principal Correspondents: Marjorie Stewart Joyner; Col. John C. Robinson; Abram L. Simpson.
- 0527 **Fragments and Miscellaneous, Undated.** 27 frames.
Major Topic: Methodist Episcopal Board of Education demand for accounts of unpaid student bills at BCC.
Principal Correspondent: Merrill J. Holmes.

Special Correspondence

- 0554 **Allen, Gerald, 1937–1938.** 37 frames.
Major Topics: BCC fund-raising in Detroit, Michigan, and Youngstown, Ohio; solicitation of Joe Lewis; BCC fund-raising in Philadelphia and New York; solicitation of Cab Calloway; BCC financial predicament.
Principal Correspondents: Gerald Allen; Abram L. Simpson; Rev. John Haynes Holmes.
- 0591 **Bethune, Albert, 1934–1941.** 13 frames.
Major Topics: Albert Bethune falsely linked to murder; financial statement; Morehouse College; college expenses; Margaret Bethune enrollment in mortuary school; Albert Bethune financial difficulties.
Principal Correspondent: Albert Bethune.

- 0604 **Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1927–1930.** 108 frames.
Major Topics: 1928 Report of the Department of Educational Institutions for Negroes; Gammon Theological Seminary (Atlanta); Flint-Goodridge Hospital and Nurses Training School (New Orleans); Clark University (Atlanta); Bennett College (North Carolina); Samuel Huston College; Walden College; philanthropy of BEMEC; college cost accounting, curriculum development, faculty teaching load, and personnel policies; BEMEC refusal to raise Mary McLeod Bethune's salary; BCC effort to borrow against Mary McLeod Bethune's life insurance policy; BEMEC subsidy for BCC faculty; BEMEC approval of increase in Mary McLeod Bethune's salary; funding decrease of BEMEC; Methodist Episcopal Church World Service; donations; BCC student scholarships; Lyman G. Floyd Fund; Mary B. Cookman Fund; Mary McLeod Bethune faculty selections for BCC; BCC financial deficit; BCC building construction plan; BCC applications to Julius Rosenwald Fund and General Education Board; General Education Board \$62,000 grant to BCC; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; Christian ethics in education; financial problems of BEMEC.
Principal Correspondents: Merrill J. Holmes; J. P. McMillan; William S. Bovard; Eva M. Willard; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0712 **Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1931–1935.** 75 frames.
Major Topics: BCC Endowment Plan; BCC building construction plan; BEMEC financial assistance to BCC; BEMEC financial problems; scholarship grants for BCC students; BEMEC pressure on BCC to eliminate positions and cut budget; promotion of Edwin Embree; "Brown America"; BEMEC student loan program.
Principal Correspondents: Merrill J. Holmes; May Getzendanner; Frederick Carl Eiselen; William J. Davidson; H. K. Wright.
- 0787 **Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1936–1942 and Undated.** 84 frames.
Major Topics: General Education Board grant to BCC for teachers' salaries; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; interracial student meetings at BCC; BEMEC pressure on BCC on collecting student accounts; faculty recommendations; capital repairs to BCC; BCC finances; hospitalization of Mary McLeod Bethune; Methodist Church "Children's Day"; growth and expansion of BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune national speaking tour; Pfeiffer Fund; BEMEC student loan program; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of foundation General Education Board and foundation grants.
Principal Correspondents: Merrill J. Holmes; William Frothingham; Bertha L. Mitchell; Miron A. Morrill; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0871 **Bond, (Dean) James A., 1935–1941.** 61 frames.
Major Topics: Instructions to faculty; BCC administration; BCC Student Aid Committee; management of student financial accounts; student recommendations; discipline of students.
Principal Correspondents: James A. Bond; Bertha L. Mitchell.

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Special Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Colston, James, 1942–1945.** 92 frames.
Major Topics: Response to unfavorable publicity about BCC; promotion of BCC; student recommendations; donations; faculty recruitment; BCC budgeting; United Negro College Fund assistance to BCC; solicitation of donations; establishment of BCC football team.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; James Colston; Bertha L. Mitchell.

- 0093 **Flint, Bishop Charles W., 1937–1941.** 36 frames.
Major Topics: Speaking invitations to Charles W. Flint; Methodist Episcopal Church World Service financial assistance to BCC; BCC fund-raising efforts; Abram Simpson administration; plans to expand BCC to four-year college; relationship of BCC to BEMEC.
Principal Correspondents: Charles Wesley Flint; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0129 **General Education Board, 1929–1942.** 11 frames.
Major Topics: BCC Endowment and Capital Improvement Campaign; BCC application for fund to General Education Board; University of Atlanta consolidation; BCC 1933 financial statement.
Principal Correspondents: W. S. Snead; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0140 **Goodman, Emma, 1940–1942.** 25 frames.
Major Topic: Book donations for BCC Library.
Principal Correspondents: Emma E. Goodman; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0165 **Mitchell, Bertha [Loving], 1931–1934.** 39 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune appreciation of Bertha Mitchell; BCC teachers' salaries; Mary McLeod Bethune speaking engagements; Mary McLeod Bethune conferences with General Education Board; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising; administration of BCC president's office; student work regimen.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell; James A. Bond; Fletcher M. Morton.
- 0204 **Mitchell, Bertha, 1935–1937.** 65 frames.
Major Topics: Student financial accounts; Mary McLeod Bethune hospitalization; BCC teachers' salaries; BEMEC loans to BCC; BCC Publicity Singers; NAACP antilynching campaign; donations; Gerald Allen fund-raising in New York City.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell; Daisy Lampkin; Gerald E. Allen.
- 0269 **Mitchell, Bertha, 1938.** 192 frames.
Major Topics: BCC student fees and boarding; BCC Publicity Singers; donations; NYA scholarship aid; BCC finances; BCC administration; BCC "Cabin" expenses.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0461 **Mitchell, Bertha, Incoming, 1939.** 100 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune speaking requests; donations; Colored Funeral Directors Association; Tuskegee Cooperative Industrial Extension Program; faculty appointments.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Kelsey Pharr; Janie Porter Barrett; Claude McKay; James A. Bond; Eloise Troutman.
- 0561 **Mitchell, Bertha, Outgoing, January–June 1939.** 98 frames.
Major Topics: Student work assignments; requests for student aid; female student discipline at BCC; administration of BCC president's office; donations; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; NYA aid for BCC students.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0659 **Mitchell, Bertha, Outgoing, July–September 1939.** 74 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC Endowment Fund campaign; students' financial accounts; BCC president's office management; Mary McLeod Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, Florida.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0733 **Mitchell, Bertha, Outgoing, October–December 1939.** 111 frames.
Major Topics: Students' financial accounts; BCC completion of financial obligations to Gerald Allen; BCC Publicity Singers; NYA student aid program; low-income housing program in Daytona Beach, Florida.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.

- 0844 **Mitchell, Bertha, Incoming, 1940.** 74 frames.
Major Topics: NYA student aid program; donations; low-income housing program in Augusta, Georgia; BCC Publicity Singers; letters from alumni; applications for employment.
Principal Correspondents: J. Richardson Jones; Mary McLeod Bethune.

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Special Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Mitchell, Bertha, Outgoing, January–March 1940.** 73 frames.
Major Topics: BCC student scholarship programs; student financial accounts; NYA student aid at BCC; BCC Publicity Singers; Roland Hayes Concert to benefit BCC; student applications to BCC.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0074 **Mitchell, Bertha, Outgoing, April–June 1940.** 109 frames.
Major Topics: Student financial accounts; hospitalization of Mary McLeod Bethune; Friends of Refugee Teachers seek faculty appointments at BCC; BCC land ownership in Daytona Beach, Florida.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0183 **Mitchell, Bertha, Outgoing, July–December 1940.** 85 frames.
Major Topics: BCC textbook purchases; donations; BCC student aid programs; NYA student aid at BCC; student financial accounts; BCC suggested appointment to Daytona Beach Recreation Board; BCC finances.
Principal Correspondent: Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0268 **Mitchell, Bertha, 1941–1942.** 60 frames.
Major Topics: Albert Bethune college expenses; recruitment of administrative staff for BCC; Wings Over Jordan choir in Daytona Beach, Florida; solicitation for BCC contributions; children's aid to destitute families in Daytona Beach, Florida; Mary McLeod Bethune on transition of BCC from a two-year to a four-year college; Denison University students' donation to BCC; BCC financial administration; BCC graduates in Tuskegee Army Flying School and Atlanta School of Social Work; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising for BCC; BCC 1942–1943 financial plans; NYA student aid; NYA War Production Training Center at BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Albert Bethune Jr.; Gertrude Brown; Bertha L. Mitchell; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0328 **Mitchell, Bertha, 1943–1945 and Undated.** 53 frames.
Major Topics: Donations; BCC finances; fund-raising among BCC graduates; health of Mary McLeod Bethune; student financial accounts; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising; Mary McLeod Bethune hospitalization; BCC graduate in Tuskegee Army Flying School; donations; African American affiliation with Republican Party in 1928; Mary McLeod Bethune role in 1928 Florida hurricane relief.
Principal Correspondents: Bertha L. Mitchell; Mary McLeod Bethune; H. F. Coleman.
- 0381 **Moore, Richard, 1947–1949.** 136 frames.
Major Topics: Administration of BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising; Mary McLeod Bethune Circle movement; Mary McLeod Bethune speaking trip to California; dedication of college infirmary at BCC; General Education Board assistance to BCC; capital projects on BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune health problems; Mary McLeod Bethune protest against Lionel Hampton concert at BCC; Helen Gahagan Douglas visit to BCC; Alpha Phi Omega sorority donation to BCC; Bethune family.
Principal Correspondents: Richard V. Moore; Mary McLeod Bethune.

- 0517 **Moore, Richard, 1950–1955.** 87 frames.
Major Topics: Alpha Phi Omega sorority donation; Mary McLeod Bethune advice on staff positions and hiring of BCC dean; administration of BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising travel to Chicago, New York City, and California; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of donors to BCC; United Negro College Fund; growth in BCC enrollment; Albert Bethune employment by BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune health problems; network with Rockefeller family; Cuban alumni of BCC; UBSCOT Association assistance to BCC; resignation of Richard V. Moore from Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Richard V. Moore; Huber W. Hurt.
- 0604 **Simpson, Abram L., 1937–1938.** 158 frames.
Major Topics: Student financial accounts; donations; Black Elks Club of southeastern states Regional Oratorical Contest; BCC scholarship program; BCC financial obligations to Gerald Allen; BCC network with Florida Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; teachers' salary equalization case in Florida; replies to applications for teaching positions; BCC fund-raising; student applications for NYA assistance; BCC finances; BCC administration; BCC staffing; BCC fund-raising in New York City; demise of General Education Board; Mary McLeod Bethune plans to expand BCC to a four-year college; BCC Publicity Singers; BCC fund-raising in Jacksonville, Florida; BCC accreditation rating by The Southern Association.
Principal Correspondents: Abram L. Simpson; B. E. Pharrow; Gerald E. Allen; Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell; Ethel L. Richardson.
- 0762 **Simpson, Abram L., Report, 1938.** 25 frames.
Major Topics: Expansion of BCC to a four-year college; BCC faculty credentials; BCC student selection; BCC enrollment statistics; BCC administration; BCC finances and funding sources.
- 0787 **Simpson, Abram L., 1939 [–1940 and Undated].** 31 frames.
Major Topics: NYA financing of vocational education at BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune evaluation and dismissal of Abram Simpson as president of BCC; regulation of dances at BCC; BCC administration.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0818 **Stuart, Helen R. [1930–1931].** 20 frames.
Major Topics: Meetings of National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and National Education Association; solicitation of contributions for BCC; administration of BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Helen R. Stuar; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0838 **Student Correspondence, 1936–1938.** 80 frames.
Major Topics: Student admissions; student accounts; inquiries about student aid; donations.
Principal Correspondent: Mrs. C. M. Ranslow.

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Special Correspondence cont.

- 0001 **Student Correspondence, 1939.** 76 frames.
Major Topics: Student admissions; student accounts; inquiries about student aid; donations.
- 0077 **Student Correspondence, 1940 and Undated.** 93 frames.
Major Topics: Student admissions; student accounts; inquiries about student aid; donations.
- 0170 **Walcott, Senator F. C., [1930–1939].** 27 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of contributions; BCC financial situation; Mary McLeod Bethune Republican Party affiliation; Eleanor Roosevelt assistance with BCC fund-raising.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; F. C. Walcott.

- 0197 **Whitehurst, Harold, [1950–1951].** 38 frames.
Major Topic: BCC Alumni Association.
Principal Correspondents: Richard V. Moore; Harold B. Whitehurst.
- 0235 **Williams, Panchita, [1945–1947].** 9 frames.
Major Topic: Management of girls' dormitory at BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Panchita Williams; James A. Colston; Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0244 **Youngblood, Joe, [1939–1940].** 15 frames.
Major Topic: NYA college aid for BCC students.
Principal Correspondents: Bertha L. Mitchell; Joe A. Youngblood.

Subject File

- 0259 **Annual Prize Awards, 1936–1939.** 38 frames.
Major Topics: BCC speech contest; creative writing prize; poetry contest; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of scholarship award funds.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0297 **Annual Prize Awards, 1940.** 52 frames.
Major Topics: Painting prize; art prize; collegiality prize; academic achievement prize; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of funding for scholarships and prizes.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; James A. Bond.
- 0349 **Annual Prize Awards, 1941.** 62 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of funding for scholarships and prizes; BCC Club of New York City; academic scholarships; poetry prize.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0411 **Annual Prize Awards, 1942.** 49 frames.
Major Topic: Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of funding for scholarships and prizes.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; James A. Bond.
- 0460 **Annual Prize Awards, 1943–1947 and Undated.** 63 frames.
Major Topic: James A. Colston solicitation of funding for scholarships and prizes.
Principal Correspondents: James A. Colston; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0523 **Bethune, Mary McLeod, Personal.** 28 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune essay, "A Direct Personal Appeal to the Men, Women, and Children of My Race" (1924); BCC endowment campaign; Mary McLeod Bethune rally of African American support for World War II effort; Mary McLeod Bethune retirement as president of BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune leadership in growth and development of BCC; biographical sketch of Mary McLeod Bethune.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0551 **Bethune Clubs, Deanwood Bethune-Cookman Club, [1937].** 3 frames.
- 0554 **Bethune Clubs, Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, [1934–1938].** 55 frames.
Major Topics: Bylaws of Mary McLeod Bethune Circle of Jacksonville, Florida; fund-raising for BCC; BCC Women's Advisory Board.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Ada M. Lee.
- 0609 **Bethune Clubs, Bethune-Cookman Mothers Club of Miami, [1939–1940].** 14 frames.
Major Topic: Fund-raising for BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Irene Newman.
- 0623 **Bethune Clubs, Bethune-Cookman Association of New York, [1933–1938].** 33 frames.
Major Topics: Fund-raising for BCC; Florida State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; BCC capital improvements; Mary McLeod Bethune health problems; Mary McLeod Bethune visit to Antioch College.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Ferris J. Meigs; Louise L. Meigs; Hubert T. Delany.

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Frame No.

- 0656 **Bethune Clubs, Bethune Club of Washington, D.C., [1937–1938].** 12 frames.
Major Topic: Fund-raising for BCC.
- 0668 **Bethune–Cookman, Circulars and Printed Matter, [1924–1947].** 89 frames.
Major Topics: Fund-raising for BCC; student loan programs; commencement brochures; BCC information directory; retirement of Mary McLeod Bethune; BCC Library user statistics; BCC Board of Trustees meetings; BCC fund-raising; Citizens' National Committee on Aid for BCC; BCC war production; list of outstanding graduates of BCC; Florida State Teachers Association.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; James A. Colston; Elizabeth Wellington; Channing H. Tobias.
- 0757 **Bethune Medal, [1940–1942].** 32 frames.
Major Topics: Award for female academic and community work at BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune solicitation of funding for annual medal.
Principal Correspondents: Bertha L. Mitchell; Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0789 **Commencement, 1939.** 37 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune invitations to BCC commencement exercise; BCC awards and prizes.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; James A. Colston.
- 0826 **Commencement, 1941–1943.** 25 frames.
Major Topics: Mary McLeod Bethune invitations to BCC commencement exercise; BCC awards and prizes.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; John W. Davis.
- 0851 **Commencement, 1944–1945.** 58 frames.
Major Topic: Commencement programs.
- 0909 **Commencement, 1946.** 27 frames.
Major Topic: Awards and prizes at BCC commencement exercise.
Principal Correspondent: James A. Colston.

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Subject File cont.

- 0001 **Commencement, 1947.** 51 frames.
Major Topics: Commencement program; invitation to speakers.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Richard V. Moore.
- 0052 **Commencement, Summer School, 1947.** 42 frames.
Major Topics: Commencement programs; invitations to speakers.
Principal Correspondent: Richard V. Moore.
- 0094 **Commencement, 1948.** 42 frames.
Major Topics: Commencement program; invitation to speakers; list of BCC graduates and grades.
Principal Correspondents: Richard V. Moore; Bishop J. W. E. Bowen.

- 0136 **Commencement, Other Colleges.** 27 frames.
Major Topics: Wilberforce University; Atlanta University; West Virginia State College; Mary McLeod Bethune commencement speech.
- 0163 **Estates, Bequeaths, [1922–1941].** 35 frames.
Major Topics: George S. Doane estate; Fremont M. Jackson estate; Mary Brookins estate; Trown estate; Paddock estate.
- 0198 **Estates, Flora B. Curtis, [1923–1927].** 81 frames.
- 0279 **Equipment, Maintenance and Supplies, [1928–1944 and Undated].** 47 frames.
- 0326 **Keyser Practice School, 1934–1935.** 87 frames.
Major Topics: Applications for teaching positions at BCC; elementary school at BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Mattie Murrell Starke; Mary McLeod Bethune; Arimentha Neely.
- 0413 **Keyser Practice School, 1936–1941 and Undated.** 73 frames.
Major Topics: Salary for principal teacher at BCC elementary school; applications for teaching positions at elementary school; Mary McLeod Bethune dismissal of elementary school principal.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Arimentha Neely; Helen Harris Bracey.
- 0486 **Memo Folder, 1943–1944.** 11 frames.
Major Topic: Plans for athletic events.
- 0497 **Musical Engagements, [1937–1944].** 49 frames.
Major Topic: BCC Publicity Singers.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell.
- 0546 **National Youth Administration (NYA), [1938–1942 and Undated].** 144 frames.
Major Topics: BCC students in NYA work programs; NYA student aid at BCC; NYA student aid at Tougaloo College; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising solicitation; correspondence with student's parents regarding NYA aid and student financial responsibilities; Mary McLeod Bethune administration of NYA office in Washington, D.C.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; Bertha L. Mitchell; James L. Cross.
- 0690 **Society for Correct Civil War Information, [1941].** 20 frames.
- 0710 **Storm Relief, 1928–1929.** 89 frames.
Major Topics: Florida hurricane relief; fund-raising.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0799 **Student Forum, 1934–1935.** 56 frames.
Major Topics: Financial accounts; music instruction at BCC; appreciations of BCC student achievement.
- 0855 **Teacher and Staff Applications, 1935–1937.** 20 frames.
- 0875 **Teacher and Staff Applications, 1938 (A–L).** 130 frames.

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Subject File cont.

- 0001 **Teacher and Staff Applications, 1938 (M–Z).** 113 frames.
- 0114 **Teacher and Staff Applications, 1939.** 131 frames.
- 0245 **Teacher and Staff Applications, 1940.** 99 frames.
- 0344 **Teacher and Staff Applications, 1945–1948 and Undated.** 84 frames.
- 0428 **Teacher and Staff Applications (Response to), [1938–1947].** 87 frames.
- 0515 **Trustee and Advisory Board, 1928–1937.** 136 frames.
Major Topics: BEMEC assistance for BCC; BCC Charter amendments; Mary McLeod Bethune expansion plans for BCC; Mary McLeod Bethune fund-raising efforts; BCC finances.
Principal Correspondents: Stanley High; W. S. Snead; Mary McLeod Bethune; Emmett J. Scott; Louise L. Meigs.

- 0651 **Trustee and Advisory Board, 1938–1948 and Undated.** 117 frames.
Major Topics: BCC financial difficulties; administration of BCC; Bethune family.
Principal Correspondents: Emmett J. Scott; Mary McLeod Bethune; James A. Colston.
- 0768 **United Beauty School Owners and Teachers Conference, [1946–1950 and Undated].** 124 frames.
Major Topics: Conference of UBSCOT at BCC; Madame C. J. Walker Manufacturing Co.; UBSCOT and Mary McLeod Bethune meeting with Bess Truman; African American college sororities; local chapters of UBSCOT; UBSCOT cooperation with NCNW to raise funds for BCC women's dormitory; UBSCOT bulletins; UBSCOT convention programs.
Principal Correspondents: Marjorie S. Joyner; Mary McLeod Bethune; Richard V. Moore.
- 0892 **Veterans Advisement Center, [1947–1949].** 51 frames.
Major Topics: Veterans guidance center at BCC; staff cuts to African American veterans' advisers protested by BCC.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; J. C. Holbrook; Richard V. Moore; M. M. Greene.
- 0943 **Veterans Housing Project, [1946–1949].** 66 frames.
Major Topics: BCC management of public housing for veterans in Daytona Beach, Florida; BCC Veterans Housing Authority; financial statements for 1948–1949.
Principal Correspondents: Bertha L. Mitchell; Richard V. Moore.
- 1009 **Visitors and Consultants on Campus, 1950–1951.** 6 frames.
Major Topic: Ruby Hurley visit to BCC.
- 1015 **Vocational Education Courses, [1949 and Undated].** 116 frames.
- 1131 **Work Conference, 1950.** 82 frames.
Major Topic: Custodians' convention at BCC.
- 1213 **Addenda, 1935–1938.** 9 frames.
Major Topics: Administration and management of BCC finances and physical plant; Mary McLeod Bethune involvement in women's networks.
Principal Correspondent: Addie W. Dickerson.

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Financial Records

- 0001 **Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Contributions, [1938–1939].** 18 frames.
- 0019 **Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Correspondence, [1928–1934].** 9 frames.
Major Topics: BCC finances; BCC teachers' salaries; BCC Endowment Fund.
Principal Correspondents: Mary McLeod Bethune; May Getzendanner.
- 0028 **Budgets, 1935–1942.** 14 frames.
- 0042 **General, 1934–1946.** 28 frames.
Major Topics: Audit of BCC by BEMEC; BCC students' accounts; BCC financial accounts.
- 0070 **General, Undated.** 36 frames.
Major Topic: Donations.
- 0106 **Insurance, 1928–1932.** 74 frames.
Major Topic: BCC financial crisis.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0180 **Insurance, 1933–1946 and Undated.** 82 frames.
Major Topic: BCC borrowing on insurance policies.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0262 **Purchasing and Financial Transactions, [1932–1940].** 68 frames.
- 0330 **Financial Statements, 1933–1934.** 11 frames.

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- 0341 **Financial Statements, 1936–1937.** 6 frames.
- 0347 **Financial Statements, 1938.** 15 frames.
- 0362 **Financial Statements, 1942.** 30 frames.
- 0392 **Financial Statements, 1944.** 7 frames.
- 0399 **Fund-raising, Alumni, 1936–1943.** 17 frames.
- 0416 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1933.** 3 frames.
- 0419 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1934.** 18 frames.
- 0437 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1935.** 15 frames.
- 0452 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1936.** 28 frames.
- 0480 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1937.** 41 frames.
- 0521 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1938.** 24 frames.
- 0545 **Fund-raising, Bazaar, 1939.** 28 frames.
- 0573 **Fund-raising, Bazaar/Spring Fete, 1940.** 25 frames.
- 0598 **Fund-raising, Bazaar/Spring Fete, 1941.** 38 frames.
- 0636 **Fund-raising, Bazaar/Spring Fete, 1942.** 61 frames.
- 0697 **Fund-raising, Bazaar/Spring Fete, 1944.** 18 frames.
- 0715 **Fund-raising, Bazaar/Spring Fete, 1945.** 14 frames.

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Financial Records cont.

- 0001 **Fund-raising, Bethune Appreciation Campaign Day, 1934, 1938.** 30 frames.
Principal Correspondent: Ethel Richardson.
- 0031 **Fund-raising, Birthday Club.** 8 frames.
- 0039 **Fund-raising, Capital Fund Pledges.** 13 frames.
- 0052 **Fund-raising, Conference Collections, 1935–1940.** 18 frames.
- 0070 **Fund-raising, Donors' Lists, 1935–1936.** 7 frames.
- 0077 **Fund-raising, Donors' Lists, 1937–1942.** 64 frames.
- 0141 **Fund-raising, Donors' Lists, 1943.** 5 frames.
- 0146 **Fund-raising, Donors' Lists, 1947.** 32 frames.
- 0178 **Fund-raising, Donors' Lists, 1948–1950.** 42 frames.
- 0220 **Fund-raising, Donors' Lists, Undated.** 25 frames.
- 0245 **Fund-raising, General, [1926–1947].** 32 frames.
Major Topic: Donations.
Principal Correspondent: Mary McLeod Bethune.
- 0277 **Fund-raising, General, Undated.** 57 frames.
Major Topic: Fund-raising in Florida.
Principal Correspondent: Bernard Milton Jones.
- 0334 **Fund-raising Lists, Undated (1).** 38 frames.
- 0372 **Fund-raising Lists, Undated (2).** 77 frames.
Major Topic: Fund-raising in Florida.
- 0449 **Fund-raising Lists, 1945.** 38 frames.
Major Topic: Fund-raising in Florida.

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- 0487 **Fund-raising, Lincoln Day Offering, 1934–1935.** 11 frames.
- 0498 **Fund-raising, Loyalty Rally, 1939.** 53 frames.
- 0551 **Fund-raising, Student/Teacher Drive, 1937.** 43 frames.
- 0594 **Fund-raising, Student/Teacher Drive, 1938.** 10 frames.
- 0604 **Fund-raising, Student/Teacher Drive, 1939–1941.** 33 frames.
- 0637 **Fund-raising, Student/Teacher Drive, 1942.** 36 frames.
- 0673 **Fund-raising, Student/Teacher and Community Drive, 1943.** 69 frames.

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENTS INDEX

The following index is a guide to the major correspondents in this microform publication. The first number after each entry or subentry refers to the reel, while the four-digit number following the colon refers to the frame number at which a particular file folder containing correspondence by the person begins. Hence, 1: 0280 directs the researcher to the folder that begins at Frame 0280 of Reel 1. By referring to the Reel Index, which constitutes the initial segment of this guide, the researcher will find the folder title, inclusive dates, and a list of Major Topics and Principal Correspondents arranged in the order in which they appear on the film.

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3: 0426, 0507; 4: 0377; 6: 0554; 7: 0204; 8: 0604

Andrews, C. Blythe

5: 0481

Barrett, Janie Porter

7: 0461

Beavers, George A., Jr.

3: 0507

Bethune, Albert

4: 0377; 6: 0591; 8: 0268

Bethune, Mary McLeod

1: 0001, 0079, 0280, 0408, 0775–0885; 2: 0001–0311, 0584–0889; 3: 0001–0426, 0649–0779; 4: 0001–0377, 0861; 5: 0001–0481, 0790–0886; 6: 0001–0124, 0227–0335, 0480, 0604, 0787; 7: 0001–0204, 0461, 0844; 8: 0268–0604, 0787–0818; 9: 0001, 0259–0826; 10: 0001, 0326–0710; 11: 0515–0892; 12: 0019–0180; 13: 0245

Bond, James A.

6: 0871; 7: 0165, 0461; 9: 0297, 0411

Boque, Agnes

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Bovard, William S.

6: 0604

Bowen, Bishop J. W. E.

10: 0094

Bracey, Helen Harris

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Brooks, Elizabeth Carter

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Brown, Charlotte Hawkins

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