

Turner Family Papers, 1864-1999 (14 folders, .22 cubic feet)

Processed by Jonathan L. Stokdyk, December 2004

Restrictions

None.

Biographical Sketch

The Turner family was an African-American family that lived in Richmond, Kentucky during and following the Civil War. We do not know when Daniel and America were married, but they had children who were born in slavery, so there will be no documentation for a marriage, as slave marriages were not recorded.

Members of the Turner family included:

- Daniel (ca. 1820-ca. 1895) married America (1828-24 Dec 1876)
- Ellen
- Levi Hood (1847-22 Apr 1886) married Fannie Holloway (-12 Apr 1887) on 22 Feb 1870
- John married Patsy
- Makan
- Dallis
- Wyatt (1856-1 Jan 1936) married Emma Young (formerly Mitchell) (1855-30 May 1932) on 13 Jan 1887
- Anderson
- Annie (1867-31 Jan 1953) married Fielden Chenault (15 Jun 1868-5 Nov 1945) on 29 Dec 1887
- America (1865-28 Aug 1961) married June Covington on 28 Sep 1889
- Bettie married Thomas Miller on 21 Nov 1954
- Eva married Marshall Jones

Several of the Turners may have served as “Buffalo Soldiers.”

John Turner served with the 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery at Camp Nelson.

Dallis served in New Albany under Col. Sedgewick.

Makan served in Company D, 10th Cavalry.

John Turner (is probably a different John) spent 5 years on the Frontier with Company D, 10th Cavalry.

The family purchased a new home in Richmond, KY ca. 1865. The house at 349 Hill Street was still owned by a member of the family, Frank Douglas Walker, in 1999.

See Folder 15 - References for supporting documents.

Scope and Content Note

The first part of this collection contains six letters (with typescripts and transcriber's footnotes) written by members of the Turner Family during and following the Civil War. The letters appear to have been dictated to and written by someone other than the author. These letters mainly refer to the health and activities of family and friends. These include letters from family members who served as "Buffalo Soldiers" – the name given to African-American Soldiers – during and following the civil war.

The second part of this collection provides glimpses of African-American life in Madison County, Kentucky during the Twentieth Century. This includes ephemeral material about local African Americans and correspondence about Black history in the Richmond, KY area. There is also a historical sketch detailing significant African-Americans in Richmond.

The final part of this collection are two Turner family reunion booklets which contain photographs, family history, copies of documents and address lists.

Copies of supporting documents, such as census records, are included with the collection.

Donor Information

The Turner Family Papers were donated to the ECU Special Collections and Archives by W. Burghardt Turner, 19 July 1999. (Accession Number 1999-015)

Box List

- f.01 23 Nov 1864 ALS John Turner to wife Patsy Turner. John writes from Camp Nelson, Kentucky. He will go to Louisville tomorrow and recommends Patsy does not come to Camp Nelson. He mentions a wagon train to Crab Orchard.
- f.02 21 Aug 1865 ALS America Turner to her husband. She writes of the health of the family and the possibility of moving to Lexington.
- f.03 16 Dec 1865 ALS Dallis (possibly John) to his mother. He writes from New Albany. Writes of health and of family and friends. Col. Sedgewick received a letter from Mexico saying Dallis's Brigade will go to Washington City for garrison duty soon.
- f.04 08 Dec 1872 ALS Makan (possibly John) Turner to his mother. He writes from Camp Supply Indian Territory, Company D, 10th Cavalry.
- f.05 01 Jul 1876 ALS Ellen Turner to her mother. She writes from Lexington, Kentucky. Writes of family and friends.
- f.06 06 Mar 1877 ALS John Turner to his mother. He writes from Fort Concho, Texas, Company D, 10th Cavalry. He has been on the Frontier nearly five years.
- f.07 ca. Aug 1907 AD Minutes of 32nd Annual session of the Mt. Pleasant District Association [of churches] in Madison County, Kentucky. Photo of Reverend Isaac Miller on reverse.
- f.08 ca. May 1912 AD Abstract of Log and photograph of S.S. Olympic for Voyage East on May 25, 1912 from New York to Southampton. Captain H. J. Haddock, commander.
- f.09 08 May 1908 AD Commencement address "Up From Slavery in Forty Years" by Annie C. Turner.
- f.10 ca. Apr 1932 AD Program, Fourteenth Anniversary of the pastorate of the Reverend J. Welby Broadduss of the First Baptist Church, Richmond Kentucky, April 10-11, 1932. With photograph of Rev. J. Welby Broaddus.
- f.11 ca. Jun 1957 AD Program, Kentucky State College Class Reunions, June 1-2, 1957.
- f.12 01 Jun 1975 AD Program, Kentucky State College Reunion of Sevens and the Class of 1932 (25th Anniversary).
- f.13 1980-1996 Copies of letters inquiring about black history in Richmond and Madison County, Kentucky. Replies include a copy of a historical sketch of pieces of Richmond's Black history (10 documents).
- f.14 1997-1999 Duncan-Turner Family Reunion Booklets (2 documents). Contain

photographs, family history, copies of documents and address lists.
Duncan-Turner Family Reunion, July 19, 1997.
Duncan-Turner Family Reunion, July 15-18, 1999.

- f.15 Reference Copies of reference materials referring to the Turner family, including:
- 1870 Federal Census of Madison County, Kentucky
 - 1890 Federal Census of Madison County, Kentucky
 - 1880 Federal Census of Madison County, Kentucky
 - Madison County, Kentucky Marriage Records, Vol 3 & 4
 - Madison County Clerk Deed Book records
 - Kentucky Vital Statistics Certificates of Death
 - Madison County, Kentucky Newspaper Death Notices
 - Cemetery Records of Madison County, Vol 1 & 2
 - The Buffalo Soldiers on the Western Frontier