



## Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

801 K Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Finding aids are narrative guides to archival collections created by the repository to describe the contents of the material. They often provide much more detailed information than can be found in individual catalog records. Contents of finding aids often include short biographies or histories, processing notes, information about the size, scope, and material types included in the collection, guidance on how to navigate the collection, and an index to box and folder contents.

### What are Legacy Finding Aids?

The following document is a legacy finding aid – a guide which has not been updated recently. Information may be outdated, such as the Historical Society's contact information or exact box numbers for contents' location within the collection. Legacy finding aids are a product of their times; language and terms may not reflect the Historical Society's commitment to culturally sensitive and anti-racist language. This guide is provided in "as is" condition for immediate use by the public. This file will be replaced with an updated version when available.

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## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

**Title:** MS 635 Freeman/Bundy/Turner Family Papers, 1884-1972

**Processor:** Linda Neylon

**Date:** April 24, 2005

**James F. Bundy** (1862-1914) was born in Rappahannock County, Virginia, on September 22, 1862, to Mrs. Annie Bundy and Armstead Bundy. In 1868, James moved to Washington, DC with his family, where he met and married his wife, Delilia Freeman Bundy in 1884. James F. Bundy attended Oberlin College and Howard University, where he earned an A.B. in 1884, an LL.B. in 1886, and LL.M. in 1887. James became a highly respected lawyer, and Howard University appointed him Secretary-Treasurer of the Law School in 1890.

**Delilia Freeman Bundy** (d. 1955) was also born in Rappahannock County, Virginia. She had four brothers and sisters, including Daniel, Harriet, James, and Sarah. She attended school in Alexandria, where she opened a private school for girls in her home. Delilia later opened a dressmaking shop, which she operated until her marriage to James F. Bundy. She and James had seven children, of whom only Della and Zenobia survived to adulthood. Delilia was also active in the community, and was one of the founders of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in 1905.

**Della Bundy Turner** (d.1972) attended Washington High School, Washington Normal School, Washington Conservatory of Music, and Howard University, where she received a degree of the Bachelor of Music from Howard University in 1925. The name on the degree from Howard University is Della Bundy Wilson, though no other record appears in the papers of her marriage to Mr. James Franklin Wilson, as indicated on a telegram sent after Zenobia's death. Della opened a studio in the Bundy home at 403 O. Street, NW, where she taught music to adults and to local children, through the local schools. She was later married to Joseph P. Turner, Jr., who died in 1953. She was a great supporter of the arts in Washington, DC, and attended many of the concerts in the city through most of her life.

**Zenobia Miller Bundy** (1903-1930) attended the Jones School, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Myrtilla Miner Normal School, and Brown University. Zenobia graduated from Brown University in 1927 with a Bachelor of Philosophy, and began work as a teacher at Garnet-Patterson Junior High School soon after. Zenobia was also involved, like the rest of her family, with the Second Baptist Church and Sunday School. Zenobia died in April of 1930 from pneumonia. Announcements of her death and family statements appeared in *The Crisis*, *The Afro-American* of Baltimore, Maryland, and *The Star*.

**Daniel Freeman** (1868-1927) was a brother of Della Freeman Bundy, husband of Gertrude Dowling, and a well-known Washington, DC photographer. He died in 1927 due to injuries sustained when a car struck him.

**Harriet Freeman** (d. 1950) was a sister of Delilia Freeman Bundy. She worked at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing until retiring in 1935.

**James Freeman** (?) was Delilia Freeman Bundy's second brother. He had one child, Grace Freeman Roy.

**Sarah Freeman** (d.1957) was the youngest of the Freeman siblings. She married George H. Wilson, and had one son, George H. Wilson, Jr., who died in 1947.

**Scope and Content:** The Freeman/Bundy/Turner Family Papers include school diplomas, marriage certificates, a 1917 passport, a 1930 issue of *The Crisis*, correspondence, memorial statements, and photographs taken by both Daniel Freeman and Scurlock studios. There are also many materials related to the 1944 publication of *James F. Bundy 1862-1914: a Biography*, by Charles M. Thomas. The Freemans, Bundys, and Turners were prominent African American families, and the papers are a reflection of their inclusion in influential circles in Washington, D.C.

The collection is arranged into three series along family and generational lines:

**SERIES I: BUNDY FAMILY PAPERS, 1884-1972**, consists of correspondence, scrapbook contents, memorial statements, photographs, and printed material. The series arrangement is by family member, then chronologically.

**SERIES II: FREEMAN FAMILY PAPERS, 1910-1957**, consists of memorial statements, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other papers. The series is arranged by family members, and then chronologically within.

**SERIES III: PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER EPHEMERA**, consists of photographs from Scurlock and other studios, photographs of composers and musicians, and a 1945 Dunbar High School, Washington, DC yearbook.

**Donor:** Margaret Dixon Griffin, 2004.131

**Size:** 2.2 cubic ft (4 containers)

**Restrictions:** None

**Related Materials:**

Removed to HSW book collection: Booker T. Washington's *The Future of the American Negro*, and *A New Negro for a New Century*, and *Fox's Indian Primer* (D.C. Public Schools text, 1918).

Removed to HSW object collection: Copper printing plates used in the publication of the James F. Bundy biography.

Removed to HSW yearbook collection: 1925 Howard University Bison yearbook

## Container List

### SERIES I: BUNDY FAMILY PAPERS, 1884-1972

#### Delilia and James F. Bundy Papers

#### Container 1

**Folder 1:** Biographies and death certificates of James F. Bundy, 1914, and Delilia Bundy, 1955-- Family Statements, and estate papers for Delilia

**Folder 2:** Photocopy of scrapbook kept by Delilia, including newspaper clippings about James F. Bundy and his mother, Annie Bundy's deaths, as well as about the death of Zenobia Bundy

**Folder 3:** Marriage certificate issued to Delilia and James, 1884

**Howard University degree,** James F. Bundy, 1887. Stored in container 3, oversize folder 46.

**Notary Public Certification,** District of Columbia, 1896, issued to James F. Bundy. Stored in container 3, oversize folder 46.

**Folder 4:** Howard University School of Law catalog, 1892-1893

**Folder 5:** Letters to Delilia about Zenobia's death and the dedication of the Zenobia Bundy Shelf at the Garnet-Patterson Jr. High School, 1930-1934

**Folder 6:** James F. Bundy School dedication materials, 1936

**Folder 7:** Bundy Mausoleum files, 1937-1939, including information relating to its creation and dedication.

**Folder 8:** Titles and Deeds to various properties in the city, 1938-1946, signed by both Delilia and daughter, Della

**Folder 9:** James F. Bundy (JFB) biography, *James F. Bundy, 1862-1914: A Biography*, typewritten manuscript

**Folder 10:** JFB biography – photographs used in publication

**Folder 11:** JFB biography – photocopy of published volume

**Folder 12:** JFB biography – postal receipts and acknowledgement letters from universities and libraries receiving copies

**Folder 13:** Hand-tinted photographs of Delilia and James

**Folder 14:** Photographs of James in his office, and a young Delilia

**Folder 15:** Photographs of older Delilia, several Scurlock photographs and folders

### **Della Bundy Turner**

**Folder 16:** Programs, ca. 1906-1939 (Part I of scrapbook. Materials removed from scrapbook for preservation, but kept in original order.)

**Folder 17:** Programs, 1940-1959 (Part II of scrapbook)

**Folder 18:** Postcards and greeting cards, 1930s- 1950s (Part III of scrapbook)

**Autograph book**, 1905-1906, stored with bound volumes, folder 49, container 4

**Washington High School Diploma**, issued to Della Bundy, 1908, stored in oversized folder 47, container 3

**Washington Normal School Certificate**, issued to Della, 1910, stored in oversized folder 47, container 3

**Washington Conservatory of Music** certificate for completion of the Teachers course, issued to Della Bundy, 1912, stored in oversized folder 47, container 3

**Howard University papers:** Two original composition books, 1924, stored in folders 50 and 51, container 4, and the Degree of Bachelor of Music issued to Della Bundy Wilson, 1925, stored in oversized folder 47, container 3.

**Folder 19:** Student letters, 1931-1936 (Part I of second scrapbook; removed from scrapbook pages, but kept in original order)

**Folder 20:** Student letters, 1935-1936 (Part II of second scrapbook; removed from scrapbook pages, but kept in original order)

**Folder 21:** Student letters, 1936 (Part III of second scrapbook; removed from scrapbook pages, but kept in original order)

**Folder 22:** Correspondence between Della and Mrs. Fannie R. Dorsey of Douglass Jr. High School regarding the donation of a bust of Frederick Douglass in honor of James F. Bundy

**Folder 23:** Memorial statements for Della Bundy Turner, 1972, and husband, Joseph P. Turner, Jr., 1953. Also includes 1917 passport of Joseph.

**Folder 24:** Photographs of Della. Includes photograph of W.C. Handy

**Folder 25:** Photograph of Della (hand-tinted)

### **Zenobia Miller Bundy**

**Washington, DC Board of Education** certificate acknowledging completion of elementary school requirements, 1916. Stored in oversized folder.

**Photograph of Zenobia's Eighth grade class**, Jones School. Stored in container 3, oversize folder 45.

**Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Diploma**, issued to Zenobia, 1920. Stored in container 3, oversized folder 47.

**Myrtilla Miner Normal School diploma**, issued to Zenobia, 1922. Stored in container 3, oversized folder 47.

**Brown University Degree of Philosophy**, issued to Zenobia, 1927, stored in container 3, oversized folder 47.

**Folder 26:** Papers relating to Zenobia, including Red Cross certificate, 1920, commencement program of Brown University, 1927, her death certificate, 1930, and announcements of her death.

**Folder 27:** One partial and one complete issue of July 1930's *The Crisis*, which includes an announcement of Zenobia's death.

### **Other Bundy Family and Friends**

**Folder 28:** Death Certificates of Annie, Armstead, and George Bundy. Also includes memorial statements, newspaper clippings, and a photograph of friends of the family, such as the Pack family and Dr. Simeon Lewis Carson

## **Series II: Freeman Family Papers 1910-1957**

### **Daniel Freeman**

**Folder 29:** Memorial Statements and newspaper clipping about his death, 1927

**Folder 30:** Photographs taken by Daniel, including photographs of the Bundy family

**Folder 31:** Photographs taken by Daniel, including photographs of the Bundy family

### **Harriet Freeman**

**Bureau of Engraving and Printing** certificate of retirement, 1935. Stored in container 3, oversize folder 47

**Folder 32:** Funeral Services, memorial statement, and estate papers, 1951

### **James Freeman family**

**Folder 33:** Memorial statement for Grace Freeman Roy, daughter of James, post-1925

### **Sarah Freeman Wilson and Family**

**Folder 34:** Memorial statements for Sarah and son, George H. Wilson, Jr. Includes photograph of son.

## **Series III: Photographs and Other Ephemera**

**Folder 35:** Silhouette of Mary Ann Bundy and Dunbar High School yearbook, 1945

**Folder 36:** Photographs and pictures of famous composers and musicians, many of them African American. Includes photograph of Nathaniel Dett

**Folder 37:** Photographs and pictures of famous composers and musicians, many of them African American.

### **Container 2**

**Folder 38:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Folder 39:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Folder 40:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Folder 41:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Folder 42:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Folder 43:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Folder 44:** Photographs of unidentified people.

**Container 3 (oversize)**

**Folder 45:** Photographs of unidentified people

**Folder 46:** Oversize items described above.

**Folder 47:** Oversize items described above.

**Folder 48:** Photographs of unidentified people (oversized folder).

**Container 4** Bound volumes described above (folders 49-51)