

Lorenzo T. Greene Collection  
of Thomas W. Talley

PAPERS, 1919 - 1948

Lorenzo T. Greene Collection  
of Thomas Talley  
(1919-1948)

The Lorenzo T. Greene Collection of Thomas Talley was given to the Fisk University Library by his grandson, Lorenzo T. Greene in 1991. Some restrictions have been placed on the collection.

The papers consist of circa 251 items comprised of correspondence (general and personal) accounts; bills and receipts; published and unpublished manuscripts; notes; notebooks; newspaper clippings; programs; and printed material.

Thomas W. Talley  
(1870-1952)

Thomas Washington Talley was born in 1870 about four miles out of Shelby, Tennessee. One in a family of eight children, he was the son of Charles Washington Talley and Lucinda Talley. His brothers and sisters were: Mary Elizabeth; Martha Jane; Sylvester Wright; William; Luther Polk; Cynthia Anne; and Ida E.

Talley graduated from Fisk University in 1890, and a ~~ma~~<sup>ms</sup> Master of Science degree in 1893. Walden University awarded him a Doctor of Science in 1899. He also attended the University of Chicago in 1929, and Harvard University in 1914.

He came to teach biology and chemistry at Fisk in 1902. Loved by his students, he was called a "genius at teaching." He was instrumental in acquiring a science building for the University, called Chase Hall. Today, the Talley-Brady Chemistry Building is named in his honor.

Talley was a man of many facets. He sang with the Jubilee Singers and the Mozart Society while a student at Fisk. In 1922, he wrote a ground breaking book, Negro Folk Rhymes, Wise and Otherwise, published in 1922. Charles Wolfe has published a revised edition entitled Negro Folk Rhymes of Thomas Talley.

Talley was married to Ellen Roberts, who died in April 1930. They had two daughters; Sonoma and Thomasina.

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Register

Box 1

- f. 1--Biographical data  
2--Condolences--death of wife--Ellen Roberts Talley  
3--Legal documents  
4--Accounts, bills, receipts  
5--Academic records  
CORRESPONDENCE--GENERAL  
6--Adams-Buttrick--1922-1944  
7--Childhood Education-Embree--1922-1944  
8--Fewkes-Jones--1919-1944  
9--Kammerer-Macmillan--1919-1942  
10--McCree-Rombotis--1929-1943  
11--Sheppard-Wood--1922-1942  
CORRESPONDENCE--PERSONAL  
12--L.Gray-(cousin) John--1936-1948 (RESTRICTED)  
13--McAdams-Weatherford--1930-1944 (RESTRICTED)  
14--Correspondence--Unidentifiable--1925-1937

Box 2

- 1--Writings, notes  
2--Published writings--"New systematic chronology of creation," Part II  
3--Writings--"New types of chemical combinations" (1939)--"Multiple  
Violence" (1939)  
4--Writings--Negro Traditions, n.d.--unpublished book manuscript  
5--Writings--The Origin of Traditions, N.D.--unpublished book manuscript  
6--Notebooks

Box 3

- 1--Book reviews--Negro Folk Rhymes  
2--Programs--collected  
3--Newspaper clippings--Thomasina Talley--general--collected  
4--Printed material  
5--Photographs

Box 4

- 1--Envelopes