

**Frederick D. Patterson Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm89077597>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011039>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011  
Revised 2023 August

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Frederick D. Patterson Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1861-1988

**Bulk Dates:** 1965-1988

**ID No.:** MSS77597

**Creator:** Patterson, Frederick D. (Frederick Douglass), 1901-1988

**Extent:** 15,000 items

**Extent:** 41 containers

**Extent:** 18.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm89077597>

**Summary:** African American educational administrator and advocate. Correspondence, journal, writings and speeches, notes, reports, organizational records, clippings, printed materials, memorabilia, and miscellaneous items relating chiefly to Patterson's efforts, following his retirement as president of Tuskegee Institute in 1953, to preserve and develop African American institutions of higher learning.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943.

Clayton, Robert L.--Correspondence.

Colley, Nathaniel Sextus, 1918- --Correspondence.

Foster, Luther H. (Luther Hilton), 1913- --Correspondence.

Harriman, E. Roland (Edward Roland), 1895-1978--Correspondence.

Harris, Patricia, 1924-1985--Correspondence.

Jenkins, Matthew--Correspondence.

Mays, Benjamin E. (Benjamin Elijah), 1894-1984--Correspondence.

Moon, Henry Lee, 1901-1985--Correspondence.

Moton, Robert Russa, 1867-1940.

Patterson, Frederick D. (Frederick Douglass), 1901-1988.

Pierce, Ponchitta Anne, 1942- --Correspondence.

Player, Willa B.--Correspondence.

Price, Hollis F., 1904- --Correspondence.

Purves, Robert Ogden, 1895-1976--Correspondence.

Simon, Paul, 1928-2003--Correspondence.

Springer, Maida--Correspondence.

Weinberger, Caspar W.--Correspondence.

Williams, Franklin, 1917- --Correspondence.

### Organizations

Phelps-Stokes Fund.

Robert R. Moton Memorial Institute.

Tuskegee Institute.

Tuskegee Institute. School of Veterinary Medicine.

### Subjects

African American universities and colleges.

African Americans--Civil rights.

African Americans--Education.

Education--Africa.

Education--Nigeria.  
Endowments--United States.  
Federal aid to higher education.  
Segregation--United States.

#### **Places**

Southern States.

#### **Occupations**

College administrators.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Frederick D. Patterson, African American educational administrator and advocate, were donated to the Library of Congress by Patterson's son, Frederick D. Patterson II, in 1988, 1989, and 1991.

## **Processing History**

The Patterson Papers were processed by Michael Spangler in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2010. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## **Transfers**

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library where they are identified as part of these papers.

## **Related Material**

The Patterson Papers form part of a sizable group of materials in the Manuscript Division relating to Black educators and the African American community. The Division's [Booker T. Washington Papers](#), [Moton Family Papers](#), and Frederick D. Patterson Papers constitute an important group of research materials relating to the first three presidents of Tuskegee Institute. The Moton Family Papers include correspondence between Patterson and Robert Russa Moton during the 1930s.

## **Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Frederick D. Patterson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Frederick D. Patterson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frederick D. Patterson, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1901, Oct. 10	Born, Washington, D.C.
1923	Doctor of veterinary medicine, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa
1923-1927	Instructor, veterinary science, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.
1927	Master of science, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa
1927-1928	Director of agriculture, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.
1928-1933	Head, Veterinary Division, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
1932	Doctor of philosophy, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
1933-1935	Director, School of Agriculture, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
1935	Married Catherine E. Moton, daughter of Robert Russa Moton, second president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
1935-1953	President, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
1943-1944	Established United Negro College Fund
1944	Published essay in <i>What the Negro Wants</i> , edited by Rayford W. Logan (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press. 352 pp.)
1953-1954	Inspected and evaluated educational resources in Nigeria on behalf of the World Bank/International Bank Commission
1953-1958	Director of Education, Phelps-Stokes Fund, New York, N.Y.
1956	Co-editor with William Hardin Hughes of <i>Robert Russa Moton of Hampton and Tuskegee</i> (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press. 238 pp.)
1958-1970	President, Phelps-Stokes Fund
1964-1966	President, United Negro College Fund, New York, N.Y.
1969-1973	President, Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute, New York, N.Y.
1973-1984	Director, College Endowment Funding Plan, New York, N.Y.
1976	Published <i>College Endowment Funding Plan</i> (Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education. 120 pp.)
1985	Received White House Private Sector Initiative Commendation
1987	Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
1988, Apr. 26	Died, New Rochelle, N.Y.
1991	Posthumous publication of Patterson's autobiography, <i>Chronicles of Faith</i> , edited by Martia Graham Goodson (Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press. 220 pp.)

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frederick Douglass Patterson (1901-1988) span the years 1861-1988, with the largest group of materials dating from the period after 1965. The collection is composed of the personal papers of Patterson, third president of Tuskegee Institute and founder of the United Negro College Fund. They largely reflect his career following his retirement from Tuskegee in 1953 and highlight his efforts to preserve and develop historically Black institutions of higher learning. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, reports, organizational records, printed materials, writings and speeches, notes, clippings, memorabilia, and other miscellaneous items.

The [Correspondence](#) series of the Patterson Papers contains separate groupings of personal and general correspondence. Included in the personal correspondence are felicitations regarding Patterson's election to the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in 1935, his White House Private Sector Initiative Commendation in 1982, and his receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan in 1987. A few family letters from the early 1930s are also contained in this portion of the file. Items in the general correspondence include communications with organizations and individuals concerned with education, educational administration, business, fund-raising, and government.

The greatest concentration of materials in the Patterson Papers is found in the [Subject File](#). The papers in this series cluster chiefly around Patterson's association with the Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute and the College Endowment

Funding Plan. Established by Patterson in the late 1950s in memory of his father-in-law and second president of Tuskegee Institute, the Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute provided financial planning and training for historically Black colleges. Operating under the auspices of the institute was the College Endowment Funding Plan, devised by Patterson to endow small, poorly financed Black colleges, thereby securing their long-term stability. The file pertaining to the College Endowment Funding Plan traces the development of this program throughout the 1970s and 1980s, focusing on the passage of legislation that established federal matching grants for Black colleges. The materials document Patterson's work with educational administrators, financial officers, and government officials. Prominent correspondents include Caspar W. Weinberger, Willa B. Player of the United States Office of Education, and Congressman, later Senator, Paul Simon.

Other papers in the [Subject File](#) relate to the latter years of Patterson's tenure as president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, a foundation devoted to improving housing and educational opportunities for African Americans and other disadvantaged people. Franklin H. Williams, Patterson's successor, is a prominent correspondent in the papers relating to the fund. A key file pertains to education in Africa, including a handwritten journal of Patterson's travels through Nigeria in 1953-1954 inspecting educational resources on behalf of the International Bank Commission. Materials relating to Tuskegee Institute in the Subject File reflect Patterson's continued interest in the school and include extensive correspondence with his successor as president, Luther H. Foster. Also present are brief items relating to aviation and low-cost housing at Tuskegee, as well as a sizable file concerning the institute's veterinary medicine school. Patterson's interest in Robert Russa Moton and botanist George Washington Carver is also exhibited in the Subject File. A typescript draft of a biography of Moton is among various biographical materials found in the file. Patterson served as executor of Carver's estate and participated in various memorials recognizing his achievements. The file contains copies of Patterson's speeches honoring Carver. Also included are transcripts of oral history interviews with Patterson conducted in 1980 and 1981 for the Phelps-Stokes Fund and the United Negro College Fund.

The [Clippings File](#) consists of newspaper clippings and magazine articles from the late 1930s through the 1970s, which Patterson annotated and organized according to a detailed classification system. Topics treated include civil rights, desegregation, regional education, the South, higher education, philanthropy, and other related issues. Also included are a significant group of draft and printed copies of Patterson's writings and speeches, as well as notes relating to various topics. Other writings and speeches not included in this classification scheme are located in the [Miscellany](#) series.

The [Miscellany](#) series holds, among other materials, a collection of personal clippings relating to Patterson's career and his work with the College Endowment Funding Plan. Included also are draft and print copies of speeches and writings by Patterson, as well as a small group of his published articles among the printed matter. Other materials include certificates, biographical data, telegrams, and memorabilia.

Prominent or frequent correspondents include Robert L. Clayton, Nathaniel Sextus Colley, E. Roland Harriman, Patricia Harris, Matthew Jenkins, Maida Springer Kemp, Benjamin E. Mays, Henry Lee Moon, Ponchitta Anne Pierce, Hollis F. Price, and Robert Ogden Purves.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1931-1988](#)
- [Subject File, 1909-1988](#)
- [Clippings File, 1939-1981](#)
- [Miscellany, 1861-1988](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1931-1988</u></b></p> <p>Personal and general correspondence, with attached and related matter, organized into separate groupings and alphabetically therein by name of person or organization or by type of material.</p> <p>Chronologically arranged within folders.</p>
BOX 6-32	<p><b><u>Subject File, 1909-1988</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, memoranda, circular letters, minutes, financial records, printed materials, occasional writings and speeches, notes, and miscellaneous items.</p> <p>Organized alphabetically by topic or name of organization and within these headings by subject or type of material. Chronologically arranged within folders.</p>
BOX 33-37	<p><b><u>Clippings File, 1939-1981</u></b></p> <p>Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and articles culled from academic journals and popular magazines. Also included are a number of draft and printed copies of Patterson's writings and speeches located primarily under the headings "Authors" and "Frederick D. Patterson" and scattered elsewhere in the series under various topics. Patterson's original subject classification scheme has largely been maintained.</p> <p>Materials are arranged alphabetically first by broad subject headings and then narrower ones. A list of the subheadings with their assigned numerical classifications is located at the beginning of the first folder of each broad heading. Also, a master index is located in the first folder of the series. Items in the "Authors" and "Public Figures" folders are not filed by the original classification number but have been rearranged alphabetically by name. Similarly, the "Frederick D. Patterson" file under the "Authors" heading has been rearranged so that the materials are filed chronologically.</p>
BOX 38-41	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1861-1988</u></b></p> <p>Draft and printed copies of speeches and writings, personal clippings, printed materials, notes, land and financial documents, biographical materials, certificates and awards, and assorted memorabilia.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic, name of organization, or type of material.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-5	<p><b>Correspondence, 1931-1988</b></p> <p>Personal and general correspondence, with attached and related matter, organized into separate groupings and alphabetically therein by name of person or organization or by type of material.</p> <p>Chronologically arranged within folders.</p>
BOX 1	<p>Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Congratulatory</li><li>1935</li><li>(3 folders)</li><li>1973-1988</li><li>(5 folders)</li><li>Family, 1931-1935</li></ul> <p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>"A-B" miscellaneous, 1969-1988</li><li>(4 folders)</li></ul>
BOX 2	<p>Clayton, Robert L., 1977-1985 <i>See also Container 16, Moton, Robert Russa</i></p> <p>(2 folders)</p> <p>Colley, Nathaniel Sextus, 1970-1987</p> <p>Cowley, W. H., 1970-1978</p> <p>"C" miscellaneous, 1971-1988</p> <p>(3 folders)</p> <p>Davis, Lincoln J., 1972-1977, undated</p> <p>Dawson, William L., 1981-1985</p> <p>Dillon, Wilton S., 1974-1983</p> <p>"D-F" miscellaneous, 1971-1988</p> <p>(4 folders)</p> <p>Gandy, Stewart B., 1976-1978</p> <p>Garcia, Jose, 1972-1974</p> <p>Gibson, Jessie, 1972-1974</p> <p>Glick, G. Wayne, 1978-1987, undated</p> <p>Gossett, William T., 1971-1985</p> <p>"G" miscellaneous, 1972-1988</p>
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## Correspondence, 1931-1988

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	Jenkins, Matthew, 1979-1988
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	Moton, Laura, 1977
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	Player, Willa B., 1975-1988
	Pray, Frances, 1969-1982
	Price, Hollis F., 1975-1982
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	Unidentified, 1955-1982, undated
BOX 6-32	<b>Subject File, 1909-1988</b>
	Correspondence, reports, memoranda, circular letters, minutes, financial records, printed materials, occasional writings and speeches, notes, and miscellaneous items.
	Organized alphabetically by topic or name of organization and within these headings by subject or type of material. Chronologically arranged within folders.
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	Miscellaneous documents, 1961, undated
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	Handwritten journal, 1953-1954
	<i>Preliminary Report on Education in Nigeria</i> , by Patterson, 1953-1954
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	Report on visit to ten African countries by E. B. Evans and Patterson, 1969
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	Reports
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	Correspondence, 1968-1979
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	Investment and finance committees, minutes and reports, 1973-1981
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	"The Case for Private Black Colleges," by Kenneth S. Tollett, [ 1982?]
	"Public Policy and Private Black Higher Education," [ 1985]
	Black Retail Action Group, 1985-1986
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	Annual meeting, 1973
	Bylaws and personnel manual, 1977-1980
	Contract résumés, 1975-1979
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	Moton, Robert Russa, biography of <i>See also Container 2, Clayton, Robert L.</i>
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- Ralph J. Bunche Memorial Project, 1976-1978, undated
- Reports and writings
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  - "Self-Study of the Phelps-Stokes Fund," 1979
- Professional Institute of American Management Associations, 1975-1978
- Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute
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  - Bylaws and personnel manual, 1972
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    - Auditor's report, 1978
    - Income and expenses reports, 1969-1973
    - Miscellaneous items, 1962-1988, undated
    - Treasurer's reports, 1969-1973
  - History, 1957-1962, undated
  - Miscellaneous, 1964-1980
  - Moton College Service Bureau
    - Correspondence, 1967-1971
    - Reports, 1971, undated
- Moton colleges and universities (institutions participating in Moton Institute development programs), correspondence and grant request forms
  - Clark College, Atlanta, Ga., 1970-1985
  - Dillard University, New Orleans, La., 1970-1984
  - Fiske University, Nashville, Tenn., 1971-1977
  - Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, Fla., 1970-1983
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	Contracts and proposals, 1964-1973, undated
	Correspondence, 1965-1976
	Miscellaneous, 1965, undated
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	"Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 Up-dated," by Willa B. Player, 1983
	Study, "Growing Federal Role in Support of Higher Education," notes and clippings, [ 1972]
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	"Some Information on Supply and Demand Related to Child Care and Development in the South," [ 1971]
	Technical Assistance Consortium to Improve College Services, 1976-1981
	Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
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## Subject File, 1909-1988

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BOX 28	1978-1986 (3 folders) Centennial campaign, 1977 Correspondence 1931-1966 (4 folders)
BOX 29	1967-1988 (10 folders)
BOX 30	Miscellaneous items, 1909-1987 President's reports, 1969-1985 Printed material "A Black Institution Pioneering Adult Education: Tuskegee Institute Past and Present, 1881-1973," doctoral dissertation by Velma L. Blackwell, 1973 <i>The Changing Status of Southern Agriculture</i> , 1972 <i>Low Cash Cost Housing</i> , 1950 <i>Report of the Tuskegee Institute Task Force on its Visit to the Republic of South Africa</i> , 1974 <i>Rural America and Its People: The Forgotten Area and the Forgotten Species</i> , 1978 <i>Tuskegee in Indonesia</i> , undated <i>Tuskegee Institute: The First Fifty Years</i> , by Anson Phelps Stokes, 1931 Miscellaneous printed items, 1909-1983, undated (2 folders)
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BOX 32	United Methodist Church, Black College Fund, 1973-1984, undated United Negro College Fund Correspondence, 1974-1988, undated Oral history interview with Patterson Correspondence, 1980-1982 Transcript, 1981 Printed materials, 1973-1983

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Thirtieth anniversary dinner, 1974  
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#### BOX 33-37

#### Clippings File, 1939-1981

Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and articles culled from academic journals and popular magazines. Also included are a number of draft and printed copies of Patterson's writings and speeches located primarily under the headings "Authors" and "Frederick D. Patterson" and scattered elsewhere in the series under various topics. Patterson's original subject classification scheme has largely been maintained.

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#### BOX 33

Index

African affairs, 1949-1976

Authors, 1942-1979

"A-O" miscellaneous

(4 folders)

Patterson, Frederick D. *See also Container 35, same heading; Container 39, Articles by Patterson; and Container 41, Speeches and writings by Patterson*

1945-1963

(3 folders)

#### BOX 34

1967-1976

(3 folders)

"P-W" miscellaneous

(2 folders)

Board memberships, 1952-1957

(2 folders)

Democracy, 1949-1964

Educational institutions, 1945-1976

(2 folders)

#### BOX 35

Foundations, 1948-1981

(2 folders)

Higher education, 1948-1962

National affairs, 1951-1952, undated

Negroes, 1949

Patterson, Frederick D., 1949-1976 *See also Container 33, same heading; and Container 40, Clippings about Patterson*

(2 folders)

Philanthropy, 1950-1977

Public figures, 1948-1975

(4 folders)

#### BOX 36

Red Cross, 1950-1951

Regionalism, 1949-1955

Religion, undated

## Clippings File, 1939-1981

### Container

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	The South, 1939-1965 (5 folders)
	Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., 1948-1973 (6 folders)
BOX 37	United Negro College Fund, 1948-1968 (3 folders)
	Miscellaneous, 1944-1967 (5 folders)
BOX 38-41	<b>Miscellany, 1861-1988</b> Draft and printed copies of speeches and writings, personal clippings, printed materials, notes, land and financial documents, biographical materials, certificates and awards, and assorted memorabilia. Arranged alphabetically by topic, name of organization, or type of material.
BOX 38	Address books, [ 1950-1964?] Biographical materials Materials related to memoirs, <i>Chronicles of Faith</i> Correspondence, 1985-1988 Notes, drafts, etc., undated Résumés and related items, 1935-1988 Certificates, 1923-1987 Financial documents, 1938-1971 Funeral services for Patterson, 1988 Identification and calling cards, 1953-1982, undated
BOX 39	Invitations, 1957-1988, undated (2 folders) Land and pension documents, 1861-1951 Miscellaneous items, 1959-1979, undated Notes and unidentified drafts, 1959-1981, undated (5 folders)
BOX 40	Printed material Articles by Patterson, 1943-1975, undated <i>See also Container 33, Patterson, Frederick D.; and Container 41, Speeches and writings by Patterson</i> Awards and memorial publications, 1953-1987 Clippings about Patterson, 1935, 1946-1988, undated <i>See also Container 33, Patterson, Frederick D.</i> (9 folders) Miscellaneous items, 1940-1985
BOX 41	Programs, 1953-1986 Signs and Services Co., 1966-1973 Speeches and writings by Patterson Black colleges, 1959-1979, undated College speeches, 1963-1984 Eulogies for Black leaders, 1971-1977 Letters to editors, 1963-1987 Miscellaneous items, 1972-1982, undated "Personal notes," 1963-1968



**Miscellany, 1861-1988**

**Container**

**Contents**

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"Spirit of Moton," undated  
Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., 1935-1983  
(2 folders)  
United Negro College Fund, 1963-1985, undated  
Telegrams, 1956-1979