

Green-Driver Collection

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2011085597>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013103>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Collection Summary

Title: Green-Driver Collection

Span Dates: 1896-1969

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1902-1948)

ID No.: MSS85597

Creator: Gresham, Pattie, 1882-1960

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2011085597>

Summary: Businesswoman and church worker. Financial papers, correspondence, photographs, printed matter, topical files and miscellaneous material generated mainly by Pattie Gresham and her three husbands, Baptist ministers William M. Driver and John Benjamin Green, and insurance executive William L. Busby.

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

Baker, Annabelle Annabelle Baker papers.

Busby, William L., -1919 William L. Busby papers.

Driver family.

Driver, William M., -1943 William M. Driver papers.

Green family.

Green, John Benjamin, -1934. John Benjamin Green papers.

Gresham, Pattie, 1882-1960.

Gresham, Pattie, 1882-1960. Pattie Gresham papers.

Headen, L. A.

Lowenfeld, Viktor--Correspondence.

Organizations

Africana Beauty Parlor.

Hampton Institute--Students.

Headen Motor Company.

Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Subjects

African American business enterprises--Southern States.

African American business enterprises.

African American Heroines of Jericho.

African American women--Societies and clubs.

African Americans--Segregation--Southern States.

African Americans--Social life and customs.

African Americans--Societies, etc.

African Americans--Southern States.

Automobile industry and trade--United States.

Baptists--Southern States.

Beauty shops--Florida--Jacksonville.

Firearms--Licenses--Georgia--Cobb County.

Freemasonry.

Hairdressing of African Americans.

Voter registration--Florida--Duval County.

Places

Southern States--History--1865-1951.

Southern States--Race relations.

Southern States--Social life and customs.

Titles

Pattie Gresham papers

Occupations

Businesswomen.

Church workers.

Provenance

The Library of Congress purchased the Green-Driver Collection in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the Green-Driver Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Green-Driver Collection is 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, Green-Driver Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Pattie Gresham

Date	Event
1882, July	Born, Marietta, Ga.
circa 1900-1902	Attended Spelman Seminary, Atlanta, Ga.
circa 1902	Married insurance executive William L. Busby (died 23 Oct. 1919)
1921	Married Baptist minister John Benjamin Green (died 1934)
circa 1921	Moved with husband to churches in Louisiana and Florida and went into business as a beauty shop proprietor and purveyor of hair and beauty products for African-American women
circa 1942	Married Baptist minister William M. Driver (died 1943)
1960, Oct. 14	Died, Birmingham, Ala.

Scope and Content Note

The Green-Driver Collection documents African-American middle class, business, and church life in the American South during the Jim Crow era. The bulk of the material was assembled by Pattie Gresham during her marriages between 1902

and 1943 to insurance executive William L. Busby, to Baptist minister and Masonic activist John Benjamin Green, and to Baptist minister and grocery store owner William M. Driver. The collection spans the period 1896-1969, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1902 and 1948, and is organized into two series, [Name File](#) and [Miscellany](#).

The [Name File](#) consists mostly of the financial papers of Pattie Gresham and her three husbands and includes tax records and receipts and cancelled checks relating to church, business, masonic, and personal expenses, some of them for big ticket items such as carriages, automobiles, and pianos. The miscellany of the Pattie Gresham file includes her Duval County, Florida, 1938 voter registration certificate, a 1924 Louisiana certificate of a birth where she served as midwife, business cards for her Africana Beauty Parlor in Jacksonville, Florida, and her Cobb County, Georgia, "pistol toters" license from 1920.

Material in the John Benjamin Green file documents his nasonic activities, particularly his role as field secretary for the women's nasonic organization Heroines of Jericho. William M. Driver was a high official of the Colored Knights of Phythias and that role is documented in his file.

Also part of the [Name File](#) is material on artist Annabelle Baker and L. A. Headen, an inventor and automobile manufacturer. Baker was an orphan from Florida whose education at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, Pattie Gresham financed during the early 1940s. Much of the Annabelle Baker file is correspondence relating to a controversy at Hampton about Baker's pioneering "natural" hairstyle, a story Baker later told in the anthology *Tenderheaded: A Comb Bending Collection of Hair Stories* (New York: Pocket Books). L. A. Headen was an African-American inventor and automobile manufacturer in whose enterprise Pattie Gresham's second husband, John Benjamin Green, was an investor during the early 1920s. The collection includes a brochure and prospectus published by the Headen Motor Company. Correspondents in the [Name File](#) include Annabelle Baker, John Benjamin Green, Pattie Gresham, and Viktor Lowenfeld.

The [Miscellany](#) series documents of the National Baptist Convention, the largest African-American denomination, as well as other churches and denominations. Reverends Green and Driver were both active in the National Baptist Convention.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Name File, 1896-1969](#)
- [Miscellany, 1902-1964](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-5

Name File, 1896-1968

Financial papers, correspondence, topical files, and miscellaneous material.
Arranged alphabetically by personal name.

BOX 5-6

Miscellany, 1902-1964

Photographs, printed matter, topical files, notebooks, notes, and miscellaneous material.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-5	Name File, 1896-1968 Financial papers, correspondence, topical files, and miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by personal name.
BOX 1	Baker, Annabelle Correspondence 1942-1945, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1942-1944
BOX 1	Busby, William L. 1903-1919
BOX 1	Davis, Gaar, 1965-1969
BOX 1	Driver, Linizee (previous wife of William M. Driver), 1922-1927
BOX 1	Driver, William M. Biographical material, 1942-1944
BOX 1	Colored Knights of Pythias, 1912-1941
BOX 1	Financial papers
BOX 1	Estate
BOX 1	Account books
BOX 1	1942-1943
BOX 1	1943
BOX 2	1946
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1943-1955 (5 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellaneous 1913-1948, undated (4 folders)
BOX 3	Green, John Benjamin
BOX 3	Biographical material, undated
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1918-1938
BOX 3	Financial papers
BOX 3	Estate, 1935-1942
BOX 3	Miscellaneous
BOX 3	1935-1937 (6 folders))
BOX 4	Undated
BOX 4	Heroines of Jericho, 1921-1929
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1921, 1927-1931
BOX 4	National Baptist Convention, 1932-1934
BOX 4	Gresham, Mary Virginia (mother), 1896
BOX 4	Gresham, G. B. (brother), 1919, 1939
BOX 4	Gresham, Isiah, 1937, 1951
BOX 4	Gresham, Pattie
BOX 4	Correspondence, 1903-1957

Name File, 1896-1968

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Financial papers, 1903-1960 (5 folders)
BOX 4	"Just Look at the People," hymn by Gresham, 1946
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1920-1953
BOX 5	Mungen, Jane, estate, 1937-1948
BOX 5	Headen, L. A., 1918-1922
BOX 5	Miscellaneous, 1918-1968, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Reed, James M. (nephew), 1944, 1965-1968
BOX 5	Reed, Mary Emma 1931, 1945
BOX 5	Robertson, Annie M. (sister), 1947-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 5-6	Miscellany, 1902-1964 Photographs, printed matter, topical files, notebooks, notes, and miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.
BOX 5	Churches and denominations
BOX 5	Miscellaneous, 1902, 1935, 1944-1946, 1964, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	National Baptist Convention, 1937-1959
BOX 5	Financial and legal documents, 1915-1948
BOX 5	Fragments, undated
BOX 5	Notebooks, undated
BOX 5	Notes, undated
BOX 5	Photographs, undated (1 folder)
BOX 6	Photographs, undated (1 folder)
BOX 6	Printed matter, 1930-1937, 1955, undated (2 folders)