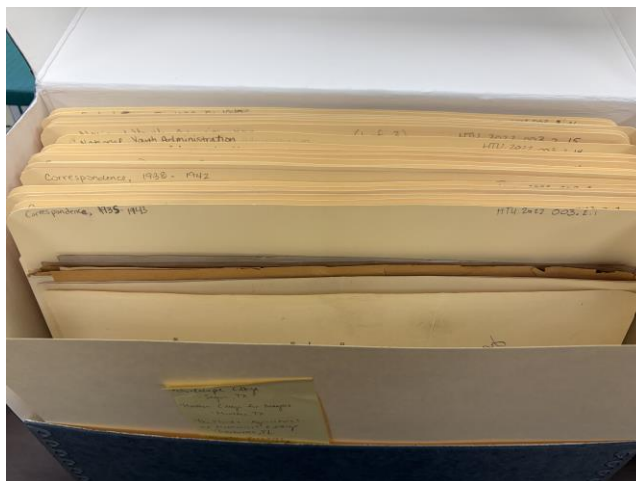


Finding Aids-Dr. Mary E. Branch Collection



Creator: Dr. Mary Elizabeth Branch; Tillotson College

Title: Dr. Mary E. Branch Papers

Dates: 1930-1944

Extent: 2 Document Boxes

Abstract: Dr. Mary E. Branch was the first and only woman president and the second African American president at Tillotson College from 1930 to 1944. This collection contains correspondence to various parties, newsletter, and photos of Dr. Branch.

Location: The Huston-Tillotson University Archives Repository at Downs-Jones Library

Call Number: R-A-002

Language: English

Access: Open for research

Biographical Notes:

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Branch was born near Farmville, Virginia, in 1881. She was the daughter of Tazwell and Harriett Branch, both former slaves who became part of the small but developing Black middle class.

In 1930 she was approached by the American Missionary Association with the offer to become president of Tillotson College. Tillotson College was facing dire times, it had seen declining enrollment, and the United States Department of Education suggesting the

school be closed. Dr. Branch stepped in and raised the school to heights that it had never seen before. Starting as a women's only college at the time of President Branch's appointment, she turned the school into a co-ed school in 1935. Dr. Branch also traveled the nation to further the interest of Tillotson College, which helped boost the enrollment. During Dr. Branch's tenure, Tillotson College was admitted to the American Association of Colleges in 1936.

In her personal life, President Branch was an active member of the civil rights movement. She belonged to the Austin chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., in which she became president of in 1943. She also worked closely with the National Youth Administration during the Great Depression. In 1935 she was appointed to the NYA Negro Advisory Board in Texas by Lyndon B. Johnson. Shortly before her death in 1944, she helped establish the United Negro College Fund.

Scopes and Contents:

The collection contains manuscript and documents of correspondence included Tillotson Library, AKA Sorosity Appeals, National Youth Administration, The American Missionary Association in 1933, and Texas Centennial Celebration in 1935-1936. It also included various subjects such as petition for Negro Youth Center, Chicago Congregational Woman's Fellowship Conference and New England Tour.

The collection also has report signed by Dr. Branch, manuscript of registration list, Dr. Branch memorial issue in Tillotson College Bulletin in 1945 after her passing, information newsletter about Tillotson in 1932, records of summer school, Lincoln Fund, Beard Fund, and original photos of Dr. Branch.

Organization and Arrangement:

The manuscripts and documents are organized into folders according to the subjects and stored into two document boxes. Original manuscripts and records are mostly put in protective cases, while some documents are copies of the originals.

Restrictions:

Advance notice required retrieval, contact repository for retrieval. Some documents are usually delicate, needed to be handled carefully.

