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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
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Guide to the

Wesley Williams papers

1909-1984 [bulk 1919-1984]

Sc MG 379

Summary

Creator: Williams, Wesley A., 1896-1984

Title: Wesley Williams papers

Date: 1909-1984 [bulk 1919-1984]

Size: 6.2 linear feet

Source: Gift, Williams, James H. (son), 07/26/1986

Abstract: New York City's first African-American fire fighter and fire official in the New York City Fire Department, ascending through the ranks from driver (1919), retiring as battalion chief (1952). He was a founder of the Vulcan Society, a black firemen's professional and social organization which sought better employment conditions. Correspondence, news clippings, commendations for courageous actions and plaques reflecting Williams' career; material regarding the Vulcan Society; and information about Williams' father, James H. Williams, Chief of the Red Caps at Grand Central Station and Robert O. Lowery, first African-American fire commissioner in New York City.

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Creator History

New York City's first African-American fire fighter and fire official in the New York City Fire Department, ascending through the ranks from driver (1919), retiring as battalion chief (1952). He was a founder of the Vulcan Society, a black firemen's professional and social organization which sought better employment conditions.

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, news clippings, commendations for courageous actions and plaques reflecting Williams' career; material regarding the Vulcan Society; and information about Williams' father, James H. Williams, Chief of the Red Caps at Grand Central Station and Robert O. Lowery, first African-

American fire commissioner in New York City.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American fire fighters

African American fire fighters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies, etc

African Americans -- Employment -- New York (State) -- New York

Porters -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Williams, Wesley A., 1896-1984

Lowery, Robert O. (Robert Oliver), 1916-

Williams, James H., d1948

New York (N.Y.). Fire Department

New York (N.Y.). Fire Department

Vulcan Society (New York, N.Y.)