

# **Emanuel C. and Dorothy Wright papers**

**06**

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah  
Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden  
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

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Last updated on April 28, 2014.

African American Museum in Philadelphia

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## Summary Information

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**Repository** African American Museum in Philadelphia

**Creator** Wright, Emanuel C.

**Title** Emanuel C. and Dorothy Wright papers

**Call number** 06

**Date [inclusive]** 1931-1983

**Extent** 1.25 linear feet

**General Physical  
Description note** 4 boxes

**Language** English

**Abstract** Emanuel C. Wright was the son of Major Richard R. Wright Sr., a former slave and founder of National Freedom Day. Shortly after the death of his father in 1947, Emanuel Wright took over his father's position as president of the National Freedom Day Association. The Emanuel C. and Dorothy Wright papers, 1931-1983, include clippings, pamphlets, and typed papers about African American figures and events in the African American community; material relating to National Freedom Day; and information about family history.

## **Biography/History**

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Emanuel C. Wright (born 1900) was the son of Major Richard R. Wright, Sr. and brother of Bishop Richard R. Wright, Jr. Major Richard R. Wright, Sr., a former slave, founded the National Freedom Day Association to commemorate the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which ended slavery in the United States. National Freedom Day was first celebrated on February 1, 1942, although it was not officially recognized until 1948 when President Truman signed a bill proclaiming February 1st National Freedom Day in the United States. Shortly after the death of his father in 1947, Emanuel Wright took over his father's position as president of the National Freedom Day Association.

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## **Scope and Contents**

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The collection largely contains secondary materials related to African American history such as pamphlets, magazines, and newspaper clippings focusing on African American figures and events in the African American community. There are also some typed speeches written by teachers about these same topics. A few materials relate to the National Freedom Day Association including correspondence and photographs of National Freedom Day ceremonies, circa 1949-1982. There is also a small amount of family history research material.

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## **Administrative Information**

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African American Museum in Philadelphia

Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.

### **Sponsor**

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## **Access Restrictions**

Contact African American Museum in Philadelphia for information about accessing this collection.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition Note**

Gift of Dorothy Wright, 1987.

## **Processing Information Note**

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact African American Museum in Philadelphia directly for more information.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials Note**

African American Museum in Philadelphia: Ruth Wright Hayre papers, 1926-1990, coll. 93.011

Temple University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center: Walter C. Beckett papers, 1920-1968, acc. 65.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- National Freedom Day Association

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

**Personal Name(s)**

- Wright, Emanuel C.

**Subject(s)**

- African Americans
- National Freedom Day