



# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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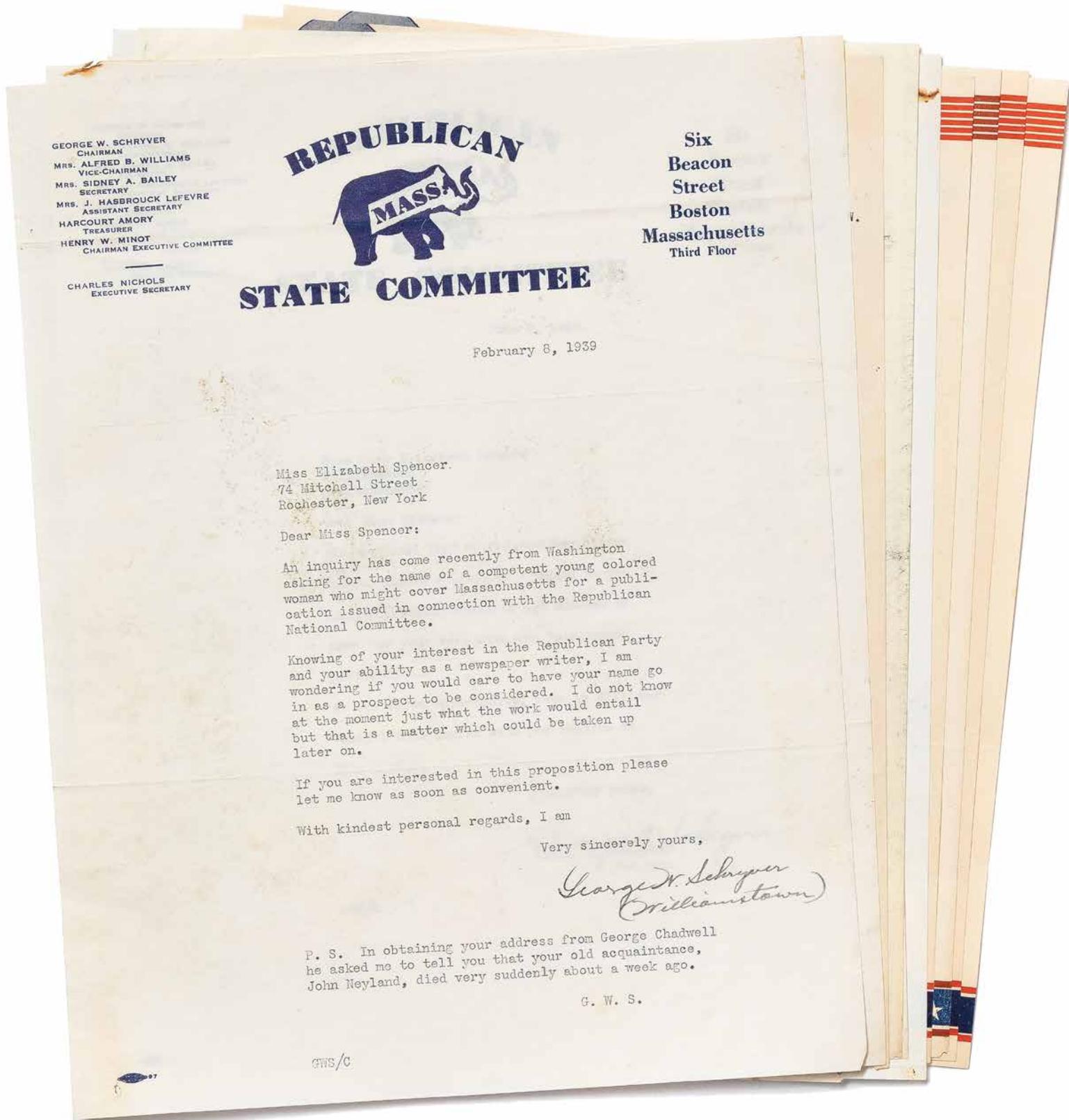


## Mary Elizabeth Spencer (Wendell Willkie)

[Archive]: African-American Voters Targeted by Wendell Willkie Republican Campaign

Massachusetts, Washington D.C.: circa 1939-1940

\$650



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### REPUBLICAN



### STATE COMMITTEE

Six  
Beacon  
Street  
Boston  
Massachusetts  
Third Floor

February 8, 1939

Miss Elizabeth Spencer.  
74 Mitchell Street  
Rochester, New York

Dear Miss Spencer:

An inquiry has come recently from Washington asking for the name of a competent young colored woman who might cover Massachusetts for a publication issued in connection with the Republican National Committee.

Knowing of your interest in the Republican Party and your ability as a newspaper writer, I am wondering if you would care to have your name go in as a prospect to be considered. I do not know at the moment just what the work would entail but that is a matter which could be taken up later on.

If you are interested in this proposition please let me know as soon as convenient.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*George W. Schryver  
(Williamstown)*

P. S. In obtaining your address from George Chadwell he asked me to tell you that your old acquaintance, John Neyland, died very suddenly about a week ago.

G. W. S.

gws/c

A small archive of 11 typed letters signed to an African-American voters targeted by the Wendell Willkie Republican campaign between 1939 and 1940. All items near fine with some toning and creasing from mailing.

A small archive pertaining to Elizabeth Spencer and her involvement with the Massachusetts governor's race and the Willkie campaign between 1939 and 1940. Spencer was an African-American newspaper writer who was approached by the campaigns to gain interest in the black community on behalf of the Republican candidates. The earliest letter begins, "an inquiry has come recently from Washington asking for the name of a competent young colored woman who might cover Massachusetts for a publications issued in connection with the Republican National Committee." The letters are written on Massachusetts Republican State Committee stationery which by the 1940s letters include banners for the re-elect Governor Saltonstall and Wendell L. Willkie for President campaigns as the header and footers of the letters.

Many of the memos are from the Colored Republican Voters of Massachusetts and the National Voters' League of Colored Americans asking Spencer for help with drumming up African-American support for the two campaigns. One of these invites voters to a "Grand Rally given in the interest of Wendell Willkie and the State Ticket." Spencer writes to the director of the Colored Division for Republican Campaign where she says, "we must restore good government to these United States or accept the fate of all Democracies who have lost those priceless privileges which have made this country great." The final note is dated November 4, 1940 and is a thank you for the volunteer's help leading up to the 1940 Election Day which ends with "There is still one more very important thing to do – that of getting the vote out on election day – ring every door bell, contact voter and friend, use every means short of violence, and I am sure if this is done the result will be all that we have worked, hoped, and prayed for, that is, Wendell Willkie our next president..."

A modest but interesting collection of memos and letters detailing an African-American woman's time with the Republican campaigns leading to the 1940 election. [BTC#431281]