

Guide to Manuscript Collections | African Americans

2007.031 African American School Records, Garvin County 1918–1928

The African American School Records, Garvin County collection contains records of teachers in District 46. The schools included are Sweet Home, Avery View, and Avriett View, school terms 1918–1928.

The documents include teacher contracts, teacher pay vouchers, and teacher and principal reports. Teacher reports include lists of students by name, age, and attendance, certification information, and details of the school facility.

2007.114 Atkins, Hannah

The collection consists of personal papers, publications, newspaper clippings, speeches, political campaign material, and memorabilia which document Atkins's many years of public service and her involvement in Democratic Party politics, women's issues, education, and civil rights.

2007.148 Ballard, Currie

The Currie Ballard Collection was created by Currie Ballard, a collector of African American historical items. The collection consists of letters, commission records, and ephemera with a date range of 1887 to 2006. The collection is composed primarily of original documents. Some of the early tax records and Freemason records are in poor condition.

1992.001 Brown, Samuel W.

This collection contains information about Creek and Euchee Indians including education, allotments, and the Indian Welfare Act. Also included is correspondence, ledger books, deeds, guardianships, litigation, land documents, probate cases, and memorials.

2008.096 Burton, Charles and Barbara

The Charles and Barbara Burton Collection contains publicity material for the musical performances of Charles and Barbara Burton.

1983.226 Charbo, Eileen

Manuscript about Dr. George Tann, an African American doctor in Indian Territory.

1981.111 Cherokee Freedmen Collection

Contains photocopies of Cherokee Freedmen applications including documents.

2013.255 Chickasaw Nation Constitution and Laws Collection

Contains a copy of the Chickasaw Nation Constitution and Laws. Laws regarding Freedmen are included.

2013.227 Cox, Kevin

Contains items relating to the legislative career of Oklahoma State Representative Kevin Cox, including programs, newspaper articles, correspondence, and papers related to the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus. Notable issues include Board of Education minority representation, Boley State School for Boys closing and conversion to a prison, and obtuse public statements by Governor Frank Keating. The collection does not contain correspondence or information of a personal nature.

2006.040 Curry, Lucius

This collection consists of African American funeral programs. It is arranged alphabetically.

2007.110 Diggs, Jake and Joan

The Diggs Collection consists of the Diggs's family papers from 1944–2004, with a focus on the lives and careers of spouses Jake and Joan Diggs. The papers include business and personal correspondence, financial and legal documents, ephemera, and administrative documents relating to Jake Diggs's position as an educator, a coach, and the principal of both Frederick Douglass High School and U. S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City and Joan Diggs's role as Supervisor for the University of Oklahoma Food Services. The collection documents the evolution of Douglass and U. S. Grant High Schools during the enactment of the Finger Plan for integration in the 1970s, and it includes newspaper articles, school administrative documents, and personal correspondence relating to Jake Diggs's reaction, as the principal of U. S. Grant, to the race-related violence that occurred at the school in September of 1975. In addition, the inclusion of yearbooks and other publications from both Douglass and U. S. Grant High Schools, as well as items relating to Oklahoma City Douglass and Wewoka Douglass reunions, contributes to the collection's reflection of life at Oklahoma schools, primarily during the years between 1950 and 1979. The collection thus provides insight into both the Oklahoma public school system and the lives of those influencing it.

2013.256 Driggins, Sylvia Pollard

Articles, awards, and correspondence highlighting Sylvia Pollard Driggins's achievements as Miss Black Oklahoma, as a performer, and as a humanitarian.

2011.136 Dunbar High School (Shawnee, OK) Alumni Association Collection

Collection contains scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and alumni information for the high school.

1981.105 Federal Writers Project Collection

Collection contains ex-slave narratives and biographies of African American individuals in Oklahoma. Collection also contains information on towns, monuments, and schools.

2006.055 Fisher, Ada Lois Sipuel

The collection has a variety of items, including a marriage certificate, greeting cards, a Langston University yearbook from 1992, a working manuscript and research for her autobiography, and other personal artifacts, including the signature of Roscoe Dunjee. The dates within the collection range from 1930 to 2000.

2009.159 Finley-Slaughter Collection

Diplomas, certificates, licenses, and awards from the lives and careers of African Americans Dr. Gravelly Eugene Finley Sr., Gravelly Eugene Finley Jr., Wyatt Hardy Slaughter, and Saretta Slaughter Finley.

2006.006 Hall, Rubye

The Rubye Hall collection consists of personal and business correspondence of Mrs. Hall, minutes for the meetings of several different clubs and groups, information about several programs that Hall was interested in, photographs, news clippings, and awards and certificates. The collection mainly pertains to the professional life of Hall from 1950 to 2003. These documents only give a limited account of some of Hall's professional associations and do not give a complete description of her life, work, or the political and social atmosphere for African American, education, or women at this time.

1966.020 Harrah, John

Handwritten letter from Cherokee attorney T. M. Wright to Colonel Garrett at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation. The letter thanks the officers and Soldiers of the 40th Iowa Volunteers for ending theft after the War of the Rebellion. The letter is also signed by Louis Downing; written in English and Cherokee language. Undated.

2013.292 Hayes, Martha “Marti”

This collection consists of certificates, newspaper clippings, and correspondence regarding Martha Hayes's appointment to the county election board.

Historic Oklahoma Collection

The Historic Oklahoma is a vertical file of original materials. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic and includes a biographical series.

Indian Archives Collection

This collection is made of federal records from the Indian agencies. The collection is broken up by tribe and includes the Dawes Commission records as well as several Indian schools. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic within the series.

2010.079 Jerusalem Community Missionary Baptist Church Collection

The Jerusalem Community Missionary Baptist Church Collection contains four record books from the church in Washington, Oklahoma. The books contain handwritten records of Sunday school attendance and notes on the classes and meeting minutes of the Baptist Young People's Union, most featuring pastor B. F. Daniels and recorded by secretary Myrtle Goff.

2008.161 Kimbro, Issac

This collection contains materials related to Evelyn La Rue Pittman and her lyric theater compositions.

1999.013 Langston University Bulletin

July, 1943 booklet Langston University Bulletin. Contents include historical background of Langston. Also, county, economic, family, governmental, social, and educational data about the school.

2012.188 Luper, Clara

This collection contains decades of correspondence, event programs, flyers, business information and church information collected by civil rights Leader Clara Luper. The collection covers the last forty years of Clara Luper's life, and contains almost no information about the 1958 sit-in at Katz Drug Store.

1997.016 Moon, F. D.

Records consist of letters written by or received by F. D. Moon between 1932 and 1940. During this period Moon was in charge of the African American Schools in Wewoka, a leader of the Langston Alumni Association, and an advocate of graduate education for African-Americans.

2010.069 Mosley, Dr. James L. and Lois L.

Contains documents related to the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers during the 1940s–50s.

1982.294 Murray, William H.

Correspondence and documents concerning the life and career of Oklahoma Governor William H. Murray. Includes: Lists by county of Depression-era individuals in need of relief and three scrapbooks concerning Murray's time as governor.

2011.293 Nero, Shirley

Contains a quarterly report of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame dated October 19, 2011, and a program from the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc., First Induction Ceremony and Banquet dated September 30, 2011.

2013.415 Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Collection

Contains interviews and nominations for the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame.

2011.154 Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

Photographs, scrapbooks, ledgers, paintings, and financial records documenting the organization's history

1983.009 Patterson, Zella

This collection consists of the personal papers of Zella Patterson. Included are her family history, charitable works, research on Langston University, and the city of Langston.

2007.057 Sapulpa Historical Society Collection

The Sapulpa Historical Society Collection contains materials that have been donated to the Oklahoma History Center from the museum in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

2006.075 Stewart, Jimmy

This collection contains autobiographical materials, correspondence, and some personal records. Included in the collection is information regarding his involvement with the NAACP and newspaper clippings.

1986.001 Thoburn, Joseph

The Joseph Thoburn Collection consists of the research papers and materials of Joseph Thoburn. Included are his personal research projects and papers from his time working with the Oklahoma Historical Society. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic.

2008.028 Watkins, Katie Mae

The Katie Mae Watkins Collection contains scrapbooks highlighting the career of African-American civic leader Katie Mae Watkins. Two boxes contain loose pages from unbound scrapbooks, three volumes are intact.

2011.217 Watkins, Kaye

The Kaye Watkins Collection contains materials on the Urban League of Oklahoma and Zeta Phi Beta. Included are newspaper clippings and correspondence.

1982.115 Williams, Robert L.

The Robert L. Williams Collection consists of professional papers accumulated during his service as governor of Oklahoma and US district court judge. The collection is arranged into topical files, such as agriculture, conservation, and banking. The collection contains a mix of correspondence and various documents. The collection includes Williams's years in the governor's office and the years following.

2008.048 Williams, Winner

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The Winner Williams Collection contains copies of galleys from the comic strip "Winner Williams" that ran *in The Black Dispatch* from 1969 to August 1971 and the *Oklahoma City Times* from September 1971 to April 1973. Dr. Duncan Hall was approached by the editor of *The Black Dispatch* to write a cartoon for his newspaper about black children after learning of his research in South Africa. Dr. Hall accepted and after writing the comic for a few years on his own, he decided to find an illustrator who was experienced in drawing African American children. Mr. Don Heath was recommended by a colleague and the two formed a team in 1971. The pro bono comic strip ended in 1973, when Dr. Hall and Mr. Heath ran out of time and money.

Also included in the collection is a copy of *The Gospel According to Winner, Larry and Friends*, the book written by Dr. Hall and Mr. Heath about their comic strip.