

Collection #s  
M 0495  
BV 2686

**ALTA M. (ALTA MARGARET) JETT  
PAPERS, 1916–1986**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 bound volume, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1916-1986

PROVENANCE: Alta M. Jett, Richmond, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1985.0621

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alta M. Boatwright Jett was born on April 2, 1920 in Lancaster, Kentucky. She was the first child of Annie and Charles Boatwright's three children. During her early infancy, the Boatwrights moved to Richmond, Indiana. She attended both Earlham College in Richmond and Indiana University- Purdue University at Indianapolis. Later she married Richard E. Jett, who was a carpenter and a musician. For the most part, Jett lived her life in Richmond. She has had a variety of occupations throughout her life. During the 1930s , Alta Jett was a domestic servant, and at the outbreak of World War II she began to work in a factory. In 1966 she was employed in the credit office of Montgomery Wards until 1967 when she started doing part-time janitorial work for People's Federal Savings and Loan in Richmond. She retired in 1985.

Church activities kept Alta Jett very busy. She belonged to Mount Moriah Baptist Church from 1952 to 1973; she then became a member of New Hope Baptist Church until 1974. She went back to Mount Moriah in 1974 and is still a member today. Her church activities included Sunday school, choir, missionary society, and vacation bible school. She has also been the church clerk and church anniversary chairperson.

Alta Jett was also very busy in the Richmond community. She has been president of the Mary B. Talbert Club and Vice Precinct Committeeman for the Democratic Party. She has also been associated with the Girl Scouts, Mental Health Board, Block mothers, mother's study group, the YMCA board, C.R. Richardson board, and the Townsend Center Board. She writes obituaries and is interested in Black history. Mrs. Jett has given a number of public addresses on the subject.

Source: *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Guide Illinois and Indiana*, p. 44

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the following:

There are six manuscript boxes with material from Alta Jett's personal life, newspaper clippings from the Richmond area, church programs, club programs and records, and material donated by three residents of Richmond. There is also material dealing exclusively with the Margaret Smith and Mary Hill nursing homes in Richmond, Indiana.

Box 1, Folders 1-7 contains some of Alta Jett's private correspondence and some miscellaneous programs and documents. Financial records, political posters, and funeral programs with obituaries written by Mrs. Jett, can also be found here, along with a scrapbook of Indiana Black Women. The scrapbook contains brief biographies of socially active women, as well as media personalities.

Box 1, Folders 8-15 includes service programs, documents, anniversary programs, newspaper clippings concerning the Mount Moriah Baptist Church from 1956 to 1981. The box also contains miscellaneous church programs from Second Baptist, Bethel A.M.E., Missionary Baptist, and other religious organizations. A scrapbook of Mount Moriah Church and obituaries, 1958-1985 is also included--See BV 2686.

Box 2, Folders 1-6 has material from the Townsend Community Center from 1956 to 1985. In addition, notes and minutes, as well as newspaper clippings can be found for the Mary B. Talbert Club from 1953 to 1983. Programs for the convention of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1962 to 1985 are also included.

Box 2, Folders 7-10 contain materials donated by Marjorie Bradford, Esther Vandlingham, and Christella Kelly. At the time of collection, all were residents of Richmond, Indiana. The Bradford collection consists of mainly church programs from the Greater Second Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond. The Vanlandingham collection contains material concerning the Vanlandingham singers. The Kelly collection consists of clippings from the Richmond area newspaper.

Box 2, Folders 11-16 and Box 3, Folders 1-2 hold the records of both the Margaret Smith Nursing Home and the Mary E. Hill Home for Aged Women.

Box 3, Folders 3-7 has newspaper clippings from the Richmond area from as early as 1916 up until 1986.

There is a folder of photographs stored in visual collections relating to Celia Ross.

## CONTENTS

### **BOX 1: Alta Jett Papers, Mount Moriah Baptist Church; Other Church Programs**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Jett Correspondence 1934-1982	Box 1, Folder 1
Miscellaneous programs and documents 1953-1985	Box 1, Folder 2
Financial Records 1959-1977	Box 1, Folder 3
Political and Legal Documents 1961-1982	Box 1, Folder 4
Obituaries 1969-1985	Box 1, Folder 5
Biographies	Box 1, Folder 6
Scrapbook of Indiana Black Women	Box 1, Folder 7
Mount Moriah Church Services 1956-1972	Box 1, Folder 8
Mount Moriah Church Documents 1959-1970	Box 1, Folder 9
Mount Moriah Church Programs 1961-1981	Box 1, Folder 10
Mount Moriah Church news clippings 1956-1962	Box 1, Folder 11
Second Baptist Church, Richmond 1958-1985	Box 1, Folder 12
Bethel AME Church, Richmond	Box 1, Folder 13
Missionary Baptist Church, Richmond 1983-1984	Box 1, Folder 14
Scrapbook of Mount Moriah Church and obituaries, 1758-1985	BV 2686

### **BOX 2: Organizations; Bradford Papers, Vanlandingham Papers, Kelly Papers; Margaret Smith Home and Mary E. Hill Nursing Home**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Mary B. Talbert Record Book 1953-1961	Box 2, Folder 1

Mary B. Talbert Federated Club 1959-1967	Box 2, Folder 2
Mary B. Talbert clippings 1961-1983	Box 2, Folder 3
IFCWC 1962- 1985	Box 2, Folder 4
Townsend Community Center 1956-1985	Box 2, Folder 5
Townsend Community Center clippings	Box 2, Folder 6
Marjorie Bradford papers 1922-1984	Box 2, Folder 7
Esther Vanlandingham papers 1947-1984	Box 2, Folder 8
Christella Kelly clippings, no dates	Box 2, Folder 9
Christella Kelly clippings 1967-1984	Box 2, Folder 10
Margaret Smith Home: rules, regulations, and annual report	Box 2, Folder 11
Mary E. Hill Nursing Home: meeting minutes 1952-1955	Box 2, Folder 12
Mary E. Hill: operational and recreational papers	Box 2, Folder 13
Mary E. Hill: Howard Alexander correspondence 1955-1957	Box 2, Folder 14
Financial Records 1951, 1954, 1956, 1957	Box 2, Folder 15
Financial Records 1955	Box 2, Folder 16
Photographs, Celia Ross	Visual Collection: Photographs, Folder 1

**BOX 3: Mary E. Hill Nursing Home; Newspaper Clippings**

Financial Records, no dates	Box 3, Folder 1
Corporation Record for Mary B. Hill Nursing Home	Box 3, Folder 2
Clippings 1916-1969	Box 3, Folder 3
Clippings 1970-1979	Box 3, Folder 4

Clippings 1980-1984

Box 3, Folder 5

Clippings 1985-1986

Box 3, Folder 6

Clippings, no dates

Box 3, Folder 7