

Collection #
M 0792

AUDREY C. WERLE: RESEARCH NOTES ON INDIANA AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY, 1980–1990

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 document cases
COLLECTION DATES:	1980–1990
PROVENANCE:	Audrey Werle, Indianapolis, IN, 1994
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1994.1293X

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Audrey Lucking Werle (29 October 1926–), the daughter of Aloysius and Eleanor Schulte Lucking, was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from Ursuline Academy in 1945.

In 1951 she married William C. Werle. Three children, Joseph (called José), John, and Mary Louise were born to this union. Self-described as a homemaker, Werle has spent much of her adult life volunteering in various social and church outreach programs. An avid genealogist of German descent, she has researched her family's history.

The Werles moved to Madison, Indiana in 1962. Werle first became interested in African-American history while helping her son, José, with a school assignment about the Underground Railroad. During the early 1970s her interest was further cultivated by the Human Relations Council in Jefferson County and a cross-culture course she took at Spalding College. Using her genealogical skills, she was commissioned by William Harris at the Indiana State Library Genealogy Division during the 1980s to develop a name index of Indiana blacks and mulattoes appearing in the 1870 federal census. She developed a card index that was placed at the Indiana State Library and microfilmed by the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

Sources:

Telephone interview with Audrey Werle, conducted by Wilma L. Gibbs, 13 January 2003.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Audrey Werle's research notes on the history of African Americans in Indiana are contained in two boxes. The materials are not in their original order. They reflect Werle's experience as a family history researcher. From her use of various research tools (census and cemetery records, deed books, photographs, and secondary sources), she identified family names, institutions, and geographical areas that relate to the history of African Americans in Indiana.

Werle devised several aids to help her research the history of blacks in the state. For the purpose of doing African-American research, she divided the state into thirteen geographical areas. Each area consisted of six to nine counties. Werle examined characteristics of the counties that make up the areas. For example, she listed early pioneer families, settlements, and information from the 1830, 1850, and 1870 federal population census.

The county summary sheets describe information from the 1870 census. Sheets include the total and African-American populations, family names, and the nativity of black population for each county. Aggregate black population figures from earlier censuses (1830 to 1860) are also included. The sheets note trends including population shifts between

census periods. (For example, in 1870 Spencer County reported 949 African Americans; two blacks had been recorded in the previous census.)

There are several folders that explore the African-American presence in different counties. The Jefferson County folders are especially useful. In 1988 Werle prepared a manuscript that she titled "Deeds of Lives." The manuscript includes information about various African Americans found in the deed records of Jefferson County through 1850. There are folders for several other counties including Franklin, Hancock, Howard, Marion, Orange, and Parke.

Much of Werle's research evolved from her work of indexing Indiana blacks, mulattoes, and Native Americans from the 1870 federal census. The Index to Heads of Households in the 1870 federal census of Indiana households with African and/or Native Americans was one aspect of that project. The two-folder index contains 122 sheets.

Research nudges, a term used by Werle, suggest subjects for future exploration in Indiana African-American history. John Delaney (Hancock County) and Thomas Malston (Franklin and LaPorte Counties) were two individuals that Werle researched. Information contained in the Thomas Malston folders is the basis for her article, "Thomas Malston: Indiana Pioneer, 1771–1867," published in the November 1988 issue of *Black History News & Notes*. The collection also contains research notes on African-American cemeteries, the Eleutherian Institute, and the Underground Railroad.

Using several sources, Werle prepared a card file (box 2) that contains the names of individuals and subjects germane to the study of Indiana African-American history. Most of the information contained in box 2 was extracted from city and county histories, censuses, deed and will records, and various secondary works. Researchers should not assume that the indexing of these sources is complete and comprehensive.

Sources used for Card File Index, Box 2

Browning, Eliza Gordon, *Lockerbie's Assessment List of Indianapolis*, 1835. Indianapolis: E. J. Hecker, 1909. Indianapolis: E. J. Hecker, 1909. Reference Room Collection F21 .I41 v. 4 no. 7.

[Shaw, Archibald], *History of Dearborn County, Indiana : Her People, Industries and Institutions : With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and Genealogical Records of Old Families*. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1915. General Collection F532.D18 S52 1915.

Miller, Marion Clinton, "The Antislavery Movement in Indiana [microform]. Ph.D. diss., University of Michigan, 1938. Indiana State Library.

Register of Negroes, Jefferson County, Indiana, 1853–1860. Madison, Ind.: Office of Jefferson County Clerk, [1860]. Indiana State Library.

Sulgrove, Berry R. *History of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana*. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1884. General Collection F534.I55 S85 1884.

Tibbets, Joshua C. *History of Coffee Creek Baptist Association (Southern Indiana): An Account of Present Churches, and Biographical Sketches of its Ministers*. Cincinnati: Elm Street Printing Co., 1883. Indiana State Library.

Vail, Cornelius, *Vail's Undertaker Records, Madison, Indiana*. [Madison, Ind.]: John Paul Chapter, DAR, 1948–1954. (Copied by Mary Hill.) 3 volumes. Indiana State Library.

Werle, Audrey C. "Deed of Lives" (Extracted from deed records of Jefferson County, pertain to African Americans). In this collection, box 1, folder 10.

United States Federal Census Records for Indiana, 1830, 1850, and 1870. Indiana State Library.

Deed and Will Records for Hancock and Jefferson Counties. Indiana State Library.

SERIES CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1987–89

Thirteen African-American Research Areas of Indiana

Index to County Summary Sheets

County Summary Sheets, Adams to Marion

County Summary Sheets, Marshall to Whitley

Franklin County

Hancock County

Howard County

Jefferson County

Jefferson County (Deeds of Lives)

Marion County

Orange County

Parke County

Index to Heads of Households in 1870 Census, pp. 1–67

Index to Heads of Households in 1870 Census, pp. 68–122

Research Nudges

John Delaney

Thomas Malston

Thomas Malston (Marjorie B. Burress Research)

Thomas Malston gravesite

Cemeteries

Eleutherian Institute

Underground Railroad

Ohio

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

Box 1, Folder 18

Box 1, Folder 19

Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 20

Box 1, Folder 21

Box 1, Folder 22

Box 1, Folder 23

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0792).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.