

Collection #
SC 3604
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**BERNICE BOHANNON
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 11 AUGUST 2016**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 Manuscript Folder, 2 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 11 August 2016

PROVENANCE: Bernice Bohannon, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2016

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NOTES: This forms part of the “Indiana Community Builders” oral history program.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bernice Jackson Bohannon was born in New Castle, Henry County, Kentucky, in 1910. She was the youngest of ten children born to Ollie and Olivia “Levia” Roberts Jackson. After her mother’s death in 1920, her father married Margaret “Maggie” Minor Scott, and she gained seven stepsiblings and, eventually, five half siblings.

Bohannon attended public school in New Castle, where she met her husband, Buford Bohannon. They married in 1926 and immediately moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where Mr. Bohannon’s sisters lived. The Bohannons lived in various locations on the near northwest side of Indianapolis, near Fall Creek. They had three children—Clarence J. Bohannon, Lillian B. Bohannon Campbell, and Buford Bohannon Jr.

Bohannon is known for her sewing, quilting, and needlework, having worked for Indianapolis’s Schamberg’s Shop Around The Corner as well as starting her own garment-making and alteration business. She is a long-time member of Bethel AME Church in Indianapolis, where she has been involved with the Mary Campbell Missionary Society and the Birthday Club. She was also a member of the Show and Tell Society and Heritage Place of Indianapolis. Mrs. Bohannon currently resides on Indianapolis’s Near West Side.

Sources:

Information in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on August 11, 2016, at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Wendy L. Adams, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) director of oral history. Others on the recording are Dr. Samuel L. Goodloe, a son of Mrs. Bohannon's stepsister, Thelma Scott Goodloe, and Mr. Kenneth White, the grandson of Mrs. Bohannon's husband's sister, Jannie Tinsley. April Collette Ghoston, a great-niece of Mrs. Bohannon's husband, was an observer. Data Logistics Control, a local transcription service, transcribed the interview in September 2016, and Ms. Adams lightly edited the transcript in December 2017. The interview, which includes the audio recording and the transcript as well as scans of several of Mrs. Bohannon's photographs, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

There are also thirty-nine digital photographs of Bohannon and her family.

Listed below is an index to the interview's transcript.

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