

Collection #
M 1469
OM 740

**C. ETHEL RANSOM KUYKENDALL
COLLECTION, 1918-1972**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 5 oversize manuscript folders, 1 photographs folder, 1 flat file, 3 printed items

COLLECTION DATES: 1918-1972

PROVENANCE: Robert F. Ransom, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Judge Rufus C. Kuykendall Collection, M1468; Minnie White Ransom Collection, M1141

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.0243

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Clemie Ethel (Ransom) Kuykendall (June 9, 1905-September 29, 1981) was the daughter of Rial and Minnie Ransom. She had two brothers, Archie and Winfield, and grew up in Indianapolis at 843 Camp St., a home which was later purchased in 1919 by Madam C.J. Walker as an investment property. Ethel attended Booker T. Washington School #17 and Crispus Attucks High School and went on to earn a B.S. and an M.S. from Butler University in Botany. Upon her graduation from Butler, she accepted a teaching job in Greensboro, North Carolina, but came back to Indianapolis after a year and took a job at Crispus Attucks in 1931, where she taught for forty years until her retirement in 1971. At the end of her time at Attucks, she directed the Learning Teaching Laboratory, which served students at risk of dropping out of high school by using more visual and audio methods of instruction, small groups, and individualized tutorial learning.

Ethel was a founding charter member of the Alpha Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. She served as Basileus from 1944-46 and 1953-54. In 1956, she was named "Soror Through the Years". Ethel was also involved in a variety of community organizations and served on the board of the YWCA and the Health and Welfare Council of Indianapolis and Marion County. She attended Bethel AME Church. Ethel was married to Rufus C. Kuykendall, a local attorney, politician, and judge from 1939 until his death in 1977.

Sources:

"Founding AKA Sorors Remembered." *Indianapolis Recorder*. 10 Nov. 1979

Gadzepko, Audrey. "Infield housing area is rich in history and heritage." *Indianapolis Recorder*. 11 May 1991.

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. *Pacesetters in Innovation Cumulative Issue*. Feb. 1969, page 545. Accessed via GoogleBooks.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains items from Ethel Kuykendall's professional life as a teacher at Crispus Attucks High School and her social life as part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. There are teaching aids that feature Black leadership in business, the arts, politics, law, religion, and human rights, as well as Black history and current news of the day, and membership/interest cards for the Co-Ettes, a club Ethel started for students who intended to enroll in college. For her involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha, there are copies of the Constitution and By-laws, song books, rituals, and conference programs. Outside of the teaching and sorority items, there are diplomas belonging to her mother and her brother, Minnie Ransom and Archie Ransom, as well as Ethel's own diplomas from Indianapolis Public Schools and Butler University, yearbooks, and a photograph of Ethel.

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Rituals, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, n.d.

Song Books, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, n.d.

Diploma and Certificate, Mme. Lelia J. Pettebone System of Beauty Culture, [Minnie Ransom], 1918

Diploma, Booker T. Washington School, 1921

Diploma, Booker T. Washington Jr. High, [Archie Alvertus Ransom], 1922

The Drift, Yearbook, Butler University, 1926

Diploma, Butler University, 1928

The Attucks, Yearbook, Crispus Attucks High School, 1930

Bachelor of Laws Degree, Indiana University, Archie Alvertus Ransom, 1934

Marriage License, 1939

Portrait, ca. 1940s

Handbook, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 1951

Certificate, Butler University Alumni Association, 25 Year Anniversary of Graduation, 1953

Constitution and By-laws, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 1953-1955

Membership Cards, The Co-Ettes Pre-College Club, A-G, ca. 1956

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LD701.B85

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