GENERAL AFRICAN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, CA. 1890-1989

Collection Information 1
Scope and Content Note 2
Series Contents 4

Processed by
Melissa Burlock and Abby Curtin
Supervised by Wilma L. Moore
December 2012

Revised by Barbara Quigley, 3 June 2019

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 photograph boxes; 1 box of 4x5 polyester negatives; 1 box of glass plate lantern slides; 1 box of 120mm acetate negatives; 3 OVA photograph folders; 1 OVB photograph folder; 6 OVC photograph folders; 1 PAC box; 1 half size manuscript box; and 1 folder of color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1890s-1980s

PROVENANCE: Multiple

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: This Far by Faith, E185.93.14 T5 1982

ACCESSION NUMBER:

NOTES: Interns Curtis Barsic and Lillian Green also worked on this collection.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection materials include copies of photographs, postcards, negatives, and some manuscript material. The photographs featured are from a wide range of subjects focusing on African American individuals, organizations, businesses, and communities throughout Indiana. Many of the earliest pictures in this collection are of individuals and groups; most are unidentified. Incorporated in the collection are some photographs of past exhibitions concerning African American heritage, including the “This Far by Faith” project and “The Black Family: Invisible Sinew” display. There are copied images of the *Gary Evening Post* dating back to 1919.

The collection is arranged in 13 series: 1) Identified groups (*alphabetical by name*), 2) Unidentified Groups, 3) Businesses (*alphabetical by name*), 4) Church Congregations, 5) School Groups, 6) Newspapers, 7) Exhibitions, 8) Rural Communities—by county, 9) Identified Individuals—*alphabetical by name*, 10) Scenes of everyday life, 11) Unidentified Individuals—separated by male and female, 12) Unidentified Scrapbooks, and 13) Negatives. The negatives are further divided into specific sub-headings according to both provenance and theme.

**Series 1: Identified Groups**: This series is arranged by group name. It consists of images - many undated - of a wide variety of organizations. Most are based in Indianapolis, though there are also a few from unidentified locations. The organizations include Citizen’s Pioneer Club (Indianapolis); Colored Speedway Association, 1924 (Indianapolis); Daughters of Isis- Persian Coup no.24 (Indianapolis); The Mother’s Club; The Pride of the West no.45 O.E.S; Senate Avenue YMCA (Indianapolis), including a picture of one of the founders; Indianapolis Fire Department Station no.1; Howard University Dental Class, 1921; and the Boy Scouts of America Central District Campers.

**Series 2: Unidentified Groups**: This series includes images that depict groups of unidentified people. The groups represented in this series appear to be organizations, family units, and couples. There are personal and professional photographs. Also, there are pictures of groups in which individuals are identified, but the group itself is not known.

**Series 3: Businesses**: The photographs are arranged by business name. There are also general business scenes including Hart’s Market (Indianapolis), Inland Steel (Lake County), and Madam Walker’s Beauty Shop (Indianapolis).

**Series 4: Church Congregations**: This series contains photographs of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, St. Mark’s African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, both located in Indianapolis, as well as Second Baptist Church (Richmond, Indiana), etc.

**Series 5: School Groups**: This series consists of photographs of children in school groups. The photographs from Indianapolis Public School #26 are especially interesting.

**Series 6: Newspapers**: Newspaper articles and clippings are featured in this series. The series contains a photograph copy of the front page of the *Gary Evening Post* (vol. XI, no. 4) from 1919- with an article: “No Martial Law in Gary” and the *Indianapolis Recorder*
with a picture of its co-founder and publisher (George P. Stewart) and his son, Marcus C. Stewart, Sr., who later served as publisher and editor. It also includes a photograph of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune with two representatives of the Canadian Society for the Advancement of Colored People.

**Series 7: Exhibits:** This series includes exhibit pictures and planning materials concerning the African American experience in Indiana. Included are materials pertaining to the “The Black Family: Invisible Sinew” display and the “This Far by Faith” project which was facilitated through a joint venture between IHS and the Indiana Committee for the Humanities (now Indiana Humanities).

**Series 8: Rural Communities:** This series is arranged by county in alphabetical order and contains photographs ranging from the late 19th century through the 1980s that depict African Americans in rural communities. Counties included are: Gibson, Grant, Hamilton, Randolph, Rush, and Vigo. The pictures depict a wide variety of topics- including schools, community gatherings, church congregations, portraits (both identified and unidentified), organizations, and candid shots of daily life.

**Series 9: Identified Individuals:** Images of various individuals, some well-known are arranged alphabetically.

**Series 10: Unidentified Individuals:** This series is a collection of photographs of unidentified adults and children. Some of the pictures are professional portraits (a few with interesting embellishments on their outfits and others with props). There are also personal photographs, which offer some insight to the decorations of interiors, the conditions of homes and neighborhoods, and the style of dress popular at the time.

**Series 11: Scenes of Everyday Life:** These photographs depict candid scenes in the daily lives of black Hoosiers. Pictures date from the early twentieth century through the 1970s. This series depicts a wide variety of scenes and topics including professions, social gatherings, lively street scenes, construction projects, an art class, and a scene from a religious service. This series also includes advertisements for community events.

**Series 12: Unidentified Scrapbooks:** This series contains four unidentified scrapbooks in a variety of sizes and conditions. The scrapbooks contain photographs of individuals and groups, newspaper clippings, and other printed material. The scrapbooks are labeled by their number which corresponds to their size (smallest to largest).

**Series 13: Negatives:** This series is comprised of various types of photographic negatives. The negatives in this collection are categorized into twelve different sub categories. Subjects of the negatives are wide ranging and include: Beech Settlement, “The Invisible Sinew” exhibit, St. Mark AMEZ Church, and identified individuals—many who were prominent citizens.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Identified Groups

CONTENTS

**Butler University:** Eight unidentified graduates, n.d.  
Photo taken by Morris Hughes  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

**Citizen’s Pioneer Club:** Photograph taken in front of Senate Avenue YMCA. There are many women in center of the image among the boys. Several boys have numbered signs that indicate their Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) number. (Historically most IPS schools have had a number and a name.) Photo by Harris Bros.  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

**Colored Speedway Association officials:** A photo of the organization’s officers, which commemorated its first annual 100-mile auto race held in Indianapolis on August 2, 1924. Photo by Patton Studio.  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

**Daughters of Isis- Persian Coup no. 24:** Depicts six women in nurse uniforms with the organization’s banner, ca.1945.  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 4

**“Mother’s Club”**: Group of unidentified women standing in front of a wooden building, perhaps in a rural community, ca. 1890s. [Reverse of picture identifies the group as “Mother’s Club.”]  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 5

**Pride of the West- no. 45, O.E.S.:** Group, primarily women shown with decorated sashes and in white dresses. Men in suits and ties. [ca. 1960]  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 6

**Senate Avenue Y.M.C.A:** Three pictures: Two photos of a large group of boys. Also a photo identified as the founders of the Senate Ave. YMCA founders (without Sumner Furniss-deceased) Robert D. Gilliam, William R. Hill, Dr. Henry L. Hummons and Dr. Joseph Ward.  
CONTAINER  
Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 7

**Senate Avenue YMCA Pioneer Camp:** One photograph of members and camp leaders, ca. 1900.  
OVC Photographs:  
Folder 1
Indianapolis Fire Department: Men from Fire Station #No.1 with their truck, 1926. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8


Boy Scouts of America Central District Campers, 1928 OVC Photographs: Folder 3

Series 2: Unidentified Groups

CONTENTS CONTAINER

Groups of Unidentified People: Depicts families and various groups in a variety of settings. Includes still portraits, dynamic shots, family and personal portraits, presentations, and panoramic photographs ca. 1890-1985. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 9

Unidentified Groups with Identified People: Possibly women’s organization featuring - 1st row: Angie Covington, Mrs. Armstrong, Emma Parks, Susie Williams, Thaddeus Reed, Laura Gains, Susie Donald, Huldah Webb, Sarah Howard. 2nd row: Tabitha Alexander, Alice Frazier, Mary Johnson, [unidentified], Julia Reed, Ida Bryant, Sidney Ellen Lewis, and Ella Williams, ca. 1910. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 10

Larger version of photograph above. (Box 1, Folder 10) OVC Photographs: Folder 4

Unidentified Groups with Known People: Teachers 1st row: M. Nolcox (principal). 2nd row: Mr. Thomas (shop teacher), Mrs. Doyle (social studies teacher, School no. 4), Julian Coleman (Dean of boys, Crispus Attucks High School). 3rd row: Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Leslie Henderson (science teacher, School no. 4), Mrs. Beard, Mrs. Hortence Dixon, Mr. Smith. OVA Photographs: Folder 1
Series 3: Businesses

CONTENTS

Hart’s Market: Exterior of Hart’s market. A woman is selling snow cones for 5 and 10 cents, ca. 1956. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 11

Inland Steel (Lake County, Ind.): Collection showing the interior workings of the Inland Steel Plant. Most photos include Allen Holland, Reggie Newell, Marshall Brown and Richard Gee. Accounting executive Earmon J. Irons is also featured. There are also several images of the exterior of the plant. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 12

Inland Steel Manuscript Material: Several documents including two news releases about the blast furnace at Inland Steel Company’s Indiana Harbor Works, as well as two typewritten letters addressed to Jo Ann Evans from Donald Shiras. M 1060, Folder 1

Madam Walker Beauty Shoppe: Image of shop at 640 N. West Street, Indianapolis. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 13

Unidentified Business Scene: Women in large office working at desks using typewriters. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 14

Series 4: Church Congregations

CONTENTS

Bethel A.M.E. Church (Indianapolis): Photographs of congregation in front of the church, ca. 1919. An image showing a group holding a church sign. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 15


Garfield Baptist Church: Photographs depict a scene of a river baptism, ca. 1921. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 17
Second Baptist Church and Sojourner Truth Club (Richmond): Photograph of a river baptism at Whitewater River, 1912. Photograph of the Sojourner Truth Club in front of a building.

Series 5: School Groups

CONTENTS

Indianapolis Public School #26: Home economics classes. Especially noteworthy, teacher Laura Jane Wolfolk with a boys’ cooking class, ca. 1921. Also girls cooking class, 1943 and adult night school cooking class, n.d.

Unidentified Class Pictures: Two class pictures. Also a photograph of the school safety patrol, ca. 1920s to 1950.

Unidentified School Groups with Identified People:
Series 6: Newspapers

CONTENTS

Gary Evening Post, October 6, 1919: Photograph copy of the front page of the *Gary Evening Post*. The headline is “No Martial Law in Gary.” Shorter articles concern the labor strike and arrival of state troopers in Gary.


Clippings, July 13, 1946: Newspaper clipping featuring an image of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baldwin, second anniversary announcement. Another clipping contains headline, “Steel Workers Local Elects Officers,” and contains an image of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune while visiting the Canadian Society for the Advancement of Colored People.

Series 7: Exhibits

CONTENTS

“The Black Family: Invisible Sinew”: Images of the photographic exhibit developed by Florabelle Williams at Indiana Central College (now University of Indianapolis). The project focused on the experience of African Americans from different areas of Indiana. [Exhibit mounted during the 1980s.]

“This Far by Faith”: Images from a photographic project which addressed African American heritage in Indiana. (Includes images of: artist John Hardrick, judge Mercer Mance, and football player George Taliaferro.) The finished booklet that accompanied the exhibit included different topics focusing on the African American Hoosier experience including: early rural communities, the black urban community, lifestyles, political and civil life, and the church.
“This Far by Faith”: Includes several large pictures from the project.

Exhibit Notes: Notes on black history exhibit sponsored by IHS and Indiana Central University (now University of Indianapolis), 1979.

Exhibit Materials: Materials on “This Far by Faith,” black history exhibit at the Indiana Committee for the Humanities (now Indiana Humanities), 1982 sponsored by IHS, ICH and Muncie Public Library.

Series 8: Rural Communities

CONTENTS

Gibson County: Includes Lyles Station school children, various families, and organizations

Gibson County Printed Material: Two lists that may identify the names of school children featured in Box 1, Folder 26 (above).

Grant County: Images of brothers Barnes and Robert Jones, Mary Epps Betts, the family of John W. and Carrie Smith Pettiford, and portrait of Thomas P. Weaver and Elizabeth A. Weaver.

Hamilton County: Family photograph, ca. 1880

Hamilton County: Photographs of Roberts Chapel Church Homecoming celebration, 1981. The pictures document the 150-year anniversary celebration of the church.

Randolph County: Laura Tucker Stidham standing in a group of people (mostly women) in front of the Union Literary Institute (duplicate in OVC, Folder 6), ca. 1890.

Randolph County: Larger version of photograph above. (Box 1, Folder 30)
Rush County: Lawrence Carter is featured in a group of photos from the summer of 1979. Also included are 19th-century images of individuals, mostly unidentified from the Beech Settlement. There is an image of Eli Archey of the Beech Settlement driving his mules, ca. 1900.


Vigo County: Class picture of No. 2 School, ca. 1924 (Teacher, Ruth Burnett. Some of the surnames handwritten on reverse of picture include: Hathink, Redmon, Ross, Simpson, Stewart, and Tribble.) Class picture from No. 8 School (Teacher, Opal Anderson). Schools located in black rural communities within Vigo County.

Unidentified Rural Communities: Single photo of a brick building in a field.

Series 9: Identified Individuals

CONTENTS

Benjamin W. Arnett D.D. (1836-1906)

Frank Beckwith with Governor Henry F. Schricker, et al.

George W. Buckner (1855-1943), (Includes a photograph of Buckner, family photograph, as well as a photograph of his descendents at the Buckner Towers dedication ceremony, 1969)

Nannie H. Burroughs

Walter and Beulah Edwards, 1939

Bishop Garfield T. Haywood Memorial Way sign with image of Haywood
Ella Weeden, ca. 1890
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 40

Lillian Mary Rhodes, 1925
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 41

Willis Shoffner, ca. 1940s
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 42

Janet Louise Stokes
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 43

Marshall, “Major” Taylor (includes a photograph of Taylor bike racing at the Newby Oval.)
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 44

Van Horn Family (Eliza, James, and Nancy Foster Van Horn), ca. 1860
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 45

Nellie and Opel Whitlock (Photo by R. G. Hicks, Franklin, Indiana)
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 46

Luther Donnell (includes an informational booklet about the Underground Railroad conductor and also details the results of the 1852 case Donnell v. State of Indiana)
M 1060, Folder 7

Series 10: Unidentified Individuals

CONTENTS

Unidentified Females: Various photos of women in both work and social settings dating from ca. 1875 to the late 1900s
Photographs: Box 2, Folders 1,2

Unidentified Males: Various photos of men in both work and social settings dating from ca. 1890. Both candid and formal pictures are included.
Photographs: Box 2, Folders 3,4

Unidentified Child: Full-length photograph of a child wearing a large bowtie and an ornamental belt. The belt includes a lion, an elephant, and another animal.
OVA Photographs: Folder 2

Unidentified Couples and Groups: Various photos of men, women and children in domestic, social, and school settings.
Photographs: Box 2, Folder 5
Series 11: Scenes of Everyday Life

CONTENTS

**Scenes of Everyday Life:** Various photos of men and women in social and community settings dating from ca. 1900 to WWII era. Includes an officer directing traffic, construction workers; people having a picnic in the woods, men and women at a nightclub; a shoe shine person with customers, students in an art class, and a street scene that includes the Downyflake Donut Shop.

**Scenes of Everyday Life:** A photo of a couple riding in a horse-drawn carriage.

**Scenes of Everyday Life:** A large barbershop depicted in two photos. Picture of a funeral coffin for a young woman, and a photo of an unidentified professional office.


Series 12: Unidentified Scrapbooks

CONTENTS

**Scrapbook #1 (8 x 5.5):** 16 pages (front only) of black and white photographs containing group pictures and individual shots, mostly of men and women in front of their homes or automobiles, ca. 1920s to 1940s.

**Scrapbook #2 (6.5 x 9.5):** approximately 20 pages (some front and back) of black and white photographs
containing family pictures and professional individual portraits. Also includes a newspaper clipping featuring a photograph of the undefeated 1928 Indiana University cross country team, team manager and coach: Knapp (manager), Abromron, Steele, Leas, Caine, Fields (captain), Banks, Shaefller, Coach Hayes.

**Scrapbook #3 (7.5 x 10.5):** approximately 35 pages (front and back) of black and white photographs and newspaper clippings dating mostly from the 1940s to the 1970s. Includes several seasonal postcards, color cartoon cutouts, dog cartoons by Rob Dickey, and a copy of a 1970 edition of *The Mt. Paran Reporter*.

**Scrapbook #4 (11x12.5):** 9 pages (front and back) of black and white photographs, ca. 1930s-1960s

**Series 13: Negatives**

**CONTENTS**

**Beech Settlement Identified People:** Rosetta McDuffey; Charles Roberts; John Roberts and Marhaline Johns; Aunt Lizzie Smith; Weaver; Tina Holsinger; Ballard Estirs; Newt Smith; Harvey Keen; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Roberts, 1905; Reverend Mitchell, Harvey Keen; Ida Henley, Carthage, Indiana; Bryant Waldron and Johnson boys; Cora B. McDuffey; Raymond McDuffey; Lizzie Smith; Martha Washington White; Kate Watkins; and Lizzie Weaver.

**Beech Settlement Unidentified Females:** Several full-length portraits of women in formal dress. Several pictures of young girls including infants.

**Beech Settlement Unidentified Males:** Man in uniform, two photos of a man with a large mustache; man with his bowler hat; infant in dark dress.

**Beech Settlement Unidentified Groups:** Several candid and formal group photos. Family portraits, couple portraits, and wedding photos are included.

**“The Black Family: Invisible Sinew” exhibit:** Photographs taken of the exhibit.

**Fannie Hadley Bartlett Collection:** Albert Hadley, Fannie Hadley Bartlett (40 years old), Jessie “Jack” Hadley, Bessie

Photographs:

Box 2, Folders 9,10

PAC Box

4 x 5 Polyester

Negatives: Box 1

4 x 5 Polyester

Negatives: Box 1

4 x 5 Polyester

Negatives: Box 1

4 x 5 Polyester

Negatives: Box 1

4 x 5 Polyester

Negatives: Box 1

4 x 5 Polyester

Negatives: Box 1
Hadley Youree, Katie Boyd Hadley, William Henry Hadley, Hadley Family Reunion, National Meeting- Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs, Mrs. Harriet Kelly, Indianapolis Public Schools #19 reunion, Mt. Paran Baptist Church, and two unidentified groups.


Oklahoma Unidentified Groups: Collection of various groups of men and women varying widely in age. Divided into 7 categories: Groups of Women (1-7); Groups of Men (8-11); Groups of Men and Women (12-19); Large Groups (20-24); Couples (25-31); Groups of Children (32-35); Wedding Groups (36-40); and Military Group (41).

Oklahoma Unidentified Men: Young men, possibly students of Langston College. Other men in a variety of settings. Divided into 3 categories: Men in Casual Dress (42-47); Men in Formal Dress (48-56); Men at Graduation Ceremony (57, 58); Men at Work (59).

Oklahoma Unidentified Women: Young, unidentified women, possibly students at Langston College. Divided into 7 categories: Casual-Standing (60-68); Casual-Sitting (69-74); Graduation (75); Older Women (76, 77); Formal Dress (78, 79); Female Children (80); and woman doing stretches, woman on a bike, and other individuals (81, 82).

Oklahoma Identified Businesses: Progress Beer (83); Campus Market and Grocery (84); Busy Bee Café (85); Shaffer Bros. (86).

Oklahoma Unidentified Places: elementary school building, building under construction, corner store advertising Coca Cola. Several urban and rural homes. Some pictures possibly from Langston College in Oklahoma. The following subjects are represented: building Exteriors (87-93); building Interiors (94);
nature (95-96); casket with flowers and a car at a gas station (97).

**Glass Lantern Plates- Identified People:** Thomas Parker (Parking Meter Department); Rufus C. Kuykendall; Mercer Mance (Democrat, Superior Court, Room One), Dr. Joseph Taylor, Gertrude Page, Jean McAnulty, Reverend Gerald Cunningham (Safety Board Member), and Roscoe Polin.

Glass Lantern Plates: Box 1