

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF COLORED MEN COLLECTION

Collection #s:

M 631

OM 292

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Processed by:
Wilma L. Gibbs
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: .3 linear ft.

COLLECTION DATES: 1916

PROVENANCE: Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, March, 1973

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Held by the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 73.0305

NOTES: None

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Very little is known about the Indiana Association of Colored Men, which was headquartered at 426 West North Street in Indianapolis in 1916. Nahum D. Brascher served as executive secretary. The letterhead on its stationery asserts: "To advance the interests of the Colored People of Indiana."

In February 1916 the association sponsored an Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass memorial program. The purpose of the memorial was to eulogize Lincoln and Douglass through the presentations made by two speakers. James A. Watson, Rushville resident and an unsuccessful candidate for the 1916 Indiana Republican primary for United States senator, immortalized Lincoln and Robert H. Terrell, a Washington, D. C. judge, paid homage to Douglass.

The association supported the candidacy of Watson, sending out letters of endorsement and coordinating poll workers for the primary election.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection is comprised of one small manuscript box and one oversized folder. The bulk of the collection is material pertaining to the Indiana Association of Colored Men and its Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass memorial program held at Tomlinson Hall in Indianapolis on 20 February 1916. It includes letters, political broadsides, leaflets, programs, tickets, printed speeches, and newspaper clippings. The collection also contains campaign literature related to James Watson's unsuccessful candidacy for the 1916 Indiana Republican primary for the United States Senate.

Most of the items contained in the small manuscript box were removed from a scrapbook due to conservation concerns. The pages remain in the order that they appeared in the scrapbook and have been placed in 13 file folders. Of interest is correspondence between Thomas Taylor, executive director of the Senate Avenue Young Men's Christian Association in Indianapolis (folder 11) and Nahum Brasher, Indiana Association of Colored Men executive secretary, (folder 6) concerning Lincoln and Douglass portraits drawn by local artist, John W. Hardrick. The campaign literature pertaining to Watson includes letters of endorsement from the Association, printed speeches and statements, and campaign memorabilia and is located throughout the scrapbook. The Indiana Association of Colored Men material is included in the scrapbook. Also contained in the collection is a broadside describing the memorial program (OM 292). The top portion of the broadside appears to be missing; it may be a replica of a newspaper advertisement of the event contained in folder 4.

Folder 16 contains photocopies of newspaper clippings pertaining to the coverage of the Lincoln-Douglass program held in Indianapolis and similar events in Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit and political activity in Indiana and Ohio. The clippings include pictures of Watson who eulogized Lincoln and Robert H. Terrell, a Washington, D. C. Municipal Court judge who eulogized Douglass. (The acid free photocopies replaced the original, deteriorating clippings.)

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Indiana Association of Colored Men FOLDER CONTENTS

1 Scrapbook, Page 1

2 Scrapbook, Page 2

3 Scrapbook, Page 3

- 4 Scrapbook, Page 4
 - 5 Scrapbook, Page 5
 - 6 Scrapbook, Page 6
 - 7 Scrapbook, Page 7
 - 8 Scrapbook, Page 8
 - 9 Scrapbook, Page 9
 - 10 Scrapbook, Page 10
 - 11 Scrapbook, Page 11
 - 12 Scrapbook, Page 12
 - 13 (OM 292) Scrapbook, Page 13
 - 14 Newspaper Clippings
 - 15 Indiana Association of Colored Men stationery
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CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Indiana Association of Colored Men

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Indiana Association of Colored Men

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

Douglass, Frederick, 1817?-1895

Watson, James E. (James Eli), 1864-1948

Taylor, Thomes E., fl. 1890-1916

Brascher, Nahum D.

Hardrick, John W.

Afro-American men--Indiana--Societies, etc.

Associations, institutional, etc.--Indiana--Indianapolis

Afro-Americans--Indiana--Societies, etc.

Afro-Americans--Civil rights--Indiana

Afro-American politicians--Indiana--Rushville

Afro-American leadership--Indiana

Indiana--Politics and government

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Societies and clubs

END