

Collection #
SC 2726
CT 1511-1512
DVD 1388-1389

**KATHARINE WATSON ATKINS
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 9 JANUARY 1978**

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September 2004

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May 2018

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder, 2 cassette tapes, 2 audio DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 9 January 1978

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1978.0111

NOTES: Previously numbered as OH 1.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Katharine Watson was born on 12 June 1902. Her parents, Philemon Watson and Genevieve Bassel, were prominent members of Indianapolis, Ind., society. Her maternal grandparents, the Frasers, were likewise major figures in Indianapolis. They rented Benjamin Harrison's home during his residence in Washington, D.C., and they were also friends with James Whitcomb Riley and Booth Tarkington.

The young Katharine and her brother John lived with their parents in their grandmother Frasers' house. The children enjoyed playing with their neighborhood friends; Katharine even had a pulley-line strung from her bedroom to that of her best friend so they could exchange notes in the middle of the night. She went to Tudor School from elementary through high school. After graduating from high school, she spent time in England with her uncle John W. Davis, who was an ambassador to the court of St. James.

She married Elias Cornelius Atkins on 18 February 1922. They had one son, Elias Cornelius III. Katherine Watson Atkins died on 20 June 1993 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

James Glass is currently Professor of Architecture at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Ancestry Plus: <http://search.ancestry.com> (accessed 3 June 2004)

Ball State University: <http://www.bsu.edu/architecture>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two cassette tapes and a typed transcript of an oral history interview with Katharine Watson Atkins done by James Glass on 9 January 1978. The cassette tapes were converted to audio DVDs in 2018. Atkins talks about the Old Northside neighborhood in Indianapolis, her grandparents' interactions with the Harrison family, James Whitcomb Riley, and Booth Tarkington.

She also discusses several prominent figures who lived near her, such as the Major Taylors, the Ruddels, and Meredith Nicholson. Atkins discusses how the neighborhood changed over the course of the twentieth century.

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Katharine Watson Atkins interview–transcript

Katharine Watson Atkins interview–cassette tapes

Katherine Watson Atkins interview-Audio DVDs

CONTAINER

Folder 1

CT 1511, CT 1512

DVD 1388-1389

