LAURA J. WOLFOLK COLLECTION, 1918-1981

Collection #: M 535

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Processed by: Wilma L. Gibbs 29 June 1996

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: .5 manuscript box

PROVENANCE: Unknown

COLLECTION DATES: 1918-1981

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: A 1921 photograph of Laura J. Wolfolk teaching a boys cooking class at Indianapolis Public School #26 appears on page 33 in *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes*, edited by Wilma L. Gibbs (E185.93 .I4 B52 1993). The image corresponds to the Indiana Historical Society's negative number, C 2172.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 96.0532X

NOTES:

Laura Jane Wolfolk (2 September 1882--11 October 1977) was born in Greencastle, Indiana, the daughter of Private Taylor and Rhoda Wolfolk. Laura Wolfolk's first teaching assignment was in Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin on a Native American reservation. A longtime educator, Wolfolk taught domestic science in the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) system during most of her teaching career. In 1959, she received a certificate of recognition for having taught in the IPS system for 40 years.

Source: Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains 9 folders. The first three relate to Laura J. Wolfolk. Folder 1 contains a script from a "This is Your Life" program presented in honor of Wolfolk by the New Bethel Baptist Church Missionary Society in 1961. The obituary program from her funeral service is also in folder 1. Included in folder 2 are photocopies of postcards that Wolfolk sent home while teaching at a Native American reservation in acknowledgment of her retirement from the Indianapolis Education Association. As documented in folder 3, Wolfolk received a Bachelor of Science degree from Butler University (1936); a certificate of recognition for 40 years of service from the Indianapolis Public School Board (1959); and a life membership certificate from the Indianapolis Education Association (1959). There is an Ex-slave Questionnaire, a nine-page document that has 348 questions in folder 4. As there is not room for responses, the survey may have been used for an oral history project. Folder 5 contains biographical information about various individuals including civic leader Mattie Coney, contralto Carol Brice, clubwoman Cora Jenkins, church organist Flora Evans, and physician James S. Julian. Information about several organizations including the National Council of Negro Women--Indianapolis, Eastern Star, International Welcoming Committee of Indianapolis, Old Settlers Social and Civic Club and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is in folder 6. A 1970 sorority publication, The Aurora, includes a history of the organization that was founded at Butler University in 1922. Although Wolfolk's obituary lists other organizational affiliations, it is unknown whether or not she was a member of any of the organizations represented in folder 6. Additional information about other individuals can be found in folders 7 (obituaries) and 8 (news clippings). A 1970 news article about racial transition of the Forest Manor neighborhood in Indianapolis is in folder 8. Military records pertaining to Earl A. Harris, a World War I veteran who was inducted into the service in Minneapolis, Minnesota is in folder 9.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1: Biographical Information, Correspondence, Obituaries, News clippings FOLDER CONTENT

- 1 Biographical Information
- 2 Correspondence
- 3 Certificates
- 4 Other correspondence
- 5 Biographies
- 6 Organizations
- 7 Obituaries
- 8 News clippings
- 9 Earl A. Harris military records

CATALOGING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Wolfolk, Laura J. (Laura Jane), 1882-1977

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Wolfolk, Laura J. (Laura Jane), 1882-1977

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority

Afro-American teachers--Indiana--Indianapolis

Afro-Americans--Indiana--Indianapolis

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

Afro-American soldiers--Minnesota--Minneapolis

Indians of North America--Education--Wisconsin--Lac du Flambeau

Lac du Flambeau Reservation (Wis.)

END