

Collection #
SC 3648

**LUCY O. MAXEY
COLLECTION, 1918-1925**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder, 1 photograph

COLLECTION
DATES: 1918-1925

PROVENANCE: Cowan's Auctions, Inc., 2020

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: *Behind these doors – a legacy: The History of Sigma Gamma
Rho Sorority* LJ145.S77 W58 1994; Spears Family Collection
(Fox Lake material) M0488

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2020.0215

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lucy O. Maxey was born around 1895 in Kentucky. Her father Albert was a farmer and her mother Lenor (also appearing as Lenna or Leuna in various documents) died while Lucy was young. The family, which also included an older sister Lenna (or Lennie, Luina or Linna) moved to the Fairmount area of Grant County, Indiana sometime after 1910. Lucy attended the Marion Normal Institute in Marion, the Indiana Teacher's College in Terre Haute (now Indiana State University) and Earlham College in Richmond before becoming a teacher in the Indianapolis Public School system. Meanwhile, Lenna worked as a housekeeper in Indianapolis. The sisters managed to purchase a lot at the Woodland Park Resort in Michigan, a black resort created by the same developers responsible for the better-known Idlewild Resort.

Lucy taught for many years at School 42 in Indianapolis. She was chair for the Girl Reserves Committee through the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. In 1930 Lucy married Alvin Brooks, but in 1943 was granted a divorce. She was involved in the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. Many years later, the sorority would create the Lucy Maxey Brooks Memorial Academic Grant in her honor.

After retirement, Lucy would leave Indiana and join her sister, who had moved to southern California some years earlier. During a business trip back to Indiana in 1956, Lucy suddenly became ill and passed away. She is buried near Fairmount, Grant County.

Sources:

[Albert Maxey obituary], *Indianapolis Recorder*, 21 April 1928

Ancestry.com library edition

"Lucy Brooks Burial to Be at Fairmount," *Indianapolis News*, 22 Sept. 1956

Materials in the collection

Polk's Indianapolis city directory

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists chiefly of documents related to the ownership by Lucy and sister Lenna Maxey of a lot at the Woodland Park Resort in Newaygo County, Michigan. This material consists of statements, cancelled checks signed by Lucy, various envelopes from the resort company, a payment reminder letter, and two 1925 issues of "The Midget," a promotional newsletter created by the resort company. The newsletter includes updates on lot pricing, management changes, and development of the resort, as well as advertisements and reprinted letters from existing lot owners encouraging others to purchase lots. Two of the envelopes are addressed to Lucy with the address 1648 Martindale Ave. (now Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave.), Indianapolis. That home belonged to prominent black Indianapolis fire captain, Clarence W. Miller. The processor speculates that one or both sisters worked briefly as housekeepers for Mr. Miller.

The collection also includes a 1918 letter of recommendation for Lucy O. Maxey from the Marion Normal Institute of Marion, Indiana, signed by C. C. Thomas. Also included is one undated black-and-white photograph of an unidentified woman sitting on a low stone wall in front of a building.

Lastly, the collection includes a brief history of the Woodland Park Resort printed from <http://woodlandparkmi.com> in 2013.

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Lucy Maxey recommendation letter, Woodland Park
Resort materials, 1918-1925

Photograph of unidentified African American woman

CONTAINER

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