

**Collection #**  
**M 1142**

**MARSHA E. SMILEY**  
**COLLECTION, 2000-2011**

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Processed by

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

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 half-size manuscript box

COLLECTION  
DATES: 2000-2011

PROVENANCE: Marsha E. Smiley, August 19, 2011

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2011.0215

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marsha E. Smiley was born in Richmond, Indiana on July 10, 1950 to Donald and Gladys Wilson Washington, Sr. The family moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1955. She graduated from Central High School in 1969 and obtained her B.A. in History from Indiana University, Bloomington in 1973. She married Ephraim Smiley, Jr. in 1974 and had four sons, Ephraim Scott, Christopher, Jonathan, and Brian.

Marsha Smiley is a dedicated member of the Fort Wayne African American community who promoted literacy and supported at-risk and underprivileged youth. She founded the "Spirit Flight" workshops in 1999. These are youth workshops that interweave the study of virtues with African American history. She also produced programming celebrating African American culture and achievement at the Fort Wayne Boys & Girls Clubs and Fort Wayne Urban League's Pontiac Youth Center. She serves on the governing boards of the African/African American Historical Society and the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society. She has received numerous awards for her work and community service, including the Doing Good Works Award from the United Way of Allen County (1998). She was named an International Women's Day Honoree (2005), Zonta Woman of the Year (2006), and one of the top 50 most influential African Americans in Northern Indiana by INK Newspaper (2004).

Sources:

Materials in collection

"Marsha Smiley African American Collection". *Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center*. [genealogycenter.info](http://genealogycenter.info), accessed 10-03-2014.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Series 1** contains various materials collected by Marsha E. Smiley that highlight African American history in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This includes a program from the African/African American Historical Society's 2009 Annual Spring Event, images of children's art work displayed at the Hessen Cassel Branch Library for Black History Month, materials from a presentation by Dr. Curtis Jones on early African American settlers of northeast Indiana, news clippings regarding African American genealogy, and an image of Benjamin and Winifred Jones, one of the first settlers of Whitley County, Indiana.

**Series 2** contains writings and materials related to Marsha E. Smiley and her work promoting African American history in Fort Wayne, including the "Spirit Flight" workshops she founded in 1999. Her resume, news clippings, and testimonials regarding her service are also included.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Fort Wayne African American History Materials**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
African/African American Historical Society Annual Spring Event, "Linking Our Past to the Present & Preparing for the Future", 2009	Box 1, Folder 1
"Black History", Children's art work at the Hessen Cassel Branch Library, 2011	Box 1, Folder 2
Benjamin and Winifred Jones Photograph, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3
"Early African American Settlers of Northeast Indiana", Presentation by Dr. Curtis Jones, 2009	Box 1, Folder 4
News Clippings on African American Genealogy, 2000	Box 1, Folder 5

### **Series 2: Marsha E. Smiley Materials**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Marsha E. Smiley News Clippings, 2006-2009, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Marsha E. Smiley Resume, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 7
Marsha E. Smiley Testimonials, 2006-2008	Box 1, Folder 8
Marsha E. Smiley, "A Hoosier Woman... Beyond Measure: Elma E. Alsup", 2011	Box 1, Folder 9
Marsha E. Smiley, "Reclaiming Our Rich Legacy" Play Materials, 2001-2004, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
Marsha E. Smiley, "The Ultra Art Club (1911-2011): Bridge Builders Extraordinaire", 2011	Box 1, Folder 11
Marsha E. Smiley, "Spirit Flight" Workshop Materials, 2002, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 12

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1142).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.