

Collection #
M 0793

RUTH LUCILE ALLISON JEWELL SCRAPBOOK, 1926–1933

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 document cases; 1 OVA graphics box
COLLECTION DATES:	1926–1933
PROVENANCE:	Robert Warren, 9032 Log Run Drive South, Indianapolis, IN 46234, May 2002
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0544

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ruth “Lucile” Allison Jewell (October 1905–February 1996) was the daughter of Rufus (1863–1926) and Edna Allen Allison. Her siblings were Emma Mae Allison and Norman Allison, a brother who was the child of her father and his first wife, Maria Thomas Allison. Allison received her early education in Indianapolis, graduating from School #17 and Shortridge High School. She graduated from Butler University in 1927—the last year that graduation was held on the Irvington campus.

Because of limited job opportunity for African Americans in Indianapolis, the nine black women who graduated from Butler in 1927, with the exception of Frances C. Stout, left Indianapolis and pursued jobs elsewhere. After college, Jewell worked at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College (now South Carolina State University) in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She taught and served as the Young Women’s Christian Association secretary.

In 1930 she was appointed Dean of Girls at the Kentucky State Industrial College (later Kentucky State University) in Frankfort. Her engagement to Paul W. Jewell was announced in May 1931. After their wedding in Indianapolis, they settled in Greensboro, North Carolina, where Ruth Lucile Jewell taught at Bennett College, and her husband taught at North Carolina A & T. Paula was the only child born to this union.

The family later lived in Indiana and in Maryland where Paul taught at Princess Anne College (now University of Maryland, Eastern Shore). They returned to Greensboro where Paul died circa 1960. Both Paul and Ruth Jewell are buried in Greensboro.

Sources:
Material in the collection
Telephone interview with Frances C. Stout, classmate of Ruth Lucile Allison Jewell at School #17, Shortridge High School, and Butler University, August 14, 2002
Telephone interviews with Rosemary Davis, family friend and guardian of Paula Jewell, August 17 and 28, 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is contained in three manuscript boxes and one oversize flat box. Though the scrapbook has been disassembled, it remains in its original order with loose items being moved to the last folder in the collection. Color scans have been taken of each page of the scrapbook to document the original order. There are 126 half pages that serve as an index to the scrapbook.

It appears that Ruth Lucile Allison Jewell compiled the scrapbook from about the time she graduated from Butler University (1927) until around 1933. There are postcards, photographs (including images of Jewell and her sister, Emma Mae Allison), invitations, programs, greeting cards, news clippings (an obituary for father, Rufus Allison and an announcement of Lucile Allison's engagement to Paul V. Jewell), and favors (e.g., dance and tally cards that were popular during the early part of the twentieth century) in the scrapbook. Jewell received greeting cards for numerous occasions, especially Easter, from family members and friends.

Much of the material pertains to black colleges and universities (a preponderance of it relates to Kentucky State Industrial College, later Kentucky State University), sororities and fraternities, social events, and Indianapolis. There are numerous unidentified or sparsely identified photographs in the collection. Most of these are of young men and women and appear to have been taken on a college campus, probably State Agricultural and Mechanical College or Kentucky State Industrial College. The majority of the news clippings are undated and the source is not cited.

Allison grew up on the near west side of Indianapolis. Her family home (715 Fayette Street) was located in current-day Ransom Place, near Indiana Avenue. The contents of her scrapbook contain many materials that reflect the status of upwardly mobile African Americans in an early twentieth-century midwestern city. There are also items pertaining to internationally prominent African Americans of the time period including contralto Marian Anderson, tenor Roland Hayes, and artist Hale Woodruff. Many of the items in the scrapbook can be associated with the various places where Ruth Lucile Allison lived. Like most scrapbooks, it contains individual items that tell a story when they are placed within a context of time, place, and event. Many of the programs, invitations, announcements, and photographs do not include full references to names, dates, cities, and events, but that information can be inferred by placing the item in context. For example, there is a small green shamrock (made using construction paper) with a gold string in Box 2, Folder 28. It reads: "Attucks Tea, March 6, 1932." Crispus Attucks High School was a segregated institution that opened in Indianapolis in 1927. It was widely regarded as a beacon of pride for the city's African American population and was a center for community activity. Its school colors were green and gold.

Items of note within the collection:

Christmas card etching made by artist Hale Woodruff and sent to the Lionel Artis family while Woodruff lived in France [Box 1, Folder 3]

- Butler University Commencement programs, 1927 (includes photograph of Robert J. Aley, president, and list of graduates) and 1928 [Box 1, Folder 23 and Box 3, Folder 4, respectively]
- Wilberforce University commencement week schedule, June 12–16, 1927 [Box 1, Folder 23]
- Partial program for the 18th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held in Indianapolis, June 22–27, 1927 (Conference headquarters: Bethel AME Church) [Box 1, Folder 23]
- Crispus Attucks High School (CAHS) commencement announcement, 1928 (All African American secondary students in Indianapolis were mandated to attend CAHS, a segregated institution that opened in 1927.) CAHS's first commencement was held June 8, 1928. [Box 2, Folder 11]
- Fancy dance card from Kappa Alpha Psi Grand Chapter affair, 1928 [Box 2, Folder 27]
- Program for Roland Hayes's performance at Woodland Auditorium in Lexington, Kentucky, December 12, 1930 (On front cover: "The balcony reserved for colored people. Prices \$1.00 and \$2.00." Back cover: Description of the program and a report of the tenor's career including his European tour. Inside: Quotes from various American newspapers, mostly from the east and midwest describing Hayes's talent and performances during his

1929–30 U.S. tour.) [Box 3, Folder 15]

- State Agricultural and Mechanical College commencement program, 1929 [Box 3, Folder 33]
- Spelman College commencement program, 1929 [Box 3, Folder 34]
- Kentucky State Industrial College annual commencement, 1931 [Box 3, Folder 39]
- Playbill for *The Green Pastures* performed at Mansfield Theatre in New York, beginning August 10, 1931 [Box 3, Folder 39]
- Program for Marian Anderson Song Recital held at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College in Orangeburg, South Carolina, November 28, 1928 [Box 3, Folder 39]
- Howard Thurman’s signature in Ruth Allison’s memory book. He gave his address as 143 Groveland Street, Oberlin, Ohio. His comment in her book was: “Do your own thinking but remember wisdom was not born with you.” (Thurman became an internationally celebrated theologian and philosopher) [OVA Box 1, Folder 4]

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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.
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4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0793).
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