

Collection #  
M1495  
OM0762

**WILLIAM K. SPEARS  
COLLECTION, 1942-2019**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	4
Series Contents	5

Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 3 manuscript boxes, 1 half-size manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript folder, 7 folders of photographs, 1 folder cold storage color photographs, 1 folder OVA photographs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1942-2019

**PROVENANCE:** Gift of Lucia M. Spears, M.D. Phoenix, Arizona

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**COPYRIGHT:**

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2015.0315; 2020.0074

**NOTES:** Materials in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William K. Spears (June 1912-February 2007) was born in Indianapolis, Indiana to parents Joshua Spears II and Lucy (Turner) Spears. He attended Manual High School and Crispus Attucks High School, where he graduated in 1929. He received a scholarship after high school and attended Dartmouth College, where he studied Mathematics and French. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1937 and returned to teach at his previous high school, Crispus Attucks, for two years before eventually joining the military. He served in the United States Army and Air Force from 1941-1949. He served during World War II, and after, spending most of his time working in the Signal Corps. He retired from the Army with the rank of Captain in 1965. After he retired, he spent time traveling around the world, specifically Europe, Asia, Indonesia, the Middle East, north Africa, and across the United States. During this time, he worked as radar instructor for the Air Force before becoming a field engineer and technical writer for the military and other companies associated with electronics, missiles, and radars. He also worked at the Washington Post for a period of time in the Circulation Department. During these years of work, he continued his education, studying engineering and languages, at Purdue University, Rutgers University, and Cornell University. He never got married and did not have any children of his own at the end of his life. There are inconsistencies with his birth and death date so that is why they are not specified any further.

Philippa Schuyler (August 2, 1931-May 9, 1967) was born and raised in Harlem, New York by her two parents George S. Schuyler (February 25, 1895-1977) and Josephine Cogdell (died 1969). She was a well-known African American child prodigy, pianist, composer, journalist, and author. She became famous in the 1930s and 1940s for her musical talents, mixed-race background, and the abnormal methods her parents used to raise her. Philippa's parents believed that the way to solve racial and social issues in the United States was to marry and have children with members of different races. They believed that this would produce extraordinary offspring, making Philippa their experiment. They fed her a diet of raw food, such as liver or brains, and they kept a scrapbook on her progression in life to document their experiment. She had restricted access with other children and had many private tutors, resulting in her being an isolated child. At the age of four, Philippa started playing recitals and appearing on radio broadcasts with her own original compositions. By the age of thirteen, she had written over one hundred compositions. She had much success in booking concerts in Europe, South America, and Africa, but did not do so well in the United States due to the racial segregation and tension at the time. When she entered her thirties, she started as a journalist and adopted the same political views as her father. She wrote for conservative organizations, like the John Birch Society, and was eventually hired by the conservative *Manchester Union Leader* in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1965. She was their correspondent covering the Vietnam War. She would die tragically at the age of 36 in a helicopter crash near Da Nang, Vietnam on May 9, 1967. This would result in her mother going into a depression and eventually committing suicide in 1969. Her father would not die until 1977.

Sources:

Materials from the collection

Ancestry.com

“Philippa Schuyler (1931-1967)” [www.blackpast.com](http://www.blackpast.com)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains numerous documents that belonged to William K. Spears. Within this collection there are four series. The first series is focused on personal materials including correspondence, newspaper clippings, different forms of identification, and other materials. This series also contains photographs sent to William K. Spears, and photographs of William K. Spears. The second series is focused on his educational materials, including course notes, newsletters, diplomas, and correspondence. This series also includes a photograph from William K. Spears' college reunion. The third series is focused on the professional materials including correspondence, pay stubs and tax statements, and job applications. This series also contains photographs from William K. Spears' work reunions from different years. The fourth series is focused on Philippa Schuyler which includes correspondence from Philippa Schuyler and her parents, George and Josephine Schuyler, and programs from Philippa Schuyler's performances over many years. This series also includes black and white and color photographs of Philippa Schuyler, and one photograph of Josephine Schuyler.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Personal Materials, 1912-2007**

#### CONTENTS

Obituary, 2007

Passport, n.d.

Vaccination Records, n.d.

Identification Cards, n.d.

Wallet Cards, n.d.

History of Housing, 1912-1969

Letter to Joshua Spears, 1947

Immanuel Kant Novel, 1949

Postcard, 1950-1991

Subscription Mail, 1958-1959

Personal Correspondence, 1958-1962

Personal Correspondence, 1964

J.E. De Becker Novel, 1960

*Fury* Magazine, 1961

Housing Forms, 1961-1979

Newspaper Clippings, 1969

Miscellaneous, 1979

Spartacist Pamphlets, 1986-1988

Business Cards and Notes, n.d.

Newspaper Math Problems, n.d.

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Receipts, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 4
American Embassy Form, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 5
Workout Book, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 6
New York Map, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7
William K. Spears Photos, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 7
Personal Correspondence Photos, 1964	Photographs, Folder 2 of 7
[Three Men with Guns] Photo, n.d.	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

## **Series 2: Educational Materials, 1948-2019**

### CONTENTS

Dartmouth Profile, 2019
Course Notes, 1948
Programs, 1955-1989
Letter from USAR, 1961
Dartmouth Class Reunion Newsletters, 1961-1962
NASA Diploma, 1975
Dartmouth Directories, 1958-1982
Crispus Attucks 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Booklet, 1979
Dartmouth Golden Jubilee Report, 1987
Dartmouth Class Reunion Photo, n.d.
The Institute of Radio Engineers Diploma, 1958

### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 8
Box 2, Folder 9
Box 2, Folder 10
Box 2, Folder 11
Box 2, Folder 12
Box 2, Folder 13
Box 2, Folder 14
Box 2, Folder 15
Box 2, Folder 16
Photographs, Folder 3 of 7
OM0762 Folder 1 of 1

### **Series 3: Professional Materials, 1942-1989**

#### CONTENTS

Resumes, n.d.

Military Certificates, 1942-1949

Work Letters, 1943-1989

Military Correspondence, 1945-1949

Headquarters Correspondence, 1945-1948

Letters of Commendation, 1945-1950

Military Forms, 1946-1948

Special Orders Correspondence, 1946-1949

Tax Statements and Forms, 1947-1950

Army Denial Letter 1949

Pay Stubs, 1957-1958 (1 of 2)

Pay Stubs, 1958-1966 (2 of 2)

Released from Active Duty Letter, 1965

Bendix Field Engineering Corporation Reunion  
Letters, 1977-1988

Bendix Field Engineering Corporation Reunion  
Photos 1977-1988

Washington Star Lawsuit Information, 1982

Military Luncheon Programs, 1989

Job Applications n.d.

Military Notes n.d.

Military Certificate from the President of the United  
States, 1953

#### CONTAINER

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2

Box 3, Folder 3

Box 3, Folder 4

Box 3, Folder 5

Box 3, Folder 6

Box 3, Folder 7

Box 3, Folder 8

Box 3, Folder 9

Box 3, Folder 10

Box 3, Folder 11

Box 3, Folder 12

Box 3, Folder 13

Box 3, Folder 14

Photographs,  
Folder 4 of 7

Box 3, Folder 15

Box 3, Folder 16

Box 3, Folder 17

Box 3, Folder 18

OM0762  
Folder 1 of 1



## Series 4: Philippa Schuyler

### CONTENTS

Philippa Schuyler Programs, 1940-1967

Schuyler Family Correspondence, 1956-1965

Philippa Schuyler Newspaper Clippings, 1960-1977

Letter from George Schuyler, 1969

Philippa Schuyler Book, 1969

Philippa Schuyler Portraits, n.d.

Josephine Schuyler Portrait, 1969

Unidentified Photo, n.d.

Philippa Schuyler Color Portrait, n.d.

Philippa Schuyler Vinyl Record, n.d.

Philippa Schuyler Newspaper Clippings, 1967

### CONTAINER

Box 4, Folder 1

Box 4, Folder 2

Box 4, Folder 3

Box 4, Folder 4

Box 4, Folder 5

Photographs,  
Folder 5 of 7

Photographs,  
Folder 6 of 7

Photographs,  
Folder 7 of 7

Cold Storage:  
Color Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

OM0762  
Folder 1 of 1

OM0762  
Folder 1 of 1