

Collection #  
P 0791

**YOUNG COLORED WOMEN'S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
POSTCARD, CA. 1909**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Collection Information           | 1 |
| Historical / Biographical Sketch | 2 |
| Scope and Content Note           | 3 |
| Contents                         | 3 |

Processed by

Barbara Quigley  
30 July 2019

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 postcard

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** Ca. 1909

**PROVENANCE:** Purchased from Swann Auction Galleries, New York, April  
2019

**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:**

**ACCESSION  
NUMBER:** 2019.0130

**NOTES:**

## **HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

The Young Colored Women's Protective Association (YCWPA) was founded in Indianapolis on 7 November 1905 by Miss Dayse D. Walker for the purpose of assisting young African American women in transition and with employment and education.

There was already a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) for white men, as well as a YMCA for African American men, and a Young Women's Christian Association for white women, but there was no similar organization to serve African American women in Indianapolis until the YCWPA was established.

It began in a rented four-room cottage at 866 W. Walnut Street, but by early 1907 its home was a two-and-a-half story frame house at 635 Blake Street that was purchased for three thousand dollars. The new home could provide accommodations for ten women. By 1909 the organization had more than a hundred members. (By 1913 the house apparently was renumbered 645 Blake Street.)

The objectives of the YCWPA were to support the unemployed and accommodate "lady transients," to assist newcomers to the city, to raise the standard of domestic service and recognize it as a profession, to secure better hours and working conditions, to assist with education, to establish training schools in domestic science for improvement of conditions in the home, and to encourage commercial enterprise and make opportunities for young African American women in the community. It also served as a literary, musical, and social center for the pleasure and improvement of the young women.

The property of the YCWPA was put up for public sale by the Marion County sheriff on 6 August 1938.

Dayse Dean Walker was born in Galesburg, Illinois, ca. 1872–1875, to Joseph Walker and Margaret Milburn Walker. She is listed in the 1880 census in the Galesburg home of her maternal grandfather apparently along with two younger sisters, as well as uncles and an aunt. Dayse was a teacher for ten years in the South before moving to Indianapolis. In her travels she was struck by the lack of temporary accommodations for African American women who were turned away by hotels. She toured cities in the East to investigate what efforts were being made to assist young African American women. This led to her founding of the YCWPA in Indianapolis in 1905.

On 12 May 1910 she married Dr. Arthur J. Booker, a physician from Des Moines, Iowa, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson in Ottumwa, Iowa. Dr. Booker was also the president of the Young Men's Progressive Club of Des Moines. It appears that the marriage did not last long, but Dayse continued to use the name Booker. She is designated as widowed, but it appears that that may not be accurate. The Indianapolis city directory last lists Dayse as the superintendent of the YCWPA in its 1928 edition. By 1930 Dayse had moved back to Galesburg, where she was an evangelical lecturer.

## Sources:

### Item in the collection

Ancestry <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 29 July 2019:

Iowa Marriage Records, 1880–1940

U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995

United States Federal Census, 1880, 1920, 1930, 1940

Du Bois, W. E. Burghardt. *Efforts for Social Betterment Among Negro Americans*. Atlanta: The Atlanta University Press, 1909, pp. 100–101 <<https://books.google.com>>. Accessed 29 July 2019.

*Indianapolis News*. “Home for Colored Girls Seeking Employment,” 27 February 1909, p. 11 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 29 July 2019.

*Indianapolis Recorder*. Wedding announcement for Dayse Dean Walker and Dr. A. Booker, 21 May 1910, p. 4. Hoosier State Chronicles <<https://newspapers.library.in.gov>>. Accessed 29 July 2019.

*Indianapolis Star*. “Founds a Home to Aid Colord [sic] Women,” 10 February 1907, p. 8 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 29 July 2019.

*Indianapolis Star*. “Sheriff’s Sale,” 15 July 1938, p. 19 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 29 July 2019.

R. L. Polk & Co. *Polk’s Indianapolis City Directory*. General Collection: F534.I55 A18

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one printed postcard that includes halftone photographs of the first home of the Young Colored Women’s Protective Association (YCWPA), its second home, and a portrait of the organization’s founder, Dayse D. Walker. The postcard also includes information about the YCWPA, such as its objectives, address, motto, colors, flower, club song, founding date. The postcard was not mailed and contains no handwritten message.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Printed postcard with halftone photographs of the first home of the Young Colored Women’s Protective Association (YCWPA), its second home, and a portrait of the organization’s founder, Dayse D. Walker. The postcard also includes information about the YCWPA, such as its objectives, address, motto, colors, flower, club song, founding date. [ca. 1909]

### CONTAINER

Graphics, Folder 1 of 1