

Collection Summary

ID Number: MSS 284

Title: Evansville African American Community Collection

Extent: 2 Boxes

Span Dates: 1900s – 1980s

Language: English

Geographic Location: Indiana

Abstract: The Evansville African American Community Collection consists of newspaper clippings, journals, biographical information, and other items about the African American community in Evansville, IN and the Tri-State region from 1903 to 1986.

Historical Notes: This collection highlights some prominent African Americans from Evansville, IN, including:

- Wallace A. Gaines was born in 1865 and was the founder of Gaines Funeral Home in 1918. He was active in multiple fraternal circles in Evansville as a National Grand Master of the United Brothers of Fellowship (UBF) and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten (SMT) Lodges. He was the first African American man appointed as United States Storekeeper and Gauger. A storekeeper-gauger weighed and examined packages of liquor for the Internal Revenue Service. Gaines died in 1940. The funeral home is believed to be out of business.
 - **Sources:** University of Southern Indiana: Rice Library Digital Collections, *Evansville Argus*
- Dallas Sprinkles was born in 1922. He attended the University of Evansville and Indiana University. Sprinkles is believed to have written Evansville's first completed history of African Americans in Evansville, *The History of Evansville Blacks*. He was the editor and publisher of *American Way Magazine* and owner of Mid-America Publishing Company. He was married to Helene and had two children, Gabriella and Millard. Sprinkles passed away on September 7, 2001 in Evansville, Indiana.
 - **Sources:** Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library: Evansville Historical Newspapers, Browning Genealogy Database
- Alfred Porter was born in 1903. He graduated from Indiana State Teachers College, now Indiana State University, in Terre Haute. After he graduated, he started working for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) in 1925. He taught at Douglass High School, Lincoln School, and Bosse High School. Porter retired in 1970 but served on the school board from 1972 to 1978, as secretary and vice-president. He was a member of many organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NCAAP), Boy Scouts, and Really Concerned Citizens. He and his wife, Phoebe, had two daughters: Yvonne and Margaret. He passed away on September 8, 1981.
 - **Sources:** Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library: Browning Genealogy Database

Selected Search Terms

Keywords: Local Businesses; Local Advertisements; Regional Businesses; Local Organizations; Regional Organizations; State Politics; Local Politics; Local African American Community; Local People; Local Places of Worship

Related Materials: Business and Industry; Clubs and Organizations; Education; Government and Politics; History; People and Communities; Photographs; Publications; Regional History; Related Materials -- 1901-1950; Related Materials -- 1951-2000; Related Materials -- n.d.; Religion and Spirituality

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
Alpha Kappa Alpha: Sorority	1968-1974	Box 1, Folder 1	RL 3027
Robert Lee: Officer Massey Case	1903	Box 1, Folder 2	RL 3027
Stevenson, Solomon: NAACP Materials	1965-1975	Box 1, Folder 3	RL 3027
Biographical Information (Xerox): W. Glover; Solomon Stevenson; Irene Saucer; James Thompkins; Louise Ingram; Aurelia Bradley; Ernest Johnson; Ed Smallwood; Lee Meriwethere; Clifton Fields; Ernest Tidrington; George Buckner; W. Gaines; Charles Rochelle	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4	RL 3027
Stevenson, Solomon: Newspaper Clippings (Xerox)	1960-1970	Box 1, Folder 5	RL 3027
Stevenson, Solomon: Baptist Churches	1965-1969	Box 1, Folder 6	RL 3027
Inner City Cultural Center Vanderburgh, County School – <u>Mahalia</u> by Trent Tucker	1978	Box 1, Folder 7	RL 3027
Genealogy Materials	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 8	RL 3027
African American Periodicals	1969-1976	Box 1, Folder 9	RL 3027
<i>People's Voice</i> Black Panther Newsletters	1970-1971	Box 1, Folder 10	RL 3027
J.M. Caldwell Materials: Evansville Housing Authority Lawsuit, Biography Sketch, and Zion Baptist Church	1940-1973	Box 1, Folder 11	RL 3027
Alfred Porter Materials (Xerox)	1929-1964	Box 1, Folder 12	RL 3027
Newspaper Clippings	1973-1980	Box 1, Folder 13	RL 3027
Black History Radio Scripts by Taft Broadcasting Company	1960	Box 1, Folder 14	RL 3027
<i>Ebony</i> Magazine	1963	Box 1, Folder 15	RL 3027
<i>The American</i> Magazine	1969-1971	Box 1, Folder 16	RL 3027
Black Hoosier Heritage Fair	1921-1982	Box 1, Folder 17	RL 3027
Dallas Sprinkle: <i>History of Evansville Blacks</i> Book Material	1970	Box 2, Folder 1	RL 3027
Dallas Sprinkle: <i>History of Evansville Blacks</i> Book Material	1970	Box 2, Folder 2	RL 3027
Dallas Sprinkle: <i>History of Evansville Blacks</i> Book Material	1970	Box 2, Folder 3	RL 3027
<i>American Visions</i> Magazine	1986	Box 2, Folder 4	RL 3027
Photographs [001-090]: Charlotte Moody	1920-1950	Box 2, Folder 5	RL 3027
Photographs [091-149]: Alfred Porter	1920-1950	Box 2, Folder 6	RL 3027
Photographs [150-238]: Negatives	n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7	RL 3027