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Donor Oral history Program

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DONOR ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

COLEMAN, Sarah Williamson (1899-1986)

DOH 1

Missionary, teacher and counselor to senior citizens. Chronicles her genealogy, beginning with her paternal great-grandfather who, born a slave, purchased freedom for himself and his wife. Discusses her efforts to finance an undergraduate education and her passionate ambition to become an African missionary in spite of her youth. Recounts her adventures as a missionary in Liberia including sending herself back to the United States C.O.D. Discusses her fundraising efforts on behalf of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention.

Transcript includes photographs of family, friends and missionary experience.

Interviewer: E. Pauline Myers
Date: October 1984
Format:
Tape length: Transcript, 88 pages; tape not available
Restrictions Standard

EGYPT, Ophelia Settle (1903-1984)

DOH 3

Educator, sociologist, social worker, community worker, author and pioneer in oral history research. Recalls her early childhood in Texas, adolescence in Colorado and college days at Howard University, Washington, D. C. Discusses her several careers including her work (1928-1933) conducting oral history interviews for Dr. Charles Johnson, a Black sociologist at Fisk University. In 1945, a selection of these interviews was published by the Social Science Institute at Fisk University, as Unwritten History of Slavery: Autobiographical Accounts of Negro Ex-Slaves. Reminisces about her many friends; among them Dr. Inabel Burns Lindsay, Sterling Brown and his wife Daisy, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright and Glenn Carrington.

Interviewer: Elinor DesVerney Sinnette
Date: 1981-1982
Format:
Tape length: Transcript, 211 pages; tape not available
Restrictions Standard

LINDSAY, Arnett Grant (1897-)

DOH 5

Businessman and Howard University alumnus. Discusses his early life as the son of a Methodist minister, his efforts to escape his rigorous religious upbringing, his matriculation at Howard Academy in 1914 and later at Howard University and the many campus-based businesses he developed in order to finance his education.

Describes campus life during his six years at Howard which included competitions between classes, town/gown rivalries, student strikes, and academic feuds. Reminisces about memorable professors and other personalities who contributed to campus life of the period, such as President S. W. Newhouse, Deans Kelly Miller and L. Baxter Moore, Professors Carl Murphy, Charles Houston, Alain Leroy Locke, and Ernest Just. Chronicles his multi-faceted careers in finance, newspaper publishing, academia, real estate.

Interviewer: Harold Logan
Date: December 5, 1982
Format:
Tape length: Transcript, 80 pages; tape not available
Restrictions Standard

LINDSAY, Dr. Inabel Burns (1900-1983)

DOH 6

Dean of the Howard University School of Social Work, professor, Howard alumna. Describes student life in Washington D. C. and on Howard's campus in the late teens when she matriculated. Discusses her return to teach at the School of Social Work in 1937, the strained relations she encountered with the university's Administration when she became Dean of Social Work. Also discusses her concerns as "career woman" in the 1940s, her feelings about race relations in the United States and her personal philosophy and early experiences with color prejudice.

Interviewer: Harold Logan
Date: June 29, 1982
Format:
Tape length: Transcript, 40 pages; tape not available
Restrictions Standard

PARKS, Lillian Rogers (1897-)

DOH 9

Author of My Thirty Years Backstairs at the White House, which chronicled her three decades (1929-1960) as a White House seamstress and maid. Discusses her life and times from approximately the age of four, including many visits made to the White House while her mother was in service there. Recalls her struggles to overcome the crippling effects of polio, her training as a seamstress, her employment by the Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower first-families. Describes Black life in Washington in the first half of the Twentieth century, recreating the feel of segregated life in the Capital City. Recounts the effect of the 1919 Flu epidemicon Washington, D. C. Discusses the notoriety that followed the publication of her autobiography and the mini-series that was adapted from the book.

Interviewer: Marie Bourgeois
Date: May - June, 1983
Format: Transcript, 229 pages; tape not available

Tape length: Restrictions: Standard

STAUPERS, Mabel Keaton (1890-1989)

DOH 11

Nurse, medical social worker, author and Executive Secretary and later President of the National Association of Graduate Colored Nurses (NAGCN). Recalls her personal life from approximately the age of four. Discusses her succession of successful careers; focusses particularly on her seventeen years of advocacy and organizing on behalf of the NAGCN. Describes work in tuberculosis prevention and education. Comments on her several awards and achievements. Reminisces about colleagues, family and friends.

Interviewer: Marie Bourgeois
Date: November 1982 - January 1983
Format: Transcript, 207 pages; tape not available
Tape length:
Restrictions Standard

WILSON, Clint C., Sr. (1914-)

DOH 14

Political cartoonist and staff artist for the Los Angeles Sentinel for more than 35 years. Describes his youth in Texas and his early efforts to draw and sketch the world around him. Recalls the people who encouraged his talent and others who influenced his life. Discusses his lengthy career and the various kinds of newspapers--Black, military, student-published and religious--that printed his work. Relates his philosophy for becoming a successful cartoonist.

Interviewer: Clint C. Wilson II
Date: October 15, 1990
Format:
Tape length: Transcript, 30 pages; tape not available
Restrictions: Standard

RELATED MATERIALS

OPHELIA SETTLE EGYPT INSTALLATION CEREMONY

DOH 12

Ceremony celebrating the official installation of the Papers of Ophelia Settle Egypt and her oral history memoir in the Manuscript Division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Remarks by Mr. Clifford Muse, Acting Center Director, Dr. Gerald Lucas, Director of the Office of Civil Rights for the U. S. Department of Commerce, Dr. Elinor Sinnette, Oral History Librarian, Lester Egypt, Mrs. Egypt's son, and Dr. Michael Winston, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Howard University.

Recorded by: Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

Date: February 20, 1985
Format: Cassette tape
Tape length: 60 minutes
Restrictions: Standard

SINNETTE, E. D. - Ophelia S. Egypt: Oral History Pioneer DOH 13

Separately recorded remarks by Dr. Elinor DesVerney Sinnette for ceremony installing the Ophelia Settle Egypt papers and oral history memoir. Summarizes the year long oral history project which resulted in the transcribed interview.

Recorded by: Elinor DesVerney Sinnette
Date: February 20, 1985
Format: Cassette Tape
Tape length: 30 minutes
Restrictions: Standard