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EDWARDS, Lena

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LENA EDWARDS PAPERS
Collection 138-1 to 138-12

Prepared by:
Tangela Roe
June 1986

Scope Note

Dr. Lena Edwards, born September 17, 1900 in Washington, D.C. is recognized as one of the nation's first black female physicians. Trained as an obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Edwards is also noted as a community activist, educator and medical volunteer among migrant workers. Until her death, she continued to be active on numerous boards and volunteered her time in New Jersey to provide the elderly with health care.

This collection was donated on February 14, 1986 by Dr. Lena Edwards through the assistance of Sister M. Anthony Scally. Sister Scally is the author of a book about Dr. Edwards titled "Medicine, Motherhood and Mercy: The Story Of A Black Woman Doctor." The collection measures 5 * linear feet and spans the years 1905-1985, although it focuses on the years 1960-1985. Included in the collection are programs, correspondence, articles and news clippings, certificates and awards, photographs, speeches, oral interviews and writings by Dr. Edwards. Among these materials are hand-written comments by Dr. Edwards about the events and awards.

This collection primarily documents Dr. Edwards' accomplishments, awards honorary degrees and certificates received and events in which she participated. Of particular note are news clippings and articles about Dr. Edwards' volunteer work as a physician at a migrant camp, St. Joseph's Mission, Hereford, Texas from January 1961-July 1965. Not only did she volunteer her medical services, but she also founded Our Lady of Guadalupe Maternity Clinic with personal savings and contributions from the community.

Scope Note continued

To honor this effort and her many other career accomplishments, on September 14, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Lena Edwards with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest peacetime honor a civilian can receive. It read in part: ATo Lena F. Edwards, Physician and humanitarian, she has applied her medical skills and compassionate understanding to the women and children of our migratory workforce.@

Biographical Sketch

Lena Edwards

- 1900 September 17 Born in Washington, D.C., daughter of Marie (Coakley) and Thomas W. Edwards.
- 1918 June 19 Graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Washington, D.C.
- 1921 June Received B.S. degree from Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 1924 June Received N.D. degree from Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 1924 June Married Keith Madison the day after they graduated from Medical School (Children: Marie, Edward, Genevieve, Thomas, John, Paul)
- 1925 July Edwards and husband moved to Jersey City, New Jersey and started private practices.
- 1931 July Appointed to the staff of Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital, Jersey City, New Jersey.
- 1945 April Began residency at Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital, Jersey City, New Jersey.
- 1946 Accepted staff appointment at Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey.
- 1954 September Returned to Washington, D.C. to join the faculty of the Howard University Medical School, Washington, D.C.
- 1961 January 4 Arrived St. Joseph's Mission, Hereford, Texas to volunteer medical aid to migrant workers.
- 1962 November Lena Edwards founded Our Lady of Guadalupe Maternity Clinic, Hereford, Texas.

Biographical Sketch continued

- 1963-March Received award for distinguished service in the fields of Medicine and Community Service from Alumni Association of Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 1964 September 14 Received Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- 1965 July 16 Returned to Washington, D.C. to care for her ailing mother.
- 1966 Spring Edwards and her mother moved to Jersey City, New Jersey.
- 1970 Retired from active practice in Jersey City and the Margaret Hague Hospital, Jersey City, New Jersey.
- 1974 Moved to Lakewood, New Jersey.
- 1978 May 18 Park bearing Dr. Lena Edwards' name was opened in Jersey City, New Jersey.
- 1986 December 2 Died of heart attack at her home in Lakewood, N.J.

Source: Scally, Sister M. Anthony. *Medicine, Motherhood and Mercy: The Story of a Black Woman Doctor*. Washington, D.C.: The Associated Publishers, Incorporated, 1979.

Series Description

- Series A**
Box 138-1
- Personal Papers**
This series includes biographical data, speeches, writings by Lena Edwards, and 1965 Presidential Inauguration memorabilia. Also included are transcripts of three oral interviews; a fourth oral interview is maintained by the MSRC Oral History Department. One transcript in this series has the accompanying cassette tapes (See Series I, Box 138-11)
- Series B**
Box 138-1
to Box 138-2
- Hereford, Texas**
Included in this series are numerous news clippings and articles about Lena Edwards' volunteer medical work with migrants at St. Joseph's Mission and her establishment of Our Lady of Guadalupe Maternity Clinic for migrants.
- Series C**
Box 138-2
- Writings About Her**
This series includes articles and news clippings about Lena Edwards. Subjects covered in the articles and clippings discuss her accomplishments, numerous awards, work in the medical profession and years of volunteer service. These materials are arranged in chronological order.
- Series D**
Box 138-2
to Box 138-3
- Correspondence**
This series is comprised primarily of correspondence related to Lena Edwards' participation in events and ceremonies. It also contains several expressions of appreciation for her participation in ceremonies and volunteer service. A letter from Sterling M. Lloyd, Jr., Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Howard University, Washington, D.C. lists several plaques and medals Lena Edwards contributed to the College of Medicine. This series is arranged in alphabetical order.
- Series E**
Box 138-3
- Organizational Affiliations**
This series consists of organizations in which Lena Edwards was a member or participant. They are arranged in alphabetical order.

Series Description continued

Series F
Box 138-3
to Box 138-5

Events in which she participated
This series consists primarily of events at which Lena Edwards spoke or served as a delegate. They are arranged in chronological order.

Series G
Box 138-5
to Box 138-8

Certificates/Awards/Degrees
This series is comprised of numerous awards and honorary degrees Lena Edwards received. Included are the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner Award from the Secretariat For Black Catholics and the Bronze Medal from the American Cancer Society. The materials are arranged by form, (ie certificate, degree, etc.) then chronologically. (See also Series H Photographs and Series I Oversize Items)

Series H
Box 138-8
to Box 138-10

Photographs
This series contains primarily photographs of Lena Edwards with various groups and in attendance at several events. Also included are photographs of her at different ages. (See also Series G Certificates/Awards/Degrees)

Series I
Box 138-11

Cassette Tapes RESTRICTED
There are two sets of taped interviews in this series:

- 1) The tapes numbered 1-5 are auto- biographical interviews. The transcript for these interviews is in Series A, Box 138-1, Folder 4.
- 2) There are two unnumbered tapes of autobiographical interviews without accompanying transcripts.

Series J
Box 138-12

Oversize Items
This series includes honorary degrees, awards and certificates. (See also Series G Certificates/Awards/Degrees and Series H Photographs).

Container List

Series A	Personal Papers
Box	Folder
138-1	1 Biographical Sketches
	2 Biographical Data
	3 Biographical Data
	4 Oral Interview Transcript, Dr. Edwards interviewed by Sister M. Anthony Scally, 1977
	5 Oral Interview Transcript, Dr. Edwards interviewed by Lynda Holmes, Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, 1982
	6 Transcript, class presentation on Care the Elderly, n.d.
	7 Biographical Sketches: Gabriel Coakley (Her Grandfather) Dr. Thomas Edwards (Her Father)
	8 Grades
	9 Passports, Vaccination Certificates
	10 Travel Memorabilia
	11 Financial data
	12 Speeches
	13 Testimony by her on senior citizen health care
	14 "An Ounce' of Prevention" written by her and Shirley E. Parrish
	15 Memorabilia
	16 News Clippings - Various Topics
	17 1965 Presidential Inauguration Memorabilia
Series B	Hereford, Texas
	18 Migrant Camp
138-2	1 Migrant Camp
Series C	Writings About Her
	2 Undated
	3 1944
	4 1958
	5 1961
	6 1962
	7 1963
	8 1964

Container List

Series C Writings About Her continued

Box	Folder
138-2	9 1966
	10 1968
	11 1969
	12 1971
	13 1972
	14 1973
	15 1974
	16 1975
	17 1976
	18 1977
	19 1978
	20 1979
	21 1980
	22 1981
	23 1982
	24 1983
	25 1984
	26 1985

Series D Correspondence

	27 A-B
	28 C
	29 D-E
	30 F-G
	31 H-J
138-3	1 K-L
	2 M
	3 N-P
	4 Q-R
	5 S-T
	6 U-Z
	7 Greeting Card
	8 Envelopes
	9 Partial Name/No Name

Container List

- Series E Organizational Affiliations** continued
- Box Folder
- 138-3 10 The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc.
 11 Cervical Cancer Screening Project
 12 College Women, Inc.
 13 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
 14 Department of Labor
 15 Department of Labor
 16 Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare
 17 Health Fair Committee
 18 Howard University College of Medicine
 19 Lakewood Board of Health
 20 Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital
 21 New Jersey State Department of Health Alcoholism Control Program
 22 Ocean County Head Start
 23 Ocean County Health Council on Aging
 24 Ocean County Health Department
 25 The Senior Companion Program
- Series F Events in which she participated**
- 26 Programs and Flyers on which her name appears
 27 1958, October 19 - Queen of the Angels Rectory
 28 1965, February 4-5 - The National Foundation
- 138-4 1 1967, March 21 - National Honor Society
 2 1972 - American Cancer Society
 3 1975, February 25 Academy of Saint Aloysius
 4 1975, December 4-6 National Conference of Catholic Bishops
 5 1976, November 8 - Senior Companion Program
 6 1977, March 2 - Georgian Court College
 7 1977, May 10 - Lakewood Middle School
 8 1978, April 12 - New Jersey Retired Educators Association
 9 1978, April 13 Lakewood Public Schools 10 1978, June 11 St. John
 Vianney Fraternity
 11 1978, August 25 Department of the Navy
 12 1978, October 11 Visiting Homemaker Service
 13 1978, November 15 - Lakewood High School
 14 1979, February 17 - United Black Tax Payers

Container List

Series F	Events in which she participated continued
Box	Folder
138-4	15 1979, February 22 - American Association of University Women
	16 1979, March 8 - Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association
	17 1979, March 21 - Visiting Homemaker Service
	18 1979, April 5 - Ocean County College
	19 1979, April 24 - Year of the Child Luncheon
	20 1979, May 14,16,19 - Lakewood Police Department
	21 1980, August 6-9 - National Office for Black Catholics 22 1980, October
	22 Naval Weapons Station Earle
	23 1980, November 16 Diocesan Pastoral Council
	24 1980, November 22 - Catholic Inner City Ministry
	25 1980, December 6 Michigan Black Lay Catholic Caucus
	26 1980, December 19 - Delaware Valley Catholic Office For Television and Radio
	27 1981, March 24 - Governor's Conference on Aging
	28 1981, April 11 - Hudson County Concerned Citizens Against the Federal Budget Cuts
	29 1981, April 14 - brick Township Senior Citizens Program
	30 1981, May 8 - The Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged
	31 1981, June 18 - Diocese of Trenton
	32 1981, August 4 - Georgian Court College
	33 1981, October 2-4 - Catholic Diocese of Richmond
	34 1982, November 19 - Archdiocese of Newark
	35 1981, November 29-December 3 - The White House Conference on Aging
	36 1982 - Radcliffe College
	37 1982, January 8 - Office of Equal Educational Opportunity
	38 1982, October 28 - Mercer County Community College
	39 1983, February 23 - Monmouth College
	40 1983, February 25 - WNET/Thirteen
138-5	1 1983, March 7-11 - Burlington County College
	2 1983, March 25-26 - The Commission on The Status and Role of Women
	3 1983, October 2 - Church of St.Catharine
	4 1984, August 4-5 - Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
	5 1984, November 23-25 - The National Youth Pro-Life Coalition

Container List

Series G	Certificates/Awards/Degrees
Box	Folder
138-5	Certificates
	6 1952, April 14 - The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
	7 1954, September 10 - International College of Surgeons
	8 1959, November 16 - State of Texas
	Awards
	9 American Cancer Society
	10 American Cancer Society, Inc.
	11 The Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged
	12 Fifty Year Club of American Medicine
	13 Rotary Club of Jackson, New Jersey
	14 Senior Companion Program
	15 1944, December 9 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
	16 1954, September 1 Testimonial Dinner
	17 1954, September 1 Testimonial Dinner
	18 1954, September 9 Jersey City, New Jersey
	19 1955 - The American Medical Women's Association
	20 1961 - Kiwanis Club of Hereford, Texas
	21 1963, February 7 - Lions Club
	22 1963, March 1 - Howard University
	23 1964 - The Jersey Journal
	24 1964, June 6 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
	25 1964, September 14 -Presidential Medal of Freedom
	26 1964, December 3 - Lane Bryant Annual Awards
	27 1967, May 1 - St. Peter's Institute of Industrial Relations
	28 1967, June 5 - Project Head Start Child Development Center
	29 1967, December 3 - The College of Steubenville
138-6	1 1969, May 14 - St. Peter's Institute of Industrial Relations
	2 1969, September 12 - Jersey City State College
	3 1971, June 5 - The Howard University Alumni Federation
	4 1973, July 12 - The N.J. State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

Container List

Series G	Certificates/Awards/Degrees
Box	Folder
138-6	5 1973, December 13 - American Cancer Society
	6 1974, May 8 - Howard University Medical Alumni Association, Inc.
	7 1974, May 10 - Howard University Medical Alumni Association
	8 1974, June 1 - The Association of Former Interns and Residents of Freedmen's Hospital
	9 February 13 - Lakewood Outreach Service for Seniors
	10 1976, April 4 - Central Jersey Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's, Inc.
	11 1976, October 23 - The College Women of Jersey City 12 1977, May 13 - Ocean County First Aid Academy, Inc.
	13 1977, May 15 - Greater Lakewood, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
	14 1977, May 20 - Lakewood Outreach Service For Seniors
	15 1977, September 30 - Township of Jackson Board of Health
	16 1977, October 16 - The Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society
	17 1978, March 29 - Kiwanis Club of Leisure Village
	18 1978, April 8 Lakewood Community Center
	19 1978, May 20 New Jersey Obstetrical and Gynecological Society
	20 1978, June 21 - Lakewood Economic Action Program, Inc.
	21 1979 - Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
	22 1979, February 10 - Secretariat for Black Catholics
	23 1979, March 22 - American Cancer Society
	24 1979, May 9 - The Academy of Medicine of New Jersey
	25 1979, May 16 - Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
	26 1979, June 15 - Lakewood Jackson Outreach Service for Seniors
	27 1979, October 27 - The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc.
	28 1979, December 8 - Bayley Seton League
	29 1979, December 11- Township of Jackson Board of Health
	30 1980, February 9 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
	31 1980, June 20 - Lakewood Jackson Outreach Service for Seniors
	32 1980, November 5 - Ocean County Board of Health
	33 1981 - Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society
	34 1981, January 20 - Ocean County First Aid Academy, Inc.
	35 1981, January 24 - Jackson First Aid Squad
	36 1981, January 27 - The Ocean County Board of Health
	37 1981, February 8-15 - Lewis University

Container List

Series G	Certificates/Awards/Degrees
Box	Folder
138-6	38 1981, April 26 - Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society
	39 1981, May 29 - Jersey City Child Development Center
	40 1981, June 1 - September Days
	41 1981, June 6 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
	42 1981, July 3 - Lamda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc.
	43 1981, September 13 - The Archdiocese of Newark
	44 1981, October 4 - The Third Order of Saint Francis
	45 1981, November 21 - Jackson Jaycees and the United States Jaycees
	46 1983 - American Cancer Society
	47 1983 - Community Services, Inc. of Ocean County
138-7	1 1983 - National Foundation For Cancer Research
	2 1983, January 22 - Georgian Court College
	3 1983, January 31 - Howard University Medical Alumni Association, Inc.
	4 1983, February 5 - The Black Catholic Caucus of Greater Kansas City
	5 1983, April 9 - The Regional Conference on Women in Medicine
	6 1983, April 21 - Georgian Court College
	7 1984, March 14 - Leisure Village Kiwanis Club
	8 1984, June 15 - Lakewood Economic Action Program, Inc.
	9 1984, October 19 - Howard University Medical Alumni Association, Inc.
	10 1984, November 17 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
	11 1985, March 10 - Congressman Frank J. Guarini
	12 1985, May 10 - Jersey City Medical Center
	13 1964, June 7 - Saint Joseph's College
	14 1965, May 30 - Universitatis Portlandensis
	15 1966, June 5 - Saint Peter's College
	16 1972, May 14 - Jersey City State College
	17 1981, May 24 - Monmouth College
	18 1981, May 24 - Monmouth College
	19 1982, May 22 - Seton Hall University
	20 1932, May 30 - College of New Rochelle

Container List

Series G	Certificates/Awards/Degrees continued
Box	Folder
138-8	1 1983, May 25 - University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
	2 1984, June 7 - Kean College of New Jersey
	3 1984, June 7 - Kean College of New Jersey
	4 1984, June 7 - Kean College of New Jersey
	5 1985, May 20 - Boston College
	6 1985, June 2 - Essex County College
	 Memberships
	7 Department of Labor
	8 Georgian Court College
	9 Gonzaga Preparatory School
	10 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission
	11 NRTA-AARP U.S. Government Money Market Trust
	12 1935, January 18 - Washington Institute of Medicine and Research Service Bureau
	13 1963, May 21 - Phi Beta Kappa
	14 1964 - Pan American Medical Association
	15 1976, January 21 - Ocean County Office on Aging
	16 1984 - American Medical Association
Series H	Photographs
	17 Unidentified
	18 Lena Edwards
	19 Lena Edwards with others
	20 Lena Edwards with others
138-9	1 Lena Edwards with others
	2 Lena Edwards with others
	3 Lena Edwards with others
	4 Lena Edwards with others
	5 Lena Edwards with others
	6 Lena Edwards' son, Father Martin Madison, S.A.
	7 Lena Edwards' Father, Dr. Thomas W. Edwards
	8 Gillette House

Container List

Series H	Photographs continued
Box	Folder
138-10	Rolled Photographs
	1 1948, December 15 Lena Edwards and others at the First Annual Dinner Private Surgical Division, Jersey City Medical Center. Fragile - Do Not Circulate
	2 1949, December 21 - Lena Edwards and others at Second Annual Dinner Private Surgical Division, Jersey City Medical Center. Fragile - Do Not Circulate
	3 1954, September 1 - Lena Edwards and others at her Testimonial Dinner.
	4 1954, September 1 - Lena Edwards and Others at her Testimonial Dinner.
	5 1955, June 1 - Sixth Annual Father and Son Sports Dinner sponsored by Don Bosco High School.
	6 1956, October 13 - Lena Edwards and others at Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Dinner Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital Jersey City, N.J. Hotel Pierre
	7 1954, January 31 - First Anniversary Mass and Communion Breakfast of the Saint Francis Fraternity Third Order of Saint Francis. Fragile Do Not Circulate
Series I	Cassette Tapes RESTRICTED
138-11	Tape #1 Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards
	Tape #2 Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards
	Tape #3 Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards
	Tape #4 Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards
	Tape #5 Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards – Damaged
	Tape A Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards
	Tape B Autobiographical Interview with Lena Edwards
Series J	Oversize Items
Item	Folder
	Certificates/Awards/Licenses
138-12	1 Diploma - 1914, January 17 - Lovejoy School, Washington, D.C.
	2 Diploma - 1918, June 19 – Paul Lawrence Dunbar high school, Washington, D.C.
	3 Degree - 1965, May 30 - Universitas Portlandensis, Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa)

Container List

Series J	Oversize Items continued
Box	Folder
138-12	4 Degree - 1982, May 22 -Curatores Universitatis Setoniana, Legum Doctores, (honoris Causa)
	5 Degree - 1982, May 30 - College of New Rochelle, Doctor of Science [Honorary]
	6 Degree - 1983, May 25 - University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)
	7 Certificate - 1948, May 22 - The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Certified for proficiency and specialization in Obstetrics and Gynecology.
	8 Certificate - 1925, July 1 - Department of the Interior, Freedmen's Hospital Washington, D.C. Certifies that Lena Edwards has served one year in several departments of the Hospital.
	9 Certificate - 1960, October 2 - Custodia Franciscalis Terrae Sanctae
	10 Awards - 1964, September 14 –The President of the United States of America [Lyndon B. Johnson] awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Lena Edwards
	11 Awards - 1971 - The Third Order of Saint Francis on the National Celebration of the 750th Anniversary of the promulgation of the Rule of the Third Order of Saint Francis commended Dr. Lena Edwards for her outstanding contributions to her fellow man.
	12 Membership - 1963, March -United States Department of Labor, Federal Advisory Council on Employment Security
	13 Membership - 1965, June 23 -United States Department of Labor, Member, National Advisory Committee for Manpower Development and Training.
	14 Appointment - 1930, December 11 - Co-Chairman, Governor's Conference on Aging.
	15 Appointment - 1974, May 26 -Elected a Regent of Saint Peter's College