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### HENDERSON, Edwin Bancroft

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#### Recommended Citation

Staff, MSRC, "HENDERSON, Edwin Bancroft" (2015). *Manuscript Division Finding Aids*. 91.  
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E.B. HENDERSON PAPERS

Collection 44-1 to 44-19

Prepared & Revised by:  
Karen L. Jefferson  
June 1980

## Scope Note

Edwin Bancroft Henderson donated his papers to Howard University in 1965 and has made periodic additions to the collection until his death in 1977. The papers spans the period 1915 to 1976, documenting his life as an activist in the field of athletics and civil rights. As an athlete, educator, author, and administrator, Henderson helped to advance the field of athletics particularly in his efforts against segregation and discrimination in recreation and sports. A vigorous advocate of civil rights, Henderson wrote numerous letters to the editor of various newspapers, as well as publishing articles and working with civil rights organizations.

His papers, totaling five linear feet, are comprised primarily of news articles, publications, and speeches by and about E. B. Henderson. There are twelve scrapbooks, primarily of newspaper clippings by and about E. B. Henderson, his family, civil rights, and sports. Also in his papers are materials related to some of the civil rights organizations that he was affiliated with. In addition there are a few photograph albums of E. B. Henderson and the various activities he was involved in, as well as photographs of his family.

## Biographical Sketch

- 1883 November 24 Born in Washington, D.C., son of William and Louise (Mars) Henderson.
- 1904 Graduated from Normal School #2, Washington, D.C.
- 1904-1907 Attended Harvard University Summer School of Physical Training.
- 1904-1925 Taught physical education and health in the D.C. public schools, being the first certified Black male physical educator in the American school system.
- 1905 Took courses at Howard University Medical School.
- 1908 Organized the Negro Athletic Conference, Inter-scholastic Athletic Association (I.S.A.A.).
- 1910 Organized the Public School Athletic League in the Black school division of D.C. and helped organized the Colored Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association and the North Carolina Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association.
- 1910 December Married Mary Ellen Meriwether (children: James H. M. and Edwin M.)
- 1911-13 President of the Black Public School Athletic League.
- 1912 Co-founder of the Eastern Board of Officials
- 1915 Organized the Falls Church and Vicinity Branch of the NAACP
- 1923-33 Served as President of the Eastern Board of Officials (for athletic activities).
- 1923-51 Chairmen of the High School Games Committee for the Black schools of D.C.

### Biographical Sketch continued

- 1925-54 Director of the D.C. Public Schools Department of Health, Physical Education and Safety for the Black Schools.
- 1930 Received an A. B. degree in , Howard University
- 1934 Received an A.M. degree, Teacher's College, Columbia University.
- 1937 Co-founder of the Washington Pigskin Club.
- 1940-60 Chairmen of the Board of Directors, NAACP.
- 1945 Founder and first president of the D.C. Branch of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.
- 1948-50 Chairmen of the Management Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Street YMCA, Washington, D.C.
- 1974 February 5 Inducted into the Black Sports Hall of Fame
- 1977 February 3 Died in Tuskegee, AL.

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 44-1  
**Family Papers**  
Biographical materials about E.B.O. Henderson; his wife, Mary Ellen; and his son James. Includes resumes, news articles, and awards.
- Series B**  
Box 44-1  
**Correspondence**  
Correspondence of E. B. Henderson includes correspondence about the segregation ordinance in Falls Church, Virginia, 1915.
- Series C**  
Box 44-1  
**Writings by E.B.O. Henderson**  
News articles, speeches, pamphlets
- Series D**  
Box 44-2  
to Box 44-3  
**Writings about E. B. Henderson**  
Press releases, biographical sketches, tributes, dissertation, and news articles, arranged chronologically .
- Series E**  
Box 44-3  
**Programs with E. B. Henderson on them**  
Arranged chronologically
- Series F**  
Box 44-3  
**Organizational Affiliations**  
Primarily organizations to fight segregation in recreation. Includes correspondence, flyers, and reports.
- Series G**  
Box 44-3  
Item 44-4  
Item 44-5  
**Memorabilia**  
Calender. Master Sports Schedule Book, towel.
- Series H**  
Box 44-3  
**Photographs**  
Individual photographs, and two photograph albums (44-6, 44-7)  
Primarily photos of E. B. Henderson.

Series Description continued

**Series I**

Box 44-3

**Printed Materials**

Periodical, report, newspapers

**Series J**

Item 44-8  
to Item 44-9

**Scrapbooks**

Twelve scrapbooks primarily of news clippings by and about E. B. Henderson and his family, and events 1940-1960's. Includes a few photographs, programs and correspondence, Scrapbook no. 10 is primarily correspondence of responses to news articles written by E. B. Henderson

Container list

**Series A      Family Papers**

- Box            Folder  
44-1          1 Edwin Bancroft Henderson  
                 2 Mary Ellen Henderson  
                 3 James H. M. Henderson

**Series B      Correspondence**

- 4 General correspondence  
5 Other correspondence  
6 Correspondence: Segregation Ordinance in Falls Church, Virginia - 1915

**Series C      Writings by E.B.O. Henderson**

- 7 Address at Virginia State Conference NAACP, Suffolk, VA. - Oct. 4, 1957  
8 Book review of The Territorial Imperative by Robert Ardrey Nov. 1973  
9 The Candle - March 1958  
10 A challenge to the profession June 1948  
11 To Educators of Colored Children in Segregated School Systems  
12 An experiment in Elementary Schools Athletics  
13 History of Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP - Oct. 1965  
14 Interview of E. B. H. by Mary Stratford  
15 Letters to the Editor  
16 Mexican Vacation - April 26, 1955  
17 The Negro as Athlete - Feb. 1970  
18 Negro Distance Runners  
19 The Negro in Sports - Dec. 1951  
20 The Negro in Sports (advertisement flyers)  
21 Negroes in the Olympics  
22 Physical Education and Athletics Among Negroes  
23 Progress and Problems in Health and Physical Education Among Colored Americans June 1935  
24 Progress of Colored Americans in Metropolitan Washington, Feb. 1955  
25 The Participation of Negro Youth in Community and Educational Programs, July 1940  
26 Physical Education and Athletics Among Negroes - March 1971  
27 Sarah Patton Boyle, Sept. 20, 1953  
28 Speech at Tuskegee, 1971  
29 Speech before School Club  
30 Statement: Edgar Allan Poe, once



Container list

- Series C**      **Writings by E.B.O. Henderson** continued  
Box              Folder  
44-1            31 Statement: Opening of the National Theatre..  
                  32 Tolerance An Objective, Feb. 1946  
                  33 Two Wrestlers  
                  34 Voice of the People, Black Progress Has Gone Far, Nov. 18, 1972
- Series D**      **Writings About E. B. Henderson**  
44-2            35 Dissertation: The Life of Edwin Bancroft Henderson and His Professional  
                  Contributions to Physical Education, by Leon N. Coursey,  
                  36 News articles, no date  
                  37 News articles, 1950's  
                  38 News articles, 1960's  
                  39 News articles, 1970-71  
                  40 News articles, 1972  
                  41 News articles, 1973  
                  42 News articles, 1974, 1976
- 44-3            43 Biography by Bruce Bennett, September 1971  
                  44 Citation, April 19, 1954  
                  45 Edwin Bancroft Henderson by Wendall A. Parris  
                  46 Excerpts from letters re.: testimonial dinner, Feb. 12, 1948  
                  47 Friends and Neighbors at the Fireside  
                  48 Holograph note, beginning a biographical sketch  
                  49 Press Release by Florence S. Savoy  
                  50 Press Release, Feb. 1972  
                  51 Remarks by Mordecai Johnson, Feb. 2, 1954  
                  52 Schools - p. 31 NN  
                  53 Tribute, Oct. 15, 1965
- Series E**      **Programs with E. B. Henderson on Them**  
54 Programs
- Series F**      **Organizations Affiliations**  
55 Segregation in recreation, unidentified  
56 Citizens' Committee Against Segregation in Recreation

## Container list

- Series F      Organizations Affiliations** continued
- Box            Folder  
44-3          57 Citizens' Committee Against Segregation in Recreation  
                58 Citizens Committee on Race Relations  
                59 Committee Against Segregation in Recreation  
                60 Committee Against Segregation in Recreation  
                61 Committee Against Segregation in Recreation  
                62 Committee on Democracy through Recreation  
                63 Committee on Physical Fitness  
                64 Recreation Committee, D.C. Branch, NAACP  
                65 Recreation Committee, D.C. Branch, NAACP  
                66 The School Club
- Series G      Memorabilia**
- 67 Calendar, 1975  
68 Poster - "Cafe Dance in Seville"  
69 Photographs - E.B.O. Henderson and family
- Item 44-4    Towel  
Item 44-5    Master Sports Schedule Book (blank)
- Series H      Photographs**
- Item 44-6    Photograph Album no. 1 E. B. Henderson 1904 - 1951  
Item 44-7    Photograph Album no. 2 Tuskegee Institute Swimming Team
- Series I      Printed Materials**
- 70 Atlanta Constitution, "Sports", Jan. 27, newspaper)  
71 The Campus Digest, Jan. 23, 1976 (Newspaper)  
72 The Montgomery Advertiser, Feb. 4, 1975 (newspaper)  
73 North American Society For Sport History Proceedings 1974 (report)  
74 The Title III Quarterly, Fall 1974 (periodical)  
75 Tuskegee Model cities New, Nov. 1971 (Newspaper)  
76 The Washington Tribune, May 6, 1922 (newspaper)

## Container list

### **Series J Scrapbooks** continued

Box	Folder	
Item 44-3	No. 1	Letters to the Editor (newsclippings)
Item 44-9	No. 2	Miscellaneous Social and Political (newsclippings)
Item 44-10	No. 3	Health, Falls Church, Sports, Negroes in the War, misc. (newsclippings)
Item 44-11	No. 4	A Pictorial story of athletics and historical events in the nation's capital by E. B. Henderson (photos and newsclippings)
Item 44-12	No. 5	Athletics (newsclippings)
Item 44-13	No. 6	Athletics, miscellaneous (Newsclippings)
Item 44-14	No. 7	Newsclippings 1950's and 60's
Item 44-15	No. 8	Newsclippings - E.B.O. Henderson and family
Item 44-16	No. 9	Newsclippings - 1940's - 1960's
Item 44-17	No. 10	Correspondence in response to news articles written by E. B. Henderson
Item 44-18	No. 11	Newsclippings by and about E. B. Henderson and family, 1950-1960's
Item 44-19	No. 12	Newsclippings - "Looking Back on Fifty Years, Edwin Bancroft Henderson"