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HENDERSON, Edwin Bancroft

MSRC Staff

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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 span 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


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.


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 12th 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  Family Papers
Box 44-1  Biographical materials about E.B.O. Henderson; his wife, Mary Ellen; and his son James. Includes resumes, news articles, and awards.

Series B  Correspondence
Box 44-1  Correspondence of E. B. Henderson includes correspondence about the segregation ordinance in Falls Church, Virginia, 1915.

Series C  Writings by E.B.O. Henderson
Box 44-1  News articles, speeches, pamphlets

Series D  Writings about E, B. Henderson
Box 44-2  Press releases, biographical sketches, tributes, dissertation, and news to Box 44-3 articles, arranged chronologically.

Series E  Programs with E. B. Henderson on them
Box 44-3  Arranged chronologically

Series F  Organizational Affiliations
Box 44-3  Primarily organizations to fight segregation in recreation. Includes correspondence, flyers, and reports.

Series G  Memorabilia
Box 44-3  Calendar. Master Sports Schedule Book, Item 44-4 towel.
Item 44-5

Series H  Photographs
Box 44-3  Individual photographs, and two photograph albums (44-6, 44-7) Primarily photos of E. B. Henderson.
Series Description continued

**Series I**  
**Printed Materials**  
Box 44-3  
Periodical, report, newspapers

**Series J**  
**Scrapbooks**  
Item 44-8 to Item 44-9  
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.
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| 44-1        | 1 Edwin Bancroft Henderson  
|             | 2 Mary Ellen Henderson  
|             | 3 James H. M. Henderson |

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<th><strong>Series B</strong></th>
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<td>Address at Virginia State Conference NAACP, Suffolk, VA. - Oct. 4, 1957</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Book review of The Territorial Imperative by Robert Ardrey Nov. 1973</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>The Candle - March 1958</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>A challenge to the profession June 1948</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>To Educators of Colored Children in Segregated School Systems</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>An experiment in Elementary Schools Athletics</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>History of Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP - Oct. 1965</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Interview of E. B. H. by Mary Stratford</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>Mexican Vacation - April 26, 1955</td>
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<td>Progress and Problems in Health and Physical Education Among Colored Americans June 1935</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Progress of Colored Americans in Metropolitan Washington, Feb. 1955</td>
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<td>The Participation of Negro Youth in Community and Educational Programs, July 1940</td>
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<td>Speech before School Club</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Statement: Edgar Allan Poe, once</td>
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**Series C**  
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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**  
Box  
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  
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
Series F  Organizations Affiliations continued
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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)
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<td>Miscellaneous Social and Political (newsclippings)</td>
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<td>Health, Falls Church, Sports, Negroes in the War, misc. (newsclippings)</td>
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<td>A Pictorial story of athletics and historical events in the nation's capital by E. B. Henderson (photos and newsclippings)</td>
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<td>44-19</td>
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<td>Newsclippings - “Looking Back on Fifty Years, Edwin Bancroft Henderson”</td>
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