SPILLER, Isabele Taliaferro

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Scope Note

The Isabele Taliaferro Spiller collection consists of a combination of manuscript material of Isabele Spiller, Director of the Spiller School of Music, New York City, and her husband, William N. Spiller, founder of the school.

The collection contains biographical material on the Taliaferro and Spiller families, correspondence, photographs, organizational material, and a large volume of material relating to the Spiller School of Music and the Musical Spillers.

The Musical Spillers were a unique musical group organized by William N. and Isabele T. Spiller in 1906 in Chicago, Illinois. The group performed all over the United States, Europe, South America and Africa. There are broadsides, playbills, programs, clippings, and photographs publicizing the exciting musical career of these famous black musicians during the years 1906-1940. There are also a number of individual profiles of members of the group.

Mrs. Spiller provides her own personal notes and reminiscences to many of the materials, particularly the photographs, giving an added dimension to this collection. Her holographic notes are either attached
to or written directly on the materials, and they focus on important periods in her life such as her involvements with the Federal Music Project, the Harlem Evening School, Wadleigh High School, and the Spiller School of Music.

The acquisition of this collection was in installments from Mrs. Spiller from 1952-1960. The collection size is approximately 3 linear feet.
1888 March 18
Taliaferro and
Taliaferro, Abington, Va.

1894
Philadelphia; taught to play
parents.

Conservatory of Music.
professionals including Carl
Charlton, Boston Symphony.

1906-1926
of the Musical
along with co-organizer and
Spiller.

1926
School in New York City,

1929
Band; Brooklyn, N.Y.


1934-39
Project, New York City.

1936-37
Wawayanda, New York.

1938
Hill Center, N.Y.C.

1938
music.

1939
World's Fair.

Biographical Sketch

Bona to Josephine Benjamin Outlaw
Rev. Granville, L.A.

Moved with parents to
all instruments by

Educated at New England
Studied with numerous
Gardiner and Melville

One of the organizers and members
Spillers in Chicago
husband William N.

Organized Musical Spiller

Conductor of Excelsior Temple

Director of Ashland Place

Supervisor of Federal Music

Consultant, Breeze Bill School

Music supervisor in Columbus

Supervised the instrumental

Program for the New York
Following the World's Fair, supervised for musical therapy at Bellvue Hospital, New York City.

1938-1940 Orchestra Director, Moorland Branch Y.M.C.A.; Plainsfield, New Jersey.

1942 Member Music Dept. Wadleigh High School which was the lst. academic high school for Girls in New York City.

1944 Sept. 2 William N. Spiller died.

1948 Nov. 5 Elected to Honor Society, "Arista",

1952-58 Music Director, Harlem Evening High School, New York City.
Series A
93-1
Taliaferro family, to
93-2
documents and
Spiller's organi-

Series B
Box 93-2
photographs of William N.
Isabele T. Spiller and founder

Series C
Box 93-2
contract, correspondence, to
newspaper clippings, 93-3
of individual members

Series D
Box 93-3
photographs of teachers to
specific programs 93-4

Series E
Box 93-4
William N. Spiller and to
1937, Mrs. Isabele 93-5
students.

Series F
Restricted Items
Fragile items, primarily broadsides and playbills of the Musical Spillers. Photo-
Item 93-7
interfiled in

NOT CIRCULATE

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Container List

A Isabele Taliaferro Spiller

Box 93-1

Taliaferro Family

1 Taliaferro

family biographies

Correspondence, General

Taliaferro Spiller -

Correspondence, 1930, 1941

Isabele Taliaferro Spiller

Organizational Affiliations

Hill, Wawayanda, N.Y.

Temple Band - Photograph

Project - Correspond-

Project - notes by

Spiller(holographs)

Project - Photographs -

Music Project - Photographs-

Project - Programs

Project - Y.W.C.A.

High School - Clippings

High School - Programs

High School -

Publications
High School -
Photographs
Orchestra
Settlement
Conference, Moorland Branch,
Box 93-2
Place
Raid Warden - Isabele
Spiller
School - Clippings
School - Correspondence
School - Notes by
T. Spiller
School - Programs
School - Publication -
Wadleigh Owl, 1947

15 Harlem Evening
16 Polish
17 Union
18 Y.M.C.A.
N.J.
19 Y.M.C.A. Ashland
20 Volunteer Air
T.
21 Wadleigh High
22 Wadleigh High
23 Wadleigh High
Isabele
24 Wadleigh High
25 Wadleigh High
The
A Isabele Taliaferro Spiller cont'd

Organizational

Affiliations
Box 93-2

Photographs, 26 Wadleigh High School - 1946

B William N. Spiller

biographical

photographs

notes)

C The Musical Spillers

contract

clippings

Spillers, 1906-

Originals in 1911 (Xeroxes Only, 93-6)

only; 38 Publicity, 1907

93-6) 39 Publicity, 1911 (Xeroxes

only; 40 Publicity, 1912 (Xeroxes

93-6) originals in Box

Box 93-3 41 Publicity - Musical Spillers, Lond

London, Alhambra Theatre, only; England, 1912 (Xerox
42 Publicity, 1913
43 Publicity - "Peek-A-Boo"
44 Publicity, 1921 (Xeroxes only; originals in Box 93-6)
45 Publicity, 1926
46 Publicity, 1930
47 Publicity, 1940 (Xeroxes only; originals in Box 93-7)
48 Publicity "Giggles",
49 Programs Johnson, James and Johnson, J. "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
50 Programs - various
51 Sheet Music - Joplin, (Xerox only; originals in Box 93-6)
The Spiller School of Music

Box 93-3

Spiller School
Extension
Center - Spiller
Music Extension

Box 93-4

Spillers
Bessie Taliaferro,
the Spiller School
Teachers, Harold
Bessie Taliaferro
Bennett, William
Spiller School of Music
Brisbane, Thomas
Spiller School of Music
Duke, Fred
Spiller School of Music
Edwards, Dicky
Spiller School of Music
Holder, Louise
Spiller School of Music
Programs - Hudson,
York Music Week

52 Business cards
53 Programs
54 Beulah Church -
of Music
55 Columbus Hill
School of

56 Photograph - Musical
School
57 Photograph -
Teacher in
of Music
58 Photograph -
Bessie Taliaferro
Rogers and

59 Photograph -
Student,
60 Photograph -
Student,
61 Photograph -
Student;
62 Photograph -
Student,
63 Photograph -
Student,
64 Photographs,
Lawrence
65 Photographs - New
Contest
Music Education League

National Association of
Musicians, Inc. 53rd.

Celebration

Box 93-5

Isabele Spiller, Teacher 1930

Bugle Corps -
Taliaferro Spiller -

Brooklyn Scout Troop,

Bugle

[Quintet]

Jean Bedini to have
of each show taken
of the season circa 1941

Spiller, circa 1924

66 Photographs -

67 Program -

Negro

Anniversary

68 Drum & Bugle Corps -

Taliaferro

69 Concord Drum &

Isabele

Teacher 1930

70 Concord Church,

1929 - Drum &

71 Cal[vin] Bateman

72 The Custom of

the picture

at the end

73 Ten Musical

(2 copies)
E Photographs cont'd

Box 93-5

74 Spiller & His

Level Jazz Band &

Entertainers at the Every
circa 1908

Musical Spillers

copies) 1921

Musical Spillers - Clever

Entertainers at the Every
circa 1908

Musical Spillers

Voyage Dinner given by Norma &
Constance Tamadge to their
friends - Castle Cove -

1920

Musical Spillers - Dancing Circus,

Man Band

Spillers "This Act Was
to Europe About 1930"

Spiller & the Rellips

Sisters (Spiller spelled backwards)

Rellips

Spillers - 1930-1937

School Contest Pupils

1933

Spillers