

Black American History Papers Contents Notes

The Bette C. Lanier Scrapbook covers the activities of upper class blacks in Toledo in the 1920's and 1930's. The items in this scrapbook appear to come almost exclusively from local newspapers, although there are a few from out-of-town papers as well. Three major topics make up this scrapbook – the Masons, black religious life, and recreational activities.

The Masonic items constitute the smallest portion of the scrapbook, and date from pre-1920. There is an excellent historical sketch on blacks in early Masonry, as well as information on their current activities.

The Third Baptist Church was the apparent focal point of black life in Toledo at this time, and served as a center for cultural as well as religious activities. Most of the black families mentioned in the scrapbook – particularly William and Drusilla Clemens – were active in church work. Plays and festivals, as well as religious services, were held frequently; and these services included white clergymen from various faiths, as well as other black ministers.

Recreational activities – the third topic – were centered around the church. Music was the major form of recreation – concerts, plays, piano lessons, etc. This may reflect the upper class leanings of the scrapbook. Also indicative of these leanings was the low interest in sports. While some articles on black high school athletics were included, athletics never achieved the popularity as a recreational activity that music did.

The Bette C. Lanier Scrapbook was lent to the Local History Department of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for photocopying. The order of the original scrapbook has been retained in this reproduction. Mrs. Lanier retains property rights to the original; determination of literary rights is the responsibility of the researcher.

The Clarence G. Smith Scrapbook deals primarily with Smith's law cases from 1930 through 1970. The items in this scrapbook have been taken from both local and out-of-town papers. To facilitate patron use, the order of the original scrapbook has not been retained. Instead, the material has been collected topically and placed in eight legal size folders. A more detailed inventory follows.

The Clarence G. Smith Scrapbook was lent to the Local History Department of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for photocopying. Mr. Smith retains property rights to the original; determination of literary rights is the responsibility of the researcher.

Other folders contain items pertaining to African-American organizations in Toledo.

Black American History Papers Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1 Lanier Scrapbook, pp. 1-20
- Folder 2 Lanier Scrapbook, pp. 21-40
- Folder 3 Lanier Scrapbook, 41-60
- Folder 4 Lanier Scrapbook, 61-80
- Folder 5 Smith Scrapbook, NAACP
 These items span the years 1930 through 1970. Included are programs from the eighth and twenty-fifth Ohio State conferences in Toledo (September 1937) and Lima (1950) respectively. The folder concludes with numerous articles regarding the twenty-sixth state conference held in Toledo (1951).
- Folder 6 Smith Scrapbook, Civil Rights
 These clippings concern various civil rights cases handled by Smith. Covering the years 1938 to 1950 they include, among others, the Stickney Theater case (1938), the Marion Anderson incident (1939), and the closing of Auburndale School (1949).
- Folder 7 Smith Scrapbook, Politics; Board of Community Relations (BCR)
 These clippings are divided into two sections. The first set (73-82) deals with various local and state elections from 1938 to 1967. Part two (83-87) contains articles about the BCR under the direction of Felix Gentile and G. Nelson Smith.
- Folder 8 Smith Scrapbook, Anti-Lynching Bill; Fair Employment Practice Commission
 The first part (88-93) concerns itself with attempts to pass an anti-lynching bill in 1938. The majority, however, (94-123) relate to Toledo's repeated attempts to pass a fair employment bill. Articles from out-of-town newspapers regarding similar attempts by other cities and the nation at large are also included.
- Folder 9 Smith Scrapbook, Major Legal Cases
 The major cases handled by Attorney Smith have been: the investigation of Happy Hour Club (1936), Miller Boarding Home case (1945), Curtis Hopkins extradition (1949-1950), Westover case (1956), and Hopings assault (1956).

Black American History Papers Inventory

Box 1 (cont.)

- Folder 10 Smith Scrapbook, Miscellaneous Legal Cases
This folder contains legal cases handled by Smith in 1937-1938.
- Folder 11 Smith Scrapbook, Housing and Recreation
The majority of articles (212-250) deal with Toledo's housing problems from 1937-1967. Items include the internal struggles of Toledo's BCR and City Council to pass fair housing legislation (1961, 1967); the opening of the Brand Whitlock Homes, 1937; U.S. trailer project, 1944-1945; cancellation of Maumee Homes, Inc. for North Toledo, 1945; Parkside integration, 1963; and recreation facilities, 1945 (251-52).
- Folder 12 Smith Scrapbook, Miscellaneous
Topics include: the 14th annual convention of the National Bar Association, Durham, North Carolina, 1938; the chartering of Toledo University's Gamma Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, 1937; the opening of Ball Mortuary, 1939; the proposed Holland site for Toledo Airport, 1946; a collection of attorneys' calling cards; coverage of police brutality, 1963; and the "enforcer" pistol controversy, 1967.
- Folder 13 The Afro-American Heritage Club
1. Program, 1975-1976
2. Program, 1976-1977
3. Program, Through Harriet's Looking Glass, October 22, 1976
- Folder 14 Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History
1. Agenda, Toledo Branch ASALH, April 19, 1976
2. Promotional material, annual meeting, Chicago, 1976
3. Pamphlet, "A Decade of Working Together" ASALH – Toledo Branch #2, 1972-1982
4. Pamphlet, A History Update, The Black Historical Society, Toledo ASALH Branch #2, 1987
- Folder 15 Indiana Branch, YMCA
1. Photocopy of pamphlet describing the activities of branch, 1937
- Folder 16 Inter-Denominational Ministers' Alliance
1. Program, Fifteenth Annual Negro History Week Banquet, 1974
2. Program, Sixteenth Annual Negro History Week Banquet, 1975
- Folder 17 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies
1. Leaflet summarizing purpose and activities, n.d.

Black American History Papers Inventory

Box 1 (cont.)

- Folder 18 Inter-Racial Committee of the Toledo Council of Churches
1. Summary of Survey of the Toledo Negro (2 copies)
- Folder 19 NAACP
1. A Historical Account of the Toledo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1976
- Folder 20 S.M. Jones, Correspondence, 1899 (photocopies)
- Folder 21 Journal Articles
1. "The Frederick Douglass Community Center," *The Southern Workman*, May, 1923
2. "Interracial Activities in Toledo," *The Southern Workman*, April, 1925
3. "A Study of the Negro Families in the Pinewood Avenue District of Toledo, Ohio," *Journal of Negro Life*, August, 1929
4. "Changing Patterns of Race and Housing: A Toledo Study," *Social Forces*, March, 1963
5. "Mary Fields," *Ohio Cues*, January, 1977
- Folder 22 Newspaper articles (photocopies)
- Folder 23 Newspaper Articles (photocopies)
- Folder 24 Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio
1. Official Program, 124th Annual Communication, Columbus, Ohio, August 12-14, 1973
2. Proceedings of the 124th Communication, Columbus, Ohio, August 12-14, 1973
3. Official program, 125th Annual Communication, Toledo, Ohio, August 11-14, 1974
- Folder 25 Ella P. Stewart
1. Article, "Former Berryville Negro Asked to Return State Dinner Invitation", *Clarke Courier*, April 18, 1957 (photocopy)
2. Program, Dedication of museums at Ella P. Stewart School, n.d. (photocopy)
3. Toledo City Council Resolution for Ella P. Stewart Day, February 28, 1984 (photocopy)

Black American History Papers Inventory

Box 1 (cont.)

- Folder 26 Frederick Douglass Community Association
1. History, ca. 1925, 4 pp.
 2. Letter to James Austin, Jr. from Albertus Brown, President, January 9, 1925
 3. Annual report, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1961, 1963, 1965
 4. Programs, 1943, 1959, 1962, 1965
 5. Newsletter, 1954, 1959, 1960
- Folder 27 Miscellaneous
1. Program, Ohio Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 24th Biennial Convention, Third Baptist Church, June 25-29, 1950 (photocopy)
 2. Leaflet, Local Black History Outline, n.d.
- Folder 28 Golden Rule Lodge #129, I.B.P.O.E. of W.
1. Papers
- Folder 29 *Cosmo Digest*, published by the Cosmo Agency, Toledo, Ohio
1. April 1966
- Folder 30 *Haps in the City*, published by Marcella's Publishing Company, Toledo, Ohio
1. Vol. 1, No 1 (January 1954)
 2. Vol. 1, No. 2 (February 1954)
 3. Vol. 1, No. 3 (March 1954)
 4. Vol. 1, No. 4 (May 1954)
 5. Vol. 2, No. 1 (1954)
- Folder 31 African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio
1. Program, Legends Luncheon, 2010
 2. Program, Legends Luncheon, 2014