2014

0819: Memphis Tennessee Garrison Papers, 1898-1981

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Memphis Tennessee Garrison Papers October 2014

Collection Summary:
Title: Memphis Tennessee Garrison Papers
Span Dates: 1898-1981
Creator: Memphis Tennessee Garrison
Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)
Processed by: Caitlin Walker, 2014
Accession Number: 2014/09.0819
Date Completed: October 2014
Access to Collection: Open

Search Terms:
Memphis Tennessee Garrison
NAACP
National Association for Advancement of Colored People
African American History
Civil Rights
Women’s History
Appalachian History
Appalachian Women
Alpha Kappa Alpha

Biographical Sketch:
Memphis Tennessee Garrison was born in Hollins, VA on March 4, 1890. She moved to Gary, WV with her parents Cassie and Wesley Carter. Wesley Carter was a contractor for the coal mines but was killed by a train when Garrison was a young child. Her mother worked as a housekeeper. Garrison attended high school in Ohio and began teaching in McDowell County, WV in 1908. She obtained a B.S. at Bluefield State College in 1939 and pursued advanced courses at Ohio University. Garrison taught for over 35 years and continued to serve as a substitute teacher for many years. She was a member of several teachers’ associations. She served as the first female President of the West Virginia State Teacher’s Association from 1929-1930. In 1931, she served as vice president of the American Teacher’s Association. She also served as secretary/treasurer of the Bluefield State Alumni Association.

Garrison associated herself with the Republican party until the John F. Kennedy era. She had always been a civil rights activist. She worked as a welfare worker for U.S. from 1931 until 1946 when the workers were unionized. Garrison became aware of the NAACP in 1918 when she read a copy of the Crisis. In 1921, she started an NAACP branch in Gary, WV making it the third in the state. She was appointed secretary and she was the treasurer of the state-wide chapter from 1945-1966. She attended over thirty NAACP conferences. One of her most notable accomplishments was the Christmas Seal Project that she began in 1927. She designed and sold the seals as a source of fundraising and sold more seals than anyone in the nation. She served as the national field secretary in the 1950s and was vice-president of the National Board from 1963-1966. She received many awards from the NAACP including the Walker medal for distinguished
service to Negros in 1920 and the T. G Nutter award in 1959. She was a member of the Human Rights Commission from 1964-1966. In 1969, she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Marshall University. She moved to Huntington, WV and lived there until her death in 1988.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains the personal, religious, educational, and political possessions of Memphis Tennessee Garrison. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, newspaper articles, programs, books, financial documents, publications, newsletters, plaques, certificates, a diary, and a jewelry box. The materials document Garrison’s various roles on the local and national levels of the NAACP as well as her participation in other civil rights activities.

The collection is organized into seven series and two subseries.

Series 1
Personal
Series 2
Government
Series 3
Education
Series 4
Religion
Series 5
Unrelated Materials
Series 6
Financial
Series 7
NAACP
Subseries 7a
NAACP Publications
Subseries 7b
William C. Handy
Series 8
Books and Bound Volumes

See also
- Memphis Tennessee Garrison’s oral history in Marshall University Special Collections [OH 64-541]
- Ancella Bickley manuscript collection held in Marshall University Special Collections [Accession 522]
- Ancella Bickley’s oral history in Marshall University Special Collections [OH 64-675]

Processing Notes:

A great deal of the materials received severe water and mold damage and, therefore, had to be photocopied for preservation purposes. Many of the photos were originally part of scrapbooks that received water damage. Box 7 contains oversized materials from the personal, government, and education series. Box 8 contains oversized materials from the NAACP series.

Preferred Citation:
Memphis Tennessee Garrison Papers, Accession No. 2014/09.0819, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.
## Container | Contents
---|---
### Series 1 - Personal

**Box 1**

Folder 1 | Greeting Cards (Christmas)
Folder 2 | Greeting Cards (Birth Announcement)
Folder 3 | Greeting Cards (Birthday)
Folder 4 | Greeting Cards (Thank you)
Folder 5 | Greeting Cards (Mother’s Day)
Folder 6 | Greeting Cards (Thanksgiving)
Folder 7 | Greeting Cards (Get Well/Sympathy)
Folder 8 | Greeting Cards (Graduation)
Folder 9 | Greeting Cards (Best Wishes)
Folder 10 | Greeting Cards (Wedding Announcement)
Folder 11 | Greeting Cards (Remembrance)
Folder 12 | Greeting Cards (Easter)
Folder 13 | Post Cards
Folder 14 | Church Cards
Folder 15 | Personal Correspondence (1917-1970)
Folder 16 | Personal Correspondence (1973-1981)
Folder 17 | Correspondence written by Memphis T. Garrison (1941-1971)
Folder 18 | Poetry
Folder 19 | Music
Folder 20 | Crafts
Folder 21 | African American Scrapbook pieces
Folder 22 | Personal Documents
Folder 23 | Photos
Folder 24 | Photos
Folder 25 | Photos

### Series 2 - Government

Folder 26 | U.S. Department of Commerce
Folder 27 | U.S. Department of Commerce
Folder 28 | Republican Party
Folder 29  Human Rights Commission  
Folder 30  African American Employment  
Folder 31  National Education Association  
Folder 32  National Citizen’s Bulletin  
Folder 33  U.S. Department of Justice  
Folder 34  Message of Israel  
Folder 35  Various Unrelated Government Publications  

Series 3- Education

Box 2

Folder 36  Bluefield State College  
Folder 37  Marshall University  
Folder 38  West Virginia State College  
Folder 39  High School programs/commencements  
Folder 40  Publications  
Folder 41  Correspondence (1929-1954)  
Folder 42  Educational Programs/Associations  
Folder 43  Certificates  
Folder 44  Student Work  
Folder 45  American Association of University Women  
Folder 46  Newspaper Articles (1926-1967)  
Folder 47  Newspaper Articles  
Folder 48  Programs/Brochures (AKA)  
Folder 49  Publications (AKA)  
Folder 50  Minutes (AKA)  
Folder 51  Organization Forms (AKA)  

Series 4- Religion

Folder 52  Various Religious texts/programs  
Folder 53  First Baptist Church  
Folder 54  Various unrelated materials  
Folder 55  Mentalphysics  
Folder 56  Mentalphysics  
Folder 57  Newspaper Articles (1926-1967)  
Folder 58  Newspaper Articles  

Series 5- Unrelated Materials

Folder 59  Newsletters  
Folder 60  Publications
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 61</td>
<td>Materials from Gary, WV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 62</td>
<td>Personal Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 63</td>
<td>Newspaper Articles (1909-1949)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 64</td>
<td>Newspaper Articles (1961-1974)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 65</td>
<td>Newspapers Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 66</td>
<td>Newspaper Articles</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Series 6- Financial**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 67</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 68</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 69</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 70</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 71</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 72</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 73</td>
<td>Pancake Reality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Box 3**

- Pancake Reality Checks
- Anderson-Newcomb Checks
- Other Organizations Checks
- NAACP Checks
- Education Checks
- Personal Checks
- Mentalphysics Checks
- Ledger of Untitled Finances 1941

**Series 7- NAACP**

**Box 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 74</td>
<td>Bylaws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 75</td>
<td>Financial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 76</td>
<td>Correspondence (1945-1959)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 77</td>
<td>Correspondence (1960-1978)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 78</td>
<td>Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 79</td>
<td>Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 80</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 81</td>
<td>NAACP programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 82</td>
<td>NAACP programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 83</td>
<td>Membership Materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries 7a- Publications

Folder 100  NAACP Bulletin
Folder 101  NAACP Newsletter
Folder 102  First Ladies of America
Folder 103  SCLC
Folder 104  Ebony
Folder 105  Jet
Folder 106  Springboards
Folder 107  NAACP Honor Guard
Folder 108  Negro Digest
Folder 109  Various Civil Rights Pamphlets
Folder 110  NAACP Calendar
Folder 111  Various NAACP Publications
Folder 112  Various NAACP Publications

Box 5

The Crisis

*The Crisis was created by William Du Bois and continues to be the official publication of the NAACP. Garrison claims that she discovered the NAACP by reading the Crisis.

Crisis

1955 (November)
1957 (January, March)
1958 (May)
1959 (January, April, August-September)
1960 (April, October, November)
1965 (February, October)
1966 (February, March, June-July)
1967 (March, December)
1968 (May, August-September, October)
1969 (June-July)
*Crisis* Booklist

**Subseries 7b- William C. Handy**

Box 6

Folder 113  *The Handy News*
Folder 114  Newspapers
Folder 115  Greeting Cards
Folder 116  Article by William C. Handy
Folder 117  Programs/brochures
Folder 118  Correspondence (1941-1953)
Folder 119  Correspondence (1954-1957)

*(Oversized Materials)*

Box 7

Jewelry Box
Links Incorporated Plaque
The Mountain State Bar Associations Distinguished Citizen’s Award
Diary
Imperial Daughters of ISIS certificate
Department of Free Schools Certificate

**Series 7- NAACP (Oversized Materials)**

Box 8

Christmas Seal Poster
Human Rights Commission Certificate
2 framed photographs of Memphis Tennessee Garrison
NAACP life membership plaque
T.G. Nutter Award Plaque
West Virginia Governor’s Living the Dream Award Plaque

**Series 8- Books and Bound Volumes**


*Shorthand or Phonography.* New York: Dick and Fitzgerald, 1898.


**Publications Extensively Damaged and Discarded**

*Proceedings of the Executive Sessions held by the Imperial Court Divan and Minutes of the Sixtieth Imperial Court Session,* August 16-21, 1971.
Proceedings of the Executive Sessions held by the Imperial Court Divan and Minutes of the

Sixty-First Imperial Court Session, August 20-25, 1972.