African American resource guide

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This resource was created by the Arkansas State Archives to inform you of the resources available at our agency. This guide will assist you in conducting research on topics related to African American history and conducting genealogical research on African American ancestors. This is not a comprehensive guide to our holdings, but provides starting points for your research. For more information of our holdings, visit our website at archives.arkansas.gov or contact the Coordinator of African American History at (501) 682-6892.

Abbreviations used in this guide.

Biographical and Family Histories

Books
Bailey, I.G.: (founder of Southeast Baptist Academy; moderator of the S.E. District Association)

Bond: *The Life of Scott Bond* by Dan A. Rudd and Theo Bond [E185.97 .B7 1917]


Jones: *Dr. Fred Thomas Jones, Sr.: A Black Trailblaze* by Marie Jones Griffen [L419 .L75 G75 1995]


Primm: *Links to Ancestral Ties, George Primm, Sr. Family* by Pearlie Ponder, Sacramento, California [CS 71.P953 1995]

*Shug, Tashi and Me* by Janie Ready [CS71 .R43 1996]


Manuscripts
Brooks: “Brooks’ Eleventh Year Family Reunion, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2003” [BHAC Collection MS000357]
Feaster: “The John Sullivan Feaster Family Reunion, 2002” [BHAC Collection MS000357]
Hedgewood and Scoggins Family Reunion, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2001 [BHAC Collection MS000357]
Ish, Jefferson Gatherford: Little Rock BHAC Collection MS000357]
Simpson: [Patricia Carolina Camberlen Collection MS000625]
Smith, North Tecumseh: Family Bible & History [Isaac T. Gillam Papers MS000440]
Swayze, Jerry Enoch (Dr.): [BHAC Collection MS000357]
Torrence: Family History [BHAC Collection MS000357]

Microfilm
Gardner: B.J. Gardner Family Material: 1849-1968 (high school professor; Strong, Union Co., Arkansas) [MG03611]
Hines, George Lehman: (Ex-Slave) [MG00081-82]
Robinson, John Marshall (Dr.): funeral program [MG00031]
Rollins: Kinney Rollins Papers, 1918-1957 – Bradley, Lafayette County, Arkansas [MG04298]
Williams, Austine: “Austine Williams Day,” Westley United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR, December 15, 1974 [MG00031]

Pamphlets
Craig-Lock: “Welcome to the 74th Craig & Lock Family Reunion, Sparkman, Arkansas,” [PE 8353]
Jordan, Lena “National Hospital Day Honoring Lena Lowe Jordan, R.N. on the 66th Birthday and 40th Anniversary in the Field of Nursing – May 12, 1950”: [PE 4071; VFHC 3977]
Vertical Files
Brown, Floyd: (founder Fargo Agricultural School) [VFHC 2376]
Carolina Family: Patricia Carolina Camberlen [VFHC 0953 and 4804]
Carolina, Johnnie Franklin: Morrilton, Arkansas [VFHC 3709]
Carolina, Pierre: Plummerville, Arkansas [VFHC 4879]
Carolina, Qushona Lanisha [VFHC 5042]
Carolina, Ryan Rorshun [VFHC 5337]
Cato, Minto (opera singer) [VFHC 4453]
Clark, Moses A. [VFHC 4496]
Coffin, Frank Barbour [VFHC 2442]
Gatewood Family [VFHC 2513]
Johnson/Gatlin/Moorman Family [VFHC 2994]
Jordan, Hosea A. [VFHC 2994]
Joshua, Ernest P., Sr. – Funeral Program: “Celebrating the Life of Ernest P. Joshua, Sr., September 27, 2005, (High Profile article, July 21, 2002, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; newspaper obit) [VFHC 2272]
Longley, Egbert [VFHC 6541]
Longley, Frances Marie (Artist) [VFHC 2432]
Longley, Frances Silvia [VFHC 2434]
Merriweather, Dave [VFHC 1921]
Tharpe, Rosetta [VFHC 5293]
Williams, Florence (T.B. Hospital) [VFHC 2372]
Education

Schools
Argenta Colored School - Argenta (North Little Rock), Pulaski County, Arkansas (1 clipping) – [BHAC, Box 2, Files 13]

Arkansas Trade School - Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas 1949-1951 [MG 04590 -04596]

Central High School – Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas - “Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas: 40 Years after Integration...,” Montage Magazine, Spring Issue 1997 [BHAC, Box 2, Folder 25]


Childress High School, Reunion 1997 – Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas – Includes two folders, 32 photographs of former Childress teachers, students and special interest groups - [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council Box 1 of 1. Location: 03/03/06]

Conway County Training School, Menifee, Conway County, Arkansas [Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church MS000610]

East Side High School, Menifee, Conway County, Arkansas (see Conway County Training School)

Fargo Agricultural School – Fargo, Monroe County, Arkansas - Fargo Agricultural School Collection – [MG02864, MG03571-MG03574]

Fargo Agricultural School – Fargo, Monroe County, Arkansas - “Pictorial Historette of the Fargo Agricultural School” [LC2802. A8 P53 2002Z]


Harrison, Richard B. High School Blytheville, Mississippi County, Arkansas – Contains copies of exhibit materials from project including historical sketch of school, administration, faculty and students - [BHG, AR Humanities Council, Box 1of 1; oversize].


Langston High School – Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas – [BHG, AR Humanities Council, PHOEBE/The Uzuri Project, Box 1, Folders 003.23 and 003.23b]
Madison Training School - Madison, St. Francis County, Arkansas – Includes oral history interviews (VHS, cassette tapes and transcriptions; photographs (copies) and research notes - [BHG, AR Humanities Council, Box #1 of 1].

Malvern Negro High School, Malvern, Hot Spring County, Arkansas [Photograph #151; BHG, AR Humanities Council, Box 1 of 1, Davis Creek Heritage project, Davis Creek Heritage Organization,]; see also Wilson High School.

Merrill High School History, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas – [BHCA, Box 2, Folder 11]

North View School, Solgohachia, Conway County, Arkansas [Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church MS000610]

Osceola School – Osceola, Mississippi County, Arkansas - Commencement Exercises, 1940 [Archie Moore, Jr. Materials, Supplement 1, MG00031]

Prattsville Colored School, Prattsville, Grant County, Arkansas [Photograph #150; BHG, AR Humanities Council, Davis Creek Heritage project, Davis Creek Heritage Organization]

Robert Moten High School – Marianna, Lee County, Arkansas – (1956, class examinations of Gladys Turner) [Willis Turner Family Papers MS000573]

Scipio A. Jones High School – North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas [Carolyn Owens Hervey Collection MS000546]

Simmons High School – Okolona, Clark County, Arkansas – [Black History Grant, Arkansas Humanities Council, Box #8, 1 photo; no history] – Location: 03/03/07

St. Bartholomew Catholic School – Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas (school enrollment lists, 1910-1975) – [MS000142]

St. Peters Catholic School – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas [Willis Turner Family Papers MS000573]

Washington, Booker T. - Jonesboro, Craighead County – “Graduation Exercises, May 22nd- 25th, 1960” [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council, Box1 of 1, Location: 03/03/07]

Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College [AM&N], Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas-1902-1952 Folders relate to permanent improvements, visits to school and Negro education. [MG03617]

Arkansas Baptist College Materials, Little Rock, Arkansas:1936-1933 [MG06547]
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas 1901-1906 Folders relates to teachers’ salaries, practice school. Repairs and Negro education. [MG03617]

Arkansas Baptist College, Records of Examination and Class Standings: 1899-1983[MG06545-06546]

Southland College – Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas - “Southland Institute Catalogue, 1917-1918” [BHAC, Box 2, Folder 10]

Southland College – Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas - “Southland College in Arkansas Papers,” (published minutes; 1917, 1922) [SMC, Box 106, No. 33]

Southland College – Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas - “Southland College Institute Catalog: 1923-1924” [Unprocessed MS Box 25]


Education: General


Black Administrators in Arkansas – Biographical information on black educators in Arkansas from 1889-2002 (a project of the Retired Educators of Little Rock) - [BHG, AR Humanities Council, Boxes 1-3].


Jeanes Foundation

- “Negro Rural School Fund Letters,” 1913; Hempstead County, Arkansas [SMC, Box 82, Folder No. 27].

- “Negro Rural School Fund Report,” 1917 – (four page, monthly Report, Hempstead County, Arkansas, April 1917); [SMC, Box 83, No. 3]

- “Ila Upchurch, Jeanes Teacher Project” (includes minutes, reports and printed material on the National Jeanes Association with applications by Miss Ila Upchurch); [Black History Grant, Arkansas Humanities Council, Location: 03/03/07]
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

- “Jeanes Supervisors in Rural Schools” [VFHC 5428]

Enoch K. Miller Papers – Correspondence of Rev. Enoch K. Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Education for the Freedmen’s Bureau (January 1867-September 1, 1868), and Missionary Superintendent for Arkansas for the American Missionary Association (AMA) [SMC, Box XII, No. 1].

Little River County Records – Register of Teacher Licenses: 1900-1933 & 8th Grade Records, Black Schools: 1925-1933 [MFILM County 03218]


Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1873-1904 (Chapter X, “Negro Normals,” 1895, 1896) [MG08609]

“Teachers of the Freedmen in Arkansas,” by Larry Pearce, May 20, 1970 - a list of Freedmen teachers compiled from various sources; some Arkansas plantations and locations; some African American teachers, including Rev. Andrew Wallace of Little Rock [VFHC 2133]

Watkins, Beverly Dr. – Contains twelve school registers for colored students in the Tuckerman School District, Jackson County, Arkansas 1945-1963 – [BHCA, AR Humanities Council, Box #5]

WPA Files – Education: Negro Colleges (includes Dunbar High School).

**Bibliography of Books**

A Pictorial Evolution of Black Public School Administrators in Arkansas During the 20th and 21st Centuries,” Retired Educators of Little Rock and Other Public Schools [LB2831.724 .A8 P53 2003]


Charlotte Stephens: Little Rock’s First Black Teacher, Adolphine Fletcher Terry [E185.611 .T47 1973]

African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

*He Built A School with Two Dollars and Eighty-five Cents: Fargo Agricultural School*, Floyd Brown [LC2851 .F37 H4 1956]


*History of the Arkansas Teachers Association*, Thomas E. Patterson [F411.3 P277 1981]


*Public Secondary Schools For Negroes in Arkansas: A Complete List of All Public Schools for Negroes in Arkansas as of October 1, 1933* [LC2802.A8 P83 1935]


**Manuscript Collection**

State Department Files: Education – contains Arkansas Educational Directories, 1933-1958 (Accredited Negro high schools listed, names of principals, vocational agricultural instructors, home economics instructors) – Location: 06/01/02

**Yearbooks**

*Almyra, Arkansas County, Arkansas*


*Immanuel Christian Center and School*


*Augusta, Woodruff County, Arkansas*

- Carver High School, “The Bearcat,” 1952 [Archie Moore, Jr. Collection Supplement II, MS 00547 Box 5, File76]
- Carver High School, “The Bearcat,” 1956 [Curtis Sykes Collection, MG00147]
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas**

- Marion Anderson High School, “The Dragon,” 1964 [Curtis Sykes Collection, MG000147]

**Conway, Faulkner County, Arkansas**


**El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas**


**Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas**

- Eliza Miller School Annual, 1945-1946 (photocopy) - F410.5 .E45 1946

**Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas**


**Morrilton, Conway County, Arkansas**


**North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas**

- Scipio A. Jones High School, “The Dragonette,” Senior Edition, May 1946 (fragile), [Carolyn Owens Hervey Collection, MS000546 Box 1, File 16]

Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas

- Coleman High School, “The Bear,” 1963
- Dollarway High School, “The Cardinal,” 1966 (integrated)
- Merrill High School, “Merrillean Annual Yearbook,” 1946
- Townsend Park High School, “The Eagle,” 1964 [MG 04188]
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (Arkansas State College, A.M. &N.)
  - “The Alpha,” 1925 (photocopy) [LC 2851 .A75 A475 1925 Limited Access]
  - AM&N College yearbook, 1949 (photocopy) [F410.5 .L56 1949 Limited Access]
  - “The Lion,” 1930 [MG04187]
  - “The Lion,” 1957 and 1958 [LC 1046.5 M66 L56 Limited Access]

Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas


Strong, Union County, Arkansas

- Gardner High School yearbook, 1949 [B.J. Gardner Family Materials MG03611]

Turrell, Crittenden County, Arkansas

- Golden High School, “The Dragon,” 1957 [Curtis Sykes Collection, MG00147]

Fraternal Organizations

Grand Masonic Lodge of Arkansas, Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall
M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Mason, Arkansas Jurisdiction: [Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons MS000612]

Arkansas Masonic Monitor, Little Rock, Arkansas, May 1926, Volume X, Number 5: [Isaac T. Gillam Family Papers MS000400]
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Centennial Souvenir, 100 Years of Free Masonry, 1872-1972, M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Jurisdiction of Arkansas, 1972 August 6-9, Pine Bluff, Arkansas and 112 Communication, 112 Years of Freemasonry, 1872-1984,” 1984 August 5-8: [MG04312]

Sovereign Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Royal Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star 1938: [MG00031]


Most Worshipful, Prince Hall, Free and Accepted Masons [VFHC 7546]

**Knights and Daughters of Tabor**
Knights and Daughters of Tabor [Isaac T. Gillam Family Papers MS000400].

Knights and Daughters of Tabor: (Taborian Hall) Little Rock, Arkansas [VFHC 7547]

**Knights of Pythias**
Fraternal: Knights of Pythias: [VFHC 7542]

**Mosaic Templars**
Mosaic Templars - “Proceedings of the National Grand Lodge of Mosaic Templars of America,” 1917: [BHCA Collection MS000357]

History of the Mosaic Templars of America: Its Founders and Officers, by A.E. Bush and P.L. Dorman (1924) [MG08701]

Mosaic Templars - “Death Policy of National Grand Temple of Mosaic Templars of America, Bell Palace No. 247, Texarkana, Arkansas, and June 1924 [MG00031]

Mosaic Templars – Quarterly Report from Texarkana, Arkansas, 1927 [MG00031]

Mosaic Templars Employee Picnic, May 23, 1928 [General Photograph file #5627]

Mosaic Templars of America [VFHC 7543]
Odd Fellows
Odd Fellows Cemetery, North Little Rock [VFHC 1044].
Odd Fellows Benefit Association [Isaac T. Gillam Family Papers MS000400]

Royal Circle of Friends
Fraternal: Royal Circle of Friends, Helena, Arkansas [VFHC 7545]

United Friends of America

Fraternal Organization General
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority [VFHC 7107]
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated [VFHC 7750]
Fraternal Cemetery, Little Rock [VFHC 1044]
Omega Psi Phi [VFHC 7551]

Funeral Home Records
Dubisson Funeral Home Records: Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas - 1925-1968 [MG00052-MG00068]
Hubble Funeral Home: North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas - 1926-29, 1932-33 [MG03809, MG04990 – MG04995]
Pence Funeral Home: Conway, Faulkner Co., AR: 1904-? 1925 [MG04159 – MG04167]
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.


**Cemetery Records**
Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery Records, Little Rock, Arkansas [MG08599, MG08611]

Fraternal Cemetery Records: 1900-1999, City of Little Rock [MG08600]

**Books, Pamphlets, Vertical Files**

**Columbia County**


**Conway County**


**Drew County**


**Lafayette County**

Gone to a Better Land, Jerome C. Rose, Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series No. 25 [[F417 .L2 G66 1985]

**Lonoke County**

Lonoke County, Arkansas Cemetery Inscriptions, Black Cemeteries, Volume 5 Martinet, Tom C. [F420 .L8 M37 1996]

**Pulaski County**

African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.


Dubisson Funeral Home Record Index, Vol. 1, 1925-1945 by Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Arkansas Chapter [F419 .L7 D8 2002]


“Fraternal Cemetery: Reflections on a Southern Negro Graveyard,” Joe Neal, Pulaski County Historical Review, March 1977, pp. 1-13 Volume XXV, No. 1


Mt. Pilgrim Cemetery, Maumelle, Pulaski County Northwest Pulaski County; transcription by April Goff [F420 .P98 G63 1999]

Odd Fellows Cemetery, North Little Rock: [VFHC 1099]

Swinton Cemetery - North Little Rock, Pulaski County by April Goff: [VFHC 1146]

Union County

African American Cemeteries: Union County, Arkansas, Volume 1 Union County Genealogy Society [F420 .U5 A47 2000]

Lay Down My Burdens: African American Cemetery Transcriptions, Volume 1 by Barbara Lawrence [F420 .U5 C53 2003]


Manuscripts

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery Records [SMC 144.10]

General

African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Death Care Industry: African American Cemeteries and Funeral Homes, Roberta Hughes Wright and Wilbur B. Hughes III [GT 3203.H84 2007]

**Manuscript Collections**

A.E. Bush and P.L. Dorman [MG08701]

This collection contains history of the founders and early history, growth, and contribution of the Mosaic Templars of America.

Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers Papers [MS000218]

The Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers drew up their original constitution on January 7, 1967. This collection contains correspondence, minutes, and notices of Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers (AAWL) meetings. It also includes membership lists and records from the Little Rock Association of Women Lawyers, and the National Association of Women Lawyers. The records contain information on early women lawyers in Arkansas, as well as papers kept by past presidents of the AAWL.

Arkansas Baptist College Records 1899-1934, 1936-1983 [MG06545-MG06547]

This collection contain records on examination and class standing and school bulletins, school catalogs and other school records.


The ADAAHS was established in 1998 and its mission is to research, document and preserve the history and cultural heritage of African Americans in the Arkansas Delta for enrichment of future generation. The ADAAHS did an oral history Project on the civil right movement in Helena and West Helena, Arkansas. This collection contains an oral history notebook on stories of the civil rights movement in the late 20th century in Helena and West Helena, 14 VHS tapes and 4 cassette tapes.

Arkansas-Missouri Slave Case Documents 1850-1856 [MG04348]

This collection contains 32 documents collected during a lawsuit before the Arkansas Supreme Court concerning ownership of a number of slaves belonging to Andrew Estes of Miller County, Missouri that were sold to Willis A.J. Clinton of Crawford County, Arkansas.

Arkansas Teacher Association Membership Ledger: 1924-1925 [Location 03/05/06]

The Arkansas Teacher Association was established in 1898, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This collection contains one membership ledger. Names are listed by county.
Arkansas Trade School Papers, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 1949-1951 [MG MG04590- MG04596]

The Arkansas Trade School was a vocational-technical school that opened in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 1949 for black veterans of World War II. The school apparently operated on funds from the G.I. Bill, but financial problems during the brief years its operation, 1949-1951. The collection contains student records, correspondence, financial records and a few photographs.

Black History Commission of Arkansas (BHCA) – [MS000357] (formerly the Black History Advisory Committee, BHAC)

This African American collection consist of materials submitted by members of the Black History Advisory Committee, materials received through BHAC funding grants including church, school, biographical and community histories. The collection also includes materials purchased by the committee.

Black History Grant Collection (BHG): Arkansas Humanities Council [Location 3/3/5]

This African American collection includes church, school, biographical and community histories submitted by organizations receiving funding grants through the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Christway Missionary Baptist Church [Location 03/03/05]

Little Rock, Arkansas. The church was founded in the year 2000. The materials in the collection contain various church programs, calendar of events, business meeting reports and information on various ministries from 2005-2006. The collection consists of 2 boxes that are arranged alphabetically.

James Franklin “J. F.” Cooley [MS000045]

The personal papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, awards and photographs of Rev. J.F. Cooley who moved to Forrest City, St. Francis County, Arkansas in 1957 as a Presbyterian minister. Cooley was also a teacher and community leader who worked to combat juvenile delinquency in the area. In 1969, the Forrest City School District dismissed Cooley from his teaching position for what he considered his civil rights involvement. His firing initiated a major student riot at Lincoln Junior-Senior High School in protest.

James Franklin “J.F.” Cooley, Supplement [MS000052]

The personal papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, awards and photographs of Rev. J.F. Cooley who moved to Forrest City, St. Francis County, Arkansas in 1957 as a Presbyterian minister. Cooley was also a teacher and community leader who worked to combat juvenile delinquency in the area. In 1969, the Forrest City School District dismissed Cooley from this
teaching position for what he considered his civil rights involvement. His firing initiated a major student riot at Lincoln Junior-Senior High School in protest.

**B.J. Gardner Collection [MG03611]**

Gardner was born May 30, 1869 near Farmersville, Union Parish, and Louisiana. He began teaching at the early age of 17 and taught in Louisiana for 3 years before moving to Arkansas. He taught in Pine Grove, Union County, Arkansas for fifty-three years and was co-founder of Gardner High School which was named in his honor. He was the first principal of Gardner High School which opened in 1936. His collection includes personal documents, Louisiana and Arkansas teacher licenses (beginning 1893) and “The Tigerette,” 1949 yearbook [Time Period: 1849-1968]

**Carolyn Owens Hervey Collection [MS000546]**

This collection consists of original church anniversary programs for several African American churches in Little Rock from the mid-1940s-1980s. The collection also contains commencement and yearbooks for Scipio A. Jones High School, North Little Rock from the early 1930s-1950s and a panoramic photograph of the Mosaic Templars Employee Picnic, 1928. Carolyn Owens Hervey is an avid genealogist and local history researcher and presenter who have worked in the research room of the Arkansas State Archives for many years.

**Isaac T. Gillam Family Papers [MS000400]**

Professor Isaac T. Gillam, Jr., an Arkansas educator was the son of Isaac T. Gillam, Sr. who served in the Arkansas Legislator from 1882-1884. Isaac Gillam, Jr. was a principal at Mifflin W. Gibbs High School in Little Rock, Arkansas and supervised all of the colored high schools of the city. He was a member of the Arkansas Teachers Association and was a member of several fraternal organizations. In 1963, Gillam Elementary School in Little Rock, now closed, was named in his honor.

**NAACP [MG01348-MG01365]**

Visual Material from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Records

**Rector-Copeland Family Papers [Location: 03/03/07]**

Annie M. Copeland [July 1855 – May 12, 1915] was the daughter of William A. Rector of Little Rock who was elected city collector, city marshal and constable during reconstruction. She married William L. Copeland, an Arkansas legislator who served from 1873-1875, representing Crittenden County, Arkansas. The Rector-Copeland Family Papers consists of correspondence addressed to Annie M. Rector Copeland dated from 1875 to 1890. The letters were written by
close family members including her husband, William L. Copeland; father, William A. Rector; and childhood correspondence from younger brothers John and Lewis Rector and daughter, Ernestine Copeland. Correspondence to Annie Copeland from her brother, John Rector dated February 21, 1877 speaks of his attendance at the wedding of Lottie Andrews Stevens [Charlotte Stephens], Little Rock's first black teacher.

**Kinney Rollins Papers: 1918-1957 [MG04298]**

Rollins was a black farmer who lived near Bradley, Lafayette County, Arkansas. His papers include general merchandise receipts, insurance and tax receipts, bank and personal correspondence.

**The William Pickens Papers [MG02060-MG02088]**

This is a collection of personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, editorials, financial and medical records of William Pickens, Field Secretary for the NAACP, 1920-1942.

**Williamson Family History Collection [Location: 03/03/08]**

Reverend Samuel Williamson [June 12, 1795 - March 12, 1882], born in York District, South Carolina, a professor and later president of Davidson College (1854), a Presbyterian institution located in Davidson, North Carolina moved to Arkansas to become the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Washington, Hempstead County; migrating to the southwest part of the state with his family and slaves. One former slave, John Williamson, born about 1846, founded Haygood Academy in Washington, Arkansas in 1883 under the auspices of the Colored Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church. The Williamson Family History Collection consists of family, school and church histories, geographical research and correspondence. The research resulted in the publication of “A Williamson Saga: Samuel and John” compiled by Reverend Donald K. Campbell (2002). Reverend Campbell explores the forgotten ties between the white and black Williamson families.

**Sims Mortuary Funeral Programs: 1977-2005 [MS000537]**

Sims Mortuary, Incorporated in El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas was founded in 1951 by brothers Pete Sims, Jr., Floyd S. Sims and Sears W. Sims to provide funeral services to the African American communities of southern Arkansas. The business was established in the home where the brothers grew up on Liberty Street in El Dorado. Sims Mortuary Funeral Home Programs consists of 3 boxes of approximately 200 funeral programs of individuals from southern Arkansas and parts of Louisiana from 1977 to 2005. The collection includes local church programs, school programs and other miscellaneous material.

A catholic school for African Americans, established about 1909 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The school contained grades kindergarten through twelve. It closed in spring 1975. The collection contains school enrollment lists from 1910-1975 [photocopies]. The files are arranged chronically by school year and students listed by grades. The information varies, with some enrollments listing birth dates and religious denominations of students.

Curtis Sykes Collection [MG000578] Curtis H. Sykes Papers [MS000578]

This collection contains miscellaneous North Little Rock, Arkansas materials of church programs; the Arkansas Teacher Association’s publication, “The Bulletin” from 1931-1968 (scattered issues); Scipio A. Jones High School yearbook, “The Dragonette” and other miscellaneous yearbooks. Sykes is an original member of the Black History Advisory Committee and has been chairman since 1993. He was a high school principal and educator for over 34 years. He was also instrumental in the push to have African American history taught in Arkansas schools, grades K-12 which passed in the regular session of the State of Arkansas’ 81st General Assembly as Act 326 of 1997. He is a charter member of the North Little Rock History Commission, a frequent contributor of articles appearing in “The Times” Newspaper, North Little Rock, and a tireless historian and community leader.

Union African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.): 1964-2005 [Location 03/03/07]

Union African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), Little Rock, Arkansas was established in 1906 after a merger of Brown Memorial and Centennial A.M.E. Churches. Both Brown and Centennial A.M.E. Churches had been in existence since the 1890s. After the merger, the name changed to Union, and the site for a new building was purchased. The cornerstone of the new church at Wright Avenue and Pulaski Street was laid in 1911 under the pastorate of Reverend Ashford. During the 1960s, the church was home to several civil rights activists, and other church members are included among Arkansas's African American firsts in history. The collection consists of funeral programs dated from 1964-2005. The collection is contained in (1) box and arranged alphabetically.

Military Records

Civil War

Civil War: Union Service Records, United States Colored Troops: Infantry Organizations, 8th through 13th [ML 2823-2871]

Civil War: Index to Union Service Records, United States Colored Troops [ML 2874-2971]
Manuscript Collection


Small Manuscript Collection [Box VI, File 9]

- Monthly Return of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, Company G, 2nd Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent, 1864 March 31

- List of Clothing Camp and Garrison Equipment turned over to 1st Lieutenant A.D. Littleton of Company G, 2nd Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent by Captain A.L. Hanger (Heager), Company G, 2nd Arkansas Volunteers of African Descent, 1864 March 1


T289 – Index to U.S. Civil War Pension Records by State: United States Colored Troops

Index to U.S. Civil War Pension Records by State: 44th – 48th [MG03530]

Index to U.S. Civil War Pension Records by State: 52nd – 56th [MG03531]

Index to U.S. Civil War Pension Records by State: 56th (Cos. I-K) – 60th (Cos. A-E) - (includes 1st - 6th Arkansas infantries) [MG03532]

Index to U.S. Civil War Pensions Records by State: 60th (Cos. F-K) – 64 [MG03533]

General Index to Military Pensions: 1861 - 1934 [MG03529] (includes Civil War, Spanish American War, etc.)

Indexes

African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.


Civil War Diaries
“Diary of Jefferson Robinson, Hospital Stewart & 2nd Lieutenant, 54th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment, 1864-1865” – [MG00108]

World War I

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**HELENA**

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*The Reporter* – February 1, 1900 [1 issue, AA Newspapers MFILM NEWS 000908]

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**LITTLE ROCK**

*Arkansas Freeman* - September 28, 1869 [MFILM NEWS 000706]


*Arkansas Carrier* - March 25, 1976 – October 20, 1976 [MFILM NEWS 000708]

*Arkansas State Press* - May 9, 1941 - October 30, 1959; April 25, 1984 - March 25, 1993 [12 rolls, MFILM NEWS 000363]

*Arkansas Survey* - September 20, 1924 [1 issue, MFILM NEWS 000707]

*Arkansas Survey-Journal* - September 28, 1940 [1 issue, MFILM NEWS 000707]

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*Little Rock Reporter* - September 27, 1904 [1 issue, MFILM NEWS 000707]

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**STAMPS**

*Arkansas School News* - February, 1915 [1 issue, MG06559]

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*“About Our People,”* Greater New Hope Baptist Church - Malvern, Hot Spring County, Arkansas’ Format: Cassettes [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council, Box 15]

*Association for Preservation of North Little Rock, Arkansas, African American History (APNLRAA)*

North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas Oral History Interviews, Format: Cassettes [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council, Box 18]

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*“Madison Training School,”* Madison Community Outreach Center Madison, St. Francis County, Arkansas Format: VHS Video & Cassettes [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council]

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African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.


“The Influence of Historic African American Churches in Pine Bluff, Arkansas,” Arts and Science Center for Southeast, Arkansas Jefferson County, Arkansas, Format: VHS Videos [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council, Box 12]


Religion

Church Histories/Programs

Baptist

Arch Street Baptist - Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas – “The Seventh Anniversary Program of Reverend M.W. Williams Pastor of Arch Street Baptist Church, July 5-9, 1961” – [Carolyn Owens Hervey Collection, MS000546 Box 1, Folder 5].


Christway Missionary Baptist – Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR – [Christway Baptist Manuscript Collection Location 3/3/5]

Davis Creek Missionary Baptist – Prattsville, Grant County, AR (photos) – [BHG, Arkansas Humanities Council, Davis Creek Community Heritage, Box 17]

Eureka Baptist Church – Hot Springs, AR – [BHCA, “Hot Springs History from A Black Perspective, PHOEBE/The Uzuri Project, Box 9 Folders 3 & 6].
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**First Baptist Church** – El Dorado, Union County, AR (church programs) – [Sims Mortuary Collection MG00278-MG00279]

**First Baptist Church** - Forrest City, St. Francis County, AR – [BHAC-Black History Advisory Committee Collection, Box 2]

**First Baptist Church** - Jonesboro, Craighead County, AR – [African American Cultural Center and Church Project of Craighead County – 03/03/05].

**First Missionary Baptist Church** - Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR - (org. 1845) - [BHAC Collection, Box 2]

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**Forrest City First Baptist Church** – Forrest City, AR - “History of the Forrest City First Baptist Church: 1867-1995,” (includes photographs) – [MG08436].

**Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church** - Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR - [BHAC Committee Collection, Box 2]

**Greater Paradise Missionary Baptist Church** – El Dorado, Union County, AR (church programs) – [Sims Mortuary Collection MG00278-MG00279]

**King Solomon Baptist Church** - North Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

- “*Celebrating 100 Years of Blessings, 1904-2004, King Solomon Baptist Church, North Little Rock, AR*” [BX6249 .N67 L66 2004]

- *Program of the 66th Anniversary of King Solomon Baptist Church, July 14-19, 1970* – [Curtis Sykes Collection, General Microfilm, Roll 2]

- *Commemorating Our 84th Anniversary, 1904-1988, King Solomon Baptist Church, March 18-20, 1988* – [Curtis Sykes Collection, General Microfilm, Rolls].

**Longley Baptist Church** – Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR – “Longley Baptist Church celebrating 107 years United for Christ” [Unprocessed Manuscript box 58 Baptist A-Z ]

**Madison Light Missionary Baptist Church** - Madison, St. Francis County, AR - (org. 1897) – [BHG, Madison Training School, Box 1, Folder 6]

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church – Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR - *Eighty-Third Anniversary, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, October 6-12, 1958; The Liquidation Program Educational Building of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, October 17, 18, 19, 21, 1962; Dedication Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, April 15, 1973; Centennial Celebration Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, August 24-31, 1975* [Carolyn Owens Hervey Collection, Box 1, Folders 7-8].

Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church – Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR – “25th Church Anniversary of the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church,” [Unprocessed Manuscript box 58 Baptist A-Z]

Mt. Lake Missionary Baptist Church – Scott, Pulaski County, Arkansas [BHG, AR Humanities Council, Scott Connections, VHS Video, Box #13].

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church – Scott, Pulaski County, Arkansas [BHG, AR Humanities Council, Scott Connections, VHS Video, Box #13].

Mt. Morriah Missionary Baptist Church – Arkadelphia, Clark County, AR (centennial celebration and history) – [BX 6249.A7 M671989]

Mt. Zion Baptist Church – Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR “Newsette,” 1942 [Archie Moore, Jr. Material, Supplement 1 MG00031].

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church - Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, AR [BHAC Collection, Box 2]


Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - Arkadelphia, Clark County, Arkansas [copy negative: PS44-15].

Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church – Solgohachia, Conway County, Arkansas (Microfilm collection containing legal documents of community and church members; also church minutes, programs, etc) [Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Records [MS000610]

Pilgrim Progress Baptist Church - Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR – “The 70th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Progress Baptist Church, August 19, 20, 21, 1982” [Carolyn Owns Hervey Collection, MS000546 Box 1, Folder 11]
African American resource guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Pilgrim Valley Baptist Church** – Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR – “Pilgrim Valley Baptist Church, 90th Anniversary [program] [Unprocessed Manuscript box 58 Baptist A-Z]

**Roanoke Baptist Church** – Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas - “Roanoke Baptist Church, Seventy-six Years of Service and Leadership, 1868-1944, Tenth Anniversary of the Pastor, 1934-1944” [BX 6248 .R62 R64 1944].

**Sharon Missionary Baptist Church** - Alexander, Pulaski County, AR [BHAC, Black History Advisory Committee Collection, Box 2]


**St. Olive Missionary Baptist Church** – Dewitt, Arkansas - “1864-1964 Brochure, St. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Centennial Celebration.” [VFHC 1527]

**St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church** - Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, AR [VFHC 1530]

**St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church** – Scott, Arkansas [BHG, AR Humanities Council, Scott Connections, VHS Video, Box #13].

**Union Baptist Church** - Hot Springs, Garland County, AR [BHG, AR Humanities Council, PHOEBE/The Uzuri Project, Box #13].

*Primitive Baptist Association Minutes*

**Beouff River Primitive Baptist Association:** 1946, 1948, 1953, 1963, 1964 [MG07690]

**Caney Creek Primitive Baptist Association:** 1946, 1957-1958, 1964 [MG07721]

**Languille River Primitive Baptist Association:** 1926 [MG07853]

**Union Primitive Baptist Association:** 1924-1953, 1963-1964, 1966 [MG07060]

**Catholic**


**Episcopal**

Methodist

African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E)


Bethel AME - 600 Cedar Street, North Little Rock, AR – (org. 1873) – “Centennial Celebration, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1873-1973 - November 29-December 2, 1973 [Curtis Sykes Collection, MS00578].

Bethel AME - Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR - “Souvenir Program of the Formal Opening of the New Bethel A.M.E. Church, August 17-23, 1959; Mortgage Burning Service of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, December 9, 1979; One Hundredth Twentieth Anniversary Celebration, 1863-1963, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church” [Carolyn Owens Hervey Collection MS000546, Box 1, Folders 1-3].

Bethel AME - Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR – Corner Stone Laying Ceremonies (1965) [SMC, Box 72, LXXII, Folder No. 6]

Peter’s Rock A.M.E. Church - Marianna, Lee County, AR [BHAC Collection, Box 2]

St. John A.M.E. Church - Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, AR [BHAC Collection, Box 2]

Union A.M.E. Church – Little Rock, Arkansas – [funeral program; Union A.M.E. Church Manuscript Collection MS000543].


A.M.E. - A 21st Century Church, 47th Quadrennial General Conference, June 30-July 7, 2004, Indianapolis, Indiana. [Unprocessed Manuscript box 128]

AME Church Records - “Arkansas Annual Conference, African Methodist Episcopal Church” (1868-1895) – [MG07219]

Methodist Episcopal Church

Moses Chapel M.E. Church - Lonoke, Arkansas – “Lonoke Methodist M.E. Church, Program of the Mock Convention,” 1929 – [SMC, Box 85, Folder No. 16]
United Methodist

**Mallalieu United Methodist Church** – Fort Smith, Sebastian County, AR – “One Hundred, Tenth Anniversary Celebration, Mallalieu United Methodist Church.” [Unprocessed Manuscript box 128]


Slavery

**Books**


**ARTICLES:**


**FAMILY**

**Dawson** – Lawrence E. and Jno H. Dawson Account Books, Camden and Buena Vista, Arkansas, 1852-1903″ – [contains account and money received for hire (p.116), and recorded births of Negro slaves (pp. 122-124)] [MG 03523]


**Merriweather** – Slave family research conducted by Jane Wilkerson on Dave Meriweather, a former slave from Independence County, Arkansas [VFHC 1921]

**Smith Family** - Dallas County, Arkansas – [some slave names included] [MG 08676]

**Tate** - “Tate’s of Ouachita County” – Ouachita County, Arkansas [VFHC 5722]

**Microfilm**

“*Arkansas-Missouri Slave Case Documents 1850-1856*”

Documents collected during a lawsuit before the Arkansas Supreme Court concerning ownership of a number of slaves belonging to Andrew Estes (Miller County, MO) that were sold to Willis A.J. Clinton (Crawford County, AR). The collection contains 32 documents relating to the case. [MG04348 and BHAC collection MS 00357]
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen’s Bureau): 1865-1869 [MG 02176-MG02231]

Slave Manifests – “Port of New Orleans, Louisiana Outward Bound Slave Manifest, 1812-1860” [MG1208 – MG1231]

Slave Schedules

Alabama – 1850 - 1860
Arkansas – 1850 – 1860
Florida – 1850-1860
Georgia – 1850-1860
Kentucky – 1850-1860
Louisiana – 1850-1860
Mississippi – 1850-1860
Tennessee – 1850-1860
Texas – 1850-1860
Virginia – 1850-1860

Manuscripts


Bill of Sale: Slaves – David Nichol (Hempstead Co, AR) to John W. Walker (Pulaski County, AR) – [SMC, Box XIX, No. 4]

Bill of Sale/Slave Receipt – [SMC, Box 4, Folder 45] Bill of Sale/Slave Receipt [SMC, Box 4 Folder 48]

Bill of Sale: Robert W. Caskin to Rutson V.R. Greene (slaves) [SMC, Box VIII, No. 13, Rutzen V.R. Green Papers]

“Stephen and John D. Hightower Slave and Plantation Records” (1804-1886, bulk dates 1865; Panola County, Mississippi) [MG00282]