

PAULINE B. EANS COLLECTION (1926-1981)

Collection #:
M 0405

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Processed by:
Wilma L. Gibbs
23 March 1994

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive 1926-1981; Bulk 1970s
PROVENANCE:	Robienetta Driver, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Gwendolyn A. Thurman, Indianapolis, Indiana, 23 June 1983.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1986.0401
NOTES:	The Pauline B. Eans Collection was donated during the Black Women in the Middle West Project. The Black Women in the Middle West Project was a collecting effort to gather primary source materials of African-American women in Illinois and Indiana. The project, spearheaded by Darlene Clark Hine and Patrick Bidelman at Purdue University,

was conducted in three phases from 1977-1985. Project records are located at five repositories within the two states including the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) [houses the project's administrative records], Calumet Regional Archives, and the Northern Indiana Historical Society in Indiana and the Chicago Historical Society and the Illinois State Historical Society in Illinois. (Although the implementation phase of the project was from 1984-1985, several of the collections were donated to IHS in 1986.)

Additional information about the project is contained in *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana*, edited by Hine and Bidelman, et. al. and Wilma L. Gibbs's article "In Retrospect: The Black Women in the Middle West Project at the Indiana Historical Society," in *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes*.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Pauline Bryant Eans (21 March 1905--15 January 1981), the daughter of Samuel and Eugenia Thrasher Bryant, was born in Richards Chapel, Georgia. After attending public school in her native city, she went to Atlanta to attend Grady Hospital of Nursing and on to Clark College where she received a BA degree. She did graduate work at the University of Michigan, completing a Masters in Public Health Education and she began a doctoral program at New York University. The mother of two daughters, Robienetta Eans Driver and Gwendolyn Eans Thurman, she was married to Reverend Robert Henry Lee Eans.

During her early career, Pauline Eans was on faculty at Alabama A&M College and Lincoln University (Missouri). In 1955, she joined the Wishard Hospital School of Nursing faculty in Indianapolis, retiring in 1977.

While in Indianapolis she was active in several community organizations. She was founder of the Northwest Civic Association and was appointed to the Greater Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Corporation by Mayor Richard Lugar. She was also a member of Barnes United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, Sigma Theta Tau nursing sorority, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Council of Negro Women and the American Nurses Association.

Sources: Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Pauline B. Eans Collection consists of one box of material, mostly documenting the career of a teacher of nursing education. Eans completed early nursing training at the Grady Memorial Hospital and Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia. There are photographs (folder 2) and a 1926 memory book that commemorate her time at Grady and Clark. While a graduate student in public health education at the University of Michigan in 1945, Eans completed a summer field study at the Hartford (Connecticut) Tuberculosis and Public Health Society, Inc. As a health education assistant, she was assigned to the North End Health Club. Notes about her field work, along with correspondence and a summary and schedule are contained in folder 3. Folders 4 and 5 contain the rest of her correspondence, including several acknowledgments of her 1977 retirement from the Wishard Hospital School of Nursing. Many well-wishers were students, friends, former coworkers, and community leaders including Tom Binford (businessman), Mayor William Hudnut, III, Frank Johnson (director of Marion County Health and Hospital Corporation), and Senator Richard Lugar.

Eans's community efforts and her work as a nurse did not go unnoticed; commendations are in folder 7. There are also

photographs of her and/or others at work and with family and friends (folders 8 and 9). Eans was a founder of the Northwest Civic Association, Incorporated; material about the organization is contained in folder 10. She was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho, a sorority founded at Butler University in 1922. A program booklet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the organization is in folder 11.

An undated list of sources (pamphlets, reports, posters, visual education materials, etc.) of free and inexpensive teaching materials is contained in folder 13. The list includes several organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Library Association, American Medical Association, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. While on staff at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, Eans completed a five-year study of the institution's health services, a copy is contained in folder 14.

Eans died in 1981. Newspaper obituaries, a funeral program and a condolence letter to her daughter, Robienetta Driver, from Richard Lugar are in folder 15.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Correspondence, Organizations, Publications and Obituaries

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	College memory book, 1926
2	(VC) Grady Memorial Hospital and Clark College
3	Correspondence--1945 Field Study
4	Correpondence, 1952-1974, n.d.
5	Correspondence, 1977 (retirement letters)
6	Correspondence, 1977 (retirement cards)
7	Certificates
8	(VC) Pauline Eans friends and family
9	(VC) Pauline Eans, and/or co-workers, et. al. (1 folder b/w; 1 folder color)
10	Northwest Civic Association, Incorporated
11	Sigma Gamma Rho
12	Programs
13	Bibliography of educational materials
14	Lincoln University health services study
15	Obituaries, Condolences

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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