

ALTA M. JETT COLLECTION, 1916-1986

Collection #'s

M 495

BV 2686

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Processed by
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 bound volume

COLLECTION DATES: 1916-1986

PROVENANCE: Alta M. Jett, Richmond, Indiana

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

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 85.0621

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alta M. Boatwright Jett was born on April 2, 1920 in Lancaster, Kentucky. She was the first child of Annie and Charles Boatwright's three children. During her early infancy, the Boatwrights moved to Richmond, Indiana. She attended both Earlham College in Richmond and Indiana University- Purdue University at Indianapolis. Later she married Richard E. Jett, who was a carpenter and a musician. For the most part, Jett lived her life in Richmond. She has had a variety of occupations throughout her life. During the 1930s , Alta Jett was a domestic servant, and at the outbreak of World War II she began to work in a factory. In 1966 she was employed in the credit office of Montgomery Wards until 1967 when she started doing part-time janitorial work for People's Federal Savings and Loan in Richmond. She retired in 1985.

Church activities kept Alta Jett very busy. She belonged to Mount Moriah Baptist Church from 1952 to 1973; she then became a member of New Hope Baptist Church until 1974. She went back to Mount Moriah in 1974 and is still a member today. Her church activities included Sunday school, choir, missionary society, and vacation bible school. She has also been the church clerk and church anniversary chairperson.

Alta Jett was also very busy in the Richmond community. She has been president of the Mary B. Talbert Club and Vice Precinct Committeeman for the Democratic Party. She has also been associated with the Girl Scouts, Mental Health Board, Block mothers, mother's study group, the YMCA board, C.R. Richardson board, and the Townsend Center Board. She writes obituaries and is interested in Black history. Mrs. Jett has given a number of public addresses on the subject.

Source: *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Guide Illinois and Indiana*, p. 44

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains the following:

There are six manuscript boxes with material from Alta Jett's personal life, newspaper clippings from the Richmond area, church programs, club programs and records, and material donated by three residents of Richmond. There is also material dealing exclusively with the Margaret Smith and Mary Hill nursing homes in Richmond, Indiana.

Box 1, Folders 1-7 contains some of Alta Jett's private correspondence and some miscellaneous programs and documents. Financial records, political posters, and funeral programs with obituaries written by Mrs. Jett, can also be found here, along with a scrapbook of Indiana Black Women. The scrapbook contains brief biographies of socially active women, as well as media personalities.

Box 1, Folders 8-15 includes service programs, documents, anniversary programs, newspaper clippings concerning the Mount Moriah Baptist Church from 1956 to 1981. The box also contains miscellaneous church programs from Second Baptist, Bethel AME, Missionary Baptist, and other religious organizations. A scrapbook of Mount Moriah Church and obituaries, 1958-1985 is also included--See BV 2686.

Box 2, Folders 1-6 has material from the Townsend Community Center from 1956 to 1985. In addition, notes and minutes, as well as newspaper clippings can be found for the Mary B. Talbert Club from 1953 to 1983. Programs for the convention of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1962 to 1985 are also included.

Box 2, Folders 7-10 contain materials donated by Majorie Bradford, Esther Vandlingham, and Christella Kelly. At the time of collection, all were residents of Richmond, Indiana. The Bradford collection consists of mainly church programs from the Greater Second Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond. The Vanlandingham collection contains material concerning the Vanlandingham singers. The Kelly collection consists of clippings from the Richmond area newspaper.

Box 2, Folders 11-16 and Box 3, Folders 1-2 hold the records of both the Margaret Smith Nursing Home and the Mary E. Hill Home for Aged Women.

Box 3, Folders 3-7 has newspaper clippings from the Richmond area from as early as 1916 up until 1986.

BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

Box 1: Alta Jett Papers; Mount Moriah Baptist Church; other church programs.

Folder 1: Jett Correspondence 1934-1982

Folder 2: Miscellaneous programs and documents 1953-1985

Folder 3: Financial Records 1959-1977

Folder 4: Political and Legal Documents 1961-1982

Folder 5: Obituaries 1969-1985

Folder 6: Biographies

Folder 7: Scrapbook of Indiana Black Women

Folder 8: Mount Moriah Church Services 1956-1972

Folder 9: Mount Moriah Church Documents 1959-1970

Folder 10: Mount Moriah Church Programs 1961-1981

Folder 11: Mount Moriah Church news clippings 1956-1962

Folder 12: Second Baptist Church, Richmond 1958-1985

Folder 13: Bethel AME Church, Richmond

Folder 14: Missionary Baptst Church, Richmond 1983-1984

Folder 15 (BV 2686): Scrapbook of Mount Moriah Church and obituaries, 1758-1985

Box 2: Organizations; Bradford Papers, Vanlandingham Papers, Kelly Papers; Margaret Smith Home and Mary E. Hill Nursing Home

Folder 1: Mary B. Talbert Record Book 1953-1961

Folder 2: Mary B. Talbert Federated Club 1959-1967

Folder 3: Mary B. Talbert clippings 1961-1983

Folder 4: IFCWC 1962- 1985

Folder 5: Townsend Community Center 1956-1985

Folder 6: Townsend Community Center clippings

Folder 7: Marjorie Bradford papers 1922-1984

Folder 8: Esther Vanlandingham papers 1947-1984

Folder 9: Christella Kelly clippings, no dates

Folder 10: Christella Kelly clippings 1967-1984

Folder 11: Margaret Smith Home: rules, regulations, and annual report

Folder 12: Mary E. Hill Nursing Home: meeting minutes 1952-1955

Folder 13: Mary E. Hill: operational and recreational papers

Folder 14: Mary E. Hill: Howard Alexander correspondence 1955-1957

Folder 15: Financial Records 1951, 1954, 1956, 1957

Folder 16: Financial Records 1955

Box 3: Mary E. Hill Nursing Home; Newspaper Clippings

Folder 1: Financial Records, no dates

Folder 2: Corporation Record for Mary B. Hill Nursing Home

Folder 3: Clippings 1916-1969

Folder 4: Clippings 1970-1979

Folder 5: Clippings 1980-1984

Folder 6: Clippings 1985-1986

Folder 7: Clippings, no dates

CATALOUGING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Jett, Alta M., 1920-

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Jett, Alta M., 1920-

Bethal A.M.E. Church (Richmond, Ind.)

Mount Moriah Baptist Church (Richmond, Ind.)

Second Baptist Church (Richmond, Ind.)

Margaret Smith Home (Richmond, Ind.)

Mary E. Hill Home (Richmond, Ind.)

Mary B. Talbert Federated Club (Richmond, Ind.)

Townsend Community Center (Richmond, Ind.)

Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs
Vanlandingham Singers (Richmond, Ind.)
Black Women in the Middle West Project
Afro-American women--Indiana--Richmond
Women--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-American aged--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-American Baptists--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-American churches--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-American musicians--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-American singers--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-Americans--Indiana--Richmond--Music
Afro-Americans--Indiana--Richmond--Religion
Afro-Americans--Indiana--Richmond--Societies, etc.
Churches--Indiana--Richmond
Obituaries--Indiana--Richmond
Old age homes, Afro-American--Indiana--Richmond
Women--Indiana--Richmond--Religious life
Women in the broadcasting industry--Indiana--Richmond
Women--Indiana--Richmond--Societies and clubs
Women and religion--Indiana--Richmond
Afro-American women--Indiana--Richmond--Societies, etc.
Nursing homes--Indiana--Richmond
Baptists--Indiana--Richmond
ADDED ENTRIES: Bradford, Marjorie
Vanlandingham, Esther
Kelly, Christella

END