

Collection #
M 0541
OM 0523

**BERNICE WALKER
PAPERS, 1931–1984**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	6 manuscript boxes; 2 oversize folders
COLLECTION DATES:	1931-1984; Bulk 1973-1984
PROVENANCE:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	M 0530 Black Women in the Middle West Project Records, 1932- 1986; Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana (E 185.6 .B53 1986), edited by Hine and Bidelman, et. al.
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1998.0124x
NOTES:	<p>The Bernice Walker Papers was donated during the Black Women in the Middle West Project.</p> <p>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) [also 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.)</p>

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bernice Walker (May 17, 1905–June 15, 1996) was born in Anderson, Indiana. Her parents were George Lewis (February 26, 1884 - death date unknown) born in Indianapolis and Sarah Etta McMurray Jones (July 3, 1888–March 7, 1964) born in Bridgeport, Indiana. As a child, she was a member of Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Anderson. After moving to Indianapolis, she became a member of the local Allen Chapel AME Church.

Walker attended Manual Training School in Indianapolis. She graduated from Wendell Phillips in Chicago. She attended Bookwood College in New York, majoring in Industrial Relations and Psychology.

She worked for Wainwright Music Camp, the Ft. Benjamin Harrison Army Finance Center, and the Internal Revenue Service.

As an active member of Allen Chapel AME Church, Walker belonged to the Flora Bryant Missionary Society, the Senior Choir, and the Laymen's League. She was also affiliated with the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, National Council of Negro Women, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Citizens Forum, Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association, and the Alpha Pi Chi Sorority.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana. Indianapolis, Ind.: National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of General Programs, 1986 E185.93 .I4 B52 1993.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of six manuscript boxes of material and two oversize folders divided into six series that pertain to Bernice Walker, an Indianapolis government worker who belonged to several religious, social, and women organizations.

Series 1 Personal Materials contains biographical information, personal correspondence, and essays and speeches related to Bernice Walker. Box 1, folder 4 contains a tribute written by Walker about her grandmother, who, according to the tribute, was enslaved before coming to Indiana.

Series 2 Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church programs, records, and Women's Missionary Society; African Methodist Episcopal Denomination Walker was a longtime member of Allen Chapel AME Church in Indianapolis. Several folders in this series contain materials related to the Women's Missionary Society of Allen Chapel AME. There are also church calendars, financial statements, and programs. These materials encompass most of boxes 1 and 2. Indiana AME churches are part of the 4th district of the denomination. The series ends with general AME denominational materials that pertain to its Indiana Annual Conference and layman's organization.

Series 3 Other Churches There are several folders containing information about various churches located in Indianapolis, as well as Anderson, Detroit, Philadelphia, South Bend, and Montreal (Quebec, Canada) in Series 3. (Unless otherwise noted in the Box and Folder Listing, the church is located in Indianapolis.) These materials are arranged alphabetically by the name of the church.

Series 4: Organizations Bernice Walker was a member of the Alpha Pi Chi Sorority, a national service organization incorporated in Chicago on 7 January 1963. Alpha Pi Chi seceded from Alpha Gammon Chi Sorority. The goals of the new organization included broadening the interests of women; training women for leadership positions; and developing its members culturally, socially, and intellectually to augment fuller personal success. The collection contains many records of Alpha Pi Chi Sorority, including correspondence, membership lists, programs, and proclamations. Walker worked for and volunteered at the Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association. Materials related to that organization along with several others including the Alpha Home, Baptist Ministers' Wives Alliance, Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Indiana State Federation of Associated Clubs, National Council of Negro Women, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Indianapolis Chapter, and the West Parkview Civic Club are located in boxes 3–5. Of special note are a program booklet from the 1951 conference of the National Association of Negro Musicians, a 1978 reprint of a 1902 history of the National Federation of Afro-American Women, and a 1965 Walker Beauty College graduation booklet.

Series 5 Individuals; Plays, Songs, and Booklists This series includes material related to various well-known individuals. It also has a copy of the Negro National Anthem and playbills for *Showboat* and *Carmen Jones*. Of particular interest is a Martin Luther King, Jr. program that highlights King's appearance at Cadle Tabernacle in Indianapolis on December 12, 1958.

Series 6 Publications Copies of *The Friday Caller*, an Allen Chapel AME Church (Indianapolis) weekly newsletter dated from 1974 to 1984, are in boxes 5 and 6. There are other publications in the series, including a copy of *The Testament*, an Allen Chapel AME Church newspaper dated February 11, 1968. It includes a historical perspective of the church and an article about the Lutheran Church in the United States.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Personal Materials

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Biographical Materials, 1955–1979, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1945–1984	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence–Retirement greetings	Box 1 , Folder 3
“My Tribute to my Grandma”	Box 1, Folder 4
Essays and Speeches	Box 1, Folder 5
Miscellaneous Receipts, 1961–1978, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6

Series 2: Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church programs, records, and Women’s Missionary Society; African Methodist Episcopal Denomination

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Allen Chapel AME Programs, 1932–1972	Box1, Folder 7
Allen Chapel AME Programs, 1973–1976	Box 1, Folder 8
Allen Chapel AME Programs, 1977–1979	Box 1, Folder 9
Allen Chapel AME Programs, 1980–1984, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
Allen Chapel AME Miscellaneous Records, 1968–1979, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 11
Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) History (includes history of the WMS of the AME Church, One Hundred Years of Victorious Service, by Verdelle Jennings Johnston, ca. 1975; organizational chart)	Box 1, Folder 12
Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) Correspondence, 1976–1981, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 13
Women’s Missionary Society Constitution and By-Laws	Box 1, Folder 14

Women's Missionary Society Annual Reports, 1973–1980, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 15
Women's Missionary Society Committees, 1973–1980, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 16
Women's Missionary Society Prayer Calendar, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 1
Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention, 1975–1980	Box 2, Folder 2
Women's Missionary Society Leadership Training Institute, 1973–1977, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 3
Women's Missionary Society Membership List	Box 2, Folder 4
Women's Missionary Society Biographies	Box 2, Folder 5
Women's Missionary Society Publicity, Notes, 1973–1976, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 6
Women's Missionary Society Programs, 1974–1981, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7
Women's Missionary Society Publications, 1976–1980	Box 2, Folder 8
Women's Missionary Society Financial Records, 1976–1980	Box 2, Folder 9
African Methodist Episcopal (AME) History	Box 2, Folder 10
African Methodist Episcopal–4 th District	Box 2, Folder 11
African Methodist Episcopal Indiana Annual Conference, 1968–1979, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 12
African Methodist Episcopal–North District	Box 2, Folder 13
African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) Catalog, 1979	Box 2, Folder 14
African Methodist Episcopal Layman's Organization, 1977–1984, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 15
African Methodist Episcopal Layman's Directory, 1973–1982	Box 2, Folder 16

Series 3: Other Churches

CONTENTS

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Indianapolis, Ind., 1974–1978

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Muncie, Ind.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Noblesville, Ind.

(Mother) Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion
Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Corinthian Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

First Friends Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Metropolitan Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

New Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Notre Dame Church, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Olivet African Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Bend, Ind.

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Detroit, Michigan

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Wallace Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion
Church, Anderson, Ind.

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 17

Box 2, Folder 18

Box 2, Folder 19

Box 2, Folder 20

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2

Box 3, Folder 3

Box 3, Folder 4

Box 3, Folder 5

Box 3, Folder 6

Box 3, Folder 7

Box 3, Folder 8

Box 3, Folder 9

Box 3, Folder 10

Box 3, Folder 11

Box 3, Folder 12

West Parkview Missionary Baptist Church,
Indianapolis, Ind. Box 3, Folder 13

Witherspoon United Presbyterian Church,
Indianapolis, Ind. Box 3, Folder 14

Series 4: ORGANIZATIONS

CONTENTS

Alpha Home, 1949–1971, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi History

Alpha Pi Chi Correspondence, 1965–1972

Alpha Pi Chi Correspondence, 1973–1974

Alpha Pi Chi Correspondence, 1975–1982, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi By-Laws and Resolutions, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Minutes, 1970–1975, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Proclamations, Pledges, and Certificates,
1966–1967, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Committees and Conferences, 1974–
1978, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Membership Exams

Alpha Pi Chi Membership Lists and Profiles,
1966–1974, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Events and Activities, 1967–1970, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Programs, 1964–1982, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Sisterhood Essays, 1973, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Speeches

Alpha Pi Chi Financial Records, 1965–1979, n.d.

Alpha Pi Chi Newsletters, 1967–1984

CONTAINER

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AMEZ (Alpha Methodist Episcopal Zion) meeting, 1949	Box 4, Folder 1
Baptist Ministers Wives Alliance, 1976–1977	Box 4, Folder 2
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., 1974	Box 4, Folder 3
Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, 1980	Box 4, Folder 4
Council of Social Agencies Community Institute, 1947	Box 4, Folder 5
Health and Welfare Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, 1954	Box 4, Folder 6
Indiana Civil Rights Commission, 1963 - 1976, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 7
Indiana Civil Rights Commission Map showing segregation in Indianapolis from pre-1950 through 1967	OM 0523, Folder 1
Indiana Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs History	Box 4, Folder 8
Indiana Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs, 1969 - 1979	Box 4, Folder 9
Indiana Women’s Prison	Box 4, Folder 10
Indianapolis Bicentennial Committee, 1975–1976	Box 4, Folder 11
Industrial Improvement Club, 1931 – 1932	Box4 , Folder 12
National Association of Negro Musicians, 1951 – 1952	Box 4, Folder 13
National Council of Negro Women	Box 4, Folder 14
National Federation of Afro- American Women (publication: <i>A History of the Club Movement Among the Colored Women of the United States</i> , 1978 first printing-1902)	Box 4, Folder 15
National League of Women Voters, 1944 - 1946, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 16
Noble Industries	Box 4, Folder 17
Phyllis Wheatley Club, Anderson, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 18

Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association By-Laws and Statement of Purpose, 1935, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 19
Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association Correspondence, 1950 - 1955, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 20
Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association Committees, 1947 - 1954, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 21
Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association Programs, 1932 - 1975, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 22
Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association Annual Reports, 1952 - 1953	Box 4, Folder 24
Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association Financial Records, 1951-1954, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 25
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Home for the Aged	Box 5, Folder 1
Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Indianapolis chapter	Box 5, Folder 2
Suavettes	Box 5, Folder 3
Walker Beauty College graduation booklet, 1965	Box 5, Folder 4
West Dayton Area Council Self Help Center, Dayton, Ohio	Box 5, Folder 5
West Parkview Civic Club, 1958	Box 5, Folder 6
World Day of Prayer	Box 5, Folder 7

Young Women's Christian Association (Indianapolis YWCA) Box 5, Folder 8

Series 5: Individuals; Plays, Songs, and Booklists

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CONTAINER

Marian Anderson (memorabilia from her performance with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Fabien Sevitzyk at the Cadle Tabernacle during the 1940s; also biographical booklet) Box 5, Folder 9

John Hunter (bishop with the AME denomination) Box 5, Folder 10

Martin Luther King, Jr. program, Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, Ind., 12-12-1958 Box 5, Folder 11

George P. Knox Box 5, Folder 12

Negro National Anthem; Black Book List Box 5, Folder 13

Playbills for Showboat and Carmen Jones Box 5, Folder 14

Plays, Prayers, Scriptures, and Hymns Box 5, Folder 15

Series 6: Publications

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CONTAINER

The Indianapolis Downtowner, April 1972 Box 5, Folder 16

The Negro in 1944 (produced by the National Political Action Committee of the CIO) Box 5, Folder 17

The Friday Caller, 1974 Box 5, Folder 18

The Friday Caller, 1975 Box 5, Folder 19

The Friday Caller, 1976 Box 6, Folder 1

The Friday Caller, 1977–1978 Box 6, Folder 2

The Friday Caller, 1979 Box 6, Folder 3

The Friday Caller, 1980 Box 6, Folder 4

The Friday Caller, 1981–1984 Box 6, Folder 5

The Testament, Allen Chapel AME Church
newspaper, February 11, 1968

OM 0523, Folder 2

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:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0541).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.