

Collection #
M 0845
OM 0431

JOHN A. PATTON PAPERS, 1903–1988

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 4 boxes, 5 oversize folders Visual Materials: 1 box of photographs, 1 OVA size photograph folder Artifacts: 1 artifact
COLLECTION DATES:	1903 – 1988
PROVENANCE:	Kenny Washington, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 2005

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Fall Creek YMCA, M 0849; Flanner House, M 0513; Lionel Artis M 0762

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0205

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John A. Patton was born December 10, 1883 in Topeka, Kansas. After obtaining his embalming license in Illinois, he came to Indianapolis in 1920 with his wife, Lillian. He subsequently established the John A. Patton funeral home at 1936 Boulevard Place, later selling the business to Mark A. Batties, who moved it to 2357 Northwestern Avenue.

Patton was active in the Methodist Church, serving as Treasurer of the Simpson Methodist Church in Indianapolis and later as the first lay member to serve as treasurer of the General Conference. He was also nationally engaged with the missionary movement and served on the Board of Home Missions and Church Extensions. Lillian joined John in his church work and was one of the founders of Simpson's Bishop Jones Circle, serving as president for 24 years.

During the 1930s, Patton actively engaged in YMCA work. For six years he was General Chairman of the Senate Avenue YMCA membership campaign which annually met or exceeded its goal. Through the Pioneer Boys Club, he financed the first memberships in 1928, and continued that generosity throughout the 1930s. He also helped several young men further their education.

The Patton's had a son, John A. Jr., and later adopted Joseph Mason, one of the young men whom John Sr. helped during the depression.

Lillian Patton died in March, 1952, and in 1954, John married Georgia Martin, a neighbor in the summer home at Idlewild, Michigan, and in Indianapolis, and the widow of Oliver T. Martin who died in May, 1949. John Patton had become a notary and real estate broker in 1949. He continued his work on behalf of the financial health of the Methodist Church well into the 1950s. John A. Patton died in January, 1971.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Indianapolis Recorder, March 22, 1952 and Jan. 23, 1971.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is divided into four series, the first being John Patton's correspondence and other materials. From 1903, when schoolmates were writing him condolence notes on the death of his father, to the 1968 legal notice from Methodist Hospital regarding a new addition, Patton corresponded with a wide-ranging group of people. Contained in the collection are letters from missionaries in Africa, correspondence to and from Robert De Frantz in the New York office of the YMCA, and communication to volunteers in YMCAs around the country. Also included is correspondence with Methodist churchmen Bishop Robert E. Jones and Reverend Mathew W. Clair. Controversial matters are discussed in his correspondence about the Simpson Church in 1939 and the B.H. Austin Co. stock deal. His eloquence in thanking the volunteers in the membership campaigns he ran is only surpassed in the hand-written courtship letters he wrote to Georgia, who became his wife in 1954.

Series 2 contains some organizational materials from the Methodist Church and the Senate Avenue Y. Box 2, folders 15–17 provide an overview of the YMCA and its place within the Indianapolis African American community. With the help of captains and their teams, General Chairman, John Patton, led several successful membership campaigns. Folder 16 includes solicitation letters, lists of prospective workers and contributors, progress reports, and agendas for campaign meetings. Other prominent Indianapolis organizations represented in the series are Flanner House Homes, Inc., the Community Hospital Association, and the Indianapolis Public Schools. Flanner House Homes, Inc. was formed as a way to address a critical housing shortage for African Americans in Indianapolis after World War II. An agenda from an organizational meeting held on November 8, 1945 and the by-laws of the organization are contained in the collection. The collection includes photographs of Idlewild, Michigan, and fishing trips as well as snapshots of friends.

The third series, Georgia Martin Patton, contains her correspondence and financial and real estate records. There are materials related to her son, James O. Martin, and her daughter, Emma Gee Washington, along with their IPS report cards. The fourth and final series includes Oliver Twist Martin's papers. During their marriage, he and Georgia owned several real estate parcels, along with the Martin Coal Company, and these records make up the bulk of this section.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: John A. Patton Correspondence

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Correspondence, 1903–1929	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1930–33	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1934–35	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, January – July, 1936	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, August – December, 1936	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence, January – June, 1937	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence, July – December, 1937	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence, 1938	Box 1, Folder 8
Correspondence, January –May, 1939	Box 1, Folder 9
Correspondence, June – July, 1939	Box 1, Folder 10

Correspondence, August – October, 1939	Box 1, Folder 11
Correspondence, November – December, 1939	Box 1, Folder 12
Correspondence, January – May, 1940	Box 1, Folder 13
Correspondence, June – December, 1940	Box 1, Folder 14
Correspondence, 1941 - 1944	Box 1, Folder 15
Correspondence, 1945 – 1949	Box 1, Folder 16
Correspondence, 1952 - 1953	Box 2, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1954 -1959	Box 2, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1961 – 1968	Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence, no date	Box 2, Folder 4
Drafts, Correspondence	Box 2, Folder 5
Drafts, Story	Box 2, Folder 6
Embalmer's License, 1920	OM 0431, Folder 1
Real Estate License, 1949	Box 2, Folder 7
Notary Public, 1949	Box 2, Folder 8
[Senate Avenue] YMCA Service Award, 1928 Plaque	Artifact: R2115

Series 2: John A. Patton, Organizations and Business

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Membership cards and receipts	Box 2, Folder 9
Medical reports, 1942-45	Box 2, Folder 10
Methodist church committees	Box 2, Folder 11
Methodist church Central Conference, 1940	Box 2, Folder 12
Community Hospital Association, no date	Box 2, Folder 13
Flanner House Homes, Inc., Organizing Meeting, 1945	Box 2, Folder 14
Senate Avenue YMCA Campaigns, 1933-36	Box 2, Folder 15
Senate Avenue YMCA Founders	Box 2, Folder 16
<i>The "Y's Man</i> , 1931-1959	Box 2, Folder 17

Forty-Fourth International Convention, YMCAs, 1935	Box 2, Folder 18
Publications and Programs	Box 2, Folder 19
<i>Color</i> , October, 1953 [national in scope, magazine published in Charleston, WV]	OM 0431, Folder 2
Clippings, Personal	Box 3, Folder 1
Clippings, General	Box 3, Folder 2
Mortgage and Loan Papers	Box 3, Folder 3
Mortuary Inventory	Box 3, Folder 4
Patton Funeral Home Blueprints	OM 0431, Folder 3
Invoices	Box 3, Folder 5
Real Estate Tax Receipts, 1955-1966	Box 3, Folder 6
Real Estate Tax Receipts, 1967–1971	Box 3, Folder 7
Real Estate and Banking, Michigan	Box 3, Folder 8
Insurance	OM 0431, Folder 4
Last Will and Testament	Box 3, Folder 9
IPS Conferences, 1952-54	Box 3, Folder 10
Individuals Identified	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Individuals, Unidentified	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
Groups, Unidentified	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 3
Places Identified	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4
Places, Unidentified	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5
Fishing Vacations	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6
Series 3: Georgia Martin Patton Materials	
CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence	Box 3, Folder 11

Finance	Box 3, Folder 12
Real Estate	Box 3, Folder 13
Insurance	Box 3, Folder 14
Will and Personal Property	Box 3, Folder 15
James O. Martin Finance	Box 3, Folder 16
James O. Martin IPS report cards	Box 3, Folder 17
James O. Martin, School 23 Review, June 1931	Box 3, Folder 18
Emma Gee Washington Finance	Box 3, Folder 19
Emma Gee Washington Correspondence	Box 3, Folder 20
Emma Gee Martin IPS report cards	Box 3, Folder 21
Kenneth Washington	Box 3, Folder 22

Series 4: Oliver T. Martin Papers

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Sympathy Notes, May 1949	Box 4, Folder 1
Banking	Box 4, Folder 2
Legal and Real Estate, 1900-1931	Box 4, Folder 3
Legal and Real Estate, 1932-37	Box 4, Folder 4
Legal and Real Estate, 1938-1948	Box 4, Folder 5
Life and Casualty Insurance	Box 4, Folder 6
Real Estate Insurance, 1932-1943	Box 4, Folder 7
Real Estate Insurance, 1945-1953	Box 4, Folder 8
Real Estate Tax Receipts, 1968-72	Box 4, Folder 9
Real Estate Title, Charles Post Guardian, 1 st Addition (Indianapolis)	OM 0431, Folder 5
Martin Coal Company	Box 4, Folder 10
Wills	Box 4, Folder 11

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 0845).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.