LAURENCE B. CARTER
NOTEBOOKS, N.D.

Collection Information

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

Wilma L. Moore
December 2012

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lawrence Carter (1905–1992) grew up in Carthage, (Rush County) Indiana, the hometown of his mother. A teacher, he spent most of his career at schools in Indiana and Ohio. He is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Carthage. Throughout his life he gathered information about Beech Settlement with plans to write a history of the community in Rush County. Though he did not publish a history, his original notebooks are at the Henry Henley Public Library in Carthage. He gathered information from county histories and other books, newspapers, courthouse records, family memorabilia, cemetery tombstones, and numerous interviews with Beech Settlement descendants.

Sources:

Material in the collection


Find a Grave website

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Lawrence B. Carter’s notebooks on microfilm cover the family names of many African American families that lived in Rush County. Some of the names include: Archey, Bass, Brooks, Brown, Freeman, Gilchrist, Hill, Jeffries, McDaniel, Moss, Newsom, Stewart, Watkins, Weaver, and Winslow. The notebooks will be useful for persons investigating the history of African Americans settling in Rush County, as well as those researchers seeking genealogical information. There is an alphabetical index for Beech Settlement residents. The Beech was an African American community settled in Ripley Township of Rush County by 1830. Blacks also settled in other areas of Rush County, most notably the city of Carthage.

The notebooks include over two hundred pages of typed and handwritten notes. They make several references to sources used for research including John Lyda’s *The Negro in Indiana*; Rush County histories; and newspapers: *Carthage Record* and *Carthage Citizen*.

Some of the entries in the notebooks include:

- A list of deaths of Rush Co. African American citizens, arranged by year from approx. 1820 thru 1953
- Background of Quakers in Carthage
- Background of first African Americans in Rush County
- Short biographies including family members of prominent families
- Dates of important occurrences (e.g. Carter indicates that residents chose the African Methodist Episcopal as their denomination in the Beech in 1832)
- Historical descriptions (e.g. modes of transportation; also describes African Americans leaving Rush County and the founding of the Roberts Settlement in Hamilton County; recounts settlement of blacks at the Beech, Carthage, and Macedonia in Rush County; indicates nativity of first settlers—North Carolina, Virginia, then Ohio to Indiana; establishment of institutions—churches, library, and school)
CONTENTS

Lawrence Carter notebooks regarding the history of the Beech Settlement, an African American community in Rush County, Indiana. Information compiled over time through 1978.

CONTAINER

F0562
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, F0562).

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