

DEBORAH STARKS COLLECTION, 1948-1986

Collection #
M 0497

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Processed by
Robert W. Eherenman

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES: 1948-1986
PROVENANCE: Deborah Starks, Churubusco, 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: 1984.0621
NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Deborah Godwin Starks was born in Birmingham, Alabama on June 16, 1950. She was the second of Beatrice and Jennie Godwin's three children. Jennie Godwin worked for the United States Steel Corporation. Deborah Starks lived in Fairfield, Alabama for twenty-two years until 1972 when she moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana. That same year, she married John Wesley Starks, a mechanic at Phelps Dodge Magnet Wire, and the couple moved to Churubusco, Indiana in 1977. Starks attended Booker T. Washington Junior College of Business in Birmingham, Alabama, Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Mrs. Starks has been involved in a wide variety of activities. In 1973 she was the school community liaison for the Fort Wayne Community Schools. Starks has been affiliated with the East Creighton Neighborhood Association, the boy scouts, Gamma Phi Delta sorority, Fort Wayne Women's Bureau, and the Minority Women's Network. She has been a staff writer for *The Communicator*, the campus newspaper for IPFW. She has received awards from Gamma Phi Delta, the Fort Wayne Community Schools, and the Missionary Society of Turner Chapel AME Church. Deborah Starks has been a member of St. Paul's Luthern Church since 1976.

Source: *Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide Illinois Indiana*, p. 136.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is a combination of various materials from six different women. The material was collected during the Black Women in the Middle West Project, under the auspices of Mrs. Deborah Starks in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The folders contain papers that deal primarily with the Fort Wayne area: news, organizations, and people. All the collections here are from people who have lived a large part of their lives in Fort Wayne.

Box 1, Folders 1-8 contains Deborah Starks's papers, including short stories, poems, letters, awards, and newspapers clippings. Also in this box, there are the transcriptions of the life of Maddy Bruce, a native of Chester, Georgia who moved to Fort Wayne in 1936.

Box 2, Folders 9-15 has the C. Maxine Hall papers. Included in this collection are a family history, speeches, letters of commendation, church programs, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. The Hall collection spans a time period from 1948 to 1986. Also found in this box are Corrine Brooks's papers, which consist of newspaper clippings, a certificate of appointment, and a letter of commendation from the mayor of Fort Wayne. Genois Wilson was an active member of the Fort Wayne Fire Department, and in her collection there are newspaper clippings and congratulatory letters from the city for her community service. The last collection in this box is the Marjorie Wickliffe collection. There is material on the Fort Wayne Urban League, a seminar pamphlet, and banquet programs.

BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

Box 1: Deborah Starks and Maddy Bruce; Maxine Hall, Corrine Brooks, Genois Wilson, and Marjorie Wickliffe

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Deborah Starks: short stories and poems
2	Deborah Starks: miscellaneous 1982-1985
3	Deborah Starks: clippings 1975-1985
4	Maddy Bruce: transcript of tape 1
5	Maddy Bruce: transcript of tape 2
6	Maddy Bruce: transcript of tape 3
7	Maddy Bruce: transcript of tape 4
8	Maddy Bruce: transcript of tape 5
9	Hall Family: biography 1948-1982
10	Maxine Hall Papers: 1951-1983
11	Maxine Hall: correspondence 1951-1986
12	Maxine Hall: clippings 1956-1959
13	Corrine Mudd Brooks Papers: 1956-1984
14	Genois Wilson Papers: 1975-1985
15	Marjorie D. Wickliffe Papers: 1981-1984

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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