

Collection #
P 0835

**FLORABELLE WILSON
HADLEY FAMILY RESEARCH COLLECTION, 1979-1986**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders of photographs, 2 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1979-1986

PROVENANCE: Florabelle Wilson, 2001

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Florabelle Williams Wilson Collection, M0731; Florabelle Wilson Collection Addition, M1133

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0945

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Florabelle Williams Wilson (daughter of James S. and Hattie Virginia Hollis Williams) was born in Indianapolis on 12 January 1927. She attended the local public schools including School #26 and Crispus Attucks High School. Wilson graduated from high school in 1944. She received a BS in Education from Indiana Central University (now University of Indianapolis) in 1949. She taught at Indianapolis Public School (IPS) #23 for eight years, later returning to school to work on a graduate degree in library science. In 1961, Wilson received an MLS from Indiana University. She married John A. Wilson (27 August 1920–22 June 1990) in 1964.

From 1957 to 1971 Wilson worked as an assistant librarian at Indiana Central University (now University of Indianapolis). She was director of the library from 1971 until her retirement in 1982. The first full-time African American faculty member at Indiana Central University, she was also the first black director of an academic library in Indiana. A past member of the Indiana Library and Historical Board and the Soul People Repertory Board, she has served on the Indiana Historical Society Library Committee for nearly two decades.

While at Indiana Central University, Wilson developed the exhibit and slide/lecture presentation “The Black Family in Indianapolis: Invisible Sinew.” One of the families Wilson featured in the exhibit was the Hadley family. To this end, Wilson interviewed then-91-year-old Fannie Mae Hadley Bartlett (1888-1986). Mrs. Bartlett had come to Indianapolis with her parents and siblings when she was around the age of six. Mrs. Bartlett grew up on the south side of Indianapolis, 1901 Draper Street, attending IPS School 19 and South Calvary Baptist Church. Like her mother, she was a good cook and worked for several Indianapolis companies before eventually working as a self-employed cook and caterer in private homes. She was a longtime member and then president of the Old Settlers Club in Indianapolis.

“The Black Family in Indianapolis: Invisible Sinew” opened on February 10, 1980 at the Krannert Library, Indiana Central University.

Sources:

“Black History Month,” *Indianapolis News*, 9 Feb. 1980

Florabelle Williams Wilson Collection Guide (M0731)

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists chiefly of materials collected and created by Mrs. Florabelle Wilson for her exhibit, "The Black Family in Indianapolis: Invisible Sinew," particularly as it related to the Hundley family. It contains 8" x 10" reproductions of Hundley family photographs provided by Mrs. Bartlett, as well as photographs taken during Mrs. Wilson's interview with Mrs. Bartlett. Individuals included are: Mother Katie Boyd Hadley, father Henry O. Hadley, sister Bessie Hadley Youree, and brothers Albert Hadley and Jesse "Jack" Hadley, as well as Mrs. Bartlett herself around the age of 40. Also included are two photographs of newspaper articles from Mrs. Bartlett's scrapbook, as well as reproductions of photographs depicting a Hadley family reunion circa 1915, a School 19 reunion, and a National Federation of Negro Clubwomen luncheon.

The manuscript folders consist of approximately 40 notecards containing details about the Hundley family, ostensibly created by Mrs. Wilson during her interview with Mrs. Bartlett and a brief handwritten summary (Processor's note: another version of Mrs. Wilson's written biography on the Hundley family can be found in M0731, Box 1, Folder 9). Also included is a photocopy of the School 19 reunion photo, on which a Mrs. Osborne has identified some individuals. Other photocopies included are a page from an unidentified publication featuring Henry O. Hadley (probably about South Calvary Baptist Church), and a 1980 *Indianapolis Star* article on Mrs. Bartlett called "Fannie is in 'Love' Life." Lastly, two copies of Mrs. Bartlett's funeral program, 1986.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Hadley family photographs

Hadley family photographs

Florabelle Wilson notecards and summary

Photocopies of photos, newspaper clipping

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 2

Photographs,
Folder 2 of 2

Folder 1 of 2

Folder 2 of 2