

Woodson (Minnie S.) Family Genealogical Collection

An inventory of Minnie S. Woodson Family Genealogical Collection at DC Public Library

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on June 24, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

peoples.archive@dc.gov

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical / Historical | 3 |
| Scope and Contents | 4 |
| Arrangement | 4 |
| Administrative Information | 4 |
| Related Materials | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 5 |
| Collection Inventory | 5 |
| Series 1 | 5 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | People's Archive, MLK Library |
| Creator: | Woodson, Minnie Shumate, 1921-1994 |
| Title: | Minnie S. Woodson Family Genealogical Collection |
| ID: | 091 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1842-1994 |
| Physical Description: | 1 Linear feet |
| Physical Description: | 2 Boxes |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Language of the Material: | English |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

For many years, the Woodson family has contended that their relative, Thomas Woodson, was the oldest son of President Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings. Oral tradition and correspondence lent credence to this claim and helped bring it to the attention of the administrators of Jefferson's estate, Monticello. Although DNA tests were inconclusive, after much research and discussion, Thomas Woodson was added as a potential child of Jefferson. This was due, in part, to Minnie Shumate Woodson's research and writings. After graduating from Dunbar High School in 1937, Woodson went on to attend Miner's Teacher College and George Washington University. She later worked as an elementary school teacher and served as the president of the Washington, D.C. School Board. Minnie became part of the Woodson family when she married John Stanton Woodson, son of noted civil engineer Howard Woodson (the namesake of Woodson High School). She became intrigued by the family stories about Thomas Woodson and Thomas Jefferson. She began research into the family's history and eventually published two works: *The Sable Curtain* and *The Woodson Family Source Book*.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of materials collected by Minnie S. Woodson while researching the history of the Woodson family, including items such as clippings, census records, family trees, articles, photographs, correspondence, and newsletters. Of particular interest is information regarding the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society newsletter.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Processed without series. The folders are arranged alphabetically by topic.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW
Washington, DC
peoples.archive@dc.gov

Revision Description

Finding aid title changed from Minnie S. Woodson and Woodson Family Collection to Minnie S. Woodson Family Genealogical Collection. Finding aid revised to be more evergreen. 2020-08-5

Custodial History

John Woodson donated the collection of his wife's research materials to the DC Public Library in July 1994.

Processing Information

Basic archival processing procedures were applied to the collection when it was processed.

Conditions Governing Use

No known restrictions.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Collection 093, H. D. Woodson and Metropolitan A. M. E. Church Collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Genealogy
- African Americans
- Photographs
- Newsletters
- Correspondence
- Families
- Black people

Collection Inventory

| Series 1 | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Title/Description | Instances | |
| Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - Book Order Forms, 1982-1986 | Box 1 | Folder 1 |
| Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - Journal, 1986 | Box 1 | Folder 2 |
| Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - Newsletter, 1978-1986 | Box 1 | Folder 3 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - Newsletter Notes, 1980-1986 | Box 1 | Folder 4 |
| Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - Programs, 1985 | Box 1 | Folder 5 |
| Brodie, 1974-1980 | Box 1 | Folder 6 |
| Callaloo (Poetry about Ally Hemmings), 1983 | Box 1 | Folder 7 |
| Clewell Family, Undated | Box 1 | Folder 8 |
| Clippings, 1980-1991 | Box 1 | Folder 9 |
| Reverend John Lewis Cohorn, 1989 | Box 1 | Folder 10 |
| Correspondence, 1944-1985 | Box 1 | Folder 11 |
| Family Tree - Jefferson Family, Undated | Box 1 | Folder 12 |
| Family Tree - Woodson, Undated | Box 1 | Folder 13 |
| Family Tree - Woodson - Smith Branch, Undated | Box 1 | Folder 14 |
| Famous Black Americans (autographed), 1975 | Box 1 | Folder 15 |
| "The Fort Robinson YMCA, 1974 | Box 1 | Folder 16 |
| Goochland County - Virginia, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 1 |
| Greenbriar Family Line, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 2 |
| Lewis A. Leach, 1934 | Box 2 | Folder 3 |
| Library of Congress - Searching the Local History and Genealogy Room, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 4 |
| List of Free Black Heads of Families in the First Census, 1973 | Box 2 | Folder 5 |
| New Images - Newsletter, 1986 | Box 2 | Folder 6 |
| Officer's Clubs, 1985 | Box 2 | Folder 7 |
| Pennsylvania Abolition Society Guide, 1976 | Box 2 | Folder 8 |
| Personal Property Tax Studies, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 9 |
| Record of Black and Mulatto Persons in Jackson County - Ohio, 1961 | Box 2 | Folder 10 |
| Carter G. Woodson, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 11 |
| Woodson Family - Alabama, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 12 |
| Woodson Family - Article, 1977 | Box 2 | Folder 13 |
| Woodson Family - Article, 1994 | Box 2 | Folder 14 |
| Woodson Family - Cumberland County, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 15 |
| Woodson Family - Frances Line, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 16 |
| Woodson Family - Highgate Branch – Canada, 1981 | Box 2 | Folder 17 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Woodson Family - Jemima Line, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 18 |
| Woodson Family - Lewis Line (with photographs), 1842-1980 | Box 2 | Folder 19 |
| Woodson Family - Link to Thomas Jefferson, 1991-1992 | Box 2 | Folder 20 |
| Woodson Family - Newsletter, 1987-1991 | Box 2 | Folder 21 |
| Woodson Family - Photographs (copies, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 22 |
| Woodson Family - Source Book - Bills, 1982 | Box 2 | Folder 23 |
| Granville Lewis Woodson (with photograph), 1974 | Box 2 | Folder 24 |
| Minnie S. Woodson - Obituary, 1994 | Box 2 | Folder 25 |
| Minnie S. Woodson - Oral History, Undated | Box 2 | Folder 26 |
| Minnie S. Woodson - The Sable Curtain - Outline, 1981 | Box 2 | Folder 27 |
| Minnie S. Woodson - The Sable Curtain - Research, 1981 | Box 2 | Folder 28 |
| Thomas Wesley Woodson, 1916 | Box 2 | Folder 29 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)