

## Yates Family Collection Title (AC68)

### ***Introduction:***

The Yates Family Collection contains documents and artifacts from the life of Kansas City community leader and activist, Ellen Yates.

### ***Descriptive Summary:***

Creator: Ellen and James Yates

Title: Yates Family Collection

Bulk Dates: 1980-1989

Size: 1.88 linear feet (5 boxes)

Collection Number: AC68

### ***Donor Information:***

Donated by Thelma Kirkpatrick Wheaton, sister of Ellen Yates, July 1989.

### ***Related Collections:***

Jackson County Chapter of The Links, Inc., Collection (AC41)

### ***Citation Note:***

Yates Family Collection (AC68), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

### ***Administrative Information:***

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted

### ***Biographical Sketch:***

Ellen Winifred McWorter Yates, born in Hadley, IL, July 11, 1911, to Arthur and Ophelia McWorter. She attended Fisk University in Nashville, TN; and attended Avila College in Kansas City, MO, where she received her bachelor's degree in sociology. She was also a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority at UMKC.

Ellen was an executive case worker with the Missouri Division of Family Services in Jackson County for nearly 40 years. She retired in 1976. She was also highly active in her church, St Augustine Episcopal Church: she was President of the St. Monica's Guild; President of the St. Elizabeth Guild; and a member of the Alter Guild. Additionally, she was also active in other churches' activities and various non-profit organizations around the City. She was a member of the Diocesan Council and attended several national conferences, a member of the Church Periodical Club, and at one time, a President of the Episcopal Church Women for the Diocesan.

Ellen was a longtime member of the NAACP; a member of the National Urban League; a member of the Board for the Ozanam Home for Boys; Ombudsman for the Senior Estates Nursing Home; a member of Links; and was the President of the Retired Missouri State Employees Association.

She died at age 76 on July 13, 1989.

***Scope and Content Note:***

This Collection

**Series 1: Biographical**

This series contains newspaper articles about Ellen Yates, including her obituary, and her funeral program. As well as documents related to James H. Yates', Ellen's husband, membership to Blue Valley Lodge No. 64, and his father's, John E. Yates, Will.

**Series 2: Newspaper Clippings**

This series contains newspapers and newspaper clippings saved by Ellen Yates.

**Series 3: Travel Documents**

This series contains a travel book with details related to Ellen's many travels, and a folder with documents and photographs specifically from her trip to Moscow, Russia.

**Series 4: Photographs**

This series contains photographs of Ellen and family and friends, and Ellen's home. Most images are labeled on the backside in ink. And a single photographic slide, also known as a transparency or positive.

**Series 5: Correspondence**

This series contains some letters and photographs, but largely consists of greeting cards.

**Series 6: Publications**

This series consists of cookbooks, newsletters, a magazine, and a couple books, including a biography, written by her niece Dr. Juliet Walker, on Frank McWorter, an uncle, who was born into slavery but bought his freedom and establishes the city of New Philadelphia, IL.

**Series 7: Programs**

This series is comprised of a number of programs from organizations Ellen Yates was a member of or events she attended, including The Archival Griot by the Black Archives of Mid-America 1984; AKA's Sepia Fashion Revue and Fashionetta 1988; and the Miss Del Sprite Pageant 1975; among others.

**Series 8: Ephemera**

This series holds an amalgamation of documents ranging from Ellen's NAACP membership card to museum pamphlets to a booklet on Western University to scans of newspaper articles.

**Series 9: Awards and Certificates**

This series contains twenty certificates, awards, and plaques bestowed upon Ellen for her services in various organizations. And a plaque for James Yates from the Blue Valley Lodge No. 64.

**Series 10: Artifacts**

This series contains objects owned by Ellen Yates.

***Collection Inventory*****Series 1: Biographical**

- f. 1 Ellen W. Yates
- f. 2 James E. Yates
- f. 3 Western University Yearbook, 1927
- f. 4 Washburn University Yearbook, 1959
- f. 5 Funeral Programs

**Series 2: Newspaper Clippings**

- F. 6 Obituaries
- f. 7 Thomas Webster
- f. 8 Bill Knox
- f. 9 Advice Columns
- f. 10 Miscellaneous Clippings

**Series 3: Travel Documents**

- f. 11 Travel Book
- f. 12 Trip to Russia

**Series 4: Photographs**

- f. 13 Prints #1-19
- f. 14 Prints #20-27
- f. 15 Prints #28-34
- f. 16 Slide

**Series 5: Correspondence**

- f. 17 Miscellaneous
- f. 18 Patricia Maputce

- f. 19 Thank You Cards
- f. 20 Get Well Cards
- f. 21 Congratulations Cards
- f. 22 Seasonal Cards

**Series 6: Publications**

- f. 23 Cookbooks
- f. 24 *Missouri Sesquicentennial Cookbook* by First State Capital Restoration and Missouri Sesquicentennial Commission
- f. 25 *Free Frank* by Juliet Walker
- f. 26 *You Can Whittle While You Carve* by Amanda Hellum and Franklin Gottshall
- f. 27 *The First Ladies Cookbook* by Parents Magazine Enterprises
- f. 28 Magazine and Newsletters

**Series 7: Programs**

- f. 29 Programs from the 1970s
- f. 30 Programs from the 1980s

**Series 8: Ephemera**

- f. 31 Miscellaneous Documents
- f. 32 Miscellaneous Documents

**Series 9: Awards and Certificates**

- f. 33 Volunteer Services Award, 1978
- f. 34 Woman of Accomplishment Plaque, 1975
- f. 35 Avila College President's Scholarship Club
- f. 35 Blue Valley Lodge No. 64 Plaque, 1969
- f. 36 Ozanam Home for Boys Plaque, 1986
- f. 37 NAACP Certificate of Life Membership, 1986
- f. 38 Certificates

**Series 10: Artifacts**

- f. 39 Avila College Cup
- f. 40 Name plate
- f. 41 Missouri Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin, 1971
- f. 42 Wooden clothespin

**Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, March 2024.**

**Sources:**

Ncurrie. National Archives. "Rediscovering Black History." Free Frank McWorter- Father of Freedom. Accessed March 2024. <https://rediscovering-black-history.blogs.archives.gov/2023/06/16/free-frank-mcworter-father-of-freedom/>

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