

Blankinship Family Collection Title (AC69)

Introduction:

The Blankinship Family Collection relates to the life of George Lawrence Blankinship Jr. and his father, George Lawrence Blankinship Sr.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: George Lawrence Blankinship Jr.

Title: Blankinship Family Collection

Size: 0.209 linear feet (1 boxes)

Collection Number: AC69

Donor Information:

Donated by George Lawrence Blankinship Jr., June 2023.

Citation Note:

Blankinship Family Collection (AC69), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Biographical Sketch:

G. Lawrence Blankinship Sr., born 1913, moved from Louisiana to Kansas City as a teenager where he attended Lincoln High School. As an adult he studied pharmaceuticals and worked at the Crown Drug Store at 18th and Vine, before opening Blankinship Distributions, a Black hair and cosmetics products wholesale company, in 1947.

He served on the Kansas City Council, board of Douglas State Bank, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, was a founding chair of the Black Economic Union. Blankinship Sr was one of the founders of Twin Cities Savings and Loan s, the first Black owned bank in KCMO. He died in 2005.

G. Lawrence Blankinship Jr. followed in his father's footsteps. He graduated Rockhurst University with a double major in marketing and business management. Blankinship Jr took over Blankinship Distributions after his father. He joined the Black Community Fund when it began in 1983 and served for many years, becoming Board Chair in 2006. He was also involved in several other charities in Kansas City: Catholic Charities, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, United Way, the Urban League, among others.

Scope and Content Note:

This Collection contains photographs, funeral programs from Blankinship family members, and documents related to Blankinship Distributions, Inc.

Collection Inventory

Oversized items placed in Flat File #1 Drawer #3.

- f. 1 Photographs
- f. 2 Collage [OS]
- f. 3 Blankinship Products
- f. 4 Funeral Programs
- f. 5 Programs
- f. 6 Certificate
- f. 7 Announcements [OS].

Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, March 2024.

Sources:

African American Heritage Trial of Kansas City, MO. Blankinship Distributions. Accessed March 2024. <https://aahtkc.org/blankinshipdistributors>

Blankinship Family Collection (AC69), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

KCUR. "G. Lawrence Blankinship Dies." Published January 2006. Accessed March 2024. <https://www.kcur.org/2006-01-09/g-lawrence-blankinship-dies>