



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

McLaurin family collection

1948-1973

Sc MG 522

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: McLaurin family (Oklahoma)

Title: McLaurin family collection

Date: 1948-1973

Size: 0.02 linear feet (2 folders)

Source: Gift, Elizabeth McLaurin, June 2000

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: The McLaurin family--George W. McLaurin, (1887-1968), Peninah S. McLaurin (1893-1966), and Dunbar Simms McLaurin (1920-1973)--are regarded as one of Oklahoma's history-making black families in the areas of civil rights, desegregation, and economics. The McLaurin family collection comprises a dismantled scrapbook of newspaper clippings on segregation in Oklahoma schools and higher education, the McLaurin (George W.) desegregation case, the drive to end segregation in the educational system throughout the United States, the relationship between U.S. politics and civil rights, Southern reaction to Supreme Court desegregation rulings, and related information, 1948-1973. There are also obituary notices and funeral programs for the McLaurins (1966-1972); personal and career information (e.g., resumes and curriculum vitae) for Dunbar McLaurin; and letters, newspaper, and magazine clippings by and about Dunbar McLaurin.

Preferred citation: [Item], McLaurin family collection, Sc MG 522, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

Photographs transferred to Photographs and Prints Division.

Creator History

The McLaurin family--George W. McLaurin, (1887-1968), Peninah S. McLaurin (1893-1966), and

Dunbar Simms McLaurin (1920-1973)--are regarded as one of Oklahoma's history-making black families in the areas of civil rights, desegregation, and economics.

George and Peninah McLaurin were a husband/wife team of civil rights pioneers. George McLaurin, a retired professor, was the first African American to break the color barrier and 56-year segregation policy at the University of Oklahoma. Following a lawsuit filed by McLaurin in 1948, a decision rendered by a federal three-judge panel resulted in his admission to the graduate college of the university. Peninah McLaurin, an educator for 33 years, first spearheaded the move to overcome segregation in Oklahoma's institutions of higher learning when she applied for admission to the university in 1923, but was refused.

Dunbar Simms McLaurin, businessman, professor, lecturer, attorney, and economist, was widely known as the principal founder of Freedom National Bank in Harlem--the largest African-American-owned bank in the United States. In addition, he also specialized in economic development in minority communities and served as president of Ghettonomics, Inc., a Harlem-based firm of economic consultants. An ardent proponent of Black capitalism, he perfected the Ghetto Economic Development Industrialization Plan, or "GEDI" Plan, which was designed to assist African-American businesses via small business loans.

Scope and Content Note

The McLaurin family collection comprises a dismantled scrapbook of newspaper clippings on segregation in Oklahoma schools and higher education, the McLaurin (George W.) desegregation case, the drive to end segregation in the educational system throughout the United States, the relationship between U.S. politics and civil rights, Southern reaction to Supreme Court desegregation rulings, and related information, 1948-1973. There are also obituary notices and funeral programs for the McLaurins (1966-1972); personal and career information (e.g., resumes and curriculum vitae) for Dunbar McLaurin; and letters, newspaper, and magazine clippings by and about Dunbar McLaurin.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American economists
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Segregation
Civil rights -- Oklahoma
College teachers
Segregation in higher education -- Oklahoma

Names

McLaurin, Dunbar Simms, 1920-1973
McLaurin, G. W.
McLaurin, Peninah S., 1893-1966
McLaurin family (Oklahoma)