

A Guide to the Papers of Helen Estes Baker, 1950-1967

Papers of Helen Estes Baker, 1950-1967

1950-1967

A Collection in Special Collections and Archives 1982-19
Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library
2002

History

Processed by: Lucious Edwards, Jr.

Funding: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

A Guide to the Papers of Helen Estes Baker, 1950-1967

Subtitle: Baker, Helen Estes, Papers of, 1950-1967

Collection: 1982-19

Author: Lucious Edwards, Jr.

Sponsor: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 114 Kilobytes

Date: © 2002 By the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University.

Publisher: Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from word processing program, MS Word 6.0. Machine-readable finding aid created by Keith Johnson, Jr. March 2002.

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 17, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Virginia State University::Johnston Memorial Library::Special Collections and Archives//TEXT (US::ViPetS::vipets00014::A Guide to the Helen Estes Baker Papers)//EN" "vipets00014.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xml (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 26, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xml

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xml.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

1982-19

Language

English

Abstract

The personal and business correspondence of Helen Estes Baker reflects her long career as a social activist committed to the betterment of human kind. She was a graduate of Virginia State University and was born in Suffolk, Virginia.

Collector

Helen Estes Baker

Physical Characteristics

200 items

Repository

Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University

Administrative Information

Access

No restrictions on access.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Helen Estes Baker Papers, Accession number: 1982-19, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

Biographical/Historical Information

Helen Estes Baker was born in Suffolk, Virginia on September 6, 1906 to James and Mary Estes. She attended the public schools and high school at the Nansemond Industrial Institute. She entered the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute in 1923 and was graduated in 1927. Three years later she earned a Masters degree in Education from Rhode Island College. Thirty years later Mrs. Baker returned to school, earning a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1962. Helen Baker returned home to Suffolk to began her career in education, teaching at Booker T. Washington High School.

In 1931 she joined the faculty at what was then the Virginia State College for Negroes. Here she taught educational psychology and was one of several who supervised student teachers. Mrs. Baker was assigned to the Blanford Elementary School, which was located near one of Petersburg's largest tobacco factories. Mrs. Baker became involved with the effect of the Tobacco Steemers to unionize, and this led her to new career, working with unions. The Southern School for Workers employed Mrs. Baker from 1943 to 1948 as director of literary education. In addition, Mrs. Baker was involved with the Adult Education program at Virginia state from 1942-1949.

In 1950 she worked with the American Friends Service Committee, as co-director with her husband conducting a series of work-study projects for college students, as well as The North Richmond Neighborhood House, International Student House, and an overseas work camp in Berlin, Germany. She was active in the Prince Edward County School conflict, 1960-1963. In 1963, she organized the Metropolitan Washington Housing Project.

She was married to Dr. Percy H. Baker, also a graduate of Virginia State University, who was a biology professor at Morgan State College.

Scope and Content Information

Helen Estes Baker was a remarkable women. Unfortunately, much of her work in improving the human condition is undocumented. Fortunately, in this collection of papers many of the activities which Mrs. Baker was affluented with are present. Of particular interest was her work with the Prince Edward County Free-School Association.

Series Description

Series I. Correspondence generated by Mrs. Baker documenting her activities as a unionizer and social activist. There are also two diaries.

Contents List

Diaries and Correspondence

Diary #1 1958

Diary #2 1963

Inventory, Biography, Eulogy, Death Notices 1959-1967

Box-folder 1:1

Biography and Correspondence 1960-1967

Box-folder 1:2

North Richmond, Ca. 1950-1952

Box-folder 1:3

Metropolitan Washington Housing Program 1961-1963

Box-folder 1:4

Chicago housing Program 1962

Box-folder 1:5

International Student House 1956-1958

Box-folder 1:6

Berlin (photos) 1958

Box-folder 1:7

Berlin 1958

Box-folder 1:8

South Jersey Rural Program Development Project 1965

Box-folder 1:9

Interns in Community Service (Kansas City, Chicago) 1950-1953

Box-folder 1:10

American Friends Service Community Board 1963-1964

Box-folder 1:11

Prince Edward County Schools (1) 1961-1964

Box-folder 1:12

Prince Edward County (2) 1960-1961

Box-folder 1:13

Prince Edward County (3) 1961-1963

Box-folder 1:14

(Printed) Prince Edward County

Box-folder 1:15

Prince Edward County Schools (5)

Box-folder 1:16

Helen Baker

