

A Guide to the James and Goldie Nicholas Papers 1995

James and Goldie Nicholas Papers 1995
1995

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

1995

Language

English

Abstract

The Nicholas papers consists of some photographs, several books, and awards. Dr. James Nicholas was former rector of the Board of Visitors at Virginia State University. Acc# 1995-73

Collector

James and Goldie Nicholas.

Physical Characteristics

23 items.

Repository

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

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

A gift from the estate.

Preferred Citation

The James and Goldie Nicholas Papers, 1995-73, Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

Biographical/Historical Information

James Nicholas, one of five children born to Arville and Barlett Nicholas in Augusta County, Virginia in 1900. Education for African American was almost non existant and James completed all seven grades in record time.

In 1914 James Nicholas left for Ohio where he was to live with his brother in Cleveland and work in the steel mill until he could raise the \$82 a year it cost to go to the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute in Ettrick, Virginia (this included room and board). By 1916 he had saved enough money to start school and in 1921 James Nicholas had completed the requirements for the Normal teaching degree.

Upon graduation he decided to return home to teach the first grade. Because of the low pay and short school year he alternated his teaching skills between home and working in a hotel in Winterhaven, Florida. Here he would meet his future wife Goldie Augustine Francis.

In 1921 he began to take classes at West Virginia State and in 1930, completed the requirements for the Bachelors Degree. There were few paying teaching jobs available, therefore, in 1931 he began work at the Patrick Henry Hotel in Roanoke, Virginia and he would marry Goldie.

In 1932 he and his wife and others were able to secure a Rosenwald School for the town of Waynesboro and he and his wife taught several grades there. In 1933 he became principal of the Rosenwald School. As principal he set a goal to add a grade each year since there were only seven upon his arrival. By 1937 there were eleven grades and the school was one of the few accredited training schools for African Americans in the state.

Goldie Augustine Francis was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to John and Arlena Francis. Goldie completed the Hawthorne Women's Program at Virginia Union University in 1923. She went on to earn the undergraduate degree in education at Virginia State.

In 1944 James Nicholas was invited to join the faculty of Virginia State College where he would be an instructor in education and principal of the high school. Mrs. Nicholas was also hired to begin her long career teaching reading.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas both continued their formal education. Mr. Nicholas received a master's from the University of Michigan, and also recieved his Doctorate from Penn State University. Ms Nicholas recieved an EdD Degree from the University of Virginia in 1957.

Scope and Content Information

James and Goldie Nicholas's career is documented, which includes Photographs, awards, and several books of interest that constitute the major items.

Series Description

Series I: Correspondence Correspondence Personal and business. The establishment of the Nicholas endowment is documented.

Series II: The Francis-Nicholas Memorial Scholarship Fund Records documenting this Memorial Scholarship Fund, Includes biologs, rules, etc.

Series III: Photographs Images mainly centered around the Nicholas careers in education. Most of the photographs were taken at Virginia State.

Series IV: Printed Certificates, programs, commision, and awards presented to or earned by James and Goldie Nicholas.

Box List

Series I: Correspondence

Correspondence General 1963

Box-folder 1:1

Correspondence 1970

Box-folder 1:2

Term Report 1922

Box-folder 1:3

Platt Map 1952

Box-folder 1:4

Address Comencement 1971- Holtin

Box-folder 1:5

Series II: The Francis-Nicholas Memorial Scholarship Fund

Correspondence 1979

Box-folder 1:5a

Correspondence 1980

Box-folder 1:5b

Series III: Photographs

Workshop 1940

Box-folder 1:6

Pigskin Club o.s. 1959

Box-folder 1:7

Board of Visitors 1974

Box-folder 1:8

Hartshorn College 1979

Box-folder 1:9

Campus Scenes

Box-folder 1:10

Campus Scene

Box-folder 1:11

Campus Scene

Box-folder 1:12

Campus Scene

Box-folder 1:13

Campus Scene

Box-folder 1:14

Meetings off Campus

Box-folder 1:15

ROTC

Box-folder 1:16

Unidentified Framed Photographs

Box-folder 1:17

Series IV: Printed

Subseries A.Certificates

Citations from VSU 1974

Box-folder 1:18

Certificates Army Training Corps 1918

Box-folder 1:19

Certificates Sigma Delta Si 1959,1964

Box-folder 1:20

Certificate U.S Army 1973

Box-folder 1:21

Subseries B: Programs

Program Pigskin Club 1959

Box-folder 1:22

Program Hartshorn Mem. 1979

Box-folder 1:23

Subseries C.Commissions

Appointments to Virginia State University Board of Visitors.

Box-folder 2:1

Athletic Hall of Fame

Box-folder 2:2

Professor Emeritus from VSU May 5, 1974

Box-folder 2:3

Professor Emeritus from VSU May 5, 1974

Box-folder 2:4

Subseries D: Awards

Outstanding Service: Goldie Nicholas Plaque May 25, 1969

Box-folder 3:1

Rosenwald Award: Goldie Nicholas Plaque 1981

Box-folder 3:2

Outstanding Service: James Nicholas Plaque May 25, 1969

Box-folder 3:3

Rosenwald Award: Goldie Nicholas Plaque 1976

Box-folder 3:4

Subseries E: Books

**Langston Mercer John Honorable: Freedom and Citizenship Washington, D.C.
Rufus H. Darby, Publisher, 1883**

Box-folder 3:5

**Pawley, Thomas Desire: English Grammer Baltimore, The Norman Publishing
Company**

Box-folder 3:6