

Emanuel, Bessie photo album at Hampton Institute

Bessie Emanuel photo album at Hampton Institute
1922-1924

Title Statement

Emanuel, Bessie photo album at Hampton Institute Bessie Emanuel photo album at Hampton Institute MSS 16823

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Publication Statement

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Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
P.O. Box 400110
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Notes

Related to Jessie Fuller scrapbook MSS 15005. (Ghost record in Aspace because Virgo has a digital record that needs to be added to the AS record)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:45:10 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16823

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1630

Unit Date

1922-1924

Mixed Materials [X006178633]

1 (Flat_Box)

Language

English

Creator

Smith, Bessie Emanuel, 1902-1984

source

James Arsenault and Co.

Extent

.19 Cubic Feet Photo album 9 x12 box. 20x29 cm. (7.25" X 11.25")

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from James E. Arsenault and Company by the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 29 August 2023.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16823, Bessie Emanuel photo album at Hampton Institute, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Bessie Emanuel, later Bessie Emanuel Smith, was raised in White Plains, New York, the daughter of Baptist minister Christopher H. Emanuel and his wife Lucy Kittrell Emanuel. She was the first African American student from the town to attend college, graduating from the Hampton Institute in 1925, and afterwards earning a master's degree from Columbia University. She was a "much beloved and honored teacher" (including at the New York City School for the Blind), and in 1945 became the first African American teacher in White Plains. She served as vice president of the White Plains chapter of the NAACP and received the National Sojourner Truth Award -- the highest honor conferred by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Content Description

This collection contains a brown faux leather photo album (7.25" X 11.25") belonging to Bessie Emanuel. Bessie (1902-1984) was raised in White Plains, New York. She was the first Black woman in her town to attend college, entering the Hampton Institute in Virginia in 1922. The photographs are dated from 1922 to 1924 and capture daily life at the Institute, sports events, friends, and family. Captions are found throughout the album. A picture of Bessie with her family in the Hampton Institute dining room features a poem dedicated to her parents on its reverse. The album was compiled by Black students at Hampton Institute.

Hampton Institute, founded in 1868, was created to educate freedmen after the Civil War. Booker T. Washington was among its notable graduates. Bessie died in 1984, the same year the Hampton Institute gained university status.

Related Materials

Jessie Fuller scrapbook at Hampton Institute MSS 15005. (Fuller scrapbook is shadowed because there is a Virgo record with a digital record of the scrapbook file:///C:/Users/elg3e/Downloads/tsb%20103963.pdf

Keywords

African American students
Photograph albums
Student life
Women in higher education
Hampton Institute
James Arsenault and Co.