

Finding Aids- Ada Anderson and Family Collection



Creator: Tillotson College, Samuel Huston College, Ada Cecilia Collins Anderson and family

Title: Ada Anderson and family Collection

Dates: 1828-2021

Extent: 11 boxes (5 Document Boxes, 2 Card Box, 1 Flat Box and 2 Bank's Boxes)

Abstract: The collection contains Ada's oral interview transcripts, photos, events, family stories and records, genealogy, books, deed to ancestors, correspondence, and more.

Location: The Huston-Tillotson University Archives Repository at Downs-Jones Library

Call Number: R-C-001

Language: English

Access: Open for research

Biographical Notes:

Ada Anderson was born October 2, 1921, in Pilot Knob, Texas, the fourth of nine children. After moving to Austin, Ada graduated from L. C. Anderson High School at the age of 14. Ada matriculated at Austin's two predominantly black colleges, Samuel Huston and Tillotson, now part of Huston-Tillotson University, where she received a degree in home economics in 1941. Ada became the first African American to enroll at the University of Texas Graduate School of Library Science. In 1951, Ada finished the course for a M. S. degree in library science at the University of Texas at Austin. However, she was not

awarded that degree because of segregation excluded blacks. This experience cemented Ada's commitment to fight for civil rights and equal opportunities for minorities in Austin and throughout the state. She later returned to UT and earned a master's degree in educational psychology and subsequently completed graduate courses in business and finance at Northwestern University.

Ada worked for the Texas Employment Commission as an employment counselor and labored tirelessly to improve the wages and working conditions of Black domestic workers. She went on to teach the Austin Independent School District, where she later became a psychometrist. In 1953, she became a partner with her husband, Marcellus Jack "Andy" Anderson, Sr. in the establishment and ownership of the Anderson-Wormley Real Estate and Insurance Company. Andy Anderson became the first African American real estate agent in the South. Ada was a founding member of the Austin chapter of Jack and Jill of America and served as both a National corresponding secretary and its South Central regional director. She organized and directed the Leadership Enrichment Arts Program (LEAP) for more than 10 years which introduced underserved African American youth to the arts. Through her political activism aligned with the Democratic party, she and her husband became personal friends with the late Governor John Connally and the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

In 1964, she helped found the Austin Human Relations Commission, now the Human Rights Commission. In a 1982 landmark election to the Austin Community College Board, Ada was the first African American to win a countywide election in Travis County. She also became the first Black woman to sit on a bank board in Austin. Ada was named Woman of the Year by the Women's Symphony League of Austin and she co-chaired the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Austin Independent School District.

Ada received significant recognition from Huston-Tillotson University and the University of Texas at Austin. Huston-Tillotson awarded Ada the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2018, while University of Texas at Austin presented her with the University of Texas Community Legacy Award and the prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award. In Memory of her late daughter, Sandra Joy Anderson, Ada donated \$3 Million to Huston-Tillotson University in 2014 for the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center.

Scopes and Contents:

Box 1

-Oral History transcripts. June 7, 1992

- Oral History transcripts. July 7, 1992
- Oral History transcripts. July 9, 1992
- Oral History transcripts. July 13, 1992
- Oral History transcripts. July 14, 1992
- Oral History transcripts. July 22, 1992
- Oral History transcripts. August 26, 1992
- Oral History transcripts. March 11, 2001
- Oral History transcripts. March 14, 2001
- Oral History transcripts. March 25, 2001
- Oral History transcripts. April 1, 2001
- Oral History transcripts. April 22, 2001

Box 2: Photographs

- Distinguished UT alumni event
- LAEP event
- M. J. Anderson Sr. Funeral
- Ada Collins Anderon, bulk dates
- Ada family and friends, bulk dates
- LBJ Library event, 2000
- Events, bulk dates
- Sandra Joy Anderson Baccus, bulk dates
- Sandra Anderson's parties, 2010
- Photographs of property
- Most Worthy Citizen event. 4/30/2004
- Family reunion, 2003
- Norway Jazz Cruise, 1986

- Collector's legacy collection
- Family photographs
- Lyndon Baines Johnson Award. 3/26/2004
- Living legend of the "National Black Arts Festival", 1990
- General Land Office meeting, 2004
- Miscellaneous photographs of events

Box 3

- Photographs, Newton Isaac Collins Greenbelt
- Biographical data
- Collins and Ruckers family genealogy
- Collins and Ruckers family research
- Collins and Ruckers family photographs
- Collins family genealogy
- The Collins and Ruckers story
- Family records
- The Collins and Ruckers notes. September 3, 2003
- Collins-Ruckers photographs, 2007
- Pilot Knob Association
- Historical Designation of Dee Gabriel Collins Land
- Petition to determine heirship and entitlement to estate
- Newton Isaac Collins hike and bike trail papers
- Unidentified marriage records
- Frame artwork
- Pilot Knob, McKinney Falls State Park
- McKinney Falls State Park; Collins and Ruckers information

Box 4

- Genealogy research
- Genealogy, Ada Anderson
- Family records, birth-death-marriage records
- A Farm Melody: The Wisdom of Mumma, 1996
- Colins and Ruckers records
- Family genealogy
- Edited version of *The Collines and Ruckers: Two Pioneer African American Families of Texas*
- Correspondences, 2009
- Research for manuscripts
- Pilot Knob Land
- Deed to Newton Collins, land, 1875, 1890, 1891
- Ruckers and other family records
- Third seal: Two Royalties*. Established by the State of Coahuila and Texas, 1828-1832
- Walt Collins
- Photographs and family records

Box 5

- Genealogy research
- Genealogy and land research
- Family reunion documents
- Correspondences and manuscript
- School records and certificates
- Photographs

- Desegregated Austin Nursery
- Ada Anderson Personal bio
- Family scrapbook
- The Collines and Ruckers: Two Pioneer African American Families of Travis County, Texas*, by Ada Collins Anderson with Sheree Scarborough

Box 6

- Ada's certificate from The Trustees of Tillotson College at Austin
- Distinguished UT Austin alumni event. October 2006
- Distinguished UT Austin alumni biography. October 2006
- Correspondences. March-September 2006
- Correspondences
- Inaugural Committee event. January 19, 1967
- Photographs
- Gordon Park, event. 2000
- Texas Exes Distinguished Alumnus Awards & Roast, 2006
- Huston-Tillotson related, correspondence, bulk dates
- Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center
- "Our New Day Begun" event, letter of response and correspondence. 1999-2000
- "Our New Day Begun" event, photographs
- Federal and State, correspondences, bulk dates
- Women Who Did" exhibit, bulk dates. 1995, 1997
- Speech, Student Council, Kealing Junior High, 1958-1959
- "Texas Needs Teachers" seminar, correspondence and event schedule
- HT legacy family research
- Pro Arts Collective

- City and state proclamations and awards
- Awards and certifications
- Woman of Distinction, 1998
- Art certificates
- Resolution honors, Huston-Tillotson University, 2021
- Sandra Baccus speech, 2008
- Sandra Anderson Baccus obituary
- Sandra Joy Anderson Baccus

Box 7

- Distinguished Alumnus Award & Roast event program, 2006
- Frame award: Ms. Ada Anderson, Texas Human Rights Pioneer. June 2004
- Frame award: Mrs. Ada Collins Anderson, H. L. Gines Human Relations Award. February 18, 2001
- L. E. A. P related
- Programs and correspondence
- Photos, includes June 1992 Unity Day rehearsal
- Articles
- LBJ Library and Museum events, 2000
- Sponsored events, 2000
- The Ohio State University Alumni Association, associate Life Member card, Ada Collins Anderson
- Ada's passport(s) and international certificates of vaccination
- Hardrive of Ada Anderson and family collection

Box 8: M.J. Anderson Collection

-In appreciation to ILL. M. J. Anderson for Outstanding & Dedicated Service, Greater Queen Esther Grand Chapter of Michigan. 1980. Award frame, hammer attached.

- Wooden cast box: M. J. Anderson's general collection of Austin history, includes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" corn, LBJ badges, and ticket of Texas Welcome Dinner by President and Mrs. Kennedy.

-*They came.. and They Conquered!* Compiled and edited by Frank W. Halle Jr., PHD. The Ohio State University, February 1983. Book

-Certificates and correspondence of M. J. Anderson

-Programs related to M. J. Anderson

In a Large cast:

-M.J. Anderson, Board of Directors, 1967-1973. "Excellence in Achievement" medal, Texas Southern University.

-M.J. Anderson's Honorable Discharge from the Army Force of the United States of America. Certificate, January 1951.

-The White House letter to M.J. Anderson

-Photos of M. J. Anderson

Box 9

-Photos of classroom instruction, negative film, no date

Box 10

-Artwork of Instruments from Folk Arts Gallery to M. J. Anderson, enclosed correspondence letter and instrument illustrations. November 1987

Box 11

-Appreciation certification to Anda Anderson, Long Center

-Group photos of Ada Anderson in events

-Laguna Glora Art Museum presented to Ada Anderson for Outstanding Contribution to Laguna Glora Art Museum as member, Board of Trustees, 1985-1991. Large certificate

-Ada Collins' diploma from Anderson High School. June 1937

-Ada's member certificate of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 1939

-Ada's Certificate of Attainment by Austin Public School, 1937

-Ada's Certificate of Excellence by Home Makers Personal Contest, 1937

Restrictions:

Conditions Governing Access-Advance notice required retrieval, contact repository for retrieval.

Most materials are usually delicate, needed to be handled carefully.