**Napoleon Calimese (1890-1972) and**

**Louise Davis Calimese (1895-1985)**

Researchers: Anthony Bowman, Carol Genung, Erin Jessup, and Candace Summers

Year Featured: 2019

Materials Included in this Packet:

1. Erin Jessup and Candace Summers, “Biography of Napoleon and Louise Calimese,” 2019
2. Research Summary for Napoleon and Louise Calimese by Candace Summers.
3. Email Correspondence between Candace Summers and John Muirhead, May 22, 2019
4. City Directory search of Napoleon and Louise Calimese compiled by Carol Genung
5. World War I Draft Card Index for Napoleon Calimese, Ancestry.com.
6. Napoleon Calimese in U.S. Army Transport Service, Passenger List, 1910-1939, Ancestry.com. Departed on the ship *Mongolia* on September 23, 1918 from Hoboken, New Jersey to France.
7. Photograph of the ship *Mongolia*
8. Napoleon Calimese in U.S. Army Transport Service, Passenger List, 1910-1939, Ancestry.com. Departed on the ship U.S.S. Scranton from France on July 6, 1919.
9. Certified Copy of Marriage License for Napoleon Calimese and Louise Davis, August 4, 1920.
10. “Cares for Colored Children,” *The Pantagraph*, October 7, 1940
11. Brief summary outline of history of Children’s Home and Aid written by Denis Fries
12. *Striving for Perfection: Developing Professional Black Officers*, p. 219
13. *The US Army in World War I: Orders of Battle*, list of Pioneer Infantry Units and organizational information
14. “Napoleon Calimese,” *The Pantagraph*, March 27, 1972
15. “Napoleon Calimese credit to area,” *The Pantagraph*, March 20, 1972
16. “Louise J. Calimese,” *The Pantagraph*, September 28, 1985
17. Photo of Napoleon and Louise Calimese and children who lived at the McLean County Home for Colored Children (later renamed Booker T. Washington Home)
18. Photo of Calimese Home on University Street in Normal, IL
19. “Board of Home for the Colored Children in Annual Meeting,” *The Pantagraph*, January 11, 1927
20. “Colored Children’s Home Helps Build Happy Useful Lives,” *The Pantagraph*, October 26, 1939
21. “Many Children Depend Upon Mrs. Calimese,” *The Pantagraph*, October 5, 1947
22. “Know Your Community Chest,” *McLean County Courier*, July 28, 1950
23. “Operate Home, Not Institution,” *The Pantagraph*, August 28, 1952
24. “Calimeses Retiring at Children’s Home,” *The Pantagraph*, July 9, 1957
25. “McLean County Home for Colored Children A Worthy Institution,” *The Pantagraph*, Undated.
26. Booker T. Washington Home Collection Finding Aid

Materials Not Included in this Packet (can be found in the Museum’s Library and Archives or website):

1. John W. Muirhead. A History of African Americans in McLean County, 1835-1975. (Bloomington: Bloomington-Normal Black History Project and McLean County Historical Society, 1998) 39 and 43.
2. *ISNU Index*, 1941-1944, entry on Betty Louise Calimese, U.S. School Yearbooks 1900-1990, Ancestry.com.
3. New York, New York Marriage License Indexes, 1907-2018 for Betty Calimese and Raymond Isaac, Ancestry.com.
4. US Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 for Betty Louise Isaac, Ancestry.com.
5. Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947 for John Perry Calimese, Ancestry.com.
6. “Sixty-Ninth Grand Session of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge” October 7-10, 1935 program, *Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection*, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives.
7. “Memorial Program, November 11, 1928” Redd-Williams Post No. 163, American Legion. *Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection*, Box 4, Folder 17, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives.
8. Oral History of Josephine Samuels and Reginald Whittaker, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
9. Oral History of Claude Hursey, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
10. Oral History of Robert Gaston, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
11. Oral History of Caribel Washington, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
12. Oral History of Lucinda Posey, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
13. Oral History of Merlin and Beulah Kennedy, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
14. Oral History of Roy and Delores Shavers, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
15. Oral History of Kathryn Dean, Bloomington Normal Black History Project Collection, McLean County Museum of History Library and Archives
16. Mrs. Harold E. Walsh, “Booker T. Washington Home.” Clara Louise Kessler, compiler. *Home Town in the Corn Belt: A Source History of Bloomington, Illinois 1900-1950 in Five Volumes*, Volume 5. (Bloomington: Self Published, 1950) 191-198
17. Gloria S. Ross, “Obituary: Sister Mary Antona Ebo, one of the ‘sisters of Selma,” St. Louis Public Radio

Newspapers –All can be found on Newspapers.com

1. “A Worthy Institution,” *The Pantagraph*, March 4, 1899
2. “To Educate the Negro,” *The Pantagraph*, September 6, 1899
3. “Harriet Beecher Stowe Institution,” *The Pantagraph*, June 19, 1900
4. “Colored Children’s Home Criticized,” *The Pantagraph*, November 28, 1907
5. “Brown Children As Wards of State?” *The Pantagraph*, November 23, 1908
6. “Returned Home As From The Dead,” *The Pantagraph*, November 26, 1908
7. “To Force Surrender of the Charter,” *The Pantagraph*, December 31, 1908
8. “Normal Notes,” *The Pantagraph*, July 19, 1916
9. “Mrs. Curtis Dies,” *The Pantagraph*, March 7, 1917
10. “Three Transports Bring Thousands,” *The Pantagraph*, July 17, 1919
11. “For Community House,” *The Pantagraph*, December 22, 1919
12. “Normal Notes,” *The Pantagraph*, July 28, 1919
13. “Normal Notes,” *The Pantagraph*, August 8, 1919
14. “Normal Notes,” *The Pantagraph*, September 12, 1919
15. “Normal Notes,,” *The Pantagraph*, December 27, 1919
16. “Marriage Licenses,” *The Pantagraph*, August 5, 1920
17. “Plan for Colored Children’s Home,” *The Pantagraph*, February 17, 1920
18. “McLean County Home for Colored Children and Some Present Needs,” *The Pantagraph*, December 7, 1920
19. “Benefit Tea Arranged for Colored Children’s Home,” *The Pantagraph*, December 15, 1920
20. “Will Distribute Christmas Cheer,” *The Pantagraph*, December 17, 1920
21. “Household Science Club,” *The Pantagraph*, January 12, 1921
22. “Directors’ Meeting,” *The Pantagraph*, July 9, 1921
23. “Normal feds to Play Two,” *The Pantagraph*, November 8, 1921
24. “Negro Children in Good Home,” *The Pantagraph*, December 6, 1921
25. “Will Remember County’s Wards,” *The Pantagraph*, December 20, 1921
26. “Legion Will Give Ball For Charity,” *The Pantagraph*, January 19, 1922
27. “Mrs. Monroe Is Re-Elected,” *The Pantagraph*, January 25, 1922
28. “Official Sta of Mt. Pisgah Church,” *The Pantagraph*, March 3, 1922
29. “Pave Moulton Over Objection of Home,” *The Pantagraph*, November 15, 1922
30. “Plan Outlined for Welfare Campaign,” *The Pantagraph*, November 18, 1922
31. “Are to Open United Welfare Drive Today,” *The Pantagraph*, November 29, 1922
32. “Mothers’ Circle,” *The Pantagraph*, December 8, 1922
33. “Welfare Offering Split Eight Ways,” *The Pantagraph*, December 27, 1922
34. “Local Colored Men Form Legion Post,” *The Pantagraph*, February 7, 1923
35. “Annual Report by Mrs. Monroe,” *The Pantagraph*, February 13, 1923
36. “Oppose Colored Home Enterprise,” *The Pantagraph*, March 7, 1923
37. “Abandon Plan,” *The Pantagraph*, March 14, 1923
38. “Bert Calimese Has Accident,” *The Pantagraph*, April 16, 1923
39. “Here Visiting Brothers,” *The Pantagraph*, May 17, 1923
40. “Welfare Drive Starts Oct. 15,” *The Pantagraph*, September 20, 1923
41. “Council Rejects Bridge Proposal,” *The Pantagraph*, September 22, 1923
42. “$37,703.50 is Welfare Goal,” *The Pantagraph*, September 29, 1923
43. “Why Should Bloomington Give Itself a Black Eye?” *The Pantagraph*, October 31, 1923
44. “State and County Wards Will Dine,” *The Pantagraph*, December 22, 1923
45. “Deserves Credit For the Success of Colored Home,” *The Pantagraph*, June 5, 1925
46. “Outline Plan for Community Chest,” *The Pantagraph*, October 27, 1925
47. “County Home for Colored Children Worthy of Praise,” *The Pantagraph*, October 30, 1926
48. “McLean County Home for Colored Children,” *The Pantagraph*, January 1, 1927
49. “Will Give a Program for Colored Children,” *The Pantagraph*, March 19, 1927
50. “Colored Home Useful,” *The Pantagraph*, October 23, 1927
51. “Hundreds of Baskets Distributed to Poor Through Organizations,” *The Pantagraph*, December 25, 1929
52. “Colored Children’s Home Adds Vegetable Cellar,” *The Pantagraph*, December 31, 1929
53. “How Time Flies,” *The Pantagraph*, August 7, 1930
54. “Two Lots Added,” *The Pantagraph*, December 31, 1930
55. “Calimese Auto Recovered,” *The Pantagraph*, September 29, 1931
56. “Colored Home Adds Services,” *The Pantagraph*, January 12, 1932
57. “Mrs. Monroe Re-Elected President of Board,” *The Pantagraph*, January 14, 1932
58. “Checker Players Lose,” *The Pantagraph*, March 8, 1932
59. “Day Nursery Needs $3,211,” *The Pantagraph*, October 26, 1932
60. “Boy, Age 10, Dies of Ruptured Appendix,” *The Pantagraph*, July 5, 1933
61. “Calimese Funeral Held,” *The Pantagraph*, July 7, 1933
62. “Post’s Armistice Service Sunday, *The Pantagraph*, November 6, 1934
63. “Building Home For Children,” *The Pantagraph*, November 17, 1935
64. “Home for Colored Children Nears Completion,” *The Pantagraph*, June 28, 1936
65. “Open House Today at Colored Home,” *The Pantagraph*, September 6, 1936
66. “Hundreds Inspect New Colored Home During Open House,” *The Pantagraph*, September 8, 1936
67. “September,” *The Pantagraph*, January 3, 1937
68. “Mrs. Monroe Heads Board,” *The Pantagraph*, January 12, 1938
69. “Church listings: Baptist,” *The Pantagraph*, April 16, 1938
70. “Schantz Heads G.O.P. Central Committee,” *The Pantagraph*, April 26, 1938
71. “Colored Children Feted At Dinner,” *The Pantagraph*, September 9, 1938
72. “G.O.P Club to Meet,” *The Pantagraph*, October 21, 1938
73. “Mt. Pisgah Church Will Have Pig Roast,” *The Pantagraph*, November 1, 1938
74. “Colored Club to Meet,” *The Pantagraph*, October 1, 1940
75. “Agencies Strive to Give Normal Life to Youths,” *The Pantagraph*, March 2, 1941
76. “Helping Hands Cut Expenses at Colored Children’s Home,” *The Pantagraph*, October 14, 1941
77. “Mrs. George Monroe Has Service Record,” *The Pantagraph*, January 13, 1942
78. “Republicans, Democrats, Name Delegate to Judicial Meets,” *The Pantagraph*, March 29, 1942
79. “Stewart Will Head Redd-Williams Post,” *The Pantagraph*, August 5, 1942
80. “Redd-Williams Post Elects Taylor Cisco,” *The Pantagraph*, August 4, 1945
81. “Kiwanis Club Collects Gifts for Children,” *The Pantagraph*, December 25, 1945
82. “Calimese Heads County Colored Republican Club,” *The Pantagraph*, April 28, 1946
83. “320 Children Will Get Free Circus Tickets,” *The Pantagraph*, June 11, 1946
84. “Children Get Free Trip to Circus,” *The Pantagraph*, June 16, 1946
85. “Booker T. Washinton Home,” *The Pantagraph*, September 29, 1946
86. “Eli Pierce Named NAACP President,” *The Pantagraph*, December 8, 1946
87. “Miss Calimese, Former Officer Wed in East,” *The Pantagraph*, December 9, 1946
88. “Lodge Elects Covington As Master,” *The Pantagraph*, January 8, 1947
89. “Mrs. Monroe Named Board President,” *The Pantagraph*, January 16, 1947
90. “Children Exhibit Dresses at Library,” *The Pantagraph*, August 17, 1947
91. “Masonic Lodge No. 23 Holds Installation,” *The Pantagraph*, December 21, 1947
92. “County Parties Name Delegates,” *The Pantagraph*, April 27, 1948
93. “Price Hall Lodge Plans School of Instruction,” *The Pantagraph*, July 9, 1948
94. “Booker Washington Home Has Party,” *The Pantagraph*, August 11, 1948
95. “30 Children To Take Tour of Chicago,” *The Pantagraph*, August 15, 1948
96. “Children’s Home Unique Downstate,” *The Pantagraph*, October 2, 1949
97. “Mrs. Monroe Re-Elected by Home Board,” *The Pantagraph*, January 11, 1950
98. “Negro GOP Club Elects Calimese,” *The Pantagraph*, March 11, 1950
99. “Booker T. Washington Home,” *The Pantagraph*, August 13, 1950
100. “70 at Republican Club Meeting,” *The Pantagraph*, October 29, 1950
101. “Children Admire Lander Plaque,” *The Pantagraph*, January 4, 1951
102. “Mrs. Monroe Named Honorary Board President,” *The Pantagraph*, August 19, 1951
103. “Men Schedule Two Services at Mt. Pisgah,” *The Pantagraph*, June 26, 1953
104. “Children’s Home Has Memorial Home, Open House,” *The Pantagraph*, November 23, 1953
105. “Junior Women To Hear About Children’s Home,” *The Pantagraph*, December 7, 1953
106. “Ask BHA Not to Set Segregation Pattern,” *The Pantagraph*, February 16, 1954
107. “Carnahan Named County GOP Committee Head,” *The Pantagraph*, April 27, 1954
108. “Washington Board Sets Open House,” *The Pantagraph*, November 21, 1954
109. “New Stainless for Children’s Home,” *The Pantagraph*, April 3, 1955
110. “2 Added to Staff of Washington Home,” *The Pantagraph*, January 18, 1956
111. “Kids Get a Break at Washington Home,” *The Pantagraph*, September 30, 1956
112. “’Booker T.’ Tea,” *The Pantagraph*, July 14, 1957
113. “Children’s Home Has New Superintendent, Matron,” *The Pantagraph*, September 27, 1957
114. “Mrs. Sorensen Will Recall Africa for Churchwomen,” *The Pantagraph*, February 14, 1960
115. “Reports Thieves Enter Unoccupied Apartment,” *The Pantagraph*, May 9, 1961
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117. “Woman’s Day Involves Four Local Churches,” *The Pantagraph*, November 30, 1962
118. “Women’s Day Set at City Church,” *The Pantagraph* November 30, 1963
119. “25 Years Ago,” *The Pantagraph*, December 25, 1966
120. “Children’s Homes Merged,” *The Pantagraph*, January 15, 1969
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123. “Boys’, girls’ homes: Is time running out?” *The Pantagraph*, November 9, 1975
124. “75 Years Ago,” *The Pantagraph*, March 30, 1975
125. “Home’s roots planted in 1800s,” *The Pantagraph*, October 7, 1978
126. “50 Years Ago,” *The Pantagraph*, July 3, 1982
127. “How Time Flies,” *The Pantagraph*, September 27, 1982
128. Elaine Graybill, “From Orphanage to the History Books: Bloomington’s Betty Ebo has made her place,” *The Pantagraph*, February 15, 1990
129. Melinda Zehr, “A Look Back at McLean County’s Women of Distinction,” *The Pantagraph*, May 17, 1990
130. “100 Years Ago,” *The Pantagraph*, February 2, 2008
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132. “Ebo, B-N native, dies at age 93,” *The Pantagraph*, November 19, 2017