

McLean County Museum of History

Whittaker Family Collection

Processed by Torii Moré
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1850-1998
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	<p>Archived Photographs under People “Reginald Whittaker Collection” 1 box of identified photographs, 1 box of unidentified photographs.</p> <p>Whittaker family interviews are published in <i>Black Families of Normal: Genealogies of long-time residents of the town of Normal</i> in the Library, call: IL McLean NOR BLO</p> <p>BNBHP Collection Box 3 Folder 11 and a few other folders contain miscellaneous documents related to the Whittaker Family.</p> <p>Whittaker family scrapbooks in Archive Annex: PS-25</p>

Historical Sketch

Reginald Whittaker, born April 23, 1925, lived all his life in Normal. His parents were Walter and Caddie Whittaker. He attended Normal Central School, graduated from Normal Community High School, and worked in the stockroom at F. W. Woolworth Company for twenty-six years. Later he worked as a janitor at GTE for more than two decades.

His sister, Josephine Whittaker, grew up in the family home purchased by her grandfather in the 1890s. She graduated from Normal Community High School and attended Illinois State Normal University. She married and lived much of her life in Normal. She worked for many years in a retirement community which later became a sheltered-care home.

Caddie Whittaker, their mother, came to Bloomington from Georgetown, Kentucky. She met and married John Duff, and had one daughter, Fay Wesley Duff. She was carrying their son John Wesley Duff when her husband passed away with typhoid fever. Five or six years later she married Walter Whittaker, who was good friends with her late husband. They then had three children, Reginald, Walter II, and Josephine. Caddie worked at the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School until Reginald started school, and she never worked again.

Walter Whittaker worked at Model Laundry in Bloomington for twenty-three years, until 1932 or 1933. After that he worked for the Works Progress Administration, then as a janitor at the Livingston Building in downtown Bloomington. He worked there until he died in 1964 at the age of 84.

Scope Note

This collection contains documents related to the Whittaker family. Included are photocopies of death certificates, oral history, certificates, diplomas, correspondence, ephemera, and research notes. Collection dates from 1850-1998.

Box and Folder Inventory

Loose Items:

Songs of War, Victory and Home, Issued by the Daily Pantagraph for the encouragement of Community Singing

Account book

Memorial Book for Father Walter Wesley Whittaker (1876-1964)

Folder 1: Death Certificate Photocopies

- 1.1 Minnie Whittaker, born July 1883, died August 21, 1911
- 1.2 Esther Whittaker, died October 3, 1899 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis
- 1.3 Oliver Walter Whittaker, born December 29, 1854, died January 12, 1912
- 1.4 John Whittaker, died October 17, 1909 from Phthisis Polmonilis
- 1.5 Receipts for burial of John and Minnie Whittaker
- 1.6 Certificate of Death for Cyril Lee Roy Lee (A.K.A. William Lee) & Funeral Memorial Program Mr. Cyril LeRoy Lee
- 1.7 List of Counties in Louisiana
- 1.8 Louisiana Census 1850
- 1.9 1910 Census
- 1.10 Map of Louisiana counties
- 1.11 2 pages of notes

Folder 2: Reginald Whittaker Oral History

- 2.1 2 copies of an interview with Reginald Whittaker talking about Normal, Illinois and the African American community during the 1920s-40s. Interview by Jack Muirhead, July 23, 1996.
- 2.2 Reginald Whittaker, Evergreen Cemetery, Notes from the video tape. July 30, 1996

Folder 3: Citizens' Savings, Loan & Building Documents

- 3.1 Envelope, contract, and promissory note for loan (\$500) to Walter Whittaker. December 1917 (4 documents)
- 3.2 Bloomington Loan and Homestead Association loan of \$400 to Walter Whittaker April 1893

Folder 4: John Duff Reading Circle Diploma

- 4.1 John Duff Reading Circle Diploma, signed by B.C. Moore April 1916

Folder 5: Square Deal Oil & Gas Company Documents

- 5.1 Share Owner Certificate for Walter Whittaker (2, February and April 1920)
- 5.2 Corresponding letter

Folder 6: Knights of Pythias

- 6.1 Photograph of member ribbon
- 6.2 Beneficiary Certificate for Walter Whittaker

Folder 7: Invitation

- 7.1 1912 invitation to Miss Minnie Whittaker from Miss Alverta Duff. (Note in folder says “Interesting because she died in 1911”)

Folder 8: Commercial Trades Institute

- 8.1 March 24, 1944. Recommendation letter for Walter Whittaker
- 8.2 March 24, 1944. Release letter

Folder 9: Greeting Cards

- 9.1 Happy Birthday wish from Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Auson
- 9.2 Mothers day card from daughter
- 9.3 Thank-you for sympathy card
- 9.4 Greetings to dad card
- 9.5 Seating Cards
- 9.6 Envelope and Mothers Day card from John Duff
- 9.7 Dance Card

Folder 10: Post Cards

- 10.1 Approximately 70 color post cards from all over the United States

Folder 11: Ann Malone’s Notes on Whittaker

- 11.1 Obituary for Walter Whittaker II
- 11.2 Will book photocopy
- 11.3 List of dates and records (notes)
- 11.4 12 pages of notes on deed records
- 11.5 Map- Visitors Guide to Frankfort
- 11.6 35 pages of notes
- 11.7 Photocopy of free inhabitants and slave inhabitants in Scott County, Kentucky
- 11.8 7 pages of notes on John Pratt & family
- 11.9 6 pages of ancestor charts and family group records regarding Whittaker, Pratt and Wilson
- 11.10 Funeral book for Lillie Caldwell (1898-1964)
- 11.11 One Hundred and Forty-Sixth Anniversary of First Baptist Church (1842-1988) program

Folder 12: Miscellaneous Documents

- 12.1 Obituary for Walter Whittaker
- 12.2 3 C Club’s Annual Harvest Party program, 1980

- 12.3 3 C Club Harvest Party program, 1995
- 12.4 Letter Reginald Whittaker from Barbara Doss Regarding enclosed obituary (Anna Lee Wilson) and photocopy of a photograph
- 12.5 3 C Club 90th Anniversary Reception, 1998
- 12.6 Faye Duff Certificate of Bank from McLean County Common Schools, and the envelope it came in.
- 12.7 Program for Reggie Whittaker's memorial service, Jun 2021.

Folder 13: ISU Student Interviews

- 13.1 Letter expressing 5 students' interests in the BNBHP. Attached is an interview by Jeff Vincent with Reginald Whittaker