

9-10-2009

Ralph Bunche Community Center Oral History Project (FA 455)

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FA 455 RALPH Bunche Community Center Oral History Project

1/2 box. 11 folders. 21 items. Originals and compact discs.

2009.114.1

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In 1866, the Kentucky Legislature designated one-half of all revenues generated from the imposition of taxes on property owned by blacks for the support of black school. This meager concession to separate black education was followed in 1871 by a law equalizing tax rates applicable to both blacks and whites, and in 1882 by a referendum which resulted in allocation of the Common School Fund to districts on a per capita basis without regard to race. The system of common schools for blacks in the State and that for whites differed markedly despite these enactments, and the common schools of Barren County were no exception. Twenty-seven public elementary schools for blacks had developed in Barren County by 1892. That number fell to 18 by 1931.

The black elementary school serving the Glasgow district and surrounding area was a unit of the county system until 1934; it was called the Glasgow Training School. A two-year high school was added to the school in 1926 or 1927 under the direction of W.I. Robinson, a graduate of Howard University. Robinson had taught earlier black common schools at Cave City and Oak Grove. The new school was the first public school accessible to blacks in Barren County. In 1934, Mr. Robinson was succeeded by Richard Sewell, who was assisted by Miss Wood. These men added two years of additional course work, making the school a four-year high school.

Luska J. Twyman succeeded Richard Sewell in 1947 as principal of the Glasgow Training School. In 1950, the school was renamed Ralph J. Bunche School; a building to house all twelve grades was constructed, and the first state-accredited, twelve-year program for blacks was established in the County.

The tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades of Bunche School were merged with the Glasgow High School in 1963; and in 1966, Bunch School was reorganized within the City School System as a sixth grade center and renamed it the Bunche Center. It housed the Glasgow Preschool and the Alternative School. On May 26, 2005, the Glasgow Board of Education voted to sell the Bunche Center to the Liberty District Association, a group of African American churches. The mission of the Bunche Center and the Liberty District is to plan, finance and carry out proactive, integrative and respectful strategies to strengthen high-risk youth, through mentoring with activities, career consulting, academic tutoring and sports; while developing life-style enhancements through behavior and financial counseling for families and individuals; ensuring that the historical preservation of the African- American Heritage of Ralph Bunche is implemented and exhibited for public observation and education.

(Extracted from *Barren County Heritage* (Bowling Green: Homestead Press, 1980)

Ralph Johnson Bunche (1904-1971) was an African-American historian who taught at Howard University (1928-1950) and Harvard University (1950-1952). He was also active in the civil rights movement and worked with the United Nations on several missions related to civil rights in Africa and in Israel.

COLLECTION NOTES:

This collection consists of ten interviews done with African Americans who attended the Ralph Bunche School when it was still a segregated school in Glasgow, Kentucky. The interviews were conducted by Jessica Bonneau; Barry Kaufkins served as the faculty advisor on the project. Interviews were arranged alphabetically by the informant. The interviewees discuss the importance of the school in the African American community, the values taught at the facility, teachers and teaching, prejudice, segregation and integration, and general attitudes toward African Americans. Concurrently the interviews also reveal information about African American culture in Glasgow. The interviews are on CD's (compact discs).

This project was funded by the Kentucky Oral History Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1			21 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Consent forms	2009	10 items
Folder 4	Emily Francis interview	Feb. 6, 2009	1 item
Folder 5	Mildred Francis interview	Mar. 30, 2009	1 item
Folder 6	Alma Glover interview	Oct. 8, 2008	1 item
Folder 7	Thomas Grider interview	Mar. 20, 2009	1 item
Folder 8	Jane Hayes interview	Mar. 25, 2009	1 item
Folder 9	Charles Hunter interview	Feb. 5, 2009	1 item
Folder 10	Mezetta Hunter interview	Mar. 24, 2009	1 item
Folder 11	William Hunter interview	Mar. 19, 2009	1 item
Folder 12	Jean Mansfield interview	Mar. 25, 2009	1 item
Folder 13	Ester Shirley interview	Mar. 23, 2009	1 item

CATALOG CARD

FA RALPH Bunche Community Center 2008-2009
455

Interviews with ten African Americans who attended the Ralph Bunche School in Glasgow, Kentucky. Informants provide history and other information related to the importance of the school in Glasgow's African American community.

½ box. 11 folders. 21 items. Originals and compact discs.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans – Glasgow – Education
African American – Barren County – Education
Barren County – African Americans – Education
Barren County – Schools
Barren County – Teachers and teaching
Bonneau, Jessica (Interviewer)
Frances, Emily Ann, b. 1945 (Informant)
Francis, Mildred (Informant)
Ralph Bunche School – Glasgow
Glasgow – African Americans - Education
Glasgow – Ralph Bunche School
Glasgow – Education
Glasgow – Schools
Glasgow – Teachers and teaching
Glover, Alma J., b. 1951 (Informant)
Grider, Thomas (Informant)
Hayes, Jane (Informant)
Hunter, Charles (Informant)
Hunter, Mezzetta (Informant)
Hunter, William (Informant)
Mansfield, Jean (Informant)
Schools – Barren County
Schools – Glasgow
Shirley, Ester (Informant)
Teachers and teaching – Barren County
Teachers and teaching – Glasgow

sl - 1; me - 1; sa - 26

Jeffrey 09/10/2009