

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

FA Finding Aids

Folklife Archives

6-18-2009

Ralph Bunche National Historic District - Oral History Project (FA 457)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_fa_fin_aid



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Ralph Bunche National Historic District - Oral History Project (FA 457)" (2009). *FA Finding Aids*. Paper 175.

https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_fa_fin_aid/175

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in FA Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101

**FA 457 RALPH Bunche National Historic District – Glasgow, Kentucky –
 Oral History Project**

1 box. 4 folders. 63 items. Originals and 30 cassette tapes. 2003-2004.

2004.110.1

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The Ralph Bunche National Historic District consists of approximately 136 buildings in an area of Glasgow, Kentucky bounded by East College Street, Landrum Street, Twyman Court and South Lewis Streets. The District is important for its association with Glasgow, Kentucky's African American community. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 and its chief period of architectural significance runs from 1900 to 1974. The District contains residential, commercial and educational properties. The District was named for the Ralph Bunche School located within its bounds. 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.

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, Bunche School was reorganized within the City School

System as a sixth grade center and named 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)

COLLECTION NOTES:

This collection consists of thirty interviews done with African Americans related to the neighborhood contained within the Ralph Bunche National Historic District in Glasgow, Kentucky. Much of the interviews relate to family history and the Ralph Bunche School when it was still a segregated institution. The interviews were conducted by Lynne (Hammer) Ferguson. The interviewees discuss the importance of the school and church in the African American community, prejudice, segregation and integration, genealogy, social rites and customs, urban renewal, and general attitudes toward African Americans. The interviews also reveal information about African American culture in Glasgow with particular emphasis on things that occurred within the historic district. The interviews are on cassettes, but all have been digitized and are available on TopSCHOLAR or by clicking on the folder names below which are live links to each interview.

This project was sponsored by the Kentucky Oral History Commission.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1		63 items
Folder 1	Inventory	1 item
Folder 2	Ralph Bunche National Historic District Oral History Report	Dec. 31, 2004 1 item
Folder 3	Donor release forms	Dec. 2004 31 items
Cassette 1	Mary Jane Franklin	Mar. 6, 2002 1 item
Cassette 2	Evelyn Franklin & James Glover	Feb. 24, 2003 1 item
Cassette 3	Anna Mansfield	Mar. 3, 2003 1 item
Cassette 4	Eunice Collins	Mar. 6, 2003 1 item

Cassette 5	Savannah Richardson	Mar. 13, 2003	1 item
Cassette 6	Nancy Trigg	Mar. 26, 2003	1 item
Cassette 7	Deloris F. Williams	Dec. 28, 2004	1 item
Cassette 8	Gladys L. Shirley Smith	Nov. 22, 2004	1 item
Cassette 9	Alma Glover	Dec. 31, 2004	1 item
Cassette 10	Fred Haynie	Dec. 29, 2004	1 item
Cassette 11	Lucille Harris	Dec. 27, 2004	1 item
Cassette 12	Wanda Bowles	Nov. 22, 2004	1 item
Cassette 13	Wendell Franklin	Dec. 27, 2004	1 item
Cassette 14	William Webb	Dec. 30, 2004	1 item
Cassette 15	James Glover	Feb. 24, 2003	1 item
Cassette 16	William Glover	Mar. 3, 2003	1 item
Cassette 17	Willie (Webb) Childress Bush	Mar. 26, 2003	1 item
Cassette 18	Jerry Wells	Feb. 29, 2004	1 item
Cassette 19	Minnie Edmonds	Dec. 30, 2004	1 item
Cassette 20	Josephine Granger	Dec. 27, 2004	1 item
Cassette 21	Marie Mason	Nov. 23, 2004	1 item
Cassette 22	Fred Haynie	Dec. 28, 2004	1 item
Cassette 23	Alma Glover	Dec. 31, 2004	1 item
Cassette 24	Ernest T. Franklin	Dec. 30, 2004	1 item
Cassette 25	Willie D. Bradshaw	Dec. 21, 2004	1 item
Cassette 26	Alonzo Webb	Dec. 29, 2004	1 item
Cassette 27	Rex Bailey	Dec. 28, 2004	1 item

Cassette 28	Emily Frances	Dec. 28, 2004	1 item
Cassette 29	Michael Blandsford	Dec. 28, 2004	1 item
Cassette 30	Beatrice Shannon Curd	Dec. 30, 2004	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

FA 457 RALPH Bunche National Historic District – Glasgow, Kentucky – Oral History Project 2003-2004

Oral interviews with thirty African Americans who had some association with the area included within the Bunche historic district in Glasgow, Kentucky. Interviewees discuss family history, social rites and customs, the importance of the church and the school, integration and segregation, as well as urban renewal.
1 box. 63 items. Typescript, forms, and cassette tapes.
2004.110.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans – Barren County
African Americans – Glasgow
African Americans – Glasgow – Education
Bailey, Rex (Informant) CT 27
Barren County – African Americans
Barren County – Schools
Barren County – Segregation and integration
Barren County – Urban renewal
Blandsford, Michael, b. 1952 (Informant) CT 29
Boles, Johnetta, b.1940 (Informant) CT 12
Boles, Wanda, b. 1939 (Informant) CT 12
Bradshaw, Willie D., b. 1925 (Informant) CT 25
Bush, Willie (Webb) Childress (Informant) CT 17
Collins, Eunice (Informant) CT 4
Curd, Beatrice Shannon, b. 1931 (Informant) CT 30
Edmonds, Minnie Zella, b. 1935 (Informant) CT 19
Frances, Emily Ann, b. 1945 (Informant) CT 28
Franklin, Ernest T., b. 1955 (Informant) CT 24
Franklin, Evelyn (Informant) CT 2
Franklin, Mary Jane (Informant) CT 1

Franklin, Wendell Garnett (Informant) CT 13
 Glasgow – African Americans
 Glasgow – African Americans – Education
 Glasgow – Schools
 Glasgow Training School
 Glover, Alma J., b. 1951 (Informant) CT 9&23
 Glover, James Herbert (Informant) CT 2&15
 Glover, William Richard (Informant) CT 16
 Granger, Josephine, b. 1936 (Informant) CT 20
 Haynie, Fred Kelly, Jr., b. 1921 (Informant) CT 10&22
 Harris, Lucille (Glover), b. 1945 (Informant) CT 11
 Integration and segregation – Barren County
 Mansfield, Anna, b. 1920 (Informant) CT 3
 Mason, Marie S. “Mattie”, b. 1929 (Informant) CT 21
 Ralph Bunche School – Glasgow
 Richardson, Savannah (Informant) CT 5
 Smith, Gladys L. Shirley, b. 1940 (Informant) CT 8
 Trigg, Nancy (Informant) CT 6
 Urban renewal – Barren County
 Webb, Alonzo Grooms, b. 1947 (Informant) CT 26
 Webb, William, b. 1933 (Informant) CT 14
 Wells, Jerry Lee, b. 1944 (Informant) CT 18
 Williams, Deloris Francis, b. 1931 (Informant) CT 31

Jeffrey 06/18/2009