National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) - Bowling Green, Kentucky Branch, 1919-1937 (MSS 249)

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**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded 12 February 1909 in New York by a group of activists, both white and black, who felt the need to renew the abolitionists' struggle for civil and political liberty on behalf of African Americans. The group's mission was “to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.”

The Bowling Green, Kentucky branch of the NAACP was organized ten years later on 2 February 1919 at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 716 College Street. Fifty-three persons were enrolled as charter members. Mr. E. I. Smith was selected as the group’s first president, serving until 1925. The local chapter’s charter was presented to the organization 1 January 1920 at a gathering celebrating the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. After a period of more than 80 years the Bowling Green branch of the NAACP became dormant on 31 December 1999 but was reactivated in 2003.

**COLLECTION**

This collection consists of photocopies of the minutes of the Bowling Green, Kentucky chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 2 February 1919 to 8 June 1927. The minutes reveal the concerns of the group and its many activities on behalf of racial justice locally as well as nationally. The minute book also provides membership lists, including the charter members, and financial reports. The collection includes various communications from NAACP headquarters, 1925-1927, that kept members informed about national issues such as the anti-lynching law.
SHELF LIST

BOX 1  Title of box                     1919-1937                     13 items
Folder 1  Inventory                                1 item
Folder 2  NAACP – Minutes of Bowling Green branch  1919-1927                     1 item; 173 p.
Folder 3  NAACP – Miscellaneous loose pages found in 1919-1927 minute book  1923-1937                     11 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS  NATIONAL Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Bowling Green, Kentucky Branch  1919-1937
249

Minutes of the Bowling Green, Kentucky branch of the NAACP, 1919 to 1927. Also includes membership lists and financial reports.
½ box. 3 folders. 13 items. Photocopies
2010.27.54

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans – Bowling Green  F2
African Americans – Bowling Green – Political activity  F2
Bowling Green – African Americans  F2
Bowling Green – African Americans – Political activity  F2
Lynchings – South Carolina – Comments about  F3
Minute books  F2
Race relations
Smith, Emmanuel I.  F2
South Carolina – Lynchings – Comments about  F3

Lile/Jeffrey  02/23/2009