

# BLACK WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE WEST PROJECT RECORDS, 1932- 1986

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Collection #:  
M530

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Processed by:  
Wilma L. Gibbs  
Revised, 9 June 1998

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 14 boxes

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1932-1986; Bulk 1984-85

PROVENANCE: Darlene Clark Hine, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Held by Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Darlene Clark Hine, *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana*, ( rr E185.86.B53 1986 ); Darlene Clark Hine, *When the Truth is Told: A History of Black Women's Culture and Community in Indiana, 1875-1950* (E185.93 I4 H56 1981)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 91.0682

NOTES: Several of the individual collections gathered as a result of the Black Women in the Middle West Project and donated to the Indiana Historical Society are listed in Wilma L. Gibbs, *Selected African-American History Collections* (1996) and Wilma L. Gibbs, "In Retrospect: The Black Women in the Middle West Project at the Indiana Historical Society," in *Indiana's African American Heritage: Essays from Black History News and Notes*.

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

During the 1970s, the Indianapolis section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) began to collect manuscript materials about the lives of black women in Indiana. Unsolicited, two members of that organization, school teachers Virtea Downey and Shirley Herd, delivered the materials to Darlene Clark Hine, a Purdue University faculty member. Much of the material was used in the publication of *When the Truth is Told: A History of Black Women's Culture and Community in Indiana, 1875-1950*, written by Hine in 1981.

The relationship between Hine, Downey, and Herd was the impetus for the Black Women in the Middle West (BWMW) Project. The project was an effort to collect manuscript and photographic records of black women in Illinois and Indiana. In 1982, Hine, an associate professor of history and vice provost at Purdue University, wrote a planning grant for the project, which was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Special Services. During the 1982-83 planning year, a small staff including a project director, administrator, typist, and a graduate assistant enlisted the help of archivists, librarians, academicians, and hundreds of grassroots volunteers. The year was spent developing an organizational structure, devising a conference-workshop, and preparing a proposal to submit to NEH for funds to implement the project.

Initially, the project was to last three years and was to cover a five-state area. NEH funded the project with several major revisions to the proposal. The duration of the project was altered to eighteen months. The proposal requested coverage of a five-state area including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The project staff chose Illinois and Indiana, after the funding agent limited the number of states to two. Also, a black women's history travelling exhibit was eliminated. Additionally, the project was funded at \$150,000 (\$200,000 had been requested for the five state project) with the stipulation that a Co-director for Archives be added to the staff.

Once the program was funded, an executive committee composed of a cross-section of archivists, librarians, academicians, and others originally from all five states was appointed. This committee helped generate local support for the project, reviewed project plans, and aided with the preparation of the grant proposal.

The regional committees served an important function. Located in key cities throughout both states, the committees provided a forum for the many volunteers. Each committee had a chairperson who coordinated its work and served as a liaison between the group and the BWMW Project central office. The chairpersons formed the Committee of Regional Coordinators. The coordinators were put in contact with staff at area libraries and historical societies from whom they could seek advice as they collected records.

The implementation phase of the project lasted from January 1984 through June 1985. Eight major conference/workshops were held throughout the summer of 1984. The purpose of these meetings was to train the volunteer project representatives to become field workers in their local communities. The participants were kept informed through a series of progress reports.

The Indiana Historical Society was one of the five repositories that agreed to house the collections brought in by the project. Its holdings include the administrative files of the project and four dozen collections of individuals and groups. The other cooperating institutions, all of which worked closely with the project and supplied an archivist to serve on the Archival Advisory Committee, were the Chicago Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Society, Calumet Regional Archives in Gary, and the Northern Indiana Historical Society in South Bend.

### SOURCES: Materials in the collection

Wilma L Gibbs, " In Retrospect: The Black Women in the Middle West Project at the Indiana Historical Society," *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News And Notes* ( rr E185.93.I4 B52 1993); Darlene Clark Hine, *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana* ( rr E185.86 . B53 1986).

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection is comprised of the administrative files of the Black Women in the Middle West (BWMW) Project. The files of the project include 14 manuscript boxes, of which over half contain biographical materials related to the project collectors. The files span 1980-86, with the bulk of the collection dated from 1984-85. There are photographs of several project participants that date as early as the 1930s.

Information pertaining to the project's development is contained in boxes 1 and 2. There are planning documents, financial records including budgets, the National Endowment for the Humanities application, and personnel materials. Several workshops were held before and during its implementation stage of the project. Workshop training materials, plans, invitations, and evaluation forms are contained in box 2. The project's general correspondence files are in boxes 2 and 3.

Several mass mailings were sent under the auspices of the BWMW Project. The mailing lists of the project are contained in box 3. In addition to a complete alpha mailing list, there are lists for Indiana and Illinois, lists by city and region, and committee-generated lists. Publicity materials (handouts, kits, notices, and forms) are in box 4, along with completed participant questionnaires. Box 5 contains newsclippings about the project. Notes written by Patrick Bidelman, who served as Co-director for Administration of the project and other staff notes are also in box 5. Newsletters and information about related institutions are in boxes 6 and 7.

Project participants were encouraged to complete personal questionnaires and send in biographical information. The remainder of the collection, boxes 7-14, contain these files arranged alphabetically, and photographs. Most of the information in box 14, folders 17-21, is subsumed in *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana*. The last folders in box 14 (22-73) contain photographs and negatives, many of which appeared in the resource guide. The visuals cover numerous subjects including the Alpha Home, Woman's Improvement Club, and several churches. There are also photographs and negatives of the BWMW Project staff, volunteers, and promotional materials. Unless, otherwise specified, all visuals (8 x 10 and less) have been placed in black and white storage. Other visual formats include color photographs and 4 x 5 polyester negatives.

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## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

### **BOX 1: Project Presentation; Reports; NEH Applications; Initial Planning Records; and Proclamations**

#### **Folder Contents**

1 Project Presentation delivered by Darlene Clark Hine

2 Executive Committees

3 Progress Reports

4 NEH Application

5 NEH Application Appendixes, A- G

6 NEH Application Appendixes, H-N

7 NEH Application Correspondence, 1980-84

8 NEH Application Correspondence, 1985- n.d.

9 Financial Records

10 Regional Committees

11 Project By- Laws

- 12 Project Forms
- 13 Project Job Positions
- 14 Project Proposals
- 15 Project Themes
- 16 Purdue Research Grant
- 17 Budget Proposals
- 18 Coordinators Reports
- 19 Committees
- 20 Proclamations
- 21 Conferences, 1982 - 1983
- 22 Conferences and Programs, 1983-1985

**BOX 2: Workshop and Conference Materials; Evaluations; Correspondence 1979-1985, n.d.  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Conference, 1984-1985, n.d.
- 2 Conference Attendance
- 3 Transparencies
- 4 Evaluation Forms A - L
- 5 Evaluation Forms M - W
- 6 Workshop Materials
- 7 Slide Show Scripts
- 8 Correspondence, 1979; 1980; March/April 1982
- 9 Correspondence, September - October, 1982
- 10 Correspondence, November - December, 1982
- 11 Correspondence, January - February, 1983
- 12 Correspondence, March - June, 1983
- 13 Correspondence, August - December, 1983
- 14 Correspondence, January - February, 1984
- 15 Correspondence, March, 1984
- 16 Correspondence, April, 1984

17 Correspondence, May, 1984

18 Correspondence, June, 1984

19 Correspondence, July - August, 1984

**BOX 3: Correspondence, 1984-1985, n.d.; Mailing Lists; Sign-up Sheets; and Collector's Manual  
Folder Contents**

1 Correspondence, September - October, 1984

2 Correspondence, November - December, 1984

3 Correspondence, January - February, 1985

4 Correspondence, March - July; December 1985

5 Correspondence, n.d.

6 Media Mailing List

7 Mailing List -- Illinois

8 Mailing List -- Indiana

9 Mailing List -- Other States

10 Mailing List -- Printout

11 Regional Committee -- Mailing List

12 Sign - up Sheets

13 Collector's Manual

**BOX 4: Publicity Materials; Project Participant Lists; and Participant Questionnaires  
Folder Contents**

1 Publicity Handouts

2 Publicity Kit

3 Project Participant List, January 1984 - June 1985

4 Project Participant List, July, 1985

5 Project Participant List, July, 1985

6 Participant Questionnaires, A - B

7 Participant Questionnaires, B

8 Participant Questionnaires, C

9 Participant Questionnaires, D

10 Participant Questionnaires, E-G

- 11 Participant Questionnaires, H
- 12 Participant Questionnaires, I-L
- 13 Participant Questionnaires, M
- 14 Participant Questionnaires, N-P
- 15 Participant Questionnaires, R-S
- 16 Participant Questionnaires, S-V
- 17 Participant Questionnaires, W

**BOX 5: Recruiting Forms; Project Newsclipping; and Project Notes  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Recruiting Forms
- 2 Project News Clippings
- 3 Project News Clippings
- 4 Project News Clippings
- 5 Project Letters
- 6 Representative List
- 7 Donor List
- 8 Project Master List
- 9 Phone List- - Champaign, Chicago, and Indianapolis
- 10 Patrick Bidelman's Notes
- 11 Patrick Bidelman's Notes
- 12 Patrick Bidelman's Notes
- 13 Patrick Bidelman's Notes
- 14 Project Participant Biographical Information Form

**BOX 6: Press Releases; Memos; Brochures; and Magazines  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Press Releases 1982-1985, n.d.
- 2 Telephone Messages, 1984 - 1985 , n.d.
- 3 Project Reply Forms, A - W
- 4 Memos

5 I. U. Microfilm and Microform Collection of Black Studies

6 *History's Neglect Ending: An Index to Press/Magazine Notices*

7 Resource Directories, 1983-1984, n.d.

8 Card Catalogue Copies of Indiana University's Black History Collection

9 Bibliography of Afro- American Material

10 Darlene Clark Hine, *When the Truth is Told*

11 Brochures for Black Culture Institutions

12 Magazines and Magazine Articles

13 Magazines

14 Magazines

15 Pamphlets and Bulletins

**BOX 7: Newsletters; Historical Societies; and Participant Files, A-B  
Folder Contents**

1 Black History News and Notes Subscription List

2 Newsletters, 1944; 1982 - 1984

3 Newsletters, 1984 - 1985, n.d.

4 Historical Societies

5 Historical Societies

6 News Clippings not specifically related to the project

7 Programs and Announcements for Women's Studies

8 Religious Materials

9 Church Addresses

10 Minority Affairs

11 Minority Organizations

12 United Nations Info Kit for Women

13 Participants, Adams - Allen M.

14 Participants, Allen Singers - Anna Tutt Honey's Club

15 Participants, Arnold - Balthrope

16 Participants, Baatz, Wilmer

**BOX 8: Participant Files, B-C  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Participants, Banks - Barbee
- 2 Participants, Barnes
- 3 Participants, Barrow - Batties
- 4 Participants, Bauman - L. Bishop
- 5 Participants, Blackburn - Blanks
- 6 Participants, Blanton – Booker T. Washington Center
- 7 Participants, Bowles - Braboy
- 8 Participants, Bradley - Bridges
- 9 Participants, Bridgewater, Emma Scott
- 10 Participants, Britt - Brooks
- 11 Participants, Brown, Clarissa
- 12 Participants, Brown, Cornelia – Brown, Gladys
- 13 Participants, Brown, Kathyryn - Buka
- 14 Participants, Burch - Burnett
- 15 Participants, Burns – Busy Fingers Club
- 16 Participants, Caldwell - Carter
- 17 Participants, Cartright - Chapman

**BOX 9: Participant Files, C-G  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Participants, Chester - Clark, B.
- 2 Participants, Clark, D. - Clift
- 3 Participants, Cody - Colby
- 4 Participants, Collins - Cook, A.
- 5 Participants, Cook, V. - Cooper
- 6 Participants, Copeland – Cosmopolites Business and Professional Women’s Club
- 7 Participants, Cowan, Larine Y.
- 8 Participants, Crawford - Cress
- 9 Participants, Crittenden – Crump-Fonza



- 10 Participants, Curtis
- 11 Participants, Daniels - Day
- 12 Participants, DeBois - DeRamus
- 13 Participants, Dickerson - Downey
- 14 Participants, Driver - Durr
- 15 Participants, Edwards - Enix
- 16 Participants, Finley, Jessie M.
- 17 Participants, Fisher - Fraction
- 18 Participants, Freeman – Garrett
- 19 Participants, Gilmore – Gospel Music History
- 20 Participants, Graham - Gray, J.
- 21 Participants, Gray, L. - Green
- 22 Participants, Greene - Gregory
- 23 Participants, Grissom - Groves
- 24 Participants, Griffin

**BOX 10: Participant Files, H-K  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Participants, Hale - Hall
- 2 Participants, Hampton - Harper
- 3 Participants, Harris - Hayden
- 4 Participants, Herd, Shirley
- 5 Participants, Hicks - Hill, R.
- 6 Participants, Hill, T. - Hine
- 7 Participants, Holland - Holt
- 8 Participants, Hoskins - Howell, F.
- 9 Participants, Howell, M. - Hunter
- 10 Participants, Hyde - Ivory
- 11 Participants, Jackson, Alma A.
- 12 Participants, Jackson, Carrie I.

- 13 Participants, Jackson, E. -Jennings
- 14 Participants, Jett - Johnson, C.
- 15 Participants, Johnson, E. - Johnson, M.
- 16 Participants, Johnson, R.- Joiner
- 17 Participants, Jones, Irma J.
- 18 Participants, Jones, Irma J.
- 19 Participants, Jones, L. - Julien
- 20 Participants, Kelly - Kent
- 21 Participants, Kersey - Killian
- 22 Participants, Knox – Komai

**BOX 11: Participant Files, L-N  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Participants, Lafontant - Levi
- 2 Participants, Lewin - Lightfoot
- 3 Participants, Linthecome - Lockett
- 4 Participants, Love
- 5 Participants, Lovelady – Lyons
- 6 Participants, Mack - Malone, D.
- 7 Participants, Malone, V. - Martin
- 8 Participants, Mason - Maye
- 9 Participants, McAdams - McClusky
- 10 Participants, McCoy - McDonald
- 11 Participants, McPike - McShane
- 12 Participants, Meares - Merrifield
- 13 Participants, Meyers - Mitchell
- 14 Participants, Moore, A. - Moore, P.
- 15 Participants, Moore, Reola C.
- 16 Participants, Moore, Reola C.
- 17 Participants, Moore, T. - Mosby

- 18 Participants, Motley, Archie
- 19 Participants, Motley, Archie
- 20 Participants, Mount Zion Baptist Church - Myrick
- 21 Participants, Navarro - Nelson, C.
- 22 Participants, Nelson, L. - Newsome
- 23 Participants, Nolcox - Norman

**BOX 12: Participant Files, O-S  
Folder Contents**

- 1 Participants, Oberlander - O'Quinn
- 2 Participants, Order of Eastern Star- Osborne
- 3 Participants, Oshin- Parks
- 4 Participants, Pasley - Pendergrass
- 5 Participants, Perkins - Phillips
- 6 Participants, Pierce – Pope
- 7 Participants, Potter--Pruitt
- 8 Participants, Ray
- 9 Participants, Rencher - Retledge
- 10 Participants, Rhea, LaJulia Elizabeth
- 11 Participants, Rhea, LaJulia Elizabeth
- 12 Participants, Richardson - Riley
- 13 Participants, Roberts - Robinson, G.
- 14 Participants, Robinson, J. - Robinson, N.
- 15 Participants, Robinson, R. - Roby
- 16 Participants, Rose - Ross
- 17 Participants, Rowland - Rucker
- 18 Participants, Russell - Scott
- 19 Participants, Sease – Segars
- 20 Participants, Shell-Skinner, A.
- 21 Participants, Skinner, C. - Slaughter

22 Participants, Smith, D. - Smith, M.

23 Participants, Smith, N. – Sororities of Champaign-Urbana Illinois

24 Participants, Spann - Spears

25 Participants, Springer-Myers – Starks, D.

**BOX 13: Participant Files, S-W**

**Folder Contents**

1 Participants, Starks, E. - Stout, A.

2 Participants, Stout, F. - Streets

3 Participants, Swarn

4 Participants, Tabron - Taylor, M.

5 Participants, Taylor, R. -Taylor-Guthrie

6 Participants, Temoney, Ruth

7 Participants, Tennione - Thomas, O.

8 Participants, Thurman - Tinsley

9 Participants, Tolson, Ruth Ouida

10 Participants, Tolson, Ruth Ouida

11 Participants, Tootle - Treadwell

12 Participants, Turentine - Turner

13 Participants, Umar - Utz

14 Participants, Vanlandingham, Esther

15 Participants, Varnado - Waldon

16 Participants, Walker, Bernice

17 Participants, Walker, Bernice

18 Participants, Walker Company and Estate - Walker, E.

19 Participants, Walker, Francis

20 Participants, Walker, Juliet E. K.

21 Participants, Warren

**BOX 14: Participant Files, W-Y; Computerized Biographies; Visual Materials**

**Folder Contents**

- 1 Participants, Washington - Waugh
- 2 Participants, Webb - Wesley
- 3 Participants, West, Donald
- 4 Participants, Wescott-Wheaton
- 5 Participants, White – Whiteside
- 6 Participants, Whitlow - Williams, B.
- 7 Participants, Williams, C. - Williams, Marion
- 8 Participants, William, Mary - Garden
- 9 Participants, Williams, O. - Williams, Sh.
- 10 Participants, Williams, Si. - Wilson, F.
- 11 Participants, Wilson, G. - Wilson, V.
- 12 Participants, Woodard - Woodley
- 13 Participants, Woods - Wright-Odom
- 14 Participants, Yezkey - Yore
- 15 Participants, Young, Carolyn
- 16 Computerized Biographies unalphabetized
- 17 Computerized Biographies unalphabetized
- 18 Computerized Biographies unalphabetized
- 19 Project Participants, Chapters 3-6
- 20 Voices of Experience (Transcript of Speeches)

**VISUAL MATERIALS:**

- 22 (VC) Allen Singers (Color Storage)
- 23 (VC) Luella Marie Bishop
- 24 (VC) Accompanied Violet Brooks Material
- 25 (VC) Chicago Musician Photographs
- 26 (VC) Alice Lyles Clift (Color Storage)
- 27 (VC) Margaret and John Cross
- 28 (VC) Clara Belle Taylor Day
- 29 (VC) Rosalind D. Davis

- 30 (VC) Delta Sigma Theta
- 31 (VC) Fannie T. Dudley (Color Storage)
- 32 (VC) Fashion Models
- 33 (VC) Geraldine M. Gregory
- 34 (VC) Catherine Grissom (Color Storage)
- 35 (VC) C. Maxine Hall and son
- 36 (VC) Ruth Hoover Hill
- 37 (VC) Darlene Clark Hine
- 38 (VC) Margaret Lee Howell
- 39 (VC) Carrie Jackson (Color Storage)
- 40 (VC) Hazel M. Killion (Color Storage)
- 41 (VC) Lottie Wyatt-Killion
- 42 (VC) Rev. D.M. Levi
- 43 (VC) Charlotte Levi (Color Storage)
- 44 (VC) Highness M. Lockett (Color Storage)
- 45 (VC) Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
- 46 (VC) Margaret J. Neal (Color Storage)
- 47 (VC) Mary V. Ray
- 48 (VC) Joyce Robinson
- 49 (VC) Accompanied Anna Wall Scott materials
- 50 (VC) Josephine Ploor Smith (Color Storage)
- 51 (VC) Accompanied LaQueen Watkins materials
- 52 (VC) Orena Williams (Color Storage)
- 53 (VC) Genois Wilson
- 54 (VC) Genois Wilson (Color Storage)
- 55 (VC) Fannie B. Woodley
- 56 (VC) Conference Workshop Reception, Chicago, 1984
- 57 (VC) Project Coordinators and Volunteers, Fort Wayne, Ind.

58 (VC) Project Participants, Purdue University, 1985

59 (VC) Project Participants, South Bend, Ind.

60 (VC) Project Staff

61 (VC) Project Staff, 1984 (contact prints)

62 (VC) ` Project Staff, et al.

63 (VC) Promotional Materials (Color Storage)

64 (VC) Promotional Meeting (Color Storage)

65 (VC) Promotional Meeting (Color Storage)

66 (VC) Promotional Meeting (Color Storage)

66 (VC) Promotional Meeting (Color Storage)

67 (VC) Promotional Meeting (Color Storage)

68 (VC) Promotional Meeting (Color Storage)

69 (VC) Promotional Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 1984

70 (VC) Guide Book for BMWW Project

71 (VC) Guide Book for BMWW Project

72 (VC) Guide Book for BMWW Project

73 (VC) Various subjects. Most of the images are contained in *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana* (Polyester, 4 x 5 , Negative Storage) See below for an itemized list of negatives.

**Negatives, Polyester, 4 x 5 contained in Box 14, Folder 73**

1. Alpha Home group
2. Alpha Home building, Indianapolis
3. Black Women in the Middle West sample cover of project booklet
4. Flanner House Clinical Building poster
5. Mattie Jacobs Fuller at organ
6. George Goins- various receipts, Indianapolis
7. George and Ada Goins- Marriage License, 1889
8. George Goins- Tax Notice, 1900
9. George Goins Property Tax Receipt, 1904
10. *History News* cover, February 1984
11. Illinois Association of Colored Women's Club, program booklet cover, 1939
12. Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Club, cover from statistical report, 1918
13. Our Day Together Club house, South Bend, Indiana
14. Mary B. Talbert Club minutes book (page), Richmond, Indiana
15. Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Richmond, Indiana, program booklet cover, 1965
16. Mount Olivet Baptist Church Choir, Indianapolis
17. Phyllis Wheatley Club house, Terre Haute, Indiana,
18. Phyllis Wheatley Club house, Evansville, Indiana, 1922

19. Sisters of Charity Hospital, Indianapolis, bank statement, 1912
20. St. Mark AMEZ Church, Indianapolis, 1924
21. Sallie Wyatt Stewart
22. Madam C.J. Walker (bust shot)
23. Madam C.J. Walker building, Indianapolis
24. Madam C.J. Walker in horseless carriage
25. Madam Walker, Booker T. Washington, F.B. Ransom, et al. in front of Senate Avenue YMCA, Indianapolis
26. Women's Improvement Club
27. Women's Improvement Club house, Indianapolis
28. Mary d. Yore, ca. 1930
29. Mary D. Yore collection (ALS,\* Frank L. Baker to Nellie Cook), courtship letter-Mary Yore's parents, 1927
30. Mary D. Yore collection (Manicurist- Nellie Baker at Clinton's Beauty Shop in Vincennes)
31. Mary Yore collection (*Family Lines* newsletter)
32. Unidentified group

\* autographed letter, signed

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### CATALOGING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Black Women in the Middle West Project

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Black Women in the Middle West Project

Hine, Darlene Clark

Bidelman, Patrick Kay

Herd, Shirley M.

Downey, Virtea Washington, 1913-

Walker, C. J., Madam, 1867-1919--Photographs

Woman's Improvement Club (Indianapolis, Ind.)--Photographs

Alpha Home (Indianapolis, Ind.)--Photographs

Women--Indiana

Women--Illinois

Afro-American women--Congresses

Afro-American women--Indiana--Biography

Afro-American women--Illinois--Biography

Afro-American women--Photographs

END