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**Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H. Coates Jr. Collection**  
**Collection Number: 1706 THL**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

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**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Processed by Buffy Knappenberger. Last updated June 2024.

**EXTENT:** 0.21 linear feet

**DATE:** 1904-1999

**EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES:** Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** This collection contains a variety of items concerning the family of Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H. Coates Jr., the early years of Douglas School of Winchester, VA and its principal Powell W. Gibson, and other allied families.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** Loretta Moten Coates is the daughter of Blanche Gibson Moten and Walker Moten and the granddaughter of Powell W. Gibson, principal of Douglas School, Winchester, VA from 1915-1940. She graduated from Douglas School in 1956, and worked as a secretary at the school until the school was closed in 1966. Earl H. Coates Jr. was born in New Jersey before moving to Winchester. He and his wife are active members of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Winchester, VA.

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Gift of Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H. Coates, Jr.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**BOX 1**

Coates, Earl Jr. – Biography, 2 pages, printed

Coates, Earl H. Jr. – Certificates, 1963-1985, 7 items, printed

Coates, Earl H. Jr. – Certificate from the President of the United States of America, thanking Mr. Coates for his service on the Selective Service Local Draft Board No. 45, Virginia, August 28, 1974, 1 leaf, printed

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 11**

Coates, Earl H. Jr. – News clippings, unnumbered leaves, printed

Coates, Loretta Moten – Notes for her resume, 1 envelope, manuscript

Douglas School – Copy of newspaper article on the laying of the cornerstone for Douglas School, Winchester Evening Star, September 6, 1927, 3 leaves, typescript

Douglas School – Commencement Invitations, 1918 (Douglas Graded School), 1925, 1927; this folder also contains invitations to events at The F.C.C.C., Frederick, Maryland, 1927; Storer College, 1925; Phi Beta Sigma, Soiree De Plaisir, 1925, (2 copies)

Douglas School – Essay on the Fifth Anniversary of Douglas School, 1927-1977 by Blanche G. Moten, 1 leaf, manuscript

Douglas School – Miscellaneous Items, 3 items

Douglas Alumni Association News Letter, September, 1975, 1 leaf, typescript

News clipping on Douglas addition, n.d.

Program – Douglas Dedication Ceremony and Alumni Open House, October 2, 1999, 2 pages, printed

Program – “It’s a Deal,” April 15, 1954, 1 item, printed

Letter from Powell Gibson to Douglas School teachers, Oct 1, 1937, 1 leaf, printed (photocopy)

Douglas School – “Twenty-One Years of Progress, 1941-1962”, by Kirk N. Gaskin, June 11, 1962, 5 leaves, mimeograph

Gibson Elementary School – Dedication Service, October 30, 1960, 1 item, 2 pages, printed

Gibson, Blanche G. – Program of “Pageant, The New Era”, May 30, 1923, 1 leaf, printed

Gibson, Powell W. – “Adaptation of Professional Training to Conditions in Rural School, June 19, 1912, 3 leaves, typescript

Gibson, Powell W. – Biographies/obituaries, n.d., 8 items. printed/typescript

Gibson, Powell W. – Broadside for “Jake Among the Indian”, June, 27, 1913

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 11**

Gibson, Powell W. – Broadside for “The King of the Mandingoes”, February 11, 1921 (2 copies)

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 11**

Gibson, Powell W. – Certificates, Education/Career, folder includes the following:

Carnegie College, Rogers, O., Free Tuition Scholarship, Nov 22, 1909, 2 copies, printed, printed (photocopy)

Commonwealth of Virginia State Teachers Certificate, August 12, 1930, 2 copies, printed, printed (photocopy)

Gibson, Powell W. – Home 115-119 East Lane, 5 items, typescript and printed, folder includes the following:

Advertisement for sale, n.d., Preservation of Historic Winchester

Architectural Surveys, 1976, City of Winchester Architectural Inventory

“The Habitat Herald” Autumn 1999, Habitat for Humanity

Façade Covenants, n.d. [Preservation of Historic Winchester]

News articles

Gibson, Powell W. – Plays, Poems, folder includes the following:

“De Sun Do Move,” n.d.

“Aida,” n.d.

“Jake Among the Indians,” 1931

“The King of the Mandigoes,” 1921

“Old Walker-Payne,” n.d.

“Ode to Frederick Douglas,” 1904

Gibson, Powell Willard, Jr. (Willard P. Gibson) – 4 items, printed, manuscript on printed form

Goodloe, S. S. – Biography, 1 leaf, printed

Moten, Blanche G. – “My First Teaching Experience, n.d., 1 page, typescript

Negro Makers of History by Carter Woodson, 2 pages, printed

## PHOTOGRAPHS

- [1706-001] Earl H. Coates, Jr., in an all-white ensemble, circa late 20<sup>th</sup> century
- [1706-002] Powell W. Gibson (on right) with several sisters. Gertrude (Gibson) Grimes on left, others not identified, circa 1920s
- [1706-003] Members of Daniel J. Farrar Lodge #458, Improved Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Earl H. Coates Jr. is 2d from left in front row, 1995
- [1706-004] Four generations of Gibson-Moten-Coates family. Left to right: Blanche Gibson Moten (gen2), Hattie Gibson (gen1) holding Floyd Coates (gen4), Loretta Moten Coates (gen3), circa 1969
- [1706-005] Mr. and Mrs. Powell W. Gibson and others at the 25th wedding anniversary of John Henderson Cook and Esther Davis Cook, 1945
- [1706-006] Powell W. Gibson (2nd from left) and unidentified other members of graduating senior class, circa 1893
- [1706-007] Powell and Hattie Gibson with toddler Blanche, circa 1905
- [1706-008] Gibson family on stoop of 119 East Lane. Professor Gibson lived in this house from 1916, when he became Principal of Douglas School, circa 1916
- [1706-009] Professor Gibson's sisters, unidentified, circa 1920s
- [1706-010] Hattie B. Gibson and daughter Blanche (Moten), circa 1920s
- [1706-011] Blanche Gibson Moten, husband Walker G. Moten, daughter (toddler) Loretta, circa 1940
- [1706-012] Hattie B. Gibson, wife of Powell W. Gibson, mother of Blanche Gibson Moten and Willard P. Gibson, circa 1920s
- [1706-013] Hattie B. Gibson, wife of Powell W. Gibson, mother of Blanche Gibson Moten and Willard P. Gibson, circa 1920s
- [1706-014] Blanche Gibson (Moten), reclining on grass, circa 1920s
- [1706-015] Willard Powell Gibson (then known as Powell Willard Gibson, Jr.), son of Prof. Powell Willard Gibson, as a small boy with a Buster Brown haircut, circa 1910
- [1706-016] Willard Powell Gibson (then known as Powell Willard Gibson, Jr.), son of Prof. Powell Willard Gibson, barefoot in the grass holding a ginger kitten, circa 1918
- [1706-017] Willard Powell Gibson (then known as Powell Willard Gibson, Jr.), son of Prof. Powell Willard Gibson, as schoolboy with trophy cup, 1920
- [1706-018] Willard Powell Gibson, son of Prof. Powell Willard Gibson, as an adult “in England,” circa 1940
- [1706-019] Powell W. Gibson and extended family on the occasion of his 50th wedding anniversary (married Hattie B. Gibson 1903), 1953
- [1706-020] Powell W. Gibson and Hattie B. Gibson on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, 1953

- [1706-021] Blanche Gibson (Moten) as a toddler, with Horton grandparents and aunt Ella (on left), circa 1905
- [1706-022] Loretta Moten (Coates) as a young girl, circa 1950s
- [1706-023] Loretta Moten (Coates), Douglas School graduate, 1955
- [1706-024] Loretta Moten (Coates), Douglas School graduate, with diploma, 1955
- [1706-025] Blanche Gibson Moten in middle age. Seated, indoors, casual setting, circa 1960
- [1706-026] Blanche Gibson Moten, in middle age, circa 1960
- [1706-027] Loretta Moten Coates, with husband Earl H. Coates, Jr., circa 2000s
- [1706-028] Loretta Moten Coates, at dedication of site of Powell W. Gibson house, circa 2000
- [1706-029] Loretta Moten Coates, with husband Earl H. Coates, Jr., at dedication of site of Powell W. Gibson house, circa 2000
- [1706-030] Loretta Moten Coates with memorabilia of her grandfather, Prof. Powell W. Gibson. For publication in Winchester Star, 1997
- [1706-031] Formal Coates family photo: Earl H. Coates Jr., Loretta Moten Coates, sons Floyd and Eric Coates, 2001
- [1706-032] Coates extended family at Earl H. Coates Jr's 70th birthday party, circa 2000s
- [1706-033] Coates extended family at Earl H. Coates Jr's 70th birthday party, circa 2000s
- [1706-034] Coates extended family at Earl H. Coates Jr's 70th birthday party, circa 2000s
- [1706-035] Coates extended family at Earl H. Coates Jr's 70th birthday party, circa 2000s
- [1706-036] Jazz band, "The Ragging Tornadoes," with instruments. Band started by Moss in Winchester, circa 1920s
- [1706-037] Members of the Douglas School graduating class of 1927. Last class graduated out of Old Stone Presbyterian Church "colored school" at 306 East Piccadilly. School was known as "Douglas School" from 1916 to 1927, when the new Douglas School building was opened. Per 1988 interview with Catherine Shelton Ford (2d from left), the classmates she remembers are Clifford Brooks, Sarah Fletcher, Elizabeth Nickens, Virginia Shelton, and James Waldon. Teachers were Mr. Gibson - Jr. High, Ms. Beatrice Mitchell - Primary, Ms. Anna Brooks - Elementary. Per Judy Humbert: graduation ceremony held at City Hall Auditorium, 1927
- [1706-038] Douglas School children in costume for "King of the Mandingoes", a play written by Powell W. Gibson and performed by the children on February 11, 1921. The school was then located at the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, 306 East Piccadilly Street. No persons identified, 1921
- [1706-039] Unidentified woman in late 19th or early 20th century dress, possibly connected to the Coates family, circa 1900
- [1706-040] Coates descendants, possibly Floyd Coates and family, circa 1990s
- [1706-041] Douglas School students in front of Old Stone Presbyterian Church at 306 East Piccadilly, then in use as a "colored school." Teacher in doorway with small mustache may be Powell W. Gibson, circa 1910
- [1706-042] Photographs from Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H Coates Jr Collection, little or no identifying information. Composite photograph of students (Douglas School?), some first names, no complete identifications, circa 1920s
- [1706-043] Photographs from Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H Coates Jr Collection, little or no identifying information. People outside a church, 1951
- [1706-044] Photographs from Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H Coates Jr Collection, little or no identifying information. People inside a church, identified as "Christmas program, Dec 21, 1959," 1959
- [1706-045] Photographs from Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H Coates Jr Collection, little or no identifying information. People inside a church, 1971
- [1706-046] Photographs from Loretta Moten Coates and Earl H Coates Jr Collection, little or no identifying information. Display board of "Storer Graduates", no information readable. (Graduates of Storer College, Harpers Ferry, WV.), circa 1990s
- [1706-047] June Gaskins Davis and Loretta Moten Coates at a dinner, perhaps given by the Douglas Alumni Association, 2002

- [1706-048] Douglas School Faculty. L to r, front row: Marie B. Briscoe, Hattie M. Lea, Lovelena Lomax Marcus, Anna Brooks Tokes; (back row) Taylor Floyd Finley, Powell W. Gibson (Principal), 1936-1937
- [1706-049] Douglas School students in show. Four couples in Argentinian dance costumes (tango?). Persons identified (left to right) as Fitzhugh Christian, Walter Gaither, Beverly Ann Richardson, Albert Grimes, Joan Elliot, Charles H. Jackson, Helen Rhodes, Edward Curry, 1949
- [1706-050] Douglas School students in show directed by Effie McKinney [Davis]. Three ballerinas. Persons identified (l to r) as Joyce A. Gaskins, Loretta Moten, and June Gaskins (Davis), circa 1947
- [1706-051] Douglas School Faculty. 1st row, left to right: Blanche Gibson Moten, Mattie Russell Cross, Effie McKinney Davis, Kirk N. Gaskins, Sr., Margaree Washington, Dorothy Moorman, Hester Harris; 2d row, left to right: Tuscan Jasper, Margaret Williams, Lovelena Lomax Marcus, Francis M. Jackson, Ruth Barksdale, Dorothy Dandridge, Henry Moss Brooks, 1957
- [1706-052] School children and teacher posed in front of school building. Teacher is Powell W. Gibson, circa 1910
- [1706-053] Douglas High School students standing and sitting in front of doorway. Persons identified as (left to right, front row) Meta Lee Turner, Milbert Taper, Elsie Ford, Joy A. Gaskins, Beulah Bannister, Sarah Lewis, Mary Fisher; (left to right, back row) Principal Kirk N. Gaskins, Sr., Clifford Brooks, Jr., Richard Ford, Jr., Rosa Gaither, Madison Walker, Nerissa Wright (teacher), Gladys Doleman, Kirk N. Gaskins, Jr., Adrian Emerson Cook, Floyd Finley III (joined the Air Force 1949, put in 20 years - see 1493-25 thl), circa 1948
- [1706-054] Douglas School students Grades 2 and 3. Identifications enclosed (some inconsistencies in sources). Teacher (on right, third row) is Blanche Gibson Moten. First row, left to right: Dorothy Ann Doleman, Joan Allen, Fitzhugh Christian, Barbara Turner, Nancy Grimes, Jean Allen, Lillian Prather; 2d row, left to right: Andrew Gaskins, Charles Brown, Horace Johnson, John Carter Finley, Moses Brown, Kenneth Cooke, Nimrod Turner, Walter Gaither; 3d row, left to right: Helen Rhodes, Beverly Richardson, John Ash, unknown, Linwood Williams, Gloria Finley, Ramona Martin, (teacher) Blanche Gibson Moten, 1944
- [1706-055] Douglas High School Homecoming with queen "Miss Douglas", cheerleaders, faculty. Persons identified (left to right, front row) as Gloria Finley, Sarah Burns, Nannie Donnelly, Lillian Poulsen, June Gaskins, Helen Rhodes, Barbara Turner, Jean Alexander, and teacher Effie McKinney; (back row) Ann Ford, Rosalie Bartlett, Fitzhugh Christian (Homecoming Queen), Prof. Powell Willard Gibson, Shirley Bartlett, 1949
- [1706-056] "Miss Douglas" and faculty at Douglas High School Homecoming. Left to right: Ann Ford, Mr. Kirk N. Gaskins, Powell W. Gibson, Fitzhugh Christian (Queen), Rosalie Bartlett, Shirley Bartlett, 1949
- [1706-057] Douglas School faculty sitting and standing in front of windows. 1st row, left to right: Blanche Gibson Moten, Mattie Russell Cross, Effie McKinney Davis, Kirk N. Gaskins, Sr., Margaree Washington, Dorothy Moorman, Hester Harris; 2d row, left to right: Tuscan Jasper, Margaret Williams, Lovelena Lomax Marcus, Ruth Barksdale, Dorothy Dandridge, Henry Moss Brooks, 1957
- [1706-058] Earl H. Coates, Jr., in US Army enlisted uniform, circa 1940s-early 1950s
- [1706-059] Powell W. Gibson "at school" - standing at edge of sidewalk, wearing derby hat, circa 1919
- [1706-060] Powell W. Gibson (center) and family sitting on front steps of their home. Hattie Bell Horton Gibson to his left, Blanche Gibson Moten on his right. Top row - Willard Gibson(?), Loretta Moten(?), Walker Moten, 1940
- [1706-061] Blanche Gibson Moten, standing on a sidewalk, circa 1925
- [1706-062] Blanche Gibson Moten (right) and unidentified other woman (possibly Hattie Gibson?), sitting on a bench in front of stone building, circa 1930
- [1706-063] Essie Brinkley and two unidentified young girls, standing in front of some trees, circa 1925
- [1706-064] Helen Jennings Cartwright standing in front of white picket fence, circa 1925
- [1706-065] Barbara Hawkins in a dress with a sailor collar and large round earrings, circa 1958

- [1706-066] Amanda Moten standing in front of house, porch, picket fence, circa 1930
- [1706-067] Powell Willard Gibson as an old man, circa 1950
- [1706-068] Douglas School teachers sitting at school front entrance. Persons identified as (left to right, seated) Anna Brooks Tokes, Francis M. Jackson, Hattie M. Lea, Kirk Nathaniel Gaskins, Sr. (Principal), Nerissa Wright, Clarence Davis; (standing) Effie McKinney, Lovelena Lomax Marcus, Blanche Gibson Moten, Alma Luada Layton, circa 1945
- [1706-069] 22 members of Douglas High School faculty and surrounding county faculty taking a required extension course in Mr. Jackson's classroom at Douglas School. Some persons identified, 1947
- [1706-070] Douglas School Faculty. Persons identified as (left to right, front row) Kirk N. Gaskins, Sr., Powell W. Gibson (Principal), Simon Cook ; (back row) Anna Q. Brooks Tokes, Lovelena Lomax Marcus, Blanche Gibson Moten, Nerissa Wright, Hattie M. Lea, circa 1939
- [1706-071] Douglas School teachers sitting at school front entrance. Persons identified (L to R seated): Anna Brooks Tokes, Francis M. Jackson, Hattie Orrick Lea, Kirk Nathaniel Gaskins, Sr. (principal), Nerissa Wright, William Marcus; (standing) Effie McKinney, Lovelena Lomax Marcus, Blanche Gibson Morten, Alma Luada Layton, circa 1945
- [1706-072] Douglas School Homecoming Queen and Court. Persons identified as (l to r) Jean Allen (runner-up), Brenda Bundy (Ms. Elementary), Elizabeth Jackson (4th place), Patricia Finley (Queen), Audrey Curry (3rd place), Sylvia Stephenson (5th place), Annie Shields (previous Queen, 1952), 1953
- [1706-073] Douglas School graduation, Class of 1952. Five male and six female graduates in cap and gown with diplomas. Some persons identified by key as Helen Rhodes, Charles Jackson, Gloria Finley, Shirley Hall, Edward Curry, Joan Elliot, Gilbert Caulk, Eva Crawford, 1952
- [1706-074] Douglas School graduation, Class of 1951. Five male and seven female graduates in cap and gown with diplomas, assorted faculty members. Persons identified as (left to right, front row) Lois Wanzer, Elizabeth Kramer, Margaret Williams, June Gaskins, Ann Ford, Evelyn Brown, Alma Kane; (second row) Anna Q. Brooks Tokes (teacher), Monroe Johnson, James Walden, Paul Burns, Kenneth Carter, Roy Rhodes, Effie McKinney (teacher); Blanche Gibson Moten (teacher), Lovelena Lomax Marcus (teacher), Edwin K. Barksdale (teacher), Mattie Russell (teacher), Francis M. Jackson (teacher); (fourth row) Margaree Washington (teacher), Charles Dendy (teacher), Otelia Pegram (teacher), Kirk N, Gaskins (Principal), Luada Layton (teacher), 1951
- [1706-075] Photographic postcard with picture of Madison Briscoe (left) and two friends identified only as "Chase" and "Toodle", in caps and gowns for graduation from Howard University, 1927
- [1706-076] Powell W. Gibson, Principal of [Frederick] Douglas school 1916-1941, circa 1930s
- [1706-077] Powell W. Gibson as a young man, circa 1900s
- [1706-078] Powell W. Gibson "at school - recess out," circa late 1910s
- [1706-079] Powell W. Gibson, "daddy Gibson," circa late 1910s
- [1706-080] Powell W. Gibson (possibly a school picture), circa 1920
- [1706-081] Powell W. Gibson with brother Clarendon Fisher (Gibson), circa 1920s
- [1706-082] Powell W. Gibson with granddaughter Loretta Moten (Coates), circa 1940
- [1706-083] Powell W. Gibson with granddaughter Loretta Moten (Coates) and vintage car, circa 1940
- [1706-084] Powell W. Gibson with niece Lucille (Gibson?), relaxing in back yard, circa 1940s
- [1706-085] Powell W. Gibson, from post-retirement publication, circa 1950
- [1706-086] Lucille and Kirk Gaskins, friends of Blanche Gibson Moten, standing in front of fence and tree, circa 1925
- [1706-087] Willard Powell Gibson, son of Prof. Powell Willard Gibson, circa 1930s
- [1706-088] June Gaskins (Davis), member of the Douglas School graduating class of 1951, in cap and gown. Picture inscribed "To Mrs. Moten, Love, June", and on reverse, "My teachers shall never be forgotten as long as I live," 1951