

**Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**  
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**Winchester Area Branch #7127, NAACP Records**  
**Collection Number: 1697 THL**

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

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Initial processing undertaken in 1976. Last updated by Buffy Knappenberger in October 2024.

**ACCESSION NUMBER(S):** 2024.054 THL, 2024.055 THL

**EXTENT:** 3.21 linear feet

**CREATOR:** Winchester Area Branch #7127, NAACP

**DATE:** 1940 – 2024

**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 the minutes, correspondence, and other materials from Winchester Area Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. NAACP. The bulk of the material is from the 1970s and 1980s when Raymond Radcliffe occupied the position of director. Materials continue to be added. More recent files include programs for banquets and celebrations.

Of note, the collection contains a letter from Martin Luther King Jr. to Harano Childs, dated May 21, 1956, in which King thanks Childs for his support of the Montgomery Improvement Association. Mr. Childs also received a comic book, “Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story.” The letter and comic book have been scanned and framed and may be viewed on the first floor of the Handley Library, along with a short article about the items.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, commonly referred to as the NAACP, was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909. Its stated purpose was to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons and to eliminate racial discrimination. Local branches of the organization have existed almost since the national society’s conception. Like the national organization, local branches of the NAACP were actively involved in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. The Winchester Area Branch includes the city of Winchester, Frederick County, and Clarke County, Virginia.

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** This collection contains some items acquired as gifts, while other materials are on long-term loan. Please ask Archives staff for further information.

## **CONTAINER LIST:**

### **BOX 1**

33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education – 1 booklet, 8 leaves, printed

American Legacy Magazine – contains an interview with Historian Douglas Brinkley concerning research for a biography of Rosa Parks, pgs. 78-82, 1 magazine, printed

Blank Forms – unnumbered leaves

Brochures – 8 items, printed

Charter – Winchester Area Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, January 12, 1976

#### **Physical Location: Oversize Frames**

Constitution of the NAACP, 1994 – 2 copies in booklet form, printed

Conventions, 1970s – unnumbered leaves, printed

Conventions, 1980s – unnumbered leaves, printed

Conventions, 1990s and 2000 – unnumbered leaves, printed

Correspondence, August 24, 1948 – 1 leaf, typescript (photocopy)

Correspondence, 1962-1975 – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Correspondence, 1976-1977 – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Correspondence, 1978-1979 – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

### **BOX 2**

Correspondence, 1980-1981, unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Correspondence, 1983 – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Correspondence, 1990s – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Correspondence, no date – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

*The Crisis*, January and March, 1975 issues – 2 magazines, printed

*The Crisis*, 1977-1980 (November, 1977, May, 1979, June, 1980) – 3 magazines, printed

Education – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Flyers, 1949-1980s – unnumbered leaves, typescript, printed

Hints for a Better Branch Administration, January 1995, 1 booklet, 1 brochure

“How the NAACP Began”, January, 1995 – 1 booklet, 6 pages, printed and 1 brochure, 3 pages, printed

Membership Dinner/Freedom Fund Banquet (folder includes the following):

NAACP Membership Dinner Program, dated August 15, 1980 typescript, printed

NAACP Life Membership Banquet Program, dated march 6, 1993, typescript, printed

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Programs (3) dated September 14, 2013, September 12, 2015 and September 10, 2016, typescript, printed.

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Programs, (3) dated September 9, 2017, September 8, 2018 and September 14, 2019, typescript, printed

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Program, dated September 9, 2023, 2 items, typescript, printed

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Program, dated September 14, 2024, 4 items, typescript, printed

Winchester Area NAACP 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Freedom Fund Banquet Booklet, dated September 13, 2019, 20 pages, typescript, printed

Membership dues envelopes – 20 envelopes, printed

Membership Campaigns – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

### **BOX 3**

Michaux, Elder Lightfoot Solomon, Last Sermon, August 28, 1968 – 6 pages, printed

Miscellaneous Items – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript, printed

Poster – “Fighting For Freedom For Over 68 Years,” 1 item, printed

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 20**

Program – Forty and One Years, James Edwards, Movie Star, dated April 14, 1950, photocopy, 4 leaves

Resolution – Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly Commending the Winchester NAACP, February 8, 2021, 1 item in folder, printed

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 20**

Spring Banquet – scenes, scanned, no date, no identification, 12 leaves,

### **BOX 4 Minutes 1975-2016**

Minutes, 1974 – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Minutes, 1975 – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Minutes, 1976-1978 – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Minutes Book, 1979-1981 (incomplete) – October 4, 1979, November 6, 1980, December 4, 1980, February 5, 1981, booklet, unnumbered leaves, manuscript

Minutes Book, January 22, 1981 – 1 book, manuscript

Minutes, 1980s – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Minutes, 1994-1996 – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Minutes, 1997-2001 – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Minutes, 2015 – 2016 – unnumbered leaves, typescript

## **BOX 5**

News Articles – 1940s -1950s, unnumbered leaves, printed

News Articles – 1960s, unnumbered leaves, printed

News Articles – 1970s, unnumbered leaves, printed

News Articles – 1980s -1990s, unnumbered leaves, printed

News Articles – 2000s, unnumbered leaves, printed

Newsletters, 1958; 1970s-1990s – unnumbered leaves, printed

Public School Survey, 1976 – 27 leaves, typescript and printed

Recruitment Poster – n.d., 1 item, printed

Raymond Ratcliffe Foundation – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Requests for Assistance, 1970s-1990s – unnumbered leaves, manuscript, typescript

Request for Assistance, no date – unnumbered leaves, typescript, manuscript

Rules and Guidelines – unnumbered leaves, typescript and printed

Stationary – 12 leaves, printed

## **BOX 6**

Treasurers Reports, 1970s – unnumbered leaves, typescript

Treasurer Reports, 1974 – unnumbered leaves, manuscript

“While You Were Out” Notes, n.d. – unnumbered leaves, printed and manuscript

Winchester Housing Code, 1977 – unnumbered leaves, printed

Plaque – Grand Feature Float Civic and Service Admiral Byrd Award, First Place, Apple Blossom Festival, 1981, Winchester, VA

## **BOX 7**

Scrapbook – covering events between 1970-present

Winchester Area Branch NAACP ball point pen – 1 item

Folded American Flag, recipient unknown

## **BOX 8**

Plaque – City of Winchester Proclamation, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Winchester Branch of NAACP, Sept. 2014

Letter of Apology and Repentance to Winchester NAACP from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Winchester, dated Dec. 14, 2019, framed

## **BOX 9**

Childs, Harano (folder contains the following):

Letter from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Harano Childs, May 21, 1956, thanking him for support of Montgomery Improvement Association, 1 leaf, mimeograph copy,  
news article, “Man uncovers Dr. King letter during move” by Alison Laurio, Winchester Star, February 20, 2015, pages C5, C6.2 leaves, printed (photocopy)

Article by John Copenhaver, Harano’s son-in-law, about Mr. Childs and the letter, 1 leaf, typescript

“Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story”—comic book/graphic novel of Dr. Martin Luther King; 8 leaves, printed

“Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story”—comic book/graphic novel of Dr. Martin Luther King; 8 leaves, printed, 3 scanned copies

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund of the Winchester NAACP, Program from announcement of scholarship fund, 1 leaf, printed

## **BOX 10**

Notebooks (purple loose-leaf), photos of NAACP members and events to be used for displays, (2 copies, duplicate)

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

- [1697-001] Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade - first float for NAACP in parade. Some people identified (by key, enclosed). Availability of original uncertain, 1980.
- [1697-002] NAACP meeting. President Bushrod Harris addressing the group. Most persons identified by key (included). Print has been damaged by cutting on the left side. Clockwise from left, not necessarily identifying everyone: Bushrod S. Harris, William Shepherd Harris Jr., Elizabeth Cook, Marcellus Harper, Darnelle Paige, Julia Harris, Phyllis Long, Tammy Ashby, 1970.
- [1697-003] Tina Paige (?), local NAACP member, circa 1970s.
- [1697-004] Rev. Rudolph White at the pulpit of Zion Baptist Church, 10 Josephine Street, Berryville, VA, circa 1970s.
- [1697-005] Exterior of Zion Baptist Church, 10 Josephine Street, Berryville, VA. Unidentified parishioners etc., circa 1970s.

- [1697-006] Interior of Zion Baptist Church, 10 Josephine Street, Berryville, VA, circa 1970s.
- [1697-007] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Shepherd Harris, circa 1970s.
- [1697-008] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Bushrod and Shepherd Harris, circa 1970s.
- [1697-009] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Bushrod and Shepherd Harris, circa 1970s.
- [1697-010] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Shepherd Harris, William Quigley, Bushrod Harris, circa 1970s.
- [1697-011] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Mr. Wilson et al., circa 1970s.
- [1697-012] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Bushrod Harris, Shepherd Harris, et al., circa 1970s.
- [1697-013] NAACP members at a meeting in a church parish hall (possibly Zion Baptist). Bushrod Harris, Shepherd Harris, et al. Church flag in background, circa 1970s.
- [1697-014] Philip (?) Paige, local NAACP member, circa 1970s.
- [1697-015] NAACP member identified as Betty Morton, from Berryville, VA, circa 1970s.
- [1697-016] NAACP member, unidentified, circa 1970s.
- [1697-017] NAACP member, identified as Angela White from Berryville, VA, circa 1970s.
- [1697-018] NAACP, unidentified location, perhaps a meeting hall, circa 1970s.
- [1697-019] Harano Childs, Winchester social activist, at Grace Maldonado's 100th birthday, 2013.
- [1697-020] Harano Childs, Winchester social activist, 1963. (Cropped from 1697-021)
- [1697-021] Harano Childs, Winchester social activist, and family. Left to right: Harano Childs, wife Margaret, daughter Marsha (Copenhaver), son Meredith, 1963.
- [1697-022] NAACP Spring Banquet, John Mann Church. Poster for L. Douglas Wilder gubernatorial campaign on wall, 1989.
- [1697-023] NAACP Spring Banquet, John Mann Church, 1989.
- [1697-024] NAACP Spring Banquet, John Mann Church, 1989.
- [1697-025] NAACP Spring Banquet, John Mann Church. Poster for L. Douglas Wilder gubernatorial campaign on wall, 1989.
- [1697-026] NAACP Spring Banquet, John Mann Church or War Memorial Building. People in kitchen, circa 1989-1993.
- [1697-027] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building. Shepherd Harris(?) 3rd from left at table, circa 1990.
- [1697-028] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building. Shepherd Harris(?) 3rd from left at table, circa 1990.
- [1697-029] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building, 1993.
- [1697-030] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building. Gospel group(?), 1993.
- [1697-031] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building, 1993.
- [1697-032] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building, 1993.
- [1697-033] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building, 1993.
- [1697-034] NAACP Spring Banquet, War Memorial Building. Tom Ford hiding face on right, 1993.
- [1697-035] Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade - NAACP float takes first prize. No persons identified, 1981.
- [1697-036] Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade. NAACP float turning corner from Stewart Street onto Handley Boulevard. No persons identified. Availability of original uncertain, circa 2000.
- [1697-037] Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade. Tonya Clay, Teresa Hinton and Mike Crawford riding in NAACP Outstanding Youth car. Passing George Washington Office Museum and turning north onto Braddock Street, circa 2000s.
- [1697-038] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.

- [1697-039] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-040] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-041] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-042] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-043] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-044] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-045] Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit. One of a series of eight photographs documenting injuries in support of his claims, 1980.
- [1697-046] Raymond Ratcliffe, local NAACP member, in connection with Vernell Grant police brutality lawsuit, 1980.
- [1697-047] Otis Harper, local NAACP member, circa 1970s.
- [1697-048] Marcellus Harper, local NAACP member, circa 1970s.
- [1697-049] William Quigley, local NAACP member, circa 1970s.