

Locust Street Literary and Athletic Club Constitution finding aid

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July 22, 1910

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16859

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1695

Unit Date

July 22, 1910

Mixed Materials [X032668462]

BW 58 (box)

Container

1 (folder)

Language

English

Extent

0.04 Cubic Feet One legal-sized file folder

Condition Description

Good

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

There are no copyright restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Locust Street Literary and Athletic Club constitution was purchased from Franklin Gilliam Rare Books August 21, 2024, by Krystal Appiah. It was accessioned by the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library on October 02, 2024 (2024-0147).

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Janie Porter Barrett was born in Athens, Georgia on August 9, 1865. Her mother was a domestic servant and seamstress in the antebellum south. Janie made her way to Virginia and was educated at the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, which would become the historically Black institution now known as Hampton University. She would go on to teach in Georgia and Virginia before marrying her husband, Harriet Barrett in 1889 and having her four children.

She and her family would settle in an all-Black neighborhood called Locust Street, where she and her husband would found the Locust Street Social Settlement House in 1890. From their home, the Barretts would start clubs and classes that aided in the development and education of young African American girls and boys in the domestic and agricultural vocations. This provided the youths of the community with not only education, but also a place to go within the neighborhood where they were encouraged to play games and give back to the community.

In 1902 the Barretts were able to move the Settlement from their house to an actual clubhouse they had built. In following years, one of the clubs they established was the Locust Street Literary and Athletic Club of Hampton. The club developed a constitution that was written in 1910, which laid out principles and precedents within the organization. This shows the Barretts' level of detail and commitment to the youths of their community. They were not only teaching the children practical skills but also providing them with knowledge that they may not have gotten in segregated schools at that time.

Janie Porter Barrett would help found the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1908. She would enlist the federation, the Virginia Assembly, and the National Association of Colored Women to take up the cause of helping "wayward" girls with the Industrial Home School for Colored Girls in 1915. They would purchase a farm north of Richmond in Hanover County where she would give them a good place to stay and domestic, vocational, and agricultural skills so they would not be exploited by unfair employers.

Later in life she would work with the Virginia Commission on Interracial Cooperation, the Richmond Urban League, and the National Association of Colored Women until her death in August of 1948. After her death the Virginia Assembly the school for girls in Hanover the Janie Porter Barrett School for Girls, which was a testament to legacy and all she did for African Americans and women at a time when both were disparaged.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the constitution of the Locust Street Literary and Athletic Club of Hampton, Virginia. The document, dated July 22, 1910, is handwritten in graphite on three pages of lined paper. The preamble to the club's constitution states that they operate "to form a more perfect union, insure order, justice and tranquility and promote the highest intellectual and physical development of ourselves and of our race." This constitution contains 8 Acts: Act I details the structure of the organization, including the executive committee, officers, and legislative body; Act II sets age restrictions to 18 or older, limiting the club to thirty members, and details the election process for vacancies in the club; Act III establishes a joining fee of 25 cents, monthly dues of 10 cents, and unexcused absence fee of 5 cents; Act IV notes a schedule of weekly meetings during the summer and one afternoon each month dedicated to athletics; Act V outlines the governing body to consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee of four, with elections held the fourth week of July of every year; Act VI says the Secretary shall keep a strict

journal of the proceedings of each meeting; Act VII says the Treasurers accounts will be subject to inspection by the Executive Committee; Act VIII notes that a two-thirds vote of the society may amend the "This constitution."

Keywords

African American women

African American fraternal organizations

Locust Street Literary and Athletic Club (Hampton,VA)

Barrett, Janie Porter, 1865-1948

Content Warning

This material contains references to outdated terminology for Black people. The purpose of this note is to give users the opportunity to decide whether they need or want to view these materials, or at least, to mentally or emotionally prepare themselves to view the materials.

Conservation - Care and Handling

Use caution when handling as this medium (graphite) is prone to smudging and fading.