

John and Jacqueline Barnes Papers regarding the Farmington Mine Disaster A&M 4532

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1954-2010



Title Statement

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Publication Statement

Publisher: West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
Business Number: 304-293-3536
wvrhcref@westvirginia.libanswers.com
URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



2022/09/06

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Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-08-30 08:15:01 -0400.

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Unit ID

A&M 4532

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/6904

Unit Date

1954-2010

Unit Date

1968-1969

Language

English .

Creator

Barnes, Jacqueline Byrge, 1938-2007

Extent

0.54 Linear Feet 1 document case, 2.5 in.; 1 flat storage box, 4 in.

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Gift of Musgrave, Grace, 2019 August 29.

Preferred Citation

[Description of item], Box/folder number], John and Jacqueline Barnes Papers regarding the Farmington Mine Disaster, A&M 4532, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Rev. John Addison Barnes (1935-2020) was born in Buckhannon, WV to the late Edward Gorby Barnes and Mary Vestine (Lowe) Barnes. After moving to Cincinnati, OH, John graduated from the Ohio State School for the Blind before attending Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, OH. He went on to study theology at Emory University and served as an Elder and Pastor in the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 1959, John married Jacqueline Byrge (1938-2007) in Cincinnati, OH. Following John's ordination into the ministry, the young couple served a number of congregations together across West Virginia over 38 years: Bramwell, Corinth, Logansport, Farmington, Rowlesburg, Cairo, Parsons, Johnson Ave. (Bridgeport), Belington, Big Tygart (Mineral Wells), Red Hill/Murphytown (Parkersburg), Blue Jay/Beaver, Lesage, Man, and Walnut St. (Franklin). Over the course of his ministry in West Virginia, John worked to increase the access and inclusion of individuals with handicapping conditions. He served two quadrennia on the United Methodist Church General Conference's Communications Committee (UMCOM), where he introduced national legislation to grant universal access and inclusion for the handicapped in the United Methodist Church. After his retirement, John became a proud inductee of the Ohio State School for the Blind Hall of Fame.

Rev. John Barnes was the pastor of the James Fork United Methodist Church in Farmington, West Virginia, at the time of the explosion of Consol No. 9 Mine on 1968 November 20 when 78 miners lost their lives. The church, a few hundred yards from the mine entrance and the rescue operation, was pivotal in ministering to the miners and their families. Jacqueline Byrge Barnes, John's wife, collected newspapers and other materials to document the disaster and also wrote a personal narrative of the event.

Scope and Contents

Papers collected by the Barnes family of WV and Ohio regarding the Farmington Mine Disaster (1968 November 20) and its aftermath. Includes newspaper and clippings; letters of support from the Methodist Church and others to Rev. John Barnes; letters from both their mothers to his wife, Jacqueline Barnes; a handwritten narrative account by Jacqueline Barnes; and other material such as official reports from the coal company, Consol. Includes full issues (1968-1973) of various newspapers, mostly The Fairmont Times and The West Virginian (Fairmont, WV), and magazines from the national press, the United Methodist Church, and the United Mine Workers of America. Box 1 (1954-2009) contains the first-hand account, correspondence, reports, and some of the periodicals. Box 2 (1968 November 12-1973 October 11, 1993-2010) contains the newspapers and other periodicals such as Life Magazine.

This collection is minimally processed.

Keywords

Mine explosions -- West Virginia
Farmington Mine Disaster, Farmington, W. Va., 1968
Coal mine accidents - West Virginia - Farmington.
Barnes, John Addison, 1935-2020
Consolidation Coal Company
James Fork United Methodist Church (Farmington, W. Va.)