



Finding Aid for

JOSEPHINE H. DIBBLE MURPHY PAPERS, 1907-1961

Accession 2009.139

Finding Aid Republished: February 2015



Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2009.139

CREATOR: Murphy, Josephine H. Dibble, 1888-1974

TITLE: Josephine H. Dibble Murphy papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1907-1961

BULK DATES: 1909-1927

QUANTITY: 0.25 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Papers of Josephine H. Dibble Murphy comprised of a photograph album, scrapbook, alumni publications, illustrated calendars and clippings related to Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The papers are open for research.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Purchase, 2009.
- ALTERNATE FORMS:** Selected material from the collection has been digitized and is available online at:
<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?keywords=Josephine+H.+Dibble+Murphy+papers>
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material beyond The Henry Ford:
- David Roberts oral history collection. Archives Research Center. Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library. Finding aid available at:
http://findingaid.auctr.edu/arc/view?docId=ead/auctr.edu/david_roberts.xml
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2009.139, Josephine H. Dibble Murphy papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Cynthia Read Miller, October 2009
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding aid written by Cynthia Read Miller, October 2009 and published in January 2015. Links added to online digital assets and finding aid republished in February 2015.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

This collection was probably made and preserved by Josephine H. Dibble (later Mrs. Harry S. Murphy), a May 1909 graduate of Atlanta University in the Normal Course (teacher education school) and a tutor in the university's Oglethorpe Practice School from the fall of 1909 until probably 1911. This attribution is based on two internal facts. The nature of the hand-written identifications in the photograph album titled "Atlanta University, 1909-11 and on."¹ For example, the first photograph in the album is identified as "Josephine Dibble (later Mrs. Murphy)" next to a photograph identified as "5 of the 'little' girls in my class". Most of the identified people in the album are university faculty and administrators. When students appear in the photographs with the identified faculty, they are noted as "students". In addition, the photographs of the athletic team members are unidentified. This internal evidence supports the conclusion that the maker of the photograph album was part of the university staff and not a student. The second fact is in an article "Alumni Association Activities" hand-dated "1957" and probably clipped from the *Atlanta University Bulletin*,² which contains a halftone photoengraving of "Mrs. Josephine Dibble Murphy" with the captioned name underlined in blue ink. No other names are underlined in the other clippings or in the alumni publications. The text of the clipping on the same page as this illustration also states "Alumni president, Mrs. Josephine Dibble Murphy, who presided...".

The Normal Course at Atlanta University in 1909 consisted of two years of university-level education. To enter the Normal Course, a student needed to complete four years of a normal preparatory education (high school). Since Josephine Dibble Murphy was a 1909 graduate of the Normal Course, she probably started her education at Atlanta University in 1907. She married Harry Saunders Murphy in 1913 and by 1930 lived in Atlanta, Georgia, where she raised four children, Doris, Sarah, Mabel and Harry, Jr. Harry S. Murphy was a journalist and owner of the House of Murphy, a printer in Atlanta.³ In 1956-1957, Josephine Dibble Murphy served as the Atlanta University Alumni President. She was interviewed on July 5, 1973 by Atlanta University student, David Roberts as part of a history seminar "Introductory Graduate Course in United States History" taught by Dr. Clarence Bacote. Based on the finding aid for the *David Roberts Oral History Collection*, in the Archives and Special Collections of Atlanta University Center (processed January 2002) she discussed her childhood in Camden, South Carolina, attending Atlanta University, her husband's House of Murphy printing business, her children, her charity work, her experience with race relations, including the Atlanta Riot of 1906, and some of the African American leaders that she knew, including Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois. This finding aid lists her birth year as 1888 and her death year as 1974.

¹ See box 1, folder, Photograph Album.

² See box 1, folder, Clippings--*Atlanta University Bulletin*, 1939-1955.

³ Genealogical information found in 1930 and 1940 United States Federal Census for "Harry S Murphy" and "Harry Murphy" of Atlanta Borough, Fulton County, Georgia, and in Cook County, Illinois, Marriages Index, 1871-1920 for "Harry P. Murphy" and "Josephine H. Dibble" on <http://search.ancestry.com>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Josephine H. Dibble Murphy papers are comprised of a photograph album, scrapbook, alumni publications, illustrated calendars and clippings relating to Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.

The photograph album has captions written in white ink, with the title on the inside front cover "Atlanta University, 1909-11, and on." The album contains photographs and halftone photoengravings (clipped from printed articles) of faculty, administrators, students, activities, athletic teams, campus buildings and Atlanta city views from campus. One photograph of an empty classroom is identified as "Dr. Du Bois' Classroom." Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, the prominent author and advocate for African American civil rights was a professor at Atlanta University from 1897 to 1910 (Professor of Economics and History) and 1934-1944 (Chairman of the Department of Sociology). The album has been digitized and is available online at: <http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?objectKey=403339>

The scrapbook is titled "Atlanta University" and contains one photograph of Stone Hall glued to the inside of the cover and many loose clippings and partial brochures relating to the university faculty and administrators probably from 1907 to 1924. It also contains two handbills of "Jubilee Songs" probably from 1907-1909.

In addition the papers include a brochure and clippings from *The Crisis* (NAACP publication), 1911-1914.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Murphy, Josephine H. Dibble, 1888-1974
Atlanta University.
Atlanta University Alumni Association.

Subjects

African Americans
Education

Genre and Form

Brochures
Clippings
Photographs
Photograph albums
Scrapbooks

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Photograph album, "Atlanta University, 1909-1911 and on", 1909-1948 (Object ID 2009.139.1; Researchers should note that these materials are fragile)

Brochures, Atlanta University, 1909-1927

Brochures and clippings, The Crisis (NAACP), 1911-1914

Calendars (illustrated), Atlanta University, 1954-1961

Clippings

- Atlanta University Bulletin, 1939-1955
- Josephine Dibble Murphy, 1957

Periodicals, Atlanta University Bulletin, 1927, 1942, 1960

Research Information

- Dibble and Murphy families, other sources
- Josephine Dibble Murphy, tutor, copies from collection
- Josephine Dibble Murphy, Alumni President, copies from collection
- W.E.B. Du Bois, other sources

Scrapbook, "Atlanta University", 1907-1924 (Note: materials are fragile)