

**Institution:** Bronzeville Historical Society

**Collection Title:** William Earl Washington Collection

**Date Span:**

**Extent:** \_\_\_ linear feet

**Provenance:** This collection was found by Sherry Williams in the Washington home after it was vacant.

**Processors:** Processed by CLIR funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium "Color Curtain Processing Project." By Angelique Schuler, May 22, 2013.

**Restrictions:** Several of the pictures in this collection are mounted on canvas and are very fragile they may be looked at but not handled.

**Abstract:**

The Earl Washington Jr. Collection contains materials related the William 'Earl' Washington. The majority of the collection are photographs from the Washington Family. However, there are also several documents that provide better insight for the Washington Family.

Sherry Williams found the majority of the collection in the Washington's former home located at 4538 S. Forrestville Ave., Chicago. Additionally, Ms. Williams traced the lineage of the Washington family back to the antebellum period in American history. Included within the collection are Ms. Williams' research notes, the family census and death records.

The collection is organized into three series. Series I contains the Washington Family documents. The second series contains all the supplementary information provided to the collection from Ms. Williams. The final series contains are the photographs.

**Biographical/ Historic Note:**

The eldest member of the William Earl Washington Family lineage on his maternal side is Richard S. Brown (1818- ). Brown is the grandfather of Louisa Lewis Washington. Louisa is the mother of William Earl Washington. William Henry Washington is the father of William Earl. Richard S. Brown is the second African American to be appointed a Customs Inspector in Boston, MA. Brown successfully sued a skating rink to enforce admission policies to include his African American grandchildren (Louisa Lewis and Richard H. Lewis) in Boston, MA. Richard S. Brown was a runaway slave who made his way to Boston from Virginia.

**Access Headings:**

**Container List:**

| William 'Earl' Washington Collection |        |   |                  |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---|------------------|
| Box                                  | Folder | Title                                     | Year             |
| Series I : Family Documents          |        |   |                  |
| 1                                    | 1      | Correspondence from the Washington Family | 1972, 1973, 1998 |

|                                      |     |  |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--|----------------------------------|
| 1                                    | 2   | Athletic Council Wilberforce University  | March 31 1925                    |
| 1                                    | 3   | Pigskin Review, George William College Bulletin  | 1932, 1956                       |
| 3                                    | n/a | Oversized grammar school diploma of Earl Washington Jr.  | 1918                             |
| <b>Series II: Research Documents</b> |     |  |                                  |
| Census Records                       |     |  |                                  |
| 1                                    | 1   | Boston, Ma. (Brown Family listed, 6 copies)  | 1880                             |
| 1                                    | 2   | Hudson, New Jersey (Washington Family listed, 5 copies)  | 1920                             |
| 1                                    | 3   | Boston, Ma. (James Washington listed, 9 copies)  | 1920                             |
| 1                                    | 4   | Chicago, IL (Earl Washington listed, 1 copy)   | 1920?                            |
| Death Records                        |     |  |                                  |
| 1                                    | 5   | Forest Hill Cemetery Map (Washington Family burial place)  | undated                          |
| 1                                    | 6   | Elizabeth Brown M.N. Lewis and Robert S. Brown   | 1885, 1892                       |
| 1                                    | 7   | William Henry Washington   | 1934                             |
| 1                                    | 8   | Louisa Lewis Washington  | 1946                             |
| 1                                    | 9   | Sherry Williams' research notes on the Washington Family   | undated                          |
| 1                                    | 10  | Brochure that mentions the Washington Family   | 2000                             |
| 1                                    | 11  | Journal articles that provide information for the Washington Family                                  | undated                          |
| <b>Series II: Family Photographs</b> |     |  |                                  |
| 2                                    | 1   | 3 small photographs grouped together (Earl Washington identified in 2, Vivian Harsh in 1 photograph) | undated, (early 1900s)           |
| 2                                    | 2   | 2 photographs with inscriptions on the back  | 1918, undated                    |
| 2                                    | 3   | 3 grouped photographs with inscriptions on the back  | 1897, undated                    |
| 2                                    | 4   | 7 small grouped photographs, 2 with inscriptions   | undated (late 1800s- early 1900) |
| 2                                    | 5   | 7 unidentified medium grouped photographs  | undated (late 1800s- early 1900) |
| 2                                    | 6   | 2 unidentified medium photographs, removed from frame  | undated (late 1800s- early 1900) |
| 2                                    | 7   | 3 unidentified small photographs, removed from frame   | undated (late 1800s- early 1900) |
| 2                                    | 8   | Earl Washington Jr., removed from frame  | Saturday, December 25, 1920      |
| 2                                    | 9   | 42 loose unidentified loose family photographs   | undated                          |
| 2                                    | 10  | 3 photographs of Mrs. Bailey Washington's sons   | undated (mid 1900)               |
| 2                                    | 11  | 35 Official Photographs: US Air Force, Shepard AF Base Wichita, TX                                   | undated                          |
| 2                                    | 12  | Scanned photographs from the collection (post it notes attempt to identify photographs)              | undated                          |
| 2                                    | 13  | Negatives in poly sleeve   | undated                          |

|   |     |  |                                 |
|---|-----|--|---------------------------------|
| 2 | n/a | Blue binder with about 92 unidentified family photographs              | undated (late 1800s- mid 1900s) |
| 4 | n/a | Oversized photograph of unidentified male                              | undated (late 1800s)            |
| 5 | n/a | Oversized photograph of unidentified male                              | undated (late 1800s)            |
| 6 | n/a | Oversized photograph of unidentified baby pictures                     | undated (early 1900s)           |
| 7 | n/a | Oversized photograph of Earl Washington's football team (restrictions) | undated (circa 1925-1935)       |
| 8 | n/a | Oversized unidentified paintings                                       | undated                         |