



The Case of the Ville Manuscript (S0005)

Collection Number: S0005

Collection Title: The Case of the Ville Manuscript

Dates: 1975

Creator: Bailey, Charles

Abstract: The Case of the Ville Manuscript contains an essay entitled *Symbolic Emergence of Community in an Historically Black Neighborhood: The Case of the Ville*, written by Charles Bailey. Bailey presented the paper at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, April 9-12, 1975, and discussed the history of the Black majority neighborhood “the Ville” and the symbolic sentiments residents attached to the neighborhood because of its history as a prominent African American neighborhood during the Jim Crow era.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *The Case of the Ville Manuscript* (S0005); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The manuscript was donated to the University of Missouri, by an unknown donor at an unknown date (Accession No. SA1360).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock and Zachary Palitzsch, January 2020

Historical Note:

Symbolic Emergence of Community in an Historically Black Neighborhood: The Case of the Ville was written by Charles Bailey and presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, April 9-12, 1975. The paper was written because Bailey wanted to understand better why “the Ville” neighborhood had symbolic importance for the Black community in St. Louis.

“The Ville” neighborhood originated as Elleardsville, which came into existence in the 1860s. The neighborhood was developed by Charles M. Elleard and was a suburb of St. Louis before the city annexed it in 1876. The locality mostly consisted of Irish and German immigrants. Starting in the 1880s, a steady stream of African Americans began to settle in Elleardsville, hoping for better employment and housing opportunities. By the early 20th century, African American residents began referring to the neighborhood as “the Ville.” This neighborhood became one of the predominant communities in St. Louis during an era of racially restrictive housing covenants in St. Louis City from 1910 to 1942. “The Ville” was home to notable figures such as Chuck Berry, Grace Bumbry, and Tina Turner.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged into a single folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The paper consists of one essay written by Charles Bailey regarding the symbolic importance of community in a majority African-American neighborhood in St. Louis. The essay details many facets that create symbolic importance of “the Ville,” including the historical background of the neighborhood, the effects of segregation, and the placement of Black institutions.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 *Symbolic Emergence of Community in an Historic
Black Neighborhood: The Case of the Ville, 1975*

Index:

Index Term	Folder
African American neighborhoods--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
African Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
African Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis--Social conditions	1
African Americans--Segregation--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Community development--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Community life--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Discrimination in housing--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Elleardsville (Mo.)	1
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Race relations	1
Ville, The (Saint Louis, Mo.)--History	1

