



Julia Davis Papers (S0142)

Collection Number: S0142

Collection Title: Julia Davis Papers

Dates: 1917-1988

Creator: Davis, Julia, 1891-1993

Abstract: The Julia Davis Papers are a research collection compiled by African-American educator and activist Julia Davis, documenting the educational and cultural activities of the black community in St. Louis between 1917 and 1988. The papers include articles, reports, lesson plans, programs, and literature from black educational institutions, as well as biographical material and tributes to black educators.

Collection Size: .05 cubic foot
(20 folders)

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] *Julia Davis Papers* (S0142); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Julia Davis on October 27, 1980 (Accession No. SA2330). An addition was made on July 18, 1980 by Julia Davis (Accession No. SA2350). An addition was made on December 30, 1980 by Julia Davis (Accession No. SA2359). An addition was made on April 14, 1981 by Julia Davis (SA2391). An addition was made by Julia Davis on September 18, 1984 (SA2647). An addition was made by Julia Davis on October 25, 1988 (SA2887).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Julia Davis Papers can be found in the following collections:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Career Achievements Among Black Women in St. Louis, Mo. (S0101)

Arthur Washington Papers (S1113)

John Davis Buckner Papers (S0468)

University of Missouri - St. Louis Black History Project Collection (S0201)

Processed by: Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Collection staff. Revised by Claire Marks in July 2019.

Biographical Note:

Julia Davis was born in St. Louis in 1891. She attended Sumner High, Normal School, and Stowe Teachers College (now Harris-Stowe State University.) She received a Master of Arts in Education from the State University of Iowa, and continued graduate studies at Lincoln, Boston, Northwestern, St Louis, Syracuse and New York Universities

She was a leader in the academic community, serving on the National Education Association Committee on Teacher Education and Professional Standards, as secretary for the St. Louis branch of the Association for Childhood Education, and was active in several other educational organizations. She retired as a public school teacher on November 20, 1961, after 48 years in the St. Louis Public Schools System.

In addition to working in education, Davis was also a historian. Beginning in 1941, she initiated a series of annual exhibits at the St. Louis Public Library featuring African American history and culture. She published several works, including *Negro and African Literature and Culture: A Bibliography* (1971).

On the day of her retirement, she donated her research collection and established the Julia Davis Fund at the St. Louis Public Library. Davis' initial gift was used to begin the Library's Julia Davis Collection of Negro and African Literature and Culture. On April 21, 1974, she was memorialized by the St. Louis Public Library by having a branch library named in her honor. The Julia Davis Branch, at 4415 Natural Bridge Ave., is now home to the continually growing Julia Davis Research Collection, which consists of books, manuscripts, newspapers, art work and other research materials documenting the cultural heritage of African Americans and people of African descent worldwide.

She had one child, John Buckner, who in addition to working as an educator in St. Louis, also served as a community leader and the President of the Board of Directors of the Annie Malone Children's Home.

During her lifetime, Julia Davis received numerous local, national and international citations and commendations including the "Apple from the Teacher" award for her contributions of time and talent toward bettering public schools, Distinguished service and achievement awards from local and national media and businesses, Multiple Missouri Senate resolutions and a letter of

commendation from The President of the United States. She died on April 26, 1993, and is buried at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Arrangement:

The papers have been arranged alphabetically by topic.

Scope and Content Note:

The Julia Davis Papers contain research materials compiled by African-American educator and historian Julia Davis, documenting the educational and cultural activities of the black community in St. Louis between 1917 and 1988, including Davis' career. The papers consist of articles, reports, lesson plans, programs, and literature from black educational institutions, as well as biographical material and tributes to black educators. The papers have been arranged alphabetically by topic.

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	f. 2	Photocopies of Central Baptist Church memorial programs and <i>Central's Youth Courier</i> articles, 1961-1985
	f. 3	Program for the dedication of the Julia Davis Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, 1974
	f. 4	<i>Desegregation of the St. Louis Public Schools: A summary of measures taken by the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis to implement the Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954</i>
	f. 5	<i>The Harris Quarterly</i> , Spring 1966 <i>A History of Harris-Stowe State College</i> , 1979
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- f. 15 *The St. Louis School Survey Complete Report: Curriculum and Teaching, Citizenship, Social Studies, Science and Health, Volume II, 1939*
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