



## **Gloria Pritchard Papers (S0150)**

**Collection Number:** S0150

**Collection Title:** Gloria Pritchard Papers

**Dates:** 1909-1983, bulk 1952-1983

**Creator:** Pritchard, Gloria, 1911-2002

**Abstract:** The papers of Gloria Pritchard contain correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings pertaining to Pritchard's life and career as a Black radio host and activist. Pritchard was known for her radio shows, "World of Women (1957-1965) and "Great Negro Artists" (1960-1961) on KATZ. She was also active in Democratic politics, Black women's clubs, and civil rights groups.

**Collection Size:** 1.2 cubic feet  
(33 folders, 254 photographs)

**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](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org).

**Restrictions on Use:** Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](http://www.shsmo.org) on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Gloria Pritchard Papers* (S0150); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Saint Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Saint Louis].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Gloria Pritchard on May 26, 1982 (Accession No. SA2467). An addition was made on June 8, 1982 by Gloria Pritchard (Accession No. SA2469). An addition was made on February 17, 1983 by Gloria Pritchard (Accession No. SA2509). An addition was made on March 14, 1983 by Gloria Pritchard (Accession No. SA2518). An addition was made on June 21, 1983 by Gloria Pritchard (Accession No. SA2544). An addition was made on February 28, 1984 by Gloria Pritchard

(Accession No. SA2602). An addition was made on January 2, 1990 by Gloria Pritchard (Accession No. SA2940).

**Alternate Forms Available:** Digital images of this collection are available online at the State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collections: <https://digital.shsmo.org>.

**Separated Materials:** Oversize materials in oversize storage.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Gloria Pritchard Papers can be found in the following collections:

*African-American Pioneers in Journalism* (S0624)

*Bennie G. Rodgers Photograph Collection* (S0629)

**Processed by:** Processed by WHMC staff, date unknown. Finding aid updated July 2022 by Erin Purdy.

### **Biographical Note:**

Gloria Pritchard was born Gloria Griffin on April 13, 1909, in Newport, Arkansas, to Ethel Lynch Griffin and Will Griffin. Her maternal grandfather, Kenneth Lynch, was the youngest brother of John Roy Lynch, a reconstruction congressman from Mississippi. John Lynch chaired the executive committee of the Mississippi Republican Party, was a delegate to four national conventions, the first black to chair a Republican national convention in 1884, and fourth auditor of the U.S. Treasury. Family members honored his memory and presented him as a role model for Gloria and her brother, William Griffin.

Pritchard grew up in Newport, experiencing many of the problems of Jim Crow segregation. When she was 2, she witnessed the last lynching of a black man in her town. Because there was no separate high school for blacks, she threatened to attend the white high school unless the school district provided her with an education. The school board compromised by allowing her to attend classes at night and on Saturdays. While in high school, she taught fourth grade. She then moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where she received her teacher certification from LeMoyne-Owen College and took courses in business administration at Henderson College. In 1928 she moved to Missouri to attend Lincoln University. The following year she married her English teacher, James Clinton. They had one child, Dolores, born in 1929, and were divorced in 1939. During the 1930s and 1940s, Pritchard taught grade school at Wright City and Williamsburg, Missouri. She and LaSalle Pritchard married in 1945.

Pritchard began writing poetry at age seven. She continued to write and, in 1931, won a Reader's Digest prize for an essay on "The Most Remarkable Person I Ever Knew." In St. Louis, she joined the Tuesday Poetry Group, the Poetry Center, the Friday Literary Society, and the Missouri Writers' Guild. In 1953 she published a book of her poems, *TREES ALONG THE HIGHWAY*. She also wrote for newspapers and periodicals and was the poetry editor of the Pittsburgh Courier and an associate editor of the *St. Louis Times*.

In St. Louis, Pritchard became involved in community and political organizations as a member of the Americans for Democratic Action, the Dunkers (an international study group), the NAACP, St. Louis Association of Colored Women's Clubs, St. Louis Council of Negro Women, St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, and the Zeta Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho. She founded Letters, Inc., an

organization where black women could discuss political issues and write their congressmen, senators, or government agencies expressing opinions or urging action. Letters, Inc. was the first black group to work in the Salvation Army Tree of Lights campaign in the early 1960s. She taught Head Start for the Human Development Corporation but left to work at the Division of Employment Security, where she was the first black woman employed as a professional in the St. Louis office.

In 1957 KATZ radio hired her to host the "World of Women," a public service program specializing in interviews with prominent black women and news of black women's activities. In 1960 she introduced and hosted the 'Great Negro Artists' show, which featured symphonies, operas, and folk songs composed or performed by blacks. Her radio fame led to many emcee appearances at clubs, churches, dances, and shows. In 1961, she and six other black women started the KATZ Educational Fund, (which later became the St. Louis Educational Fund.) The group assisted disadvantaged youth with small donations for shoes or eyeglasses to help them stay in school. Pritchard directed the KATZ's Medicare Alert campaign in 1966 to inform older people of the new program.

A strong supporter of Democratic politics, she was a precinct captain for the 26th Ward. She worked on all campaigns but particularly in William Clay's 1968 bid for the U.S. Congress, A.J. Cervantes' 1965 mayor's race, and Warren Hearnes 1964 governor's race. In 1970 Mayor Cervantes named her to the St. Louis Commission on Crime and Law Enforcement.

In 1964 Charles Dennis, a senior statesman of Liberia invited her to the 117th anniversary of the independence of the Republic. She visited Liberia for two months and attended receptions, dinners, dedications, and balls given by President William Tubman and Vice-president Dr. William Tolbert, Jr. When she returned to St. Louis, she planned and produced the first African fashion show in St. Louis at the WOHL Center. Throughout the 1960s and into the 1980s, Pritchard continued to stress the importance of African culture in fashion shows, black history pageants, and exhibits. One example is her "United Nations" fashion shows to support HELP Inc., which she wrote and produced. Ernest M. Mabins and his wife, Marie founded HELP (Home, Education, Leadership, and Preparation) to provide day cares, prison ministries, adult education and summer schools, and other community activities.

In 1993, at the age of 81, Gloria Pritchard was one of the journalists to participate in the African-American Pioneers in Journalism Oral History project. Gloria Pritchard died on September 23, 2002.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The papers of Gloria Pritchard contain correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings pertaining to Pritchard's life and career as an African-American radio host and activist. The papers mainly date from 1952-1983, with some of the photographs dating to Pritchard's childhood and early life. The collection includes personal, political, and professional correspondence. It also includes personal mementos of her travels and genealogical information about her family, particularly her familial connection to Black politician John Roy Lynch (1847-1939). The collection also contains a range of writing from Pritchard, including poems, stories,

political writings, and KATZ radio scripts. Other materials reflect Pritchard's participation in various organizations and campaigns, such as flyers and meeting minutes. The photographs in the collection are family photographs as well as photographs documenting Pritchard's career and activism. The materials are arranged according to topic and material type.

### Container List:

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1952-1980
- f. 2 Political correspondence, 1952-1977
- f. 3 African correspondence, 1965-1966
- f. 4 Travels to Africa and Switzerland, 1964
- f. 5 Certificates and awards, 1958-1980
- f. 6 Employment-HDC, 1966; Division of Employment Security, 1969, 1976
- f. 7 John Roy Lynch, no date
- f. 8 Travel material, 1964
- f. 9 St. Louis Committee for Peace in Vietnam, 1965
- f. 10 Theater material, 1983, no date
- f. 11 Women's Crusade on Crime, Mother's Forum Committee proposal
- f. 12 KATZ correspondence, 1960-1962
- f. 13 KATZ "Great Negro Artists", 1960-1961
- f. 14 KATZ press releases, 1960-1962
- f. 15 KATZ "World of Women" scripts, 1961-1962
- f. 16 KATZ "World of Women" scripts, 1961-1962
- f. 17 Booklets regarding Africa and African-Americans, 1960, 1976
- f. 18 Brochures, programs and invitations, 1952-1983
- f. 19 Magazines and publications, 1961-1988, no date (3 folders)
- f. 20 National Association of Negro Musicians, 1959, 1962-1963
- f. 21 Newspaper clippings, 1952-1989, no date
- f. 22 Newspaper clippings about Africa, 1961, 1964-1965
- f. 23 Poems, talks, and writings, 1953-1977
- f. 24-30 Photographs 150\_001-150\_169
- f. 31-32 Photographs 633\_001-633\_086
- Oversize**
- f. 33 Alex Haley poster, 1978-Map Drawer

### Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
African-American journalists	1-32	
Bethune, Mary McLeod, 1875-1955	31	Yes
Cervantes, Alfonso J., 1920-1983;	24	Yes
Clinton, James	24	Yes
Club Manhattan (East Saint Louis, Il.)	25	Yes
Club Riviera (Saint Louis, Mo.)	24	Yes
Dennis, Charles Cecil, 1931-1980	31-32	Yes
Dickmann, Bernard F. (Bernard Francis), 1888-1971	32	Yes
Gibson, Althea, 1927-2003	31	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Harris-Stowe College	24	Yes
KATZ (Radio station : Saint Louis, Mo.)	28	Yes
Kinloch (Mo.)	31	Yes
Liberia	31-32	Yes
Lincoln University (Jefferson City, Mo.)	24	Yes
Lynch family	24-32	Yes
Lynch, John Roy, 1847-1939	31-32	
NAACP	24	Yes
Pritchard, Gloria	1-32	Yes
Queen Elizabeth (Ship)	31-32	Yes
St. Louis Argus newspaper	29	Yes
Switzerland	31-32	Yes
Tubman, William V. S., 1895-1971	31-32	Yes
World War, 1938-1945	24	Yes