

Archival Procession of the Nona Work Papers

by

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Honor Senior Project  
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Nona I. Work Papers

1839-1972

Archives Division of the Fisk  
University Library  
Work, Nona I., 1910-1980  
Papers, 1839-1972

The Papers of Nona I. Work (1910-1980) B.A., Fisk University, 1931;  
first cousin to the reknown composer and Fisk son, John Wesley Work III.

Biographical Note

The Work Family has been engaged in an enduring relationship with Fisk University since the early 1900's. They have made contributions to Fisk. This tradition began with John Wesley Work II, who graduated from Fisk in 1895, assisting in the musical education of Fisk students. John Wesley Work II also served as Professor of Latin and History. A composer of folk songs, John Wesley Work II's greatest contribution was the creation of the University's alma mater, The Gold and Blue.

The tradition continued with the reknown composer, John Wesley Work III, who wore many hats as a choral conductor, ethnomusicologist, folklorist, and educator. Two of John Wesley Work III's musical works are I, John, Saw the Holy Number and I've Known Rivers. He also collected two hundred and thirty songs in the published piece American Negro Songs and Spirituals.

Nona I. Work is associated into this rich family heritage by her father Frederick Jerome Work, who is the brother to John Wesley Work II. Nona Work is the first cousin to John Wesley Work III. Nona Work, an 1931 alumnus of Fisk, carried forth the Work-Fisk tradition by sharing memorabilia of the Work Family with the Archives Division of the Fisk University Library.

Scope/Content Note

Throughout her adult life, Nona I. Work was dedicated to the well-being of Blacks in the Nashville community. This is obvious through her association with Fisk University and Meharry Medical College in serving on various committees. Ms. Work was also very concerned in preserving the history of the Work Family. The collection of documents, photographs, and memorabilia on the Work Family is evidence of this statement.

Description of Materials

Four boxes of materials contain the Nona I. Work Papers. Box one comprises materials which were created or received by Nona Work herself such as accounts, bills, notes, correspondence, diploma, and her writings. Box two contains photographs of friends and relatives, and collected recipes and memorabilia. Box three contains memorabilia and miscellaneous materials which Nona Work collected. Box four contains Work Family legal documents which Nona Work accumulated over the years.

This collection includes four(4) boxes and 170 items.

This collection was processed by Monica F. Fleming with assistance from Mr. Sam Cameron.

Work, Nona I., 1910-1980

Papers, 1839-1972

Register

Box 1

Work, Nona I.

- f. 1 - Biographical Note--Scope Note--Description
- 2 - Accounts, bills, notes --1883-1960
- 3 - Correspondence--Adams-Work--1887-1972; ND
- 4 - Documents--Diploma-Fisk University B.A., 1931
- 5 - Writings

Box 2

Work, Nona I.

- f. 1 - Photographs
- 2 - Photographs
- 3 - Scrapbook--Recipes
- 4 - Memorabilia and Miscellaneous material

Box 3

Work, Nona I.

- f. 1 - Memorabilia and Miscellaneous material
- 2 - Memorabilia and Miscellaneous material
- 3 - Memorabilia and Miscellaneous material
- 4 - Memorabilia and Miscellaneous material

Box 4

Work, Nona I.

- f. 1 - Legal Family Documents--Fisk Jubilee Quartet--Chautauqua Managers Ass.
- 2 - Legal Family Documents--Charles Riz--Certificate of the Knights of Pythias
- 3 - Legal Family Documents--Charles Riz--Certificate of Promotion, Sergeant, US Army, 1901
- 4 - Legal Family Documents--Charles Riz--Re-enlistment papers
- 5 - Legal Family Documents--Charles Riz--Sharpshooters Certificate, US Army, 1892
- 6 - Legal Family Documents--William Summer--A Petition for the Colored Citizens of Tennessee to the General Assembly--Nashville April 6, 1865
- 7 - Legal Family Documents--William Summer--Deed of Summer Property
- 8 - Legal Family Documents--William Summer--Statement of Heirs
- 9 - Class notes--Frederick J. Work