

YWCA Blue Triangle Branch Collection, 1919-1980

Collection Summary

Creator: YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (Nashville, Tenn.). Blue Triangle Branch.

Title: YWCA Blue Triangle Branch Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1919-1980

Summary/Abstract: This collection documents the history and activities of the Blue Triangle League, later the Blue Triangle Branch of the YWCA in Nashville, Tenn., from its inception in 1919 thru 1980. The organization established classes and recreational programs for young African-American women. The Blue Triangle Branch also included a residence for single women. Employment services, USO activities, business and professional clubs, leadership training classes, interracial committees were some of the offerings. The Blue Triangle Branch also involved young women in local schools through the Y-Teens program. The photographs, clippings, and programs document the organization's activities through the years.

Physical Description/Extent: Half of one letter box containing 44 folders.

Series: Series I. Photographs; Series II. Clippings; Series III. Programs

Linking Entry Complexity Note:

Accession Number: 2003.044

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom Range 7, Section 8

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

1919	Blue Triangle League of the YWCA opens in Nashville, Tennessee.
Nov., 1920	Building is purchased at 436 Fifth Ave. N for the headquarters.
1922	The first camp is held in Greenwood Park.
1936	Camp Winonah, Rachel Lodge is established in Linden, Tennessee.
Apr., 1944	Blue Triangle begins drive for 1500 members.
1945	A capital fund drive is launched to build a new structure for the organizations many activities.
Oct. 25, 1953	Dedication of new headquarters building constructed at 1708 Pearl St.
1964	The Blue Triangle Branch merges with the central YWCA.
1974	Pearl Street building is sold to the Grace M. Eaton Day Home.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

In 1919, the Blue Triangle Branch of the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) was established by African-American women in Nashville, Tennessee. By 1921, the group was able to purchase a building at 436 Fifth Ave. North that would become the central hub for their activities.

During the years of segregation, the Blue Triangle Branch served as one of the few residences for single African-American women in the city of Nashville. The Blue Triangle Branch created a community for its members where the ladies could take personal enrichment classes and attend socials.

In 1945, a drive was begun to fund a new building on Pearl Street which opened in 1953. During this time the teen program expanded and could be found in many local schools.

In 1964, the Blue Triangle Branch and the Downtown YWCA's lunch counters became integrated, from 1964-1968 classes integrated. In 1967, the downtown YWCA's residence building fully integrated. The Pearl Street location ceased being used for programs in 1968 and the building was later sold to Grace M. Eaton Day Home in 1974.

The directors of the Blue Triangle Branch were: Marian Hadley (1919-21), Mary E. Jackson, Anna Jackson (acting director), Mrs. Mattie Carr Chavis (1923-28), Miss Georgia E. Wares (1928-32), Miss Mabel Brady (1932-33), Miss Wilkie Knight (1933), Miss Rachel Taylor (1936-45), Miss Eleanor Mumford (1945-46), Miss Louise Gullate (1946), Carrie Hull (interim volunteer director), Anna D. Kelly (1955-61), Doris Outlaw (1961-63), Nan Gordon (interim 1963-64), Gladys Sherrill (1964-68).

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection documents the activities of the Blue Triangle League, later renamed the Blue Triangle Branch of the YWCA in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1919 to 1980. Included in the collection are black and white photographs taken by George H. Anderson, documenting the many activities the African American branch had available for its members, from study clubs to camping trips, to social events dating from 1919 to 1970. The collection also features a limited number of photocopies of programs and newspaper clippings about the Blue Triangle Branch from 1928-1980.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization: Series I. Photographs; Series II. Clippings; Series III. Programs

Arrangement: Chronologically within Series I, II, and III.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: The copyright is undetermined.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Corporate Names/Organizations:

YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (Nashville, Tenn.). Blue Triangle Branch

Conference Names:

Subjects:

African American women
African American women in church work
African American women. Intellectual life. 20th century
African American women. Social conditions
African American women. Social networks
African American young women
Associations, institutions, etc. African American membership
Nonprofit organizations. Tennessee
Women in charitable work

Places:

Camp Wenonah (Linden, Tenn.)
Nashville (Tenn.) Historyy20th century Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) Social life and customs
Tennessee Historyy20th century Sources

Genre/Document Types:

Black and white photographs
Clippings (information artifacts)
Programs (documents)

Occupations:

Associated and Related Material None

Separated Material None

Administrative Information

YWCA Blue Triangle Branch
Collection

Additional Physical Form Available:

Location of Originals/Duplicates: Originals reside with YWCA of Middle Tennessee.

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Preferred Citation: YWCA Blue Triangle Branch Collection, Nashville Public Library, Special Collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Photographs of Blue Triangle Branch loaned by YWCA to scan for Nashville Public Library, Special Collections for an exhibit.

Ownership and Custodial History: The originals belong to the YWCA and they gave us copyright to the scans and photographs that we made.

Processing Information: The original photos on loan from the YWCA were scanned and printed. Photographic prints were made from the scans and housed in archival materials.

Accruals: No further expected.

Other Finding Aids

Electronic Location and Access

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic

Bucy, Carole Stanford. *Women Helping Women: The YWCA of Nashville, 1898-1998*. Nashville, Tenn.: YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee: Published in cooperation with J.S. Sanders & Co, 1998.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Photographs, Dates, Quantity

Series Abstract/Description

37 photographs made from scans of the original photographs, which reside at the YWCA, dates 1919-1980. The photographs chronicle the services of the Blue Triangle Branch for African American women in Nashville, Tennessee. Many of the original photographs were made by photographer George H. Anderson.

Arrangement

The series is arranged in chronological order.

Container List

Box 1

Series I

Photographs

f.1

Business Girls Club, 1919. 1 photograph from scan.

- f.2 First Blue Triangle Camp in Greenwood Park, 1922.
1 photograph from scan.
- f.3 First Blue Triangle Camp in Greenwood Park, 1922.
1 photograph from scan.
- f.4 Committee of Management and Secretaries who paid
the last note on the purchase price of the building in
June, 1927. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.5 *Nashville Tennessean* rotogravure section, Sunday,
Feb. 3, 1929: "YWCA Celebrates 30th Birthday."
1 photograph from scan.
- f.6 *Nashville Tennessean* rotogravure sections, Sunday,
Feb. 24, 1929: "Thirty Years Ago, More or Less."
1 photograph from scan.
- f.7 Book Lovers Club, Blue Triangle League, YWCA,
Nashville, Tenn." March 26, 1935. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.8 YWCA Religious Education Committee, Mrs. J. A.
Britt, Chair." May, 1935. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.9 Rachel Lodge at Camp Wenonah, the Blue Triangle
Camp in Linden, Tenn. Note: named in honor of Rachel
Taylor, Executive Secretary. July, 1936. 1 photograph from
scan.
- f.10 Unidentified group of six women and one man, Nov., 1939.
1 photograph from scan.
- f.11 Mrs. H. A. Boyd, Chairwoman of the Lunchroom
Committee, nd. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.12 A meeting in the home of Mrs. E. T. Brown, April
4, 1941. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.13 Photocopy of a 1942 photo by George H. Anderson "Blue
Triangle YWCA Sponsors Class in Home Nursing - 1942."
- f.14 The Buying Club, Oct. 15, 1943. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.15 Cooperative Building Committee in front of the building at
436 Fifth Ave. N (now Fifth and Gay St.), April 15, 1943. 1
photograph from scan.
- f.16 Photocopy of Soldiers' Wives Club at the Blue Triangle
Branch, Feb., 1944.
- f.17 The principles and advisors of the Y-Teen Committee,
ca. 1940s. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.18 Membership banquet of the Blue Triangle Branch of the
YWCA at Tennessee State University, ca. 1950s. 1
photograph from scan.
- f.19 Membership banquet of the Blue Triangle Branch of the
YWCA at Tennessee State University, ca. 1950s. 1
photograph from scan.
- f.20 Meeting of a meeting of the Business and Professional
Club of the Blue Triangle Branch of YWCA, ca. 1950s.
1 photograph from scan.

- f.21 Planning Committee for the World Fellowship Tea, ca. 1950s. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.22 Membership meeting at Tennessee State University, 1951. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.23 Nashville civic leaders get together with members of the Blue Triangle branch of the YWCA at the branch's 33rd annual membership meeting, Jan. 30, 1953. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.24 New member reception at the Hadley Park Community House, 1953. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.25 Miss Hattie Davidson and Mrs. S. H. Watson, 1955. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.26 Participants in a special program at the YWCA: Anna D. Kelly, Branch Executive Director, Margaret Simms and Anna G. Sasser, Board Members, and unidentified man, March, 1960. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.27 Photocopy from the 1960s of Y-Teen Leaders.
- f.28 Pearl Street literacy class taught by Mrs. Whitlow in the 1960s. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.29 Membership meeting at Tennessee State University, ca. 1960s. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.30 Pearl Elementary YWCA pre-teens, 1962-63. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.31 Cameron School Y-Teens sign up dated Oct. 8-11, 1963. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.32 Members of the Residence Committee consult with Reverend Simmons, ca. 1960s. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.33 Mayor Beverly Briley proclaiming Roll Call Week, n.d. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.34 YWCA Officers, April 8, 1970. Note: President Mrs. W. D. McMurray; First Vice-President Mrs. Robert C. Evans; Mrs. Wilson Sims; Mrs. John Hull; Executive Director Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.35 A 75th Anniversary event with Sarah Cannon "Minnie Pearl" in attendance, n.d. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.36 Job Readiness Committee: Rose Wilson and Pam Busby, n.d. 1 photograph from scan.
- f.37 Carrie Hull receiving a proclamation from Gov. Ray Blanton, ca. 1970. 1 photograph from scan.

Series II. Newspaper Clippings

Series Abstract/Description

The series consists of six folders, covering the 1950s through 1960s. Each folder contains photocopies of newspaper clippings from the *Nashville Banner*. A few are copies from the YWCA file. The clippings report meetings, membership drives, organization activities, and committee

work. Names of members (sometimes accompanied by photographs) involved in Blue Triangle activities are also included in the clippings.

Arrangement

The series is arranged in chronological order.

- f.38 Photocopied clippings from the *Nashville Banner*, 1940s.
- f.39 Photocopied clippings from the *Nashville Banner*, 1950s.
- f.40 Photocopied clippings from the *Nashville Banner*, 1950s.
- f.41 Photocopied clippings from the *Nashville Banner*, 1950s.
- f.42 Photocopied clippings from the *Nashville Banner*, 1950s.
- f.43 Photocopied clippings from the *Nashville Banner* 1960s-1980s.

Series III. Programs from YWCA

Series Abstract/Description

This series contains 19 pages of photocopied programs dating from 1928-1980. These programs chronicle events organized and presented by the Blue Triangle Branch.

Arrangement

Chronological

- f.44 Copies of programs from the YWCA, 1928 to 1980.