

Charity Adams Earley Papers

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Prepared by Laura J. Kells

Collection Summary

Title: Charity Adams Earley Papers

Span Dates: 1928-2002

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1942-2002)

ID No.: MSS84973

Creator: Earley, Charity Adams, 1918-2002

Extent: 1,000 items ; 8 containers plus 1 oversize ; 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: African-American army officer, educator, and civic activist. Book drafts, correspondence, military records, speeches, notes, press clippings, printed matter, and other papers relating to Earley's experience as the first African-American commissioned officer in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and her community activities later in life.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Earley, Charity Adams, 1918-2002.

Earley, Charity Adams, 1918-2002. One woman's Army : a Black officer remembers the WAC. 1989.

Organizations

United States. Army--African American troops.

United States. Army--Women.

United States. Army. Women's Army Corps.

United States. Army. Women's Army Corps. Central Postal Battalion, 6888th.

Subjects

African Americans--Segregation.

World War, 1939-1945--England--Birmingham.

World War, 1939-1945--France--Paris.

World War, 1939-1945--France--Rouen.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Female.

Places

Fort Des Moines (Iowa)

United States--Armed Forces--African American officers.

Occupations

Army officers.

Civic activists.

Educators.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Charity Adams Earley, African-American army officer, educator, and civic activist, were given to the Library of Congress by Stanley A. Earley, Jr., in 2003.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Charity Adams Earley in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charity Adams Earley Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charity Adams Earley Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1918, Dec. 5	Born, Kittrell, N.C.
1938	B.A., Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio
1938-1942	Mathematics and science teacher, public school system, Columbia, S.C.
1942-1946	United States Army, Women's Auxiliary Corps; served as company commander, staff training officer, and station control officer, Fort Des Moines, Iowa, (1942-1944) and commanding officer, 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, European Theater of Operations (1945)
1946	Retired from U. S. Army as lieutenant colonel M.A., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio Registration officer, Veterans Administration, Cleveland, Ohio
1948	Dean of personnel services, Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College, Nashville, Tenn.
1948-1949	Dean of students, Georgia State College, Savannah, Ga.
1949	Married Stanley A. Earley, Jr.
1950-1952	Studied at University of Zurich and Jungian Institute of Analytical Psychology, Zurich, Switzerland
1965-1993	Board of directors, Dayton, Ohio, area chapter, American Red Cross
1972-1978	Board of governors, American Red Cross
1977-1992	Board of trustees, Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio
1979-1991	Board of directors, Dayton Power and Light Co.
1982	Founder Black Leadership Development Program, Dayton, Ohio, 1989

1989 Published *One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC*. College Station: Texas A & M University Press
Founding member, Parity 2000 (renamed Parity Inc.)

2002, Jan. 13 Died, Dayton, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charity Edna Adams Earley (1918-2002) span the years 1928-2002, with the bulk of the material dating from 1942 to 2002. They are arranged into categories of general correspondence, speeches and writings, subject files, and oversize material. A large portion of the papers relates to Earley's experiences during World War II as the first African-American commissioned officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, which became the Woman's Army Corps (WAC), and the highest ranking African-American woman to serve overseas during the war.

Earley's memoir, *One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC*, recounts her experiences as a woman and as an African American in the segregated military at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and as commanding officer of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion stationed in Birmingham, England, and Rouen and Paris, France. Additional information on her activities during World War II are contained in military records, press clippings, and speeches.

Included in the subject files are materials relating to organizations and programs which Charity Adams Earley served as a board member and events at which she was honored for her accomplishments.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1942-1944, 1986-2002, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (10 folders)
BOX 1	Speeches and writings
BOX 1	Book, <i>One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC</i>
BOX 1	Drafts
BOX 1	Draft 1, 1946 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Draft 2, pre-1986 (5 folders)
BOX 2	Draft 3, 1986 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Draft 4, 1986 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Draft 5, 1986 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Draft 6, 1986 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Draft 7, 1987 (1 folder)
BOX 4	(2 folders)
BOX 4	Draft 8, 1987 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Draft 9, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1942-1948, 1987, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1989-1997, undated
BOX 5	Texas A & M University Press, 1994-2002, undated
BOX 5	Miscellaneous writings, 1995, undated
BOX 5	Speaking engagements, 1979, 1990-1997 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Subject file
BOX 5	American Red Cross, 1972, 1981, 1993-2001
BOX 5	Dayton Urban League, Black Leadership Development Program, Dayton, Ohio, 1986-1999 (3 folders)
BOX 6	DPL Inc., 1987-1990
BOX 6	"Glory and Destiny," salute to African Americans who served in World War II, Washington, D.C., 1995
BOX 6	Honors and awards, 1965-1967, 1979-1982, 1990-2002 (4 folders)
BOX 6	Military records, 1942-1945, undated (4 folders)

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 6	Miscellany, 1928-1934, 1990-2002, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	National Association of Black Military Women, 1989-1999 (2 folders)
BOX 7	National World War II Memorial, Washington, D.C., 2000-2001
BOX 7	Parity Inc., 1989-2002, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Printed matter
BOX 7	Miscellaneous, 1974, 1984-2002, undated (5 folders)
BOX 8	Press clippings, 1942-1948, 1965-1967, 1981-1983, 1989-2002, undated (4 folders)
BOX 8	Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Washington, D.C., 1994-2001, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	General correspondence, 1996 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Washington, D.C., 2000 (Container 8)