

Descriptive Summary

Title: The Madison Family Papers, 1880-1957

Collection Number: Barcode # 402938

Creators: William Winston and Josephine Madison Burton

Size: .45 cu ft

Repository: H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gifts of Winston and Burton

Scope and Content

The Madison Family Papers concentrate on the fifth child, Arthur Madison (1888-1957), of the Patriarch Eli Madison Family. In 1880, the Patriarch and three other families bought the May's Plantation, located in Montgomery County, Alabama. The Madison Family by 1882, owned 560 acres outright. The plantation with a gin house, grist mill, saw mill, shingle mill, a park and a store was renamed "Madison Park." The Patriarch built a church, Union AMEZ Chapel, a school and a community center. Arthur, the 5th child of 10 children, earned a law degree from Columbia University and moved to Harlem, New York. On one of his many extended visits to Madison Park, he filed the first voting rights test case on behalf of Black Montgomerians in 1944. For his efforts he was jailed and disbarred from practicing law in Alabama in 1945. He returned to Harlem, New York, continued to practice law and served as legal/business advisor to Father Divine (George Baker, Jr. b.1879–d. 1965). The papers are divided into the following series: **Bio-Interviews** by his Attorney Madison's daughter, two great nephews and one great niece that include news articles and photographs; newspaper accounts of **Voting Rights Case and Disbarment**; **Madison Park**, comprising of copies of deeds, "Negro Only Covenant," community development and efforts to incorporate as a city; and **Relatives** who became lawyers, medical doctors, teachers, bishops and ministers.

Reproduction of the original manuscript
by the Madison Family Papers
Collection, University of Alabama
at Birmingham
Box 15, 35294
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

Administrative Information

Provenance
(Gift of Winston and Marion)

Scope and Content

The Madison Family Papers consist of the life of
Arthur Madison (1883-1957) of the Madison Family. In
1880, the Madison and three other families bought the May's Plantation
located in Montgomery County, Alabama. The Madison Family
owned 500 acres of land. The plantation with a big house, a
mill, a school, a church, a store and a barn was named "Madison
Park." The Madison built a church, Union AME Church, a school
and a community center. Arthur the 5th child of 10 children, earned a
law degree from Columbia University and moved to Harlem, New York.
On one of his many extended visits to Madison Park, he filed the first
voting rights case on behalf of Black Montgomery in 1944. For
his efforts he was jailed and disbanded from practicing law in Alabama
in 1945. He returned to Harlem, New York, continued to practice law
and served as legal business advisor to Father Divine (George Baker Jr.)
(1870-1963). The papers are divided into the following series: His
interviews by his Attorney Madison's daughter, two genealogies and
one great niece that include news articles and photographs; newspaper
accounts of Voting Rights Case and Madison's "Madison Park";
compilation of copies of books, "New Negro Movement," community
development and efforts to incorporate as a city and relatives who
became lawyers, medical doctors, teachers, business and ministers.