

# **Guide to the Kelly Lee and Viola Coulbourne Jackson Papers**

1955-1993



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## Kelly Lee and Viola Coulbourne Jackson Papers

1955-1993

0.54 cubic feet

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The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

### Biographical Note

Reverend Kelly Lee Jackson was a minister, educator, administrator and crusader for human rights. He was born in May 31, 1898, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to Andrew and Martha Jane Jackson. He graduated from Morgan State College (A.B., 1926), Garrett Biblical Institute (B.D., 1929), and Boston University (M.A., 1933). Jackson received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia Seminary and College in Lynchburg, Virginia on May 18, 1984. He served in the pastorate for sixty years and traveled extensively to England, France, and Africa. He married Viola Coulborne on December 26, 1932.

Early in his career he taught religion and served as chaplain at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. He first served in the Delaware Conference for four years, before being transferred to the Washington Conference. There he served as Conference Treasurer, Dean of the Methodist Youth Institute, Chairman of the Board of Education, Editor of the Baltimore Preacher's Meeting, and was General Conference Delegation Leader for twelve years. He was the organizer and first President of the Black United Methodist Preachers.

Jackson's first pastoral appointment in the Washington Conference was Mount Zion Methodist Church in 1939. Kelly would be appointed twice to Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church (1943-1947 and 1962-1967) where he would eventually retire from full-time appointed ministries. Between his stints at Sharp he would serve at the Metropolitan Methodist Church from 1950 to 1956. The bishop recognized Jackson's leadership qualities and would appoint him a District Superintendent for both the West Baltimore (1947-1950) and Washington Districts (1956-1962).

Following his retirement, he served as interim pastor of Ames Memorial Methodist Church and as assistant pastor of Garrison Boulevard and Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Baltimore. Jackson served eight years as chairman of the Board of Directors of the N. M. Carroll Home for the Aged in Baltimore, which he considered to be his second ministry. A section of the manor would be named in his honor after he spearheaded and mobilized support for the construction of the 3.5 million dollars building project. Kelly Jackson died of cancer on March 12, 1987 at the age of eighty-eight.

Viola Coulborne Jackson was an educator, churchperson, civic leader, and a tireless influential personality. She was born on December 16, 1900, in Quantico, Maryland, to John and Helen Coulbourne. For thirty-seven years she worked for the development of youth and the advancement of religious and civic endeavors. Jackson received her formal education at Princess Anne Academy in Princess Anne,



Maryland, Coppin State Teachers College and Morgan State College. She also completed summer studies at Columbia University in New York City and at Loyola College in Baltimore.

Viola began her teaching career in 1920 at the Girdletree, Maryland, school system. After graduating from Coppin State Teachers College in 1924, she became a classroom instruction and would advance to demonstration teacher, supervising teacher for trainees, vice principal, principal, and curriculum supervisor. She was principal of the Henry Highland Garnett Elementary School Number 103 in Baltimore City prior to her assignment as head of the William M. Alexander Elementary School Number 112. Jackson retired in 1959.

After her marriage Kelly Jackson, as the pastor and district superintendent's spouse for his various appointments, she would also become involved with other ministries as well. She was District Director of Youth Work, North Baltimore District, Secretary of Promotion and of Missionary Education for the Woman's Society of Christian Service in the North Baltimore and Washington Conferences, as well as the president and vice-president of the Washington Conference of Woman's Society of Christian Service. In 1961, Jackson developed the Adams Morgan Project 314, an urban renewal undertaking in Washington, D.C. From 1964 to 1966, she was the Associate Director at Coppin State College and led the YOO3 Project for Preparing Teachers for Teaching in the Inner City Schools. Upon leaving her educational career, Jackson would volunteer to be the Director of the Lillie M. Carroll Jackson Museum until 1984. Other positions include a board member of the Peale Museum and Walters Art Gallery, member of the Interdenominational Ministers' Wives, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, DuBois Circle, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Matinee Ensemble. Jackson would also serve as representative of the Women's Civic League and the Young Women's Christian Association (YMCA)

In August 1951, she traveled to England and the European continent while her husband was a delegate to the Methodist Ecumenical Conference in Oxford, England. Jackson would travel overseas in 1958 to teach junior high school English and Bible at Hobara, Japan, for two months.

Viola Jackson died two months after her husband on May 3, 1987 at the age of eighty-six.

## Scope and Content Note

The Kelly Lee and Viola Coulbourne Jackson Papers are comprised of scrapbooks, writings, clippings, photographs, slides, cassettes, audio reels, 8mm film reels, artifacts, and pamphlets dating from the 1930s to 1993. This collection reflects the works in the community and public adoration of the Jacksons.

The slides of the collection cover the trips they took to New Jersey, Liberia, Ghana, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados and Antigua. The photographs and scrapbooks cover major events in the Jacksons' lives. For example, there is a scrapbook of Reverend Jackson receiving his Honorary Degree from Virginia Seminary and College in 1984. There are also photographs from the Washington and Delaware Annual Conferences. The clippings cover both Reverend Kelly and Viola Jackson through their works in the community. There are also two half tone plates, one of Kelly and one of Viola.

There are eighteen 8mm films in the collection. Most are labeled Fletcher or D. Fletcher with various titles where the recordings took place and content. Fletcher is Reverend Dennis R. Fletcher who was a dynamic leader in both the Black local churches as well as an executive leader in the general United Methodist Church. The Jacksons were close friends of Fletcher. Kelly Jackson collected assorted media on Fletcher's speaking engagements during his lifetime. The last film documents his trip to Ghana.

## Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The collection is arranged by family member and record types.



## Related Material

None

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## Use Access

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

## Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Kelly Lee and Viola Coulbourne Jackson Papers, African American Methodist Heritage Center - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Index Terms

### *Subject Terms*

Biographies  
Church work with the aged-Methodist Church  
Education  
Local Churches  
Methodist Church--Conferences  
Methodist Church-Missions  
Travel

### *Geographic Terms*

Florida  
Ghana  
Liberia  
Maryland  
New Jersey  
Virginia

### *Added Names - Persons*

Fields, Elaine Coulbourne  
Fletcher, Dennis R.  
Jackson, Viola Coulbourne

### *Genre Terms*

Amateur films.  
Artifacts  
Audiocassettes  
Clippings  
Correspondence



Pamphlets  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Sermons  
Slides  
Worship

***Subject Names - Corporate Bodies***

Methodist Church (U.S.)  
United Methodist Church (U.S.)

***Occupation Terms***

Minister

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2413-4-2:4	Elaine Fields Scrapbook Page	Undated
2413-4-2:5	Great Hymns Choir	1955-1976
2413-4-2:6	Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum	1981-1987
2413-4-2:7	Metropolitan United Methodist Church	1984
2413-4-2:8	N.M. Carroll Manor	1978-1987
2413-4-2:9	N.M. Carroll Manor " Second Retirement" Scrapbook	1978
2413-4-2:10	Photographs: Washington and Delaware Annual Conferences	Undated
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2413-4-2:12	Virginia Seminary and College Honorary Degree Scrapbook	1984
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2413-4-2:17	Slides: St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Montclair, NJ	1976
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2413-4-2:25	Half Tone Plate of Rev Jackson	Undated



**Guide to the Kelly Lee and Viola Coulbourne Jackson Papers**

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
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2413-4-3:1	8mm Film: Fletcher 2	Undated
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