



**Special Collections and University Archives**

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**Manuscript Group 226  
Sonya Stewart Collection**

**For Scholarly Use Only  
Last Modified February 8, 2023**

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**Sonya Stewart Collection of African American History; Manuscript Group 226  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collection and University Archives  
1 box; 0.5 linear feet**

**Abstract**

This collection contains information collected and written by Sonya Stewart, who graduated with a Master of Arts in History from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Her collection focuses on the history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania.

**Scope and Content**

This collection is housed in one archival box. The collection includes Sonya Stewart's M.A. thesis entitled, "Working together: African American migration and settlement in Indiana County, Pennsylvania." The collection has many newspaper articles and photographs related to the Ernest Grays Baseball Team from Ernest, Pennsylvania. The collection also contains information from a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) grant including audio and video recordings about African Americans in Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Many of the documents related to this collection are available online or in digital format.



Jerry Embry, Dodge Embry, and Bishop Embry

For more information about African Americans in Indiana County, Pennsylvania:

<http://www.iup.edu/archives/digital-projects-and-exhibits/african-americans-in-indiana-county/>

Historical information about African Americans in Western Pennsylvania is available in Manuscript Group 74 America's Industrial Heritage Project; Manuscript Group 75

Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission; and Manuscript Group 76 Folklife Division of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission. There is a 1992 video by Bruce T. Williams (1992) entitled, “We’ll make the journey: The African American story of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, migration, and work,” part of the Manuscript Group 74 America’s Industrial Heritage Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfqlwSi5Yvg>

### **Provenance**

This collection was donated by Sonya Stewart.

### **Restrictions**

None, this collection is open and available for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs.

For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

### **Processor**

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on February 8, 2023.

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1 African American History in Indiana County, Pennsylvania (9 folders)**

1. Background information about the collection
  - a. DVD of the following folders (2-7):
    - i. Folder 2: Seminar Paper (1992)
    - ii. Folder 3: MA Thesis (1996)
    - iii. Folder 4: PHMC Grant (1) Film and PPT
    - iv. Folder 5: PHMC Grant (2) identified digital images, audio, and video recordings
    - v. Folder 6: Edwin Tuller
    - vi. Folder 7: African American Resources: Ralph Stone (1960)
2. Seminar Paper (1992) by Sonya Stewart (Civil War Seminar Class, Fall 1992)
  - a. Unto us a child is born: A Demographic study of the African American Community in Indiana County from 1850-1880. URL: <http://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewartSeminarPaper.pdf>
3. M.A. Thesis (also available in Special Collections – Call Number E185.93 .P41 S749)
  - a. Stewart, Sonya. (1996). “Working together: African American migration and settlement in Indiana County, Pennsylvania,” Graduate School, History Department, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). URL: <http://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewartThesis.pdf>
4. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) grant (1)

- a. Website: <http://www.iup.edu/archives/digital-projects-and-exhibits/african-americans-in-indiana-county/>
  - b. Presentation: Father Along: Faces of the Great Migration, 1914-1950 (PowerPoint) by Sonya Stewart (CD-R) and URL: <http://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewartPPTFartherAlong.pdf>
  - c. Film: Father Along: Faces of the Great Migration, 1914-1950 by Sonya Stewart (DVD) and URL: <https://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewartVideoFartherAlongFacesOfTheGreatMigration.WMV>
5. PHMC grant (2) 2 DVDs
- a. DVD (1) all digital files including images, audio, and video recordings; for printed copies of newspaper articles and images see Vertical File: Sonya Stewart (MG 226)
    - i. 1) Audio File: Between 1914 and 1950 (WMA audio file)
    - ii. 1) Baseball Newspaper Article: *Indiana Evening Gazette*, "Homestead Grays to play Coal Run," and "Coal Run drops 12-1 to Starford," no date
    - iii. 2) Audio File: The Push Factors (WMA audio file)
    - iv. 2) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays win from Emeigh Run," no date
    - v. 3) Audio File: During WWI (World War One) WMA audio file
    - vi. 3) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays wallop Coral," no date
    - vii. 4) Audio File: Tradition Tells Us (WMA audio file)
    - viii. 4) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays down Aultman," no date
    - ix. 5) Audio File: Indiana County Later (WMA audio file)
    - x. 5) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Greys top Revloc," no date
    - xi. 6) Audio File: By the Time (WMA audio file)
    - xii. 6) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays trip Reynoldsville," no date
    - xiii. 7) Audio File: Every person that came (WMA audio file)
    - xiv. 7) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Grays defeat Indiana; Ernest here today," no date
    - xv. 8) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays here Wednesday P.M.," no date
    - xvi. 9) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays take two from Fulton," no date
    - xvii. 10) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Ernest Grays beat Brenizer," no date
    - xviii. 11) Baseball Newspaper Article, "Record crowd sees Grays beat Indiana," and "Ernest wins from Clymer, 5-3," no date

- xix. 1920 Census Report for Azzie L. Blevins (Dallas County, Alabama)
- xx. Images: Railroad Tracks, 2006 (6 images)
- xxi. Audio/Video File: Edwina Vold, July 3, 2006 (AVI audio file)
- xxii. Image: Unidentified Portrait of American Revolution veteran (2006\_0716Revolution0043.JPG)
- xxiii. Coal Culture Images, 2006 (2006\_011531jul070035) 7 images (duplicates of identified images listed below)
- xxiv. Images: Victory Christian Assembly, 418 Church Street, Indiana, Pennsylvania, 2007 (2007\_Juneteenth20070001) 3 images
- xxv. Image: Faith Temple Church of God in Christ, Indiana, Pennsylvania (2007\_042220073march0019.JPG)
- xxvi. Images: St. James AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion Church, Indiana, Pennsylvania (2007\_0422200730march0021) 3 images
- xxvii. Image: Abraham Lodge Masons, Universal Lodge, No. 34, Indiana, Pennsylvania, ca. 1974
- xxviii. Postcard image: Alabama, illustrated map of Alabama
- xxix. Image: Alexander Maitland Stewart (1871-1961) father of James (Jimmy) Stewart (1908-1997) in uniform on the phone at his father's hardware store in Indiana, Pennsylvania (Alex and James Stewart in uniform at hardware store 3.JPG)
- xxx. Image: Alex Stewart close up
- xxxi. Image: Alexander Kelly
- xxxii. Audio file: Alfonso Embry, Mine Rails, July 31, 2007 (WMA audio file)
- xxxiii. Images: Alfonso Embry fishing (2 images)
- xxxiv. Image: Alice Embry
- xxxv. Images: Aslee Blevins Lumpkin (2 images)
- xxxvi. Image: Baby Alfonso Embry (cropped)
- xxxvii. Map: Blairsville, Pennsylvania (road map)
- xxxviii. Image: Battle of Bunker Hill
- xxxix. Audio file: Bernard McCreary, April 6, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - xl. Image: Bernard McCreary with Beulah Baptist Church 1928 Cornerstone (builder Reverend J.D. McCreary)
  - xli. Image: Beulah Baptist Church (exterior), Indiana, Pennsylvania
  - xlii. Image: Beulah Baptist Church Dias (interior)
  - xliii. Image: Beulah Baptist Church Sign, 2007
  - xliv. Images: Beulah Baptist Cornerstone (2 images)
  - xlv. Postcard images: Birds Eye View of Ernest, Pennsylvania (2 images)
  - xlvi. Image: Bishop Embry (cropped)
  - xlvii. Image: Blairsville Log Schoolhouse used as Black Church for services

- xlvi. Postcard images: Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal & Iron Company (BR & PC & I) Tipple, Lucerne, Pennsylvania (near Homer City, Pennsylvania) 3 images
- xlix. Image: Brenizer Baseball team members, 1955
  - l. Image: Brenizer Miners (Baseball Team members), no date
  - li. Images: Brenizer School (5 images)
  - lii. Image: British Surrender at Yorktown
  - liii. Baseball Newspaper Article, "Blairsville Colts win close one from Ernest," no date (bville.jpg)
  - liv. Image: Claude and Stella Schofield, and Mary and Dodge Embry
  - lv. Postcard image: Coal Crusher and Waster at Ernest, Pennsylvania
  - lvi. Image: Colonial Corps Williamsburg, Virginia
  - lvii. 1930 Census: Comfort Blevins (2 images)
  - lviii. Image: Comfort Blevins
  - lix. Image: Company (American Revolution)
  - lx. Audio file: Connie Chisolm, May 19, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - lxi. Audio/Video file: Connie McCreary Video Interview, January 9, 2008
  - lxii. Image: Creek in Ernest, Pennsylvania (bridge)
  - lxiii. Image: Dodge Embry and Howard Smokey Tolliver 2 (Ernest Gray Baseball)
  - lxiv. Images: Dodge Embry (2 images)
  - lxv. Images: Doughboy 2 (World War One statue) 2 images
  - lxvi. Image: driver (horse drawn)
  - lxvii. Map: Early Map of Indiana County (hand-drawn)
  - lxviii. Image: Eastern Star Queen Mary Chapter, Indiana, Pennsylvania, 1974
  - lxix. Images: Edwina Battle, ages 8-9, Kinston, North Carolina (2 images)
  - lxx. Image: Gravestone of Elbert and Melissa Guy (1908-2005)
  - lxxi. Image: Ella Young Russell
  - lxxii. Images: Emma Lewis Chisolm (2 images)
  - lxxiii. Map: Erie County, Pennsylvania (road map)
  - lxxiv. Image: Ernest Baseball Field now (2007)
  - lxxv. Audio file: Ernest Ghosts and Memories (WMA audio file)
  - lxxvi. Postcard images: Ernest, Indiana County, Pennsylvania (4 images)
  - lxxvii. Image: Ernest Union Hall (color)
  - lxxviii. Image: Ernest (mining operations)
  - lxxix. Audio file: Every Person that came (WMA audio file)
  - lxxx. Newspaper Article: *Indiana Evening Gazette*, "Faith Topic of sermon at Cavalry," (Elder Standford Webb, Sr., pastor of Faith Temple Church of Gold in Christ), October 14, 1972
  - lxxx. Audio file: Father along by Yvonne Redd (WMA audio file)
  - lxxxii. Audio file: Fence around me and Mrs. Wallace, April 21, 2007
  - lxxxiii. Image: Final battle of Williamsburg, Virginia

- lxxxiv. Image: Franklin Jennings (driving horse-drawn wagon) with white woman (standing)
- lxxxv. Image: Freeman Blevins
- lxxxvi. Image: George Washington (portrait)
- lxxxvii. Postcard image: Georgia (illustrated map of Georgia)
- lxxxviii. Map: John Graff Map of Blairsville, Pennsylvania
- lxxxix. Image: Henry Blevins
  - xc. Images: Homer City Baseball glove, circa 1940 (2 images)
  - xc. Image: Homer City Baseball jersey uniform, circa 1940
  - xcii. Map: Homer City, Pennsylvania (road map)
  - xciii. Image: Gravestone of Howard L. Peak (1899-1966) and Lena B. Peak (1902-1995)
  - xciv. Audio file: Indiana County original (WMA audio file)
  - xcv. Images: Indiana County Plaque (next to Indiana Free Library), Indiana, Pennsylvania (2 images)
  - xcvi. Map: Indiana, Pennsylvania (road map) 2 images
  - xcvii. Certificate: Inell Lumpkin – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Penmanship, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 1947
  - xcviii. Audio file: It is well with my soul (WMA audio file)
  - xcix. Image: James Blevins
    - c. Image: Gravestone of James Blevins (1883-1943)
    - ci. Image: James Jackson Graveside (GAR) Civil War Military Marker
    - cii. Image: Gravestone of James Jackson, Company A, 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry
    - ciii. Image: James Moorhead
    - civ. Image: Jerry and Alice Embry
    - cv. Images: Jerry Dodge and Bishop Embry (used for DVD cover) 2 images
    - cvi. Images: Jerry Embry (2 images)
    - cvi. Images: Jesse Lee Dunn McCreary Hopkins (2 images)
    - cviii. Image: John Graff (sketch)
    - cix. Images: Jordan D. McCreary (2 images)
      - cx. Image: Joseph Martin Williams, 1940s (World War Two, U.S. Navy)
      - cx. Postcard images: Kentucky (illustrated map of Kentucky)
      - cxii. Audio file: Like the rest of America (WMA audio file)
      - cxiii. Image: Little Brooklyn Baptist Church cornerstone, Reverend R.S. Gray, Pastor, 1992
      - cxiv. Image: Lucerne Baseball jacket, Lucerne, Pennsylvania, badge: R&P Champs, Lucerne, 1949
      - cxv. Image: Lucerne Baseball jersey, circa 1950
      - cxvi. Postcard images: Lucerne Roman Catholic Church, Lucerne, Pennsylvania (3 images)
      - cxvii. Audio file: Lucernemines (WMA audio file)
      - cxviii. Images: Mack Farm Mine with coal miners, Masontown, Pennsylvania (3 images)

- cxix. Postcard images: Mahoning Supply Company Store, Lucerne, Pennsylvania (2 images)
- cxx. Map: Indiana County, Pennsylvania (Caldwell, 1890)
- cxxi. Image: Margaret Russell Williams, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- cxxii. Map: Marion Center, Pennsylvania (road map)
- cxxiii. Images: Mary Knaff Embry (2 images)
- cxxiv. Image: Gravestone of Mary L. McClurkin (1876-1929)
- cxxv. Postcard image: Maryland (illustrated map of Maryland)
- cxxvi. Map: Mercer County, Pennsylvania (road map)
- cxxvii. Postcard image: Michigan (illustrated map of Michigan)
- cxxviii. Image: Miner Lights and Lunch Bucket
- cxxix. Image: Mining Lamp (gas safety lamp)
- cxxx. Postcard images: Mississippi Postcard (illustrated map of Mississippi) 2 images
- cxixi. Postcard image: New Jersey (illustrated map of New Jersey)
- cxixii. Postcard image: New York (illustrated map of New York)
- cxixiii. Postcard images: North Carolina (illustrated map of North Carolina) 2 images
- cxixiv. Postcard image: Ohio (illustrated map of Ohio)
- cxixv. Image: Original NAACP Charter, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, December 14, 1931
- cxixvi. Image: Original Second Baptist Church, Blairsville, Pennsylvania
- cxixvii. Audio file: Pat Homes Summertime, July 14, 2007 (WMA audio file)
- cxixviii. Postcard images: Pennsylvania Postcard (illustrated map of Pennsylvania) 3 images
- cxixix. Image: Pennsylvania Railroad Company Parade Float
- cxli. Audio files: Pinkie Brown (4 WMA audio files)
- cxli. Image: Private Willie Blevins, 1942
- cxlii. Postcard images: Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) Depot, Indiana, Pennsylvania (2 images)
- cxliii. Image: Reider School, First and Second Grade, 1939-1940
- cxliv. Image: Revolutionary War, 1775-1781 (plaque next to Indiana Free Library)
- cxlv. Image: Samuel McCreary and Jess Lee Dunn McCreary
- cxlvi. Image: Samuel McCreary
- cxlvii. Images: Sanford Chisolm, 1970s (2 images)
- cxlviii. Image: Gravestone of Sarah Elizabeth Jennings (1834-1899), Oakland Cemetery, Indiana, Pennsylvania, 2007
- cxlix. Postcard images: Scene along the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh (BR&P) Railway – Motor Car 1001 (2 images)
- cli. Audio file: Schools in Ernest (WMA audio file)
- cli. Postcard Images: Shaft Lucerne, Pennsylvania, near Homer City, Pennsylvania (4 images)
- clii. Postcard images: South Carolina (illustrated map of South Carolina) 2 images
- cliii. Image: Gravestone of Spurgeon Wallace, Sr. (1922-1997)



- cliv. Image: St. James AME Zion Church cornerstone, 1926
- clv. Postcard image: Steam shovel at work on Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh (BR&P RR) Railroad, Homer City, Pennsylvania
- clvi. Images: Stella and Alfonso Embry (children) 2 images
- clvii. Image: Strike at Ernest, Pennsylvania, 1909, policemen
- clviii. Postcard images: Tennessee (illustrated map of Tennessee) 2 images
- clix. Image: The Dawn of Liberty (American Revolution)
- clx. Audio files: Trains (6 WMA audio files)
- clxi. Image: Typical Ernest Company House
- clxii. Images: UMW Local 5744 Brenizer, 1933 (3 images)
- clxiii. Audio file: Under the leadership (WMA audio file)
- clxiv. Map: Uniontown, Pennsylvania (road map)
- clxv. Image: United Mine Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1920s-1930s
- clxvi. Image: James William and Freeman Blevins
- clxvii. Map: Venango County, Pennsylvania (road map) Oil City, Pennsylvania
- clxviii. Postcard image: View Lucerne Mines, Rochester & Pittsburgh (R&P) Coal Company, Homer City, Pennsylvania
- clxix. Postcard image: Virginia (illustrated map of Virginia)
- clxx. Image: George Washington and the American Revolution (sketch)
- clxxi. Postcard image: West Virginia (illustrated map of West Virginia)
- clxxii. Audio file: We've come this far by faith (WMA audio file)
- clxxiii. Image: William and Freeman Blevins
- clxxiv. Images: William Blevins (2 images)
- clxxv. Image: World War I, 1917-1918 (plaque near Indiana Free Library), Indiana, Pennsylvania
- clxxvi. Audio file: WS\_30057 (WMA audio file) 17 seconds
- clxxvii. Audio file: You can't beat God giving, April 1, 2007 (WMA audio file)
- b. DVD (2) audio and video recordings (duplicates from files on DVD 1)
  - i. Audio file: Edwin Tuller – September 2, 2008 (see Folder 6)
  - ii. Audio file: 1) Between 1914 and 1950 (WMA audio file)
  - iii. Audio file: 2) The Push Factors (WMA audio file)
  - iv. Audio file: 3) During WWI (WMA audio file)
  - v. Audio file: 4) Tradition Tells Us (WMA audio file)
  - vi. Audio file: 5) Indiana County Later (WMA audio file)
  - vii. Audio file: 6) By the Time (WMA audio file)
  - viii. Audio file: 7) Every person that came (WMA audio file)
  - ix. Audio/Video file: Edwina Vold – July 3, 2006 (2006\_0703EdwinaVold0033.AVI) AVI file
  - x. Audio file: Alfonso Embry (Mine Rails) – July 31, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - xi. Audio file: Alfonso Singing Father Along Chorus (WMA audio file)
  - xii. Audio file: Bernard McCreary – April 6, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - xiii. Audio file: Connie Chisolm McCreary – May 19, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - xiv. Audio/Video file: Connie Chisolm McCreary Video Interview – January 9, 2008 (AVI file)

- xv. Audio file: Ernest Ghosts and Memories (WMA audio file)
  - xvi. Audio file: Every Person That Came (WMA audio file)
  - xvii. Audio file: Father Along by Yvonne Redd (WMA audio file)
  - xviii. Audio file: Fence Around Me and Mrs. Wallace – April 21, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - xix. Audio file: Indiana County Original (WMA audio file)
  - xx. Audio file: It Is Well With My Soul (WMA audio file)
  - xxi. Audio file: Like the Rest of America (WMA audio file)
  - xxii. Audio file: Lucernemines (WMA audio file)
  - xxiii. Audio file: Pat Homes Summertime – July 14, 2007 (WMA audio file)
  - xxiv. Audio files: Pinkie Brown – January 7, 2008 (4 WMA audio files)
  - xxv. Audio file: Schools in Ernest, Pennsylvania (WMA audio file)
  - xxvi. Audio files: Trains (6 WAV audio files)
  - xxvii. Audio file: Under The Leadership (WMA audio file)
  - xxviii. Audio file: We’ve Come This Far By Faith (WMA audio file)
  - xxix. Audio file: WS\_30057 (WMA audio file) 17 seconds
  - xxx. Audio file: You Can’t Beat God Giving – April 1, 2007 (WMA audio file)
6. Oral History Interview with Dr. Ewin Tuller (CD-R)
- a. Dr. Edwin Tuller – September 2, 2008 (2 parts)
    - i. Audio Recording (CD-R)
    - ii. Image files of Edwin Tuller (3 images)
    - iii. Oral history interview release form (digital image files are available)
7. Additional Resources about African Americans in Indiana County, Pennsylvania
- a. Stone, Ralph. (1960). A Social Picture of Chevy Chase, Indiana County. URL: <http://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewart1960RalphStoneChevyChase.pdf>
  - b. Kozol, Jonathan. (August 1968). “Expanding academic conscience,” *Saturday Review*, Volume 51, pages 21-23.
  - c. Stephenson, Clarence. (June 8, 1985). *Indiana Gazette*, “Indiana area blacks battle for civil rights.”
  - d. Additional Books by Clarence Stephenson ([Manuscript Group 15](#)) shelved in Special Collections
    - i. Photocopies of index (Volume V) pages 247 and 251 from:
      - a. Stephenson, Clarence. (1978-1995). *Indiana County 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary history*. Volumes I-V. Photocopies of Index pages (247 and 251) referencing Antislavery Movement in Volumes I and III (page 247); and African Americans in Volumes I, II & III (page 251). Call Number: F157 .I3 S783 (Special Collections)
    - ii. (See Also) Stephenson, Clarence. (1964). *The impact of the slavery issue on Indiana County*. Call Number: F157 .I3 I39 (Special Collections)
  - e. Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). University Museum Exhibition Catalog (2001). *Freedom in the air: Indiana County’s Underground Railroad in Black and White*, curated by Dr. Chris Catalfamo and Dr. Veronica Watson. URL:

<http://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewartMuseumFreedom.pdf>

8. Blog: The Underground Railroad in Indiana, Pennsylvania. URL:  
<http://atpindiana-county.blogspot.com/>
9. Ernest Grays Baseball Team: history and newspaper articles, including *The Ernest Grays and the Summer of 1935* by Dr. Theresa McDevitt. URL:  
<http://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/All%20Finding%20Aids/Finding%20aids/MG%20or%20Col/MG226SonyaStewartErnestGrays1935.pdf>