



Special Collections and University Archives

**Parker Family Collection
Manuscript Group 255**

**For Scholarly Use Only
Last Modified April 29, 2024**

**Indiana University of Pennsylvania
302 Stapleton Library
Indiana, PA 15705-1096
Voice: (724) 357-3039
Fax: (724) 357-4891
Website: www.iup.edu/archives**

Parker Family Collection, Manuscript Group 255
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 Box; 1 Linear Foot

Biographical Information

This collection was created following the IUP Social Justice Project, and it documents the Parker family including John P. Parker (1827-1900) and his daughter Bianca Parker who attended Indiana State Normal School in 1892-1893. John P. Parker was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and was an enslaved African American, and he gained his freedom in 1845. He raised his family in Ripley, Ohio, where he was an abolitionist. For more information, visit:

[John P. Parker \(abolitionist\) - Wikipedia](#)

[John P. Parker House \(Ripley, Ohio\)](#)

Sprague, Stuart Seely. (1996). *His promised land: the autobiography of John P. Parker, former slave and conductor on the underground railroad*. Call Number: E450 .P238 1996 (Special Collections)

Scope and Content Note

This collection was donated by the John P. Parker Museum and Historical Society, and includes information about John P. Parker's daughter Bianca Parker, who attended Indiana State Normal School in 1892-1893. For more information, see Record Group 148 The IUP Social Justice Project.

Provenance

Donated by Charles B. Nuckolis in 2024.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open 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 by Harrison Wick on April 29, 2024. Background information collected by Amber Lawrence in 2023-2024.

Container List

Box 1 (5 folders)

1. John P. Parker (1827-1900): Biographical Information
 - a. Wikipedia (2024)
 - b. Photograph (copy) of the Clinton Street High School, no date
2. John P. Parker: House and Foundry, Museum and Historical Society (Ripley, Ohio)
 - a. United States Department of the Interior: Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service – National Register of Historic Places Inventory (Nomination Form), 1979
 - b. Brochure (2024)
 - c. Website (2024)

3. John P. Parker: Newspaper Articles (African American)
 - a. "New Suits Filed – Bianca Parker," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 27, 1914, page 10
 - b. "Give the Negro More Work," *Times-Star* (Editor's Mailbox), no date (2 copies)
 - c. Advertisement for the Phoenix Foundry and Machine Shop owned by John P. Parker (August 9, 1871)
 - d. "Parker's Patent," *The Ripley Bee*, April 1, 1891
 - e. "New Norwood Park: Steps Taken to Prevent Settlement of Negro Families," *The Cincinnati Post*, July 18, 1922, with follow-up articles about "Marsh Avenue Park: Site of racist attempt to drive African Americans from Norwood, Ohio," 2023
 - f. "Book coming, maybe movie, about Ripley freeman," *The Cincinnati Post*, August 19, 1996
 - g. "New opera commissioned: Freedom is Calling," *The Cincinnati Post*, August 8, 2005
4. John P. Parker: Press Releases
 - a. Cincinnati Museum Center: Mosaic (Newsletter, September-October 2001), "Digging Parker's Legacy"
 - b. "John P. Parker and the Underground Railroad" by Merton L. Dillon, 2005
 - c. "Rise for Freedom: Brings Parker's Struggle to Life," 2007
 - d. "Preserving the Innovative Legacy of John P. Parker," by Jason Krupar, 2010
5. Bianca Parker (1874-1930): Biographical Information and copies of information while a student at Indiana State Normal School (ISNS), 1892-1893
 - a. Biographical Information
 - b. ISNS Accounts Receivable, 1892-1893 (see Record Group 52 and Record Group 56)
 - c. ISNS Catalogs, 1892-1893 (see Record Group 26)
 - d. Photograph of Bianca Parker from the Kimball Union Academy, 1898
6. The Underground Railroad
 - a. National Geographic Website including map and network used by enslaved African Americans (2024)

Book about John P. Parker in the IUP Special Collections and University Archives

Sprague, Stuart Seely. (1996). *His promised land: the autobiography of John P. Parker, former slave and conductor on the underground railroad*. Call Number: E450 .P238 1996 (Special Collections)