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# Earth M. M. White Collection Container List

Thomas G. Carpenter Library Special Collections and University Archives

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# Eartha M. M. White Collection

## *Finding Aid*

<b>Collection Number:</b>	M75-1
<b>Dates:</b>	(Inclusive) 1831-1974 (Bulk) 1930-1974
<b>Size:</b>	38 linear ft.
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida
<b>Arrangement:</b>	Alphabetical by topic; chronological within folder.
<b>Language:</b>	English

## **Abstract**

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Personal correspondence, documents, notes, memorabilia, printed materials and photographs. Notable materials include numerous photographs chronicling twentieth century black history in Jacksonville and historical photographs of urban Jacksonville. Included in the collection are the photographs of R. Lee Thomas, a black photographer active in the early twentieth century in the southern United States. Thomas' work covers primarily southern black religious and labor groups, circa 1946-49.

## **Acquisition**

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In 1975, the UNF Library acquired a portion of the estate of Eartha Mary Magdalene White (1876-1974). Dr. Daniel Schafer, a University of North Florida history professor, was instrumental in the acquisition.

## **Access to the Collection**

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The UNF Library encourages use of the White Collection for research purposes. In order to preserve and protect the collection, casual browsing and circulation of materials are not feasible. The collection is open by appointment only - call: (904) 620-1533 to make an appointment. For information relating to Eartha White or the collection, e-mail lib-special@unf.edu.

## **Preferred Citation**

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Eartha M. M. White Collection, Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida.

## **Additional Guides**

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An online exhibit of the Eartha M. M. White Collection is available. Electronic versions of some collection materials are available on the World Wide Web as part of UNF Digital Commons, and the Florida Heritage Collection. Descriptions of individual items and photographs are available in the Eartha M. M. White Collection Subject Guide.

## **Related Materials**

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In addition, the Clara White Mission, at 613 West Ashley Street, in downtown Jacksonville (phone: 904-354-4162) has devoted the second floor to the Eartha M. M. White Historical Museum and Resource

Center. Rare photographs and other artifacts, including Miss White's personal furniture, are housed there. Serious researchers will want to visit both collections to assure full coverage of materials.

### Historical / Biographical Note

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Social welfare and community leader, educator, humanitarian, and business entrepreneur Eartha M. M. White was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on November 8, 1876. Member of the Oriental-American Opera Company, 1895-96; toured U.S. and Europe with Company. Owned a number of small businesses from 1905-1930: a dry-goods store, employment bureau, real-estate business, small laundry. Public service activities included: operated the only orphanage for black children in Duval County; directed War Camp Community Services; headed the Negro Republican Women Voters; established the Clara White Mission for black relief activities and the Eartha M.M. White Nursing Home. Died in Jacksonville on January 18, 1974.

### Scope and Content Note

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The collection consists of more than 1,000 items, including her personal papers, documents, photographs and other memorabilia. The bulk of the collection are photographs depicting friends, relatives and events from her long life. Sizes of the photographs vary, ranging from 5x7 to 12x16 inches. A significant amount of her business and personal correspondence is also included. An extensive subject index is available for use with the collection.

Since she was an acquaintance and contemporary of many prominent African American leaders in the United States, the collection also includes a number of photographs, books, and letters relating to African American history and African American leaders in the United States. The collection is particularly valuable for research on black history in the Northeast Florida region in the twentieth century. There are rare photographs of early Jacksonville scenes depicting urban streets, historic churches, and buildings. Particularly significant are items from the Afro-American Insurance Company (1901-1990), an historic, black business in Jacksonville, and documentation of the early business leagues and social associations with which Eartha White was affiliated.

The collection also contains 156 black and white photographs of southern African American religious and labor groups, circa 1946-1949, by photographer R. Lee Thomas of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. His imprint contains the caption: *Made by R. Lee Thomas, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, The Oldest Negro Town in America*. Mr. Thomas was an African American photographer active in the early twentieth century in the southern United States, whose work provides photographic documentation of southern black social life during that time period. The majority of the photographs depict groups from Birmingham, Alabama, and adjacent areas.

### Index Terms

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The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection:

- White, Eartha M. M., 1876-1974
- Thomas, R. Lee
- African American women
- African American businesspeople
- Nursing homes
- African American photographers

- Clara White Mission
- Eartha M. M. White Nursing Home
- Duval County (Fla.)--History
- Jacksonville (Fla.)—History

## Container List

<b>Correspondence and Subject Files, 1831-1974</b>	
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder Description</b>
<b>A</b>	Adoption Agency / Child Placement and Orphanage (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1919 -1953, n.d.
<b>B</b>	Afro-American Industrial / Life Insurance Company. 1916-1961, n.d.
<b>C</b>	Afro-American Women's Club. n.d.
<b>D</b>	Allen, Richard. n.d.
<b>Da</b>	American Beach. n.d.
<b>E</b>	American National Red Cross. 1933-1963, n.d.
<b>F</b>	Bethel Baptist Institutional Church. 1899-1958, n.d.
<b>G</b>	Bethune, Mary McLeod. 1919-1955, n.d.
<b>H</b>	Bethune Cookman College. 1961 and n.d.
<b>I</b>	Black Business / African American Business Enterprises. 1907-1957, n.d.
<b>J</b>	Black History / African Americans--History. 1928-1957, n.d.
<b>K</b>	Black Leaders / African American Leadership. 1872-1904, n.d.
<b>L</b>	Blodgett, Joseph H. n.d.
<b>M</b>	Buildings--Florida--Jacksonville. 1942, n.d.
<b>N</b>	Business Cards. n.d.
<b>O</b>	Chavis, Vivian. 1930-1962, n.d.
<b>P</b>	Churches / African American Churches. 1929-1965, n.d.
<b>Q</b>	Citizens Relief Committee (Jacksonville, Florida) 1936.
<b>R</b>	Clara White Mission (General). 1937-1968, n.d.
<b>S-T</b>	Clara White Mission--Activities. 1931-1963, n.d.
<b>U-W</b>	Clara White Mission--Business & Financial Records (bills and receipts, contributions and appropriations). 1902-1963, n.d.
<b>X</b>	Clara White Mission--Publications. 1957 and n.d.
<b>Y</b>	Clara White Mission--Solicitations. 1933-1972, n.d.
<b>Z</b>	Coleman, Bessie. 1926.
<b>A1</b>	Community Activities (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1897-1966, n.d.
<b>B1</b>	Community Chest Association (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1926-1941, n.d.
<b>C1</b>	Correctional Institutions. 1906-1957, n.d.
<b>D1</b>	Crisis (publication). 1942.
<b>E1</b>	Cunningham, Nancy Violette. 1928-1930, n.d.
<b>F1</b>	Daughter of the Elks. 1929-1957, n.d.
<b>G1</b>	De Veaux, John A. 1950 and n.d.
<b>H1</b>	Documents, Miscellaneous. 1871-1960, n.d.
<b>I1</b>	Douglass, Frederick. 1889 and n.d.
<b>J1</b>	Duval County (Fla.) Teachers' Association. 1952.
<b>K1</b>	Eartha M. M. White Historic Museum. n.d.

<b>L1</b>	Eartha M. M. White Nursing Home. 1969-1981, n.d.
<b>M1</b>	Edward Waters College. 1924-1970, n.d.
<b>N1</b>	Emancipation Proclamation--Celebrations. 1945-1950, n.d.
<b>O1</b>	English, L. H. n.d.
<b>P1</b>	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. 1930-1954, n.d.
<b>Q1</b>	Florida Baptist Academy / Florida Normal and Industrial Institute / Florida Normal and Industrial Memorial College. 1907-1959, n.d.
<b>R1</b>	Florida State Normal School. 1909.
<b>S1</b>	Fresh Air Camp (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1930 and n.d.
<b>T1</b>	Gibbs, Jonathan C. n.d.
<b>U1</b>	Gray, Annie A. . 1902-1934.
<b>V1</b>	Harrison, Henry (Reverend). 1907-1917?, n.d.
<b>W1</b>	Housewives League. 1958-1960.
<b>X1</b>	Iota Phi Lambda Society. 1949-1959, n.d.
<b>Y1</b>	Jacksonville (Fla.)--History. 1915-1968.
<b>Z1</b>	Jacksonville Business League (Fla.) 1953.
<b>A2</b>	Jacksonville (Fla.)--Community Leaders. 1930-1959, n.d.
<b>B2</b>	Jacksonville Historical Society (Fla.) 1929-1931.
<b>C2</b>	Jacksonville Humane Society (Fla.) 1935 and n.d.
<b>D2</b>	Jacksonville Negro Welfare League (Fla.) 1928-1954, n.d.
<b>E2</b>	Jacksonville Patriotic League Committee (Fla.) n.d.
<b>F2</b>	Johnson, Aurellia. 1954-1970.
<b>G2</b>	Johnson, James Weldon. 1913-1975, n.d.
<b>H2</b>	Johnson, John Rosamond. 1913-1914, n.d.
<b>I2</b>	Johnson, Rachel. 1917-1922, n.d.
<b>J2</b>	Jordan, James Lloyd. 1894-1896.
<b>K2</b>	Knights of Pythias. 1918-1939.
<b>L2</b>	Lee, Joseph E. 1881-1913, n.d.
<b>M2</b>	Letters, Miscellaneous. n.d.
<b>N2</b>	Lincoln Country Club (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1927-1950, n.d.
<b>O2</b>	Lincoln-Douglass Memorial Association. 1909-1963, n.d.
<b>P2</b>	Manhattan Beach, Fla. n.d.
<b>Q2</b>	McGill, Simuel Decatur. 1901-1946, n.d.
<b>R2</b>	Memorial Day Services. 1933, n.d.
<b>S2</b>	Memorial and Funeral Services. 1914-1970, n.d.
<b>T2</b>	Mercy Hospital (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1953-1958, n.d.
<b>U2</b>	Merry Hearts Club (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1935-1966, n.d.
<b>V2</b>	Military Activities (Jacksonville, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.) 1917-1962, n.d.
<b>W2</b>	Missionary Work. 1922-1938, n.d.
<b>X2</b>	Moncrief Springs (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1950-1963, n.d.
<b>Y2</b>	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. 1922-1959.
<b>Z2</b>	Women's Clubs activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1915-1952, n.d.</li> <li>• Florida State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1909-1957, n.d.</li> <li>• National Association of Colored Women, 1910-1924, n.d.</li> <li>• National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, 1914-1956</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northeastern Federation of Women's Clubs, 1916</li> <li>Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1949-1953</li> </ul>
<b>A3</b>	National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes. 1915.
<b>B3</b>	National Negro Business League. 1924-1962, n.d.
<b>C3</b>	National Urban League. 1926.
<b>F3-K3</b>	Old Folks Home (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1911-1965, n.d.
<b>L3</b>	Order of Eastern Star. 1927, n.d.
<b>M3</b>	Organizations, Social. 1946-1947, n.d.
<b>N3</b>	Drama events ("Pearly Gates" play) 1955
<b>O3</b>	Peartree, Mollie. 1936 and n.d.
<b>P3</b>	Perkins, Daniel Webster. 1954, n.d.
<b>Y3</b>	Postcards. 1941-1962, n.d.
<b>Z3</b>	Pratt, Lawton Leroy. 1942-1945, n.d.
<b>B4</b>	Randolph, A. Phillip. 1957-1963, n.d.
<b>C4</b>	Republican National Committee (U.S.) / Republican Party. 1920-1938, n.d.
<b>D4</b>	Ross, George E. n.d.
<b>E4</b>	Sammis, Albert C., Jr. 1920-1930, n.d.
<b>Z5</b>	Savage, Augusta (Sculpture) 1939.
<b>F4</b>	Schools--Florida--Jacksonville. 1893-1957, n. d.
<b>G4</b>	Service Laundry Company (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1921-1923, n.d.
<b>H4</b>	Show Business. 1895-1901, n.d.
<b>I4</b>	Silas Green Company. 1929-1930, n.d.
<b>J4</b>	Simpson, Caldonia. 1947-1957, n.d.
<b>K4</b>	Social Work. 1911-1931, n.d.
<b>L4</b>	Stanton High School (Jacksonville, Fla.). 1887-1972, n.d.
<b>M4</b>	Taylor, George E. 1904.
<b>N4</b>	Testimonials. 1950-1969.
<b>O4</b>	Thompson, Charles J. 1928-1934.
<b>P4</b>	Union Benevolent Association (Jacksonville, Fla.) 1930-1934, n.d.
<b>Q4</b>	Washington, Booker T. / Margaret James Murray Washington. 1913-1950, n.d.
<b>R4</b>	White, Clara English. 1896-1922, n.d.
<b>S4</b>	White, Eartha M.M. --Travels. 1912-1955, n.d.
<b>T4</b>	White, Eartha M. M. (General - Acquisition of Collection) 1974.
<b>U4</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Awards and Certificates. 1900-1972, n.d.
<b>V4</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Biographies. 1951-1974, n.d.
<b>W4</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Birthdays and Testimonials. 1942-1973, n.d.
<b>X4</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Business Cards. n.d.
<b>Y4</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Correspondence (Business) 1910-1972, n.d.
<b>Z4, A5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Financial records. 1900-1972, n.d.
<b>B5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Correspondence (Letters of appeal) 1900-1967, n.d.
<b>C5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Correspondence (Letters of appreciation) 1904-1965
<b>D5, F5</b>	D5, F5 White, Eartha M. M. -- Writings (Manuscripts, notes) n.d.
<b>E5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Meetings and Conferences. 1919-1960, n.d.
<b>G5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Correspondence (Personal) 1895-1961, n.d.
<b>I5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Publications. 1933, n.d.
<b>J5-K5</b>	White, Eartha M. M. -- Real Estate. 1885-1962, n.d.

<b>L5</b>	L5	White, Eartha M. M. -- Relatives. 1902-1929, n.d.
<b>M5</b>	M5	White, Isham A. (Dr.) 1910-1951, n.d.
<b>N5</b>	N5	Women's Christian Temperance Union. n.d.
<b>Photographs, 1886-1971</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder Description</b>	
<b>Photographs belonging to Eartha White</b>		
<b>Identified / unidentified photographs belonging to Eartha White.</b>		
<p>The majority of the identified photographs feature Eartha White, relatives, Jacksonville community leaders / buildings and sites. Photographs of Eartha White date from the late nineteenth century to 1971. Included are 27 photographs by the Jacksonville photographer E. L. Weems. Most of the photographs are not dated and in black and white. When identified, most have hand-written captions on the verso of the print. Size varies: 3 1/2 x 5 1/2; 4 x 6; 5 x 7; 8 x 10; and 12 x 16.</p> <p>Descriptions of individual photographs are available in the Eartha White Collection Subject Index.</p>		
<b>H5</b>	Portraits and snapshots of Eartha White	
<b>Q3</b>	Portraits and snapshots of identified people.	
<b>U3-x3</b>	Portraits and snapshots of unidentified children and infants (U3), women (V3), men (X3), and groups (W3).	
<b>A2</b>	A2 Jacksonville (Fla.)--Community Leaders.	
<b>Y1</b>	Y1 Jacksonville (Fla.)--Pictorial Works; Buildings	
<b>Photographs by R. Lee Thomas</b>		
<b>A4</b>	<b>Photographs by R. Lee Thomas (Mississippi photographer)</b>	
<p>Subjects are southern African American religious and labor groups, mainly from Birmingham, Alabama and adjacent areas, circa 1946-1949. His imprint contains the caption: Made by R. Lee Thomas, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, The Oldest Negro Town in America. 156 black and white photographs. Size varies from 8 x 10 to 12 x 16.</p>		