Guide to the Papers of

Edith Powell

Prepared by Dana Chandler and Cheryl Ferguson, 2009

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Powell, Edith (1940

**Title:** Papers of Edith Powell

**Dates:** 1941-2008

**Quantity:** 1.65 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Edith Powell worked at Tuskegee University as a professor in the School of Nursing and Allied Health. She is co-author of the book *A Black Oasis: Tuskegee’s Fight Against Infantile paralysis, 1941-1975.*

**Contact Information:** Tuskegee University National Center of Bioethics, Archives and Museums

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Edith Powell (1941-2008)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in miscellaneous folders prepared by Edith Powell. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents. The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

American Epidemiological Society.

National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Communicable diseases.

Epidemiology.

Medical education.

Poliomyelitis, Bulbar

Poliomyelitis--Transmission.

John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital

March of Dimes

**Persons:**

Edith Powell

John F. Hume, M.D.

**Biography**

Mary Edith (Edie) Powell was born in Tuskegee, Alabama. Her family had close ties with

Tuskegee University. Her father, C.B. Powell, who worked at Johnson’s Drug Store, made frequent trips to Dr. George Washington Carver’s laboratory in order to acquire peanut oil which was subsequently bottled, labeled, and sold for Dr. Carver.

At the age of 4 or 5, Powell became infected with Polio and her family sought treatment at the Infantile Paralysis Center at Tuskegee Institute. Under the watch care of close family friend Dr. Chenault, Powell was confirmed as having polio and sent to Warm Springs, Georgia for further consultation. She was required to wear a “short-leg brace” until shortly before she began first grade.

Powell received her undergraduate, graduate and doctorate from Auburn University. Although she worked at a variety of hospitals, she worked as an instructor at Tuskegee University in the School of Nursing and Allied Health from 1986 until her retirement in 2008. Due to her previous condition as a polio survivor and her teaching at Tuskegee University, she became interested in researching the subject of polio. It is during her tenure at Tuskegee University, Powell worked with Dr. John Fl Hume, M.D. on research regarding the Infantile Paralysis Center.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Edith Powell consist of documents spanning 1941-2008, and include research articles and data, personal and business correspondence, and manuscript articles prepared for publication by Dr. Powell during her tenure at Tuskegee University.

Articles and data included material concerning treatment and procedures for treatment of Polio. Personal and business correspondence includes her biographical information, legal documents, and recommendations. Also, includes information about the John A. Andrew Clinic and the Tuskegee Infantile Paralysis Center. Patient records from the 1950s specific to the Infantile Paralysis Center are currently closed to all researchers.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

Patient records are restricted in accordance to the HIPAA privacy rule.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Copy right Application and TU Tax Exemption Letter

1 2 A Black Oasis

1 3 carver References for Book

1 4 Correspondence for Documentary: A Paralyzing Fear [The History of Polio in America]

1 5 Correspondence from Mrs. Woddard

1 6 Dibble, Eugene H. (M.D.)

1 7 Eugene H. Dibble, Secretary, John A. Andrew Clinical Society

1 8 First Book Draft

1 9 [John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital]

1 10 McQuick Printing

1 11 Photo Proof Sheet for Polio Wing [Made by Walter Scott]

1 12 Programs [Dr. Dibble]

1 13 Programs and Correspondence

1 14 Research Note Cards

1 15 Tuskegee’s Role in Health Care

1 16 Tuskegee University School of Nursing [Fifth Annual Mary Starke Harper Series]

**Box Folder**

2 1 Article [Nursing and Allied Health Receives Grant] Campus Digest, December 05, 1986

2 2 Correspondence with Dr. Hume

2 3 Grant Management at Tuskegee University

2 4 Grant Request to Tuskegee University

2 5 Information on Polk

2 6 Information Sheet for Research Project

2 7 Letters to Carver

2 8 Letters to Charles Bynum

2 9 Letters to John A. Andrew Hospital

2 10 Letters to Reader’s Digest

2 11 Malone Exhibit

2 12 Miscellaneous Articles and Notes

2 13 Miscellaneous Newsletters

2 14 Montgomery Archive Research Request Forms

2 15 Notes from Hyde Park FDR Library

2 16 Notes from Robert Couch Auburn University

2 17 Notes from Dean Sands

2 18 [Nursing Awards Salutes Fulfillment of Dream] Montgomery Advertiser and Journal, July 13, 1982

2 19 Request for Graduate Work Study Student

2 20 [The Hasting Center Report] vol. 31, no. 5, September-October 2001

2 21 Warm Springs, Georgia

**Box Folder**

3 1 [Alabama State Council of the Arts] Grant Application 88-89

3 2 [Alabama State Council of the Arts] Grant Application 88-90

3 3 [Alabama State Council of the Arts] Guide to Programs 87-88

3 4 [Alabama State Council of the Arts] Guide to Programs 88-89

3 5 Evaluation of the 1954 Field Trail

3 6 Letters to the March of Dimes

3 7 March of Dimes

3 8 March of Dimes Brochures

3 9 March of Dimes Grants

3 10 Mounted Page from Book

## Box Folder

4 1 Various Slides

4 2 Audio Cassette Tape [Health Care Service in Macon County] Draft 2

4 3 Audio Cassette Tape [B. B Walcott Interview at her Home] May 15, 1986

**Box Folder**

5 Closed Files