Index to

The Microfilmed

Buffalo Youth & Young Adult Choral Society Papers

Part of

The Buffalo Afro-American Collection
A joint project of
The Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier Inc.
and
Buffalo State College

Copies of the microfilmed titles are housed at
The North Jefferson Branch Library and
The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections,
E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State

The Papers were microfilmed in
The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center
Buffalo State College

The 16MM film was filmed with a 34X lens

2003
Preface

The materials in this collection were assembled by Mr. And Mrs. George “Buddy” Davis. They were associated with the Buffalo Choral Society from the beginning. They gleaned materials from longtime members of their organization who kept some of the Society’s records. Mr. Davis, who is an officer in the national society, has promised to raise the history question at the next national convention (which is scheduled for Buffalo). He hopes to convince other branch leaders to preserve their historical records. Back in the 1950s and 1960s there was a national push in African American communities to get the youth involved with gospel music. Many of the community groups that were formed for that purpose are still around. The Buffalo State College Monroe Fordham Regional History Center has offered to assist the national parent body of the Choral Society in the effort to preserve documents pertaining to its history and the history of its branches.

The materials in this collection were organized, indexed and prepared for microfilming by Monroe and Freddie Mae Fordham. The papers were microfilmed by Buffalo State College student, Kelly Allen. Kelly was paid from a New York State grant.

Monroe Fordham
10/2003
The Supervisors Guild of Buffalo Youth and Young Adult Choral Society was organized in 1958-1959 with approximately seven members in the home of the late Rosalie Henry. The purpose of the Guild was to supervise, guide and assist the youth. Also, to travel with the children both locally and out of town when presenting programs and attending the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, Inc., under the leadership of Professor Thomas A. Dorsey. Presidents: Mother Sarah Parham (deceased), Mrs. Mary Jackson and Mr. George "Buddy" Davis, II, Mrs. Gertrude Johnson, presiding.

The Supervisor Guild in 1971 spearheaded the purchasing of property at 279 Guilford Street, which is now owned and operated by the Buffalo Youth and Young Adult Choir Society, Inc. This was accomplished by their own personal money.

On Sunday, February 7th of 1982, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our home, Guilford Hall, with a banquet and had as our guest speaker, the late Rev. Horace Billy Johnson, and at this gala affair, many financial pledges were made and paid by Supervisors, Youth Department, Parent Body and our many sincere "well-wishers" to help us beautify our "home". A total, $7,000.00 was paid and the beautifications began in May of that year and was completed.

This year, our annual convention will convene in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 8th - 13th at which time we will be represented by members from the Buffalo Choral Society in the following departments: Parent Body, Youth and Young Adults, Sub-teens, Supervisors Guild, Alumni Chorale and Soloist Bureau.

We, the Buffalo Choral Society had the honor to host the Great Lakes Regional Conference of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses on May 13th-14th at the Holiday Inn and the United Church of Faith, Pastor Rev. R. Taylor. Delegates of this region were from Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toledo, Detroit and Shenango Valley.

Our special guest this year, on Saturday, June 4th, was the First Church of Redeemed of Detroit, Michigan, Pastored by Rev. Katherine Fitzgerald. Service was held at Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church, Pastor Rev. John T. Hilliard.

**NATIONAL OFFICES HELD BY OUR SUPERVISORS**

National Board Member and Chairman of Wm. Lillard Fund - Bro. George Davis, III

President of National Supervisors Guild • Gertrude Johnson

Financial Secretary of National Supervisors Guild • Patricia Reeves
IN THE BEGINNING

THE BUFFALO YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT

Founder..........................................................Virlie Mae Payne
Supervisors.................................................1. Jessie Simpson
                                                  2. Sarah Davis Parham
                                                  3. Mamie Pringle

THE FIRST APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR THE YOUTH 1948-1949 WERE:

President..........................................................Mrs. Freda Potts
Vice..............................................................1. Rev. Robert Jenkins
                                                  2. Rev. Leroy Stokes
                                                  3. Mrs. Gertrude Daniels Johnson
                                                  4. Mr. John T. Hilliard, Jr. (Rev.)
                                                  5. Mr. Solomon Allen

Secretary..........................................................Mrs. Odessa Malone
Assistant Secretary..............................Melvin Neal
Corresponding Secretary..........................Betty Coleman
Financial Secretary..........................................Miss Viola Rogers
Treasurer..........................................................Mr. Joe Morrow
Chaplains....................................................Miss Margaret Harris, Mr. Beauford Batty
Directress....................................................Mrs. Virlie M. Payne
Pianist..............................................................Miss Juanita Evans
Assistant Pianist................................................Donald Hilliard
Sergeant at Arms.................................Mr. William Hilliard, Mr. George Malone

THE NATIONAL OFFICERS WERE:

Rev. D.M.Byrd..............................................Board of Trustees
Mrs. Anna Jones...........................................chaplain

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION ATTENDED BY
THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT WAS
AUGUST 1950 IN ST. LOUIS, MO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>PAST PRESIDENTS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Freda Potts:</td>
<td>1948-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Gertrude S. (Daniels) Johnson</td>
<td>1950-1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. George (Buddy) Davis</td>
<td>1960-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Alexis Sease Adams</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Georgene Ferrell</td>
<td>1968-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Georgene Ferrell</td>
<td>1971-1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Josephine Nolley</td>
<td>1972-1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Alberta Crenshaw</td>
<td>1974-1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. LaMarr Reeves</td>
<td>1977-1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Larry Lipscomb (Resigned)</td>
<td>1979-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jeffrey Jones</td>
<td>1979-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. LaMarr Reeves</td>
<td>1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Arthur Crenshaw II</td>
<td>1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. George (Chief) Davis, III</td>
<td>1986-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Alma Moore</td>
<td>1986-1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Katrina Long</td>
<td>1988-1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Tamara Logan</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Lakita Reeves</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Ronda Ferguson</td>
<td>1993-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Faith Wardlaw</td>
<td>1998-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Andrea M. Sease</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
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Historical Highlights of
The Buffalo Youth and Young Adult Choral Society, Inc.

Organized in 1948 as an Auxiliary of the Buffalo Choral Union, which was affiliated with the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses Inc. under the Presidency of the founder Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey of Chicago, Illinois.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Annual Mock Convention - 1958
2. Incorporated 1963 - changing name from Buffalo Youth Department to Buffalo Youth and Young Adult Choral Society Incorporated. Duty chartered by New York State.
4. Hosted National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses in:
   - 1955 First Shiloh Baptist Church
   - 1966 Friendship Baptist Church and
   - New Covenant United Church of Christ
   - 1984 Hyatt Regency and Convention Center
   Hosted national Board Meeting:
   - 1976 Statler Hilton Hotel
5. Purchased our Home Guilford Hall - 279 Guilford Street in 1971
   Burned the mortgage in July 1974
6. Annual Awards Banquet.
8. Youth Department Performances
9. 1999-Orlando, Florida
10. 2000 - New Orleans, Louisiana
11. 2001 - Houston, Texas
12. 2002 -Nashville, Tennessee
   Training classes for youth
   Computer Lab
   Praise Dance Ensemble
   Bible Study

We have traveled with this convention since 1950 attending our first convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

- Traveled as far as Los Angeles, California; Orlando, Florida; Houston, Texas; Denver, Colorado and many cities in between.
- We have appeared with or sponsored many Gospel Greats such as: Sally Martin, Wille Mae Ford Smith, Shirley Caesar, James Cleveland, Mattie Moss Clark, Dorothy Love & Gospel Harmonettes, Edward Hawkins, Donald Lawrence, Leonard Burt, Heszieka Walker, John P. Kee, Carol
Antrom and many others.

• Our organization not only teaches Gospel Music, but it broadens our relationship with one another religiously.
• Let us not forget the Late Rev. D.M. Byrd who was our Spiritual Advisor for many years - and the Late Mother Parham and others who have gone to rest who labored faithfully with us.
• We extend our thanks to all of the Churches and Pastors who have made us welcome for the past 50 years.
• May God Bless all of you. We welcome you to become a part of us.
• In these days of turmoil in which we live, let us return to the Golden Rule, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you."

Historians: Gertrude S. Johnson and George A. Davis, II
1. Anniversary Programs
2. Award Certificates
3. Bank Statement
4. Buffalo Choral Society – Background Information
5. Buffalo Choral Society – By-Laws
6. Buffalo Choral Society – Fundraising Documents
7. Buffalo Choral Society – History
8. Buffalo Choral Society – Minutes
9. Buffalo Choral Society – Supervisors Years of Service
11. Davis, George “Buddy”
12. Guilford Hall, Grand Opening
13. Membership Dues Ledger
14. Membership Information, 1979
15. Membership Lists
16. Membership Registration Forms, 1999
17. Music Library
23. Property Insurance – 279 Guilford, 92 Wohlers
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<tr>
<th>Folder No.</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Receipt Book 1, 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Receipt Book 2, 1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>St. Luke A.M.E.Z. – Church School Class List</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Anniversary Programs**

2. **Award Certificates**
   Several award certificates that were presented to George and Patricia Davis.

3. **Bank Statement**
   A bank statement showing the Society’s bank account, 2002.

4. **Buffalo Choral Society – Background Information**
   Various documents that provide snapshots of the Society’s activities and organization.

5. **Buffalo Choral Society – By-Laws**
   The Society’s “Proposed” By-Laws, n.d.

6. **Buffalo Choral Society – Fundraising Documents**
   Various documents that pertain to the Society’s fundraising activities.

7. **Buffalo Choral Society – History**
   A short history of the Society and numerous other documents that contain other information about the group’s history—“list of past presidents 1958-2003,” etc.

8. **Buffalo Choral Society – Minutes**
   A “record book” of handwritten minutes (late 1960s), and several sets of handwritten minutes from 1972.

9. **Buffalo Choral Society – Supervisors Years of Service**
   A list of 19 “supervisors” (probably adults that worked with and support the Society) and a note showing the years of service for each one.

10. **Byrd, Rev. D.M., Funeral Resolution**
    Rev. D.M. Byrd was one of the original members of the Society. On his death, the Society presented a resolution at his funeral service, n.d.

11. **Davis, George “Buddy”**
    Mr. Davis was one of the founding members and one of the most influential leaders of the society. This folder contains a newspaper clipping about his life and dedication to gospel music.

12. **Guilford Hall, Grand Opening**
    “Guilford Hall”, 279 Guilford Street, was the Society’s “permanent home.” This a printed program of its grand opening and dedication. The printed program contains a lot of historical information about the Society, 1972.

13. **Membership Dues Ledger**
    A ledger which contains lists of dues and other monies collected from members. Early 1970s.

14. **Membership Information, 1979**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder No.</th>
<th>Folder Title and Description of Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A page of information on individual members of the Society. Information includes name, address, date of birth, church membership, pastor’s name, emergency contact, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td><strong>Membership Lists</strong>&lt;br&gt;A large tablet with membership lists, dues paid, etc., 1990s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td><strong>Membership Registration Forms, 1999</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed registration forms showing various pieces of information about individual members of the society. Different form but same information as listed in folder #14 (above), 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td><strong>Music Library</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sheet music of some of the songs that the Society sang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td><strong>Property Insurance – 279 Guilford, 92 Wohlers</strong>&lt;br&gt;A letter pertaining to insurance for the two properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td><strong>Receipt Book 1, 1970s</strong>&lt;br&gt;A receipt showing monies received, 1970s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td><strong>Receipt Book 2, 1980s</strong>&lt;br&gt;A receipt book showing monies received, 1980s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td><strong>Receipt book 3, 1980s &amp; 1990s</strong>&lt;br&gt;A receipt book showing monies received, 1980s and 1990s,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td><strong>St. Luke A.M.E.Z. – Church School Class List</strong>&lt;br&gt;Class</td>
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