

16:71.2

## STERLING R. McELWAIN COLLECTION

### INTRODUCTION

The Sterling R. McElwaine Collection was donated to TCHA in 1971 by Mr. McElwaine's daughter, Naomi Kate McElwaine Small.

SRM was born in Indianapolis 25 March 1887. From Indiana University he received a B.A. in 1909 and M.S. in Education in 1935.

He was married in 1921 to Ethel Naomi White (1887-1971), also a teacher; besides Naomi Kate (1923- ), they had one son, Sterling Jr. (1928- ?).

Mr. McElwaine served as teacher and principal of Lincoln School, Lafayette, Indiana, from 1909 (with the exception of the years 1916-19) until 1951 when the Lafayette public schools were integrated. After his retirement from Lincoln School, he worked for the Lafayette School System as manager of the book rental system for the elementary schools; in 1961 he retired from this position.

SRM was active in community service organizations, human relations efforts and with the Second Baptist Church in Lafayette. In 1965 he received the Journal and Courier George Award for outstanding leadership ability and community service.

Mr. McElwaine died 26 October 1971 at the age of 84; his wife died on 8 April of the same year.

Series in the Sterling R. McElwaine Collection include: professional and personal memorabilia; family-related items; writings in Negro history, civil rights (local and in general); Lincoln School. Separated from the collection are church records from the Second AME Baptist Church in Lafayette and photographs (approximately 60). See Separation List at end of inventory.

### PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT OF COLLECTION

2 Document boxes (one 5"; one 2-1/2")  
1 Gray flat box

### CONTAINER LIST

#### STERLING R. McELWAIN (1887-1971): PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL

##### BOX 1

Guest Register for PTA reception, ca. 1949. The back pages are used like a scrapbook to hold newspaper clippings and telegrams.

#### FOLDER

1. Biographical information. (See also Box 1, Folder 5.) (Includes a brief genealogical sketch.)
2. Indiana University. B.S. Degree, 1909; M.S. in Education, 1935. (Includes 50 year reunion, June 1959.)
3. Credentials.
4. Retirement from active teaching at Lincoln School, 1949. Guest book from PTA reception, 1949.
5. Lifetime membership in Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1957. (Includes biographical sketch from "King for a Night," State Life Membership Dinner, 3 May 1957.)
6. Lafayette (and Indiana) Classroom Teachers Assoc., lifetime membership, April 1959.
7. Program. Lafayette Board of School Trustees, annual dinner, 1960-61 school year. (List of members of 40 Year Club.)
8. Retirement from Lafayette School System, June 1961.
9. Journal and Courier George Award, 28 April 1965. (Includes George Award programs, 1965-69.)
10. Journal and Courier George Award, (cont.). Congratulatory notes and letters.
11. Awards and honors (miscellaneous). (Includes 'Humanitarian Award' by Rosicrucian Order, 1958; Lafayette School Corp., Hall of Fame Award, 1982.)
12. Community services.
13. National Education Assoc., membership.

STERLING R. McELWAIN (1887-1971): FAMILY

BOX 1 (CONT.)

#### FOLDER

14. Ethel Naomi White McElwaine (1887-1971). (See also Box 1, Folder 5.) Obituary notice; credentials.

15. Naomi Kate McElwaine Small (1923- ); Sterling Jr. (1928- ?). Miscellaneous items.

16. 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, 25 March 1971. (Includes newsclipping of 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.)

#### NEGRO HISTORY; CIVIL RIGHTS (LOCAL AND IN GENERAL)

BOX 1 (Continued)

#### FOLDER

17. Negro history, Lafayette, Indiana. (Includes address by SRM?; copy of manuscript, "Observations on results of Lafayette Public accommodations survey conducted in 1962....," by SRM?)

18. Manuscript notes for addresses, papers, etc. (Topics include: brotherhood, prejudice, racial understanding, etc.)

19. Manuscript notes for addresses, papers, etc. (Topics include: race relations, Frederick Douglass, etc.)

20. Human relations; civil rights items, Lafayette, Indiana.

21. Pamphlets, articles. (Miscellaneous topics including: civil rights, human relations, George Washington Carver, etc.; also includes sheet music for male quartette arrangement of "Lit every voice and sing," ca. 1920.)

#### LINCOLN SCHOOL, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

BOX 1 (Continued)

#### FOLDER

22. Lincoln School. (Includes newsclippings; history of school to 1929...; notes of last PTA meeting, 7 June 1951 before integration of school.)

23. Article. "Negro education in Tippecanoe County" by Ruth Anderson for TCHA newsletter.

BOX 2 (GRAY FLAT BOX)

9 attendance record books for Lincoln School. 1869-89; 1900; 1915-23; 1942-43; 1948-49.

### BOX 3

#### Personal Artifacts:

71.2.69 Plaque from Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1963

71.2.75 Plaque from Floyd Lodge 23 for outstanding citizenship, 1964

71.2.71 Plaque from Mary L. Club, 1961

71.2.77 Neck scarf from Camp Cary (maroon)

71.2.77 Neck scarf from Camp Cary (green)

71.2.72 George Award paperweight from Journal and Courier

71.2.73 Whistle (metal)

71.2.74 Whistle (cylindrical metal)

71.2.70 Desk nameplate

71.2.68 Desk bell

### SEPARATION LIST

Photographs. See EDUCATION: Lafayette Public (McElwaine Collection) in TCHA Photograph Archives.

Church records. See Second AME Baptist Church in Church File, TCHA Library stacks.

Yearbook. "Arbutus" 1909 (Indiana University) in WHRC basement with yearbook collection.

Other items with collection, see Accession Record #71.2 in Curator of collections office.

### PEOPLE

McElwaine, Sterling R.

McElwaine, Ethel Naomi White

Small, Naomi Kate McElwaine

McElwaine, Sterling Jr.

### CLASSIFICATION

Education/Lafayette Public

### SUBJECTS

African Americans

Education – Lincoln School

Awards – George Award

Civil Rights  
Local History

#### SEARCH TERMS

Camp Cary  
Church, Second AME Baptist  
Floyd Lodge  
Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs  
Mary L. Club  
School, Lincoln  
George Award