

Henry Allen Laine Papers, 1874-1988 (8 Folders)

Processed by Deborah L. Boggs, January 2005

Restrictions

None.

Biographical Sketch

Henry Allen Laine (10 Jan 1870-15 Oct 1955) was born and raised in Madison County, Kentucky to Washington and Amelia Madeline Laine (?-ca. June 1895). Henry married Florence Benton on 22 Dec 1897. Henry and Florence had nine children: eight girls and one boy.

Laine was an educator in Madison County for twenty-one years. He was the founder of the Madison County Colored Teachers Association and was the chairman of the association for twenty years. Laine was the first African-American county extension agent and he organized a farmers club in 1915 for the African-American farmers in Madison County. He was also responsible for forming the Colored Chautauqua, a combination fair and outdoor educational event to bring cultural, religious and social opportunities to the community. Laine also fought against the closure of Berea College to blacks in the early 1900s.

Laine was widely known as a poet. His most famous volume, entitled 'Foot Prints,' was so popular that it was printed three times—1914, 1924, and 1947.”

In 1947, Laine was named “Man of the Year” by his colleagues at the Richmond High School. He was also inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2003.

Scope and Content Note

The Henry Allen Laine papers are a collection of personal manuscripts from Henry Allen Laine, including original works by Laine. Also contained in this collection are various newspaper clippings of Laine’s death and memorial service, Laine family photos and papers from Henry Allen Laine’s daughter, Tommie Holland. The collection would be an excellent source of primary information for anyone researching African-American social issues in the early 1900s.

The content of the Henry Allen Laine papers reveals an African-American life that is uncharacteristic of most African-Americans, and even whites, during the first half of the 1900s. Laine was very well educated. He did not lead the typical life of an African-American. Therefore, the lack of having an abundance of material from a well to do African-American, this collection would be very valuable to anyone researching the lives of African-Americans during the early-20th century.

Donor Information

William Stone and Tommie Holland (1987-003, 1987-021).

Folder List

- f. 01 TMsS Includes the book of poems written by Henry Allen Laine, "Footprints." Also includes a publication of his daughter, Tommie Holland. Her book is "Uncle Remus in Rhythm and Rhyme."
- f. 02 ADS The handwritten manuscript of "My Life," an autobiography of Henry Allen Laine, dated 12 Oct 1947. Following the handwritten copy is a typed copy.
- f. 03 AD/ADS Various handwritten drafts of Henry Allen Laine's literary work, including drafts of business related materials.. Dates ranging from ca. 1931 to ca. 1953, includes some undated documents. Titles include:
- "Summer School for Negro County Agents, Tennessee State College, Nashville, TN, August 1930"
 - appears to be an invitation to the summer school
 - "Summer School for Negro County Agents, St. Petersburg, Va, August 1931"
 - "Kentucky's First Regular County Agent, Installment III"
 - "The First Negro County Agent and his Work"
 - "Kentucky's First Regular Negro County Agent, Installment V"
 - "The First Regular Negro County Agent in Kentucky, Installment VII"
 - "A Synopsis"
 - "The Red Apple"
 - "The Rural Negro Church"
 - "Is there room for Christ?"
 - "Townsend Center"
 - "The Negro and Communism"
 - "Day Dreaming"
 - "Is there Life After Death?"
 - "I shall Know Him"
 - "When My Life Really Began"
 - "Sho Nuff"
 - "Frown and Smiles" (two copies)
 - "A Master Teacher"
 - "Dad's Birthday Letter"
- f. 04 ADS Personal correspondence, includes family correspondence. Various letters to and from family members. Dates ranging from ca. 1947 to ca. 1955, includes some undated documents. Correspondence includes:
- A letter from the office of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, located in Lexington, KY. Dated 6 May 1947.
 - A letter to Mr. Mahan's Office. Dated 17 June 1947.
 - A written statement from Henry Allen Laine stating that upon his death, a debt would be paid to Madeline White of fifty dollars. Dated 27 June 1949.
 - A letter to his son-in-law, Gilbert White. Dated 8 May 1952.

A letter to his son-in-law, Gilbert White. Dated 8 October 1952.
A letter to his grandson, Paul Allen Stone. Dated 27 November 1953.
A letter to Reverend Brother Lowe. Dated 29 May 1955.
Appears to be a draft of an ad to be used in the selling of his home on East Main Street in Richmond, KY.
Short thank you note to one of his daughters.

- f. 05 Newspaper articles pertaining to Henry Allen Laine's literary work. Also, information regarding his Memorial Celebration held on 1 May 1988. Including correspondence from Laine's daughter, Tommie Holland. Dates ranging from 9 Oct 1919 to ca. 1988.
- f. 06 Newspaper articles about Laine's life (i.e. his contributions to the colored community). Also a certificate of marriage of Dean Chenault and Hagas Chenault, dating 10 Sept 1874. Dates ranging from 10 Sept 1874 to ca. 1988.
- f. 07 Various contributions from Tommie Holland, Henry Allen Laine's daughter. Includes an audio cassette dated 2 Aug 1988, a letter from Tommie Holland to the curator of the Crabbe Library, Eastern Kentucky University. Also includes a continuation of her father's book, "Footprints," which she wrote and titled "Following Footprints."
- f. 08 Laine family photographs. (Photographs have been numbered for easy reference)
1. Mr. Laine and four daughters, l to r: Henrietta Stone, Madeline White, Mary Chenault and Sarah Stone.
 2. Jake Laine, brother, at his home in Wyoming, Ohio.
 3. Jake Laine
 4. Mr. Laine with some cousins at a family reunion in Springfield, Ohio.
 5. Relaxing with his Stone grandchildren.
 6. Mr. Laine, wife Florence; oldest daughter, Madeline White; granddaughter-in-law, Marjorie White and great-grandson, Henry White.
 7. With his granddaughter, Richetta Holland, daughter of Richard and Tommie Holland.
 8. Tenant house of his farm on Irvine Pike, now the site of the Bluegrass Ordinance.
 9. Relaxing with his son-in-law, William Stone, Jr. and William's brother, Edwin Morrow.
 - 9a and 10. His horses and friends on the farm.
 11. His cattle.
 12. His tobacco.
 13. With Richetta, his granddaughter.
 14. With the women of his family, and some grandchildren.
 15. The house where he was born.
 16. With his cousin, Elizabeth Mitchell, wife, and sister, Anna Morgan.
 17. With some Richmond citizens.
 18. His home on Irvine Pike.

19. J. A. Huguely's sheep
20. His granddaughter, Clara Mae Phelps; his daughter, Helen Phipps; and his wife.
21. With his son-in-law, William Stone, Jr.; John Stone, his son-in-law; and Richard Holland, son-in-law.
22. With Richard Holland, home after overseas service in World War II.
23. Relaxing with son-in-law, John Stone, and granddaughter, Madelyn.
24. With wife, Florence and oldest daughter, Madeline White.
25. With son-in-law, Staff Sergeant Richard Holland.
26. With wife on the porch of their Richmond home.
27. With his wife.
28. Relatives listening to him at the family reunion.
29. Farm animals.
30. Relaxing with nephew, Alphonso Chenault; wife, and only son, Kelly Laine.
31. With wife, daughter-in-law and grandson.
32. With relatives at Springfield family reunion.
33. Relaxing with visitors at his home on East Main Street.
34. Tenant house on his farm.
35. With granddaughter, Richetta, and nephew, Olaf Hardiman.
36. At home on Main Street.
37. With daughters; Henriette Stone, Madeline White, Tommie Holland, Mary Chenault and Sara Stone.
38. With daughters; Mary Chenault, Clara Mitchell, Sarah Stone, Tommie and Richard; wife; son, Kelly and his wife, Catherine.
39. Honored as "Man of the Year" at Richmond High School.
40. A sketch of him by his little daughter, Henrietta.
41. His county fair, held at Concord.
42. John A Huguely farm is visited.
43. His home on Irvine Pike.