

# **FRANKIE V. ADAMS COLLECTION**

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*Atlanta University Center  
Robert W. Woodruff Library  
Archives and Special Collections*

## SCOPE NOTE

Florence “Frankie” Victoria Adams (b. 1902 d. 1979) was a social worker, educator, author, and community activist. For most of her career, she was associated with the Atlanta School of Social Work (later the Atlanta University School of Social Work), the first school for African Americans to be accredited by the American Association of Schools of Social Work. At the request of Director Forrester B. Washington, Adams joined the faculty in 1931. She developed courses and trained students in the newly emerging disciplines of community organization and group work. As a member of the Committee on Group Work of the American Association of Social Work, she helped influence the curriculum and content of group work nationally. During her 33 years with the School she taught some 2,500 students, served as Acting Dean for two interim periods, and culminated her tenure as Associate Dean. In recognition of her contributions, the Atlanta University School of Social Work Alumni Association honored Adams in 1965 with a testimonial dinner held during the National Conference on Social Welfare annual meeting. In 1968 the University presented her with an award for outstanding service.

Adams remained active in social work after her retirement, working with Economic Opportunity Atlanta to develop neighborhood service centers in disadvantaged areas of the city. Upon her second retirement she volunteered for Project Head Start. She authored two books, *Soulcraft: Sketches on Negro-White Relations Designed to Encourage Friendship* (c.1944), and *The Reflections of Florence Victoria Adams*, a history of the Atlanta University School of Social Work. *Reflections* details the development of the School, its leadership and curricula, and includes a brief description of Adams’s contributions. She completed the draft manuscript three weeks before her death in 1979. It was published posthumously by the School in 1981.

Adams was involved in numerous local, state, and national organizations including Atlanta’s Gate City Day Nursery, the National Association of Social Workers, National Conference on Social Welfare, YWCA (national and local), Georgia White House Conference on Aging, President’s Committee on Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Crime, and the Georgia Gerontology Society. She had a strong Christian faith and her papers include a few prayers and religious articles she wrote, and news articles, programs, and certificates related to her activities with Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

This small collection of the papers of Frankie Victoria Adams dates from 1931 to 1979 and provides a glimpse of her work and achievements. There are copies of some of her professional and personal writings, bits of information about some of the organizations she was affiliated with, and a few letters and photographs. Of interest are her writings related to group work and community organization. Also, there is the scrapbook Adams kept of the early years of the Atlanta School of Social Work. The snapshot photographs are an extraordinary window into the field work the students experienced.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION SHEET

Collection: Frankie V. Adams Collection

Size: 3 linear feet (5 boxes)

Formats: Paper, photographs

Related Collections: Black Women Oral History Project

Subject Headings: Adams, Frankie V., 1902-1979  
Atlanta University. School of Social Work  
Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.  
African American authors--Georgia  
African American college teachers--Georgia  
African Americans--Education (Higher)--Georgia  
College teachers  
Schools of social work  
Social service--Georgia--Atlanta  
Social service--Study and teaching  
Social workers

**FRANKIE VICTORIA ADAMS  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

- 1902 July 09      Born near Danville, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. James T. Adams, the youngest of seven siblings
- 1925              Graduated from Knoxville College (A.B.)
- 1927              Earned diploma from the New York School of Social Work
- 1927-1931        Industrial Secretary, Chicago YWCA
- 1931-1964        Taught at Atlanta/Atlanta University School of Social Work
- 1937              Graduated from New York University (M.A., Education)
- 1944-1945        National YWCA War Community Consultant
- 1944              Published *Soulcraft: Sketches on Negro-White Relations Designed to Encourage Friendship*
- 1947              Atlanta School of Social Work became part of Atlanta University
- 1957              Published *Some Pioneers in Social Work: Brief Sketches; Student Work Book* with Whitney M. Young, Jr.
- 1960-1961        Acting Dean of Atlanta University School of Social Work
- 1964              Retired from Atlanta University
- 1965              Taught at the University of Georgia School of Social Work
- 1965-1967        Worked for Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.
- 1968-1970        Worked with Project Head Start
- 1977              Interviewed by Gay Francine Banks for Radcliffe College's Black Women Oral History Project
- 1979 August 29    Died in Atlanta, Georgia

(References for biographical sketch: "Biographical Sketch", in Series A, box 1, folder 2; Adams' oral history transcript in the *Black Women Oral History Project*.)

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Series A

#### Personal Papers

Box 1

These papers offer a general overview of Frankie Adams's personal and professional life. They consist mainly of clippings, correspondence, programs, certificates, and awards related to her many accomplishments. The folder entitled "Retirement from Atlanta University" has letters and cards of congratulations and clippings celebrating her 33 years of service. The "Correspondence" file offers a glimpse into Adams's relationships with friends and colleagues. Of interest among the correspondence is her 1967 letter to Benjamin E. Mays on the occasion of his retirement from Morehouse College.

### Series B

#### Organizational Affiliations

Boxes 1-2

The organizations documented in this series provide a glimpse into Adams's professional affiliations in Atlanta and nationwide. Among the organizations are the National Conference on Social Welfare, National Association of Social Workers - North Georgia Chapter, President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime, YWCA, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and Gate City Day Nursery Association. The bulk of this series relates to the Atlanta University School of Social Work and Economic Opportunity Atlanta. Each folder contain small amounts of information such as correspondence, newsletters, reports and other materials about the organizations.

### Series C

#### Writings by Adams

Box 3

Included in this series are Adams's various writings, both published and unpublished. Most of these writings are on topics related to her work, as well as some personal writings such as elegies and a few of her annual Christmas letters to family and friends. The *Soulcraft* file contains the publishing contract and correspondence related to this book. There is also a copy of *The Reflections of Florence Victoria Adams* (a history of the Atlanta University School of Social Work.)

**Series D**

**Photographs**

Box 3

This series includes a studio portrait of Adams photographed in 1960 and eight photographs of Adams's memorial service on September 28, 1979.

**Series E**

**Atlanta School of Social Work Scrapbook 1931-1940**

Box 4

This scrapbook documents the Atlanta School of Social Work from 1931 to 1935. Adams collected memoranda, reports, and meeting minutes to show the development of the school and the programs with which she worked. Of special interest are the snapshots of the school's projects in field work. As a preservation measure, the scrapbook was disassembled and housed in folders.

**Series F**

**Oversize Items**

Box 5

Included here are three oversize items. The issue of *Intake*, a magazine published by the students of the AUSSW, announces Forrester Washington's retirement as the school's director. Adams was a co-director of Camp John Hope whose brochure is housed here. Also, there is a guest book from Adams's memorial service, September 28, 1979.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series A. Personal Papers

Box	Folder	
1	1	Biographical statement
	2	Resume
	3	News articles about Adams
	4	Programs on which Adams' name appears
	5	Adams Family - newsclippings
	6	Retirement form Atlanta University
	7	Memorial Service September 28, 1979
	8	Memorial Service October 14, 1979
	9	Certificates and awards
	10	Equal Opportunity Day Award, National Urban League, 1963
	11	Atlanta University School of Social Work Alumni Association [testimonial dinner], 1965
	12	Frankie V. Adams portrait unveiling, 1966
	13	Atlanta University Convocation, Award for Outstanding Service to the University, October 16, 1968
	14	Frankie V. Adams Award - 1971 (National Association of Social Workers, North Georgia Chapter)
	15	Correspondence

### Series B. Organizational Affiliations

16	Atlanta Council on Human Relations
17	Atlanta Neighborhood Meeting, April 8, 1959
18	Atlanta University School of Social Work - 1930s
19	Atlanta University School of Social Work - 1940s
20	Atlanta University School of Social Work - 1950s
21	Atlanta University School of Social Work - 1960s
22	Atlanta University Women's Club
23	Camp John Hope
24	Community Chest
25	Council on Social Work Education
26	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1965
27	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1965
28	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1965
29	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1965

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
2	1	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1966
	2	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1967
	3	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - [1967]
	4	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1968
	5	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1970
	6	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - 1971
	7	Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc. - no date
	8	Gate City Day Nursery Association
	9	Georgia Association on Aging
	10	Georgia Conference on Social Welfare
	11	Georgia Gerontology Society, Inc.
	12	Georgia Interracial Committee
	13	Georgia White House Conference on Aging
	14	Head Start Leaders' Orientation Program
	15	Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
	16	National Association of Social Workers, North Georgia Chapter
	17	National Association of Social Workers, North Georgia Chapter - <i>Focus</i>
	18	National Conference on Social Welfare
	19	"Out of Work" by Ernestine McGill/Directed by F. V. Adams
	20	Phyllis Wheatley Branch, YWCA (Atlanta, GA)
	21	President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Crime
	22	Southeast Executive Directors Meeting, 1955
	23	State Department of Family & Children Services, Adoption Study Comm.
	24	Taconic Foundation, Inc.
	25	University of Georgia School of Social Work, Professional Advisory Committee
	26	University of Michigan
	27	Utopian Literary Club
	28	Volt Technical Corp.
	29	YWCA, National Board
	30	Organizations - unidentified

### **Series C. Writings by Adams**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	1	"The Art of Leading Group Discussion," <i>YWCA Magazine</i> , Feb. 1961
	2	"Basic Concepts in Community Organizations"
	3	<i>Black &amp; White</i> May 1946, "George Washington Carver"
	4	<i>Black &amp; White</i> July 1946, "Those Who Achieve"
	5	<i>Black &amp; White</i> Nov.-Dec. 1946, "Those Who Achieve"
	6	<i>Black &amp; White</i> Jan. 1974, "A Prayer for 1947"
	7	<i>Black &amp; White</i> Apr.-June 1947, "Youth in Action"

Box	Folder	
3	8	<i>Black &amp; White</i> Dec. 1947, "Behold There is Peace"
	9	"Black Contributions in Atlanta's Development," <i>Atlanta Inquirer</i> , July 29, 1972
	10	"A Brief Tribute to Mrs. G.A. Towns [Nellie McNair Towns], From Gate City Day Nursery Association Board
	11	"Community Organization in Urban Renewal, A Case History," by Albert G. Rosenberg; Revised for teaching purposes by F.V. Adams
	12	"Dreams and Vision," Xmas 1965
	13	"Environmental Handicaps of Negro Children," <i>Georgia Welfare</i> , April 1945, p.9-10
	14	"Father, we lift our hands to You..." (Prayer based on Durer's "Praying Hands") - photocopy
	15	"Forrester B. Washington," Dec. 9, 1963
	16	"Friends," (April 1949) - photocopy
	17	"Group Work as a Dynamic Process," <i>Addresses Delivered at Salvation Army Sessions of the National Conference of Social Work</i> , June 10-17, 1949, pg. 97-101
	18	"The Menace and Causes of Juvenile Delinquency," <i>Successful Marriage and Family Living</i> , edited by Walter R. Chivers, Publication Number 1, Department of Sociology, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, p. 4-8. (Selected Papers Read Before the First Annual Institute on Successful Marriage and Family Living, April 11-13, 1946.)
	19	"My Christianity," July 13, 1976
	20	"Nature and Problems Associated with Training Non-Professionals"
	21	"The Negro Beautician," <i>Service</i> , June 1941 p. 10
	22	"The Negroes Part in Inter-Cultural Education and in Building a World Community," <i>The New Day Magazine</i> , p.7-8
	23	"Our Social Worker's Xmas," Xmas 1945 - photocopy
	24	"Parent Education Needed," <i>The Mount Olive Herald</i> , April 3, 1949 p.2
	25	"Professional Relationships"
	26	"Racism," July 1978
	27	<i>The Reflections of Florence Victoria Adams</i> [History of the Atlanta University School of Social Work], 1981
	28	"The Significance of Negro History Week," Feb. 16, 1966
	29	<i>Soul Craft</i> - publishing contract and correspondence
	30	[Striving], 1968
	31	"Suggested Methods for Training Neighborhood Aides"
	32	"Survival Education"
	33	"These are My Loves" - photocopy
	34	"Tribute to Mrs. E. B. Maddox - External Solace," Dec. 9, 1973
	35	"Undergraduate Preparation for Social Work," <i>The Journal of Social Science Teachers</i> , March 1960, p. 14-16

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	36	“Washington [Forrester] Retires After 26 Years of Service.” <i>Intake</i> , Dec. 1953, p.1
	37	“What the Negro Minister Can Do in the Urban Community,” <i>The Foundation</i> , [1932] p. 11-12 - photocopy
	38	[Whitney Young Jr. - presented at Atlanta Urban League Memorial, March 17, 1971]
	39	“Wise Men Will Go to Bethlehem” (Sunday School Closing) Dec. 26, 1965
	40	“Working Negro Women and the Church,” <i>The Georgia Baptist</i> , Jan. 15, 1944
	41	“You - Angel” (Thank you to AUSSW Class of 1963)

#### **Series D. Photographs**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	42	Frankie V. Adams, October 07, 1960
	43	Memorial Service (for Adams), September 28, 1979

#### **Series E. Atlanta School of Social Work Scrapbook, 1931-1940**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
4	1- 44	As a preservation measure the scrapbook was disassembled into 44 folders

#### **Series F. Oversize Items**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	1	<i>Intake</i> , December 1953, v. 1, no.1 (Atlanta University School of Social Work student newsletter)
	2	Camp John Hope, Macon County, Georgia - brochure (children’s recreational camp)
	3	Guest book for Memorial Service (Frankie Adams) September 28, 1979