Inventory of the
Smith Atkins Family Papers
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Smith Atkins Family Papers

Dates 1877-1981, and undated

Bulk 1900-1950

Abstract: The Smith Atkins family members included in this collection are William Henry Smith (1865-1941), his wife Anna Priscilla McLeish Smith (1870-1940), her father, James Wilkinson McLeish (1839-1897), and William and Anna's daughter, Maude Henrietta Smith Atkins (1839-1897). The bulk of the collection are comprised of materials created or collected by Maude Smith Atkins, as an Avery Normal Institute student, and as an organist. Smith Atkins co-authored "The Avery Song," in which the Library of Congress copyright certificate (1925) is included in this collection. Items of note are the union dues booklets of William Smith's affiliation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local 809, Charleston, South Carolina (1910-1934). Materials from James W. McLeish hold a minute and financial ledger (1877-1880) from Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, (Charleston, South Carolina), and certificate of membership for burial privileges from Unity and Friendship Society (1894). Throughout the collection are materials relating to Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church (Charleston, South Carolina), in which Anna and Maude Smith Atkins were members.

Extent: 0.42 linear foot (1 archival box and one oversize folder)

Repository: Avery Research Center

Call Number: AMN 1142

Language of Material: Material is in English

Biographical Note

William Henry Smith, the son of Frank and Flora Holmes Smith was born on July 25, 1865 in Charleston, South Carolina. He was a carpenter and member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union 809, Charleston, South Carolina from 1911-1934. He passed in 1941, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Anna Priscilla McLeish Smith, the daughter of James Wilkinson and Henrietta Powers, was born in Charleston, South Carolina, 1870. A student at the Avery Normal Institute, (Class of 1889), she eventually became the president of their Parent Teachers' Association. She married William Henry Smith in 1893 and the couple had four children. She passed in 1940.

James Wilkinson McLeish, (the father of Anna P. McLeish Smith) was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1839. He was a S. S. Superintendent with Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church (Charleston). McLeish was married to Henrietta Powers and the couple had six children. He passed in 1897, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Maude Henrietta Smith Atkins, the daughter of William Henry and Ann McLeish Smith, was born in 1898, Charleston, South Carolina. After graduating from the Avery Normal Institute (Class of 1915), Smith attended
Fisk University, majoring in music education. She returned to Avery to head its music department, including the Girls Glee Club. Smith composed the music for "The Avery Song" with Beulah Shecut in 1925. She married Jasper Alston Atkins during the 1920s and had two daughters. Smith Atkins passed in 1998 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Sources:


Collection Overview

The papers are divided into three series: NOTE: The majority of the original documents are in Fragile Condition and are indicated as such. Please use photocopies when available.

Series 1: William Henry Smith Family Holds documents pertaining to William Smith, his wife, Anna Priscilla McLeish, and her father, James Wilkinson McLeish. Materials include dues ledger booklets union documents from William Smith's affiliation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (1911-1934); and his voting registration certificates from the State of South Carolina (1928, 1931). Anna Priscilla McLeish Smith’s materials includes class assignments (1889) and manuscripts (1915-1918) while she was a student and later the president of the Parent Teachers’ Association of the Avery Normal Institute. Materials from Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, (Charleston, South Carolina), includes a manuscript regarding "Reverend" James H. Holloway; and programs from the Ladies Aid Society. James Wilkinson McLeish's materials pertains to his religious affiliation with Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. Included is a certificate of membership from Unity and Friendship Society (1894) for a cemetery plot; and a minute and financial ledger of the church trustees (1877-1880), indicating McLeish as "S.S. Superintendent."

Series 2: Maude Henrietta Smith Atkins Holds documents relating to the daughter of William Henry and Anna McLeish Smith. Contains personal documents created and collected by Smith Atkins as a Avery Normal Institute student (Class of 1915), including her commencement speech, "On the Threshold." Also included are programs from organ performances and "Certificate of Copyright Registration," from the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. for "The Avery Song," in which Smith co-wrote with Beulah Shecut (1925). A folder containing magazine and newspaper articles regarding United States Federal, Judge Julius Waites Waring (1948-1976) is included. The sub-series, Avery Normal Institute Memorabilia contains various materials, (manuscript, annual catalogs, commencement programs, and photograph) collected by Smith Atkins during her affiliation with the school. Of note is a handwritten manuscript entitled, "The Early History of Avery Normal Institute Down to 1900," (circa 1900), which includes "Some of the Avery Graduates," from 1872-1900.

Series 3: Oversize Documents Contains the Avery Normal Institute diplomas of Maude Henrietta Smith (1915) and her brother, Williams McLeish Smith (1924).

Collection Arrangement

Series 1. William Henry Smith Family

Series 2. Maude Henrietta Smith Atkins

Series 3. Oversize Documents

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No Restrictions
Copyright Notice

The nature of the Avery Research Center’s archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. The Avery Research Center claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

Subject Headings

McLeish, James Wilkinson, 1839-1897.
Smith, Anna Pricilla McLeish, 1870-1940.
Smith, William Henry, 1865-1941.
Avery Normal Institute--Alumni and alumnae--Photographs.
Avery Normal Institute--Alumni and alumnae.
Avery Normal Institute--History.
Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church--South Carolina--Charleston.
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Local 809 (Charleston, S.C.).
Unity and Friendship Society--Charleston (S.C.).
Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church--Charleston (S.C.).

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Smith-Atkins Family Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisition Note


Processing Information

Processed by Georgette Mayo, December 2014
Edited by Aaron Spelbring, February 2015
Encoded by Aaron Spelbring, February 2015
**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Series 1: William Henry Smith Family, 1877-1940, and undated**

Includes documents/materials pertaining to Smith, his wife, Anna Priscilla McLeish, and her father James Wilkinson McLeish. Also, holds original documents of Smith's affiliation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, (1910-1934); with State of South Carolina Board of Registration Certificates for Municipal Elections (1928, 1931), and brief correspondence; Avery Normal Institute class assignments written by Anna Smith, and documents written as President of The Parent Teachers' Association of Avery and her materials from Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church as a member of the Ladies Aid Society. Also included is a tribute written by Smith regarding "Reverend" James Harrison Holloway. James Wilkinson McLeish materials include a certificate of membership from Unity and Friendship Society (1894), and Wesley Methodist Episcopal minute and financial ledger (1877-1880) indicating McLeish as "S.S." Superintendent.

### 1.1: William Henry Smith, 1910-1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 1</th>
<th>United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America: Ritual Booklet, circa 1910</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains leather bound booklet.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 2</th>
<th>United Brother of Carpenters and Joiners of America: Constitution and Laws booklet with Dues Ledgers., 1914-1931</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains four (4) booklets of Local Union 809 (Charleston, SC), for the years: 1919-1922, 1923-1926, 1927-1930, and 1931-1934. The &quot;Constitution and Laws&quot; booklet is in &quot;Fragile Condition.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 3</th>
<th>State of South Carolina Board of Registration of Charleston County: Certificates for Municipal Elections, 1928, 1931</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains two certificates for Ward 11, Precinct 1.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 4</th>
<th>Correspondence, 1912, 1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds two (2) typed letters sent to William Smith from friend and former business merchant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.2: Anna McLeish Smith, 1889-1934, and undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 5</th>
<th>Avery Normal Institute: English assignment, circa 1889</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original document of sentence diagraming. Document is in &quot;Fragile Condition.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 6</th>
<th>Manuscript regarding Mother's Day, 1915</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original handwritten document by McLeish Smith. Manuscript is in &quot;Fragile Condition.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 7</th>
<th>Manuscript entitled &quot;Negro Literature&quot;, 1918</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document is in &quot;Fragile Condition.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Box 1 Folder 8  |  Avery Normal Institute pamphlet: "An Open Letter to Charleston Friends of Negro Education", circa 1918  
| Written by "(Mrs.) A.P. Smith," as President of The Parent Teachers’ Association of Avery Institute-Booklet is in "Fragile Condition." Please use photocopies of document. Also includes handwritten manuscript by Smith regarding soliciting funds for Avery.  

Box 1 Folder 9  |  Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church: Manuscript regarding "Reverend" James H. Holloway, circa 1890  
| Handwritten memorial of Holloway, as "Elected Superintendent" of the church. Document is in "Fragile Condition." Please use photocopies of document.  

Box 1 Folder 10  |  Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church: Ladies Aid Society documents, 1922, 1934, and undated  
| Includes program for "The 56th Anniversary" of the church (1922), featuring "Miss Maude Smith" performing an organ solo; a souvenir booklet (1924); and handwritten manuscript regarding the history of the Ladies Aid Society -Document is in "Fragile Condition." Please use photocopies of document.  

Box 1 Folder 11  |  Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church: Photograph, 1913  
| Sepia image on poster board of overhead image of church interior, with an inset photo of Reverend I.H. Fulton. The image and poster board is torn in several places.  

1.3: James Wilkinson McLeish, 1877-1910  
| Contains documents/materials from Anna McLeish Smith’s father, mostly pertaining to his religious affiliations with Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church.  

Box 1 Folder 12  |  Unity and Friendship Society Certificate of Membership, issued 17 December, 1894  
| Original certificate signed by Arthur L. Macbeth for plot #81, at their cemetery located on Magnolia Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina. Document is in "Fragile Condition."  

Box 1 Folder 13  |  Minute and financial ledger of the Trustees of Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina, 1877-1880  
| Documents McLeish as "S.S. Superintendent," 20 January 1880. Ledger is in "Fragile Condition."  

Box 1 Folder 14  |  Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church: Hymnal booklet, 1910  
| Booklet is in "Fragile Condition."  

Series 2: Maude Henrietta Smith Atkins, 1888-1981, and undated  
| The daughter of William Henry and Anna McLeish Smith. Holds personal documents created and collected by Smith Atkins as a Avery Normal Institute student (Class of 1915), programs from her organ performances; and "Certificate of Copyright Registration," from the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C for "The Avery Song." (music by Smith). A sub-series contains Avery Normal Institute memorabilia collected by Smith includes the
original manuscript of "The Early History of Avery Normal Institute Down to 1900," annual catalogs (1906-1907, 1909-1910), and commencement program (1893).

### 2.1: Smith Atkins Personal Documents, 1888-1976, and undated

| Box 1 Folder 15 | Avery Normal Institute: Composition notebook with Latin class assignments, circa 1890s |
| Box 1 Folder 16 | Avery Normal Institute: Commencement Essay-"On the Threshold," May, 1915 |
| Box 1 Folder 17 | Handwritten manuscript by Smith. Document is in "Fragile Condition." Please use photocopies. |
| Box 1 Folder 18 | Booklet: Constitution of the State of South Carolina, 4, December, 1895 |
| Box 1 Folder 19 | Booklet used in Avery class instruction. This document is in "Fragile Condition." |
| Box 1 Folder 20 | Recital Programs, 1920-1921 |
| Box 1 Folder 21 | Regards organ recitals by Smith with Eloise C. Uggams, Contralto, at Avery Normal Institute (1920) and Morris Street Baptist Church (1921). Documents are in "Fragile Condition." |
| Box 1 Folder 22 | Certificates, 1912, 1925 |
| Box 1 Folder 24 | Correspondence, circa 1941 |
| Box 1 Folder 25 | Contains handwritten condolence letter from Jeannette Keeble Cox, on the passing of Smith-Atkins, father, William H. Smith. |
| Box 1 Folder 26 | Centenary Organ Guild: *Gospel Hymns Consolidated* booklet, 1888 |
| Box 1 Folder 27 | Booklet is in "Fragile Condition." |
| Box 1 Folder 28 | Centenary Methodist Church: Program booklet- "One Hundredth Anniversary", 1966 |
| Box 1 Folder 29 | Magazine and newspaper articles regarding United States Federal Judge Julius Waites Waring, 1948, 1950, 1976, and undated |
| Box 1 Folder 30 | Includes *Collier's Magazine* article, "Lonesomest Man in Town," 29 April 1950, and the article entitled, "Celebration," from *Charleston Magazine*. |

### 2.2: Avery Normal Institute Memorabilia, 1893-1981, and undated

| Box 1 Folder 31 | Contains various materials (manuscript, annual catalogs, commencement programs, and photograph) collected by Smith Atkins during her affiliation with the school. |
| Box 1 Folder 32 | Manuscripts: "The Early History of Avery Normal Institute Down to 1900", circa 1900 |
| Box 1 Folder 33 | Contains original handwritten document from pages one (1) to six (6). Also includes "Some of the Avery Graduates" from 1872-1900. NOTE: Pages 17 and 18 are missing. |
Box 1 Folder 25  
**Annual Catalogs and Commencement Program, 1893-1910**

Contains "Twenty-Eighth Annual Commencement Program, 28 June 1893, and catalog booklets of teachers and pupils, course of study, names of graduates and general information. All documents are in "Fragile Condition."

Box 1 Folder 26  
**Avery Institute "Memories" Autograph book and postcard, circa 1945 and 1954**

Booklet includes "The Avery Song" lyrics and message signed by John F. Potts, Principal. The postcard features a photograph of the front facade of Avery Institute.

Box 1 Folder 27  
**Photograph: Avery Normal Institute's Class of 1926-50th Anniversary Reunion, 1976-1981**


**Series 3: Oversize Documents, 1915-1924**

Oversize 8  
**Avery Normal Institute Diplomas: Maude Henrietta Smith and William McLeish Smith, 1915-1924**

Diplomas are in Poor Condition."Handle with Care."