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FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Inventory of the
Dr. Elizabeth M. Bear Collection, 1922 - 2006**

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Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary.....	3
Biographical/Historical note.....	3
Collection Overview.....	4
Collection Arrangement.....	4
Restrictions.....	4
Subject Headings.....	5
Administrative Information.....	5
Detailed Description of the Collection.....	6
Series 1: Nurse Midwives, 1941-2006.....	6
Series 2: Penn Center, 1940-2006.....	6
Series 3: Photographic Material, Undated	7
Series 4: Various Materials, 1974.....	7

Descriptive Summary

Title:	Dr. Elizabeth M. Bear Collection, 1922 - 2006
Dates	1922-2006
Bulk	1941-1998
Creator:	Bear, Elizabeth M.
Abstract:	<p>Elizabeth M. Bear is a Professor Emeritus and former director of the Nurse-Midwifery program at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) School of Nursing. Bear's collection is a reflection of her avid interest in the nurse-midwifery profession, notably focusing on the education of African-Americans midwives (lay and nurse-midwives).</p> <p>The majority of the collection contains photocopied journal, magazine, newspaper articles, reports, correspondence, photographs, along with original booklets, brochures, and programs, focusing on the tradition of nurse-midwives in the South Carolina Lowcountry and other Southern states. Bear's collection also includes information on noted nurse midwife, Maude Callen; the Penn Center on St. Helena Island and the Tuskegee School of Midwifery for Colored Nurses (Tuskegee Institute, Alabama) for the education of nurse midwives.</p>
Extent:	0.5 linear foot (1 archival box, 1 DVD)
Repository:	Avery Research Center
Call Number:	AMN 1134
Language of Material:	Material is in English

Biographical/Historical note

Elizabeth M. Bear's expansive career includes work as a labor/delivery nurse (University of California Hospital); a nursing professor, specializing in maternity and pediatrics (University of Florida, Gainesville); and a public health nurse with education in nurse-midwifery. The University of Kentucky enlisted Bear to initiate a graduate program in Nurse-Midwifery in conjunction with the United States Army Nurse Corps at Fort Knox. After facilitating a successful program, Bear returned to school at the University of Texas, Austin to obtain a PhD in Educational Administration. Bear (then president of the American College of Nurse-Midwives) was with Callen when Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) conferred an Honorary Doctorate on noted midwife Maude Callen (1989). Dr. Bear's research on Callen led to research on the Tuskegee School of Nurse-Midwifery where the first program for certified Black nurse-midwives was developed.

In the early 20th century, scientists and doctors began to assert dominance and claim superiority over midwives. Despite this contention, midwives in the Lowcountry remained a popular choice for expecting mothers due to limited finances and an inclination towards traditional methods. Midwives often provided women extensive background knowledge and a warm, maternal energy through laborious birthing processes. Many of the Lowcountry midwives were African-American, therefore the practice was especially significant to the African American community.

The Penn Center exists as a major historical landmark. Built in 1862 by two Northerners, its facilities were meant to educate African Americans in the Lowcountry. This included midwifery education- the Penn Center soon became a notable center on developing midwives in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Along with the Penn Center, the Tuskegee School of Nurse-Midwifery existed as an opportunity for many women (particularly African American women) to pursue a career in nurse-midwifery. The Tuskegee School of Nurse-Midwifery opened up in 1941 in Tuskegee, Alabama with the purpose of reducing infant mortality rates (particularly in the black community). This need arose from the poverty striking the black community at the time, as well as the segregation they faced in hospitals (as well as many other public institutions). A 1943 graduate was Maude Callen, who grew to become a highly recognized woman in the field of nurse-midwifery. Her accomplishments include an appearance in *Life* magazine, the American Institute of Public Service Award, and providing service to a 400 square mile radius-area.

Sources

Canty, Lucinda. TUSKEGEE SCHOOL OF NURSE-MIDWIDERY. Blue Sky Broadcast. Tuskegee School of Nurse-Midwifery. Web. 29 July 2014.

History., ...following The Road To. Penn Center... a Link to the Past, a Bridge to the Future. (2006). Flow Of History. Penn Center. Web. 29 July 2014.

Collection Overview

The collection is divided into four series:

Series 1: Nurse Midwives contains photocopied documents relating to the education and profession of African –American nurse midwives; correspondence to Dr. Bear regarding her nurse-midwifery education. Of note are photocopies, "Lessons for Midwives," issued by the South Carolina State Board of Health (revised 1970). The series also includes photocopied journal, magazine and newspaper articles along with a graduation photograph of noted nurse and nurse-midwife, Maude E. Callen.

Series 2: Penn Center holds magazine and newspapers articles; booklets, programs, and brochures and regarding the preservation of the Penn Center's history and legacy.

Series 3: Photographic Material contains photocopied images of photographs, with separate caption listing highlighting midwifery education at the Penn Center, as well as a photocopied photograph of midwives at Frogmore, South Carolina. Photographic images are also included on a DVD-CD.

Series 4: Various Materials contains an *Essence* magazine cover (May 1974) and a magazine image of a mother and infant.

Collection Arrangement

Series 1: Nurse Midwives

Series 2: Penn Center

Series 3: Photographic Material

Series 4: Various Materials

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No Restrictions

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Subject Headings

Callen , Maude E. , 1898-1990.

Bear, Elizabeth M.

African Americans--Education--South Carolina--History--20th century.

African-American midwives--South Carolina.

Penn Center of the Sea Islands.

Tuskegee Institute. School of Nursing.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Dr. Elizabeth M. Bear Collection, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisition Note

Papers donated by Dr. Elizabeth M. Bear, 2008

Processing Information

Processed by Lewam Dejen, July 2014

Edited by Aaron Spelbring, July 2014

Encoded by Aaron Spelbring, July 2014

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Nurse Midwives, 1941-2006

Various sources providing information on the type of education nurse midwives received and the notable midwife Maude Callen.

Box 1 Folder 1 Midwives, 1949-1983, undated

Various newspaper articles highlighting notable midwives (ex. Maude Callen) and congratulating the general work of midwives.

Box 1 Folder 2 Nurse-Midwifery Education, 1941-1970, undated

Various instruction manuals on the proper tools, procedures, and general education required to provide proper nurse-midwifery service. Also details some of the history and traditions of the Tuskegee School of Midwifery.

Box 1 Folder 3 Correspondence Regarding Midwives, 1980-2006

Correspondences concerning nurse midwife graduates and information about the way the Tuskegee School of Nursery was run. Includes an anecdote about a midwife slave.

Box 1 Folder 4 Midwives- Maude Callen, 1973-1990, undated

Newspaper clippings, journal articles, and funeral service programs honoring Maude Callen's extensive nurse midwifery experience.

Box 1 Folder 5 Group Photo of Callen, 1922

Group photo of midwives with Callen on bottom right.

Series 2: Penn Center, 1940-2006

Materials such as newspaper articles and brochures largely serving the purpose of preserving the history and legacy of the Penn Center.

Box 1 Folder 6 Penn Center- Magazine & Journal Articles, 1940-2006, undated

Magazine & journal articles celebrating the history of the Penn Center.

Box 1 Folder 7 Penn Center- Newspaper Clippings, 1982-2005, undated

Newspaper clippings highlighting the accomplishments and rich history of the Penn Center.

Box 1 Folder 8 Penn Center- Programs and Brochures, 1974-2006, undated

Programs and brochures providing information about notable figures associated with Penn Center, history of the school, and upcoming events at the Penn Center.

Box 1 Folder 9 Penn Center- Various Documents, 2001, undated

Advertisements announcing events at the Penn Center, some of which are meant to honor/preserve the institution. Also includes an application to use the Penn Center collection for research purposes.

Series 3: Photographic Material, Undated

Captioned photographs providing information about the Penn Center, as well as a photograph of midwives at Frogmore.

Box 1 Folder 10 Penn Center DVD/ Photographs with Captions, undated

Photographs capturing routine occurrences and sites at Penn Center (captions included). Also includes DVD.

Box 1 Folder 11 Photocopy Image of Frogmore Midwives, undated

Black and white photo of approximately twenty-six Frogmore midwives.

Series 4: Various Materials, 1974

An Essence magazine cover and clipping.

Box 1 Folder 12 Various Materials, 1974

An Essence magazine cover and clipping of mother and child in a black family.