

**Record Series #:** 1121-064.04  
**Name:** Frogtown Yamacraw West Broad Street Community Collection  
**Dates:** circa 1912-1915, 1934-1946, 1969, circa 1980-1999, 2019, no date  
**Extent/Size:** 67 digital files (22.25 GB storage)  
**Language:** English

***Neighborhood History:***

West Broad Street, now called Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, was once the center of African American business and cultural life in Savannah. Black-owned businesses along West Broad Street included movie theaters, markets, grocery stores, shoe repair, tailors, insurance companies and financial institutions. With the construction of the I-16 flyover and the demolition of Union Station, West Broad Street began to rapidly decline because traffic patterns were disrupted, and many residential and business structures were demolished.

The Frogtown neighborhood is bounded by West Jones Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, West Boundary Street, and I-16. Frogtown developed as the city's railroad hub with the establishment of the Central of Georgia Railway's passenger terminal and railroad shops during the 1850s and 1860s. The neighborhood was largely demolished to make way for the I-16 flyover which opened in 1966.

The area south of I-16 to Gwinnett Street was known as Robertsville, but that area is also commonly included in Frogtown. Currietown is the area east of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd to Barnard Street, between Liberty Street and Gwinnett Street.

Named after the Native Americans that lived in what is now Savannah when James Oglethorpe landed in Savannah, Yamacraw is bounded by the Savannah Ogeechee Canal on the west, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd on the east, Bay Street on the north and Hull Street on the south. In 1941, public housing was constructed in the neighborhood, complete with state-of-the-art appliances and solar panels on the roofs. It remains public housing to this day.

***Scope and Content:***

Frogtown Yamacraw West Broad Street Community Collection contains documents related to the August 2019 History Round-up Days event, that was an initiative by the Municipal Archives to collect community histories in Savannah. Items collected include digital scans of photographs and documents provided by area residents, and audiovisual recordings of oral history interviews conducted during the event. Two audio recorded interviews were collected at a Coastal Heritage Society hosted event at a Frogtown Reunion in 2016. These items were collected as a part of the Savannah Community Memory Project.

***System of Arrangement and Ordering:***

Digital files are arranged according to donor or interviewee.

***Conditions Governing Access:***

None

***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:***

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***Digital Access:***

Select images are [available online](#).

***Access Points:***

Brannen-Stratford, Diane  
Brown, Doris  
Brownlee, Roosevelt  
Green, Ernest H.  
Henderson, Patricia  
Johnson, James  
Kahn, Jane  
Martus, Florence – The Waving Girl  
Maynor, Gloria  
Maynor, William  
Meyerhoff, Harriet  
Neighborhoods – Frogtown  
Neighborhoods – Yamacraw  
O'Brien, Maureen  
Passmore-Jeff, Shawanda  
Saussey Baumann, Sandra  
Trotter, Anne  
Wright Benton, Georgia

***Preferred Citation:***

Record Series 1121-064.04, Frogtown Yamacraw West Broad Street community collection. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

***Collected On:***

July 14-15, 2016. August 10, 2019.

***Processed by:***

K. Zacovic, September 2019; revised, M. Kerkhoff, March 2023.

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*Inventory:*

**Digital Files [housed in E-Archives]**

<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1121-064.04_001	Scanned photographs from residents (40 files) [see attached inventories for description of Digitized Items] Donor 1: Brannen-Stratford, Diane (6 files) Donor 2: Johnson, James (8 files) Donor 3: Kahn, Jane (1 file) Donor 4: Meyerhoff, Harriet (3 files) Donor 5: O'Brien, Maureen (5 files) Donor 6: Passmore-Jeff, Shawanda (8 files) Donor 7: Trotter, Anne (7 files)
1121-064.04_002	Oral history recordings [includes 2 files per interviewee: video and audio] Interview 1: Brown, Doris Interview 2: Brownlee, Roosevelt Interview 3: Green, Ernest H. Interview 4: Henderson, Patricia Interview 5: Maynor, Gloria Interview 6: Maynor, William Interview 7: Saussey Baumann, Sandra Interview 8: Wright Benton, Georgia
1121-064.04_003	Frogtown Reunion audio recordings, event held at Coastal Heritage Society, July 14-15, 2016 Interviews from July 14, 2016 Interviews from July 15, 2016

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*Digitized Items Inventory*

Note: Identifications provided by donor at point of collection.

**Donor 1: Brannen-Stratford, Diane**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-2	Senior High School report card for Clarence Washington at St. Benedict's Church, 1939
3	St. Benedict's Church, E. Broad Street, First Communion and Confirmation Class photograph. Donor's uncle, Clarence C. W. Washington is in the image. Clarence attended St. Benedict's through high school, 1934
4	Clarence Washington's baptism, communion and confirmation record at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 1934
5	Group of four women, a man and a little girl standing outside
6	Image of Diane Brannen-Stratford taken by Clarence C.W. Washington

**Donor 2: Johnson, James**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-8	Photos and a newspaper article related to Yamacraw Youth Sports Club, circa 1990's

**Donor 3: Kahn, Jane**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	217 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd building was built in 1906 and originally housed Frank and Co store. Donor's father-in-law, Kahn, bought the building in circa 1949 and is now owned by Savannah College of Art and Design and called Crites Hall.

**Donor 4: Meyerhoff, Harriet**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Cranman's Sporting Goods store at 223 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Cranman was the donor's father. This was the second location of the store and it was built in the 1960s, circa 1960-1980
2	Edward Cranman (donor's father) in Cranman's Sporting Goods store, February 1969

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- 3 Edward Cranman on right, Mel Yadley on the left of Cranman Pawn Shop at 345 West Broad Street. Cranman became well known for his fishing equipment which is why his second store was a sporting goods store, circa 1940's.

**Donor 5: O'Brien, Maureen**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Advertisement for T. L. Ubele Store at 2607 West Broad Street. The store was owned by the donor's grandparents.
2	Right: Margaret Fox Ubele (donor's grandmother) Left: Theodore L. Ubele (donor's grandfather and the owner of Ubele Store)
3	Album page with identifications. Individuals pictured include: Margaret Fox Ubele, Theodore L. Ubele, Florence Martus (aka "The Waving Girl") and her brother George Martus, circa 1912-1915.
4	Album page with identifications. Individuals pictured include: Florence Martus, George Martus, members of the Ubele family, circa 1915.
5	Ubele family in front of the T. L. Ubele store at 2607 West Broad Street. From left to right: Theodore L. Ubele, Margaret Fox Ubele, Margaret Ubele Courtenay, Francis Ubele Cates. The family lived above the store from 1926-1957.

**Donor 6: Passmore-Jeff, Shawanda**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Service at Garvin Temple Missionary Baptist Church on Poplar Street in Yamacraw. The congregation is now called the Temple of Glory and located in Carver Village.
2	Outside of Garvin Temple, Mildred Ruth Passmore with baby Stanley Johnson. Note that the bus arrives directly at the Temple door. The bus boycott hurt attendance at many churches for this reason. Old Yamacraw houses are on the right.
3	Outside of Garvin Temple. From top to bottom, left to right: Reverend L.B. (Lisbon Byson?) Free (donor's great grandfather), Rev. Roosevelt V. Scott (1919-1979, pastor of Followers of Christ Baptist Church, West Savannah), Marcy (?), unknown, Marcy's twin sister Martha, unknown.
4	Mildred Ruth Passmore as a school crossing guard at the intersection of Gwinnett and Magnolia in Currietown. She was one of the first African American crossing guards in Savannah.
5	Mildred Ruth Passmore as a school crossing guard.

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- 6 Mildred Ruth Passmore as a school crossing guard.
- 7 Swearing in of the first class of African American crossing guards at the Habersham Police Precinct. At the time, crossing guards worked for the Police Department not the School Board, circa 1955.  
The names are as follows from left to right:  
1. Mildred Ruth Passmore -- Gadsden Elementary  
2. Ruth Smalls Hamilton -- Harris Elementary  
3. Rebecca Jackson --- Spencer Elementary  
4. Leroy Wilson --- chairman of the citizen voter organization who fought for the rights to obtain the position of school crossing guard  
5. Jessie Mack --- Cuyler School  
6. Gladys Jenkins -- Florence Street School
- 8 A biography of Mildred Ruth Passmore written by the donor, June 24, 2019

**Donor 7: Trotter, Anne**

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-7	Documents and deeds related to properties at 425 and 427 Lumber Street, 1945-1946