

S0609 Lift Every Voice And Sing Oral History Project 100 Folders, Oral History Tapes, Transcriptions And Photographs Exhibit Of Text And Photographs

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Related collection: S0760 Lift Every Voice And Sing Research File, 1999

Doris A. Wesley, manuscript specialist at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis began the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Project in 1990 for the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis. Wesley decided to take on a special project and she ventured out into the St. Louis' African American community. She interviewed 100 local area African Americans. She returned with a photographer to create black and white portraits of the interview participants.

Wesley interviewed people from many different backgrounds including doctors, educators, nurses, lawyers, authors, federal judges, politicians, mayors, journalist, ministers, entrepreneurs, musicians, civil rights leaders and inventors.

Many of these people broke through the glass ceiling of racial discrimination, opening doors for future generations. The pioneers featured in "Lift Every Voice and Sing" had an opportunity to lift their voices and share their stories about St. Louis' history during segregation, integration, and the civil rights movement.

As part of the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" project, in 1999 the University of Missouri Press published a book entitled *Lift Every Voice and Sing: St. Louis African Americans in the Twentieth Century* by Doris A. Wesley.

The "Lift Every Voice and Sing" project provides a valuable reference resource for scholars, students, and the general public who have an interest in St. Louis area African American history.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The exhibit text and photographs comprised components of the documentary exhibit and book, *Lift Every Voice and Sing: St. Louis African Americans in the Twentieth Century*.

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