

**S0684 St. Louis' Desegregation Case
Records, 1972-1986
3 Boxes, 35 Folders**

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Linda Brown of Topeka, Kansas and Craton Liddell of St. Louis, Missouri were among those American youngsters whose lawsuits resulted in dramatic changes in public education. The Brown v. Board Education of Topeka was the most far-reaching of these desegregation lawsuits. But it was Liddell v. Board of Education of St. Louis in 1972 that brought integrated education to hundreds of thousands of St. Louis' school children. Craton Liddell is now deceased, the city-county school desegregation program lives on, with more than 10,000 African-American students boarding the bus each morning on their way to suburban schools, and another 700 suburban students attending city magnet schools.

Minnie Liddell, Craton's mother didn't want her son bused to the suburbs. She wanted him to attend his neighborhood school, Yeatman Elementary. The courts found that busing was the only procedure to desegregate some of the black city schools. The result was one of the largest inter-district school desegregation programs, and one of the largest school choice programs in the country. In many regions of the country, the end of desegregation court cases has been followed by re-segregation. The sixteen St. Louis County districts that are in this novel school choice program should keep it from ending. This program has not only proved successful in sending more African-American children to college, it has helped build bridges across racial divides. Craton Liddell graduated from Northwest High School, and attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City, and Harris Stowe State College in St. Louis.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents St. Louis' Desegregation Court Case, including the Craton Liddell v. Board of Education City of St. Louis, Missouri from 1972-1985.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

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SERIES 2 LEGAL DOCUMENTS, 1972-1985, Folders 4-15, arranged chronologically.

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5. Carton Liddell v. Board of Education City of St. Louis, Missouri, 1975
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