Guide to the Hudson (Luther M.) Papers

Sean Heyliger  
African American Museum & Library at Oakland  
659 14th Street  
Oakland, California 94612  
Phone: (510) 637-0198  
Fax: (510) 637-0204  
Email: aamlo@oaklandlibrary.org  
URL: http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/locations/african-american-museum-library-oakland

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Guide to the Luther M. Hudson Papers

Collection number: MS 57
African American Museum & Library at Oakland
Oakland, California

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Sean Heyliger

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Luther M. Hudson papers
Dates: 1900-1986
Collection number: MS 57
Creator: Hudson, Luther M.
Collection Size: .25 linear feet(1 box + 1 oversized box)
Repository: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612
Abstract: The Luther M. Hudson Papers include photographs, postcards, certificate of marriage, correspondence, funeral service program and guestbook, and newspaper clippings documenting the life and career of funeral home director Luther Hudson.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.
Access Restrictions
Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.
Publication Rights
Permission to publish from the Luther M. Hudson Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.
Preferred Citation
Luther M. Hudson papers, MS 57, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library. Oakland, California.
Processing Information
Processed by Sean Heyliger, 09/11/2013.
Biography / Administrative History
Funeral director Luther M. Hudson (1882-1972) was born on November 9, 1882 in Henry County, Missouri the youngest of seven children to Coleman C. and Martha Hudson. After graduating from Clinton High School, Hudson studied mortuary science at Worsham School in Chicago, Illinois and opened the Hudson Funeral Home at 853 8th Street in Oakland, California in 1915. He was one of the original founders of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, the largest black-owned insurance company in the western United States, contributing $15,000 to help it secure an insurance license in 1925 and served on the company’s board of directors until his death in 1972. Hudson owned and operated the Hudson Funeral Home for 29 years until the failing health of his wife forced him to sell the funeral home to Aramis Fouche in 1943 and move to Los Angeles, California. Hudson married charm school and etiquette instructor, Annette Starr Bruce, in Los Angeles in 1970.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Luther M. Hudson Papers include photographs, postcards, certificate of marriage, correspondence, funeral service program and guestbook, and newspaper clippings documenting the life and career of funeral home director Luther Hudson. The papers include 27 photographs of Hudson’s family and friends and the funeral service program and guestbook for Luther Hudson’s funeral service in 1972. The papers also include a folder of newspaper clippings, correspondence, and a short biographical note collected by the Eastbay Negro Historical Society related to the Hudson Funeral Home.

**Arrangement**

Series I. Luther M. Hudson Series II. Hudson Funeral Home

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- Hudson, Luther M.
- Hudson Funeral Home (Oakland, Calif.).
- Undertakers and undertaking—California.
- Oakland (Calif.)--Social life and customs.
- African Americans--California--Oakland--Biography.

**Related Material**

Annette Starr Bruce Hudson Papers, MS 47, African American Museum & Library at Oakland.

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**Luther M. Hudson**

**Physical Description:** 5 folders + 1 oversized box

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes Luther M. Hudson's marriage certificate to Ida Mosley, family photographs of Luther Hudson and Annette Starr Bruce Hudson, programs and guestbook at Luther Hudson's funeral service, and a vertical file containing correspondence and newspaper clippings on Luther Hudson.

**Arrangement**

Arranged by format.

**Photographs**

- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson dancing with wife, Annette Starr Bruce Hudson [001] circa 1960s
- Box 1:1 Exterior of Luther Hudson's house at 1141 S. Burnside Ave. Los Angeles, California [002] circa 1960s
- Box 1:1 Luther and Annette Starr Bruce Hudson with friends [003] circa 1960s
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson standing on front steps of house holding a dog leash [004] 1971
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson and dog, Fritz, on front steps of house [005] 1971
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson, Annette Starr Bruce, and dog, Fritz, on front lawn [006] 1971
- Box 1:1 Robert Gilmore and Luther Hudson outside of house at 1141 S. Burnside Ave. Los Angeles, California [007] 1971
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson sitting in chair reading a newspaper [008] 1972
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson standing outside in suit and hat [009] circa 1970s
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson sitting in chair [010] circa 1970s
- Box 1:1 Annette Starr Bruce Hudson and mourners at Luther Hudson's funeral service [011] 1972
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson and Mrs. Luther Hudson standing next to table [012] circa 1950s
- Box 1:1 Luther Hudson and Mrs. Luther Hudson standing next to Chinese lantern [013] circa 1950s
- Box 1:2 Luther and Jane Hudson sitting at banquet table [colorized] [014] 1943
- Box 1:2 Luther Hudson's hand in casket [015] 1972
- Box 1:2 Luther Hudson's hand in casket [016] 1972
- Box 1:2 Mourners at Luther Hudson's funeral service [017] 1972
- Box 1:2 Luther Hudson in casket at funeral service [018] 1972
- Box 1:2 Luther Hudson in casket at funeral service [019] 1972
- Box 1:2 Luther Hudson's gravesite [020] 1972

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**MS 57** 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1:2</th>
<th>Luther Hudson's gravesite [021] 1972</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1:2</td>
<td>Casket at gravesite at Luther Hudson's funeral service [022] 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1:2</td>
<td>Mourners standing beside casket at gravesite at Luther Hudson's funeral service [023] 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1:2</td>
<td>Mourners standing beside casket at gravesite at Luther Hudson's funeral service [024] 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1:2</td>
<td>Luther Hudson and man standing next to car [025] circa 1940s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1:2</td>
<td>Cabinet card portrait of brother of Luther Hudson [026] 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1:2</td>
<td>Luther Hudson sitting in chair next to woman [color negative][027] circa 1970s</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Funeral service**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box OM5</th>
<th>Certificate of marriage, Luther M. Hudson and Ida Mosley 1908</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box OM5</td>
<td>Worsham Training School diploma 1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1:5</td>
<td>Eastbay Negro Historical Society vertical file 1955-1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hudson Funeral Home**

- Physical Description: 1 folder + 1 oversized box
- Series Scope and Content Summary
  - Includes newspaper clippings, mailing advertisements, a calendar, and postcards of Hudson's Funeral Home.
- Arrangement
  - Arranged by format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box OM5</th>
<th>Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home calendar 1986</th>
</tr>
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| Box 1:6 | Eastbay Negro Historical Society vertical file 1965 and undated |