



Smithsonian

Anacostia Community Museum

*Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of
Community Support* audiovisual records

ACMA staff

2014

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title:	<i>Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support</i> audiovisual records
Date:	November 19, 2005
Identifier:	ACMA.03-049
Creator:	Anacostia Community Museum
Extent:	0.25 Linear feet (1 box) 10 Video recordings (4 miniDV video recordings ; 6 VHS 1/2" video recordings)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support audiovisual records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Some items are not accessible due to obsolete format and playback machinery restrictions. Please contact the archivist at acmarchives@si.edu.

Scope and Contents

Audiovisual materials related to the Reclaiming Midwives: stills from All my babies exhibition, which was held Nov. 14, 2005-April 2, 2006 at the Anacostia Museum, and at 6 other venues through March 2007. This traveling exhibition was curated by Linda

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

African Americans
Midwifery
Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Names:

Holmes, Linda Janet

Places:

Georgia

Container Listing

ACMA AV005244: Bringin' in Da Spirit, c 2003

1 Video recording (MiniDV)

010015

Creator: Haynes, Rhonda L.
Lou's Production Association
Third World Newsreel (Firm)

Technical: 010015

Language: English.

Notes: Title transcribed from physical asset.

'Bringin' in Da' Spirit' celebrates the history of the midwives, particularly Granny Midwives, in the United States from the earliest days of slavery until today. The documentary film documents the contributions of 'Aunt Margaret' Charles Smith, Maude Callen, Onnie Lee Logan, Gladys Milton to midwifery and health care. Midwives 'Aunt Margaret' Charles Smith, Gladys Milton, Nonkululeko Tyehemba, Afua Hassan, Sakina O'Uhuru, Nicole Deggins, and a few of their clients provide personal stories sharing their knowledge and experience either as a midwife or working with a midwife. They, along with narrator Phylcia Rashad, explain midwives delivered black and white babies, earned respect in the homes of both blacks and whites, cared for the sick and dying, and wrote birth certificates. They explain how midwives impact the high mortality rate of African American babies, the difference between giving birth and being delivered, and modern day birthing centers versus hospital care. The documentary film presents the importance of and need for midwives, and how midwifery has changed over time, including training programs, certifications, instruments, and supplies. The film also explores the spiritual aspect of midwifery. The film contains footage of archival still and moving images of interviews, birthing centers, and the International Center for Traditional Childbearing's Black Midwives and Healers Conference in Portland in 2002.

Documentary film. Screened as part of the Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support exhibition. Undated.

Bringin' in Da Spirit, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support exhibition, held at the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture from November 13, 2005 - August 6, 2006, documented the life and work of Mary Francis Hill Coley in rural Georgia where she provided midwifery care to thousands for 30 years. The exhibition celebrated the role of Miss Coley (1900-1960) and many other midwives as central forces in the communities they served and traces midwife practices from the earliest days of slavery to today.

Distributed by Third World Newsreel, 2003. Produced by Lou's Productions Association, Inc. Executive Producer and Director: Rhonda L. Haynes. Narrator: Phylcia Rashad.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum

Topic: Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
African Americans
Midwifery
Place: Washington (D.C.)
United States
Genre/Form: Video recordings
Documentary films

ACMA AV005242: All My Babies Rediscovered, circa 2005

1 Video recording (MiniDV)

000400

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 000400

Language: English.

Notes: Title transcribed from the Internet Archive as titled by producer Elliot Margolies.

This short film contains excerpts from the 1953 documentary - All My Babies: A Midwife's Own Story directed by George C. Stoney - which featured Mary Coley, a midwife in rural Georgia, and was originally produced to educate granny midwives. Bernard Coley, Mary Coley's grandson, talks about his family learning of the existence of the film and what he remembers about his grandmother in regards to her values, caretaking for her family, and working as a midwife. The film also contains footage of a Coley family reunion in Albany, Georgia; and states the Coley family created an endowment in Mary Coley's name at Albany State University and established a scholarship fund for students who intend to pursue health care in rural, underserved areas. In 2002, All My Babies: A Midwife's Own Story was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

Short film containing excerpts of film and interview. Part of the Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support exhibition. Undated.

All My Babies Rediscovered, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support exhibition, held at the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture from November 13, 2005 - August 6, 2006, documented the life and work of Mary Francis Hill Coley in rural Georgia where she provided midwifery care to thousands for 30 years. The exhibition celebrated the role of Miss Coley (1900-1960) and many other midwives as central forces in the communities they served and traces midwife practices from the earliest days of slavery to today.

The documentary - All My Babies: A Midwife's Own Story - directed by George C. Stoney. This short film - All My Babies Rediscovered - was produced by Elliot Margolies.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Topic: African Americans
Midwifery

Place: Washington (D.C.)
United States
Genre/Form: Video recordings

ACMA AV005243: Margaret C. Smith: A Midwife Remembered, circa 2005
1 Video recording (MiniDV)
003540

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 003540

Language: English.

Notes: Title transcribed from contents of recording.

This short recording contains a brief news report from WTTO-TV (WB 21 - Birmingham, Alabama) and excerpts from an interview with 'Aunt Margaret' Charles Smith. The news report briefly covers Aunt Margaret's funeral and celebration of her life in Eutaw, Alabama as well as a brief history of her life and her values. Keith Hawkins - Aunt Margaret's grandson, Denise Williams - who was delivered by Aunt Margaret, and Linda J. Holmes - co-author of the book 'Listen to Me Good: The Life Story of an Alabama Midwife' - talks about Aunt Margaret, particularly about how she continued to practice midwifery despite the passage of law outlawing traditional midwifery. During an interview with Holmes, Aunt Margaret speaks about her journey to become a midwife and working as a midwife in Green County, Alabama; describes a specific experience when she delivered twins; and explains she provided midwifery services for free

News report and interview excerpts. Part of the Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support exhibition. Undated.

Margaret C. Smith: A Midwife Remembered, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support exhibition, held at the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture from November 13, 2005 - August 6, 2006, documented the life and work of Mary Francis Hill Coley in rural Georgia where she provided midwifery care to thousands for 30 years. The exhibition celebrated the role of Miss Coley (1900-1960) and many other midwives as central forces in the communities they served and traces midwife practices from the earliest days of slavery to today.

News report produced by WTTO-TV (WB 21 - Birmingham, Alabama).

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans
Midwifery

Place: Washington (D.C.)
United States

Genre/Form: Video recordings

ACMA AV005163: Robert Galbraith: Interview and Exhibition Tour, Reclaiming Midwives, 2005

3 Video recordings (MiniDV)

005400 010300 003939

Creator: Anacostia Museum
Technical: 005400 010300 003939
Language: English.
Notes: ACMA AV005164

ACMA AV005165

Photographer Robert Galbraith talked about his early life and how he eventually landed in the field of photography as well as his experience in the military. He detailed some of his explorations in the fields of photography and filmmaking. Specifically, Galbraith spoke about the making of 'All My Babies' and George C. Stoney, the director and producer of the film. He talked about creating photographic stills for the film. After the interview, Galbraith led a tour through the photographic section of the exhibition 'Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support;' he spoke about the technical and contextual aspects of the prints. Interview was conducted by Gail S. Lowe.

Interview and exhibition tour. Related to the exhibition 'Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support.' Dated 20051207.

Robert Galbraith: Interview and Exhibition Tour, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Through photographs, drawings, diary entries, and birthing equipment, 'Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support' documented the life and work of Mary Francis Hill Coley in rural Georgia where she provided midwifery care to thousands for 30 years. Working with women, black and white, she was held in high regard in her community for addressing the social and spiritual concerns of those she touched. The exhibition celebrated the role of Miss Coley (1900-1960) and many other midwives as central forces in the communities they served, and traced midwife practices from the earliest days of slavery to today. The featured photographers were Robert Galbraith and W. Eugene Smith, both formerly with Life magazine, and Chester Higgins Jr. of The New York Times. The exhibition was on display at the Anacostia Museum from November 13, 2005 - August 6, 2006.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Topic: African Americans
Photographers
Photography
Photographs
Midwives
Midwifery
Museum exhibits
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)
Washington (D.C.)
United States
Genre/Form: Video recordings