



Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

Griffith family Papers, 1907-1950, bulk 1913-1945

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title:	Griffith family papers
Identifier:	ACMA.06-004
Date:	1907-1950 (bulk 1913-1945)
Extent:	4.21 Linear feet (7 boxes)
Creator:	Griffith, Delaphine Griffith, Jacqueline Thomas, Sarah
Language:	English
Summary:	The Griffith Family papers, which dates from 1907 to 1950 and measures 4.21 linear feet, documents the personal lives of three generations in the Griffith family: Sarah Thomas, Delaphine and Jacqueline Griffith. The papers are comprised of personal and professional correspondence, receipts, bills, newspaper clippings, photographs, record albums, and legal documents.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisitions

The Griffith Family papers were donated to the Anacostia Community Museum in May 1995 by June Brown.

Processing Information

The records were processed in January 2010 by Kim L. Dixon.

Preferred Citation

The Griffith Family papers, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution, gift of June Brown.

Restrictions

The collection is open for unrestricted research. Use requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The Griffith Family papers are the physical property of the Anacostia Community Museum. Literary and copyright belong to the author/creator or their legal heirs and assigns. Rights to work produced during the normal course of Museum business resides with the Anacostia

Community Museum. For further information, and to obtain permission to publish or reproduce, contact the Museum Archives.

Biographical Note

Delaphine (Della) Griffith was born in Washington, D.C. on December 13, 1896 to Sarah Thomas. She lived in D.C. with her mother until 1916 when she moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey for work. Later that year she moved on to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Griffith moved back to Washington, D.C. and met and married Alan Griffith in 1919. Together they had a daughter whom they named Jacqueline.

Throughout her adult life, Mrs. Griffith lived with her mother and family on the northwest side of Washington, D.C. She worked for the federal government during two different periods: the early 1930s and during World War II. On November 19, 1950, Mrs. Delaphine Griffith died at the age of 54. Jacqueline Griffith continued to live in the family home until her death in the early 1990s.

Scope and Contents

The collection which dates from 1907 to 1950, bulk dates 1913-1945, documents the lives of three generations of the Griffith family: Sarah Thomas, Delaphine Griffith, and Jacqueline Griffith, while primarily focused on Delaphine (Della) Griffith. The papers document Mrs. Griffith's relationships with friends and family through extensive correspondence, as well as, her experiences as a domestic servant and federal employee. It also documents daily life in Washington D.C. through receipts and bills of sales. Mrs. Griffith and Ms. Griffith also retained a large phonograph record collection comprised of jazz, swing band, and rhythm and blues music.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged into three series one of which contains four subseries. Folders are arranged alphabetically within series, while documents are organized chronologically. Undated material appears in the front of folders. Oversized material appears in the series: Music Collection and Photographs. In box 7 of Oversized the folder entitled "Allen Griffith, 1915" appears before the phonograph record booklet covers because of the fragile nature of the portrait's frame.

- Series 1: Biographical
- Subseries 1.1: Correspondence
- Subseries 1.2: Financial Records
- Subseries 1.3: General
- Subseries 1.4: Miscellaneous
- Series 2: Music Collection
- Series 3: Photographs

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

African American -- Social life and customs
African American families
African American household employees
African American women
Popular music
World War 1939-1945 -- Economic aspects -- United States

Types of Materials:

Correspondence
Ephemera
Financial records
Marriage certificates
Phonograph records
Photographic prints
School records

Names:

Cole, Nat King, 1917-1965
Grantz, Norman, 1918-2001
Griffith family
Jordan, Louis, 1908-1975

Geographic Names:

Washington (D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical, 1907-1950

0.5 Linear feet

This series contains material related to the private lives and careers of the members of the Griffith family including: Sarah Thomas, Delaphine and Jacqueline Griffith. The documents consist of correspondence, financial records including Sarah Thomas' purchase of property in Florida, a marriage certificate for Delaphine and Alan Griffith, and school records indicating the struggles Jacqueline Griffith had with her classes. The correspondence richly documents Delaphine Griffith's various relationships with friends, family, and even her mother Sarah Thomas.

1.1: Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1	Della Griffith, 1907 - 1916, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Della Griffith, 1916 - 1917, 1921 - 1925
Box 1, Folder 3	Della Griffith , 1927 - 1933, 1938, 1946
Box 1, Folder 4	Della Griffith--Business Correspondence , 1923 - 1924, 1930 - 1945
Box 1, Folder 5	Sarah Thomas , 1934, 1911, 1921 - 1927

1.2: Financial records

Box 1, Folder 6	Pass Books, & Receipts--Della Griffith , 1932 - 1950, 1918, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Bills, Pass Books, & Receipts--Sarah Thomas , 1921 - 1938
Box 1, Folder 8	War Ration Books--Griffith Family , circa 1940- 1945
Box 1, Folder 9	War Ration Books--Other People , circa 1940-1945

1.3: General

Box 1, Folder 10	Family Certificates , 1939
Box 1, Folder 11	Della Griffith--Death , 1950
Box 1, Folder 12	Della Griffith--Marriage Certificate , 1919
Box 1, Folder 13	Jacqueline Griffith , 1933 - 1945, 1950, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Notebooks , undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Notebooks , circa 1930s

1.4: Miscellaneous

Box 2, Folder 3

General, 1933, 1923, undated

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Series 2: Music Collection, undated

2.5 Linear feet

This series contains phonograph records collected by Delaphine and Jacqueline Griffith. Many of the records were housed in albums that were not labeled, while others were part of collection sets. The album covers of the collection sets can be found in oversized.

Box 2, Folder 4	Booklet— <i>Johnny Moore's 3 Blazers</i> (cover), undated [oversize]
Box 2, Folder 5	Booklet— <i>King Cole Trio Vol. 2</i> (cover), undated [oversize]
Box 2, Folder 6	Booklet— <i>Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five</i> (cover) , 1946 [oversize]
Box 2, Folder 7	Booklet— <i>Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 1</i> (cover), undated [oversize]
Box 2, Folder 8	Booklet— <i>Norman Granz' Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 4</i> (cover), undated [oversize]
Box 2, Folder 9	Storage Container—Index , undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Booklet—Blank, "Belle of the Ball/Blue Tango," , undated
Box 3, Folder 2	Booklet—Blank, "Be My Life's Companion/Love Lies" , undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Booklet—Blank, "Come to Baby, Do!/The Firm Fram Sauce", undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Booklet—Blank, "Dream/Tabby the Cat", undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Booklet—Blank, "I Get Ideas/Tahiti, My Island", undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Booklet—Blank, "In the Mood/A String of Pearls" , 1941, 1939
Box 3, Folder 8	Booklet—Blank, "It's Only a Paper Moon/For Sentimental Reasons", undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Booklet—Blank, "I'm Gonna Move to the Outskirts of Town, Part 1&2", undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Booklet—Blank, "Margie/I'm Walking Through Heaven with You", undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Booklet—Blank, "Smack Dab in the Middle/Kiss Me & Kill Me with Love", undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Booklet—Blank, "Song of India/Marie", undated
Box 3, Folder 12	Booklet— <i>Johnny Moore's 3 Blazers</i> , "B Sharp You'll See/Now that You're Gone", undated

- Box 3, Folder 13 Booklet— *Johnny Moore's 3 Blazers*, "I Wouldn't Mind/Way Over there By the Cherry Tree", undated
- Box 3, Folder 14 Booklet— *Johnny Moore's 3 Blazers*, "St. Louis Blues/Gloria", undated
- Box 3, Folder 15 Booklet— *King Cole Trio Vol. 2*, "I Don't Know Why/I Know that You Know", undated
- Box 3, Folder 16 Booklet— *King Cole Trio Vol. 2*, "I'm in the Mood for Love/To a Wild Rose", undated
- Box 3, Folder 17 Booklet— *King Cole Trio Vol. 2*, "I'm Thru with Love/Look What You've Done to Me", undated
- Box 3, Folder 18 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "Baby, Baby All the Time/Little Girl", undated
- Box 3, Folder 19 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "But She's My Buddy's Chick/That's the Beginning of the End", undated
- Box 3, Folder 20 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "Can You Look Me in the Eyes/Come in Out of the Rain", undated
- Box 3, Folder 21 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "Don't Blame Me/I've Got a Way with Women", undated
- Box 3, Folder 22 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "I Feel So Smoochie/What'll I Do", undated
- Box 3, Folder 23 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "I Still See Elisa/O.K. for T.V.", undated
- Box 3, Folder 24 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "Lost April/Nature Boy " , undated
- Box 3, Folder 25 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "Meet Meat No Special Place/You Don't Learn that in School" , undated
- Box 3, Folder 26 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "Now He Tells Me/Those Things Money Can't Buy" , undated
- Box 3, Folder 27 Booklet— *Nat King Cole*, "This Way Out/What Can I Say After I Say I'm Sorry " , undated
- Box 3, Folder 28 Booklet— *Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 4*, "Blues, Pt. 1/Blues, Pt. 2 " , undated
- Box 3, Folder 29 Booklet— *Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 4*, "Lester Leap in, Pt. 1/ Blues, Pt 3 " , undated
- Box 3, Folder 30 Booklet— *Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 4*, "Lester Leaps in, Pt. 2/Pt. 3" , undated
- Box 3, Folder 31 Booklet— *The Ravens*, "Bee I Bumblebee or Not/Fool that I am" , undated
- Box 3, Folder 32 Booklet— *The Ravens*, "Be on Your Merry Way/It's too Soon to Know" , undated

Box 3, Folder 33 Booklet— *The Ravens*, "Bye Bye Baby Blues/Once and for All" , undated

Box 3, Folder 34 Booklet— *The Ravens*, "Honey/Lullaby" , undated

Box 3, Folder 35 Booklet— *The Ravens*, "Out of a Dream/My Sugar is So Refined" , undated

Box 3, Folder 36 Booklet— *The Ravens*, "Summertime/Write Me a Letter " , undated

Box 3, Folder 37 General—"Ain't that Just Like a Woman/If It's Love You What Baby, That's Me" , undated

Box 3, Folder 38 General—"Along too Long/It Happens to Be Me" , undated

Box 3, Folder 39 General—"A Sunday Kind of Love/Who Cares What People Say" , undated

Box 3, Folder 40 General—"Barnyard Boogie/How Long Must I Wait for You" , undated

Box 3, Folder 41 General—"Beans and Corn Bread/Chicky-Mo Craney Crow" , undated

Box 3, Folder 42 General—"Be Fair with Me/Sunny Road" , undated

Box 3, Folder 43 General—"Better Watch You Do/I Love to Make Love to You" , undated

Box 3, Folder 44 General—"Bobby Sox Blues/Falling in Love with You" , undated

Box 3, Folder 45 General—"Don't Burn the Candle at Both Ends/We Can't Agree" , undated

Box 3, Folder 46 General—"For You/Searching for Love" , undated

Box 4, Folder 1 General—"Get it Off Your Mind/St. Louis Blues" , undated

Box 4, Folder 2 General—"I Know What You're Puttin' Down/Jack, You're Dead" , undated

Box 4, Folder 3 General—"Intrigue/I'm Out to Forget Tonight" , undated

Box 4, Folder 4 General—"It Ain't Gonna Be Like That/With My Heart In My Hand" , undated

Box 4, Folder 5 General—"It's All in the Game/All Over Again" , undated

Box 4, Folder 6 General—"It's Crazy/Smile" , undated

Box 4, Folder 7 General—"It's Low Down Dirty Shame/Mama Mama Blues" , undated

Box 4, Folder 8 General—"It's Over/Money's Getting Cheaper" , undated

Box 4, Folder 9 General—"I Want You—I Need You/Hard Tack" , undated

Box 4, Folder 10 General—"Knock Me a Kiss/I'm Gonna Move to the Outskirts of Town" , undated

Box 4, Folder 11 General—"Let the Good Times Roll/Ain't Nobody Here but Us Chickens" , undated

Box 4, Folder 12	General—"Look Out/Early in the Mornin" , undated
Box 4, Folder 13	General—"Lost in the Night/Merry Christmas, Baby" , undated
Box 4, Folder 14	General—"Pettin' and Pokin'/Why'd You Do it Baby" , undated
Box 4, Folder 15	General—"Run Joe/All for the Love of Lil" , undated
Box 4, Folder 16	General—"Say Something Sweet to Your Sweetheart/You Were Only Fooling" , undated
Box 4, Folder 17	General—"Send for Me if You Need Me/Until the Real Thing Comes Along" , undated
Box 4, Folder 18	General—"Shuffle Boogie/You Won't Let Me Go" , undated
Box 4, Folder 19	Storage Container—"4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days, 1 Hour Blues/Painted Rhythm" , undated
Box 4, Folder 20	Storage Container—"Air Mail Special, Part 1 and Conclusion" , undated
Box 4, Folder 21	Storage Container—"Baby, Don't You Cry/Blazer's Boogie" , undated
Box 4, Folder 22	Storage Container—"Begin the Beguine/Lover Man" , undated
Box 4, Folder 23	Storage Container—"Beware/Don't Let the Sun Catch You Cryin'" , undated
Box 4, Folder 24	Storage Container—"Boogie Blues/Lover" , undated
Box 4, Folder 25	Storage Container—"C.O.D./No Greater Love" , undated
Box 4, Folder 26	Storage Container—"Cynthia's in Love/To Each His Own" , undated
Box 4, Folder 27	Storage Container—"Don't Take Everybody to be Your Friend/When I Move to the Sky" , undated
Box 4, Folder 28	Storage Container—"Fine Brown Frame/They All Say I'm the Biggest Fool" , undated
Box 4, Folder 29	Storage Container—"Gee, Baby, Ain't I Good to You/I Realize Now" , undated
Box 4, Folder 30	Storage Container—"Get Together with the Lord/I Know" , undated
Box 4, Folder 31	Storage Container—"The Gypsy/Everyone is Saying Hello Again" , undated
Box 4, Folder 32	Storage Container—"Hey Mr. Postman/The House of Blue Lights" , undated
Box 4, Folder 33	Storage Container—"Homeward Bound/Evil Gal Blues" , undated
Box 4, Folder 34	Storage Container—"House Party Boogie/Baby Make Up Your Mind" , undated

Box 4, Folder 35	Storage Container—"I Cover the Water-Front/Jockey Blues" , undated
Box 4, Folder 36	Storage Container—"I Didn't Mean a Word I Said/I'm Just a Lucky So-and- So" , undated
Box 4, Folder 37	Storage Container—"I Don't Know Why/Loch Lomond" , undated
Box 4, Folder 38	Storage Container—"It's a Woman's Prerogative/Legalize My Name" , undated
Box 4, Folder 39	Storage Container—"It's Only a Paper Moon/Cry You Out of My Heart" , undated
Box 4, Folder 40	Storage Container—"It is Better to be by Yourself/Sweet Georgia Brown" , undated
Box 5, Folder 1	Storage Container—"I Won't Say I Will, but I Won't/You Must Be Blind" , undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Storage Container—"Juice Head Baby/Salt Lake City Bounce" , undated
Box 5, Folder 3	Storage Container—"Leap Frog Blues/Reefer Head Woman" , undated
Box 5, Folder 4	Storage Container—"Leave Us Leap/Dark Eyes" , undated
Box 5, Folder 5	Storage Container—"Melancholy Madeline/Fugue in C Major" , undated
Box 5, Folder 6	Storage Container—"My Silent Love/Googie's Boogie" , undated
Box 5, Folder 7	Storage Container—"My Sugar is So Refined/Ugly Chile" , undated
Box 5, Folder 8	Storage Container—"No Soup/One More Dream" , undated
Box 5, Folder 9	Storage Container—"Reconversion Blues/Salt Pork, West Virginia" , undated
Box 5, Folder 10	Storage Container—"Route 66/Everyone is Sayin' Hello Again" , undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Storage Container—"Scotchin' with the Soda/Cement Mixer (Put-Ti-Put- Ti)" , undated
Box 5, Folder 12	Storage Container—"Shorty's Got to Go/Some Day" , undated
Box 5, Folder 13	Storage Container—"Slam-in' Around/Anything" , undated
Box 5, Folder 14	Storage Container—"Stone Cold Dead in the Market/Petootie Pie" , undated
Box 5, Folder 15	Storage Container—"Sunny Side of the Street/I Like to Riff" , undated
Box 5, Folder 16	Storage Container—"Surrender/Satchelmouth Baby" , undated
Box 5, Folder 17	Storage Container—"Tempo's Boogie/The Lamplighter" , undated
Box 5, Folder 18	Storage Container—"That Chick's too Young to Fry/Choo Choo Ch' Boogie" , undated

Box 5, Folder 19	Storage Container—"That Chick's too Young to Fry/I'm Falling for You" , undated
Box 5, Folder 20	Storage Container—"That's the Groovy Thing—Part A and B" , undated
Box 5, Folder 21	Storage Container—"There's No One but You/I Don't Know Enough About You" , undated
Box 5, Folder 22	Storage Container—"Three Blind Micesky/Hop, Skip and Jump" , undated
Box 5, Folder 23	Storage Container—"Tired/Fifteen Years" , undated
Box 5, Folder 24	Storage Container—"Travelin' Blues/It's the Talk of the Town" , undated
Box 5, Folder 25	Storage Container—"Swingin for Pappy/Bubbles" , undated
Box 5, Folder 26	Storage Container—"Swingin' Them Jingle Bells/You're Gonna be Sorry" , undated
Box 5, Folder 27	Storage Container—"Texas and Pacific/I Like' em Fat Like That" , undated
Box 5, Folder 28	Storage Container—"That's the Chance You Take/Forgive Me" , undated
Box 5, Folder 29	Storage Container—"Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye/You Call it Madness" , undated
Box 5, Folder 30	Storage Container—"Would I Love You (Love You, Love You)/I Apologize" , undated
Box 5, Folder 31	Storage Container—"You Broke Your Promise/Safe, Sane and Single" , undated
Box 5, Folder 32	Storage Container—"You Call it Madness/Oh, But I Do" , undated
Box 5, Folder 33	Storage Container—"You Left Me Forsaken/So Long" , undated
Box 5, Folder 34	Storage Container—"You're Just in Love/It's a Lovely Day Today" , undated
Box 5, Folder 35	Storage Container—"You Taught Me to Love/Johnny's Boogie", undated
Box 6, Folder 1	Booklet— <i>Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 1</i> , "How High the Moon, Pt. 1/Pt. 2" , undated
Box 6, Folder 2	Booklet— <i>Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 1</i> , "How High the Moon, Pt. 3/Lady Be Good, Pt. 1" , undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Booklet— <i>Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 1</i> , "Lady Be Good, Pt. 2/ Pt. 3", undated
	Oversize
Box 7, Folder 1	Booklet— <i>Johnny Moore's 3 Blazers</i> (cover) , undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Booklet— <i>King Cole Trio Vol. 2</i> (cover) , undated

- Box 7, Folder 3 Booklet— *Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five* (cover), 1946
- Box 7, Folder 4 Booklet— *Norman Granz Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 1* (cover), undated
- Box 7, Folder 5 Booklet— *Norman Granz' Jazz at the Philharmonic Vol. 4* (cover), undated

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Series 3: Photographs, circa 1914-1940s

0.5 Linear feet

This series contains photographs of the Griffith family and include multiple images of Delaphine Griffith, one picture of Jacqueline, and a framed photograph of Alan Griffith (Mrs. Griffith's husband).

Box 2, Folder 10	Family Friends, 1922, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Allen Griffith , 1915 <i>[oversize]</i>
Box 2, Folder 12	Della Griffith, circa 1914-1940s
Box 2, Folder 13	Jacqueline Griffith, circa 1930-1940s
Box 2, Folder 14	Unidentified, undated

Oversize

Box 7, Folder 6	Allen Griffith, 1915
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