

## **Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives**

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<b>Collection Number:</b>	MS2020-08
<b>Title:</b>	Linda Killen Collection [c. 1840-2003]
<b>Repository:</b>	Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives
<b>Processed by:</b>	Julia Lucas, CIMA Collections Intern
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b>	4 boxes and 2 art racks
<b>Creator:</b>	Linda Killen
<b>Language:</b>	English

### **Abstract**

The Linda Killen Collection contains her research of local African American families and their descendants, as well as communities found within the New River Valley region. This research spans from the Antebellum Era to post World War II.

### **Biographical / Historical Note**

Linda Killen was a dedicated historian of both local and international histories Born April 2, 1945, she was well-traveled owing to her father's military background. Passenger lists suggest she left New York in 1953 bound for Le Havre, France, both with her mother, sister, and older brother. Before that she has already been to Japan and to the state of Washington. Her father worked extensively within the governmental system, being at one time a U.S. Department field official and then a director of missions of the agency of International Development where he served in Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Korea, Vietnam, and Turkey. He died in 1972; at the same time Dr. Killen was living in Chapel Hill, N.C., while her siblings were in Beirut, Lebanon and Zurich, Switzerland. (Newspapers.com)

She lived around the world, spending an extended time in Pakistan. She earned her graduate degree from UNC and went on to be employed by Radford University, teaching for twenty-six years. Killen taught Russian history and American Diplomatic History, eventually

publishing works on Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Her local endeavors allowed her to research antebellum African American communities. Those who were both enslaved or free before emancipation. Then, following genealogical research of those who stayed within the region decade after the turn of the twentieth century.

Dr. Killen retired in 2001 after teaching for twenty-six years. She died on January 15, 2003 in Pulaski County, Virginia. Today her legacy still continues at Radford University because of two memorial scholarships: one for herself: "Linda Rose Killen Scholarship", and one for her mother: Alice B. Killen Memorial Scholarship".

Those that knew her talked of her independent spirit. She never married but her only surviving relative, her sister, held a memorial service after her death where her cremated remains were ceremoniously scattered into the New River.

### **Collection Description**

This collection includes Killen's personal research and published works, as well as local New River Valley genealogical research, photographs, slave/slave owner records, antebellum free persons records, census records, published articles, her research sources, land records, birth records and maps.

### **Arrangement Description**

The Linda Killen Collection follows the original arrangement established by Dr. Killen. The genealogy records are arranged alphabetically by family surnames. Unframed photographs are in Dr. Killen's original binders.

### **Related Materials**

Killen, Linda. *Farm Land, Boom Town, Village: A History of Belspring, Virginia, 1750-1940*. Radford, Virginia: Radford University, 1992.

Killen, Linda. *The Reports of Charles S. Schaeffer from the Virginia counties of Montgomery and Pulaski, with additional information on the counties of Floyd, Giles, Craig, Wythe, and Roanoke*. Belspring, Virginia: Radford University, 1997.

Killen, Linda. *Ingles Ferry Ledgers (1840s-1880s)*. Radford, Virginia: Radford University, 1999.

Killen, Linda. *These people lived in a pleasant valley: a history of slaves and freedmen in nineteenth century Pulaski County, Virginia*. Radford, Virginia: Radford University, 1996.

Killen, Linda. *Making their mark: Black Families of the New River Depot, 1870-1940*. Radford, Virginia: Radford University, 1994.

Killen, Linda. *Whartons' Town New River Depot, 1870-1940*. Radford, Virginia: Radford University, 1993.

Killen, Linda. *Radford's Early Black Residents, 1880-1925*. Radford, Virginia: Radford University, 1997.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Donated to Christiansburg Institute after Dr. Killen's death by sister/estranged relative.

### **Subject Headings**

- Christiansburg Industrial Institute--History.
  - African Americans--Education--Virginia--Christiansburg--History.
  - African Americans--Virginia--Montgomery County--History.
  - African Americans--Virginia--Montgomery County--Biography.
  - Montgomery County (Va.)--Biography.
  - African Americans--Virginia--Pulaski County--History
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### **Using the Collection**

#### **ACCESS STATEMENT**

Collection is open and available for use.

#### **RIGHTS STATEMENT**

Copyright has been assigned to Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives by the Killen Family. For permission to publish materials created by the donor, contact [CIMA@christiansburginstitute.com](mailto:CIMA@christiansburginstitute.com). Materials not created by Dr. Linda Killen may still be under copyright.

#### **PREFERRED CITATION**

[ITEM DESCRIPTION], [BOX], [FOLDER], Linda Killen Collection, MS2020-08, Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives, Christiansburg Institute Inc., Christiansburg, VA.

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## **Collection Inventory**

### **Series 1 45 Folders:**

**Folder 1:** Scans of Damaged Research

**Folder 2:** Radford Blacks

**Folder 3:** Pulaski Free Blacks

**Folder 4:** Pulaski Slaves/Owners

**Folder 5:** Untitled

**Folder 6:** Free Blacks of Pulaski Co.

**Folder 7:** Newbern Residents

**Folder 8:** Free Blacks of Montgomery Co.

**Folder 9:** Mont Co.

**Folder 10:** Montgomery Slaves

**Folder 11:** Auburn District Censuses

**Folder 12:** Radford's Early Black Residents

**Folder 13:** Radford's Black History

**Folder 14:** Radford 1880 Census/Occupants

**Folder 15:** Black Land

**Folder 16:** Radford Family Cemetery

**Folder 17:** Radford Black History + 3 Chapters

**Folder 18:** Radford Directory

**Folder 19:** Miscellaneous Radford Black History

**Folder 20:** New River Depot and Alexander Family

**Folder 21:** Freedmen's Bureau Print Copy

**Folder 22:** Rock Road Cemetery

**Folder 23:** Giles Co Births and Deaths

**Folder 24:** Chumbley Harper Accounts

**Folder 25:** Dickenson Material

**Folder 26:** Dickenson Subtitled

**Folder 27:** These People Print Copy

**Folder 28:** Back Marriages and Law

**Folder 29:** Geneva

**Folder 30:** Doing Black History

**Folder 31:** Taylor Made

**Folder 32:** Grant/Penn/Stewart

**Folder 33:** A & B

**Folder 34:** C & D & E

**Folder 35:** F & G

**Folder 36:** Day

**Folder 37:** H

**Folder 38:** I & J

**Folder 39:** K & L

**Folder 40:** M & N

**Folder 41:** O & P & Q

**Folder 42:** R & S & T

**Folder 43:** Palmer et al

**Folder 44:** W, X, Y, Z

**Folder 45:** Miscellaneous

**Series 2:****Binders**

Radford's Black Early Residents 1880 - 1925 Editing Copy

Radford Black Land Binder

Photograph Binder

Index Binder

Friends Historical Library collection on CDs

**Book:**

Wake Forest: Voices That Tell of a Faith Community - Morgan Rochelle Cain

**Folders:**

Roberts Addition and Yingling

2nd Avenue

Douglass Park

J.H. Nelson Land

Henry C Jones

Land, Rock Road, and Auburn

Mitchell et all

Rock Road

Photos

Charles Jones

Land/Genealogy Research

### **Series 3:**

#### **Oversized Photos**

Calfee Summer School Institute; Pulaski , Virginia 1930; Courtesy of Lucy Harmon

Unknown child; circa 1920s; Radford, Virginia; photographed by William Darnell; Courtesy of Georgia Snell English

Unknown Family Portrait; Radford, Virginia; circa 1920s-40s; Photographed by W.W. Darnell; Courtesy of Georgia Snell English

Albert Hunter WWI veteran; Radford, Virginia; Courtesy of Georgia Snell English

#### **Framed Photos**

Unknown Baby

Two children; W.C. & Lillian Rasby

Unknown woman in headwrap

Unknown woman posed with table; bought in Washington State 1999

Unknown woman posed with chair; bought in Washington State 1999

Unknown woman

Unknown woman holding a cross

Unknown woman in small metal frame

#### **Illustrations - 11**

The Brush Fiend

The Post-Office - Closed

Fire-place at Glass's

The Slide

The Chair Vendor

Jack Ashore

Shot 'em on de wing

Street scene, Waynesville

On the porch at Mrs. Bright's

"Look out! He'll set down"

African American mae butler, no caption

## **Photo Album**

### **Postcards - 6**

Receipt for Postcards

Henry! I jus lubs every corner of yo' head

Afro AMerican Copying House

I certainly am bad when I feel like fight, If you don't want trouble, Yo' better had write.

Just arrived

Women, man, and children sitting on a porch

83. The Blackville Serenade

The Darkey Preacher

### **Series 4:**

#### **Toys**

Dennis the Menace doll

Painted wooden box

Wooden flat puppet doll

Wooden doll



**Series 5:**

Two John Henry Glass Bottles

**Series 6:**

Two Scrapbooks

**Series 7 Framed Photos:**

1. Drawing of African American man
2. Charcoal drawing of African American Woman, seated pose.
3. "Colored Man Is No Slacker"
4. Painting of an African American family walking down the neighborhood.
5. African American woman holding two caucasian children, one holding a doll.
6. Charcoal drawing of African American men seated with an African American woman standing behind.
7. African American child standing in white coat.
8. African American man sitting with dog
9. "The Darktown Hook And Ladder Corps. Going to the front."
10. "God Bless Our Home"
11. "Draw Poker - Getting 'em Lively"
12. Charcoal drawing of African American couple
13. African American Couple circa 1890s
14. Charcoal drawing of an African American family in convex frame
15. Far From The Madding Crowd, undated
16. Old Master, undated
17. Southern Agriculture, undated
18. Wedding Portrait, 1931
19. Cream of Wheat Print, 1914
20. Unknown Man in Wicker Chair, undated
21. At The Gate of Fort Hill, Undated
22. Unknown Man in Oval Frame, undated
23. Dublin, c. 1895
24. Cross Stitch, 1990
25. Unknown Woman, undated
26. A Line Shot - The Recoil, 1881
27. A Colored Coachman, undated
28. 'Seal of North Carolina' Smoking Tobacco, 1883
29. "High Water" In the Mississippi, undated
30. Pastel Unknown Boy, Undated

31. Damaged charcoal Portrait Unknown Man, undated
32. Charcoal Drawing Unknown Man, undated
33. Unknown Young Man Portrait, undated
34. Unknown Old Man, undated
35. Charcoal Drawing Unknown Woman, undated
36. Black Gentleman, undated
37. Unknown Man with White Beard, c. 1860-1870s
38. Unknown Man with Tie in Large Frame, undated
39. Unknown Man Drawing in Homemade Frame, undated
40. Kitty Campbell, undated
41. Woman and children outside of cabin
42. Family on boat near cabin