

Register of the

John Marshall Ragland

Collection

Collection 074

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
2020
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John Marshall Ragland Collection (Collection 074)

Biography

John Marshall Ragland was born October 5, 1884 on a farm in Jackson, Liberty Township, Ohio. He was educated at Emmanuel Missionary College, Simmons University and Central Law College. He became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1907 and did various ministries in the church, but he left due to segregation. He married Elizabeth McElroy in 1926. They had two boys.

Ragland is best known as a civic and welfare worker in Detroit, Louisville, Cincinnati, Warren, Ohio, Washington, D.C., and primarily in Chicago. Among his roles are the following:

- 1917-1923 Industrial Secretary, Detroit Urban League
- 1923-1928 Executive Secretary, Louisville Urban League
- 1929-1933 Executive Director, Negro Welfare Association, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1934-1941 Executive Secretary, Warren Ohio Urban League
- 1941-1945 National Racial Consultant, Social Protection Division of the Office of Community War Services, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D.C.
- 1945-1976 Executive Director, South Central Association, Chicago, Ill.

In addition to the South Central Association, he held a wide range of other positions concurrently in Chicago from 1945 until he retired. In his roles he strongly opposed racism and discrimination doing various activities for blacks and the disadvantaged.

For 52 years he remained away from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but he returned to the church and was re-baptized in 1971. He resigned as racial consultant from the Illinois Department of Public Aid on July 31, 1976. He probably died in 1979.

Scope

John Marshall Ragland Collection contains genealogical information on the Ragland family going back to Wales. Also included are snippets from Ragland's work primarily from his Chicago years.

Arrangement

The collection is divided between Ragland's family history and his working career. Within the career series, the arrangement is chronological.

Extent

1 Hollinger Box [0.10 linear feet]

Provenance

The donor of this collection is unknown.

Use

All users of this collection will complete the Application to Use Unpublished Records, and observe the regulation specified in the Patron's Agreement and Researcher's Code of Conduct. All records in this collection are open and available for research. Suggested citation for this collection:

Box ____, fld ____, John Marshall Ragland Collection (Collection 074), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

John Marshall Ragland Collection (Collection 74)

INVENTORY

I. General

Folder 1 Inventory of the collection prepared by the donor.

II. Family and Personal History

Folder 2 Genealogy

Genealogy of the Ragland family, by Mrs. M. M. Strong and Mrs. P. H. Hale. Ends in the mid-19th century. 2 copies

2 letters from Charles J. Ragland about his work to compile a genealogy of the Ragland family in America. Mar and Apr 1974.

Drawing of Ragland Castle, Monmouthshire, Wales

Ragland coat of arms.

Folder 3 Early family history prior to John Ragland's birth

Will of Samuel Ragland, Jun 12, 1797.

Includes division of Negro slaves owned by Samuel Ragland. Louisa County, Virginia, Jun 9, 1806, upon the death of Samuel Ragland.

Folder 4 Birth certificate

Birth certificate, John M. Ragland, Oct 5, 1884. Re-issued Certificate of Birth from Aug 3, 1956. 2 copies

Folder 5 History of Lower Scioto Valley, Ohio. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1884. Ragland's home county.

Folder 6 Autobiographical

Autobiographical paper part of a larger term paper by Philip Chester Willis, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity?". 1977.

Some memories of Ragland's early life. No date, but likely written around early to mid 1970s.

Handwritten notes on his early life.

Folder 7 Career description

John Marshall Ragland, ca. 1951.

A Profile of the Professional Career of John Marshall Ragland, ca. 1967

John Marshall Ragland, in *Who's Who in the Midwest*, 11th edition, ca. 1967. Entry for John M. Ragland, in *Who's Who in the Midwest United States of America and Canada*, published 1968.

Folder 8 Family photographs

John M. Ragland at Berrien Springs, Michigan, 1910. Note on the back of the photograph says the suit was tailored at Berrien Springs, Michigan, and the shoes purchased at Jackson, Ohio.

John M. and Elizabeth Ragland. No date.

John Marshall Ragland, Jr., oldest of Ragland's two sons born in Louisville, Kentucky, 1926.

Albert McElroy Ragland. Youngest of two sons born to John Ragland. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, 1928.

The Ragland home, 8101 S. Paxton, Chicago, IL, 1977.

III. Career

Folder 9 1920s and 1930s

Commonwealth of Kentucky Court of Appeals Certification of John Marshall Ragland "admitted to the practice of the profession of Attorney and counsellor at law," May 22, 1925.

Article: Negro housing movement in Louisville, Kentucky, by John M. Ragland, 1926.

Article and picture of the Cincinnati Cinderella Club, sponsored by the Civic Welfare Association, John Ragland, executive secretary. No date, but between 1928 and 1933 when Ragland served in Cincinnati..

Folder 10 1940s

Letter of recommendation [for John M. Ragland] by Bruce P. Henderson, Solicitor, Warren, Ohio, Jun 11, 1940.

Article from the *Chicago Defender*, Dec. 23, 1978, about Ragland saving the lives of 18,000 black soldiers in 1942.

Newspaper Picture of Ragland at a reception given in honor of Krishna Nehru, Feb 4, 1947.

Newspaper Picture of the audience listening to Krishna Nehru, Feb 4, 1947.

John M. Ragland and three other people with Eleanor Roosevelt when she spoke at South Central Association annual meeting at the Conrad Hotel, Chicago, 1947. [photograph]

Article: About a Negro shopping center, Jul 22, 1949. The article contains much information about the South Central Association.

Pamphlet describing the South Central area of Chicago, its problems, activities of the South Central Association, and a call to the city of Chicago to work to fix the problems that exist there. 1949.

John M. Ragland, Director of the South Central Association with the Associations Board of Directors in a meeting with Mayor Martin H. Kennelly of Chicago, 1949. [photograph]

Folder 11 1950s to the 1970s

2 articles from the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 1954, about crime and equal justice in the Chicago courts. John Ragland is pictured in one of the articles.

Emancipation Proclamation observance at the Morrison Hotel, Sep 22, 1962.

John M. Ragland at the original Chicago Stockyard. [photograph]

John Ragland at a bus stop at State and Randolph, in Chicago, in his last year as Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Public Aid, not long before he resigned in 1976 at the age of 91. This picture from 1975. [photograph]

Brochure: *Tri-Faith*, by Albert M. Ragland, no date, but graphics and internal evidence suggest the 1970s.

IV. Politics

Folder 12 John M. Ragland, manager of Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential campaign in the Midwest with three Negro minister in Chicago, meet with Dwight Eisenhower, 1952. [photograph]

Article: *Chicago Sunday Tribune* editorial, 'For John M. Ragland,' in his attempt to become an alderman for the 24th ward. Nov 1, 1953. [2 copies]

Letter, from President-elect Richard M. Nixon, to John M. Ragland, Dec. 2, 1968, asking for recommendations of people to serve in his administration.

Letter from Patricia Nixon and Richard Nixon, thanking Ragland for his note of congratulation. Probably 1968.

Letter, [Senator] Herman E. Talmadge, to John M. Ragland,
Mar. 29, 1973, regarding a visit.

Letter, [Senator] Herman E. Talmadge, to John M. Ragland,
Apr. 9, 1973, regarding a visit.

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