

**Roanoke Public Libraries**  
**Gainsboro Library**  
**Eunice Poindexter Collection**

## **Collection Description**

**Repository:** Gainsboro Branch of Roanoke Public Libraries

**Title:** Eunice Poindexter Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** One (1) Flat Oversized Record Storage Box

**Arrangement:** The collection is broken into four (4) series: Awards, Certificates, and Recognitions, Photographs, Diplomas, and Plaques. The first three series (Awards, Certificates, and Recognitions, Photographs, and Diplomas) all consist of one archival folder each.

**Creator:** Eunice Poindexter

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Gainsboro Library copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Caylin Wigger 01 August 2022

## **Biographical Note:**

Eunice Poindexter was born on 23 July 1913 to Edward and Willie Josephine Poindexter in Roanoke, Virginia. Miss Poindexter never married, nor did she have any children.

Eunice Poindexter graduated from Lucy Addison High School in 1931, and she continued her education at Virginia State College for Negroes. She graduated with her Bachelor's of Arts in 1935. Miss Poindexter also received a Master of Arts diploma from Columbia University in 1952.

"Lady P," as she was affectionately called, continued to live out her legacy as an educator, civil rights activist, and active member of the Roanoke community. She taught at her alma mater, Lucy Addison High School for seventeen years before teaching at Booker T. Washington Junior High School and Breckinridge Junior High School. Her career in education spanned over forty years.

Not only was Eunice Poindexter an educator in the classroom, but she was the first African American female supervisor of music in Roanoke City Public Schools. She was the president of the Bible Band at First Baptist Church, director of the Lucy Addison High School Choir, director of the Magic City Women's Choir, and director of The Melody Choir.

Poindexter's engagement with First Baptist Church did not stop with the Bible Band. She was:

- A member of the Sunday School Orchestra
- Sunday School Teacher
- Daily Vacation Bible School Counselor
- Director of Young People's Choir for thirteen years
- Founder and director of their drama guild
- Founder and coordinator of the hospitality committee
- Vice president of the trustee board

- The author of *The Journey of Faith: A History of First Baptist Church*
- Church Historian

On 3 December 1938, the Beta Chi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was spearheaded by Eunice Poindexter along with several other women. Miss Poindexter continued on as their president.

Other notches in Eunice Poindexter's belt include:

- Founder and President of Les Joyeuses Amies
- National Editor of the Moles Magazine
- Founder and President of Roanoke chapter of Moles
- President of the Burrell Memorial Hospital Association
- Trustee Board Secretary of Advisory Board House for Adults
- Secretary and Vice President of Mental Health Association
- Secretary and Vice President of YWCA of Roanoke Valley

Eunice Poindexter died on 13 January 2005.

### **Scope and Content:**

- The Eunice Poindexter Collection consists of one (1) oversized record storage box
- This collection consists of four (4) series: Awards, Certificates, and Recognitions, Photographs, Diplomas, and Plaques.
  - The Plaques Series does not contain folders due to the size of the plaques. Please use these plaques as a supplement to the "Awards, Certificates and Recognitions" series.
- Eunice Poindexter's Collection is largely centered on her work as an Educator in Roanoke as well as Mental Health Professional and Home Nurse.

### **Container List:**

#### **Box 1 of 1**

##### **Series I, Folder I- Awards, Certificates, and Recognitions**

- Home Nursing Certificate Issued by Virginia Department of Health (9 Dec. 1947); Attached: The American National Red Cross Statement of Completion "Standard Course in Red Cross Home Nursing" (Dec. 1947)
- Civil Defense Adult Education Course in Individual, Family and Community Protection and Survival Certification Issued by Commonwealth of Virginia (1 June 1967)
- Selection of Honorary Co-Chairwoman at 1974 Debutante Ball by The Altruist Club of Roanoke, Virginia (Dec. 1974)
- Acknowledgment of 41 Years of Teaching by the Roanoke City School Board (7 June 1976); Notation on Rear, "Miss Eunice R. Poindexter Teacher Breckenridge Junior High School"
- Outstanding Performance in "duties as Recording Secretary pro tem" Awarded by the Roanoke Valley Chapter of V.S.U. (1979-80)
- Certificate of Appreciation for "being a great Educator," Awarded at High Street Church by Phi Alpha Kappa

Sorority, Alpha Tau Chapter and the Black Heritage Committee (15 Feb. 1981)

- Outstanding Service Certificate Awarded at Thirtieth Reunion of Lucy Addison High School Class of 1952 (9 July 1982)
- Outstanding Performance in Service Certificate Awarded by Hunton Life Saving Crew Inc. (1983)
- Distinguished Service as Trustee (And Vice Chairman of the Board) Awarded by Kenneth B. Knight, Pastor of First Baptist Church (30 Sept. 1984)
- Certification of being Subject of Biographical Record in The International Who's Who in Fraternities and Sororities (1984)
- Certificate of Appreciation for 50 Years of Support to Virginia State University (11 May 1985)
- Certificate of Appreciation as a Member of the Mental Health Services Board of Directors for Outstanding Public Service (14 May 1987)
- Certificate of Appreciation for Contributions to the United States Postal Service (USPS) Awarded by USPS (3 Feb. 1991)
- Certificate of Appreciation Awarded by the League of Older Americans

#### **Series II, Folder I- Diplomas**

- Lucy Addison High School; Awarded 5 June 1931
- Virginia State College for Negroes; Bachelor of Arts; Awarded 4 June 1935
- Columbia University; Master of Arts; Awarded 17 Dec. 1952

#### **Series III, Folder I - Photographs**

EPC01	"Miles Davis Chick Corea Boston [Ghode] Jazz Festival -1970- Bob Hale '04"
EPC02	"Langston High School of Danville, VA. 1955 Addison High 22 A.H. Holland Jr. 36 Vincent Handcock C.L. Ray Jr."
EPC03	Eunice Poindexter pictured on the left with unknown person (assuming a bride) on right
EPC04	"The Oliver Hill Birth House, Roanoke, VA."
EPC05	Portrait of Eunice Poindexter Stored with Plaque, which reads, "Theatre Guild 1965 Eunice Poindexter"

#### **Series IV - Plaques**

- Breckinridge Jr. High School Teacher of the Year 1975-76
- Appreciation for Dedicated Service to Her Community as a Member of the Mental Health Services of the Roanoke Valley Board of Directors (In Correlation with Document 12) (14 May 1987)
- The 14th Annual Celebrity Roast Presented by Tri-Ominis Club (29 June 1991)
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Award; Awarded by High Street Baptist Church (1991)
- Certification of Excellence Awarded to "Lady P" by The Lucy Addison Choir (30 July 1992)
- "Special Projects Task Force For NWCDC [Northwest Child Development Center Family] In Appreciation For Your Continuous Support Through The Successful 'Evening of Elegance'" (1992-1993)
- Award of Gratitude and Appreciation for Many Years of Loyal and Dedicated Service to Burrell Nursing Center; Awarded by Carilion (15 May 2000)

- Appreciation for Continuous and Outstanding Leadership and Service to Burrell Nursing Center December 1980-May 2000 (In Correlation with Previous Plaque)