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**Eugene Jackson Papers  
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**By  
EMILY MARGARET NEWELL**

**Portland, Maine  
December 10, 2021**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: These papers were donated by Eugene B. Jackson on September 11, 2007.

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Cite as: Eugene Jackson Papers, African American Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Library.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research.

## Biographical Note

Eugene B. Jackson was born on June 26, 1923, in Portland Maine. He lived his childhood in Portland where he attended both elementary school and high school, graduating from Portland High School in 1941. During his schooling, Jackson was either the only or one of a handful of African American students in his class.

After high school, Jackson joined the Army Air Force in 1942, and was sent almost immediately to Tuskegee, Alabama with most of the other African American recruits. (At this time the US military was separating recruits by color.) There he trained to become a mechanical engineer, he was to maintain the fighter plane radios and communications equipment. It was here, Jackson said, that he started experiencing racism for the first time in his life.

Jackson served in the Army Air Force from 1942 through the end of WWII. After being discharged he had trouble finding work and decided to re-enlist from 1950-1951. Following his second enlistment, Jackson began working on an engineering graduate degree at Boston University. He would eventually become a respiratory equipment technician, and machinist.

While studying at Boston University he met his wife, Dr. Constance Cordice Jackson (1920-2006), an English PhD student at BU. The two would be married for over fifty years.

On March 29, 2007, Jackson and other Tuskegee Airmen received The Congressional Gold Medal. His hometown of Marshfield, Massachusetts celebrated him on November 10, 2012, a day that they would call "Eugene Jackson Day"

Eugene Jackson passed away on September 20, 2015.

(Sources "Obituary for Eugene B. Jackson at Macdonald Funeral & Cremation Care Services.", *The Portland Press Herald* "Eugene Jackson 92, Portland Native, Member of famed Tuskegee Airmen", Find A Grave Index "MSGT Eugene B. Jackson and Constance C. Jackson", and "United States Census, 1940" database with images, Family Search.)

## **Description of the Papers**

This collection is comprised of family photographs, photo albums, bibles, hymnals, and newspaper from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onward. The collection is organized into three series:

### **Series 1: Photographs**

This series includes the personal photographs of Eugene Jackson's friends and family as far back as the early 1900s. The most common themes and activities found in these photographs are leisure activities such as trips to the beach or the mountains, family get-togethers, professional portraits, and Christmas greeting cards.

#### **Subseries 1.1: Loose Photographs**

Loose photographs are organized into topical folders.

#### **Subseries 1.2: Ruby Family Photograph Album**

The photograph album includes black-and-white and color prints and negatives of the Ruby family at home and in travel destinations around Maine, New Hampshire, and Quebec, including the Brunswick area, Bailey Island, Portland, Sebago Lake, the White Mountains, and Montreal. The album was taken apart and divided into folders for preservation. Digital images of the intact album are available on USM Digital Commons.

### **Series 2: Family Papers**

This series includes a birth certificate belonging to Pauline F. Jackson, as well as Gladys Ruby's birth certificate, and two copies of her death certificate. There are also several newsletters, notes, and thank you cards in this series.

### **Series 3: Books**

This series includes books that belonged to Eugene Jackson and his family members. Except for a 1999 issue of the *Island Journal* featuring an article about Ashley Bryan, the books are Christian religious texts, including multiple bibles and books of common prayer.

## **Keywords**

Eugene Jackson, Portland, Maine, African American, Army, Tuskegee Airmen, Congressional Gold Medal, Photographs, Rare Books, Hymnals, Bibles

## Box and Folder List

### Series 1 Photographs

#### Subseries 1.1 Loose Photographs

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
1	1	Trip to Long Island	1926 July
1	2	The Ruby/Jackson Family	1926, 1928, n.d
1	3	Travel/Nature	1930, 1937, n.d
1	4	Pets	1937, n.d
1	5	Unidentified Adults	1942, 1953, 1963-65, 1969, 1970, 1972, n.d
1	6	Unidentified Children	1944, n.d
1	7	Holiday Cards, Allen Family	1952, 1954-59
1	8	Holiday Cards, Giros Family	1953-54, 1957-58, n.d
1	9	Postcards	n.d
1	10	Assorted Large Photographs	n.d
1	11	"Snap Shots" photo album	n.d
1	12	Broken Large Class Photo	n.d
1	13	Ephemera	n.d

#### Subseries 1.2 Ruby Family Photograph Album

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
			approximately 1950-1970
1	14	Loose photo	
1	15	Pages 1 and 2	
1	16	Pages 3 and 4	
1	17	Pages 5 and 6	
1	18	Pages 7 and 8	
1	19	Pages 9 and 10	
1	20	Pages 11 and 12	
2	21	Pages 13 and 14	
2	22	Pages 15 and 16	
2	23	Pages 17 and 18	
2	24	Envelope 1, Prints	
2	25	Envelope 2, Prints	
2	26	Envelope 3, Negatives	

### Series 2 Family Papers

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
2	27	Prayer Cards	n.d.
2	28	Official Records	1903, 1921, 1977
2	29	Personal Papers	1993 July/Aug. 1993

MC8	Dr2	High School Diploma	March 2003 Oct., n.d
MC8	Dr2	Marriage Certificate	19 June 1941
MC8	Dr2	Sheepskin Apron	9 October 1895 n.d

### Series 3 Books

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
2	30	Joy of Living Bookmark	n.d.
2	31	<i>Pilgrim's Path</i>	n.d.
2	32	<i>The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments translated out of the original tongues and with the former translations diligently compared and revised by His Majesty's special command. Appointed to be read in churches</i>	1880
2	32	<i>The Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America together with Psalter or Psalms of David</i>	1907
2	32	<i>The Hymnal as authorized and approved for use by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in the ear of Our Lord MCMXVI</i>	1920
2	33	<i>The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: Translated out of Greek and with the former translations diligently compared and revised</i>	1906
3	34	<i>God's Purpose: A book of 366 Daily Sermonettes by eminent clergymen of the English-speaking world</i>	1939

3	34	<i>Strength for Service to God and Country: Daily Devotional Messages for men in the services / Edited by Chaplain Norman E. Nygaard</i>	1942
3	35	<i>The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: Conformable to the edition of 1611 commonly known as the Authorized King James version, The book of Psalms: translated out of the original tongues and with the former translations diligently compared and revised</i>	1943
3	36	<i>The Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America together with Psalter or Psalms of David. 2 copies.</i>	1944
3	37	<i>The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments translated out of the original tongues and with the former translations diligently compared and revised by His Majesty's special command</i>	1946
3	38	<i>The Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America together with Psalter or Psalms of David</i>	1952
3	39	<i>Island Journal</i>	1999