The papers of Victorine Quille Adams (1912 – 2006) Baltimore Public School teacher, business manager the Charm Center, Politician, and founder of the Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign Committee document the life of a native Baltimorean whose contributions to improve civic awareness and participation are notable. The collection is organized into 10 series: personal papers; family correspondence, organizational affiliations, correspondence, Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign, Woman Power, Baltimore City Council/Baltimore Fuel Fund, and artifacts. The bulk of the collection documents the membership and activities of the Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign and Woman Power. These two civic organizations were responsible for a great deal of voter education and assistance during the waning years of virulent Jim Crow. Another hefty aspect of the collection are the photographs. There are numerous photographs documenting African American leisure activities at Elkton Beach from swimming to family gatherings. A number of the images are identified and are dated from clothing and hairstyles.

Her organizational membership span the gamut from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, National Council of Negro Women, Baltimore Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Coppin State and Morgan State Alumni Associations and the National Organization of Women to name a few.
Scope Note

Her religious activity within the Roman Catholic Church sheds light on African American congregations within that denomination. Finally, Adams was a philanthropist. She endowed the Baltimore Fuel Fund’s Victorine Q. Adams Award where remarkable local talent were recognized for their endeavors to improve the quality of life for all Baltimoreans. The collection was donated by Victorine Q. Adams to her alma mater Morgan State University.
Biographical Sketch

April 28, 1912  Victorine Quille Adams was born in Baltimore to Joseph and Estelle Tate Quille.

1924?  Graduated from Public School #104.

1928?  Graduated from Frederick Douglass High School.

1930  Graduated from Coppin Normal School.


June 1940  Graduated from Morgan State College.

1940s  Taught in Baltimore Public Schools.

1946  Organized the Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign.

1948  Conducted “Register to Vote” Drive for the Democratic Women. She registered more than 4,000 new voters in one month.

1950s  Owner and Manager of the Charm Center.

1963  Chairman Provident Hospital Development Program.

1963-1964  Director of Registration Drive which put 30,000 new voters on the books.

1964  Co-founded Woman Power with Ethel P. Rich. Woman Power was a non-partisan group of Black women dedicated to political education, information, action and power.

1964  Campaign Director for U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson and the Democratic slate.

1966  Elected Maryland House of Delegates 4th District.

1967  Elected Baltimore City Council 4th District.

1970  Elected State Central Committee 4th District.

1978 - 1979  Founded the Baltimore Fuel Fund

January 8, 2006  Died
Series Description

**Series A**  
**Personal Papers**  
Box 12-1  
This series includes biographical information about the professional and academic life of Adams. There are programs where she is mentioned as well as a variety of news clippings about her achievements.

**Series B**  
**Family papers and correspondence**  
Box 12-1  
The items here document select activity of Adams husband William “Little Willie” Adams and her brother Allen Quille. There are also funeral programs and information about the William and Victorine Adams Foundation.

**Series C**  
**Organizational Affiliation**  
Box 12-2 to Box 12-4  
This series captures the variety of organizations social, civic and political that Adams affiliated with in membership, advocacy or sponsorship. Through the array of interests these organization provide a window into the social consciousness of Adams as an urban, African American woman. Of interest is information on Activist Inc., a Catholic affiliated organization that crusaded against Spiro Agnew and others whose political agenda dismissed poor people’s issues.

**Series D**  
**Correspondence**  
Box 12-5  
Adams interacted with all strata of residents in Maryland. Her early career as a public school teacher impelled her to advocacy on behalf of children. Civic rights and social justice matters grew out of her quest for equity. This series chronicles that evolution in consciousness. Correspondents include Senator Barbara Mikulski, Maryland Governor William D. Schaefer, Morgan Professor of Political Science G. James Fleming and Baltimore Mayors Thomas J. D’Alessandro, III and Kurt L. Schmoke, Clubwoman Lillie C. Jackson and First Lady, Ladybird Johnson among other notables.

**Series E**  
**Colored Women's Democratic Campaign**  
Box 12-6 To Box 12-7  
This series documents the formation and programmatic thrust to Baltimore’s African American women to empower the urban community through voter education and registration a note one founding document reads “welcome all women, register all and enlighten all.” Founded in 1946 by VQA. She honed her skills, resources and community connections to influence city, state and federal elections.
Series Description continued

Series F  Woman Power, Inc.
Box 12-8 to Box 12-10
This series documents the origin and progression this non-partisan political group VQA organized with Ethel P. Rich. Woman Power, Incorporated sought to mobilize the vote of women nation-wide. They sought to enlighten, engage, and employ politically astute women in communities across America to ensure that women and children as well as marginalized people and their interests were included in political campaigns. Of interest is the local strategy to host voter education workshops, welcome young women in junior divisions as well as host Morgan political scientist G. James Fleming to provide academic context to the importance of the vote.

Series G  Baltimore City Council & Baltimore Fuel Fund
Box 12-11 to Box 12-13
The items in this series document the civic activities of VQA. The Baltimore City Council is the legislative body comprised of 14 districts in conjunction with the mayor that administer Baltimore’s operation. VQA was the first woman elected to the City Council. There are speeches and ordinances created by VQA that demonstrate her crusade for equality. The Baltimore Fuel Fund was born in spring 1978. VQA in concert with business and religious leaders sought to meet the energy needs of marginalized people in Baltimore. On May 15, 1979 a formal agreement was made. The agreement would coordinate an energy conservation and education program in Baltimore to assist residents who demonstrated a need for financial aid for paying heating bills and utility services.

Series H  Photographs
Box 12-14 to Box 12-15
This series contains a wide array of images documenting the social and early life of VQA. There are a vast amount of images from Elktonia Beach and candid shots of William Adams and Joe Louis with identified entertainers of national and local repute. The images of the CWDC and Woman Power are well-documented and many are identified. Also there are items from the Charm Centre fashion shows as well as political campaigns.
Series Description continued

Series I  **Artifacts and Oversize Items**
Box 12-16 These items are awards, plaques, certificates and material culture that chronicle VQA’s political career. There is ephemera from the Baltimore Fuel Fund fundraisers as well as district maps outlining voting demographics throughout Baltimore. Of interest is an instructional voting machine used by Woman Power to demonstrate the voting booth experience for newly registered voters.
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**Series A**  
**Personal Papers**

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1 Biographical information  
2 Biographical information mailed to the *Baltimore Sun* 1971  
3 Certificates, membership cards and awards, 1943-1991  
4 Henry Highland Garnett School printed materials, 1936  
5 Morgan State College report card and diploma, 1947  
6 Travel diary domestic and international travels and name tag, 1963  
7 Program, Tribute and Dinner for Coach Earl C. Banks, December 4, 1992  
8 Variety of programs, identified, 1940-1996  
9 Sojourner-Douglass Adams tribute stationery, nd  
10 Coppin State University programs, identified, 1980-1991  
11 Certificates and proclamation for Councilwoman Adams, 1979-2000  
12 Membership certificate from City Council, December 7, 1967  
13 Kool Achievers, application materials, 1990  
14 Letters to Mayor Kurt Schmoke, 1991  
15 News clippings, 1982-1996  
16 Invitations and form letters, 1948-1986  
17 Obituary programs, identified people, 1975-1983  
18 News clippings, Adams and Verda Welcome, nd  
19 Adams campaign printed material, ca. 1960s  
20 Adams campaign speech, handwritten, nd  
21 Travel printed material, 1981  
22 Names of Our School partial copy, ca. 1938  
23 Programs where Adams is mentioned, 1954-2001  
24 Adams testimonial dinner, April 28, 1958 (4 copies)  
25 Wedding invitation, 1935  
26 New York School of Retailing certification, June 11, 1954  
27 Colored Women’s Democratic Committee essay, nd  
28 Club Casino financial report, 1953  
29 William and Victorine Adams Foundation, printed material, 1996  

**Series B**  
**Family papers and correspondence**

31 Allen Quille printed material, 1950 -1979  
33 Julia Lee Abrams, VQA’s aunt funeral program 1982  
34 William C. Quille, VQA’s brother obituary and funeral program 1984
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<td>8 Archdiocese of Baltimore, Urban Commission reorganized, 1968</td>
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<td>15 Charm Centre, You can make yourself a more..., 1970 [4 copies]</td>
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<td>19 Elktonia Beach Club materials, 1956</td>
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<td>20 Elktonia and Sparrow’s and Carr’s Beach directory, 1950s [3 copies]</td>
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| 12-3 | First Fridays Inc., meeting agenda, November 1988 |
| | 2 Grand Temple IBPOE, program VQA honored, August 1989 |
| | 3 Iota Phi Lambda, certificates, 1956 |
| | 4 Iota Phi Lambda, VQA’s scrapbook, 1956 |
| | 5 Iota Phi Lambda, correspondence and programs, 1983 & 1990 |
| | 6 League of Women Voters, printed materials, 1987 |
| | 7 Maryland General Assembly, welcome brochure, 1969 |
| | 8 MWPHGL of Maryland, correspondence re: Baltimore Fuel Fund, 1990 |
| | 9 National Council of Negro Women, printed items, 1947-1949 |
| | 10 Phi Delta Kappa, printed materials, 1950-1998 |
| | 11 Provident Hospital, workbook for volunteers, 1966-1967 |
| | 12 Provident Hospital, minutes of medical staff, 1967-1968 |
| | 13 Provident Hospital, Board of Trustees/Progress Report, 1969-1970 |
| | 14 Provident Hospital, internal/external correspondence, 1963-1974 |
| | 15 Provident Hospital, newsletter, Vol.1 #1 [single page], nd |
| | 16 Provident Hospital, essays, multiple titles, ca. 1960s |
| | 17 Provident Hospital, annual budget/financial items, 1966-1969 |
| | 18 Provident Hospital, certificates from VOA’s fundraisers, 1962 |
| | 19 Provident Hospital, committee reports, 1965-1970 |
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      2 Provident Hospital, Master Plan, nd
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      5 Provident Hospital, fundraising extended campaign, 1966
      6 School Marm's, printed materials, 1987-1988
      7 Sigma Gamma Rho, VOA speeches, 1960 & 1968
      8 Sigma Gamma Rho, voting materials/scholarship calendar, 1974
      9 Sigma Gamma Rho, regional correspondence, 1968
     10 Sigma Gamma Rho, chapter correspondence, 1991
     11 Sigma Gamma Rho, certificate, 1971
     13 Sigma Gamma Rho, Status of Outstanding Negro Women in DE, nd

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32 Schmoke, Kurt L.
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35 VQA form and draft letters
36 VQA miscellaneous correspondence
37 U.S. Presidential invitations and notes
38 Presidential menus and printed matter, Clinton and Kennedy
39 Invitations from Maryland politicians
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2 Member induction service, printed material, ca. 1946
4 General correspondence, 1954-2000
5 Memos, flyers and receipts, 1940s-1980s
6 Report of Coordinator, election of Louis L. Goldstein, May 18, 1964
7 Yearly Report and notes, 1953
8 Aims and yearly target by month, 1961, 1993
9 Junior Registration Corps, printed materials, 1950s-1960s
10 Membership roster and membership printed material, 1946-1990
11 Register to vote flyers and notices, 1948-1968
12 Certificates and awards, 1988-1992
13 CWDC Newsletter, 1950-1980
14 Forty Years program re: Loyal Randolph, 1986 [4 copies]
15 25th anniversary program, partial copy 1990
16 25th anniversary program, bound copy 1990 [5 copies]
17 CWDC stationery and letterhead
18 Get Out the Vote public relations information, ca.1950s
19 50th anniversary program, June 23, 1996
20 School for Candidates, by VQA, ca. 1960s [3 copies]
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2 Voter education and volunteer printed material, 1964  
3 Get out the Vote report/volunteer directory, 1964  
4 Voter education and volunteer printed material, 1964  
5 Voting strategy printed material, 1964-1966  
6 4th District Democratic organization, September 13, 1966 [3 copies]  
7 Special Report Citizen Committee, April 28, 1958  
8 Open letter from David T. Mason, re Juanita Mitchell, nd  
9 Programs CWDC events, 1950s-1940s  
10 Visiting Faculty Colloquium, March 8-13, 1964  
11 Souvenir program memorial dinner Thomas R. Smith, January 4, 1948  
12 *On This We Stood*, by Sue Bailey Thurman, ca. 1948  
13 Various programs and directories, 1961-1988  
14 Miscellaneous printed material/song sheets, 1950-1953  
15 Litany of Love of the NCNW, 1941 [3 copies]  

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1 Constitution, nd  
2 Constitution, Baltimore City, nd  
3 Bylaws and constitution, nd [2 copies]  
4 Stationery and brochure/printed materials, 1964-1965  
5 Correspondence and membership information, 1961-1990  
6 Tickets, invitations and membership blanks, nd  
7 Poster and flash cards, nd  
8 VQA certificate, 1983  
9 Teaching materials and non-partisan summary, 1964 & 1966  
10 Legislative update re: Cummings and Mfume, 1993 & 1998  
11 Newsletter, 1960s-1990’s  
12 Voter instructional printed material, nd [multiple copies]  
13 Proposed registration program by VQA, 1958 [2 copies]  
14 Voter Seminars, 1966 [multiple copies]  
15 Get Out the Vote, by VQA, November 3, 1964  
16 Register to Vote Campaign, tentative plan, nd  
17 Procedures for election-day volunteer material, May 13, 1969  
18 Registration plans door-to-door, by VQA, 1964  
19 Registration plans door-to-door canvas, by Maurice Holmes, 1967-1969  
20 Suggested registration techniques, by VQA, June – August 15, 1966  
21 Some suggestive “how to’s” by VQA and Ethel P. Rich, nd  
22 Humphrey – Muskie ticket, by VQA, 1968 [2 copies]
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|          | 5 Slate of Democratic candidates, 1974 |
|          | 6 1st Annual Leadership Conference, September 21, 1958 [2 copies] |
|          | 7 1st Annual Leadership Conference/Luncheon, September 21, 1958 |
|          | 8 2nd Annual Leadership Conference, November 15, 1959 |
|          | 9 3rd Annual Leadership Conference, supplement, 1958-1960 [2 copies] |
|          | 10 4th Annual Leadership Conference, November 5, 1961 |
|          | 12 Organizational manual, 1963 [2 copies] |
|          | 13 7th Annual Leadership Conference, with notes, October 18, 1964 |
|          | 16 11th Annual Leadership Conference, October 27, 1968 |
|          | 17 12th Annual Leadership Conference, supplement, 1969 |
|          | 18 13th Annual Leadership Conference, supplement, 1970 [2 copies] |
|          | 19 15th Annual Leadership Conference, October 22, 1972 |
|          | 20 16th Annual Leadership Conference, October 14, 1973 |
|          | 21 17th Annual Leadership Conference, supplement, 1974 |
|          | 22 18th Annual Leadership Conference, supplement, 1975 |
|          | 23 20th Annual Leadership Conference, October 30, 1977 |

<p>| 12-10    | 1 20th Anniversary, 1958-1978 [2 copies] |
|          | 3 26th Anniversary and workbook, 1958-1984 [2 copies] |
|          | 4 27th Anniversary, 1958-1985 [2 copies] |
|          | 5 28th Anniversary, 1958-1986 [2 copies] |
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<td>8 Opposition testimony, re: sleeping in public places, November 23, 1982</td>
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<td>11 Public Housing schedule, February 6, 1970 &amp; April 13, 1970</td>
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<td>12 Present Crisis, VQA speech, February 24, 1970 [2 copies]</td>
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<td>13 Greater Service, Greater Progress VQA speech, November 23, 1968</td>
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<td>17 America’s Present Agony, by Clarence Long, nd</td>
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<td>18 Keynote address, by Percy Sutton, nd</td>
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3 Bylaws, nd [2 copies]
4 Financial records, IRS paperwork and audit, 1979, 1991
5 Programs variety 1983, 1991-1992
6 Programs St. Frances Academy and Project Survival, 1981 & 1991
7 VQA Woman of the Year, May 14, 1984 [4 copies]
8 Brochures and printed material, 1994
9 Cold Hurts Fuel Fund campaign material, 1987
10 VQA speeches, untitled and 85th anniversary remarks, 1997
11 40th anniversary Marion Curtis Bascom program, June 21, 1990

12-13 1 Financial records and benefit materials, 1990-1994
2 VQA Humanitarian Awards program June 7, 1990 [3 copies]
3 VQA 85th birthday program, April 27, 1997 [2 copies]
4 VQA Humanitarian Awards program June 6, 1991 [4 copies]
7 Metro Classic printed material, 1986, 1988, 1990
8 Membership materials, 1982-1996
9 Preliminary Report, April 1988-July 1988
10 Mayor’s Citation, August 18, 1987
11 VQA Humanitarian Awards program, multiple copies, 1985-1996
12 Steering committee handbook, 1981

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2 VQA and identified politicians, 1940s-1950s
3 VQA and William Adams at Iota Chapter dance, 1930s
4 VQA candid images, 1950s
5 VQA with identified Baltimore personalities, 1950s
6 VQA with unidentified people, 1950s
7 VQA travel images, Egypt, Israel and Greece, 1972
8 VQA with School Marms, 1940s
9 VQA campaign headquarters/advertisement, 1960s
10 VQA people and events, identified people, 1950s – 1970s
11 VQA people and events, identified people, 1913-1940s
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13 VQA with family members, 1914-1950s
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       16 VQA at Elktonia Beach with others, identified, 1940s
       17 VQA with politicians and Baltimore Fuel Fund, 1970s-1980s
       18 VQA at Elktonia
       19 Identified people, 1930s-1950s
       20 VQA, William Adams and identified people, 1940s
       21 VQA, William Adams, G. James Fleming, campaign events 1960s
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       28 Club Casino photo holders
       29 Sigma Gamma Rho, Alpha Alpha Sigma, 17th Boule

12-15  1 Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign and VQA, 1940s
       2 Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign, events and VQA, 1940s-1950s
       3 Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign with captions 1950s-1970s
       4 Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign and identified people, 1970s
       5 Colored Women’s Democratic Campaign and VQA, 1950s-1970s
       6 Democratic Women identified people/events, 1960s-1970s
       7 Woman Power, identified people/politicians, 1960s
       8 Woman Power and VQA identified people, 1960s-1970s
       9 Woman Power VQA desegregation luncheon, 1958
      10 Woman Power VQA, Verda Welcome, Adam Clayton Powell, 1965
      11 Woman Power Henry Parks signing document & others, 1967
      12 Joe Louis, wife Marva Louis and others, 1940s-1950s
      13 Entertainers, identified, some prints signed, 1930s-1950s
      14 Baltimore Fuel Fund identified events, 1970s-1980s
      15 Charm Centre Fashion Show and VQA, 1958
      16 VQA at Charm Centre, 1950s
      17 Elktonia Beach, unidentified people, 1950s
      18 Entertainers and candid images, identified, 1948-1960s
      19 Plimco Race finish line, VQA and others, 1970s
      20 Identified people and locations 1960s
Container List

**Series H**  
**Photographs continued**

- **Box**
- **Folder**
- **12-15**  
  - 21 Baltimore teachers and school children, 1940s
  - 22 Unidentified people, 1940s
  - 23 Unidentified people, 1930s-1940s
  - 24 Unidentified people, 1960s
  - 25 World War II images, identified people/entertainers, 1940s-1950s

**Series I**  
**Artifacts and Oversize Items**

- **Box**
- **Folder**
- **12-16**  
  - 1 1st in the Nation the Baltimore Fuel Fund, key chain [6 items]
  - 2 VQA appreciation plaque from Baltimore Fuel Fund, June 10, 1981
  - 3 VQA outstanding service award National Aquarium of Baltimore, 1982
  - 4 Maryland House of Delegates license plate, #93, 1968 [2 plates]

- **12-17**  
  - 1 Colored Master Beauticians Association ribbon [fragile]
  - 2 Morgan College degree holder
  - 3 VQA appreciation award, MD League of Women’s Club, March 27, 1976
  - 4 VQA superior public service Afro American award, 1948

- **12-18**  
  - 1 Scrapbook 1 re: House of Delegates No. 19 – handwritten
  - 2 Scrapbook 2 re: National Offices president/vice president – handwritten
  - 3 Scrapbook 3 re: Problems of workers - handwritten

- **12-19**  
  - Instructional automatic voting machine Jamestown, NY model #4377

- **12-20**  
  - Baltimore ward maps, 1961-1966
  - Estelle Carey Quille Evening Vocational Schools certificate March 1941
  - Miniature boxing gloves made in Spain, [2 pairs]
  - VQA certificates from Maryland legislators, 1977-1997
  - William Adams with others at Club Casino, ca. 1950s

- **12-21**  
  - Baltimore ward maps, 1961-1966
  - VQA campaign poster and material
  - Mfume for Congress poster, [3 copies]
  - Baltimore Fuel Fund advertisement
  - Woman Power advertisement