John Buckner was born August 31, 1922, the only son of historian and educator Julia Davis. He graduated from Sumner High School in 1939. Buckner attended Stowe Teachers' College (renamed Harris-Stowe College in 1979) where he became the first male graduate in 1942. Buckner did graduate work at Northwestern University, the State University of Iowa, and Columbia University's Teacher College.

Buckner spent the rest of his life as an educator. From January 1943 to June 1960, he served on Sumner High School's faculty as a mathematics teacher, mathematics department chairman, and an advisor to students in a high achievers program. In 1960 Buckner joined the Superintendent's office of St. Louis Public Schools as a general consultant and supervisor of secondary education. At his own request, he returned to the Sumner faculty in 1964. Buckner became the school's principal in 1968, the first native St. Louisan and Sumner graduate to do so. He held the position until 1971. At the time of his death, Buckner worked as a curriculum specialist with St. Louis Public Schools.

A list of Buckner's affiliations with civic and fraternal organizations included: the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; the Boy Scouts of America; the Ferrier-Harris Home for the Aged; the Young Men's Christian Association; and the Annie Malone Children's Home. An active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity from 1942-1977, Buckner served as its president in the 1950s, as well as its National Life Membership Chairman until 1975. He also chaired the fraternity's Sixtieth Anniversary Convention held in St. Louis in 1966.

Buckner sat on the Board of Directors of the Annie Malone Children's Home for many years. He chaired the Home's annual May Day celebrations during the 1960s. Then in January 1975, Buckner became the President of the Home's Board of Directors.

Buckner's other activities included membership on the Freedom of Residence Committee; the Board of Managers for the YMCA'S junior kindergarten; and the Equal Opportunity Committee of the Human Development Corporation, Inc. He served as chairman of HDC during 1974 and 1975. Also, the St. Louis Argus chose Buckner as toastmaster for its Distinguished Public Service Awards Banquet eight times from 1967-1977.

John D. Buckner died on July 17, 1977. He had recently returned to St. Louis from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he had attended the Seventh World Council of the YMCA as a delegate.
SCOPE AND CONTENT


The personal papers series reflects Buckner's work with a variety of civic, fraternal, and educational organizations. It contains information on: the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; the Boy Scouts of America; the Ferrier-Harris Home for the Aged; the Freedom of Residence Committee; St. Paul's AME Church; Sumner High School; the YMCA; the United Fund of Greater St. Louis, Inc.; and Homer G. Phillips Hospital.

Series two documents Buckner's service on the Board of Directors of the Annie Malone Children's Home. Topics covered include Camp Wonderland, a group home for girls, May Day celebrations, a children's library, and finances.

Photographs and artifacts comprise series three. This series includes photos of the Freedom of Residence Committee, Annie Malone Children's Home May Day Parade, Sumner High School's 100th anniversary, and the Pan Hellenic Council. The photos picture John Buckner, Julia Davis, Ruth Porter, John Bass, and Dick Gregory. The artifacts folder contains buttons and tags from Annie Malone Children's Home.

Some material from Buckner's papers has been removed and placed in other relevant collections. A newscutting was placed in the Mathews Dickey Boys' Club Records, collection 189. A genealogy of the George Stevens' family and a Women's Day pamphlet was integrated into George F. Stevens "History of the Central Baptist Church, 1846-1926," collection 28. Additional information on some organizations can be found in the following: Freedom of Residence, Greater St. Louis Committee, collection 438; the Black History Project, collection 201; and Afro-Americans in St. Louis, collection 36.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1 - PERSONAL PAPERS, 1875-1981, FOLDERS 1-94
Arranged alphabetically. Includes awards, budgets, correspondence, minutes, programs, reports, newsletters, a history of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, and xeroxed copies of Sumner and Vashon High Schools' yearbooks. Civic and fraternal organizations represented include: the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; the Boy Scouts of America; the Ferrier-Harris Home for the Aged; the Homer G. Phillips Hospital; the Freedom of Residence Committee; the United Fund of Greater St. Louis, Inc.; and the YMCA.

SERIES 2 - ANNIE MALONE CHILDREN'S HOME RECORDS, 1962-1978, FOLDERS 95-116
In alphabetical order. Contains annual reports, an affirmative action plan, a constitution, audit reports, financial statements, Board of Directors' meeting minutes, and a 1971 "Mutual Care Home" grant proposal.

SERIES 3 - PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTIFACTS, 1954-1975, #12294-12307, FOLDERS 117-121
Arranged alphabetically by subject. Includes Freedom of Residence (#12294 - 12297); Annie Malone Children's Home (#1298-12299); Pan Hellenic Council (#12300-12302); and Sumner High School's 100th anniversary (#12303-12307). Folder 121 contains artifacts from Annie Malone Children's Home.

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1. Alpha Phi Alpha Building Foundation, Inc., 1970
3. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Lambda Chapter-Budgets, 1958-1961
5. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Lambda Chapter-Life Membership Committee, 1974


7. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Newsletters, 1961-1965
8. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Programs, 1961-1979
9. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Midwestern Regional Convention, 1965
10. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, St. Louis American, August 16, 1966
11. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, 60th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis, 1966

15. George Dennis Brantley Scholarship Fund, Inc., 1968
16. Buckner's Stationery, Note, and Personal Letter, N.D.
17. Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers Inc., 1963
18. Citizens Committee for the Betterment of Kinloch, 1964
21. Julia Davis, Bibliography and Correspondence, 1975
23. Election Literature, John Bass, 1975

25. "Fair Housing," Reports, 1965
27. Freedom of Residence Committee, Correspondence, 1963-1968
29. Freedom of Residence Committee, Statement of Purpose, Newsletter, and Incorporation, 1963-1964

30. Freedom of Residence-Statements, Notes, 1964-1965
33. Granberry Recreation Summer Program, 1976
34. Human Development Corporation of St. Louis, Newsletter and Booklet, 1967, 1975
37. National Conference to Prevent Juvenile Delinquencies, 1954
38. Office of Economic Opportunity, 1974-1975
39. Peoples Hospital Committee for Liquidation, July 18, 1967
40. Homer G. Phillips Hospital, Dental Clinic Article, Jan. 1955 and Internes Alumni Association, Convention

Agenda March 1947
41. Homer G. Phillips Hospital, "The History and Development of Homer G. Phillips Hospital", 1963

42. Homer G. Phillips Hospital, Journal of the National Medical Association Article, Nov. 1961

43. Homer G. Phillips Hospital, School of Nursing Programs, 1947, 1948, 1950
44. Homer G. Phillips Hospital, 25th Anniversary Booklet, 1962
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54. St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Souvenir Program, 1840-1940
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57. Stowe Teachers College Yearbook, 1949
58. Sumner High School, Administration Bios, 1875-1972
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66. Sumner High School, Yearbook, 1931
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81. United Fund, Personnel Review Committee Minutes and Agenda, March-April, 1965
82. United Fund, Personnel Review Committee Minutes and Agenda, June-Sept., 1965

84. United Fund, Salary Surveys and Schedules, 1964-1973
85. Vashon High School Yearbook, 1945
86. Vashon High School Yearbook, 1947
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89. YMCA, Junior Kindergarten, 1967
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