



*Special Collections/Archives Department
John B. Coleman Library
Prairie View A&M University*

MSS0017

The O. J. Baker Papers Collection

Compiled by Evelyn Davis, March 2024

The O. J. Baker Papers Collection Finding aid

Collection Overview

Creator: O. J. Baker

Title: The O. J. Baker Papers Collection

Dates: 1931-2017

Quantity: .25 Linear Feet (½ box)

Abstract: The collection includes documents about the Head Librarian, O. J. Baker, and his time at Prairie View A&M College.

Identification: MSS0017

Use Restrictions: Written permission must be obtained from the Special Collections/ Archives Department and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts, or images from any materials in this collection.

Language: The materials are in English.

Repository: Prairie View A&M University

Biographical Note:

In 1900, Orestes J. Baker was born in Pike County, Alabama. He enrolled at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA where he sang in the glee club under the direction of Kemper Harreld. He started his librarian career here and graduated with honors in 1930. He enrolled at Hampton Institute in 1931 to study librarianship with the help of the Julius Rosenwall fund. He later been invited and served as head librarian at Prairie View A&M College in 1931. Baker retired after 35 years of service as Head Librarian in 1966. Lastly, there is limited information available about Orestes J. Baker to craft a full biographical summary for this Finding Aid.

Sources:

McKay, Junior. (2010). Prairie View Cemetery, Waller County, Texas. *Usgw archives*.
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/waller/cemeteries/prairieview.txt>

O. J. Baker. (n.d.). *Pillars of Prairie View*. Accessed March 26, 2024.

Scope and Contents Note:

The collection is arranged in two series: the personal papers of O. J. Baker and the W. R. Banks Library related documents. These folders used to be in the “The PVAMU Alumni and

Faculty” collection but separated to add more information about the history of the W. R. Banks Library. A collection was created to highlight the librarians who came to Prairie View and changed the dynamics of research and instruction for all students.

Series One: Personal Papers, 1971-2017, undated

These documents contain biographical information about O. J. Baker. Some photocopies of images of O. J. Baker were added to the collection later in the late 2010s.

Series Two: W. R. Banks Library Files, 1948-1971, undated

This series has periodicals related to libraries, research and instruction only.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

The O. J. Baker Papers Collection, MSS0017, Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

Related Material:

The W. R. Banks Library Collection.

Index Terms

Baker, O. J. (1900-1986).

Prairie View Normal and Industrial College (Prairie View, TX)

Prairie View (TX).

Inventory

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date	Location
Series One: Personal Papers, 1971-2017, undated				
1	1	Pillars of Prairie View article	Undated	R2/C1/R2
1	1	Find a grave picture of O. J. Baker	2017	R2/C1/R2
1	1	Photocopy of Black and white images of O. J. Baker (5 total)	Undated	R2/C1/R2
1	1	O. J. Baker, B. A., B.L.S., M.L.S--Head Librarian article	2015	R2/C1/R2
1	1	Texas board of mental health and mental retardation membership letter	1971	R2/C1/R2
1	1	Oath of office: Texas board of mental health and mental retardation membership (2 copies)	1971	R2/C1/R2
1	1	Rosenwald article	Undated	R2/C1/R2

1	1	Greenwood Missionary Baptist church	1958	R2/C1/R2
1	1	Resume	Undated	R2/C1/R2
1	1	The Waller County News-Citizen newspaper clipping	11/1989	R2/C1/R2
1	1	The Houston Post newspaper article: "Negro appointee 'glad' "	1971	R2/C1/R2
1	2	Commencement Address Summer 1942	1942	R2/C1/R2
		Series Two: W. R. Banks Library Files, 1947-		
1	3	College and research libraries, vol.1/no.1	12/1943	R2/C1/R2
1	3	Current trends and events of national importance in negro education by O. J. Baker (2 copies)	1947	R2/C1/R2
1	3	Correspondence	1958	R2/C1/R2
1	3	The triangle of instruction and learning pamphlet	1949	R2/C1/R2
1	3	Impact newsletter, vol.1/no.3	06/1971	R2/C1/R2
1	4	Handbook of library economy for teachers and principals in small schools in Texas	Undated	R2/C1/R2