



NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society
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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAMILY OF BROWN V. BOARD PLAINTIFF TO DONATE DOCUMENTS TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Letters, photos, clippings among Lucinda Todd collection

TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced it will host a small ceremony at the State Archives & Library Gallery, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, at 2 p.m. July 2, 2008 during which the family of Lucinda Todd will present a collection of papers and photos that belonged to the Brown v. Board plaintiff.

In 1950, Todd watched out the window of her home at SW 10th and Jewell as her daughter Nancy got off the bus that brought her home from Buchanan Elementary School, located a few miles away. As Nancy hurried around the front of the bus, an approaching car nearly struck her. This “last straw” drove her mother to see local NAACP president McKinley Burnett, insisting that segregation was no longer acceptable. This prompted the local chapter to give the law firm of Scott and Scott the go-ahead in building a case against the school board.

Todd, who was the secretary of the local NAACP chapter, wrote a letter to Walter White in the New York NAACP office, asking for their commitment to the case. White’s response to that letter is included in the collection to be donated to the Historical Society in July. Among the collection are:

- an original handwritten draft document that outlines Todd’s thoughts on the legal efforts, including a list of financial gifts made by private citizens
- Todd’s scrapbook of newspaper clippings
- Todd’s high school diploma and college transcript
- photo of Nancy Todd in front of Buchanan Elementary School
- historic photo of Todd home
- handwritten list of Brown plaintiffs, both children and parents
- handwritten note from Todd to CBS on White House stationery

The Kansas Historical Society is located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue. The State Archives & Library is open 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. For more information visit kshs.org or call 785-272-8681.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

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