

Reference Code MS 118

Repository: Georgia Room, Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, 823 Telfair St. Augusta, Ga 30901

Title: Miscellaneous Collections

Date: N/A

Extent: 1 box

Scope and Content: Contains items purchased and/or collected by Georgia Room personnel that relate to the history or genealogy of the Augusta, Georgia area.

Name of Creator: Tina Monaco

Administrative/Biographical History: Accrual is ongoing. See individual collections for biographical information.

Conditions governing access No restrictions.

Box 1, Collection 2: items found at estate sale in Aiken, South Carolina.

- Poster advertising St. John Holy Temple in Warrentville, South Carolina. Image of Elder Tom Simpkins appears on poster. Times of services listed on poster as well as location address. Undated but appears to be c. 1970s
- Poster advertising *St. John's Holiness Recreation Center for Tourist & Entertainment*. Poster shows image of recreation area along with amenities offered and location of recreation center. Undated but appears to be c. 1970s

Rev. Tom Simpkins

August 16, 2007 | Augusta Chronicle, The (GA)

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Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Friday at G. L. Brightharp & Sons Mortuary Chapel with Rev. Curtis Murph officiating. Interment will be in the family cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. this evening. Friends may call the residence of Arthur Simpkins, 165 Shazach Lane, Graniteville or the funeral home after 2 p.m. today.

Tom Simpkins was born March 15, 1912 in Edgefield County, S.C. He later relocated to the Aiken area. Mr. Simpkins was the first African American

business owner in the Aiken area. He started out by shining shoes and then moved on to cutting hair. He used the money from these jobs to open a restaurant/cafe which also had the areas only swimming pool offered to African Americans. He later built and opened Mountain Laurel Motel, Forest Hill Lake Recreational Center, and the 6 Spot Cafe. Although Mr. Simpkins was successful in all of his business ventures, he felt something was missing in his life. He received a calling from God and then built and ministered at St. John's Holiness Temple.

G.L. Brightharp & Sons Mortuary, 390 Beaufort St., Aiken. (803) 648-0134.

The Augusta Chronicle-August 16, 2007