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<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Wallace, Margarette: &quot;The True Life of Josephine&quot;: holograph, photocopy</th>
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<td><strong>Call Number</strong></td>
<td>JWJ MSS 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Wallace, Margarette</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Published/Created Date</strong></td>
<td>1977 Feb 8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Title</strong></td>
<td>Henry Hurford Janes-Josephine Baker collection</td>
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The true age of my birth is St. Louis Mo.
1866 on the 3rd of June. Raised by
our mother and Mrs. Carrie McDonald
Martin and my father Arthur
Martin. We were raise in slums
of St. Louis. Not far from
the Mississippi River. She was the older
of four children. Richard was born
the 12 of Oct. 1904. Margaret was
born in Dec. 1908. We all went
to School. Which was at 14th Street
Temple as we all called her was
the smart girl, who did not like to
go to School, but would take us
because. She had our lunch, which
was molasses and pancakes. Our
mother had to work, and paper work
when he could. As there was not
much for men doing those hard time,
and it was very cold in the winter.
Temple use to stoke us in rich Roads
yard to pick up coal to heat our
two rooms house. Papa made a
stove each of a large Garbage Can.
and Muma also cooked our food on it.
I remember when papa went on the rail road yards to pick up some coal for us. And the watch man caught him. He arrested him. The policeman came and told mama. The next day mama took us all to court. When the judge came and called Arthur Martin to the stand, he asked why he was stealing coal. But Arthur papa said, "Humph, Humph. Just and Mr. Judge, please don't put papa in jail. He only took a little coal to keep us warm, as we are poor and papa don't have any work so he can help same coal. And if you don't him in jail, when I am a big girl I will pay you back. So please don't listen to that watchman because he is bad. I saw me take Sister downt and Good Shoes. Also Mary and papa have sticks on our feet. The judge said, little girl, you are a good girl. So I am going to let your papa go, but you must promise and that you bend papa well. Go in the yards again. Also I am going to give you the money to keep your
Take Sister some shoes. Now you go home and be a good girl. May God bless you all. Lumpy was so happy what I remember is why Lumpy always though of brotherhood was the way we were raised. Mama raises us to say half sister nor brother. because God gave us to her. That she had us to bring us in the world. Her self and no one else. So we must love one another far she was the mother of us. Each child was her love and to never left her the word of half. So Lumpy and all four of us grew up with her love far each other. Lumpy seeing how we were. I think she made up her mind that mankind could live together as one whole family as God had planned in the fresh place. So she went about trying to do God will. often times she would say to me Sister you so pretty and sweet. I wish I could be like you. and I would say to her you are the one who pretty. I am big and fat and of course we would get into it.
one saying the other was pettles. But it
would end up talking about God and
good he was to us. I'd still be together
as we had come along ways from
St. Louis in the Studeb a month day
hunger and cold. She would say poor
mama and papa did their best
and she could never get over those good
old days. That was why her life was
so different from other people. We
were poor but happy. To remember our
young life. She always wanted to do all
She could for the poor people. She
took her children to show people that
we live together, no matter how poor
as long as we love and respect each
other. About East St. Louis race riot, we
never lived East St. Louis nor in boy
car althea we did live basement as
they were rented cheap, yes we all
seen how the Colored came over the
cases Brehg some of them were
trying to away. Babies was
in the Mississippi river
like rats. Mother stomach
ea h open with baby in her
Lump and us kids bread an
afraid, but Mama told us not to be scared as
God would take care of us. Lumpię asked
Mama would God take care of all those
colored people to Heaven with him. She
said one day she was going to be rich and
take us her and very smart away where
we would never be hungry nor cold.
I also remember one time. Lumpię was
a smart kid. She use to pepel in the
bed and would put it on me. Mama
would give me a good Spaning and say
I was lazy. But Papa said Carrie don’t
beat her any more because I am sure
it is not Margarette. Mama said how do
you know? Papa said tonite we will
no the truth. So after every one was in
bed, but Papa was not. Sleep as he was
waiting. Sometimes during the nite, he
said the lamps turn up. He got up to
see what was wrong, and there before
the heating Stone was Lumpię drying
her nite gown. Papa called Mama to
look. The next morning my place was
well. Papa said to Lumpię. Lumpię you
pee in the bed and put Teister in space
place. Now I want the truth. Have you
been facing and putting it on sister
no you are not going to get a spanking
of you tell the truth that it is very bad.
A little girl to lie, Lumpy started to cry,
and told papa it was her and she
was very sorry, and would not do it again.
I also remember your first Xmas tree. It was
on a Saturday before Xmas we all got up
early to go with Lumpy to scrub steps.
It was very cold so mama put paper to
put in our shoes also put news paper
on our chest so we wouldn't catch
off we went with Lumpy we had to walk
trip, but we were all happy because
Lumpy was telling us what Santa Clause
was going to bring this Xmas, when we
got to place the trees to work. The lady
said, "Josphine what are you doing and
a cold day like this?" She said, "That to
morning I was Xmas, and I had to make
some money so Santa Clause could
come and bring some nice things
for sisters and brother and a nice present
for mama and papa and our grandmother.
The lady said to Josphine, what would
she build? Josphine told what wanted
for it all. She said, that would cost.!
a lots. Josephine said that she could buy all for five dollars. She asked me
Josephine. I am going to give the money. But you must promise me. If I will go home and this cold weather. Your brother and sister will catch a cold. Also you. She gave Jumpy the money. Josephine wish her Merry Xmas. We were going home when Jumpy saw a Xmas tree. She and her sister and brother came wish here. As I am going to this store and ask how much the man want for this Xmas tree. So we can take it home. Sure enough Josephine got the tree for 50 cent. when we got home mama asked where we get the money from and of course we told mama he had paper and Jumpy gave the rest to mom to buy our dinner and other things that was needed. Papa work for a man who had a fruit market. He gave papa all the fruit for his Xmas present. Jumpy stay up with mama, papa and grandm to dress the tree and help with the cooking. The next day we had a nice Xmas.
Nite. after seven years, Lumpje wrote to Mama and said she was coming to us. That was 1935 Oct. I was then married to Elmo for three months. Everyone was so happy. Went Emma, Uncle Peter and all our cousins came to our house to see her. Richard, his wife and all his children. She could only stay four days. So she said to Mama she was all going to have a real party. Mama threw the money you gave and bought everything for a big family dinner. As I wanted to see you all happy together as God had been so good to us. Even my baby sis and are not with us anymore. We will remember them just the same. The four days passed so fast and in no time for Lumpje to go away again but before she left she asked her brother did he want he told her that he wanted a coal truck. She asked her brother I am going to buy one for you. Tomorrow you come and get me and Mama and we will go see about one for you. So the next day they went got brother a new Ford truck and paid 13 hundred