

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OMAHA**

ME FILE NO. 100-2332

REPORT MADE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	DATE WHEN MADE 8/17/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/27;7/27/48	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE CHANGED: STANLEY GRIFFIN; EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka, Mrs. Stanley Griffin, Edna May Williams			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

yes
Birth date
not on file

Records Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, reflect EDNA MAY WILLIAMS born 10/23/09, Carlisle, Kentucky. Attended Pittsfield, Massachusetts High School. Presently residing 1108 Third Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Attended Fisk University 1928 to 1933. Transcript sent to Drake University per request February 1948.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED - RUC -

G.I.R. 2

REFERENCE: DATE 02-09-2006 BY AUC 60308 Report SA ROBERT E. DOND dated 5/7/48 at Omaha, Nebraska. TAM/DCG/JW

DETAILS: The title of the report is being marked CHANGED to reflect the addition of the name EDNA MAY WILLIAMS, maiden name of EDNAMAY GRIFFIN, as is thus reflected in the records of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Registrar's Office, Fisk University, furnished the records concerning EDNA MAY WILLIAMS, who is identical with EDNA MAY GRIFFIN mentioned in referenced report. This record reflected that EDNA MAY WILLIAMS was born October 23, 1909 at Carlisle, Kentucky, the daughter of EDWARD HEARST WILLIAMS and HENRIETTA WILLIAMS. At the time of her application for admission to Fisk University, EDNA MAY WILLIAMS gave her father's occupation as janitor and residence as 74 Edison Avenue, Pittsfield, Massachusetts. It was reflected that she graduated from Pittsfield, Massachusetts High School in June 1926 and gave Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as references. In reply to the question appearing on the application as to publications which she read, she listed FTUDE, THE CRISIS, LITERARY DIGEST, and the SATURDAY EVENING POST. Among the matters

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Omaha 2 Boston (info) 2 Memphis COPIES DESTROYED 85 1 NOV 7 1962	100-355489-3 RECORDED - 116 INDEXED - 116 12 AUG 24 1948 <i>[Signatures]</i>

71 SEP 1 - 1948

in which she was most interested, she listed "the negro, politics".
EDNA MAY WILLIAMS attended Fisk University from 1928 to 1933.

The record further reflected that in February 1948 a request had been received from EDNA WILLIAMS GRIFFIN, requesting that a transcript of her record be transmitted to the registrar of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, stating that she desired to continue graduate work at that institution. Her record reflected that she had majored in Sociology during her work at Fisk University. She gave her address as 1108 Third Street, Des Moines, Iowa at the time she requested the transcript. The record failed to reflect any additional information concerning her or any outside activities in which she engaged.

[redacted] advised that this record contained all information relative to former students, and that no additional record was maintained concerning outside activities in which EDNA MAY WILLIAMS engaged at the time she was attending Fisk University. [redacted] stated EDNA MAY WILLIAMS resided at 1016 Sixteenth Avenue N., Nashville, for two years during the period she was attending Fisk University, stating that during the other time she lived in the dormitory. b7C

[redacted] advised EDNA MAY WILLIAMS had lived in her home while she was attending Fisk University earning her way by doing house work. She stated she knew of no friends or associates she had other than STANLEY GRIFFIN, whom she ultimately married. She said that she considered her to be a loyal citizen and knew of no organizations or groups to which she belonged. She stated that going to school and doing the house work occupied practically all her time and she did not engage in any outside activities whatsoever to her knowledge.

A search of the records of the Nashville Police Department and the Nashville Credit Bureau failed to reflect any information concerning EDNA MAY WILLIAMS.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

ME 100-2332

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Two copies of this report are being designated for the Boston Division for information, in view of the fact that investigation may be requested of that office in the future.

JCL:fh

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-21-2006 BY AUC 60309
TAM/DCG/JW

Omaha file 100-4095
Bureau file 100-355489

STANLEY GRIFFIN;
EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka Mrs. Stanley
Griffin, Edna May Williams.
SECURITY MATTER - C

Handwritten initials and numbers: "H" and "8-4"

Inspector Gurnea:

Information was received from the New York Office on May 21, 1947 that the two subjects had contributed to the Defense Fund of the Communist Party. Further information was developed from Confidential Informant [redacted] that both subjects had attended a Communist Party meeting in Des Moines, Iowa during January 1948. In the last report submitted by the Omaha Office dated May 7, 1948, the names of both subjects, man and wife, are carried in the title of the report. There are several memoranda in the file containing information regarding the subjects' activities and the case is in a delinquent status. It is also noted that in the above report only two copies of the report are designated for the Omaha Office.

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G. I. R. - 8

In the future, reports should be submitted on the individual subjects and three copies should be retained for the Omaha Office. Section 44 J of the Manual of Instructions states that only one subject should be carried in the title of each report and when husband and wife are both subjects of investigation in the field office a separate report should be submitted. Also, you are instructed in Section 44 K of the Manual of Instructions that the office of origin in this type of investigation should retain three copies.

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-355489-83

SAC Dalton:

This case will be brought to a current status in the immediate future and the suggestions of the Inspector in regard to the submission of reports in the future will be carried out.

Inspection Report
Omaha Office
Inspector Gurnea
December 3, 1948

100-355489-
RECORDED
31 DEC 31 1948

Handwritten initials: "JS"

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

OM FILE NO. 100-4095

REPORT MADE AT OMAHA, NEBRASKA	DATE WHEN MADE 2-3-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-4, 9; 8-6-48; 1-14, 21-49	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> b7C
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TITLE CHANGED EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka, Mrs. Stanley Griffin, Edna May Williams.	CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Meeting of Des Moines Branch of Communist Party, USA, District #32, held at the home of [redacted] at [redacted]. Subject no longer a student at Drake University; now housewife. WARREN BATTERSON, Chairman of District #32, has reportedly visited subject's home several times in Des Moines. Subject is chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 5th Congressional District of Iowa for the Progressive Party. Subject recently denied service at Katz Drug Store, Des Moines, Iowa, and MAURICE KATZ was charged with violation of the Iowa Civil Rights Law and found guilty.

gpc
see DR 2/3/49 WEL-v-4

4-1
b7C 8-1
11-2

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-21-2006 BY AUC 60309

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] dated May 7, 1948, Omaha, Nebraska entitled, "STANLEY GRIFFIN; EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka Mrs. Stanley Griffin: SECURITY MATTER - C."
Report of SA [redacted] dated 8-17-48, Memphis, Tennessee.

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DETAILS:

AT DES MOINES, IOWA

The title of this report is being marked Changed to reflect the deletion of the subject STANLEY GRIFFIN whose activities, in accordance with Bureau instructions, will be reported hereafter under the title of STANLEY GRIFFIN; SECURITY MATTER - C.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. L. Dalton</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Boston 3 Omaha 57 FEB 28 1949		100-355489-4	RECORDED - 116 INDEXED - 116 EX-31
		FEB 7 1949 <i>[Handwritten signatures and stamps]</i>	

OM 100-4095

LEADS

THE BOSTON DIVISION

AT PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Will attempt to ascertain through available sources the activities and reputation of subject EDNA GRIFFIN, nee WILLIAMS, who at the time of her attendance at Fiske University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1928 to 1932, gave her home address as 74 Edison Avenue, Pittsfield, Massachusetts; father's name EDWARD HEARST WILLIAMS.

THE OMAHA DIVISION

AT DES MOINES, IOWA

Will continue to report and follow the activities of the subject as regards her Communist connections.

OM 100-4095

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity and reliability is known to the Bureau, advised that during [redacted] a meeting of the Des Moines Branch of the Communist Party, USA, District #32, was held at the home of [redacted]

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[redacted] The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the membership in the Des Moines, Iowa, Branch of the Party. STANLEY GRIFFIN was not present at this meeting but EDNA GRIFFIN, the subject, sponsored the meeting and it was at her instigation that [redacted] both Communist Party members in Des Moines, should be expelled from the Party because he returned to work during the strike at the Iowa Packing Company, Des Moines, Iowa, before the striking members of the United Packing workers of America - CIO had agreed to return. [redacted]

[redacted] had returned to work prior to the termination of the strike. EDNA GRIFFIN has also been a frequent visitor at the home of [redacted] [redacted] are members of the Communist Party.

[redacted] also advised that WARREN BATTERSON, Chairman of the Communist Party, USA, District #32, has been a frequent visitor at the home of EDNA GRIFFIN in Des Moines, Iowa.

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[redacted] advised that EDNA GRIFFIN is no longer a student at Drake University and is now a housewife. This informant also advised that EDNA GRIFFIN has been appointed as chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Progressive Party, 5th Congressional District of Iowa.

On October 7, 1948 an article appeared in the Des Moines Register and Tribune newspaper, Des Moines, Iowa, stating that two persons testifying in a Civil Rights case declined temporarily and on grounds of their constitutional rights to name their political affiliations in a Municipal Court trial. These two witnesses were JOHN BIBBS, 1026 16th Street, and Mrs. STANLEY GRIFFIN, 1108 3rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa. BIBBS was the complainant in an action against MAURICE KATZ, Manager of the Katz Drug Store, Des Moines, Iowa, in which Mrs. GRIFFIN, JOHN BIBBS, and LEONARD HUDSON, all Negroes, were refused counter service on July 7, 1948. Both BIBBS and GRIFFIN later testified that they were members of the Progressive Party supporting HENRY A. WALLACE for president. Mrs. GRIFFIN testified that she, BIBBS and HUDSON, of 779 10th Street, another complainant, picketed the store with Progressive Party members on several successive Saturdays after they were refused counter service at the Katz Drug Store. As a result of this trial MAURICE KATZ was found guilty on October 7, 1948 in Municipal Court on a charge of violating the Iowa Civil Rights Law. The penalty is not more than \$100.00 fine or thirty days in the County Jail.

OM 100-4095

[redacted] advised that although the picketing was done under the name of the Iowa Progressive Party, in reality it was the subject and the Communist Party who were pushing the whole affair.

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The subject was described by [redacted] as follows:

Name:	EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka, Mrs. Stanley Griffin, Edna May Williams
Race:	Negro
Born:	October 23, 1909, Massachusetts
Height:	5' 2"
Weight:	125
Build:	Medium
Complexion:	Dark brown
Hair:	Black, kinky (straightened)
Eyes:	Brown
Face:	Slender
Marital status:	Married, husband STANLEY GRIFFIN.
Occupation:	Housewife
Peculiarities:	Upper front teeth protrude
Residence:	1108 3rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

- P E N D I N G -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-355489)

DATE: 12-13-51

FROM : SAC, Omaha (100-4095)

SUBJECT: EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, Aka: Mrs. Stanley Griffin, Edna May Williams

SECURITY MATTER - C ON 02-21-2006

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 60309 TAM/DCG/JW

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

As indicated in the attached Summary Report of SA [redacted] [redacted] dated December 13, 1951, at Omaha, Nebraska, subject has recorded the same birth date on three separate occasions but on each instance has recorded a different birth place.

Records of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, indicated subject as EDNA MAY WILLIAMS, born October 23, 1909 at Carlisle, Kentucky, the daughter of EDWARD HEARST WILLIAMS and HENRIETTA WILLIAMS.

The records of the Registrar's Office, Drake University, reflected subject was born October 23, 1909 in Massachusetts.

Records of Pittsfield High School, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, reflected subject was born October 23, 1909 at Walpole, New Hampshire and listed her father as EDWARD WILLIAMS.

The Louisville Field Division at the State Bureau of Vital Statistics is requested to check the records for complete birth data concerning the subject.

In the event no record is located in Kentucky, the Omaha Field Division will request similar investigation in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

RED:JMG

cc: Louisville

INDEXED - 49
RECORDED - 40
SE 8

100-355489-37
DEC 12 1951
24

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-355489)

DATE: 10/30/51

FROM: SAC, OMAHA

Card U.T.D.
11-19-51
apc

SUBJECT: EBNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka
SECURITY MATTER - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-09-2006 BY AUC 60309
TAM/DCG/JW

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

RACE _____ SEX _____ NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address): _____

Housewife, 1108-3rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)

RECORDED-14

100-355489-36

NOV 1 1951

JVB:DR
100-4095

EX - 54

13

7204

08
12-13-51

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

TO : Director, FBI (100-355489)

DATE: 12-13-51

FROM : SAC, Omaha (100-4095)

SUBJECT: EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, Aka: Mrs. Stanley Griffin, Edna May Williams
SECURITY MATTER - C

104-1
12-11-1
141803

ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 60309 TAM/DCG/JW

b7C

ON 02-09-2006

By report of SA [redacted] dated July 13, 1949 at Omaha, captioned as above, photostatic copies of subject's handwriting were forwarded to the Bureau. As enclosures to the same report, a letter addressed to ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, Communist Party - USA, New York, sent by the subject and her husband, was also forwarded to the Bureau as handwriting specimens.

I.R.-6

Enclosed herewith is a photostatic copy of the communication addressed to [redacted] in the WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN Case, CP-USA, Los Angeles Field Division. This letter is dated August 20, 1951, bears the address 1108 3rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa, and is signed EDNA GRIFFIN.

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The Identification Division is requested to compare the handwriting of the letter addressed to [redacted] and the letter addressed to ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN with known handwriting specimens of the subject in the possession of the Bureau and advise if all three are identical.

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RED: JMG

Enclosure

SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.
1/26/52

RECORDED - 5

INDEXED - 5

100-355489-36

INDEXED FILES

63 JAN 4 1952

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

JHS

REPORT
of the

7-1



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

To: SAC, Omaha

January 11, 1952

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on December 19, 1951.

Re: EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka, Mrs. Stanley Griffin
Edna May Williams
SECURITY MATTER - C

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 100-4095
FBI FILE NO. 100-355489 -36
LAB. NO. D-141003 DJ

RECORDED - 110

Examination requested by: SAC, Omaha

Reference: Letter 12/13/51

Examination requested: Document

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-21-2006 BY AUC 60309
TAM/DCG/JW

Specimens:

Qel Photostat of a letter addressed to [redacted] signed "With love, Edna Griffin." The handwritten letter is dated August 20, 1951 at Des Moines, Iowa.

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Results of examination:

It was concluded that the Griffin signatures on specimen Qel and on the letter addressed to ELIZABETH GURLEY FLEMING were prepared by EDNA MAY GRIFFIN whose known handwriting was previously submitted in connection with this case. However, it could not definitely be determined whether or not she prepared the bodies of the two letters in question because of the limited amount of known handwriting available for comparison purposes. However, some handwriting characteristics in common were noted.

The evidence submitted is being retained in the files of the Bureau.

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Glavin _____
- Harbo _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

SWM:PJR

COMM - FBI
JAN 11 1952
MAILED 20

Baumgardner

89/11

Recorded 12/20/51
ams

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

GIM
1/10

Re: EDNA MAY GRIFFIN, aka, Mrs. Stanley Griffin
Edna May Williams
SECURITY MATTER - C

File # 100-355489-36
Lab. # D141803 DG

NO LAB FILE

Examination requested by: SAC, Omaha (100-4095)

Date of reference communication: let 12/13/51

Date Received 12/19/51

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by:



*Griffins sig Qc1 of on Flynn letter about
Edna May Griffin (Key sig file). Remainder HW these
letters to Con Griffin - Limited K. See report 1/10*

Specimens submitted for examination

b7C

QX
QX

Qc1 Photostat of a letter addressed to signed, "With love, Edna Griffin." The hw letter is dated Aug. 20, 1951 at Des Moines, Iowa.

*Lab report
1-11-52
sumner*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NOV 1951

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 60309 TAM/DCG/JW
ON 02-09-2006

ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU:

ATTN: IDENT DIV.

b7C

Photostatic copy of letter addressed
to dated 8/20/51,
bearing signature EDNA GRIFFIN

OM 100-4095

100-355489-36



1108-3rd St.
Des Moines, Iowa

100-4095-12⁽⁷⁾

May 20, 1951

b7C

SENSITIVE

Dear [redacted]

This is that rare moment of peace and quiet after the children are in bed when my thoughts are free of diapers, clothes, and denting. Last week, one evening paper carried a story of how early morning avert before you could feed your children or arrange for their care. Later I found out how to write to you.

I think I hunted up my writing paper to say that I've seen that there are many who admire your courage just as I do. The trouble with us is how to tell you so, how to make our admiration of your courage count.

I write tonight to let you know that a Negro mother draws inspiration and energy to find ways and means to keep for peace - that no child shall be hunted into messiness that mama might be taken away.

Mo, you soon be free.

With love,

Edua Griffin

1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-09-2006 BY AUC 60309
TAM/DCG/JW

2 JUL 31 1951

100-355489-5,6,7,8,9
CHANGED TO
100-382221-2,3,4,5,6

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-09-2006 BY AUC 60309
TAM/DCG/JW

100-355489-32

CHANGED TO

100-382221-13

SEP 25 1951

OM 100-4095

identified as OTTO ANSTROM entered this automobile at 1:20 p.m. in front of the subject's home.

On July 5, 1951, [redacted] advised that the same Ford was again parked at 1108 - 3rd Street and that OTTO ANSTROM was the driver of the car. ANSTROM departed from 1108 - 3rd Street in the company of a negro lady later identified as the subject from the description furnished by [redacted]

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Around September 18, 1950, subject received a letter from one [redacted]

Investigation at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, revealed that [redacted] is the wife of [redacted] in Iowa.

Investigation at Anamosa, Iowa revealed that the subject has corresponded with [redacted] of the Men's Reformatory at Anamosa, Iowa, now serving a forty year sentence on a charge of rape. As previously indicated subject took an active part in the raising of funds for the defense of [redacted] in his trial at Sioux City, Iowa, in 1950.

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OTTO EDVOLD ANSTROM, was., OTTO ADAMS, has been reliably reported by Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, as former organizer for the Farm Section of New Jersey Communist Party and now as a full time organizer for the Communist Party in Iowa.

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- P E N D I N G -