

# GLADYS SWEET & THE HOUSE ON GARLAND

## PRIDE & JOY

**Gladys Atkinson met Dr. Ossian Sweet while she was studying to become a teacher.**

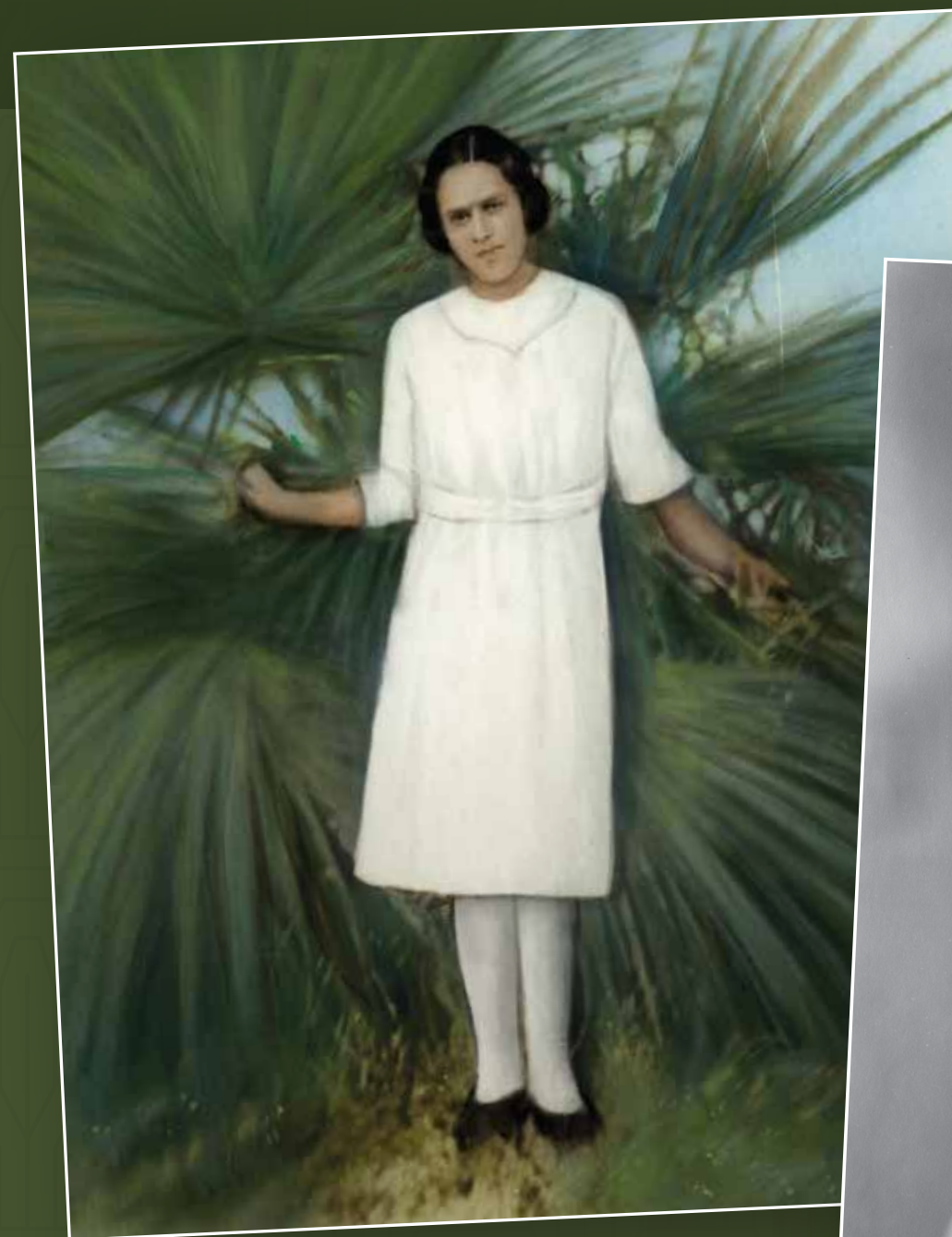
The two dated and soon fell in love. They married in 1922 and spent their first year together traveling in Europe. They returned to Detroit in 1924, with their infant daughter, Marguerite (nicknamed, Iva).

**The couple looked for a nice, spacious home for their young family.**

In May 1925, they found one, here, at the corner of Charlevoix and Garland.

The neighborhood was mostly white at the time, but the owners of the house were an interracial couple willing to sell to a Black family. It was not far from Gladys' parents' home and Ossian's office, with the elementary school across the street. As you can see, the house is a brick bungalow — stylish for its time and well-constructed.

The asking price was high above market value, but the Sweets loved the house and negotiated a deal.



Gladys Atkinson was raised by her mother and step-father in a house on Cairney Street, near the eastern edge of the city, in a peaceful neighborhood of mostly working-class immigrants and one other Black family.



**Moving to a neighborhood outside of Black Bottom was not easy for the young, Black family.**

The Sweets knew about the racial violence that other Black homeowners in the city were experiencing. They delayed moving that summer in hopes that tensions would ease by autumn. But, instead, their future neighbors organized the "Waterworks Improvement Association" to prevent racial integration. Determined to persevere, the Sweets moved in on September 8, 1925.

