

Invisible Community, 1830-2012 (ongoing)

3 boxes (1.2 linear ft.)

Collection number: AM-348

Abstract:

The Invisible Community: African Americans in Berkshire County was a project of the Berkshire County Historical Society in the late 1990s. Ethnic groups, most notably the African-American community, have traditionally been overlooked in histories of Berkshire County. The *Invisible Community* project intended to collect information on the historic presence of African-Americans in Berkshire County, and the role that community has played in the county's history. This collection includes information concerning specific Berkshire residents, as well as institutions & events associated with the African-American community in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

Finding aid by Louisa Lebwohl, June 2012.

Margaret H. Hall Library and Archives
Berkshire County Historical Society
Pittsfield, MA

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The papers are open to research according to the regulations of the Margaret H. Hall Library and Archives, without any additional restrictions.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The collection contains various findings of the *Invisible Community* project, and project records from the late 1990s. This collection is organized into 5 series:

I: General.

II: Publications.

III: Census records.

IV: Photographs.

V: Invisible Community (project) records.

Contents List:

SERIES I: General.

African-Americans from Pittsfield	box 1: folder 1
African-Americans from Sheffield	box 1: folder 2
Massachusetts 54 th Regiment	box 1: folder 3
Underground Railroad	box 1: folder 4
Reverend Samuel Harrison	box 1: folder 5
W.E.B. DuBois	box 1: folder 6
Samuel & Hannah Ceasar (Native Americans)	box 1: folder 7
Elizabeth Freeman, or "Mumbet"	box 1: folder 8
Burghardt-Frye family	box 1: folder 9
Miscellaneous	box 1: folder 10
Videocassettes (3)	box 1: folder 11

SERIES II: Publications.

Clippings	box 2: folder 1
Other publications	box 2: folder 2
Clippings on Ulysses "Frank" Grant (baseball)	box 2: folder 3

SERIES III: Census records.

Partial census records: 1830, 1840	box 2: folder 4
Partial census records: 1850, 1855	box 2: folder 5
Partial census records: 1860, 1870, 1880	box 2: folder 6

Personal statistics, Pittsfield African-Americans: 1830-1870	box 2: folder 7
“African-Americans in Berk. County: Their Work, 1840-1870”	box 2: folder 8
Partial census records: 1920	box 2: folder 9

SERIES IV: Photographs.

Photos of oral history interviewees, 1998	box 2: folder 10
African-American Berkshire County residents, I	box 2: folder 11
African-American Berkshire County residents, II	box 2: folder 12
Framed photograph of Alfred Persip, in WWI uniform, 1917	box 2: folder 13
Epsworth Mission Group, 1914	box 2: folder 14

SERIES V: Invisible Community (project) records.

Invisible Community projects	box 3: folder 1
Project meetings	box 3: folder 2
Correspondence; list of advisory board	box 3: folder 3
Other activities	box 3: folder 4
Workshops	box 3: folder 5
Workshop handouts	box 3: folder 6
Letters & résumés	box 3: folder 7
Finances	box 3: folder 8
Miscellaneous	box 3: folder 9
Grant: Bay State	box 3: folder 10
Grant application: Berkshire Taconic	box 3: folder 11
Grant application: Mass. Foundation for the Humanities	box 3: folder 12

Object Categories:

- Census records
- Clippings
- Essays
- Family histories

- Minutes
- Pamphlets
- Photographs

Search Terms:

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection.

- Berkshire County, Mass.
- Pittsfield, Mass.
- Invisible Community (project)
- Berkshire County Historical Society
- Burghardt-Frye family
- Ceasar, Samuel & Hannah
- DuBois, W.E.B.
- Freeman, Elizabeth, or “Mumbet”
- Grant, Ulysses “Frank”
- Harrison, Samuel (Reverend)
- Persip, Alfred K., Sr.
- Massachusetts 54th Regiment
- Underground Railroad
- Baseball
- Historic buildings