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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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 54th 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 Caesar (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