



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**William Henry and Sadie Winslow papers**

1640-1997 [bulk 1960-1980]

Sc MG 879

Processed by Salome Jeronimo, June 2013. This finding aid was prepared as part of an archival processing project arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center.

## Summary

**Creator:** Winslow, Henry, 1903-1989

**Title:** William Henry and Sadie Winslow papers

**Date:** 1640-1997 [bulk 1960-1980]

**Size:** 1.87 linear feet (5 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of Denise Liburd, 2008.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** This collection consists of personal and professional material related to both William Henry and Sadie Winslow. The material contains biographical papers, such as resumes, personal correspondence, and obituaries; professional correspondence; documents, including printed matter and research material, related to the couple's involvement in various community and political affiliations; and in the case of Henry Winslow, some writing. The bulk of the collection relates to the couple's community affiliations.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], William Henry and Sadie Winslow papers, Sc MG 879, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Salome Jeronimo, June 2013. This finding aid was prepared as part of an archival processing project arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

## Creator History

William Henry Winslow, better known as Henry Winslow, was born on July 14, 1903, in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, where he attended elementary school, high school, and a normal school (or teachers' college). In 1930, Winslow relocated to New York where he spent the rest of his life. In New York City, Winslow held several jobs in public service, first working for the U.S. Postal Service and then as the Senior Crew Chief for the Housing and Development Agency, where he eventually became that union's (possibly now known as the Teamsters Local 237) labor negotiator. In 1940, Winslow was a candidate to the State Legislature for the American Labor Party. Winslow worked to organize African Americans in order to integrate them into segregated labor unions throughout the city. These efforts eventually led to the creation of the Negro American Labor Council's "Operation: Fight Back!" in 1964.

Winslow was a member of various organizations: the Retirees' group of District 37 in Manhattan, the Jackie Robinson Senior Citizens Center, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Association for the Afro-American Life and History, the John Brown Memorial Group (as historian), and the Morningside Gardens Credit Union (as treasurer). In the 1980s, after his retirement, Winslow taught classes in African American history at the Jackie Robinson Daycare Center of Grant Houses. On March 29, 1969, Henry Winslow and Sadie Mills married and remained together until Henry's death on June 30, 1989.

Sadie Winslow, born in 1917, in New Haven, Connecticut, has been described as a "pillar of the Harlem community". As a child, she was influenced by the Marcus Garvey Movement meetings she attended with her uncle. Winslow received a B.A. in Education from St. Augustine College and studied early childhood education at New York University and the University of Puerto Rico. She eventually taught education as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Hunter College and William Paterson College in New Jersey.

Winslow worked in over a dozen community service organizations: Community Board No. 9, Harlem Landmarks, Health Insurance Plan (HIP) of Greater New York, Morningside Retirement and Health Services, Louise Wise Adoption Agency, West Side Inter-Agency, The NYC Chapter of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., Harlem Elders, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Friends of George Bruce Library, and Riverside Church. She was also the co-founder of Seniors Helping Seniors and the co-chair of the Senior Citizen Issues Committee. She served as a representative for the New York City and State Department of Aging; this appointment led to better accessibility at the 125th St. subway station for senior citizens. In 1994, Winslow was honored as a "Distinguished Woman" by the New York Women's Foundation. Two years later, she joined the advisory council of the New York City Department of Aging, and was reappointed to the committee in 2004 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Mills Winslow died of pneumonia on March 11, 2005. She was 88 years old.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of personal and professional material related to both William Henry and Sadie Winslow. The material contains biographical papers, such as resumes, personal correspondence, and obituaries; professional correspondence; documents, including printed matter and research material, related to the couple's involvement in various community and political affiliations; and in the case of Henry Winslow, some writing. The bulk of the collection relates to the couple's community affiliations.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into two series: (1) Winslow, William Henry and (2) Winslow, Sadie.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American educators  
African American families  
African American historians  
African American labor union members  
African American political activists  
African Americans -- History  
Authors, Black  
Civil rights  
Labor movement -- United States  
Labor unions  
Older people--Care  
Public service employment  
Social problems

### **Occupations**

Civil rights activists.

### **Names**

Haughton, James, 1929-2016  
Winslow, Henry, 1903-1989  
Winslow, Sadie  
Woods, Granville, 1856-1910  
African-American Historical Association. New York Branch  
American Labor Party  
Children's Aid Society (New York, N.Y.)  
Fight Back (Organization : New York, N.Y.)  
Hunter College  
Journal of Negro history  
Negro American Labor Council  
Urban League of Greater New York

## Container List

### Winslow, William Henry 1640-1997

The William Henry Winslow series demonstrates Winslow's strong interest in his local community, his desire to fight racism and promote fair hiring practices in labor unions, and African American history. The Personal subseries consists of a resume, obituary, and certificates from Cornell University and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (he received his real estate brokerage license from New York State in 1940). There is a small amount of correspondence to and from Winslow dealing with the New York City union and apprenticeship program, and a protest letter from Winslow about an NBC newscast he claimed created "division and animosity" between Black and Puerto Rican people. In addition, the subseries contains a collection of obituaries and programs from the funerals of such notable people as Martin Luther King Jr., Alberta Hunter, and Betty Shabazz.

The Political and labor organizations subseries highlights Winslow's political affiliations and involvements. Included here are a fact sheet on American Negro Labor, a copy of Winslow's Certificate of Election to the Judicial District Convention, and his essay titled, "Why a 3rd Party? History of the American Labor Party, 1936-1956". The essay describes America's need for a third political party and the purposes and aims of the Progressive-American Labor Party (ALP) and the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO). This subseries also contains materials on Operation Fight Back! (originally called the Harlem Unemployment Center), an organization which fought to improve job rights of African American and Spanish speaking workers in the construction trades, and combat racism, particularly among workers and in labor unions. The collection includes Fight Back's Statement of Purpose; newsletters featuring many articles by the founder of "Fight Back!", James Haughton; flyers for protests; rallies and demonstrations; correspondence between Winslow and Haughton; and related news articles and clippings.

The Community organizations subseries contains assorted local community information such as: Partisan Planning; Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs memorandum, the Active Retiree newsletter, General Grant Houses Community News, Harlem Seniors flyers, Morningside Heights bulletins, and meeting minutes.

The Historical and educational organizations subseries documents, primarily through correspondence and newsletters, Winslow's participation in a number of organizations such as: the African American Historical Society, where Winslow served as Journal Chairman; the Schomburg Collection Endowment Fund, where he was a Board Member; Association of Afro American Life and History; and the John Brown Memorial Association.

The Research materials and essays subseries is comprised of news articles and notes dealing with the ongoing struggle for equality in construction jobs and labor unions, protests and strikes, territory jurisdiction, mandatory minority hiring, and the Davis-Bacon Act. The series contains a number of essays authored by Henry Winslow, but it is undetermined if these were written for publication, his college education, or teaching. The essays focus on various topics ranging from social services, unemployment, trade unions, Harlem, racism, and African Americans in construction. Included with the essays are related article clippings and notes. In addition, news articles on race relations, the failed Kawaida Towers housing project, Granville T. Woods, and the Civil Rights movement are included.

The Printed matter subseries contains magazines, pamphlets, bulletins and articles on African American history, Harlem, labor unions, and popular culture. Included is a theater guide titled *Paul Robeson as Othello, the Moor of Venice* from 1945, and a Golden Legacy comic book titled *The Black Inventors, Latimer and Woods*.

Arranged into six subseries: (1) Personal; (2) Political and labor organizations; (3) Community organizations; (4) Historical and educational organizations; (5) Research materials and essays; and (6) Printed matter.

#### Personal 1965-1997

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical file 1965-1988
- b. 1 f. 2 General correspondence
- b. 1 f. 3 Obituaries and funeral programs 1965-1997
- b. 1 f. 4 Carter G. Woodson School dedication 1965

#### Political and labor organizations 1923-1982

Winslow, William Henry (cont.)

Political and labor organizations (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 5-7 Fight Back! 1965-1980
- b. 1 f. 8 American Negro Labor Council 1960
- b. 1 f. 9 American Labor Party 1923-1979
- b. 1 f. 10 Community Organizations to Motivate and Enlighten (COME) 1980
- b. 1 f. 11 Council for the Advancement of the Negro in Architecture 1955-1960
- b. 1 f. 12 The Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union 1965-1966
- b. 1 f. 13 St. Albans Civic Improvement Association, Inc 1975
- b. 1 f. 14 May Day 1979
- b. 1 f. 15 Various organizations
- Community organizations 1971-1984
- b. 1 f. 16 Newsletters 1972-1978
- b. 1 f. 17 Harlem Senior Citizens 1971
- b. 1 f. 18 The Retirees Association 1978-1984
- b. 1 f. 19 General Grant Houses 1980
- b. 1 f. 20 Morningside Heights Housing Corporation 1971-1979
- Historical and educational organizations 1960-1984
- b. 2 f. 1-4 The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc 1960-1981  
Includes newsletter (1976) and Dr. King holiday petition (1981).
- b. 2 f. 5 John Brown Memorial Association, Inc 1966-1984
- b. 2 f. 6 Schomburg Collection Endowment Fund 1966-1982
- b. 2 f. 7 International Black Writers Conference 1979-1980
- Research materials and essays 1790-1983
- b. 2 f. 8 Construction trades 1964
- b. 2 f. 9 Construction hiring battle intensifies
- b. 2 f. 10 Labor unions 1971
- b. 2 f. 11 Steamfitters Local Union 638 1964-1974
- b. 2 f. 12 Labor union protests 1957-1970
- b. 2 f. 13 Davis-Bacon Act 1960-1982
- b. 2 f. 14 Steamfitter's strike 1971-1973
- b. 2 f. 15 Territory jurisdiction 1946-1973
- b. 2 f. 16 Mandatory minority hiring 1969
- b. 3 f. 1 Historical view of social welfare under capitalism
- b. 3 f. 2 Housing rehabilitation 1957-1978
- b. 3 f. 3 Harlem rehabilitation 1958-1980
- b. 3 f. 4 Housing and the Negro
- b. 3 f. 5 1950s-1960s
- b. 3 f. 6 "Black Engineering Students Still Low" 1957-1971
- b. 3 f. 7 Construction 1954-1965
- b. 3 f. 8 Negro labor 1946-1967
- b. 3 f. 9 Negro workers 1920-1977
- b. 3 f. 10 Apprenticeship 1790-1959

Winslow, William Henry (cont.)  
Research materials and essays (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 11-15      **Blacks in construction 1640-1974**  
Includes information on New York construction.
- b. 4 f. 1      "The Negro Artisan"
- b. 4 f. 2      "History: Torch for the Future" 1979
- b. 4 f. 3      History of the Negro 1953-1979
- b. 4 f. 4      Kawaida Towers 1976
- b. 4 f. 5      Race relations 1956
- b. 4 f. 6      Woods, Granville T 1974-1978
- b. 4 f. 7-8      Civil rights article and notes 1963
- b. 4 f. 9      The Jefferson School of Social Science 1952-1983
- b. 4 f. 10     Labor face book draft 1976
- b. 4 f. 11     The Negro and organized labor
- Printed matter 1945-1990
- b. 4 f. 12     General 1945-1990
- b. 4 f. 13     Unrelated news articles 1977-1985
- b. 4 f. 14     Black history dates 1955-1976

Winslow, Sadie 1949-1985

Through its biographical information and personal and professional correspondence this series documents Winslow's life as a teacher, her professional affiliations, and her commitment to community service.

The Personal subseries contains several curriculum vitae describing her general background, education, and years of experience in early childhood education in Connecticut, New York, and Puerto Rico, along with her Pi Lambda Theta membership card. Personal correspondence includes letters from friends, greeting cards and notes, and letters about her brother's estate, along with professional related correspondence regarding employment and property in Morningside Gardens.

The Political and community organizations, Children's organizations and Educational institutions subseries all contain correspondence and bulletins related to organizations with which Winslow was involved, such as church and community groups, political organizations, the New School, and Hunter College. The correspondence contains letters regarding her service as term member on the Community Planning Board, representative of the Human Affairs Research Center, and Early Childhood Consultant to the New York City Board of Education Summer Head Start Program. A number of thank you letters for her contributions and assistance at benefits and luncheons, including a Champagne Christmas party for Shirley Chisholm and a number of parties benefitting children's organizations (such as Neighborhood Children's Center, Louise Wise Services Child Adoption Center, Springfield Day Nursery, and UNICEF) can be found here.

The Printed matter contains unrelated magazines and news clippings. Included are a 1966 copy of *Newsweek*, *Uncle Spike the Negro Detective*, and "The Stone Churches of Ethiopia".

Arranged into five subseries: (1) Personal; (2) Political and community organizations; (3) Children's organizations; (4) Educational institutions; and (5) Printed matter.

- b. 5 f. 1-2      **Personal 1956-1985**
- b. 5 f. 3      Political and community organizations 1962-1985
- b. 5 f. 4      Children's organizations 1949-1974
- b. 5 f. 5      Educational institutions 1963-1974
- b. 5 f. 6      Printed matter 1966-1980