



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

Guide to the

Gertrude Elise Ayer papers

1931-1966

Sc MG 277

Summary

Creator: Ayer, Gertrude E. (Gertrude Elise), 1884-1971

Title: Gertrude Elise Ayer papers

Date: 1931-1966

Size: 0.27 linear feet (1 box, 1 reel)

Source: Gift of Marie A. Bradley, October 1987; some material also acquired at auction.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Gertrude Elise (née Johnson) McDougal Ayer, was born in New York City, and attended City College, Hunter College, and Columbia University. She began teaching in New York City public elementary schools in 1905, and she was the first vocational guidance instructor in an elementary school. In 1924 and 1936, Ayer was appointed assistant principal and principal, respectively. For twenty-five years, she was the only Black person to hold the position of principal within the New York City public school system. The collection consists of biographical information; a family history written by Mrs. Ayer, possibly for her daughter, Elizabeth; and a few items related to her professional activities before and after retirement in 1954. Additionally, there are scrapbooks, 1931-1966, which focus on Ayer's appointment and career as an assistant principal and principal, and include columns from the New York Amsterdam News.

Conditions Governing Use: Scrapbooks are available on microfilm only.

Preferred citation: [Item], Gertrude Elise Ayer papers, Sc MG 277, 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: Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, October 1987.

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of biographical information; a family history written by Mrs. Ayer, possibly for her daughter, Elizabeth; and a few items related to her professional activities before and after retirement in 1954. Additionally, there are scrapbooks, 1931-1966, which focus on Ayer's appointment and career as an assistant principal and principal, and include columns from the *New York Amsterdam News*.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women -- Education
African American women school principals
African American women teachers
Vocational teachers

Names

Ayer, Gertrude E. (Gertrude Elise), 1884-1971

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical information
- b. 1 f. 2 Family history
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence 1941-1964
- b. 1 f. 4 Professional activities 1937-1964
 - r. 1 Scrapbooks 1931-1966