



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

Guide to the

British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (New York, N.Y.) records
1923-1989
Sc MG 551

Summary

Creator: British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (New York, N.Y.)

Title: British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (New York, N.Y.) records

Date: 1923-1989

Size: 6.75 linear feet (11 boxes)

Source: Gift of Calvin Thomas, August 1999.08/--/1999

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: The British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (BVIBA) was founded, in January 1926, to promote unity and foster the interest and welfare of its members, who were primarily British Virgin islanders residing in New York City. The British Virgin Island Benevolent Association collection consists primarily of general membership minutes, correspondence, and financial records.

Preferred citation: [Item], British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (New York, N.Y.) records, Sc MG 551, 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: Accessioned by Rosalie P. Jeter, August 1999.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: artifacts.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

The British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (BVIBA) was founded, in January 1926, to promote unity and foster the interest and welfare of its members, who were primarily British Virgin islanders

residing in New York City. The organization provided financial assistance and general relief to its sick members; assistance with burial expenses; and support to those who were physically challenged. Membership in the organization was also available to individuals who had resided in the British Virgin Islands for periods of one year or more. The BVIBA also organized a Juvenile Society for the children of the members. The administration was managed by the Board of Supervisors, made up of BVIBA adult members. At age 16, the youth were granted adult membership. In the 1930s-1940s, the organization created a pro-legislation committee in order to maintain an active involvement in the British Virgin Islands' internal affairs. The committee generated political resolutions and petitions in support of the pro-legislative movement. The BVIBA was officially disbanded in 1989.

Scope and Content Note

The British Virgin Island Benevolent Association collection, 1926-1989, consists primarily of general membership minutes, correspondence, and financial records. The collection also includes: the 1932 incorporation papers; a copy of the 1938 pro-legislative petition to the British Colonial Office in support of self-governance for the British Virgin Islands; and a 1948 economic development report for Tortola Island. A brief history of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and fund raising form letters signed by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lena Horne, both dated 1960, are also included.

Key Terms

Subjects

British Virgin Islanders
Caribbean Americans -- New York (State) -- New York
Charities -- United States
Immigrants -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies and clubs
Older people -- Societies and clubs

Names

British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (New York, N.Y.)
Wesleyan Methodist Church of America

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Bylaws, state registration, and history
- b. 1 f. 2 Executive Board minutes 1931-1937
 - b. 11 Minutes from October 11, 1936, are located in box 11.
- Board of Directors minutes 1938-1989
 - b. 1 f. 3 1938-1956
 - b. 1 f. 4 1957-1967
 - b. 1 f. 5 1968-1989
- b. 1 f. 6 Board of Supervisors Juvenile minutes 1936-1971
 - Financial secretary's records 1929-1948
 - b. 1 1935-1939
 - v. 1
 - b. 1 1929-1945
 - v. 2
 - b. 1 1944-1948
 - v. 3
- b. 1 f. 7 Resolutions and propositions 1934-1965
- b. 1 f. 8 Rituals and odes 1926 January 31
 - Date indicates date organized.
- b. 1 f. 9 Petitions and resolutions to the British Colonial Office 1938-1939
 - General membership minutes 1928-1983
 - Each volume or folder includes list of officers.
 - b. 2 1928-1933
 - v. 1
 - b. 2 1933-1936
 - v. 2
 - b. 3 1936-1940
 - v. 1
 - b. 3 1940-1943
 - v. 2
 - b. 4 1943-1947
 - v. 1
 - b. 4 1947-1951
 - v. 2
 - b. 5 1951-1955
 - v. 1
 - b. 5 1955-1958
 - v. 2
 - b. 6 1958-1965
 - v. 1
 - b. 6 1965-1974
 - v. 2
- b. 6 f. 1 1970
 - b. 7 1974-1983
 - v. 1
- Committees 1926-1979
 - b. 8 f. 1 The Choral Group
 - b. 8 f. 2 Development and Planning Committee and Economic Development Sub-Committee report to the Commissioner of the BVI on economic development 1949 November

Committees (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 3-4 Entertainment Committee budgets
- b. 8 f. 5 Floral Committee 1937
 - b. 11 Minutes of October-December 1937 located in box 11.
- b. 8 f. 6 50th Anniversary Committee report
- b. 8 f. 7 Home Committee
- b. 8 f. 8 Installation of Officers Committee
- b. 8 f. 9 Membership Committee 1939-1960
- b. 8 f. 10 Scholarship Committee
- Sick Committee
- b. 8 f. 11 Doctors' certificates
- b. 8 f. 12 Benefits
- b. 8 f. 13 Lists of deceased members 1926-1970

Reports

- b. 8 f. 14 1950s
- b. 8 f. 15 1960s
- b. 8 f. 16 1970s
- b. 8 f. 17 undated
- b. 8 f. 18 Thanksgiving Service Committee
- b. 8 f. 19 Various committee reports

Financial 1930-1950

- b. 8 f. 20 The Home Insurance Company 1930
 - Treasurer reports
- b. 8 f. 21 1931-1942
- b. 8 f. 22 1943-1950

Correspondence 1930-1989

- b. 11 Officers and members 1930-1931

Internal

- b. 9 f. 1 1930-1939
- b. 9 f. 2 1943-1955
- b. 9 f. 3 1960-1969
- b. 9 f. 4 1970-1979
- b. 9 f. 5 1980-1989
- b. 9 f. 6 undated

Members

- b. 9 f. 7 1930s-1950s
- b. 9 f. 8 1960s-1970s

Organizations

- b. 11 Relief fund 1933
- b. 9 f. 9 1930-1959
- b. 9 f. 10-11 1960-1969
- b. 9 f. 12 Request for support 1960-1961

- Correspondence (cont.)
- Organizations (cont.)
- b. 9 f. 13-15 1970-1979
- b. 9 f. 16-18 1980-1989
- b. 9 f. 19 undated
- Reports 1933-1964
- b. 11 Annual report 1939
- Quarterly reports
- b. 11 Disbursements 1938-1943
- b. 11 Receipts 1938-1944
- b. 11 General 1933-1943
- Other reports
- b. 9 f. 20 1958-1959
- b. 9 f. 21 1959-1960
- b. 9 f. 22 1960-1961
- b. 9 f. 23 1961-1962
- b. 9 f. 24 1963-1964
- Financial 1926-1989
- Check stubs
- b. 9 f. 26 1926-1928
- b. 9 f. 27 1950-1953
- b. 9 f. 28 1953-1956
- b. 10 f. 1 1956-1958
- b. 10 f. 2 1958-1961
- b. 10 f. 3 1961-1963
- b. 10 f. 4 1963-1966
- b. 10 f. 5 1966-1969
- b. 10 f. 6 1972-1975
- b. 10 f. 7 1975-1979
- b. 10 f. 8 1979-1982
- b. 10 f. 9 Drafts 1963
- b. 10 f. 10 Bills and receipts 1926-1989
- Receipt books
- b. 10 f. 11 1956-1957
- b. 10 f. 12 1957-1958
- b. 10 f. 13 Bus outings
- Printed matter 1931-1976
- b. 10 f. 14 Souvenir program of Coronation of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth 1937 May 12
- b. 10 f. 15 *"Fifty Years of BVI Association Benevolence," Island Sun* 1976 March 13
- b. 10 f. 16 Journals from other organizations
- b. 10 f. 17 Memorial service program 1931
- b. 10 f. 18 New Harlem Casino dance permit 1923

- b. 10 f. 19 Harrigan, W.S. Poetry and song
- b. 10 f. 20 Special events
- b. 10 f. 21 West Indian American Societies Protective Alliance constitution and laws
- b. 10 f. 22 World War II discrimination in defense contracts