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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**

1926-1989

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:** 1926-1989

**Size:** 3.7 linear feet (11 archival boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Calvin Thomas, 08/--/1999

**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 organization provided financial assistance and general relief to its sick members; assistance with burial expenses; and support to those who were physically challenged (helpless). The BVIBA also organized a Juvenile Society for the children of the members. In the 1930s 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. The British Virgin Island Benevolent Association collection, 1926-1989, consists primarily of general membership minutes 1928-1983, correspondence, 1926-1989 and Financial Records, 1926-1982. 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, funding raising form letters signed by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lena Horne, both dated 1960, are also included.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association (New York, N.Y.) records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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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 (helpless). The BVIBA also organized a Juvenile Society for the children of the members. In the 1930s 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**

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### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

Blacks -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies, etc  
Blacks -- Services for -- New York (State) -- New York  
Charities -- New York (State) -- New York  
Economic development projects -- Virgin Islands (Great Britain) -- Tortola  
Immigrants -- Services for -- New York (State) -- New York  
Older people -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies and clubs

#### **Names**

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