Summary

Creator: Levitt, Morris, 1906-1976

Title: Morris Levitt research collection

Date: 1969-1976

Size: 6.2 linear feet (6 record cartons, 1/2 archival box)

Abstract: Morris Levitt served as a consultant for the Negro History Associates, founded by Middleton "Spike" Harris in 1963, whose purpose was to educate the public and school children about the role of African Americans in American history. Levitt was a co-author with Harris of "The Black Book" (1974), a survey of African-American history from the time of slavery through the 1940s, emphasizing contributions in many fields of endeavor. He also co-authored three articles about historic and sports figures. The Morris Levitt Research Collection consists principally of handwritten notes and photocopies of documents and articles Levitt compiled concerning African-American history, particularly the Revolutionary War period and sports. Nearly all of the notes have no attribution, i.e. no sources are given, and there are frequently no citations for photocopies of news clippings and images, other articles, and pages from books. In addition to the published articles Levitt co-authored, the collection contains typescripts (1970) concerning Fleet Walker (1856-1926), the first black major league baseball player; notes about Weeksville in Brooklyn, New York; and Levitt's research letters and photocopies of the writings of the Pennsylvania poet and painter, Edwin Garnet Riley.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: [Item], Morris Levitt research collection, Sc MG 542, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Morris Levitt served as a consultant for the Negro History Associates, founded by Middleton "Spike" Harris in 1963, whose purpose was to educate the public and school children about the role of African Americans in American history. Levitt was a co-author with Harris of "The Black Book" (1974), a survey of African-American history from the time of slavery through the 1940s, emphasizing contributions in many fields of endeavor. He also co-authored three articles about historic and sports figures.
**Scope and Content Note**

The Morris Levitt Research Collection consists principally of handwritten notes and photocopies of documents and articles Levitt compiled concerning African-American history, particularly the Revolutionary War period and sports. Nearly all of the notes have no attribution, i.e. no sources are given, and there are frequently no citations for photocopies of news clippings and images, other articles, and pages from books. In addition to the published articles Levitt co-authored, the collection contains typescripts (1970) concerning Fleet Walker (1856-1926), the first black major league baseball player; notes about Weeksville in Brooklyn, New York; and Levitt's research letters and photocopies of the writings of the Pennsylvania poet and painter, Edwin Garnet Riley. There are also five manuscripts by other authors, three by Robert J. Swan. The subjects are black unrest in colonial New York, blacks in colonial Brooklyn, both segregation and desegregation of Brooklyn's public schools in the 19th century, blacks in colonial Brooklyn, and 19th century history of blacks, whites and American Indians in Ohio.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
- African American athletes
- African American baseball players
- African Americans -- History -- 1877-1964
- African Americans -- History -- To 1863
- Baseball players -- United States
- Black author
- School integration -- New York (State) -- New York
- Segregation in education -- New York (State) -- New York -- 19th century
- Sports -- United States

**Geographic Names**
- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) -- African Americans
- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783

**Names**
- Levitt, Morris, 1906-1976
- Riley, Edwin Garnet, 1880-1966
- Swan, Robert J.