



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

Guide to the

Antonia Cottrell Martin collection

1989-2002

Sc MG 782

Summary

Creator: Martin, Antonia Cottrell

Title: Antonia Cottrell Martin collection

Date: 1989-2002

Size: 3 linear feet (3 record cartons)

Source: Gift, Antonia Cottrell Martin, Sept. 2007

Abstract: Born in San Francisco in 1943, Antonia Cottrell Martin became one of the first African-American flight attendants for Pan American World Airways in 1967. A descendent of a California black pioneer family, she became interested in tracing her family's roots, and joined the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS). In 1989 she helped found the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of AAHGS and became its president. Inspired by the women in her family, Martin also established the Foundation for African American Women, and served as its president for a number of years. The mission of the Foundation was to find solutions to problems particular to African-American women and to the larger African-American community. The Antonia Cottrell Martin Papers consists primarily of records of the organizations with which Martin was associated: the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Foundation for African American Women, and the Schomburg Corporation. Files for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), including the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter encompass by-laws, minutes of meetings, information about genealogical fairs and resources, newsletters from other chapters, memorial programs for deceased members, correspondence, financial records, a chapter establishment handbook, and related documents, 1990-1994. There are also notebooks containing workshop-related and other conference material (but not the papers presented by the speakers) for three conferences sponsored by the AAHGS, 1998-2002.

Access: Advance notice required.

Physical Location: Sc MG 782

Preferred citation: Antonia Cottrell Martin collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Born in San Francisco in 1943, Antonia Cottrell Martin became one of the first African-American flight attendants for Pan American World Airways in 1967. A descendent of a California black pioneer family, she became interested in tracing her family's roots, and joined the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS). In 1989 she helped found the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of AAHGS and became its president. Inspired by the women in her family, Martin also established the Foundation for African American Women, and served as its president for a number of years. The mission of the Foundation was to find solutions to problems particular to African-American women and to the larger African-American community.

Scope and Content Note

The Antonia Cottrell Martin Papers consists primarily of records of the organizations with which Martin was associated: the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Foundation for African American Women, and the Schomburg Corporation. Files for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), including the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter encompass by-laws, minutes of meetings, information about genealogical fairs and resources, newsletters from other chapters, memorial programs for deceased members, correspondence, financial records, a chapter establishment handbook, and related documents, 1990-1994. There are also notebooks containing workshop-related and other conference material (but not the papers presented by the speakers) for three conferences sponsored by the AAHGS, 1998-2002.

Files of the Foundation for African American Women include documents for an oral history film project entitled "African American Women: Their Lives, Their Survival, Their Future," consisting of taped interviews and conversations about various topics affecting African American women. The files in this collection include a list of questions, tape log, Martin's narration, and signed waivers.

As a member of the Schomburg Corporation's and its Genealogy and Family History Committee, Martin's files consist of minutes of this Committee, sources for genealogical information, as well as minutes and treasurer's reports for the Schomburg Corporation, 1989-1992. The collection also includes one file for the Brooklyn-based Society for African American Congressional Pioneers, 1993.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women
Genealogists
Genealogy
Women genealogists

Names

Martin, Antonia Cottrell
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (Washington, D.C.). Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter
Foundation for African American Women
Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society
Schomburg Corporation. Family History and Genealogy Committee

Society for African American Congressional Pioneers