



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

Guide to the

**Joseph Raspberry collection**

1924-2004

Sc MG 913

## Summary

**Creator:** Raspberry, Joseph

**Title:** Joseph Raspberry collection

**Date:** 1924-2004

**Size:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Received from the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division, December 2015.

**Abstract:** Joseph Raspberry was born on December 14, 1901, in Green County, Alabama. Both Joseph Raspberry and his son, Beldon Raspberry, were pastors for the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Joseph served as pastor in various Michigan and Canadian churches, including Baber Memorial AME Church in Detroit and Lewis Chapel, in Albion, Michigan. Beldon served as the artistic director of the Bridge Street Players, Bridge Street AME Church, Brooklyn, New York, and pastor of Grace AME in Staten Island, New York. This collection consists mostly of professional matter on Joseph Raspberry and his son, Beldon Raspberry. The Joseph Raspberry material contains sermons, clippings, church programs, certificates, and a memorial book. The Beldon Raspberry material includes his theological seminary application, printed matter, playscripts, and a notebook. Additionally, there are programs from other AME Churches and material related to the Brooklyn-Westchester Annual Church School Convention program.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Joseph Raspberry collection, Sc MG 913, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

## Creator History

Joseph Raspberry was born on December 14, 1901, in Green County, Alabama. Both Joseph Raspberry and his son, Beldon Raspberry, were pastors for the African Methodist Episcopal (AME)

Church. Joseph served as pastor in various Michigan and Canadian churches, including Baber Memorial AME Church in Detroit and Lewis Chapel, in Albion, Michigan. Beldon served as the artistic director of the Bridge Street Players, Bridge Street AME Church, Brooklyn, New York, and pastor of Grace AME in Staten Island, New York.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists mostly of professional matter on Joseph Raspberry and his son, Beldon Raspberry. The Joseph Raspberry material contains sermons, clippings, church programs, certificates, and a memorial book. The Beldon Raspberry material includes his theological seminary application, printed matter, playscripts, and a notebook. Additionally, there are programs from other AME Churches and material related to the Brooklyn-Westchester Annual Church School Convention program.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into 3 series: (1) Raspberry, Joseph; (2) Raspberry, Beldon; and (3) General.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American churches -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American clergy -- New York (State) -- New York  
African Americans -- Religion  
Religion -- Study and teaching  
Theater -- Production and direction

### **Names**

Raspberry, Beldon  
Raspberry, Joseph  
African Methodist Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)

## **Container List**

### **Raspberry, Joseph 1924-1985**

- b. 1 f. 1 **Printed matter 1924-1985**  
Includes clippings, certificates, and church programs.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Sermons**
- b. 1 f. 3 **Memorial book 1988 May**

### **Raspberry, Beldon 1990-2004**

- b. 1 f. 4 **Personal 1990-1997**  
Includes theological seminary application and classwork; printed matter; and playscripts (presumably used by the Bridge Street Players).
- b. 1 f. 5 **Grace AME Church**  
Mostly contains sermons.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Journal 2001-2004**  
Includes sermon notes and Bible quotes.

### **General**

- b. 1 f. 7 **AME Church programs and historical information**  
Includes programs from different AME Churches, some historical information, and choral music.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Brooklyn-Westchester District Annual Church School Convention 1989-1997**