



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

Guide to the

Rhoda G. Freeman manuscript and research collection

Sc MG 313

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Freeman, Rhoda Golden

Title: Rhoda G. Freeman manuscript and research collection

Size: 16.0 linear feet (16 boxes)

Source: Gift, Freeman, Robert, 07/19/88

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Allison Hughes

Abstract: Rhoda G. Freeman was a professor of African American history who specialized in the history of African Americans prior to the Civil War and taught at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, from 1965 to 1986. The Rhoda G. Freeman manuscript and research collection consists of manuscripts of writings by Freeman, course materials, and research materials collected by Freeman and used in her writings and teaching. A major portion of the collection consists of bibliographic and topical index card files.

Preferred citation: [Item], Rhoda G. Freeman manuscript and research collection, Sc MG 313, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

A professor of Afro-American history since 1948, Rhoda G. Freeman taught at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey from 1965 until her death in 1986. She served as dean from 1976 to 1979. Freeman received her bachelor's degree from Hunter College in 1948, her master's degree from George Washington University in 1950, and her doctoral degree from Columbia University in 1966. She specialized in the history of African Americans prior to the Civil War.

Scope and Content Note

The Rhoda G. Freeman manuscript and research collection consists of manuscripts of writings by Freeman, course materials, and research materials collected by Freeman and used in her writings and teaching. The manuscripts include two college papers, "The Pro-Slavery Defense in the Ante-Bellum South" and "Marcus Aurelius Garvey: Story of a Dream"; Freeman's master's thesis, "The American Negro and the Back-to-Africa Movement"; her dissertation, "The Free Negro in New York City in the Era Before the Civil War"; and later papers on the leadership of the free Black community in New York and emigration. There are several complete drafts of the dissertation as well as scattered notes and chapter revisions. There are also notes, syllabi, and readings for the class Freeman taught at Upsala College, "The Black Experience in America," and materials for a lecture she delivered on "The Future Roles of Men and Women" at South Maplewood Adult School. The largest part of the collection is research materials, which include photocopies of relevant articles and primary source documents such as nineteenth-century correspondence and census records relating to free African Americans in New York City and other topics in Black history, including Black English and Black-Jewish relations. Her files also include conference papers by others and lists and bibliographies of papers and microfilms. A major portion of the collection consists of bibliographic and topical index card files dealing with the following subjects: emancipation, colonization, abolition, kidnappings, fugitive slaves, political issues, biography, church, census, conventions, economics, problems of poverty, education, discrimination, social and cultural. Numerous index cards relate to bibliographic materials.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Colonization -- Africa
African Americans -- History -- To 1863
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- History
African Americans -- Relations with Jews
Black author
Freedmen -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Bibliographies
Card files
Research (documents)

Names

Freeman, Rhoda Golden
Garvey, Marcus, 1887-1940

Container List

Manuscripts

- b. 1 f. 1 "The Pro-Slavery Defense in the Ante-Bellum South" 1949
- b. 1 f. 2 "Marcus Aurelius Garvey: The Story of a Dream" 1949
- b. 1 f. 3 "The American Negro and the Back-to-Africa Movement" (masters' thesis) 1950
- "The Free Negro in New York City in the Era Before the Civil War" (doctoral dissertation) 1966
- b. 1 f. 4-5 Draft 1
- b. 1 f. 6-7 Draft 2
- b. 1 f. 8-9 Draft 3
- b. 1 f. 10-11 Draft 4
- b. 1 f. 12-13 Draft 5
- b. 1 f. 14-15 Notes
- b. 2 f. 1-2 "The Leadership of the Free Black Community in New York City, 1827-1861" 1971
- b. 2 f. 3 Article on Emigration
- b. 2 f. 4 *Review of Free Negroes in the District of Columbia 1790-1846 by Letitia Woods Brown*
- b. 2 f. 5 Publisher Correspondence 1965-1973
Includes Robert D. Cross's comments on Freeman's dissertation and correspondence with Harper & Row, Greenwood Publishing Corporation, and other publishers.

Course Materials

- "The Black Experience in America," Upsala College 1973-1985
- b. 2 f. 6-8 Syllabus, Exams, Notes 1973-1985
- b. 2 f. 9 Course Materials - Segregation/Supreme Court/Civil Rights
- b. 2 f. 10 Course Materials - US History Post-Reconstruction
- b. 2 f. 11 "Future Roles of Men and Women," Lecture at South Orange Maplewood Adult School 1978-1980
- b. 2 f. 12-14 Notebooks

Research Materials

Articles and Source Materials

- b. 2 f. 15 Free Black Community in NYC
- b. 2 f. 16 Black Community in NYC - Pre Civil War
- b. 2 f. 17 Black Community 1980s
- b. 2 f. 18 Black English
- b. 2 f. 19 Black-Jewish Relations
- b. 3 f. 1 Black History
- b. 3 f. 2-5 Miscellaneous
- b. 3 f. 6 Gerrit Smith Letters
- b. 3 f. 7 Bibliographies
- b. 3 f. 8 Bibliographic Materials - Free Black NYC

Research Materials (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 9 **Conference Papers**
Includes papers by Robert J. Imholt, Warren M. Billings, Nathan Peters, S. Morris, Doris Friedensohn and Barbara Rubin, Robert Snyder, Elliott Robert Barkan, Lise Hirschberg, and Martin Dann.
- b. 3 f. 10 **Correspondence - Research Requests**
- b. 3 f. 11 **Portraits of Black Americans**
Index Cards
 - b. 4 I. Emancipation
 - b. 4 II. Colonization
 - b. 4 III. Abolition
 - b. 5 IV. Kidnapping, Fugitive Slaves
 - b. 5 V. Political Issues
 - b. 6 V. Political Issues, continued (1865-1914)
 - b. 7 Biography
 - b. 8 Church
 - b. 8 Census
 - b. 8 Conventions
 - b. 9 Economic
 - b. 9 Problems of Poverty
 - b. 10 Education
 - b. 10 Discrimination
 - b. 11 Newspapers
 - b. 11 Charitable Work
 - b. 11 To Be Added
 - b. 12 Bibliographic Materials by Author
 - b. 13-15 Bibliographic Materials by Subject
 - b. 16 Colonization/Back-to-Africa
 - b. 16 Slavery
 - b. 16 Negro--General