



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

Guide to the

Morris Levitt research collection

1969-1976

Sc MG 542

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

Summary

Creator: Levitt, Morris, 1906-1976

Title: Morris Levitt research collection

Date: 1969-1976

Size: 6.21 linear feet (7 boxes)

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

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.

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

Language of the Material: English

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 nineteenth 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.

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Personal Papers – Certificates, Diplomas (Photocopies) 1932-1953
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1969-1980
- b. 1 f. 3 *Black Book—Notes*
Chronologies
- b. 1 f. 4 Colonial–Federal Periods
- b. 1 f. 5 Revolutionary War Chronology
- b. 1 f. 6 Ancient Times–Twentieth Century
- b. 1 f. 7 Black History Chronology—U.S.—Eighteenth–Nineteenth Centuries
- b. 1 f. 8 Black History Chronology
- b. 1 f. 9-10 Black History Chronicles
- b. 1 f. 11 "Notes Toward a Black Almanac/Encyclopedia by Month and Day"
- b. 1 f. 12 Black History Calendar
- b. 1 f. 13 Annual Dates
People and Places
- b. 1 f. 14 Estevanico
- b. 1 f. 15 Matthew Henson
- b. 1 f. 16 Edwin Garnet Riley and John William Rogan
- b. 1 f. 17 Edwin Garnet Riley
- b. 1 f. 18 James Robinson
- b. 1 f. 19 Negro American Stories
- b. 1 f. 20 Individuals
- b. 2 f. 1-2
b. 2 f. 3 Africa
- b. 2 f. 4 Brooklyn
- b. 2 f. 5-6 U.S. States
- b. 2 f. 7 Miscellaneous
Revolutionary War
- b. 3 f. 1 Pre-Revolutionary Period
- b. 3 f. 2 Revolutionary Period
- b. 3 f. 3 Soldiers of the Revolution
- b. 3 f. 4-10 Revolutionary War
- b. 3 f. 11 Eighteenth Century African-American History
- b. 3 f. 12 Revolutionary War–1797
- b. 3 f. 13 Revolutionary War–1840
- b. 3 f. 14 Revolutionary and Federal Periods
Sports
- b. 3 f. 15 Levitt's Manuscripts and Published Articles 1971-1973
- b. 3 f. 16 Black Athletes Hall of Fame 1974
- b. 3 f. 17-19 Baseball
- b. 3 f. 20 Basketball

Sports (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 21-22 Boxing
- b. 4 f. 1-2
- b. 4 f. 3-4 Football
- b. 4 f. 5-7 Horse Racing
- b. 4 f. 8-9 Track
- b. 4 f. 12-20 General
- b. 5 f. 1-2

Miscellaneous

- b. 5 f. 3 Black History Teaching Guides
- b. 5 f. 4-5 General
- b. 6 f. 1-17

b. 6 f. 18-20 Printed Matter

Manuscripts – Other Authors

- b. 7 f. 1 Gilberg, Bronsart H., "Red, Black and White"
- b. 7 f. 2 Skemer, Don C., "New Evidence on Black Unrest in Colonial New York"
- Swan, Robert J
- b. 7 f. 3 "Black Public Schools: Segregation of Brooklyn's Public School System"
 1975
- b. 7 f. 4 "Desegregation of Brooklyn's Public Schools: Rhetoric of a Beginning Civil
 Rights Movement" – Incomplete 1975
- b. 7 f. 5 "Black Presence in Colonial Brooklyn"