

African Americans in Michigan

Research materials at the Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Historical Library provide rich documentation of individuals, movements, organizations, and institutions that have voiced the concerns and advanced the causes of African Americans in Michigan. Records from five state chapters of the Urban League, and papers of leaders of the NAACP and CORE in Detroit, bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and leaders in the civil rights movement are among the collections which assist researchers in studying the goals and policies of African American communities and the programs designed and implemented to achieve them.

It should be noted that this subject guide is not an exhaustive list of every collection in the Bentley that contains materials on African Americans, but is instead designed to help researchers by providing a broad overview of the lives of African Americans in Michigan and the challenges they faced.

Table of Contents

Community Leaders & Organizations	2
Civil Rights Activists & Organizations	16
Education	25
Fine Arts	32
Military Service	34
Religious Leaders & Organizations	37
Slavery, Abolition, & The Civil War	47
Women Leaders & Women's Organizations	56
Selected Published Sources	62

Community Leaders & Organizations

African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County.

- African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County records, 1993-2000.
- 0.5 linear feet.
- Organization established in 1993 to research, collect, preserve and exhibit cultural and historical materials relating to the life and work of African Americans in Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Record book containing minutes, program files, newsletters, correspondence, financial records, and constitution and by-laws; also scrapbook of clippings, programs, brochures, and other informational items.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Ancient Order of Gleaners, Primrose Arbor (Calvin, Mich.)

- Ancient Order of Gleaners, Primrose Arbor record books, 1906-1917, 1928-1935.
- 3 vol.
- Black chapter of the Gleaners.
- Minutes of meetings, lists of members, and financial accounts.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Ann Arbor Community Center

- Ann Arbor Community Center records, 1920s-1998
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Organization established to promote civic, cultural, and recreational interests and activities of Ann Arbor's African American community.
- Administrative reports, informational brochures, collected information, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Booker T. Washington Business Association

- Booker T. Washington Business Association records, 1941-1999 (bulk 1968-71)
- 1.5 linear ft.
- Organization of Detroit African American business and professional men and women established to promote the development of local businesses, before 1960 known as Booker T. Washington Trade Association.
- Business and membership directories, newsletters, and annual meeting programs; records of organization presidents Homer D. Waterman, Joseph W. Williams, and Wallace Williams; and files relating to relation with National Business League, 1968-1970.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Brown, Gloria

- Gloria Brown papers, 1964-1967
- 50 items
- Chairwoman of the Detroit, Michigan, chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.

- Correspondence, news releases, and printed material relating to the activities of the Detroit C. O. R. E.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Byrd, David R.

- David R. Byrd papers, 1930s-2004 (bulk 1965-1973, 1981-1983)
- 3.5 linear ft., 1 portfolio and 12 oversize folders.
- African-American architect of churches, residential homes, offices, and schools in Washington, D.C. and Ann Arbor, Michigan. He served on the Board of Commissioners of Washtenaw County (1968-1972), and was an advocate for civil rights and affordable housing for the poor.
- This collection includes architectural drawings, reports, photographs, and personal and professional correspondence.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Byrd, Letitia J.

- Letitia J. Bird Papers, 1970-2004
- 1 linear ft.
- African American educator and community leader in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Correspondence and subject files relating to her career with the Ann Arbor public school system and to her involvement in various other community and social service organizations.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Claytor, Helen Jackson

- Helen Jackson Claytor papers, 1924-2005 (bulk 1955-1985)
- 6 linear feet, 1 oversize volume, and 1 oversize folder.
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, club woman, officer in the Grand Rapids chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association, president of the national YWCA, 1967-1973.
- Biographical files include clippings and award materials; files relating to her work with the Young Women's Christian Association, both national organization and Grand Rapids branch.
- Files relating to her community work in Grand Rapids and her participation in national conferences/committees. The Grand Rapids files relate to education, housing, issues of urban renewal, and other topics. Speeches delivered on topics relating to the YWCA, civil rights, citizenship, and the family; speeches reflect in part her thoughts as a black woman on questions of school and housing segregation.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Curtis, Austin W.

- Austin W. Curtis papers, 1896-1971.
- 2 linear ft., 1 v. [outsized], and 1 oversize folder.
- Assistant to George Washington Carver at Tuskegee Institute, later a Detroit, Michigan, businessman.

- Correspondence and other papers of G. W. Carver relating primarily to experiments with soil improvement and the discovery of new applications for the peanut and other Southern agricultural products; newspaper clippings and memos relating to Curtis' campaign for Congress in 1958 and his work with Carver; and photographs.
- Correspondents include: Mary McLeod Bethune, Ambrose Caliver, Frank P. Chisholm, Herbert W. Collingwood, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, W. E. B. DuBois, James B. Dudley, Franklin S. Earle, Bibb Graves, John Hamilton, John H. Kellogg, Warner J. Morse, Robert R. Moton, the National Pecan Growers Exchange, Julius Rosenwald, William J. Spillman, Jesse O. Thomas, Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Walter F. White, and James Wilson.
- Visual materials collected relating to the life and activities of George Washington Carver; include photographs of Carver, alone and with various notables; photographs of Carver's visit to Greenfield Village and to the Starr Commonwealth for Boys; photographs and reproductions of Tuskegee Institute; and photographs of various buildings named in Carver's honor; and videotape (VHS) of Detroit Black Journal segment on Curtis (1990's).
- [Finding Aid](#)

Dancy, John C.

- John C Dancy papers, 1920-1960
- 1 linear ft. and 1 v. [outsize].
- Executive director of the Detroit Urban League.
- Correspondence, scrapbook, photographs, and miscellanea concerning personal matters, the work of the Urban League, and the concerns of the black community of Detroit.
- Also, photographs of Dancy, his wife, and associates and friends; also photograph of the Horace H. Rackham Educational Building, Detroit, Michigan.
- [Finding Aid](#)

DeLeon, Linda.

- Linda DeLeon papers, 1981-2013.
- 1 linear foot.
- President of the Christians for Decency Anti-Pornography Information Center in Wayne County, Michigan.
- Anti-pornography and anti-abortion campaigns correspondence, publications, mailing, petitions, and other material produced by the Christians for Decency, American Family Association of Michigan, American Decency Association of Michigan, National Federation for Decency Greater Detroit Chapter, Focus on the Family, and other Michian and national organizations. Majority of the Christians for Decency material relates to Inkster, Mich. anti-pornography and anti-abortion campaigns.
- [Finding Aid.](#)

DeMeunier, Leon

- Leon DeMeunier papers, 1960-1964, 1971
- 1 linear ft.
- Chairman of the Detroit, Michigan chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.

- Correspondence, minutes of CORE meetings, and printed materials, relating primarily to the activities of CORE in Detroit, Michigan, concerning activities against job discrimination, and in support of "Freedom Rides" into the South in the early 1960's.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Dessaw, Marie

- Marie Dessaw papers, 1956-1985
- 0.5 linear feet
- Detroit, Michigan civic leader, member and officer of the National Housewives League of America.
- Correspondence, reports, minutes, and other materials relating to her participation and leadership of the National Housewives League.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Detroit Urban League

- Detroit Urban League records, 1916-[ongoing]
- 96 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder; 28 sound tape reels.
- Detroit, Michigan, branch of the National Urban League.
- Minutes of the Board of Directors, correspondence and topical files of Executive Directors and Presidents, budgets and financial records, and papers concerning National Urban League conferences and Green Pastures Camp; also departmental files relating to community services, housing, vocational services, health and welfare, job development and employment, and education and youth incentives; and photographs.
- Visual materials include photographs of chapter activities, meetings, and ceremonies; photos of buildings and staff (notably executive directors, John Dancy and Francis Kornegay); also films. Sound recordings include recordings of Urban League sponsored radio programs and of appearances by staff members on the radio; also recordings of Urban League functions featuring executive director Francis Kornegay.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Germain, George W.

- George W. Germain papers, 1842-1852.
- 2 vol. and 8 items.
- Ionia County, Michigan, farmer, Whig politician, later Republican state legislator.
- Journals commenting on politics, the temperance and anti-slavery movements, journey from New York state to Michigan, and religion; and miscellanea.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Gill, Lillian

- Lillian Gill papers, 1950s-2007
- 6 linear ft.
- African American businesswoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lillian Gill was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and in African American Baptist Church organizations, particularly New Hope Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.

- The Lillian Gill collections is comprised of the following series: Biographical and personal; Business career; Political and community interests; Order of Eastern Star, Free and Accepted Masons; New Hope Baptist Church and other Baptist organizations; and Photographs. The great bulk of the collection details her Masonic responsibilities and her activities with her church and with her denomination's regional bulletins, brochures, programs, announcements, and the like. A smaller portion of the collection relates to her varied business endeavors as an insurance underwriter and as a salesperson with Amway.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Golden, Evelyn

- Evelyn Golden paper, 1960.
- 1 item. manuscript.
- Battle Creek, Michigan, resident.
- History of the Battle Creek chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Golden, James R.

- James R. Golden notebooks, 1928.
- 1 linear ft. (21 v.)
- Law student at the University of Michigan, later director of the Battle Creek Urban League.
- Notes on law classes.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Grand Rapids Urban League

- Grand Rapids Urban League records, 1941-1986
- 4 linear ft.
- Affiliate of the National Urban League.
- Historical information file, administrative files, topical files, and photographs.
- Photos of activities of the Grand Rapids Urban League, especially its activities with children (ca. 1950), later activities of the League, and portraits of its secretary, Paul Phillips.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Greater Lansing Urban League

- Greater Lansing Urban League records, 1964-1976
- 2 linear ft.
- Affiliate chapter of the National Urban League.
- Annual reports, minutes of board of directors, and subject files concerning the work of the league in matters of employment and other community services; also speeches and other files of Charles H. Mitchner, executive director.

- Also, photos of activities of the Grand Rapids Urban League, especially its activities with children (ca. 1950), later activities of the League, and portraits of its secretary, Paul Phillips.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Gregg, Phineas

- Phineas Gregg papers, 1849-1882
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Justice of the Peace in Cass County, Michigan.
- Medical account book, 1866-1882; docket book, 1849-1851; record of marriages, 1850-1873 of the Saunders colony of freed slaves; deeds to property; and miscellanea.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Haywood, Harry

- Harry Haywood papers, 1928-1985.
- 2.3 linear ft.
- Black leader and former member of the American Communist Party, also known as Haywood Hall.
- Correspondence and reports concerning the Black Nationalism movement in America and its place in the Communist Party; typescript autobiography, 1972, entitled: "Free, Black and Seventy-One: Memoirs of a Black Marxist;" articles and manuscripts of writings; papers relating to his activities with the Communist Party; speeches and other presentations; and notes and fragments of his writings.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Highland Park Civic Association

- Highland Park Civic Association papers, 1950-51
- 70 items.
- Organization seeking restrictions on property occupancy and transferral.
- Summary Correspondence, articles of incorporation, property restriction agreements, membership blanks, and other related papers.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Holman, Charles F.

- Charles F. Holman papers, 1973-1986.
- 1.3 linear ft.
- Detroit, Michigan, attorney, active in areas of civil rights, education of minorities, lobbying, and conflict of interest.
- Correspondence, 1973-1986; subject files concerning his activities with, and interest in, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in Michigan and at the national level; files relating to civil rights and minority issues.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Hunter, Robert

- Robert Hunter collection, 1920s-1990s
- 0.2 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
- African American resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan; collector of documents and photographs relating to the local African American community.
- Charter of Touissant Lodge no. 21, Knights of Pythias, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 1923; charter of Eden Council no. 408, Ancient United Knights and Daughters of Africa, 1926; charter of Huron Lodge no. 695, Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, 1926; miscellaneous and printed material relating to Ypsilanti African American chapters of fraternal and service organizations; and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Kellogg African American Health Care Project

- Kellogg African American Health Care Project records, 1997-2000
- 5 linear ft.
- Project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to document the health care experiences of African Americans in southeastern Michigan consisting primarily of oral history interviews with African American health care practitioners and administrators covering the period 1940-1969.
- Background files relating to the project, and 42 oral history interview transcripts and tape recordings. Interviews discuss biographical details, desegregation efforts in Detroit area hospitals, and social conditions facing African Americans.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Kornegay, Francis A.

- Francis A Kornegay papers, 1936-1977
- 18 linear ft.
- Executive director of the Detroit Urban League.
- Correspondence and topical files relating to his career as vocational services secretary, 1944-1956, assistant executive director, 1956-1960, and executive director of the Detroit Urban League, 1960-1978.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Lawson, William H.

- William H. Lawson papers, 1958-1992.
- 1 folder
- African American optometrist, resident of Detroit, Michigan.
- Biographical information and miscellanea relating to Lawson and his son, optometrist William Emmet Lawson.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Lockett, Harold J.

- Harold J. Lockett papers, 1969-1994
- 0.4 linear feet

- Ann Arbor, Michigan African American psychiatrist; member and president of Ann Arbor Board of Education; board member of the Ann Arbor Black Theatre; psychiatrist and director with the Hawthorn Center in Northville, Michigan.
- Biographical and personal materials; minutes of the board, clippings, and promotional materials for the Ann Arbor Black Theatre; and miscellaneous relating to the Hawthorn Center.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Louis, Joe

- Joe Louis papers, 1935-1951
- 93 v., 0.2 linear ft., and 1 oversize folder.
- Champion prize fighter of Detroit, Michigan.
- Scrapbooks, 1935-1941 (arranged chronologically by bout), and clippings, articles, and fan letters, 1948-1951, relating to his career as a boxer.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Lucas, William

- William Lucas papers, 1965-1986,
- 34 linear ft.
- Wayne County sheriff, 1969-1982, Wayne County Executive, 1983-1986, and Republican candidate for governor of Michigan, 1986.
- Correspondence, subject files, clippings, videotapes, and photographs primarily concerning his work as sheriff and county executive, and his gubernatorial campaign.
- Videocassette tapes (21 lin. ft.) and photographs (0.75 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder) detailing Lucas' public career, especially his 1986 gubernatorial campaign.
- [Finding Aid](#)

McCauley, Dorothy

- Dorothy McCauley papers, 1961-1989.
- 1.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)
- Organizer and executive director of the Dav-Joy-Lin-Dex Community Council, Detroit, Michigan, network of neighborhood block organization; community activist concerned with neighborhood youth and senior citizen programs, and with interest in matters of zoning, health, housing, and police-community relations.
- Newsletters and minutes of executive committee of the Dav-Joy-Lin-Dex Community Council; newsletters of area block clubs; files relating to her community and organizational involvement; published materials; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (M.O.S.E.S.)

- M.O.S.E.S. records, 1993-2003 (bulk 1998-2001)
- 3 linear ft.
- Inter-racial, inter-faith organization established in 1997 to strengthen metropolitan Detroit congregations and communities through social programs, leadership training, and

encouragement of civic participation. M.O.S.E.S was formed from three faith-based organizations: Jeremiah, West Detroit Inter-faith Community Organization, and NOAH.

- History and background materials, financial files, executive board files, and records of Jeremiah Project Board.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Historical Records Survey

- Michigan Historical Records Survey records, 1936-1942.
- 47 linear ft. and 68 microfilm reels.
- Records survey of the U.S. Work Projects Administration.
- Correspondence, drafts of guides to county archives, proceedings of county boards of supervisors, field reports of workers, and copies of land patents for some counties; also material relating to the history of Blacks in Michigan.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Morgan Family (Boyne City, Mich.)

- Morgan Family papers, 1844-1988 (scattered dates)
- 0.2 linear ft. and 1 outsize v.
- Family of Zachariah Morgan, African American pioneer of Boyne City, Michigan.
- Family histories, account books of family businesses including Boyne City land development, record book of Boyne City W.C.T.U. chapter, memorabilia, two letters, Haitian immigration document, and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), University of Michigan College Chapter

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, University of Michigan College Chapter records, 1973-1989.
- 1 linear ft.
- Correspondence, reports, newsletters, and other materials concerning the problems of minority students at the University.
- [Finding Aid](#)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ypsilanti-Willow Run Branch

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Ypsilanti-Willow Run Branch records, 1918 and 1977-1998 (bulk 1989-1998)
- 3.75 linear ft. and 1 oversized item.
- Volunteer and membership organization which focuses on eliminating racial prejudice, improving the educational, economic, social and political status of minorities, and maintaining public awareness of the adverse effects of racial discrimination.
- Records include chapter charter, 1918, and minutes, newsletters, correspondence, applications for Thalheimer Award, activity files, issue files, and color snapshots.
- [Finding Aid](#)

National Housewives' League of America

- National Housewives' League of America records, 1931-1996 (bulk 1941-1987).
- 2.1 linear ft. and 1 oversize item.
- Organization established in 1933 to encourage African American housewives to patronize African American-owned businesses. The national organization was comprised of local groups, the most important of these being the Housewives' League of Detroit, which was founded in 1930 under the leadership of Fannie B. Peck.
- The Detroit League worked in conjunction with the Booker T. Washington Trade Association whose organization was headed by the Rev. William H. Peck, and the National Negro Business League.
- The records, accumulated by Fannie B. Peck and subsequent officers of the organization, Christina Fuqua and Lydia Hibbert, include minutes, correspondence, publications, and activity files of both the national organization and the Detroit league. The records were maintained by the same individuals. The series in the record group are History and Organization; Core Records; Correspondence; Programs and Events; Media Coverage; Publications; Chapters; Related Organizations; and Other Materials.
- The largest portion of the Chapters series consists of records of the Detroit league and include history, publications, and other organizational materials.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Pontiac Area Urban League

- Pontiac Area Urban League records, 1950-1989 (bulk 1978-1987).
- 0.7 linear ft. (in 2 boxes).
- Scattered minutes and annual reports, clippings and scrapbooks, publications, subject files relating to chapter activities, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Ragland, John

- John Ragland papers, ca. 1930-1944
- 14 items
- Ann Arbor, Michigan, attorney.
- Miscellanea relating to the Colored Welfare League and other Ann Arbor, Michigan, Black community organizations.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Robinson, Remus

- Remus Robinson papers, 1927-1930
- 2 linear ft.
- In storage; please contact a reference archivist (bentley.ref@umich.edu) to access.
- Detroit, Michigan physician and civic leader.
- Student notes and other materials taken while attending the Medical School of the University of Michigan; and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Rodgers, Curtis E.

- Curtis E. Rodgers papers, 1953 and 1962-71
- 2 linear ft.
- Secretary-director of the Detroit Commission on Community Relations.
- Records, 1969-1971, of meetings, including minutes, reports, and other discussed documents; speeches, press releases, studies undertaken, and subject files; also photograph of commission members.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Rosenfeld, Ralph

- Ralph Rosenfeld papers, 1965-1966
- 35 items
- Chairman of the Detroit, Michigan chapter of Congress of Racial Equality.
- Correspondence, memos, schedules and other papers concerning the activities of Detroit, Michigan CORE.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Ross, Mildred

- Mildred Ross collection, 1983-1994
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Secretary of the Willow Run Black History Organization.
- Summary Constitution, questionnaires, tapes of interviews, newspaper articles, and other materials relating to the history of African Americans in Willow Run, Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Southwestern Michigan Urban League

- Southwestern Michigan Urban League records, 1962-2007
- 23 linear ft., 12 sound cassettes, and 0.25 linear ft. photographs
- Interracial, non-profit, non-partisan community service organization in Battle Creek, Michigan (formerly Battle Creek Area Urban League) founded in 1966 and affiliated with the National Urban League. Mission is to secure equal opportunities for minorities and the disadvantaged through community planning, advocacy, and research. Provides services and develops programs in education, employment, housing and health, frequently in collaboration with area civic, business and educational institutions. Name changed to Southwestern Michigan Urban League in 1992.
- Series include: History, Administration, Correspondence, Reports, Meetings, Programs, Community Memberships, Public Relations, Events, Battle Creek Urban League Guild, and Audio Visual, and digital materials.
- Of particular interest are papers related to League's founding, scrapbook of newspaper articles, 1962-1989, and community membership series, which documents the League's active involvement in civic affairs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Stevens, Wytan

- Wytan Stevens papers, 1961-1973.

- 2 linear ft.
- Ann Arbor, Michigan, local historian.
- Leaflets, newsletters, and printed materials concerning activist organizations and protest meetings held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and at the University of Michigan during the 1960's; correspondence and checklist, 1969, of Michigan African American community newspapers; and historical data, 1972, compiled relating to building at 1037 Jones Drive in Ann Arbor, occupied by various breweries and the Ann Arbor Foundry Company; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Tibbs, Chrystal G.

- Chrystal G. Tibbs papers, 1913-2013, bulk 1990-2013.
- 4 linear feet, 1 oversize box, and 1 oversize folder.
- Michigan educator, graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (A.K.A.) sorority. Tibbs is A.K.A. Golder Soror (50-year member) and has held a number of administrative posts within the sorority, most notably the Great Lakes Regional Representative to the International Archives Committee of A.K.A. Tibbs served in administrative capacities at various Detroit elementary schools and as a Principal of Hampton Elementary School.
- The collection includes materials accumulated through Tibbs's participation in A.K.A. conferences, chapter meetings, and special interest groups at the local, state, regional, and national level over a span of 50 years. The activities of Michigan-based chapters are particularly well represented. Material includes policy documents, programs of events, meeting proceedings, reports, scrapbooks, photographs. Also personal material related to Tibbs and her mother Maggie Powell, and Tibbs's church, the Grace Episcopal Church in Detroit.
- [Finding Aid](#).

Urban League of Greater Muskegon

- Urban League of Greater Muskegon records, 1943-1995
- 17.5 linear ft.
- Records of the Urban League of Greater Muskegon and its predecessor the Citizen
- Board of directors files, executive director's files, community organization department files, printed material, newspaper clippings, photographs, and miscellanea.
- Photographs include group portraits and snapshots of Urban League leaders, volunteers, and of the music ensemble, the Chansonettes; and snapshots of community service activities and special events.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Wallace, Elmer L.

- Condensed history of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons - Jurisdiction of Michigan, 1865-1965, 1965.
- 1 item.
- Past Grand Master of this African American lodge.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Wheeler, Albert H. and Emma M.

- Albert H. and Emma M. Wheeler papers, 1938-1994
- 6 linear ft.
- Albert and Emma Wheeler were community and civil rights leaders from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Albert Wheeler was also professor of microbiology and dermatology at the University of Michigan. In addition, he and his wife helped to establish the local chapter of the NAACP. Albert Wheeler was elected to the office of mayor of Ann Arbor and served from 1975 to 1978.
- The series in the collection are Personal/Biographical; NAACP/Civil Rights Activities; Mayoralty Files; University of Michigan; and Photographs. The collection documents the Wheelers' devotion to the cause of civil rights and their involvement with numerous civil rights and community organizations. The collection also includes Albert Wheeler's mayoralty files.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Wickliffe, Letty M.

- Letty M. Wickliffe papers, ca. 1860-1992
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Teacher; Ann Arbor, Michigan, community activist; member of the North Central Property Owners Association in Ann Arbor.
- Articles written for the local newspaper, awards, scattered correspondence, biographical information, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Williams, Wallace C.

- Wallace C. Williams papers, 1958-1992
- 1.25 linear ft.
- Detroit businessman active in numerous minority business affairs and organizations. Williams was director of the Michigan Division of Minority Business Enterprise within the Michigan Department of Commerce, 1959-1978.
- Biographical information, correspondence, files relating to his activities on behalf of minority business development, especially with the Minority Technology Council of Michigan; also files relating to involvement with Detroit civic and cultural organizations, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Willis, Mattie Azalia

- Mattie Azalia Willis papers, 1928-1970.
- 2 linear ft.
- Battle Creek, Michigan singer and music teacher, member of the Battle Creek chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other material relating to her professional career, and diaries recording daily activities and personal thoughts; also photographs.

- Portraits and informal photographs of Willis, alone and with friends and associates; photographs of theatrical productions in which Willis performed; and photographs of Willis.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Willow Run Black History Organization

- Willow Run Black History Organization records, 1942-1989 (bulk 1984-1989)
- 2 linear ft.
- Organization was formed in 1983 to collect the history of African Americans in Willow Run, to produce a publication, and to foster racial understanding.
- Includes administrative records and collected material relating to the history of African Americans in Michigan's Willow Run Village and environs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Civil Rights Activists & Organizations

Angelo, Frank

- Frank Angelo papers, 1953-1995.
- 16 linear ft.
- Managing editor of the Detroit Free Press, president of the Michigan Press Association, 1969, and national treasurer of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism society.
- Activities and topical files; speeches; papers concerning work on Cooley High School Community Council, Detroit, Michigan, files concerning Detroit race relations and the Detroit riot of 1967; papers relating to Detroit Press Club; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission

- Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission records, 1957-1993.
- 12 linear ft.
- Agency of the city of Ann Arbor established in 1957 as the Human Relations Commission to investigate and deal with issues of racial discrimination in housing and employment. The name of the agency was changed in 1970 to the Human Rights Commission. The scope of the Commission came to include complaints of discrimination against women, gays, and the disabled.
- The record group provides substantial documentation of issues of racial discrimination in employment and housing in Ann Arbor, Michigan in the period of 1957 to 1993. Included are files relating to the establishment of the commission, minutes (through 1993 with some gaps), memoranda (1968-1970), topical files, early case files (1965-1970), and student intern projects and reports of members of the community practice program within the University of Michigan School of Social Work.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Asher, Cash

- Cash Asher papers, 1922-1967.
- 1 linear ft.
- Newspaperman and free lance journalist.
- Correspondence and other material concerning Asher's research projects, particularly the Ossian Sweet murder trial in Detroit, and the scientific career of William F. Koch; and newspaper and magazine articles and books; also photograph. Correspondents include Charles E. Coughlin, Clarence Darrow, Robert Kennedy, William F. Koch, and Walter White.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Baskin, Alex

- Alex Baskin interviews, 1959-1960.
- 1 vol.
- Professor of history, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

- Transcripts of interviews with participants in the Ossian Sweet murder trial (Detroit, Michigan, 1925) including Thomas F. Chawke, John C. Dancy, Charles Mahoney, William C. Osby, Sr., Cecil L. Rowlette, Otis Sweet and Robert M. Toms. Includes material concerning trial judge, Frank Murphy, and defense lawyer, Clarence Darrow.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Bloch, Peter R.

- Peter R. Bloch collection, 1959-1960.
- 1 folder.
- New York City journalist and historian.
- Letters received from friend Robert F. Williams, militant African American civil rights activist. In the letters Williams discusses his arrest at a student sit-in protest, his struggles as a civil rights leader in the South, his travel plans, and his appreciation of Bloch's writings.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Carr, Marian

- Marian Carr papers, 1957-1963.
- 0.3 linear ft.
- Member of the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Human Relations Commission, 1957-1960 and the Ann Arbor-Washtenaw County (Mich.) American Civil Liberties Union.
- Minutes, correspondence, clippings and printed material dealing largely with problems of race relations in Ann Arbor, Michigan, particularly discrimination in housing and employment.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Detroit, Michigan

- Race Riot Scrapbook, 1943.
- 1 oversize vol.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Detroit, Michigan

- Riot Scrapbooks, 1967
- 2 oversize vol.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Detroit Riot Oral History Project

- Detroit Riot Oral History Project transcripts, 1984-1985.
- 0.3 linear ft.
- Interviews conducted by Sidney Fine.
- Interviews with community leaders and law enforcement and political officials about the Detroit Riot of 1967.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Eley, Lynn W.

- Lynn W. Eley papers, 1958-1963.
- 3 linear ft.
- Professor of political science at University of Michigan, and Democratic city councilman for Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1961-1963.
- Material concerning his council activities, his work for the Michigan Advisory Committee on Reorganization of State Government, and the Michigan State Science Advisory Board.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Erlich, John

- John Erlich papers, 1966-1970.
- 1 linear ft.
- Associate professor of social work at University of Michigan.
- Newspaper clippings, leaflets, and other printed material relating to the Black Action Movement campaign in the spring of 1970 to increase enrollment of black students at the University; and publications concerning welfare rights, student activism and civil rights.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Eynon, Bret

- Bret Eynon papers, 1966-1977.
- 1 linear ft.
- Papers, collected by Bret Eynon, student at the University of Michigan, relating to his interest in the radical causes and issues of the 1960s and 1970s.
- Topical files relating to the Black Action Movement (BAM) strike at the University of Michigan, John Sinclair, draft resistance, protests about the war in Vietnam, the Welfare Rights Organization, and feminism and the women's movement.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Feingold, Eugene

- Eugene Feingold papers, 1950-2002 (bulk 1960-1990).
- 5 linear ft.
- Professor of health management and policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health; also active in various civil liberties and social justice causes.
- The collection primarily relates to his interest in, and activities with, civil liberties and social justice causes and organizations; other files relate to minority relations at the University of Michigan and to his activities with Faculty Against Institutional Racism organization; also files pertaining to his chairmanship of the department of medical care organization.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Fine, Sydney

- Sydney Fine collected research materials, ca. 1900-ca. 1970 (scattered).
- 13 linear ft.

- Professor of history at the University of Michigan.
- Collected materials pertaining to his research interests; include materials relating to automobile code of the N.R.A., including correspondence, memoranda, testimony, minutes of the meetings of mediation and negotiation with the auto industry, and decisions of the Automobile Labor Board; and copies of FBI and Justice Department files relating to the 1967 Detroit riot.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Foster, Madison

- Madison Foster papers, 1969-1970.
- 1 linear ft.
- Student at the University of Michigan, later lecturer in social work, and active member of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers (LRBW).
- Materials relating to the Black Action Movement (BAM) strike at the University of Michigan in 1970; papers detailing his involvement with the LRBW, the International Black Appeal (IBA), and other black organizations.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Hall, Gwendolyn Midlo

- Gwendolyn Midlo Hall papers, 1939-1991
- 10 linear ft.
- Restricted access--contact a reference archivist at bentley.ref@umich.edu for access information.
- Professor of history, civil rights activist, scholar of African American history.
- Family and professional correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, reviews, and printed material reflecting her interest in black history, the case of Robert Williams, and her scholarly interests.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Hill family

- Charles A. Hill family papers, 1917-1981
- 2.7 linear ft.
- Charles A. Hill was pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church (formerly Hartford Avenue Baptist Church) in Detroit, 1920-1969.
- Papers of Charles A. Hill and family pertaining to his church activities and to his involvement in various political and civil rights causes; includes minute book to the meetings of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, 1944-1947; collected material on Hill and his activities gathered by the Detroit Police Department; and scrapbooks of clippings and photographs of Hill relating to his role as a pastor.
- Scrapbooks of photographs and other memorabilia detailing his pastoral career and his involvement in Detroit events. Included are portraits and informal photos of Hill and his family; also photos of church events and groups.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Hudson, Joseph L.

- Joseph L. Hudson papers, 1967-1983 (scattered dates).
- 0.5 linear ft. (14 folders).
- Papers of Joseph L. Hudson, Jr., Detroit (Mich.) businessman and chairman of New Detroit Committee, organization established after the 1967 Detroit Riot to investigate and remedy the causes of that civil disturbance.
- Correspondence, reports, speeches, articles, photographs, and printed material relating to the riot and to his work with New Detroit.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Institute of Public Policy Studies (University of Michigan)

- Aberbach-Walker Detroit Riot studies, 1967-1971.
- 24 linear ft.
- Records, 1967-1971, of the studies on the Detroit riot of 1967 conducted by Joel Aberbach and Jack Walker, staff members of the Institute of Public Policy Studies of the University of Michigan; includes survey forms, 1967, 1968 and 1971, audio-tapes of interviews with Detroit civic leaders; and administrative records of the project.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Kleinman, Rose Parker

- Rose P. Kleinman papers, 1947-1977, bulk 1964-1977.
- 2 linear ft.
- Detroit, Michigan, social activist and reformer.
- Correspondence and subject files relating to her interest in cooperatives, especially organizations concerned with low-income, open housing projects; also photographs and audio-tapes.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium publications, 1988-2006.
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Annual symposium held at the University of Michigan dedicated to developing "programs and initiatives to continue and remember the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."
- Schedules, programs, posters, and anthologies from the 1st (1988) to 19th (2006) Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposia. The bulk of the materials originate from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee (under the direction of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives). The collection also includes materials originating from various other academic units at the University of Michigan.
- [Marilyn Catalog Record](#)

McMahon, Joseph E.

- The Michigan Civil Rights Act of 1885, 1964.
- 1 item (45 p.)
- Law student at the University of Michigan.

- Seminar paper for class in American legal history at the University of Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Monroe County (Mich.)

- Monroe County papers, 1819-1943.
- 0.6 linear ft. (in 2 boxes), 5 oversize v. and 4 oversize folders.
- Of special interest: Vote on "equal suffrage to colored persons," 1850. Box 1.
- Registrations, poll lists and election returns, 1820-1888; highway assessment and tax records, 1819-1943; assessment roll of Milan township, Michigan, 1902, lists and abstracts of sales of state lands, 1860-1899; tavern permits, 1836-1838; abstracts of permits, occupations and new establishments, 1830-1840; bonds, 1822 and 1841-1892; drain survey, 1861; certificates of sales of swamp lands, 1867; census reports of Port Lawrence township (later part of Ohio), 1827, and Ida township, 1837; military lists, 1869-1886; contracts of Monroe County Detecting Society (vigilance committee) for 1848 and 1853; school reports, 1835-1883 and school census, 1914 and 1920.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Mullins, Raymond G.

- Raymond G. Mullins papers, 1953-1999 (bulk 1970-1990)
- 1.5 linear ft.
- Ypsilanti, Michigan attorney active in community affairs, particularly in areas of civil rights and minority education. President of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Ypsilanti-Willow Run Branch, 1981-1982 and 1987 to 1998.
- Correspondence, papers associated with his involvement in NAACP activities, documents relating to judgeship candidacy in 1992, printed material culled from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations, and papers documenting service to Brown Chapel A.M.E. church.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Potts, Robert L.

- Robert L. Potts papers, 1966-1992.
- 4 linear ft., 11 sound cassettes
- Episcopal priest, member of the executive committee of the Metropolitan Detroit Citizens Development Authority, civic organization established with the goals of improving the economic, social, educational, cultural and general welfare of the people of the city of Detroit, Michigan; also coordinator of the Youth Opportunity Council of Detroit.
- Executive committee minutes, financial statements, and miscellaneous papers relating to his activities; also writings of his son, Randolph Potts; also sound recordings of sermons given by Potts.
- Sound recordings of sermons preached at Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, Michigan.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Smith, Otis M

- Otis M. Smith papers, 1949-1993 (bulk 1957-1971).

- 3.5 linear ft.
- Attorney, Michigan state official, justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, 1961-1966, regent of the University of Michigan Board of Regents, 1967-1971, general counsel and vice president of the General Motors Corporation.
- Series consist of personal which includes biographical information and photographs; speeches (1963-1992); Michigan Public Service Commission files (1957-1959); Auditor General files (1959-1961); General Motors Corporation files (1967-1969); University of Michigan Board of Regents files (1967-1971) which documents in part the Black Action Movement, the controversy over the role of R.O.T.C., and other issues involving the administration of the university; campaign files (1966-1968); and Michigan Supreme Court files (1961-1966).
- [Finding Aid](#)

Sweet, Ossian

- Ossian Sweet transcript of proceedings, 1925-1926.
- 2 reels microfile: positive.
- Proceedings of the People vs. Ossian Sweet, et al in the Recorder's Court of Detroit, Michigan.
- Testimony presented before Judge Frank Murphy, and arguments of prosecuting attorney, Robert Toms, and defense attorney, Clarence Darrow.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Taylor, Hobart

- Hobart Taylor papers, 1961-1981.
- 23.1 linear ft.
- Photographs 1 linear ft.
- Papers of Hobart Taylor, Jr., attorney and businessman, associate counsel to President Lyndon Johnson, later director of the Export-Import Bank.
- Correspondence, speeches, and oral history interviews; files relating to his work with Plans for Progress, a voluntary association of business and industry working to promote equal employment opportunities; his work on the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities, the NAACP, the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Advisory Committee for Minority Affairs; topical files with files on Democratic politics in the 1960's, and his work with Johnson and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Thomas Jr., Charles

- Charles Thomas, Jr. papers, 1965-1994 (bulk 1968-1980)
- 4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder
- Charles Thomas, Jr. was born on November 29, 1937, in Wilson, Arkansas. When he was young, his family moved to the Ann Arbor, Michigan, area. After retiring from a military career, Thomas returned to Ann Arbor in 1967, and became heavily involved in the Civil Rights movement. His enthusiastic participation in the movement led to brushes with the law, resulting in the Michigan State Police monitoring his activities compiling information into the so-called "Red Squad Files."

- In 1970, Thomas founded the Washtenaw County Black Economic Development League (WCBEDL), a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of minority youth. WCBEDL offered training in electronics, construction, and computer use and repair. Thomas died on August 2, 1994.
- The papers in the Charles Thomas, Jr. collection are divided into four series: Personal/Biographical, Washtenaw County Black Economic Development League (WCBEDL), Topical Files, and Photographs. The Personal/Biographical series contains Thomas' personal scrapbooks, copies of his "Red Squad" files, and documentation of his legal battles. Materials in the Washtenaw County Black Economic Development League series describe the formation of WCBEDL, its funding, and programs offered.
- Correspondence in the WCBEDL series includes four letters from Coretta Scott King. The Topical series contains information on Thomas' miscellaneous activities and interests. Photographs of Thomas and his ex-wife Patricia are in the Photograph series as well as photos of WCBEDL activities, Ann Arbor Black Theatre productions, Black Action Movement (BAM) demonstrations, and the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Thompson, Harold

- Harold Thompson papers, 1940-1986.
- 5 linear ft. and 1 oversize v.
- Detroit, Michigan, businessman and civic leader, layman in the Protestant Episcopal Church, and state government official.
- Subject files relating to his involvement in church affairs, the Mayor's Interracial Committee, established after the Detroit Riot of 1943, the Pathfinders organization, and politics; also scattered clippings, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials; and scrapbook.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Walker, Moses L.

- Moses L. Walker papers, 1926-1950
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Officer in the Great Lakes Mutual Life Insurance Company at Detroit, Michigan and with the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- Correspondence concerning the Plymouth Congregational Church of Detroit, Michigan, local politics, social problems and civil rights, and partial transcript of the Ossian Sweet Murder Trial. Correspondents include: Prentiss M. Brown, Wilber M. Brucker, James J. Couzens, Clarence Darrow, Frank Murphy, and George Murphy. Also, portrait (photonegative).
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Wheeler, Albert H. and Emma M.

- Albert H. and Emma M. Wheeler papers, 1938-1994
- 6 linear ft.

- Albert and Emma Wheeler were community and civil rights leaders from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Albert Wheeler was also professor of microbiology and dermatology at the University of Michigan. In addition, he and his wife helped to establish the local chapter of the NAACP. Albert Wheeler was elected to the office of mayor of Ann Arbor and served from 1975 to 1978.
- The series in the collection are Personal/Biographical; NAACP/Civil Rights Activities; Mayoralty Files; University of Michigan; and Photographs. The collection documents the Wheelers' devotion to the cause of civil rights and their involvement with numerous civil rights and community organizations. The collection also includes Albert Wheeler's mayoralty files.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Williams, Robert Franklin

- Robert F. Williams papers, 1959-1997.
- 14 linear ft.
- Civil rights activist, black militant, and president of the Detroit, Michigan-based Republic of New Africa.
- Correspondence, newsletters entitled, "The Crusader", radio broadcasts entitled, "Radio Free Dixie", audio tapes and photographs; include materials concerning his life in Cuba, 1961-1966, in the People's Republic of China, 1966-1969, and concerning his legal fights against extradition to North Carolina on charges of kidnapping.
- Photographs and videocassettes primarily detailing his visits to China, Africa, Cuba, and Vietnam; also funeral service, 1996.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Willis, Mattie Azalia

- Mattie Azalia Willis papers, 1928-1970.
- 2 linear ft.
- Battle Creek, Michigan singer and music teacher, member of the Battle Creek chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other material relating to her professional career, and diaries recording daily activities and personal thoughts; also photographs.
- Portraits and informal photographs of Willis, alone and with friends and associates; photographs of theatrical productions in which Willis performed; and photographs of Willis.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Education

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Chapter (University of Michigan)

- Alpha Phi Alpha, Epsilon Chapter (University of Michigan) records, 1909-1996 (scattered dates).
- 2.0 linear ft. and 2 oversize items.
- Restricted access--contact a reference archivist at bentley.ref@umich.edu for access information.
- History, administrative records, topical files, and photographs largely relating to activities of African American students at the University of Michigan.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Alston, Christopher

- Christopher Alston papers, 1988-1990.
- 0.1 linear ft.
- Organizer of the Inventory of Negro Manuscripts project of the Michigan Historical Records Survey and United Auto Workers official.
- Photographs and sound recordings of Alston remarks at the dedication of the Robert Hayden Lounge in the University of Michigan Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (1988) and interview conducted by William McAdoo (1990, includes transcript) relating to the Inventory of Negro Manuscripts project; also miscellanea.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Bagley Family

- Bagley family papers, 1846-1922.
- 0.2 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
- The family of David M. Bagley of Lansing, Mich., and later Old Mission, Mich., law student at the University of Michigan (1861-1862), chairman of the Ingham County Republican Committee; his wife Bennette (Mabbs) Bagley; and their son William D. Bagley, a farmer in Old Mission, Mich.
- Letters addressed to Bennette Bagley, 1858-1874, including letters from David M. Bagley while a student at the University of Michigan and letters from Louis Kelsey, African American soldier with the 54th Massachusetts Infantry.
- Letter book, 1846-1851, of Bagley family members containing copies of letters; University of Michigan student notebook, 1861, on law lectures by James V. Campbell; precinct record book, of Lansing, Michigan, 1858, containing lists of voters with annotations of their party affiliation (later used in 1883 and 1919-1922 as account book by William D. Bagley).
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Chavis, John

- John Chavis papers, 1965-1971.
- 1.25 linear ft.
- Historian and administrator at University of Michigan and Tuskegee Institute.

- Minutes, reports and correspondence relating primarily to enrollment of black students at University of Michigan, including material concerning his work with the Steering Committee for the Development of Academic Opportunities, the Opportunity Award Program, and the Exchange Program with Tuskegee Institute.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Douglass, Esther W.

- Esther W. Douglass papers, 1864-1914.
- 0.4 linear ft.
- Aunt of Ephraim Douglass Adams and Henry Carter Adams, who served as missionary-teacher in the South after the Civil War.
- Reminiscences, diaries, 1866-1868, essays, personal miscellanea, and correspondence, including letters from Booker T. Washington, June 23, 1909 and Billy Sunday, Oct. 29, 1909.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Ellison, W. James

- Deison et al. v. Tucker: judicial abolition of slavery in the territory of Michigan, 1976.
- 1 item (40 p).
- Law student at the University of Michigan.
- Research paper prepared for the law course entitled, "Race and the American legal process."
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Feingold, Eugene

- Eugene Feingold papers, 1950-2002 (bulk 1960-1990).
- 5 linear ft.
- Professor of health management and policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health; also active in various civil liberties and social justice causes.
- The collection primarily relates to his interest in, and activities with, civil liberties and social justice causes and organizations; other files relate to minority relations at the University of Michigan and to his activities with Faculty Against Institutional Racism organization; also files pertaining to his chairmanship of the department of medical care organization.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Fields Family

- Fields Family papers, 1900s-1950s
- 0.3 linear ft.
- Ann Arbor, Michigan African American family.
- Scrapbooks on African American history compiled by an Ann Arbor High School class, 1934-1935; and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Holmes, Wilbur Floyd

- Wilbur Floyd Holmes papers, [199-?]
- 1 folder
- African American resident of Houston, Texas; engineering student at the University of Michigan beginning 1955.
- Writings describing his life in Houston and his activities at the University of Michigan, particularly focusing on faculty and staff who were helpful to him.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Johnson, Lemuel

- Lemuel Johnson papers, 1942-2002
- 6 linear ft.
- A Sierra Leonian, Johnson was a poet, literary critic, and professor. He was born in Maiduguri, Nigeria on December 15, 1941. He was educated at Oberlin College and Penn State University. In 1969 he received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan. He taught English at Forah Bay College of the University of Sierra Leone from 1970-1974. In 1974 he returned to the University of Michigan as an associate professor in the Dept. of English Language and Literature. He was promoted to full professor in 1980. Johnson authored a three volume work of poetry entitled the Sierra Leone Trilogy (1995). The individual titles are High Life for Caliban (1974), Hand on the Naval (1978), and Carnival of the Old Coast (1984). An expert in African literature and the African Diaspora, Johnson also published several works of literary criticism including The Devil, the Gargoyle, and the Buffoon: Western Literature and the Idea of Blackness in Human Form (1970) and Shakespeare in Africa (and Other Venues): Import and the Appropriation of Culture (1998). Johnson died on March 12, 2002.
- Papers include biographical information and correspondence with colleagues and family. Also contains information about his work at the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies and the Dept. of English Language and Literature. Also includes notes and drafts of Johnson's literary criticism and his poetry and other writings.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Knuth, Clarence Paul Edward

- Clarence Paul Edward Knuth papers, 1963-ca. 1965.
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Residents of St. Joseph, Michigan
- Questionnaires completed by Black rural residents of Cass and Van Buren Counties, Michigan, and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Leslie, Elizabeth A.

- Elizabeth A. Leslie papers, 1940-1966.
- 2 linear ft.
- Assistant Dean of Women at the University of Michigan (1958-1963), later Associate Director of Student Activities and Organizations in the Office of Student Affairs, with

responsibility in part for non-dormitory housing for women. As assistant dean, Leslie reported to Deborah Bacon.

- Collection concerns various University of Michigan responsibilities mainly in the area of housing and oversight of student organizations; files concern League Housing with descriptions of different houses, landladies/landlords, rules and procedures, etc.; includes file pertaining to case of Sigma Kappa sorority chapter which had admitted African American members contrary to national sorority policy; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Louis Tandler Elementary School

- Louis Tandler Elementary School collection, 1960-1981.
- 1 linear ft.
- Detroit, Michigan elementary school.
- Scrapbooks, class photo albums, and miscellaneous reports relating to the school.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Mazrui, Ali

- Ali Mazrui papers, 1959-1989.
- 12 linear ft.
- A Kenyan born scholar who came to the United States in 1974, Mazrui began his academic career at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda before he was forced to leave by Ugandan President Idi Amin. Mazrui joined the University of Michigan faculty and was affiliated with the Center for Afro-American and African Studies.
- Papers include writings by and about Mazrui professional and personal correspondence, and scholarly and teaching materials. The material covers the mid-1960s until Mazrui's departure from Michigan in 1989. Also material on television series "The Africans."
- [Finding Aid](#)

Meyer Family

- Henry J. Meyer and Suzanne M. Meyer collection, 1867-2000 (bulk 1926-2000).
- 1 linear ft.
- Henry J. Meyer was a social worker and University of Michigan professor of sociology. Suzanne M. Meyer was secretary of the Ann Arbor Human Relations Commission, also assistant to the director of student activities and organizations at the University of Michigan who was involved both in the Tutorial and Cultural Relations Project and the Opportunity Awards Program.
- The collection includes separate series for Henry Meyer and Suzanne Meyer, and a separate series for their joint Travels and Foreign Activities. The Henry Meyer series includes files, 1935-1936, relating to his work with, and dismissal from, the Washtenaw County Welfare Agency. The Travels and Foreign Activities series largely consists of letters and a photograph album accumulated during Henry's (later Suzanne's) stay in Darmstadt, Germany while conducting a community survey, 1949-1952.
- The series also includes letters written to family members while visiting England and the Far East in 1972. The Suzanne Meyer series relates to her civic and university responsibilities relating in part to developing support programs for the university's

African American students, also to the investigation of cases of campus housing discrimination cases.

- [Finding Aid](#)

Michigan-Ohio Regional Educational Laboratory

- Michigan-Ohio Regional Educational Laboratory papers, 1966-1969.
- 9 linear ft.
- Organization concerned largely with educational programs for Blacks.
- Minutes of board of directors, office files, tapes of educational programs and talks, and reports and publications.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Sigma Rho Chapter (Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti, Mich.)

- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Sigma Rho Chapter records, 1964-1997.
- 1 linear ft.
- Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti chapter of African American social/community service fraternity of graduate and undergraduate area students.
- Administrative records include minutes, bylaws, and financial records; topical files detailing activities, events, and related matters.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Palmer, George E.

- George E. Palmer papers, 1937-1991 (bulk 1949-1981).
- 4 linear ft.
- University of Michigan Law School professor regarded as an international authority on restitution.
- Lecture notes, teaching materials, and exams from his classes (primarily Trusts and Estates and Restitution); journal articles and book reviews; correspondence, notes, and materials from various law school and university committees; topical files including miscellaneous correspondence; newspaper articles and other information about African American law students and the Clardy Investigating Committee during the McCarthy era; eulogies he wrote for four university law professors.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Patrick Jr., Lawrence C.

- Lawrence C. Partick, Jr. papers, 1987-2009.
- 0.7 linear ft.
- Attorney, member and president of the Detroit Board of Education (1989-1995), educational reformer active in his support of local school control through empowerment agreements, charters, and other related management options.
- Files relating to his involvement in Group of Organized Detroiters for Quality Education (GOOD), 1987-1989, his campaign to the Detroit Board of Education in 1988, his efforts to implement reforms and school empowerment through local control of budget, personnel, curriculum, etc.; also speeches, clippings, and collected reports and studies relating to issues within the Detroit Public School system.

- [Finding Aid](#)

Saturday Academy for African American Students

- Saturday Academy for African American Students records, 1963-1996 bulk 1970-1996.
- 2 linear ft.
- Non-profit organization established to promote academic achievement, inspire a love of learning, and close the achievement gap of African American students in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. William D. Ratcliff was founder and executive director of the Academy.
- The record group includes reports, board minutes, background information, book lists, photographs, and related materials; also included are miscellaneous files documenting Ratcliff's association with other education and African American organizations.
- [Finding Aid](#)

University of Michigan, Opportunity Award Program

- Opportunity Award Program (University of Michigan) records, 1963-1070.
- 3 linear ft.
- Correspondence, reports, and charts relating to the enrollment and support of minority students at the University of Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

University of Michigan, Programs for Educational Opportunity

- 19.5 linear ft.
- A race desegregation assistance center based at the University of Michigan, the Program for Educational Opportunity was established by funding through the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The program was expanded to encompass race, gender, and national origin equity in public schools in the Great Lakes region.
- Administrative files, topical files, workshop and task force material, handbooks, and material pertaining to desegregation and equality in public schools in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and elsewhere in Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Includes reports from school districts and histories of desegregation.
- [Finding Aid](#)

University of Michigan, Student Government Council

- Student Government Council (University of Michigan) records, 1912-1975.
- 10 linear ft.
- The names of predecessor student government bodies were the Student Council, the Student Legislature, and the Student Senate.
- Minutes, clippings and topical files concerning in part black studies and black student organizations; also papers of Laing Student Committee, University group concerned with the study and evaluation of student government; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

University of Michigan, Vice Provost for Academic and Multicultural Affairs

- Vice Provost for Academic and Multicultural Affairs (University of Michigan) records, 1970-[ongoing] (bulk 1987-1998).
- 41 linear ft.
- Position established as Vice Provost for Minority Affairs to develop programs to aid the University of Michigan in the recruitment and retention of minority students, faculty, and staff, and to create and staff an Office of Minority Affairs to assist in these goals. Name of unit changed in 1993 to Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives; title of administrative head changed to Vice Provost for Academic and Multicultural Affairs.
- Records of Vice Provost Charles D. Moody, Sr. and Lester Monts relating to work of the Office; series concern relations of office with outside organizations as well as activities within the university; also includes administrative files, chronological files, and files on units reporting to the Office such as Military Officer Education Programs and Undergraduate Admissions.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Fine Arts

Creswell, Thomas

- Thomas Creswell papers, [ca.1870]-[ca.1890].
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, poet, and teacher with the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War.
- Copies of poetry largely reflecting a white interpretation of the experiences of Black persons living in America; also poetry containing religious themes.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Duncan, Todd

- Todd Duncan papers, 1912-1998.
- 12 linear ft.
- Duncan was an African American baritone singer who originated the role of Porgy in George Gershwin's folk opera *Porgy and Bess*. Duncan toured until 1965 and acted in two films, *Syncopation* and *Unchained*. In retirement he gave private vocal instructions.
- Scrapbooks, programs, photographs, newspapers, clippings and personal material documenting Duncan's life and career including an original score for *Unchained Melody*.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Jessye, Eva

- Eva Jessye collection, 1927-1992
- 14 linear ft.
- A prominent choral director, composer, arranger, writer, poet, actress and African American music historian. Jessye was conductor for the Original Dixie Jubilee Singers and choral director for the opera *Four Saints in Three Acts*, and was choral director for the original production of *Porgy and Bess*, and toured extensively in later performances of *Porgy and Bess*. Jessye came to the University of Michigan in 1974 and established the Eva Jessye Afro-American Music Collection.
- Personal papers and collected material of Eva Jessye including material from her personal and professional life as well as material documenting prominent African-Americans. Material includes original program from the 1963 March on Washington (where Eva Jessye Choir performed), *Porgy and Bess* programs, clippings and photographs
- [Finding Aid](#)

Kirk, Andy

- Andy Kirk papers, 1923-1991.
- 1.75 linear ft.
- African American musician and band leader, Kirk toured extensively in the 1930s and 1940s with Andy Kirk and the Twelve Clouds of Joy.
- Personal papers, photos and ephemera documenting Kirk's musical career, particularly the period 1935-1950. Includes background and clippings on musicians and acts Kirk toured with as well as material for Kirk's band.

- [Finding Aid](#)

Patterson, Willis C.

- Willis C. Patterson papers, 1952-1999.
- 7.5 linear ft.
- Music professor at the University of Michigan School of Music, 1968-1999, and first African-American faculty member at the School, also associate dean of academic affairs from 1979 to 1998. Patterson was a professional opera singer, and briefly directed the University of Michigan Glee Club. He wrote on African-American art-songs, and organized a Black American Music symposium in Ann Arbor in 1985. Founded "Our Own Thing," a local chorale that gave free music lessons and opportunities for disadvantaged children.
- Collection includes personal correspondence, research for his book "Art Songs by Black American Composers," planning related to the 1985 Black American Music Symposium he organized and work related to his involvement in the King-Chavez-Parks Visiting Professors Program.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Military Service

Bagley Family

- Bagley family papers, 1846-1922.
- 0.2 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
- The family of David M. Bagley of Lansing, Mich., and later Old Mission, Mich., law student at the University of Michigan (1861-1862), chairman of the Ingham County Republican Committee; his wife Bennette (Mabbs) Bagley; and their son William D. Bagley, a farmer in Old Mission, Mich.
- Letters addressed to Bennette Bagley, 1858-1874, including letters from David M. Bagley while a student at the University of Michigan and letters from Louis Kelsey, African American soldier with the 54th Massachusetts Infantry.
- Letter book, 1846-1851, of Bagley family members containing copies of letters; University of Michigan student notebook, 1861, on law lectures by James V. Campbell; precinct record book, of Lansing, Michigan, 1858, containing lists of voters with annotations of their party affiliation (later used in 1883 and 1919-1922 as account book by William D. Bagley).
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Fletcher, Robert W.

- Robert W. Fletcher papers, 1950-1990.
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Resident of Ypsilanti (later of Ann Arbor), Michigan, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, was captured and was a prisoner of war from 1950 to 1953.
- Correspondence, diary, clippings, and photographs relating to his experience as a prisoner; also videotape entitled "P.O.W.--Americans in Enemy Hands" which includes interview with Fletcher.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Gordon Family

- Gordon Family papers, 1924-46
- 0.25 linear ft.
- Papers of Mattie Bell Hudson Gordon, Willie Lee Gordon and their son, William Hal Gordon, African American family that came to Detroit from Georgia and settled in Highland Park. William Hal Gordon, a musician, attended Detroit Northern High School and was drafted into the U.S. Navy near the end of World War II, where he served as a hospital aide.
- Primarily correspondence, including some letters from family in Georgia, but mostly letters (1945-1946) from William Hal Gordon to his parents about his experiences in the military, especially as a black and as a musician; includes some letters written to William by his mother, and some miscellaneous personal items.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Horton, Newman N.

- N. N. Horton letters, 1857-1864.
- 15 items
- Medical student at University of Michigan, graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, later surgeon with the 47th U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War.
- Letters to brother describing studies and other activities at the University; and letters written during the war concerning his service in the western campaign in Mississippi and Louisiana, with particular mention of the siege of Vicksburg.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Jefferson, Alexander

- Alexander Jefferson papers, 1921-2006, bulk 1944-2006
- 6 linear feet and 1 oversized folder.
- African American pilot, member of the Tuskegee Airmen fighter group; founding member of Tuskegee Airmen veterans group, both national organization and Detroit chapter.
- Biographical materials about Jefferson and other members of the Tuskegee Airmen, correspondence, press materials, speeches and other appearances files; also records of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, Tuskegee Airmen Detroit Chapter, and Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Lewis, John

- John Lewis certificate, 1916
- 1 item.
- Resident of Salem, Mich., who served in Company G, 102nd U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War.
- Detailed military service record, hand-lettered on printed certificate.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Polk, Wardell A.

- Wardell A. Polk papers, 1943-2008 (bulk 1943-1950).
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Member of the Tuskegee Airmen, African American pilot who served during World War II.
- Military orders and other communications received while serving during World War II; commemorative programs and other publications relating to the Tuskegee Airmen; also related videocassette.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Sleight, William E.

- William E. Sleight reminiscences, 1917.
- 1 item (17 p.)

- Ann Arbor and Bath, Michigan, resident and soldier during the Civil War with the 65th New York Infantry, later with the 102nd U.S. Colored Infantry.
- Description of wartime experiences, 1861-1865, with mention of medical treatment of the wounded and performance of black troops; also reflections on the origins of the war and its meaning.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Spencer, Chauncey Edward

- Chauncey Edward Spencer papers, 1924-2006
- 4.2 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
- Aviator, personnel director at Fairfield Air Depot, Patterson Field, Dayton, Ohio, during World War II, later labor-management relations consultant.
- Correspondence, manuscript autobiography, newspaper clippings, personal scrapbooks, and other materials largely concerning his career in the military, particularly his role in implementing the integration of the U.S. Air Force; and photographs. Correspondents include: Langston Hughes, 1928, Anne Spencer, 1948, and Edward A. Spencer, 1920.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Webb Family

- Webb family papers, 1857-1883.
- 20 items, (photocopies).
- Ypsilanti, Michigan family.
- Memorandum book, 1857, and Civil War correspondence of Frederick S. Webb, member of Company E, 17th Michigan Infantry; correspondence of other members of the family, including Nathan Webb, surgeon assigned to a black regiment in the war.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Religious Leaders & Organizations

All Saints Episcopal Church (Pontiac, Mich.)

- All Saints Episcopal Church, Pontiac, Michigan oral history project, 2001-2002.
- 0.7 linear ft.
- Church-sponsored project to document the history of some of its African-American members.
- Transcripts of interviews, with audio cassette originals and CD-ROM copies of the transcripts. Interviewees include Richard and Catherine Craig, David and Reatha Williams, and Malissa Brice. There are also photographs of the interviewees and of the church building.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Baber, George W.

- George W. Baber papers, 1942-1970.
- 1 linear ft.
- Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, pastor of various churches in Michigan and elsewhere.
- Correspondence, prayers and speeches, clippings, and programs; collected A.M.E. minutes, published material, and miscellaneous; and photographs illustrative of his career activities.
- Portraits, informal photos of Baber, his wife and friends; trips to the Middle East and India; and photos of Baber with political dignitaries, John F. Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, Spiro T. Agnew, Nelson Rockefeller, and G. Mennen Williams.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Bethel A.M.E. Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- Bethel A.M.E. Church records, 1897s-1990s
- 0.2 linear ft. and 2 oversize items; 2 microfilm reels
- Microfilmed materials include quarterly conference reports; record books with lists of members, baptisms, marriages, and related information; minute books of trustees and various church groups. Original materials include historical and background information; inaugural address of pastor Joseph L. Roberts; biographical sketch of pastor William H. Peck; and photographs.
- The photographs (mainly copyprints) include portraits of pastors Joseph Gomez, Joseph L. Roberts, and Norman V. Osborne; also photos of church building and of church services and groups.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Brown, Frank R.

- Frank R. Brown papers, 1980-2009.
- 3 linear ft.
- Battle Creek, Michigan church historian.

- Historical booklets containing photocopies of documents and photographs with accompanying text pertaining to African American churches in Battle Creek, Marshall, and Calhoun County, Michigan; also booklets about African American cultural, civic, and commercial life in Battle Creek.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Carpenter, Charles William

- Charles W. Carpenter papers, 1909-1970.
- 1 linear ft.
- Graduate of Tuskegee Institute in 1909, later pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Correspondence, including letters from Mr. and Mrs. Booker T. Washington, 1909-1915; and miscellaneous sermons, prayers, church bulletins, reports of the Second Baptist Church and other materials concerning his work with the Ann Arbor Human Relations Commission, the Citizens Advisory Committee for a Workable Program, and the Ann Arbor Bus Committee.
- Photos of Second Baptist Church and church functions; also photos of Carpenter at other ceremonies.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Cleage, Albert B.

- Albert B. Cleage Jr. papers, 1949-2005.
- 11.5 linear ft.
- Detroit clergyman who took the name Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, founder of the Shrine of the Black Madonna, and advocate of the program and philosophy of the Black Christian Nationalist movement.
- The collection has been divided into seven series: Albert B. Cleage, Jr.: Correspondence, Sermons, and Writings, the files of the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Detroit, Michigan, Church Leaders, the files of the Shrine of the Black Madonna National Office, Sound Recordings, Photographs, and Miscellaneous.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Dubuar, James

- James Dubuar papers, 1834-1866.
- 2 linear ft.
- Teacher and Presbyterian clergyman in Indiana, New York and Michigan.
- Sermons, addresses, and miscellaneous parish papers, primarily written in Northville, Michigan, and including material relating to Northville Presbyterian Church; also histories of various Michigan Presbyterian churches, principally in Washtenaw County, Michigan, constitution of the Northville Youths Temperance Society; temperance speech, 1838, and Decoration Day Address, 1840; scattered notes, correspondence and memos.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Franklin, C.L. (Clarence LaVaughn)

- C.L. Franklin papers, 1957-1991

- 0.7 linear ft., 1 oversize folder, and 1 phonograph disc.
- African-American clergyman active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s; pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.
- Papers accumulated by Franklin's daughter, Erma Franklin, relating to the life and career of her father; include biographical information, transcripts of oral interviews; scattered sermons and correspondence, including letters from daughter Aretha and from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; topical files about his church and civil rights activities; and photographs.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church records, ca. 1920-2008.
- 2 linear ft.
- Church history, celebratory and obsequy programs, clippings, and notebooks of materials accumulated during the pastorates of R. B. James, Solomon David Ross, William H. Crews, and Harold Knox; also bulletins of church services.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Hammond Church of God in Christ (Detroit, Mich.)

- Hammond Church of God in Christ records, 1964-1989
- 0.3 linear ft.
- Church and Sunday school account books detailing money offerings; bylaws and other organizational records; brief history; publications and other mailings; and photographs.
- Snapshots of choir, pastor, and exterior of church building.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Hartford Memorial Baptist Church records (Detroit, Mich)

- Hartford Memorial Baptist Church records, 1922-[ongoing]
- 17 linear ft.
- Detroit, Michigan, African American church.
- Files concern church governance and policies; church committees and other organizations; and church events, celebrations, and services; also include publications and topical files with information on pastors Charles Hill and Charles Adams.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Haviland, Laura S.

- Laura S. Haviland papers, [ca. 1868-1933].
- 100 items.
- Lenawee County, Michigan educator, and temperance and anti-slavery activist.
- Scrapbook, correspondence and other miscellanea concerning her work as a missionary with the American Home Missionary Society after the Civil War; also biographical sketch by Adda Camburn Church; and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Hill family

- Charles A. Hill family papers, 1917-1981
- 2.7 linear ft.
- Charles A. Hill was pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church (formerly Hartford Avenue Baptist Church) in Detroit, 1920-1969.
- Papers of Charles A. Hill and family pertaining to his church activities and to his involvement in various political and civil rights causes; includes minute book to the meetings of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, 1944-1947; collected material on Hill and his activities gathered by the Detroit Police Department; and scrapbooks of clippings and photographs of Hill relating to his role as a pastor.
- Scrapbooks of photographs and other memorabilia detailing his pastoral career and his involvement in Detroit events. Included are portraits and informal photos of Hill and his family; also photos of church events and groups.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Hilliard, William Alexander

- William Alexander Hilliard papers, 1946-1980 (scattered dates).
- .5 linear ft.
- Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Detroit, Michigan, 1947-1959; bishop of A.M.E. Zion Church, 1960-
- Church reports written by Hilliard and his wife Edra Mae Hilliard, programs, published A.M.E. Zion Church materials, biographical information, and photograph of Hilliard and his wife, Edra Mae Hilliard.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

McIntire, Carl

- Carl McCintire publications, 1933-1993 (bulk 1960s-1970s).
- 3 linear ft.
- Native of Ypsilanti, Michigan; clergyman, president and founder of the International Council of Christian Churches, editor of the Christian Beacon, and founder of the Twentieth Century Reformation Hour, and affiliated organizations.
- Sermons, tracts, books, and miscellaneous materials written by McIntire; biographical and historical materials about McIntire and organizations with which he was affiliated; and various materials published by the Christian Beacon Press and the Twentieth Century Reformation Hour.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Michigan Association of Free Will Baptists

- Michigan Association of Free Will Baptists records, 1838-1953.
- 2 linear ft.
- Constitutions, minutes and financial records of the yearly meetings, 1838-1891; also records of the Michigan Association, 1889-1953; the ministers' conference, 1869-1916; the state young people's organization, 1891-1893; and the women's missionary society, 1890-1891; sketch of Hillsdale College; and indenture and miscellaneous business and legal papers.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church (Battle Creek, Mich.)

- Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church records, 1925-2008.
- 4 linear ft.
- Battle Creek, Michigan African American church.
- Records of church conferences, board, and trustees meetings; also materials relating to the church as gathered by church historian, Frank R. Brown.
- [Finding aid.](#)

New Bethel Baptist Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- New Bethel Baptist Church records, 1979-2002.
- 0.3 linear ft.
- Organized in 1932, New Bethel Baptist Church has long been a center for religious development, civil rights leadership, and social action in the Detroit neighborhood of Linwood. Its pastors have included C. L. (Clarence LaVaughn) Franklin and Robert Smith, Jr.
- The collection consists of booklets and promotional materials pertinent to a variety of commemorative programs (1979, 1985-1988), and two membership handbooks (1987, 1988). Program booklets contain numerous photographs and some church history and pastoral biography.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

New Harmony Baptist Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- New Harmony Baptist Church (Detroit, Mich.) record book, 1946-1959.
- 1 vol.
- African American Baptist Church.
- Record book includes financial records, membership lists, record of offerings, and minutes of scattered meetings.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

New Hope Baptist Church (Ann Arbor, Mich.)

- New Hope Baptist Church records, 1965-2004
- 1.3 linear feet.
- Ann Arbor, Michigan, African American church.
- Files relating to church administration and activities; financial record books and reports; minutes of church officers; church anniversary booklets and other publications; and other subject files.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Parks, Lyman S.

- Lyman S. Parks papers, 1962-1977.
- 4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
- Pastor of the Grand Rapids A. M. E. First Community Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, city commissioner, acting mayor, and later mayor, 1971-1975.

- Mayoralty files, political materials, scrapbooks of career activities, and photographs.
- Portraits; photographs of Parks with various public figures, and of Parks at numerous official functions, including Mayor Exchange days at Warren, Southfield, and Saginaw, Michigan.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Pennington, Jasper Green

- Jasper Green Pennington papers, 1969-2007
- 2 linear ft.
- Episcopal clergyman at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ypsilanti, Michigan; also local historian of Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- The Pennington papers relates primarily to his activities with the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. Other materials concern general Episcopal Church activities in Inkster and Ypsilanti, Michigan. Of special interest are the historical research papers prepared by Pennington on Episcopal and Ypsilanti topics.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Potts, Robert L.

- Robert L. Potts papers, 1966-1992.
- 4 linear ft., 11 sound cassettes
- Episcopal priest, member of the executive committee of the Metropolitan Detroit Citizens Development Authority, civic organization established with the goals of improving the economic, social, educational, cultural and general welfare of the people of the city of Detroit, Michigan; also coordinator of the Youth Opportunity Council of Detroit.
- Executive committee minutes, financial statements, and miscellaneous papers relating to his activities; also writings of his son, Randolph Potts; also sound recordings of sermons given by Potts.
- Sound recordings of sermons preached at Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Presbytery of Marshall (Mich.)

- Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Marshall minutes, 1838-1870.
- 3 vol.
- Material concerning the anti-slavery movement.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

- Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Flint, Mich.) collection, 2000-2010.
- 0.1 linear ft. and oversize folder.
- Church organized in 1875 in Flint, Michigan; named in memory of William Paul Quinn, fourth bishop of the A.M.E. Church.
- Anniversary brochures, 2000, 2008, and 2010; also scanned photographs of historic marker in front of contemporary church facility; also scanned photographs of previous buildings and of church pastors and early members.

- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Robinson, Hubert Nelson

- Hubert Nelson Robinson papers, 1948-1984.
- .3 linear ft., 2 v. [outsize] and 3 folders photographs.
- Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Scattered correspondence, and clippings detailing his career, church programs and printed material; also photographs.
- Portraits; photos of Robinson and his family at farewell reception prior to trip to South Africa; photos of church services and ceremonies, and of honorary degree ceremonies for Robinson; and group photos of bishops of the A.M.E. Church.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Salvatore, Nick

- C. L. Franklin oral history project, 1998-2002.
- 47 transcripts of interviews and 117 audiocassettes (in 3 boxes).
- Professor of history at Cornell University.
- Recordings and transcripts of interviews conducted in the course of his research into the life and career of C. L. Franklin, African American clergyman, long-time pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, and active participant in the civil rights movement.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Sampson, Frederick G.

- Frederick G. Sampson papers, 1970-2008.
- 1.25 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
- Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.
- Pastoral files include church programs, newsletters, souvenir booklets, and events file relating largely to church's African American Male Spirituality Week; also writings, sermons, biographical material, and photographs.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Second Baptist Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- Second Baptist Church records, 1911-1989,
- 14 microfilm reels
- Annual reports, financial records, histories, minutes of advisory board meetings, pastoral correspondence, annual and quarterly publications, and weekly bulletins; include files of pastors Robert L. Bradby, Sr. and Allan A. Banks, Jr. detailing in part their efforts in finding employment for members of Detroit's black community, especially with the Ford Motor Company; and photographs.
- Photograph of church exterior, 1920; photograph of gym class, 1912, and of servers at church banquet, 1916.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Smith, Charles Spencer

- Charles S. Smith papers, [ca. 1875]-1923.
- 4 linear ft.
- Teacher and bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church.
- Correspondence, sermons, speeches, photographs, articles, manuscript history of the A.M.E. Church, and printed material; include material relating to church activities, to his visits to Africa, the settlement of Liberia by American blacks, the education of blacks and related topics; and scattered papers of his wife Christine Shoecraft Smith, and their son, Charles S. Smith, Jr., concerning his World War I activities.
- Portraits; photographs of Smith as part of larger church groups; photographs of church groups and buildings; also snapshots and postcards of the largely African American resort communities of Idlewild and Baldwin, Michigan.
- [Finding aid.](#)

St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church records, 1884-1997.
- 12.5 linear ft.
- Church formed in 1971 from the merger of two Detroit, Michigan, Episcopal parishes.
- Historical and informational files; vestry minutes and treasurer's records; records of church organizations; publications and church bulletins; subject files; scrapbooks; and photographs.
- Photos of church buildings, member activities, and church leaders.
- [Finding aid.](#)

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church records, 1920s-[ongoing]
- 6 linear ft.
- Correspondence, administrative files, Sunday bulletins, and topical files relating to the activities of the church and its pastors, most notably William Hilliard and William C. Ardrey.
- [Finding aid.](#)

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (Detroit, Mich.)

- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church records, 1928-2010.
- 7 linear feet, 17 oversize volumes, and 1 oversize folder.
- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, which ceased operation in 2010, was formed from the merger of St. Timothy's and St. Augustine's in 1968. St. Timothy's was established in 1928 as a store-front church in Detroit. St. Augustine's was established in 1929 following a survey taken by the Vicar of St. Cyprian's of the homes along 8 Mile Road in northwest Detroit and in the suburb of Inkster, west of Dearborn. St. Augustine's was intended to minister to the African American community in this area.
- The bulk of the records relate to St. Timothy's and include parish registers with records of communicants, baptisms, confirmations, burials, and marriages; registers of church services; treasurer's record books; record books containing names of members and record of their giving; vestry minutes; subject files; church newsletters and bulletins, and

photographs and a videotape. The records of St. Augustine's date from 1929 to 1968. These records include a parish register and a register of church services, and a file of correspondence and other papers of the Rev. E. D. Morisseau.

- [Finding aid.](#)

Universal Hagar's Spiritual Church.

- Universal Hagar's Spiritual Church records, 1925-2012, bulk 1999-2012.
- 1.3 linear feet.
- Universal Hagar's Spiritual Church was founded by George W. Hurley in 1923 in order to promote the study of the science, phenomena and philosophy of spiritual religion and is based in Detroit. The church is also affiliated with Hagar's School of Mediumship and Psychology and the Knights of the All Seeing Eye.
- The collection includes material from the early years of the church's operation, but the majority of the collection documents church activities after the year 2000. included are publications, records of annual convenings, organizational miscellanea, scattered correspondence, and program materials.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Waddles, Charleszetta

- Charleszetta Waddles Autobiography, ca. 1975
- 1 folder
- Pentecostal minister and founder of the Perpetual Mission for Saving Souls of All Nations in Detroit, Michigan.
- Describes her mission work and other aspects of her life.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Walls, Floyd Atwood, 1920-1987.

- Floyd Atwood Walls family papers, 1967-1995.
- 1 folder.
- Pastor of Shiloh Church of God in Christ, Ypsilanti, Mich., and jurisdictional bishop of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ in Canada.
- Clippings, programs, and some correspondence relating to Bishop Floyd A. Walls and his family.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Washington, Georgia M.

- Georgia M. Washington papers, 1940s-1950s.
- 0.2 linear ft.
- Detroit African American church woman and cosmetologist.
- Event programs and other publications from Hartford Ave. Baptist Church, other Detroit churches, and area cultural performances; cosmetology publications; and snapshots of family, friends, and trips.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Wealthy Park Baptist Church (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

- Wealthy Park Baptist Church records, 1892-1985.
- 16 linear ft.
- Church originally established as a Sunday school mission of Fountain Street Baptist Church in 1875. The Church was officially incorporated as Wealthy Street Baptist Church in 1886. In 1988, following the move of the church to the Grand Rapids suburbs, the name was changed to Wealthy Park Baptist Church.
- The record group has been arranged into the following series: Church Administration (2 linear ft.; 1892-1975); David Otis Fuller correspondence and sermon files (9.5 linear ft.; 1928-1985); Missionary correspondence (4.5 linear ft.; 1923-1980); and Photographs (.1 linear ft.; ca. 1920s-1980s). The missionary correspondence consists of letters and circulars from church-sponsored missionaries serving throughout the world.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Woods, John A.

- John A. Woods papers, 1932-1989 (bulk 1970-1989).
- 1.5 linear ft.
- AME pastor with churches in Albion and Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- [Finding aid.](#)

Slavery, Abolition, & The Civil War

Aldrich, Robert D.

- Robert D. Aldrich papers, 1783-1983.
- 17 linear ft., 28 v. [outsize], and 1 outsize folder.
- Photographs 4 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
- Papers and photographs collected by Robert D. Aldrich relating to the history, people and institutions of Concord village in Jackson County, Michigan; include correspondence, diaries, account books and other papers of Concord residents; records of Concord social organizations, businesses, schools, and church and governmental bodies.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Beckley, Guy

- Guy Beckley letters, 1839 and 1847.
- 2 items.
- Guy Beckley, Methodist minister and abolitionist in Ann Arbor, Mich.
- Letter, Nov. 7, 1839, to his brother-in-law Ralph Walker of Weathersfield, Vt., describing his journey to Michigan, conditions in Ann Arbor, and his thoughts on the death of his wife and abolitionism. Letter, Nov. 20, 1847, also to Ralph Walker, describing family affairs; letter completed after Beckley's death by his wife and children. Transcriptions of letters in collection.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Boyd Family

- Boyd family papers, 1761-1945.
- 1 linear ft.
- Papers of the William H. Boyd family of Monroe, Michigan.
- Correspondence, diaries, addresses, photograph, and miscellaneous papers concerning family and business affairs, temperance, slavery and the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe, Michigan. Correspondents include: Isaac P. Christiancy and Alpheus Felch.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Brown, Martha

- Martha A. Brown letter, 1856.
- 1 item.
- Kansas settler.
- Account of the death of her husband at the hands of a pro-slavery mob in Kansas in 1856.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Chandler, Elizabeth Margaret

- Elizabeth Margaret Chandler papers, 1793-1854.
- 0.6 linear ft. (2 boxes).
- Papers of Elizabeth Margaret Chandler, Abolitionist poet, and the Chandler family of Adrian, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, including Elizabeth's parents Thomas and Margaret

Evans Chandler; Margaret's sisters Ruth Evans and Jane Howell; Elizabeth's brothers Thomas and William, and William's wife Sarah Taylor Chandler.

- Correspondence of Elizabeth and Thomas Chandler and Ruth Evans with family members in the East, Benjamin Lundy, and others, describing early settlement, agricultural conditions, and local and national anti-slavery movements; also family correspondence of Thomas and Margaret Chandler in Pennsylvania. Correspondents include: William Bliss, Thomas Chandler, Darius Comstock, Isaac Crary, Abi Evans, Jane Howell, Darius C. Jackson, Benjamin Lundy, William M. Sullivan and Matthew F. Whittier.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Clark, George W.

- George W. Clark scrapbook, 1839-1887.
- 1 oversize vol. (ca. 200 p.) and 0.2 linear ft.
- Resident of Jackson, Michigan.
- Volume used both as a subscription list to the Michigan Temperance Herald published by Clark and as a scrapbook of clippings detailing his temperance and anti-slavery activities; and loose clippings from volume.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

DeLand Family

- DeLand family papers, 1811-1943.
- 0.8 linear ft. (2 boxes).
- DeLand-Crary family of Jackson, Michigan.
- Personal correspondence, 1842-1941; Civil War letters, 1862-1865, of C. V. DeLand of Co. C, Ninth Michigan Infantry, later Colonel of the First Sharpshooters during the Civil War; correspondence concerning early Jackson history, indentures, school records, temperance and abolition material and other records pertaining to family affairs and the town of Jackson, Michigan; and photographs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Dumond, Dwight L.

- Dwight L. Dumond papers, 1928-1970.
- 2 linear ft.
- Professor of history at the University of Michigan.
- Correspondence and other papers concerning his research and writings on the anti-slavery movement in America; include letters received, ca. 1961-1970, reflecting prevailing attitudes towards race relations and the historiography of the American Civil War; and photographs relating to his career.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Dunn, Ransom

- Ransom Dunn papers, 1796-1900.
- 10 linear ft.
- Free Will Baptist minister and president of Hillsdale College.

- Correspondence and other materials concerning the Free Will Baptists, Hillsdale College and its predecessor, Michigan Central College at Spring Arbor, with mention of Dunn's anti-slavery and Republican party activities; also Civil War letters from his sons, Francis Wayland, soldier in the 64th Illinois Infantry, and Newell Ransom, student at Oberlin and Hillsdale College; letter, Feb. 23, 1853, from Austin Blair discussing the legality of an injunction on Michigan Central College, Spring Arbor; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Ellison, W. James

- Denison et al. v. Tucker: judicial abolition of slavery in the territory of Michigan, 1976.
- 1 item (40 p).
- Law student at the University of Michigan.
- Research paper prepared for the law course entitled, "Race and the American legal process."
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Foster, Theodore

- Theodore Foster papers, 1835-1862.
- 1 linear ft. (3 boxes).
- Co-editor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Signal of Liberty; Superintendent of State Industrial School for Boys, and editor of Lansing State Republican.
- Scrapbook and anti-slavery papers of Foster including manuscripts on the Liberty Party, the Colonization Society, the slave trade and other aspects of slavery; also account books which include subscription lists for the Signal of Liberty; additional papers on philosophical, sociological and religious topics.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Gregg, William C.

- William C. Gregg papers, undated
- 2 volumes
- Resident of Cass County, Michigan.
- "Reminiscences of Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan," a semifictional account of the Saunders colony of freed slaves, and "Abdallah, the Yankee Arab," a semifictional account of Abdallah, an Algerian Arab, and his life in Algeria, France, and French and British Guiana before immigrating to Youngstown, Ohio, some time in the nineteenth century.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Halliday, E.W.

- E. W. Halliday account book, 1865.
- 1 volume.
- Major and commissary officer in the Confederate army during the Civil War.
- Account book kept while stationed at Gainsville Junction, Mississippi, of supplies issued and work done; includes employment record of slaves hired as laborers; volume was later used as payroll record book of the Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry; and drawing.

- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Hampton, Oliver

- Oliver Hampton papers, 1827-1891.
- 0.3 linear ft.
- Hickory Grove, Michigan, farmer.
- Letters from relatives and friends in New York and Pennsylvania, concerning family and church (Society of Friends) matters and remarks about the Civil War; also diary and account book of Hampton, and genealogy of the Hampton and Good families.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Jones, Lucian H.

- Lucian H. Jones papers, 1836-1863.
- ca. 30 items.
- Resident of Grass Lake, Michigan.
- Correspondence between Jones, his relatives and business acquaintances, concerning family and business affairs, and mentioning politics and antislavery organizations; also manuscript by Cora Benster containing reminiscences of early days in Michigan; and correspondence, 1842, from Seymour B. Treadwell on the Liberty Party.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Kooker, Arthur R.

- Arthur R. Kooker papers, 1850-1882.
- 0.5 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
- Papers collected by Arthur R. Kooker, professor of history at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, as part of dissertation research on the anti-slavery movement in Michigan.
- Correspondence, notebooks, writings, and genealogical material of Nathan M. Thomas, Schoolcraft, Michigan, physician, anti-slavery spokesman and activist, agent for Signal of Liberty (abolitionist newspaper) and conductor on the underground railroad; include letter describing Kansas in 1856, letters discussing pre- and post-Civil War politics, especially as relates to anti-slavery, and letters from Gerrit Smith, 1858-1859.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Littlefield Family

- Littlefield family papers, 1834-1935.
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Papers, of the Josiah Littlefield family of Monroe County and Farwell, Clare County, Michigan.
- Correspondence, typescript of autobiography, and excerpted typescript of University of Michigan student diary, 1867-1871, of Josiah Littlefield, surveyor, lumberman, and conservationist; also letters of other members of the Littlefield and Hall families largely concerning social life and customs, Michigan agriculture and lumbering, medical practice, women's activities, and surveying and land speculation; include letters with

comments on Oberlin College in the 1830's, the abolitionist movement and the U.S. Civil War, and early conservation and forestry practice, ca. 1910; and photographs.

- [Finding Aid](#)

Lowe, Berenice Bryant

- Berenice B. Lowe papers, 1880s-1980s.
- 0.8 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
- Local historian and collector of historical manuscripts.
- Materials concerning Sojourner Truth, Black abolitionist who settled in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1857; miscellaneous letters of John G. Whittier, George W. Cable; correspondence of Lowe with writer Gerald Carson; diaries of 1963 trip to Europe; and miscellanea and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Anti-Slavery Society

- Michigan Anti-Slavery Society fragment from account book, 1854.
- 1 item (photocopy).
- Membership dues with list of names.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Mott, John

- John Mott papers, 1843-1850.
- 4 items.
- Farmer in Jackson County, Michigan.
- Two letters from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that discuss anti-slavery activities, a genealogy of Mott family, and copy of a printed testimonial upon death of Mott.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Norris Family

- Norris family papers, 1815-1960.
- 3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
- Norris family of Ypsilanti and Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Papers of Mark Norris, Ypsilanti businessman and postmaster, concerning banking, milling, and railroads, and including letters from his son, Lyman, concerning his studies in the 1840's at Marshall Academy, the University of Michigan, and Yale University, travels in Europe, and his participation in the Dred Scott slavery case; papers of his wife, Roccena Vaill Norris, local teacher and woman's rights advocate, relating in part to the Civil War, her interest in the cause of coeducation and suffrage for women and her involvement in the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti; papers of their son, Lyman, attorney and regent of the University of Michigan, 1883-1884, concerning business matters, family matters, post-Civil War politics, especially his campaign for state supreme court justice in 1875, and his work on the board of regents, particularly as relates to the School of Dentistry; papers of Lyman's son, Mark Norris, Grand Rapids attorney and Grand Master of the Knights Templar in the United States largely concerning Freemasonry activities, but also including University of Michigan student

notebook, 1877, of course taught by Charles K. Adams, and scrapbook, 1875-1876, of University life; papers of Lyman's daughter Maria Norris, Grand Rapids physician; papers of Mark's son, Abbott Norris, concerning his interest in political issues, 1936-1946, as reflected in correspondence with the state's congressional delegation.

- Also includes related papers of other family members, notably the Whittelsey family of Connecticut, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Osborn, Alice

- Alice Osborn letter, Jan. 26, 1967.
- 1 item.
- Resident of Dowagiac, Michigan.
- Letter concerning her husband's great grandfather, Charles Osborn, a Quaker abolitionist who lived in Cass County, Michigan from 1842-1847.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Osborn, Charles

- Charles Osborn letters, 1840, 1842, 1851 and undated.
- 4 items.
- Quaker abolitionist, one time resident of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan.
- Letters describing daily activities, church matters, and conflict within the church on the question of slavery.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Osborn, Jefferson

- Jefferson Osborn subscription list, 1851.
- 1 item (photostatic copy).
- Resident of Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan.
- List of contributors of financial aid for court case to aid fugitive slaves, with description of facts of the case.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Pattengill Family

- Pattengill family papers, 1767-1963.
- 2 linear ft.
- Residents of Lansing, and Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Correspondence, newspaper clippings and other papers concerning the Pattengill, Sharpsteen and Woodward families; also papers relating to Ann Arbor anti-slavery leader Theodore Foster.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Perry (b. 1803)

- Perry autobiographical sketch, undated
- 1 item.

- Free Black, son of Syrus Perry, who was enslaved, escaped from kidnappers, and settled in Cass County, Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Pierce, Nathan

- Nathan Pierce papers, 1842-1862.
- 0.2 linear ft. (2 v. and 2 folders).
- Farmer and Whig State Representative from Washtenaw, and Calhoun Counties, Michigan.
- Five letters from Daniel Arnold about panic of 1857, slavery question, and politics; miscellaneous business papers; two account books, 1842-1861 and 1848-1860, noting sales of farm products, wages paid and other expenditures.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Power, Nathan

- Nathan Power record, 1826-1873.
- 1 item (photostatic negative).
- Quaker anti-slavery reformer from Farmington, Michigan.
- Notations on visits, buildings built, land cleared, political activities, account of winters, Quaker meetings, anti-slavery activities, and travels, including a journey from New York to Michigan in 1826.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Reynolds, William Harvey

- William Harvey Reynolds papers, 1857-1863 and 1962.
- 1 vol. and 3 items. (Typewritten copy of Civil War diary).
- Student at Hillsdale College in Michigan.
- Diary, 1857, covering his student life, including mention of anti-slavery meetings, and his later experiences as a school teacher; extracts from his diary kept during the Civil War, and biographical sketch.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Stewart, Alvan

- Alvan Stewart letter, June 9, 1836.
- 1 item.
- New York abolitionist and prohibitionist.
- Letter to his wife commenting on widespread immigration into Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana, and the founding of a temperance society in Toledo, Ohio.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Swift Family

- Swift family papers, 1834-1921.
- 0.25 linear ft.
- Swift-Lapham-Barker family of New York state and southeastern Michigan.

- Papers, 1834-1845, of the Rev. Marcus Swift, Methodist circuit rider, including some letters concerning his anti-slavery convictions; papers, ca. 1840's, of his son, Orson Ross Swift, Wesleyan Methodist circuit rider, including notes on places preached, sermons on temperance and notes on other sermons; papers, 1836-1845, of William G. and A. S. Lapham, largely concerning the building of a bridge in New York, and Northville, Michigan, business affairs; papers, 1844-1852, of the Barker family of Manchester and Grand Rapids, Michigan, concerning politics, religion, problems of women, medicine, and farming, and including an account of trip to California in 1850; minute book, 1834-1921, of School District No. 7, Novi, Oakland County, Michigan; and miscellaneous newspapers; also photographs.
- Also petition (1841) of Methodists in Nankin, Mich., withdrawing from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Michigan for failure of the denomination to condemn slavery.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Taylor, David B.

- David B. Taylor reminiscence, 1917.
- 1 item.
- Student at University of Michigan.
- Reminiscence of speech against slavery made by Wendell Phillips in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1862.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Taylor Family

- Taylor family papers, 1827-1908.
- 4 linear ft.
- Albion, Michigan, family.
- Papers of Barton Stout Taylor, Methodist clergyman, including correspondence relating primarily to family affairs and religious matters; sermons, articles, and addresses concerning slavery, temperance, the Prohibition Party, woman suffrage, and the Methodist Church; reminiscences and biographical material; diaries of his wife, Elizabeth Gurney Taylor, detailing her everyday activities; papers of Ralph Wendell Taylor, alumnus of University of Michigan and teacher in the Philippine Islands, 1901-1908, including correspondence with his family relating to his activities in the Philippines; legal record book, 1828-1942, of Philo Taylor, Wayne County, Michigan, Justice of the Peace; notebook of Wallace Taylor; and miscellaneous family school papers, autograph album, and personal account book.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Thomas, Nathan M.

- Nathan M. Thomas papers, 1818-1889.
- 2 linear ft. (3 boxes) and 1 outsize folder.
- Quaker abolitionist and physician in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, and Schoolcraft, Michigan.
- Correspondence of Thomas, his wife Pamela S. Brown Thomas, his children Ella, Malcolm, and Stanton, and relatives, friends, public leaders, abolitionists, and publishers, dealing largely with family affairs, land transactions, medical discoveries, woman

suffrage, the Liberty Party, and anti-slavery activities; letters of Stanton B. Thomas while a student at the University of Michigan (1859-1864); Civil War letters of S. B. Thayer, medical director of the Merrill Horse Regiment; also manuscript addresses, essays and other papers; a manuscript autobiography of Thomas; three account books, 1832-1879; and prospectus of American Freeman listing Schoolcraft area subscribers.

Correspondents include: James G. Birney, Erastus Hussey, Lucius Lyon, S.B. Thayer, Jesse Thomas (father of Nathan), Jesse Thomas (brother of Nathan), Jonathan Thomas, Seymour B. Treadwell.

- [Finding Aid](#)

Treadwell, Seymour Boughton

- Seymour Boughton Treadwell papers, 1818-1869 and undated
- 0.4 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
- Editor of the Michigan Freeman.
- Addresses, clippings, broadsides, land records, and correspondence of Treadwell, his son Jerome, and other members of the family; including correspondence, covering personal and business affairs, firsthand views of the South and slavery in 1859-1860, the anti-slavery movement in Michigan and elsewhere, Hamilton Institute of New York, temperance, and politics.
- Correspondents include: John P. Cleaveland, George Dawson, George W. Eaton, Arthur L. Porter, Gerrit Smith, Alvan Stewart, Charles H. Stewart, Electa Maria Sheldon Stewart, Samuel N. Sweet, and Jerome Treadwell.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Women Leaders & Women's Organizations

Brown, Gloria

- Gloria Brown papers, 1964-67
- 50 items
- Chairwoman of the Detroit, Michigan, chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.
- Correspondence, news releases, and printed material relating to the activities of the Detroit C. O. R. E.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Byrd, Letitia J.

- Letitia J. Byrd Papers, 1970-2004
- 1 linear ft.
- African American educator and community leader in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Correspondence and subject files relating to her career with the Ann Arbor public school system and to her involvement in various other community and social service organizations.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Claytor, Helen Jackson

- Helen Jackson Claytor papers, 1924-2005 (bulk 1955-1985)
- 6 linear feet, 1 oversize volume, and 1 oversize folder.
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, club woman, officer in the Grand Rapids chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association, president of the national YWCA, 1967-1973.
- Biographical files include clippings and award materials; files relating to her work with the Young Women's Christian Association, both national organization and Grand Rapids branch.
- Files relating to her community work in Grand Rapids and her participation in national conferences/committees. The Grand Rapids files relate to education, housing, issues of urban renewal, and other topics. Speeches delivered on topics relating to the YWCA, civil rights, citizenship, and the family; speeches reflect in part her thoughts as a black woman on questions of school and housing segregation.
- [Finding Aid](#)

DeLeon, Linda.

- Linda DeLeon papers, 1981-2013.
- 1 linear foot.
- President of the Christians for Decency Anti-Pornography Information Center in Wayne County, Michigan.
- Anti-pornography and anti-abortion campaigns correspondence, publications, mailing, petitions, and other material produced by the Christians for Decency, American Family Association of Michigan, American Decency Association of Michigan, National Federation for Decency Greater Detroit Chapter, Focus on the Family, and other Michian

and national organizations. Majority of the Christians for Decency material relates to Inkster, Mich. anti-pornography and anti-abortion campaigns.

- [Finding Aid](#).

Dessaw, Marie

- Marie Dessaw papers, 1956-1985
- 0.5 linear feet
- Detroit, Michigan civic leader, member and officer of the National Housewives League of America.
- Correspondence, reports, minutes, and other materials relating to her participation and leadership of the National Housewives League.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Duffy, Yvonne

- Yvonne Duffy papers, 1952-2000 (bulk 1966-1999)
- 2 linear ft.
- Michigan freelance writer and disability rights advocate.
- Biographical information, research files, published articles, unpublished writings, and audiocassettes of interviews conducted by Duffy in her research. Included is a research file on, and correspondence of, African American aviatrix, Earsley Taylor.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Ellis, Ruth

- Ruth Ellis papers, 1900s-2000
- 3 linear ft. and one oversize folder
- African American lesbian.
- Biographical information, awards and citations, articles and clippings about her, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Gill, Lillian

- Lillian Gill papers, 1950s-2007
- 6 linear ft.
- African American businesswoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lillian Gill was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and in African American Baptist Church organizations, particularly New Hope Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.
- The Lillian Gill collections is comprised of the following series: Biographical and personal; Business career; Political and community interests; Order of Eastern Star, Free and Accepted Masons; New Hope Baptist Church and other Baptist organizations; and Photographs. The great bulk of the collection details her Masonic responsibilities and her activities with her church and with her denomination's regional bulletins, brochures, programs, announcements, and the like. A smaller portion of the collection relates to her varied business endeavors as an insurance underwriter and as a salesperson with Amway.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Hall, Gwendolyn Midlo

- Gwendolyn Midlo Hall papers, 1939-1991
- 5.5 linear ft.
- Professor of history, civil rights activist, scholar of African American history.
- Family and professional correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, reviews, and printed material reflecting her interest in black history, the case of Robert Williams, and her scholarly interests.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Hunter, Sara E.

- Sara E. Hunter papers, 1800s-1990s
- 0.5 linear ft.
- African American member of St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Detroit, Mich.; historian of her family.
- Family and genealogical materials, accumulated relating to different family lines, notably O'Neal, Jones, King, Garlington, and Johnson families.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Jessye, Eva

- Eva Jessye collection, 1927-1992
- 14 linear ft.
- A prominent choral director, composer, arranger, writer, poet, actress and African American music historian. Jessye was conductor for the Original Dixie Jubilee Singers and choral director for the opera Four Saints in Three Acts, and was choral director for the original production of Porgy and Bess, and toured extensively in later performances of Porgy and Bess. Jessye came to the University of Michigan in 1974 and established the Eva Jessye Afro-American Music Collection.
- Personal papers and collected material of Eva Jessye including material from her personal and professional life as well as material documenting prominent African-Americans. Material includes original program from the 1963 March on Washington (where Eva Jessye Choir performed), Porgy and Bess programs, clippings and photographs
- [Finding Aid](#)

National Housewives League of America

- National Housewives League of America records, 1931-1996 (bulk 1941-1987)
- 2.1 linear ft. and 1 oversize item
- Organization established in 1933 to encourage African American housewives to patronize African American-owned businesses. The national organization was comprised of local groups, the most important of these being the Housewives League of Detroit, which was founded in 1930 under the leadership of Fannie B. Peck.
- The Detroit League worked in conjunction with the Booker T. Washington Trade Association whose organization was headed by the Rev. William H. Peck, and the National Negro Business League.
- The records, accumulated by Fannie B. Peck and subsequent officers of the organization, Christina Fuqua and Lydia Hibbert, include minutes, correspondence, publications, and

activity files of both the national organization and the Detroit league. The records were maintained by the same individuals. The series in the record group are History and Organization; Core Records; Correspondence; Programs and Events; Media Coverage; Publications; Chapters; Related Organizations; and Other Materials.

- The largest portion of the Chapters series consists of records of the Detroit league and include history, publications, and other organizational materials.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Robbins, Mary Ellen Thomas

- Mary Ellen Thomas Robbins reminiscences, 1953
- One volume
- Resident of Battle Creek, Michigan.
- Description of life in Canada, discovery that she was a mulatto, and her subsequent migration to and life in Battle Creek.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Ross, Mildred

- Mildred Ross collection, 1983-1994
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Secretary of the Willow Run Black History Organization.
- Summary Constitution, questionnaires, tapes of interviews, newspaper articles, and other materials relating to the history of African Americans in Willow Run, Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Tibbs, Chrystal G.

- Chrystal G. Tibbs papers, 1913-2013, bulk 1990-2013.
- 4 linear feet, 1 oversize box, and 1 oversize folder.
- Michigan educator, graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (A.K.A.) sorority. Tibbs is A.K.A. Golder Soror (50-year member) and has held a number of administrative posts within the sorority, most notably the Great Lakes Regional Representative to the International Archives Committee of A.K.A. Tibbs served in administrative capacities at various Detroit elementary schools and as a Principal of Hampton Elementary School.
- The collection includes materials accumulated through Tibbs's participation in A.K.A. conferences, chapter meetings, and special interest groups at the local, state, regional, and national level over a span of 50 years. The activities of Michigan-based chapters are particularly well represented. Material includes policy documents, programs of events, meeting proceedings, reports, scrapbooks, photographs. Also personal material related to Tibbs and her mother Maggie Powell, and Tibbs's church, the Grace Episcopal Church in Detroit.
- [Finding Aid](#).

Top Ladies of Distinction, Ann Arbor Chapter

- Top Ladies of Distinction, Ann Arbor Chapter records, 1982-1987
- 0.3 linear ft.

- Ann Arbor, Michigan chapter of an African American women's organization.
- Minutes, correspondence, and subject files; also minutes and newsletters of Detroit area district of the organization.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Waddles, Charleszetta

- Charleszetta Waddles Autobiography, ca. 1975
- 1 folder
- Pentecostal minister and founder of the Perpetual Mission for Saving Souls of All Nations in Detroit, Michigan.
- Describes her mission work and other aspects of her life.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Wheeler, Emma

- Albert H. and Emma M. Wheeler papers, 1938-1994
- 6 linear ft.
- Albert and Emma Wheeler were community and civil rights leaders from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Albert Wheeler was also professor of microbiology and dermatology at the University of Michigan. In addition, he and his wife helped to establish the local chapter of the NAACP. Albert Wheeler was elected to the office of mayor of Ann Arbor and served from 1975 to 1978.
- Summary The series in the collection are Personal/Biographical; NAACP/Civil Rights Activities; Mayoralty Files; University of Michigan; and Photographs. The collection documents the Wheelers' devotion to the cause of civil rights and their involvement with numerous civil rights and community organizations. The collection also includes Albert Wheeler's mayoralty files.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Wickliffe, Letty M.

- Letty M. Wickliffe papers, ca. 1860-1992
- 0.5 linear ft.
- Teacher; Ann Arbor, Michigan, community activist; member of the North Central Property Owners Association in Ann Arbor.
- Articles written for the local newspaper, awards, scattered correspondence, biographical information, and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Willis, Mattie Azalia

- Mattie Azalia Willis papers, 1928-1970.
- 2 linear ft.
- Battle Creek, Michigan singer and music teacher, member of the Battle Creek chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- The collection includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other material relating to her professional career, and diaries recording daily activities and personal thoughts; also photographs.

- Portraits and informal photographs of Willis, alone and with friends and associates; photographs of theatrical productions in which Willis performed; and photographs of Willis.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Women of Color Task Force, University of Michigan

- Women of Color Task Force (University of Michigan) records, 1979-[ongoing].
- 3 linear ft.
- Support group founded at the University of Michigan to aid minority women employed as office and professional staff members in combatting racial and sexist stereotypes and in providing counsel on matters of career planning, job hunting, and development of communication skills.
- Subject files detailing activities of the Task Force, especially to those conferences it sponsored; also history, minutes, correspondence, photographs, publicity, publications, and videotapes.
- [Finding Aid](#)

Selected Published Sources

Please Note: This list is merely a sampling of the different publications on African Americans held by the Bentley. To see a complete listing, go to the [Mirlyn online catalog](#) and perform a search for "Call number begins with..." **EA 116.**

Ann Arbor Negro Yearbook

- Journal, Electronic Resource.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Broken Fetter

- Journal, Electronic Resource.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Directory of Black Businesses in Michigan

- Author: Patricia L. Braden
- Published: Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, Bureau of Business Research; Industrial Development Division, [1971].
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

A Hand Book on the Detroit Negro

- Author: Ulysses W. Boykin
- Published: Detroit, Mich., The Minority study associates, [c.1943].
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

History of the Negro in Michigan

- Author: Robert Earl Hayden
- Publication: [Photocopy.] Ann Arbor: Bentley Historical Library, [2002].
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Michigan Manual of Freedmen's Progress

- Author: Francis H. Warren
- Published: Detroit, MI: HRR, [c1985].
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Race in the City; Political Trust and Public Policy in the New Urban System.

- Author: Joel D. Aberbach
- Published: Boston, Little/Brown, [1973].
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

The Underground Railroad in Michigan

- Author: Carol E. Mull

- Published: Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., Publishers, [c2010].
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)