

# **The BLACC collection**

## **1793-2010 [bulk 1850-1988]**

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### **The Hudson Area Library History Room**

**Hudson Area Library**  
**Hudson, New York**

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## **Descriptive Summary Notes:**

**Title:** The BLACC collection

**Date (inclusive):** 1793-2010 [bulk 1850-1988]

### **Abstract:**

The collection consists of VHS and tape cassettes of oral histories of local black residents and the research notes and other supporting documentation about topics of research. These files are associated with the Black Legacy Association of Columbia County (BLACC) Oral History Project and may have been maintained for the preparation of the interviews conducted from 1987 to 1989. The files include legal agreements, letters, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, book chapters, organization publications, and photographs. They also represent, in some cases, photographs and other memorabilia donated to the project by the interviewees.

## **Administrative Information**

**Accession number:** A2020-0001 – Main floor, Archives room

**Extent:** 10.5 Linear Feet

**Repository:** Hudson Area Library

**Language (s):** Materials are in English

**Condition governing access:** The collection is open to research

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**Preferred citation:** The Black Legacy Association of Columbia County (BLACC) collection, Hudson Area Library History Room, Hudson, NY.

**Acquisition information:** Materials were donated by Columbia Opportunities, Inc. All of the material in this collection was assembled by the Columbia County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), sponsored by Columbia Opportunities, Incorporated (COI). RSVP volunteers, who formed the Black Legacy Association of Columbia County included: Vivian Austin, Ella Barksdale, Jessie Cooper, Bernice Cross, Edward Cross, Helen Dago Barreiro, Phobe Eaton, Dandridge Harris, James Kerr, Gilbert Lewis, Ethel Loveless, Julia Minisee, Eloise Moore, Marie Parker, Annie Peden, Calvin Pitcher, Otelia Rainer, Grace Schwartzman, Leslie Stiles, Marion Van Ness, Selma Van Ness, William Van Ness, Annabel Waters, Bernard Weisberger, and Beulah Whitbeck. Marcella Beigel, the COI RSVP Director devoted much time and attention to the creation of this unique and inspirational project.

**Accruals:** New materials will not be added to the collection as they are purchased or received from donors unless they are from the original acquisitions, activities, and administration from the 1980s.

**Custodial history:** All materials are stored in archival boxes. All audio/video materials have been digitized.

**Processing information:** The collection was processed by Archivist Marie O’Toole, October 2020.

### **Historical Note**

This oral history project was a broad-based program undertaken under the umbrella of the Columbia County RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) through Columbia Opportunities, a non-profit serving individuals and families in Columbia County to help solve poverty-related problems. Several organizations were linked together under one heading – BLACC – which stands for “Black Legacy Association of Columbia County.” The association’s subheading was “From Slavery to Freedom in a New York County”.

The agencies which made up BLACC were: RSVP, Columbia-Greene Community College, World Wide Mission for Jesus Team (formally called the Black Ministers Alliance), the County Museum, the county chapter of the NAACP, and Columbia Preservation and the Columbia-Greene Community College and the Minority Alliance at the college.

BLACC’s proposal was to develop “the most broad-based research program to reveal a ‘hidden legacy of Columbia County History’ - the contributions made by the Black Community from slavery to present time. It will be the historical record of how the Blacks came here; what they did; how they lived; how they died; where they went to school; how they fought for this county and country and where they worshipped.” According to the detailed narrative included in the collection, “Columbia County’s original four groups were Indians, the Dutch, the Blacks and the English.” The narrative continues “While many later generations of Blacks migrated to the county there are still descendants of the original slaves living in this Hudson River Community.... [Black residents] helped to build it, [form] it, [fought] for it, [worked] in the whaling industry, at the iron mines in Ancram, in the many brickyards and prayed for it in their churches....The historical record of how the Blacks came here, what they did, how they lived, how they died, where they went to school, their social customs, their war efforts, their community involvement, their enclaves, their churches, their cemeteries has never been explored and researched in depth. [emphasis original text]”

Considering these observations, all the groups represented in BLACC had one aim: to amass as much material as possible about African Americans in the area from slavery to the 1980s including through oral history interviews in order to create “respect for the contributions this group made in history.”

All of these efforts led to the publication of a curriculum guide “Been Laborin’ Here All These Long Years AND Fruits of Our Labors, African American History and Culture in Columbia County, New York” based on interviews and research.

In regard to interviews, the BLACC provided training to prospective interviewers and identified interviewees. Those individuals who were interviewed were: Ella Barksdale, Calvin Cobbins Kerr, Jessie

Cooper, Bernice and Edward Columbus Jr., Helen Dago, Cora Harper, Mary Lewis, Ethel Loveless (Lovelace), Julia Minnisee, Marie Parker, Otelia Rainer, Leslie Stiles, Marion Van Ness, Selma and William Randolph Van Ness, Beulah Whitbeck.

The interviews were conducted by Marcella Biegel, project consultant, assisted by Grace Schwartzman, Otelia Rainer, and Gil Lewis. The VHS were converted to MP4 file format and the cassette tapes were converted to MP3 in 2020.

**A Note about Marcella Beigel:** Marcella Mary Kane Schneider Beigel was the RSVP Director and originator of the BLACC Oral History Project. She moved to the Columbia County area at the age of 60 and was involved in many civic projects in Columbia County. She believed in the importance of the area's black history and enlisted seniors to cull old newspapers as well as interview local residents in order to gather information on this history. She also was instrumental in creating a curriculum guide for local schools of the history that gathered in this collection.

**A Note about Digitization and Access:** Columbia Opportunities, Inc. donated the collection to the Hudson Area Library in 2018. In 2019, the library was awarded an Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a collaborative project with Oral History Summer School (OHSS) to create interplay between this collection, the library's oral history collection, and the 500+ life histories in the OHSS collection. The interviews in the BLACC collection were recorded on VHS and audio cassette, the library has digitized the collection and it will be available online as well as in the library. All of the material in this collection was assembled by the Columbia County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), sponsored by Columbia Opportunities, Incorporated (COI). RSVP volunteers, who formed the Black Legacy Association of Columbia County included: Vivian Austin, Ella Barksdale, Jessie Cooper, Bernice Cross, Edward Cross, Helen Dago Barreiro, Phobe Eaton, Dandridge Harris, James Kerr, Gilbert Lewis, Ethel Loveless, Julia Minisee, Eloise Moore, Marie Parker, Annie Peden, Calvin Pitcher, Otelia Rainer, Grace Schwartzman, Leslie Stiles, Marion Van Ness, Selma Van Ness, William Van Ness, Annabel Waters, Bernard Weisberger, and Beulah Whitbeck. Marcella Beigel, the COI RSVP Director devoted much time and attention to the creation of this unique and inspirational project.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The BLACC collection files and recordings consist of administrative files, background research, memorabilia, photographs, transcripts, and audio recordings related to interviews conducted for the project from 1985 to 2010 with significant gaps. The audio/video portion of the collection comprises 60 audiocassettes and 18 VHS, 12 MP4s files and 1 MP3 file containing interviews of 15 people most from Columbia County's African American community. It was conducted from 1987 until 1989. Subjects covered in the interviews include politics, education, religion, prejudice, discrimination, customs, cooking, daily living and employment. The interviews focused on building a profile of social and community life for Blacks growing up, coming into or living in the county from the slavery through 1980s.

## **Arrangement**

The original order of these records was nonexistent, and the current order has been imposed by the archivist. The BLACC collection is arranged into 7 series. The series 2, 4, 5 are broken into subseries.

**Series 1:** Administrative files

**Series 2:** Organization of project

**Series 3:** Printed materials

**Series 4:** Documentary files

**Series 5:** Interviews

**Series 6:** Photographs

**Series 7:** Memorabilia

## **Subject Terms**

- African Americans -- Columbia County
- African Americans -- Education
- African Americans -- Employment
- African Americans -- Hudson, N.Y
- African Americans -- Interviews
- African Americans -- Politics
- African Americans -- Religion
- African Americans -- Segregation -- Columbia County
- African Americans -- Social life and customs
- Audiotapes
- Oral histories
- Transcripts

## **Form/genre**

- Audiotape
- Clippings
- Interviews
- Notes
- Oral histories
- Publications
- Photographs
- Research files
- Videotapes

## **Description of the series of the collection**

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**Series 1: Administrative records, 1985-2005 [bulk 1985-1988]**

**Box 1**

The series contains the office records of the projects, including correspondence, legal, financial and administrative records; documents relating to the reports meeting, and files for grants.

**Arrangement**

The files are arranged in numerical order.

File	Content	
1	<b>Reports meetings</b>	<b>1999-2000.</b>
2	<b>Financial records</b>	Materials for Black legacy project video cassettes, Budget records. <b>1988-2000</b>
3	<b>Legal records</b>	Release forms for Interviews, photography authorization and releases, questionnaire, retired senior volunteer enrollment and Insurance form. <b>1985-1989</b>
4	<b>Consultants' records</b>	Contracts, service agreements, payment plan, memorandum, resumes, job description published in <i>The Independent</i> . <b>1988-2002</b>
5	<b>Grants files</b>	Draft letter, grants/funds proposals' narratives, donations, related correspondence, Governor's Advisory Committee for Black Affairs, JC Penney Golden Rule award nomination form, Newsletter of the Governor's Office of Black Affairs mentioning award. <b>1986-2003, undated</b>
6	<b>General correspondence</b>	Communication to and from the creator relating to the projects. <b>1986-2005, 2015</b> with the addition of an obituary and article on the passing of Marcella Beigel
7	<b>Correspondence with agencies, organizations regarding the project</b>	Task Force on African American Historic Sites in NYS, The State Education Department, The University of the State of New York, Albany, The Martin Luther King Jr. <b>1987</b>

**Series 2: Organization of project, 1987-2005 [bulk 1987-1988]**

**Box 2**

This series contains writing project files and documentation relating to workshops, seminars; Notes are included as well as correspondence relating to lectures and exhibitions.

**Arrangement**

The files are arranged in numerical order.

File	Content	
1	<b>Outlines/ writing project</b>	Related correspondence, Memorandum, Meeting notes, description of the project, organizing grid, draft letter, original releases, drafts, questionnaire, clippings copies publication "Been Laborin' Here All These Long Years AND Fruits of our Labors." <b>1987-2005, undated</b>
2	<b>Research notes</b>	Preliminary bibliography, chronology, notes, correspondence related to lectures, exhibitions. <b>1991-1988, undated</b>
3	<b>Workshops/seminars</b>	Related correspondence, outline of the workshop "Field Techniques in Oral History," documentation. <b>1988, undated</b>

**Series 3: Printed material [1914-2010]**

**Box 3**

This series contains bibliographical resources that provide additional research information that was collected on the backgrounds of the project. The series includes magazines, brochures, newsletters, newspaper clippings.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged in chronological order by title.

File	Content
	<p><b>Magazines:</b> <i>American Vision</i>, <i>The Crisis</i>, <i>Black History Month a reflection and recognition of the African American Family</i>, <i>Smithsonian</i> (page 90-101). <b>Brochures:</b> <i>First annual Black culture festival in Greene County</i>, <i>Weeksville</i>, <i>Then &amp; Now</i>, <i>The Legacy</i>, <i>New York State Martin Luther King Jr commission</i>, <i>Toward Equal Partnership</i>, <i>Black history in Dutchess County</i> (1683-1983), <i>Black united fund of New York radio</i>. Newsletters; bibliography; documentation; clippings (1986-2010). <i>A History of Old Kinderhook</i> (1914). Placed in box 9. <b>1914, 1978, 2010, undated</b></p>

**Series 4: Documentary files, 1793-2004 [bulk 1850-1907]**

**Box 4-5**

The series contains research notes and other supporting documentation about topics of research. These files appear to be associated with the oral history project and may have been maintained for regular use for the preparation of the interviews. The files include notes written by researchers, articles and book excerpts (including a large amount of photocopied material) as well as newspaper clippings. Also found here is a set of files on African Americans from Columbia County having served during the Civil War and WWI, primarily containing photocopies of materials from various publications.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged in four subseries by categories. Within each subseries, the files are arranged by subjects.

- Subseries 4.1 Topics
- Subseries 4.2 African Americans from Columbia County served in Civil War
- Subseries 4.3 African Americans from Columbia County served in WWI
- Subseries 4.4 Other research project

**Series 4**

Subseries 4.1 Topics

Box 4-5

<b>File</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>General information</b> Reproduction of various publications on African Americans in Columbia County, research notes; clippings compilation (1850-1900). Limbrick family; Van Hoesen Families; biography of Hon. John T. Hogeboom. <b>1850-1900, undated</b>

2	<b>Religion</b>	Compilation of clippings (1851-1900); documentation; A.M.E Zion Church; Mary Dubois. <b>1851-1907</b>
3	<b>City of Hudson</b>	General information about Hudson; reproductions (1807-1862). <b>1807-1862</b>
4	<b>Crimes, vices and misdemeanors</b>	Clippings compilation: Grove Freeman case (1883), crimes and demeanors (1857-1902), brothel raids (1887). <b>1857-1902</b>
5	<b>Death and Obituaries</b>	Clippings compilation. <b>1850-1900</b>
6	<b>Education</b>	Clippings compilation (1854-1900); reproduction documentation (1862). <b>1854-1862</b>
7	<b>Employment and occupation</b>	Clippings compilation (1861-1883); research note, names and occupations of Black residents in Hudson, NY. <b>1861-1883</b>
8	<b>Recreation and Entertainment</b>	Clippings compilation. <b>1851-1900, 1992</b>
9	<b>Illness and diseases</b>	Clippings compilation. <b>1882, 1900</b>

10	<b>Industry</b>	Clippings compilation (1864-1900); reproduction documentation. <b>1864-1900</b>
11	<b>Politics</b>	Clippings compilation. <b>1850-1900</b>
12	<b>Prejudice and discrimination</b>	Clippings compilation: Mary Glazier shooting case (1882-1883), prejudice (1883). <b>1882-1883</b>
13	<b>Slavery and abolition</b>	<b>Slaves in Columbia County</b> : reproduction of publication (1862); <b>Fugitive law</b> : clippings compilation (1850); <b>Underground railroad</b> : correspondence related to the subject, report project, reproduction of publication (1984-2000), clipping; <b>Abolition</b> : reproduction of publication, Marietta Richmond, clippings compilation (1850-1890). <b>1850-2000</b>
14	<b>Temperance</b>	Clippings compilation; excerpt of "Sketches of Hudson" (1862). <b>1850-1851,1862</b>
15	<b>The Old Kinderhook</b>	Excerpts of the book "A History of Old Kinderhook." <b>1862</b>
16	<b>The Kinderhook Murder</b>	Trial of Bat Jackson for the murder of Miss Hover in Kinderhook: clippings compilation. <b>1888-1885</b>

**Series 4. (cont.)**

Subseries 4.2 African Americans from Columbia County served in Civil War

Box 5

File	Content	
1	<b>General information</b>	Documentation extract from various printed materials and newspapers about African Americans serving during the Civil War. <b>1793-2003</b>
2	<b>Correspondence</b>	Correspondence related to African Americans who served in the Civil War (War rebellion). <b>1989-1999</b>
3	<b>Columbia County's black soldiers</b>	Reproduction of various publications, including newspaper clippings; civil war discharge papers; Civil War medal of honor Recipients from Columbia County; research notes on the 20th, 26th, 31st colored regiments. <b>1864-1999, undated</b>

4	<b>54th Regiment of Massachusetts</b>	Correspondence related to 54th Regiment of Massachusetts, copy of the Civil War archive, Union Regimental Histories 54th Regiment, copy of "A brave black regiment history of the Fifty Fourth Regiment of Mass" (vol. Infantry 1863-1865), list of men served in the 54th regiment, addition of notes about the burial; documentation on Columbia County men who served in the 54th regiment, Mass.: The movie "Glory," copies of the siege operations against Fort Wagner, July 18 to Sept. 7, 1863, clippings about "Glory." <b>1990-2000, undated</b>
5	<b>The Draft</b>	Clippings compilation (1863), list of African Americans drafted from Columbia County. <b>1863</b>
6	<b>Theodore Robinson - Co. K- 39th Regiment</b>	Biography writing. <b>Undated</b>
7	<b>African-American Civil War Memorial</b>	Clippings compilation (1985-2004); documentation. <b>1985-2004</b>

**Series 4. (cont.)**

Subseries 4.3 African Americans from Columbia County served in WWI

Box 5

File	Content	
1	WWI	Excerpts from "Columbia County in the World War" (1924), and from "Welcome Home Celebration" (1919). <b>1919-1924</b>

**Series 4. (cont.)**

Subseries 4.4 Other research project

Box 5

File	Content	
1	Cemeteries, burial of 'Colored people'	Excerpts: "Old Tombstones and Unusual Cemeteries" (1973), "Old Kinderhook" p.349 (1862); compilation of death notices of African Americans published in Chatham Courier (1883-1932); clippings (1998). <b>1862-1998</b>

## **Series 5: Audio, Video and Oral History material [1987-1989]**

### **Boxes 6-7, 10-14**

#### **Extent: 60 audiocassettes; 18 video-tapes; 14 MP4 files**

This series is comprised of audio tape cassettes, videotapes and paper records related to the interviews. Most of them followed a standard set of questions, and have been transcribed. The interviews were conducted from 1987 to 1989. The interviewees were: **Ella Barksdale** (March 1987); **Calvin Cobbins Kerr** (no information); **Jessie Cooper** (February 1987); **Bernice and Edward Columbus Jr.** (February and March 1987); **Helen Dago** (October 1988); **Cora Harper** (1987 or 1988); **Mary Lewis** (February 1988); **Ethel Loveless** (May 1989); **Julia Minnisee** (December 1988); **Marie Parker** (April 1988); **Otelia Rainer** (October 1988); **Leslie Stiles** (February 1987); **Marion Van Ness** (December 1988); **Selma and William Randolph Van Ness** (August 1988); **Beulah Whitbeck** (September 1988). The subseries 5.3 includes audio copies of which there are no corresponding videotapes in the collection.

### **Arrangement**

The series is arranged in three subseries:

- Subseries 5.1 Transcripts of individual interviews
- Subseries 5.2 Subjects by interviews
- Subseries 5.3 Audio video recordings

**Series 5.**

Subseries 5.1 Transcripts of individual interviews

Box 6

Interviewees	Scope and content note	Biographical note
<b>Barksdale, Ella</b>	In this oral history, Barksdale discusses her family background. She was adopted by the Edmund Family. Barksdale is forthcoming about the relationships with her family and her biological mother. She speaks about the old Hudson neighborhoods before the Projects.	Born in Albany (no date given), was adopted by Edmund family.
<b>Harper, Cora</b>	Much of Harper's interview focuses on various phases of her life.	Cora Harper was a longtime Hudson resident.
<b>Cobbins Kerr, Calvin</b>	In this oral history, Cobbins briefly recalls his childhood. He mentions his father, Robert Kerr, who was a cab driver for Steve Martin, original cab company owner in Hudson, NY.. Cobbins speaks about some criminal trials, brothels on Columbia Street, prostitution and gambling in the City. He discusses old crimes such as Bat Jackson and Mary Glazier.	Son of Robert Kerr, cab driver in Hudson, NY.. He grew up on Front Street.
<b>Cooper Jessie</b>	In this oral history, Cooper discusses her childhood and young adult life in Brooklyn. She focuses on the different jobs she occupied during her life. She doesn't detail names and people in Hudson, NY. She finishes the interview by talking about NAACP and its progress since she has been in it.	Born October 10, 1891 in Brooklyn. After graduation, she worked in a dress factory as a "finisher". She married her husband in Brooklyn at 26 years old. She moved to Hudson NY because her parents were born and raised in the county. She took the civil service exam in New York City and worked for the Health Department on Staten Island for 14 years. Later, she worked at Training School for Girls in Hudson, NY. She belonged to NAACP in New York City.

<p align="center"><b>Cross, Bernice and Edward Columbus, Jr</b></p>	<p>This is an interview with Bernice Cross and some of the conversation will also be from Edward Cross. The oral history focuses on the various phases of life of Bernice and Edward C. Cross in Hudson, NY.</p>	<p>Bernice Cross was born in Cedar Heights, MD, on September 21, 1916, came to Hudson, NY at 3 months. She was the daughter of Leslie Lynch and Georges Stiles. Receiving her formal education in Cedar Heights Public Schools, her family relocated to Newton Hook and later to Hudson. Bernice Cross spent most of her adult life employed as a cook at the Home for the Aged and the Martin Residence, among other places. She also worked as a domestic for many years. She was one of the founders of the Black American Festival in Hudson. She died February 26, 2003. Her Father worked at Atlas Cement. She lived with her grandmother, Alberta Lynch who used to cook for a boarding house. Edward C. Cross Jr. was born November 17, 1908 in Drumhill, N.C, he was the son of Edward C. and Melinda (Savage) Cross, Sr. He lived most of his life in the Hudson area and was employed by the Lone Star Cement Company in Hudson for 25 years. He was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Hudson, and a past member of the Hudson Masonic Lodge. He died at University Heights Health Care Facility, Albany, NY. in 1992.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Dago, Helen</b></p>	<p>In this lengthy interview, Dago discusses her childhood, her family life. With emotion, she details her trip to Ghana to research her African roots. She went to the Cape Coast in Elmena, location where the native Africans were captured and from there taken to different places. It was "Nightmarish dungeons, in which the prisoners were taken and put into the hold of the ship, packed in like sardines". Then, she presents valuable objects that have belonged to her grandparents. She describes neighbors as very friendly and caring regardless of nationality or color. She explains she doesn't like the term black because she feels it represents only African and her heritage is mixed. She prefers Afro-American as she is one of many groups of Americans. In the end of the interview, Dago addresses a message to the future generations.</p>	<p>Helen Dago's grandfather, Robert Williams was the only Columbia County veteran known to have served in both the Confederate and Union Navies during the Civil War. Helen's mother died when she was an infant and she was raised by her grandparents. After her grandparents' death, she was raised by a spinster aunt on Spring Street, Hudson, NY.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Lewis, Mary</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Lewis recalls her childhood in a loving family. She focuses on activities, spending time with her siblings and memories about her parents and grandmother, as well. [Note: There is no corresponding audio/video for this transcript.]</p>	<p>Mary Lewis was born in 1938. She was the oldest of five children. Her father worked for the New York State Conservation Department as a Forest Ranger in Hudson NY. She was an officer for many years with the 4-H Club. For years, Mary Lewis pursued a career as paralegal at Mid-Hudson Legal Services in Hudson, NY.</p>

<p><b>Loveless (Lovelace), Ethel</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Loveless recounts her family background. Her great grandmother was a slave and poet. They used to visit her in Asbury Park, N.J. She remembers that the family lived together during the Depression and lent out rooms. Her grandfather, father and brother were carpenters. Her grandfather had a carpenter shop at 114 Columbia Street in Hudson, NY. The oral history is a detailed example of Hudson in the forties. The City had a wide reputation as a center of vice and corruption: A lot of bars frequented by rough men bearing names such as 'Booger Baby' or 'Woofing Sam' and many brothels owned by whites with white prostitutes. Her mother opened a chicken shack business in the basement of 346-348 Columbia Street. The business was productive, they filled many brothel orders. She also discusses the origin of the Colored Citizens Club of Hudson, The CCC. Loveless ends the interview with a message for the future generations: "the family that prays together stays together".</p>	<p>Ethel Loveless (Lovelace) moved up from New York City in 1945 when she was 1 year old. Her parents were Richard Seabrook Cochran and Annabelle Lagson Cochran. Her Great grandmother, Annie was a slave and a poet.</p>
<p><b>Minnisee, Julia</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Minnisee discusses her early childhood in Valatie, the schools she attended, the entertainments, her father's farm. She focuses on her life as the adoptive mother of 35 foster kids; "all good boys". She ends the interview by remembering the death of members of her family.</p>	<p>Born in 1897 in Valatie, NY, Julia Minnisee's maiden name was Vosburgh. She was a member of the Chatham Center Church (used to belong to Bethel in Kinderhook) and then to the New White Methodist Church. She raised 35 foster children.</p>
<p><b>Parker, Marie</b></p>	<p>This oral history focuses on various phases of Parker's life but is especially interesting on interracial relations and also black residents' lives in Hudson, NY decades before.</p>	<p>Born June 6, 1906, Marie Parker came from Maryland in 1929. She lived with her husband on Mt. Merino across the river from Olana. Her husband was gardener and chauffeur for Dibbles, a publisher. Later, they moved to Hudson and worked for Pulver Gas and Oil Company on Union Street. Marie Parker passed away January 22, 1998.</p>
<p><b>Rainer, Otelia</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Rainer recalls vivid stories of the historic house at 433 State Street, the Tucker's family and other people with whom she was close to. She details how she got the cosmetology teacher position at the Hudson Training School for Girls. Rainer recounts different church activities along the interview.</p>	<p>Otelia Rainer spent her childhood in Virginia. Her father worked on the Southern Railroad. She lived as a young adult in Brooklyn, NY and moved to Hudson, NY in June 1965.</p>
<p><b>Stiles, Leslie</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Stiles, 98 years old recalls going to school, coming home and studying. She remembers taking care of her younger brother, doing house work.</p>	<p>Leslie V. Lynch Stiles was born in Washington, D.C., on November 11, 1888 to the parents of Anthony and Alberta Lynch. She was the oldest of four children. She received her formal education in the Washington School District. She was baptized by Rev. J.T. Tyler and joined the Mount Aire Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. Leslie Stiles relocated to the Hudson area about 75 years ago. She married George Stiles soon after she moved to the Hudson area. She also joined the Shiloh Baptist Church. She passed away June 15, 1989.</p>

<p><b>Van Ness, Marion</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Van Ness recalls her family background and events during her lifetime in Chatham. She highlights the sense of respect, whatever the color of skin. She had a good life, never felt prejudice. She recalls Chatham used to have a colored baseball team called "Cuban Giants" and a colored Boy Scouts. Van Ness talks about the famous murder case in Kinderhook that occurred 100 years ago.</p>	<p>Marion Van Ness was born September 23, 1900 in Chatham. She attended Chatham High. Marion Van Ness and her husband, Robert Van Ness Sr. who died in 1977, lived in Chatham Center area for 53 years.</p>
<p><b>Van Ness, Selma and William Randolph</b></p>	<p>This is an interview with Selma and William Randolph Van Ness. They discuss their family backgrounds. The interview is particularly interesting on the topics of A.M.E Zion Church, on Selma's great uncles who were slaves and fought in the Civil War and may have used the Underground RR to go North. They mention the existence of a colored school whose location was at the A.M.E Zion Church, a colored literary society and a colored baseball team in Hudson NY and Chatham NY. They recall different disasters caused by fires in Hudson and Chatham. Members of Selma's family ran for political positions in Hudson and Albany.</p>	<p>Selma and William Randolph Van Ness were born and raised in Columbia County, NY. Selma's great uncles were slaves and fought in the Civil War. Bill's family belonged to Bethel A.M.E Church in Kinderhook, NY, Payne A.M.E Church in Chatham, and State Street A.M.E Zion Church in Hudson, NY.</p>
<p><b>Whitbeck, Beulah</b></p>	<p>In this oral history, Whitbeck discusses various phases of her life in Hudson, NY and shares her memories of the City.</p>	<p>Beulah Whitbeck was born in a house on Spring Street in Hudson, NY. Later, her family moved to Partition Street. During her lifetime, Beulah and her husband lived in Catskill. She belonged to A.M.E. Zion Church on 2nd Street in Hudson. Her parents were the first black couple married in the church.</p>

**Series 5. (cont.)**

Subseries 5.2 Subjects by interviews

Box 6

Specific subjects	Interviewees
<b>Entertainment - recreation</b>	Julia Minnisee; Marie Parker; Marion Van Ness; Otelia Rainer; Beulah Whitbeck; Selma and William Randolph Van Ness; Ella Barksdale; Ethel Loveless; Bernie Cross;
<b>Religion</b>	Selma and William Randolph Van Ness; Marie Parker; Ella Barksdale; Ethel Loveless; Helen Dago;
<b>Disasters - sad occurrences</b>	Ella Barksdale; Marie Parker; Selma and William Randolph Van Ness.
<b>Education</b>	Selma and William Randolph Van Ness; Marion Van Ness.
<b>Industries</b>	Ella Barksdale; Beulah Whitbeck; Marion Van Ness; Ethel Loveless;
<b>Lifestyle</b>	Beulah Whitbeck; Marion Van Ness; Helen Dago; Ella Barksdale.
<b>Medicine</b>	Helen Dago; Marion Van Ness; Bernice Cross; Marie Parker; Beulah Whitbeck; Selma and William Randolph Van Ness; Cora Harper; Ethel Loveless; Otelia Rainer.

<b>Occupation</b>	Ethel Loveless; Bernice and Edward Cross; Ella Barksdale.
<b>Prejudice- discrimination</b>	Ella Barksdale; Helen Dago; Beulah Whitbeck; Marie Parker; Ethel Loveless; Marion Van Ness.
<b>Vice-corruption</b>	Ethel Loveless.

**Series 5 (cont.)**

Subseries 5.3 Audio video recordings

Box 7, 10-13

Interviewees	Sounds recordings	Video recordings / duration	Reformat 2020
Barksdale, Ella	CA12A; CA12B		MP3 file
Cobbins, Kerr Calvin	CA11		MP4 file
Cooper, Jessie	CA1A	OV13 (13m); Tape 1 - CV1 ( <b>copy</b> of BLACC - 28m 30s)	MP4 file
Cross, Bernice and Edward Columbus Jr	CA1C; CA3A	Tape 4 ( <b>copy</b> of lost tape 3, CV3, CV15 – 1h 14m 30s).	MP4 file
Dago, Helen		OV6 (1h21m)	MP4 file
Harper, Cora			
Lewis, Mary			
Loveless (Lovelace), Ethel		OV16 (1h37m)	MP4 file
Minnisee, Julia	CA4A; CA?	OV5 (34m)	MP4 file
Parker, Marie	CA13	OV13 (1h03m); Tape 2 - CV2 ( <b>copy</b> of BLACC 2 - 1h 07 m 5 s);	MP4 file
Rainer, Otelia	CA7A	OV7 (1h23m)	MP4 file
Stiles, Leslie	CA1B	OV8 (100 <sup>th</sup> birthday, 31m); OV13 (26m); Tape 1 ( <b>copy</b> of BLACC1 - 27m 30s).	MP4 file
Van Ness, Marion	CA4A; CA4B	OV4 (1h53m); OV9 (1h 27m 30s)	MP4 file
Van Ness, Selma and William Randolph	CA9B	OV9 (1h 27m 30s)	MP4 file
Whitbeck, Beulah	CA10B	OV10 (1h35m 40s)	MP4 file

**Series 6: Photographs, 1880s, 1980s**

**Box 8**

The series contains mainly black and white print photographs depicting artifacts, locations, events, and portraits: all-black schoolhouses, the A.M.E Zion Churches, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Julia Minnissee (interviewee), site of Kinderhook murderer case (1885).

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged by format.

<b>File</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Number items</b>	<b>Donor (s)</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	B&W prints including 2 color prints and negatives	4	Minnissee, Julia	Unidentified locations and houses.	1980s
2	B&W prints including negatives	9	Dago, Helen	Artifacts	1980s
3	B&W prints including negatives	9	Rainer, Otelia	Tucker's memorabilia	1980s
4	B&W prints including 1 color prints	25	various	A.M.E Zion Church, Chatham, NY, Hover House, Kinderhook (site of a murder in 1885), 433 State Street, Hudson, NY, artifacts, 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Leslie Stiles, Old School, unidentified site.	1980s
5	B&W prints	8	unidentified	Unidentified houses and locations.	1980s
6	Color prints	10	unidentified	Kinderhook NY: African Americans burial ground, A.M.E Zion Church, Hover House.	1980s
7	B&W prints	18	unidentified	Hover House, Kinderhook, NY, Gertrude Hover's grave, Kinderhook, NY, various	1980s

				Unidentified graves and locations.	
8	Color print	1	unidentified	Unidentified location, photograph group portrait with Helen Dago and Otelia Rainer (?).	1980s
9	B&W print	1	unidentified	Members of the Colored Citizens Club (C.C.C) with John Tucker (center) Note: the original print was taken in early 20 <sup>th</sup> century in Hudson, NY. See also larger print file.	1980s

10	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	The family Bible belonging to Helen Dago with birth and death records.	1980s
11	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Baby chair made by Helen Dago grandfather after the Civil War.	1980s
12	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Late 1800s' household items.	1980s
13	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Painting depicting A.M.E Zion Church in Hudson, NY.	1980s
14	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Sunday School class with their teacher on the front of the former A.M.E Zion Church, circa 1900.	1980s
15	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Photograph portrait of Edward Pell, late 1800s	1980s
16	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Child on pony. Unidentified child, circa 1800s.	1980s

17	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Robert Williams' discharge papers from Naval Service, 1916.	1980s
18	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Photographs of the Green Family, circa 1918.	1980s
19	B&W prints 10X8	1	unidentified	Building of the former A.M.E Church, Kinderhook, NY.	1980s
20	Albumin print	1	unidentified	Photograph portrait, unidentified woman.	circa 1880s
21	Albumin print	1	unidentified	Photograph portrait, unidentified woman.	circa 1880s
22	Documentation				

**Series 7: Memorabilia, 1919-1987 [bulk 1980-1987]**

**Box 9**

This last series consists of a few items collected along the project: social studies program brochure, original stationary, the original BLACC logo design, commemoration brochure for WW Veterans, Hudson, NY and Folk Arts brochure.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged in chronological order.

File	Item	Dates
1	Folk Arts brochure	1986-87
2	Brochure Social studies program	1986
3	Original stationary with logo	Approximately 1986
4	Original logo design	Approximately 1986
5	Commemoration brochure for WW Veterans of Hudson, NY	1919