

Ray Family Collection (AC62)

Introduction:

The Ray Family Collection focuses on the genealogical research compiled by Walter Ray.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Walter Ray

Title: Ray Family Collection

Size: 0.84 linear feet (3 boxes)

Collection Number: AC62

Donor Information:

Donated by Walter Ray, October 2023

Citation Note:

Ray Family Collection (AC62), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Biographical Sketch:

Walter Ray is a Kansas City native and world traveler. Walter attended Seven Oaks Elementary School, Martin Luther King Junior High School, and Central High School in Kansas City. He also attended Penn Valley Community College, the University of Missouri Kansas City, and earned his Associates degree from Kansas City Kansas Community College in 2001. He is also a published author and poet. His travels include Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Colombia, Canada, Thailand, and West Africa, particularly Ghana. He began researching his family history and genealogy in 1987.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains scans of genealogical research by Walter Ray, photographs, and four books written by Walter Ray. This collection also includes scans of funeral programs, scans of certificates/ awards, a scan of a death certificate, a scan of an affidavit, and a college graduation commencement program.

Series 1 Photographs

This series contains photographs of Walter Ray, his family members, and ancestors. The back of nearly every photo is labeled.

Series 2 Publications

This series contains 4 books written by Walter Ray, including *Coming Clean* which he wrote under the pen name Bakari Shabazz. One is a memoir, one is a self-help financial guide, and two are fictionalized accounts of the gang violence in Kansas City in the 1970s.

Series 3 Genealogical Research

This series contains all the scans of various genealogical research records gathered from Ancestry.com and other online genealogical research engines and tools by Walter Ray, as well as scans of handwritten research notes and family group sheets from the National Archives and the Midwest Genealogical Center, in addition to scans of funeral programs. It is sorted into major family groups.

Series 4 Ephemera

This series contains miscellaneous documents such as a laminated newspaper clipping, scans of a homemade scrapbook, and a scan of a high school graduation pamphlet.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Photographs

- f. 1 Prints 1-20
- f. 2 Prints 21-40
- f. 3 Prints 41-60
- f. 4 Prints 61-80
- f. 5 Prints 81-100
- f. 6 Prints 101-120
- f. 7 Prints 121-136

Series 2: Publications

- f. 8 *Cape Coast: Coming Home Through the Door of No Return* by Ray, Walter
- f. 9 *Coming Clean A Tale Told From the Heart* by Shabazz, Bakari
- f. 10 *Rollin' With the Hot Sauce* by Ray, Walter
- f. 11 *The African Guide to Success in America* by Ray, Walter

Series 3: Genealogical Research

- f. 12 Abridged History of Ray Family
- f. 13 Rentie Family/ Descendants
- f. 14 Bentley Family/ Descendants
- f. 15 Ray Family/ Descendants
- f. 16 Campbell Family/ Descendants
- f. 17 Miscellaneous Genealogical Research Materials

Series 4: Ephemera

f. 18 Miscellaneous Ephemera

Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, January 2024.

Sources

Ray Family Collection (AC62), Black Archives of Mid-America. Kansas City, MO.