

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Larry Johnson Papers on the Kingsmen

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Larry Johnson Papers on the the Kingsmen

Call Number: MG 191

Creator: Larry Johnson

Inclusive Dates: May 20, 1956 – Oct 10, 1958

Bulk Dates: May 20, 1956 – Feb 2, 1958

Abstract: Papers from the Kingsmen, an African-American social/civic club in Albany, NY from 1956-1958, collected by Larry Johnson, the Secretary of the club. Papers include meeting minutes; greeting cards; social invitations including an invitation to The Kingsmen's first event; a 24-page program from their first event; official correspondence; and a photograph of Larry Johnson.

Quantity: 5 lin. in., 1 box

Administrative Information

Custodial History: These papers come from Larry Johnson, who was secretary of the Kingsmen, and were purchased by the AIHA from Dennis Holzman Antiques.

Preferred Citation: The Larry Johnson Papers on the Kingsmen, MG 191. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: LIB.2007.111.002

Accession Date: January 16, 2008

Processing Information:

Processed by and Finding Aid created by Elizabeth King; completed on October 2, 2008.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: N/A

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Parsons, Fred (Freddie) D.; Terry Hussie; Johnson, Larry (Lawrence); Carr, James; Hall, Robert; Crenshaw, Teddy; Mitchell, Arthur H.; Jones, A.D. Robert; Haith, Robert; Head, Louis; Haith, John; Blanton, Jerry; Sparks, Walter; Sparks, Barry; Baxter, Teddy; Chalmers, Arvis; Wilson, Earl; Green, Jerry;

Organizations

Black Sox Baseball Team (Albany, NY); Original Ladies Riding Club; Victory Hodges Temple No. 893; Schenectady NAACP; Albany Inter-Racial Council; Kingsmen;

Subjects

African-American Social Clubs, Men's organizations,

Places

Albany, N.Y.; Troy, N.Y.;

Document Types

Photograph, Event program, Greeting cards, Papers, Business cards

Titles

Kingsmen '56

Biography/History of

Larry Johnson (b. June 21?-unknown) was the Secretary of the Kingsmen and a mailman by profession. The Kingsmen was an African-American men's social/civic club in Albany, NY, organized June 19, 1956, with the sole purpose of helping the community. Early on, other name possibilities included "The Barons" and "The Cavaliers." The group held meetings from May 20, 1956 – Feb 2, 1958. They also hosted events, the first of which was held at Herbert's (1054 Madison Ave., Albany, NY) on October 7, 1956. For one event, the Kingsmen resolved to host a dinner "with a name speaker preferably Martin Luther King" and reported difficulty in contacting him. The Kingsmen were active in the community in the mid-1950's, receiving invitations to various events hosted by other local social organizations.

Scope and Contents of the Records/Papers/Collection

Johnson's papers on the Kingsmen include minutes from the first meeting on May 20, 1956 until the meeting held February 2, 1958 (which states plans for a "next meeting"). His papers also include official correspondence including thank-you notes (Black Sox Baseball team, Albany Twilight League member, etc.), greeting cards, and invitations to events held by similar or sympathetic organizations (Schenectady NAACP, Albany Inter-Racial Council, etc.). There is also a photograph of Larry Johnson, a program from group's first event, the By-Law's and some loose-leaf, handwritten lists. Johnson's papers on the Kingsmen provide a glimpse into an African-American, middle-class, men's club in an urban environment in the mid-1950's.

Organization of the Papers

Folder 1: Meeting minutes

Folder 2: Official correspondence

Folder 3: Greeting cards

Folder 4: Invitations

Folder 5: Photograph of Larry Johnson, Event program from 1956, By-Laws of the Kingsmen, handwritten lists and a Post Office box notice

Related Material

N/A

Separated Materials

N/A

Other Finding Aids

N/A

Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series # [#] . Series Title [title]

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Meeting minutes from first meeting on May 20, 1956 – Feb 2, 1958
1	2	Official correspondence from Oct 2, 1956 – Jan 30, 1958
1	3	Greeting cards addressed to the Kingsmen from Feb 21, 1957 – Oct 10, 1958
1	4	Invitations to the Kingsmen from Oct 12, 1956 – Jan 26, 1958
1	5	Photograph of Larry Johnson, Event program from first event in 1956 which includes a “centerfold” group photograph of the officers and members of the organization, By-Laws of the Kingsmen, handwritten lists, a Post Office box notice