

# Proctor, Bernard, Black History Scrapbook

Bernard Proctor Black History Scrapbook

c.1949-1950

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## Title Statement

Proctor, Bernard, Black History Scrapbook Bernard Proctor Black History Scrapbook MSS 16835

**Author:** Ellen Welch

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

P.O. Box 400110

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110

URL: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/>

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2024-04-08

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### Notes

The scrapbook is currently in DPG being digitized.

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:45:19 +0000.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

MSS 16835

### Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

### Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1644

### Unit Date

c.1949-1950

### Mixed Materials [X032762416]

1 (Flat\_Box)

### Language

English

### source

Langdon Manor Books

### Creator

Proctor, Bernard S., 1921-2013

### Creator

Rogers, J. A. (Joel Augustus), 1880-1966

**Creator**

Milai, A.S. (Ahmed Samuel), 1908-1970

**Creator**

Rosbrow, James M.

**Extent**

.375 Cubic Feet 1 flat-box 12"X18"X3"

**Condition Description**

fair

**Repository**

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research use.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

This collection was purchased from Langdon Manor Books by the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 3 October 2023.

**Preferred Citation**

MSS 16835, Bernard Proctor Black History Scrapbook, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

## Biographical / Historical

Captain Bernard Proctor (1921-2013) was awarded three Presidential Citations, twelve Battle Stars, and a Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Medal of Honor in 2007 for his service, in the United States Army Air Force Reserve in the Original 99th fighter squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen [1943-1958]. He was an officer who fought in the theaters of North Africa, Italy and France during World War II.

He was also Vice President of Cheyney University, and was the football and basketball coach at Wilberforce University and attended Ohio State University for graduate school. He taught industrial arts at several historically Black colleges and universities. He was a descendant of the West Indies and African Americans.

He compiled a Black history scrapbook with clippings from Joel August Rogers paperback series *Your History*, first published in 1940. This is a unique history which chronicles the accomplishments and tenacity of Black men and women. Also included is *Negroes in the Halls of Congress* by James M. Rosbrow, and illustrations from Ahmed Samuel Milai, and clippings from the *Pittsburgh Courier*.

Proctor was selected to be interviewed for the Library of Congress National Visionary Leadership Project as a noted African American leader. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sXgWFA74ng&list=PLCwE4GdJdVRLH4E09gFhwTYyymDWTqpf>

Joel Augustus Rogers(1880-1966) was a Jamaican-American author, journalist, and amateur historian who focused on the history of Africa; as well as the African diaspora. After settling in the United States in 1906, he lived in Chicago and then New York City. He became interested in the history of African Americans in the United States. His research spanned the academic fields of history, sociology and anthropology. He challenged prevailing ideas about scientific racism and the social construction of race, demonstrated the connections between civilizations, and traced achievements of ethnic Africans, including some with mixed European ancestry. He was one of the earliest popularizers of African and African-American history in the 20th century. Among his non-fiction works are *World's Greatest Men and Women of African Descent* (1935), *100 Amazing Facts about the Negro* (1934), *The Real Facts about Ethiopia* (1936), and *World's Great Men of Color* (1947). He is probably best known for *Sex and Race* (1941) and *The Five Negro Presidents* (1965). In addition, he wrote columns, including "Impressions of Europe" and "Jazz at Home", for several black newspapers and for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, an illustrated feature entitled "Your History." He also wrote two novels *From "Superman" to Man* and *She Walks in Beauty*.

Ahmed Samuel Milai, better known as Sam Milai, was an African American editorial and comic strip cartoonist who drew for the *Pittsburgh Courier*. From 1940–c. 1971, Milai illustrated "Your History", written by Joel Augustus Rogers.

The *Pittsburgh Courier* was an African American weekly newspaper published in Pittsburgh from 1907 until October 22, 1966. By the 1930s, the *Courier* was one of the leading black newspapers in the United States. It was acquired in 1965 by John H. Sengstacke, a major black publisher and owner of the *Chicago Defender*. He

re-opened the paper in 1967 as the New Pittsburgh Courier, making it one of his four newspapers for the African American audience.

Sources: Wikipedia. Accessed 4/8/24

## Content Description

This collection contains a homemade Black history notebook of clippings and illustrations compiled by Bernard S. Proctor, (a Tuskegee Airman). The notebook is a green cloth 3-ring binder, with "Negro History" written on the spine, containing newspaper clippings from the *Pittsburgh Courier*, illustrations from a syndicated cartoon *Your History*, by J.A. Rogers, and illustrations from *Negroes in the Halls of Congress* by James M. Rosbrow, both drawn by A.S. Milai.

Joel Augustus Rogers, creator of *Your History* is a well-known Black author, self-trained historian, novelist, and journalist focused on debunking racist theories and depictions of people of African ancestry.

*Your History* contains at least three historical figures or facts. There are approximately 150 short illustrated biographies of African Americans, some of whom are well-known, such as Henry Flipper or Booker T. Washington. Most are about people and events that are lesser known. These include boxer George Dixon and William A. Jackson, Jefferson Davis' coachman who shared intelligence with the Union, Jean-Pierre Boyer, a president of Haiti, artist William A. Harper, and Elizabeth Keckley (Mary Todd Lincoln's White House confidante), among many others.

Very little information is known about James M. Rosbrow, creator of *Negroes in the Halls of Congress*. The series contains biographical text along with a large illustration of the subject. Included are well-known officials such as Blanche Bruce and others such as Benjamin Sterling Turner from Alabama or John Roy Lynch, the youngest-ever Congressman at the time.

## Keywords

African American newspapers

Scrapbooks

Langdon Manor Books

## Arrangement

The scrapbook came with no original order. Some of the pages were loose from the scrapbook and were placed in mylar in a folder. Since it is being digitized, we created an artificial numbering system for metadata in matching up the images with the scrapbook. Each image is given a number and each image on the same page is given the same number and a letter to distinguish it. Preservation will make a decision about how the scrapbook will be housed. All the pages will be in mylar in folders and the notebook binder with the title "Negro History" will stay with the collection.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### OS newspaper clipping from *Your History* by J. A. Rogers

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/249021

**Unit Date** 1950 March 4

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Oversize\_Folder(Within\_an\_OSBox))