Guide to the Harold L. Valentine Jr. photograph album Mss 352


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2018 March 16
Title: Harold L. Valentine Jr. photograph album
Identifier/Call Number: Mss 352
Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Research Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.17 linear feet (1 flat box)
Creator: Valentine, Harold L., Jr., 1923-1977
Date (inclusive): 1934-1944
Abstract: Photograph album containing 85 gelatin silver photographs of Valentine family of Gouldtown New Jersey, as well as African-American soldiers on a military base during World War II.
Physical Location: Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library
Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.
Use Restrictions
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], Harold L. Valentine Jr. photograph album, Mss 352. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Acquisition Information
Library purchase, 2018.
Historical Note
Gouldtown, which is located in New Jersey about 60 miles south of Philadelphia, was called "America's Oldest Negro Community" by Ebony magazine in 1952. It traces its roots to the 1700s when a freedman named Benjamin Gould married a Finnish woman. Community lore holds that in the mid-1700s two mixed race brothers, who were previously indentured servants, arrived from the West Indies, settled near the Goulds and began families of their own after purchasing the passage of two "mail order brides" from the Netherlands. Shortly thereafter, a mixed race couple (White and Native American) arrived from Cape May. It was descendants of these four families that formed the core of Gouldtown's population well into the latter half of the 20th century. Harold L. Valentine Jr., to whom the album originally belonged, was born in 1923 and lived in Gouldtown until his death in 1977. This is an important visual record of mid-20th century African-American life in one of the most historic African-American enclaves.
Scope and Content
This album contains 85 gelatin silver photographs, the first captioned "Harold L. Valentine Jr. Dec 25, 1934." Photographs depict Valentine family members around the family home and farm in Gouldtown, as well as African-American soldiers on a military base, where Valentine served as a technical sergeant during World War II. Photographs in the album date to 1934-1944.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
African American soldiers -- Photographs
World War, 1939-1945 -- African Americans
Gouldtown (N.J.) -- Photographs
Gelatin silver prints
Photograph albums
Valentine, Harold L., Jr., 1923-1977 -- Archives

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Harold L. Valentine Jr. photograph album 1934-1944