

Collection #  
SC 2440  
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**MOUNT PLEASANT LIBRARY (RUSH COUNTY, IND.)  
RECORDS, 1842–1869**

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Two notebooks

COLLECTION DATES: 1842-1869

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Mary Jeffries Strong, Indianapolis, Indiana, February 1954.  
Collection reproduced on film--April, 1964.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: Microfilm

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1954.0205; 1954.0602; 1964.0405

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Mount Pleasant Library was established at the Beech Settlement during 1842. The Beech, located north of Carthage in Rush County, Indiana, was an African-American rural community founded by a family surnamed Roberts during the 1820s. According to Xenia Cord, the Robertses later moved with the Waldens and Winburns to northern Hamilton County to establish Roberts Settlement, prior to developing rural communities in Vigo County.

Although there is evidence that the library was later moved to the Union School, the subscription library opened in the community's meetinghouse. The small collection contained books pertaining to religion, geography, and philosophy. Operated by a board of trustees, a librarian, and a secretary, the library's membership was composed of men and women from the community who paid \$.25 - \$1.50 to join.

Sources: Materials in the Collection

Xenia Cord, "Black Rural Settlements in Indiana before 1860," *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1993.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection contains two notebooks (1842-1869) pertaining to the Mount Pleasant Library in Rush County, Indiana. Volume I (1842-1867) contains the Mount Pleasant Library constitution, a list of subscribers, and minutes from the board of managers meetings. One of the last entries indicates that the trustees planned to move the library to the Union schoolhouse.

Volume II (1842-1869) contains a record of circulation for the library. It lists patrons, due dates (inferred by number of weeks of the loan), a number code for the books, and whether or not the item was returned. Surnames that appear regularly are Bass, Brooks, Clark, Jeffries, Roberts, Watkins, and Winburn.

## **FOLDER LISTING**

1 Volume I: Mt. Pleasant Library Constitution and Minutes, 1842-1867

2 Volume II: Circulation Records, 1842-1869