



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Gustavus Adolphus Steward papers

1869-1979 [bulk 1907-1949]

Sc MG 487

Accessioned and processed by B. Robinson, 1993, and Janice Quinter, 2000.

Summary

Creator: Steward, Gustavus Adolphus, 1881-1966

Title: Gustavus Adolphus Steward papers

Date: 1869-1979 [bulk 1907-1949]

Size: 1.71 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Gift of Anna Bishop, December 1992.

Abstract: Gustavus Adolphus Steward was an educator, writer, and businessman. The Gustavus Adolphus Steward papers consist of correspondence, writings, financial records, and material from his family members.

Preferred citation: [Item], Gustavus Adolphus Steward papers, Sc MG 487, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned and processed by B. Robinson, 1993, and Janice Quinter, 2000.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Related Materials:

Theophilus Gould Steward papers, Sc Micro R-5910, General Research and Reference Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Theophilus G. Steward research collection, Sc MG 445, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Gustavus Adolphus Steward was an educator, writer, and businessman. He was one of eight sons born to African Methodist Episcopal minister Theophilus Gould Steward and Elizabeth (Gadsden) Steward. Gustavus Steward attended the University of Montana, Missoula (1895-1898), and graduated from Wilberforce University (1901). His career as an educator included teaching at a government school in Agno, Zambales in the Philippines (1901); the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School in Lawrenceville, Virginia; the Cheyney (Pennsylvania) Training School for Teachers; and the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. In 1919, he began working as a cashier for the Supreme Life and Casualty Company (later called Fireside Mutual Insurance) in Columbus, Ohio, from which he would retire in 1947 as an officer and board member. During the 1920s-1940s, Steward was also a contributing writer to various publications, including *The Crisis* magazine, *The Dearborn Independent*, and *Opportunity*. He wrote essays and articles, on race relations, social issues, and religion; book reviews; and short stories, sometimes under the alias Peter Gadsden.

Scope and Content Note

The Gustavus Adolphus Steward papers consist of correspondence (bulk 1907-1939); writings, both published and unpublished, including short stories and newspaper columns (1928-1943); diaries (1941-1949); deeds; and financial records (1869-1937).

Much of Steward's correspondence is career-related (job offers, resignations, and recommendations from many of the black Southern schools). Correspondents include Theophilus Gould Steward, Emmett J. Scott, Walter White (concerning school segregation in Columbus, Ohio), and other leading African-American educators in the South.

Also included in the collection are many of Steward's college notebooks; an autograph book dated 1882, belonging to Anna H. Jones, the mother of his wife Winona; and files of correspondence and writings of his brother, Theophilus Bolden Steward, his father, Theophilus G. Steward, and other family members.

Arrangement: Arranged into 5 series: (1) Personal; (2) Correspondence; (3) Financial records; (4) Family; and (5) Writing.

Key Terms

Occupations

African American clergy
Authors, Black

Subjects

African American educators
African American families
African American teachers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Essays
Short stories

Names

Steward, Gustavus Adolphus, 1881-1966

Steward, T. G. (Theophilus Gould), 1843-1924

Steward, Theophilus Bolden, 1879-1928

White, Walter, 1893-1955

Container List

Personal

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical information
- b. 1 f. 2 University of Chicago transcript
- b. 1 f. 3 Death

Correspondence 1907-1952

- b. 1 f. 4 B
- b. 1 f. 5 C
- b. 1 f. 6 H
- b. 1 f. 7 K-L
- b. 1 f. 8 M
- b. 1 f. 9 O-P
- b. 1 f. 10 R
- b. 1 f. 11 S
- b. 1 f. 12 T
- b. 1 f. 13 U-W
- b. 1 f. 14 White, Walter 1932-1934
- b. 1 f. 15 Article, "First Century Communism" 1932
- b. 1 f. 16 Miscellaneous 1907-1939

Financial records 1869-1937

- b. 1 f. 17 Fire Side Mutual Insurance Association
- b. 1 f. 18 Deeds 1869-1937

Family ca. 1866-1979

- b. 1 f. 19 Steward, Theophilus Bolden 1920-1930
Includes correspondence, writing, and certificates.
- b. 1 f. 20 Steward, Theophilus Gould ca. 1866-1917
Includes correspondence and writing.
- b. 1 f. 21 Bishop, Anna Elizabeth Steward (Bowles) 1937-1979
Includes correspondence, financial records, notes, and biographical information.
- b. 1 f. 22 Steward, Susan Maria, M.D 1914
Includes biographical information and writing.

Writing 1925-1949

Includes some writing by other family members in the diaries subseries.

Arranged into 4 subseries: (1) Short stories; (2) Notebooks; (3) Scrapbooks (newspaper columns); and (4) Diaries.

Short stories 1925-1943

- b. 2 f. 1 1925-1931
- b. 2 f. 2 1928-1943
- b. 2 f. 3 1933-1940
- b. 2 f. 4-5 ca. 1933
- b. 2 f. 6-7 undated

Writing (cont.)

Short stories (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 8 as Peter Gadsden 1932-1933
- b. 2 f. 9 as Silas Plum
- b. 2 f. 10-11 Miscellaneous
- b. 2 f. 12-13 Notebooks
- b. 3 f. 1-3
 - Includes college notebooks.
 - Scrapbooks (newspaper columns) 1930-1943
 - b. 4 f. 1 1930-1933
 - b. 4 f. 2 1934-1935
 - b. 4 f. 3 1937-1938
 - b. 4 f. 4 1943
 - Diaries 1939-1949
 - b. 5 f. 1 Family diary 1941-1945
 - b. 5 f. 2 1939
 - b. 5 f. 3 1940
 - b. 5 f. 4 1942
 - b. 5 f. 5 1943
 - b. 5 f. 6 1944
 - b. 5 f. 7 1946
 - b. 5 f. 8 1947
 - b. 5 f. 9 1948
 - b. 5 f. 10 1949
 - b. 5 f. 11 Autograph book of Anna H. Jones 1882