



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

Guide to the

John A. Carpenter research material collection

1948-1975

Sc MG 296

Summary

Creator: Carpenter, John A. (John Alcott), 1921-

Title: John A. Carpenter research material collection

Date: 1948-1975

Size: 9.29 linear feet (10 boxes)

Source: Gift of Mimi Carpenter, 1985.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: John Alcott Carpenter (1921–1978) was a historian, history professor, and public speaker. He published biographies of Oliver Otis Howard and Ulysses S. Grant. This collection includes manuscripts, typescripts, research notes, and printed matter used by Carpenter for various writing.

Preferred citation: [Item], John A. Carpenter research material collection, Sc MG 296, 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 by Andre Elizee, February 1987.

Creator History

John Alcott Carpenter (1921–1978) was a historian, head of the department of history at Fordham University, and public speaker. He specialized in the Reconstruction Period following the American Civil War, and published biographies of Oliver Otis Howard, the founder of Howard University (*Sword and Olive Branch: Oliver Otis Howard*), and Ulysses S. Grant (*Ulysses S. Grant*). Carpenter was also the recipient of grants from the National Endowment of the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society in support of his research on the Federal Government's Freedmen's Bureau, which was set up after the Civil War. Besides writing books, he also contributed articles to the *Journal of Negro History*, the *New York Historical Society Quarterly*, and *Civil War History*, and appeared on the 1974 CBS television series, *The American Presidency: The Men and the Office*. Carpenter died in 1978.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of material for Carpenter's writing on Oliver Otis Howard, Ulysses S. Grant, and the Freedmen's Bureau. Material includes holograph manuscripts and typescripts of his biographies; research notes; photocopies of correspondence and reports from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands; biographical data sheets on military and civilian agents of the Freedmen's Bureau; miscellaneous correspondence; and printed matter used by Carpenter. Subjects include Freedmen's Bureau agents, Oliver Otis Howard, and Ulysses S. Grant. Additionally, the following manuscripts are included: "The Military Career of Oliver Otis Howard"; "The Civil War Career of Oliver Otis Howard"; and "An Account of the Civil War Career of Oliver Otis Howard, Based on His Private Letters". Also included are articles, book reviews, lectures, notes, and bibliographies.

Arrangement: Collection organized into four series: I. The Freedmen's Bureau Agents; II. Oliver Otis Howard; III. Ulysses S. Grant; and IV. Articles, book reviews, talks, and lectures.

Key Terms

Subjects

Freedmen -- United States

Real property -- United States

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Slaves -- Emancipation

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American

Geographic Names

Southern States -- History -- 1865-1877

Names

Carpenter, John A. (John Alcott), 1921-

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885

Howard, O. O. (Oliver Otis), 1830-1909

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Container List

- The Freedmen's Bureau Agents
 - b. 1 f. 1 Grant applications
 - b. 1 f. 1a-2 Original handwritten manuscript
 - b. 1 f. 3-4 Original typed manuscript
 - b. 1 f. 5-6 Copy of typed manuscript
 - b. 1 f. 7-8 Second typed manuscript
 - b. 1 f. 9-12 Research notes (alphabetical listings)
 - b. 2 Agents (alphabetized) and civilian agents
 - b. 3 Military agents and agents arranged by biographical notes
 - b. 3 Topics and chapters
 - b. 4 Statistical survey
Survey numbered 0001 to 2442.
 - b. 5 f. 1 Photocopies of correspondence and reports sent to the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Land in North Carolina, Mississippi, and South Carolina
 - b. 5 f. 2 Related thesis papers
 - b. 5 f. 3 Bibliographies
 - b. 5 f. 4 Printed matter
- Oliver Otis Howard
 - b. 6 *Manuscript of Sword and Olive Branch: Oliver Otis Howard*
Published by University of Pittsburgh Press, 1964.
 - b. 6-7 Notes
- Ulysses S. Grant
 - b. 8 *Manuscript for Ulysses S. Grant*
Published by Twayne Publishers, New York, 1970.
 - b. 8 Research notes
- Articles, book reviews, talks, and lectures
 - b. 9 f. 1 "The Military Career of Oliver Otis Howard" manuscript
 - b. 9 f. 2 "The Civil War Career of General Howard" manuscript
 - b. 9 f. 3 "An Account of the Civil War Career of Oliver Otis Howard, Based on His Private Letters" manuscript
 - b. 9 f. 4-5 Drafts and outlines
 - b. 9 f. 6 "Memoranda on Mr. Carpenter's Oliver Otis Howard"
 - b. 9 f. 7 Reconstruction textbook material
 - b. 9 f. 8 Book reviews
 - b. 9 f. 9 Television talks
 - b. 9 f. 10 Lectures
 - b. 9 f. 11-13 Articles
 - b. 9 f. 14 General information on the Reconstruction
 - b. 9 f. 15 Index cards
 - b. 10 Computer printouts of statistical information 1974