



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

Guide to the

Levi C. Hubert papers

1930-1970

Sc MG 127

Summary

Creator: Hubert, Levi C.

Title: Levi C. Hubert papers

Date: 1930-1970

Size: 2.67 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Gift of Mildred Hubert and Olive Bright, 1980.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Levi Coppin Hubert (1904-1970) was an African American journalist who worked for both Black and white newspapers in New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, among other cities, in the 1930s. During that time, he also worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) writing news stories about Blacks in Harlem for the Federal Writers' Reporting Project. Most notably, with nine other contributors, he wrote a guidebook, *The History of the Negro in New York*, detailing the history of Blacks in New York City from 1623 until 1936. Additionally, he headed the Publicity Unit of the Federal Music Project. Hubert's primary research interest was the history of Black soldiers in the United States Armed Forces. He wrote manuscripts for two books, "In the Name of Congress: Inspiring Stories of 47 Negroes Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor", which he completed in 1967, and "Their Muskets Flashed the Dawning: Regimental Histories of the United States Colored Troops During the Civil War: 1862-1865"; there does not appear to be evidence that either of the manuscripts were published. Hubert also helped prepare a four-part silent filmstrip called the "History of the American Negro (1619-1865)" for use in schools. Hubert died in 1970. The Levi C. Hubert papers pertain to Hubert's research on Black soldiers in the United States Armed Forces and other topics in African American history, and include manuscript drafts, correspondence, reproductions of photographs, news clippings, notes, and printed material. Most of the material is devoted to his manuscripts, "In the Name of Congress: Inspiring Stories of 47 Negroes Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor" (1966-1967), which discusses awardees from the Civil War era to the War in Vietnam, and "Their Muskets Flashed the Dawning: Regimental Histories of the United States Colored Troops During the Civil War," which is mostly a compilation of official Civil War records of the Union and Confederate Armies. There are drafts for both manuscripts as well as research material. Drafts for short articles that Hubert wrote can be found in this collection, while printed copies of his articles for the Federal Writers' Reporting Project are contained in a scrapbook. Also included are notes, correspondence, and printed material regarding the

filmstrip entitled "History of the American Negro (1619-1865)." There is also some genealogical material concerning Hubert's family.

Preferred citation: [Item], Levi C. Hubert papers, Sc MG 127, 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 Janice Quinter, June 2007.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division: 2 folders of publications

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: 2 folders of photographs

Creator History

Levi Coppin Hubert (1904-1970) was an African American journalist who worked for both Black and white newspapers in New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, among other cities, in the 1930s. During that time, he also worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) writing news stories about Blacks in Harlem for the Federal Writers' Reporting Project. Most notably, with nine other contributors, he wrote a guidebook, *The History of the Negro in New York*, detailing the history of Blacks in New York City from 1623 until 1936. Additionally, he headed the Publicity Unit of the Federal Music Project. Hubert's primary research interest was the history of Black soldiers in the United States Armed Forces. He wrote manuscripts for two books, "In the Name of Congress: Inspiring Stories of 47 Negroes Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor", which he completed in 1967, and "Their Muskets Flashed the Dawning: Regimental Histories of the United States Colored Troops During the Civil War: 1862-1865"; there does not appear to be evidence that either of the manuscripts were published. Hubert also helped prepare a four-part silent filmstrip called the "History of the American Negro (1619-1865)" for use in schools. Hubert died in 1970.

Scope and Content Note

The Levi C. Hubert papers pertain to Hubert's research on Black soldiers in the United States Armed Forces and other topics in African American history, and include manuscript drafts, correspondence, reproductions of photographs, news clippings, notes, and printed material. Most of the material is devoted to his manuscripts, "In the Name of Congress: Inspiring Stories of 47 Negroes Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor" (1966-1967), which discusses awardees from the Civil War era to the War in Vietnam, and "Their Muskets Flashed the Dawning: Regimental Histories of the United States Colored Troops During the Civil War," which is mostly a compilation of official Civil War records of the Union and Confederate Armies. There are drafts for both manuscripts as well as research material. Drafts for short articles that Hubert wrote can be found in this collection, while printed copies of his articles for the Federal Writers' Reporting Project are contained in a scrapbook. Also included are notes, correspondence, and printed material regarding the filmstrip entitled "History of the American Negro (1619-1865)." There is also some genealogical material concerning Hubert's family.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American journalists

African American soldiers

African Americans -- History

Authors, Black

Medal of Honor

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

Geographic Names

United States -- Armed Forces -- African Americans -- History

Names

Hubert, Levi C.

Container List

Personal papers 1934-1968

- b. 1 f. 1 Family tree
- b. 1 f. 2 Hubert's black history and literary collection 1963
- b. 1 f. 3 Personal belongings
- b. 1 f. 4 Investment in Community Finance Corporation
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence 1934-1968
- b. 1 f. 6 Mildred Hubert – military service, etc 1952-1958
- b. 1 f. 7 General correspondence 1966-1970

Writing

"In the Name of Congress: Inspiring Stories of 47 Negroes Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor" 1966-1967

Illustrated by June Bagnall.

- b. 1 f. 8 Original manuscript
- b. 1 f. 9-13 Pencil and carbon copies 1967
Includes information on official records of the medal of honor from Dyer's Compendium.
- b. 1 f. 14 Table of contents
- b. 1 f. 15 Medallic history
- b. 1 f. 16-17 Civil War
Includes information on white commissioned officers commanding Negro troops who had been awarded the Medal of Honor.
- b. 1 f. 18 Spanish-American War
- b. 1 f. 19 Korean Conflict
- b. 1 f. 20-22 War in Vietnam/Lawrence Joel 1966-1967
- b. 1 f. 23 Art and copy
- b. 1 f. 24-25 Sketches and illustrations
- b. 1 f. 26 Correspondence 1966
- b. 1 f. 27 General information
- b. 1 f. 28 "The Medal of Honor of the United States Army"
- b. 1 f. 29 Publicity, exploitation, distribution, promotion 1967
- b. 1 f. 30-42 "Their Muskets Flashed the Dawning" 1961
Includes handwritten manuscript, typed carbon copy, incomplete manuscripts, illustrations, and various background information including material on the Indian Campaigns.
- b. 1 f. 43-44 "Regimental Histories – United States Colored Troops: 1861-1865" 1961
Includes pencil copies and information on battles, sieges, campaigns, engagements, expeditions, actions, skirmishes, occupations, patrols and other combat participation.
- b. 1 f. 45-46 "Regimental Histories United States Colored Troops", New York Public Library 1961 June
Includes original typed copy and first carbon copy.
- b. 1 f. 47 "Short Regimental Histories of the United States Colored Troops: 1962-1867" abstract
- b. 2 f. 1 Black Troops from the Revolution to the Civil War – notebook of unidentified individual
- b. 2 f. 2 "A Reference Work Concerning the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War and the Years Immediately Following" background material

Writing (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 3 "Regimental Histories" background information
- b. 2 f. 4 "Index of Negro Regiments in the Army of the United States: 1862-1867, during the Period Covered by the Civil War and Occupation" 1961
- b. 2 f. 5 "After WPA, What Then?"
- b. 2 f. 6 "Did You Know That...", facts about African American troops in the Civil War (mock-up)
- b. 2 f. 7 Johnson, Hall
- b. 2 f. 8 "Highlights of American Negro History Told by U.S. Postage Stamps" 1967
- b. 2 f. 9 "Martha Capet" 1948
- b. 2 f. 10-13 "The Negro Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War" 1966
Includes handwritten booklet and layout.
- b. 2 f. 14 "Our Good Neighbor Policy Meets the Color Line"
- b. 2 f. 15 *Singleton, William Henry with preface by Levi Hubert. Recollections of My Slavery Days*
- b. 2 f. 16 "Visitors Guide to Harlem" 1950
- b. 2 f. 17 "The Whites Invade Harlem"
- b. 2 f. 18-22 Various articles
- b. 2 f. 23 Scrapbook of clippings 1930-1937
Federal Writers' Reporting Project
 - b. 3 f. 1 Published stories
- b. 3 f. 2-3 Articles by Hubert 1936-1937
- b. 3 f. 4 Various projects
- b. 3 f. 5 Publicity for Federal Music Project 1936
"Outpourings: A Collection of Poems"
- b. 3 f. 6 Title page and preface ca. 1930
- b. 3 f. 7 Photographic scrapbook 1940

Filmstrips

- "History of the American Negro (1619-1865)" Filmstrip Series
 - b. 3 f. 8 Production
 - b. 3 f. 9 Correspondence regarding sales 1964-1965
 - b. 3 f. 10 Filmstrip catalogs for schools 1960-1965
 - b. 3 f. 11 "16 mm Sound Films for Use by African Study Groups", compiled by Hubert
 - b. 3 f. 12 Negro History Associates printed material
 - b. 3 f. 13 Miscellaneous film projects
Downing-DeGrasse Photograph Collection of the Ante-Bellum, Civil War and Reconstruction Periods
- b. 3 f. 14-15 Notes
- b. 3 f. 16 Filmstrip instructions for "Know Your Neighbors: Two New Yorkers and Their Friends" 1964
- b. 3 f. 17-18 Blacks in Brazil
Includes printed matter, such as clippings.
- Planned projects
 - b. 3 f. 19 Negro History Research Project 1965

Planned projects (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 20 Negro Heritage Library 1966
- b. 3 f. 21 Novel, "Objective: Harlem" 1966
- b. 3 f. 22-23 Printed matter 1942-1958
Includes Hubert's "Negro Subjects from *The Readers Digest*".
- b. 3 f. 24-51 Photographic reproductions
 - b. 4