

William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection

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Prepared by Karen Femia with the assistance of Sheila Day and Patrick Kerwin

Collection Summary

Title: Afro-American Military Collection

Span Dates: 1773-1987

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1861-1865)

ID No.: MSS83434

Collector: Gladstone, William A., collector

Extent: 500 items ; 5 containers plus 4 oversize ; 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Correspondence, pay vouchers, orders, muster rolls, enlistment and discharge papers, receipts, contracts, affidavits, tax records, miscellaneous military documents, and printed material documenting African Americans in military service, with the bulk concerning the Civil War service of the United States Corps d'Afrique (organized in 1863 and renamed United States Colored Troops in 1864).

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Gladstone, William A., collector.

Organizations

United States. Colored Troops.

United States. Continental Army--African American troops.

United States. Corps d'Afrique.

Subjects

Slavery.

Places

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

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

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Participation, African American.

Occupations

Collectors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection was purchased by the Library of Congress from Gladstone in 1995. Textual material was transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Prints and Photographs Division which retained the remainder of the collection.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection spans the years 1773-1987 with the bulk of material dating from the Civil War period, 1861-1865. The collection consists of correspondence, pay vouchers, orders, muster rolls, enlistment and discharge papers, receipts, contracts, affidavits, tax records, miscellaneous military documents, and printed matter. Most items document African Americans in military service, especially the United States Corps d'Afrique and the United States Colored Troops, which were organized during the Civil War. Also included are many documents concerned with slavery and various Civil War documents that mention African Americans. Revolutionary War items are primarily pay vouchers to Connecticut blacks who served in the Continental Army. Printed matter includes nineteenth century speeches and writings on slavery, government orders, broadsides, and twentieth-century booklets and journal articles for scholars or collectors.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection has been kept in the numerical order established by Gladstone. The order is not topical or chronological. Oversize materials have been removed and placed in separate containers, though their original numeric order has been retained.

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