MSS 097 Diaries, Journals, Ships Logs Collection

Item 53 James M. Morton Diary, 1859-1861, 1 volume

In his diary Morton mentions the sale of slaves, others leaving for military service, the capture of Fort Sumter, and traveling in the South in 1859-1861.

MSS 98 Miscellaneous Delaware Literary and Historical Manuscripts

F17 Caleb Cox, 1832, 1 item

Bill of Sale for a Negro slave boy named Caleb Cox.

F95 William R. Jones Papers, 1858 – 1863, 3 items

Includes a copy of William R. Jones’s will, which emancipated his slaves upon his death. The will states that the slaves are to seek relocation to Liberia.

MSS 99 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts

F580 Nancy Cunard and Hugh Ford Letters to David Garnett, 1928 – 1970, 8 items

The eight letters in this small collection are together as a result of Hugh Ford’s 1968 volume Nancy Cunard: Brave Poet, Indomitable Rebel. Cunard’s letters span from the early days of her friendship with David Garnett in 1928 until just before her death in 1965. Cunard befriended many of the Harlem Renaissance writers and unashamedly expressed her affinity for African Americans and African American culture. As demonstrated by these letters, Cunard maintain close ties with the African American community throughout her life.

MSS 100 > Manuscript and Archival Collections


The collection consists of reports, articles, and other papers related to desegregation which were collected as resource files by Abigail Covelli. The collection contains information on desegregation in Delaware as well as in other states.

MSS 113 Alice Nelson Dunbar Papers, 7.8 linear ft and 120 volumes
The Alice Dunbar-Nelson Papers consist of the literary, professional, and personal papers of Alice Dunbar-Nelson, renowned poet and former wife of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. The papers include an extensive collection of her incoming correspondence. Of particular note is her correspondence (1895-1904) from Paul Laurence Dunbar, which also includes her letters to Dunbar. The Alice Dunbar-Nelson Papers also include a comprehensive collection of manuscripts of her writing, including novels, stories, poetry, drama, and essays. Dunbar-Nelson maintained a daily diary for most of her adult life and the extent portions of her diaries are present in her papers. The Alice Dunbar-Nelson papers also include significant collections of family papers, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, ephemera, and memorabilia.

MSS 130 **Lewis Family Papers**, 1700-1931, 3 linear ft.

The Lewis family were residents of Delaware. Most of the family made their home in Newark. This collection includes business and personal papers such as daybooks, farming records, legal documents, and literary works. Documents pertaining to African Americans can be found among the Albert G. Lewis papers. Box 1, F5 contains slave indentures and bills of sale; Box 2 F 22 contains a runaway slave notice; Box 7 contains family Bible of C.A. Lewis. A list of "colored" births and deaths can be found in the back pages of the Bible.


The Charles Johnson Papers consist of letters and manuscripts sent to Johnson's former professor, John Gardner, in the late 1970s. The letters, some decorated with sketches and caricatures, detail Johnson's nascent ideas for several unwritten novels and stories. Other letters share personal anecdotes and describe Johnson's university classes, experiences with publishers, and employment opportunities. The letters also contain dense philosophical meditations on literature, the nature of the artist and writer, and on Black experience. With many of his letters, Johnson included manuscripts of articles and novels for Gardner to peruse and critique. The collection thus provides an intimate and revealing glance into Johnson's publications, his methodology, and beliefs.

MSS 171 **Peter Strickland Papers**, 1857-1912, 1 linear ft.

This collection contains the dairies and letter books of Peter Strickland, a shipmaster, merchant, and U.S. consul in the French colony of Senegal. The collection includes thirteen bound volumes and several newspapers from the period 1857 – 1912. The Strickland papers will be of particular interest to researchers interested in West African trading by Europeans and Americans.
MSS 218 **Edward A. Fulton Papers**, 1860 – 1877, 43 items

This collection contains the letters of Edward Fulton, a Union soldier from Wilmington, Delaware. Fulton makes several references to African Americans in his letters. F4 – Letter dated March 9, 1862 references the abandonment of slaves by southern slave owners upon the arrival of federal troops; letter dated March 15, 1862 provides details concerning slaves seeking refuge in Union camps and of a slave owners attempt to retrieve his slave. F7 – Letter dated March 15, 1862 makes short reference to Black soldiers.

MSS 240 **Samuel Meredith Papers**, 1730 – 1823 (bulk 1764-1823), 2 linear ft.

Samuel Meredith was a prominent Philadelphia, appointed by George Washington as the first United States Treasurer. The Samuel Meredith Papers consist of correspondence, receipts, bills, cancelled checks, a deed, and account books. Meredith makes numerous references relating to services he had performed on behalf of his "Negro servants," such as having shoes or coats repaired. See F1, F2, F3, F5, F8, F12, and F27.


The Dodd, Mead and Company Archive consists of two linear feet of material, spanning the dates 1896-1974. The archive is comprised of correspondence, contracts, photographs, wills, probate documents, biographies, drafts, notes, copyright documents, poems, printed programs, ephemera, and clippings. This selection of the company files details the business arrangements between the publisher and various African American authors including Paul Laurence Dunbar, Benjamin Brawley, Langston Hughes, Arna Bontemps and others.


This collection contains various publications from 1924 - 1961 which advocate extremist political opinions. The bulk of the publications spans the years 1950 – 1959 and express anti-integration sentiments underscored by the slogan "Integration is Tyranny." The publications feature opinions from religious and civil organizations, ordinary citizens, and members of Congress. These publications highlight the predominate fear of integration which was miscegenation.

MSS 256 **Pauline Young Collection**, 1924 – 1988, 1 linear ft.

The Pauline A. Young Collection includes material either gathered or written by the Delaware educator and activist Pauline A. Young (1900-1991), much of which relates to prominent poets Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) and Alice Dunbar-Nelson (1875-1935). The collection itself
consists of one linear foot of material comprising correspondence, periodical clippings and photocopies, photographs, brochures, programs, and ephemera.


The papers include Burdrick's 1985 lecture, "Delaware Blue and Gray Ghosts," which focuses on Civil War ghost stories told in Delaware, especially stories sympathetic to African Americans and Confederate soldiers. Historical information about slavery in Delaware is also provided.


Willard Saulsbury, Sr., was a U. S. Senator from Delaware during the Civil War, who protested limitations on states' rights, but remained loyal to the Union. Series V includes material from the period 1859 to 1865 regarding slavery and military affairs. Willard Saulsbury, Jr., was a prominent leader of the Democratic Party and his management of Woodrow Wilson's first presidential campaign led to his own election to the U.S. Senate. This collection contains campaign materials and voter analysis which reflects the racial politics of the day.


Dr. Morris's papers document the creation and early existence of the Southbridge Medical Activities Center in the Wilmington, Delaware. His papers begin with "A Proposal for the Delivery of Health Service in South Wilmington, 1968" and continue through a program celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Southbridge Center in 1980. With its fifteen volunteer doctors and seventeen pharmacists, Southbridge Medical Activities Center was the first privately-funded community health center in Delaware.

**MSS 354 Beadle and Adams Archives**, 1848 – 1920, .3 linear ft.

The collection includes letters written in 1864 by Benjamin Beadle regarding his Vicksburg, Mississippi, cotton plantation, the conscription of horses by the "Rebs," the use of Negroes, and thoughts on Lincoln and the War.


This collection of speeches by the Honorable Margaret Rose Henry, elected in 1994 as the Delaware State Senator for the 2nd Senatorial District, comprise eighteen short political addresses delivered between 1994 and 1995 by the Delaware Senator to various constituent groups, primarily in Wilmington. These speeches clearly reflect Senator Henry's attention to issues of equity, civil rights, crime prevention, social services, and education for minority
populations. Henry's speeches also reveal her strong understanding of and commitment to Black history and heritage. In addition to these typescript manuscripts the collection includes a folder of memoranda, articles, clippings, and programs; all of which are related to Margaret Rose Henry or her speeches. F10 mentions speeches concerning the National Council of Negro Women. The articles and clippings found in F19 chronicle aspects of Senator Henry's work in the Delaware State Senate, as well as providing material for speeches, such as poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar and Langston Hughes or information on the inner city.

**MSS 377 Wilbur T. Wilson Map Collection, 1886 – 1941, 4 linear ft and ca 500 maps**

The Wilbur T. Wilson Map Collection concerns the work of the prominent Newark, Delaware, engineer and surveyor Wilbur T. Wilson (1856-1942). The collection comprises four linear feet of notebooks and files, and approximately 500 maps. There are maps, plans, and cross-sections; blue prints and Van Dykes; graphite and ink on linen, paper, and tracing paper. Racial segregation is reflected in Map 58, the Newark Board of Education's "Plan of Colored School Site" (1920) and Survey Notebook volume 67 (Folder 109) in a "Description of Colored School property conveyed from Delaware School Auxiliary."

**MSS 398 Ishmael Reed Papers, 1964 – 1995, 65 linear ft.**

The Ishmael Reed Papers is a substantial collection of the manuscripts, correspondence, business and publishing records, printed and multimedia productions, and other materials which document the multi-faceted career of Ishmael Reed. Using the materials in this collection, it will be possible for scholars to discover Reed's prolific and productive life of involvement in arts, letters, and politics. All of Reed's many activities are represented in this collection, which takes its basic organizational form and order from his works, activities, and achievements. In addition, the collection provides detailed documentation of Reed's creative and professional work on individual projects with extensive holdings in manuscripts, project records, paste-ups and galley proofs, audio and videotapes, calendars, travel records, and planning notes. Literary and professional correspondence, legal and publishing correspondence, and additional personal correspondence provide a framework for tracing the influence of personal and professional relationships throughout his career, as well as the ways in which Reed's multiple roles and projects are related.

**MSS 402 Waples Family Papers, 1753 – 1864, .6 linear ft.**

The Waples Family Papers, spanning the dates 1753-1864, contains correspondence, wills, deeds and surveys, financial and legal documents, speeches, wills, manumissions, a broadside, a newspaper clipping, an announcement, and invitations. F1 contains a list of bill of goods taken by Sarah Waples, a resident of Sussex County, Delaware. The list includes "a black girl; a black boy." F4 contains a 1834 manumission document; F28 contains an anti-abolition broadside;
F32, F36, F40 contains family wills which mention slaves; F37 contains two 1832 manumission documents and a slave bill of sale.

**MSS 465 The Lincoln Collection**

The Lincoln Collection contains over two thousand books and pamphlets, photographs, artwork, sculpture, artifacts, historic documents, and miscellaneous material pertaining to the life and career of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), the sixteenth President of the United States. Among the most significant items in the collection are copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment signed by Lincoln.

**MSS 471 Chris Oakley Collection of Alternative Press, 1968 – 1992, 1.5 linear ft.**

The Chris Oakley Collection of Alternative Press includes a fragmented collection of a variety of alternative newspapers and community newsletters, mostly from New Castle County, Delaware. The papers focus on issues of social justice, racism, and civil rights. Newspapers such as *The Black Panther Community News* and *The National Black Monitor* feature articles pertaining to African Americans on a local, national, and international scale. Also included in the collection is an original charcoal portrait of Pauline Young, niece of Alice Dunbar-Nelson.

**MSS 472 Sir Joseph Gold Political and Miscellaneous Ephemera Collection, 1960s – 1990s, 1 linear ft.**

The Sir Joseph Gold Political and Miscellaneous Ephemera Collection comprises flyer banknotes, correspondences, letterhead, newsletters, pamphlets, posters, postcards, and reviews. Series 1 contains political ephemera on topics such as Black Power, and issues of racism, civil and human rights, community building efforts, and issues pertaining to economic justice and equality.

**MSS 489 Virden Family Papers, 1783 - 1901 (bulk dates 1820s - 1960s), 36 items**

The Virden family papers, spanning the years 1783-1901, consist of thirty-six letters, receipts, deeds, accounts, and other documents, mostly relating to the family of Samuel Virden of Kent County, Delaware. F1 contains an account book by an unidentified author, 1783-1787, which records many transactions with "negroes." F4 contains a letter from Edwin Virden to "Father," a Methodist priest in Frederica, Delaware, 24 Sep 1865. Edwin is living on a plantation in Jackson, Mississippi, with this brother, Samuel Virden, Jr., and his sisters Anna and Ruth. He offers commentary on the post-Civil War South and broad condemnation of the "indolent," "stealing" former slaves.