

Guide to the Slavery Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection

MS 717



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
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CALL NUMBER: MS 717

TITLE: Slavery Miscellaneous Manuscripts collection

DATES: 1780-1865

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: An artificial collection of volumes, tracts, deeds, and clippings on the topic of slavery. A seven volume composition of material on slavery and abolition, and a "Census of the Slaves in Chester County, Pennsylvania" are included.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0717>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0717>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use HM 166 instead of the originals.

Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Slavery Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection (MS 717). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

No additions will be made to this collection. Accessions relating to the topic of slavery identified for addition to an artificial collection will be added to Miscellaneous Manuscripts or another appropriate collection.

Existence and Location of Copies

Entire collection also available on microfilm (1,771 frames on 3 reels, 35mm.) from Scholarly Resources, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a variety of items from different sources concerned with slavery, especially in the United States. The materials range in date from 1780 to the 1960s.

The largest section of the collection is made up of seven scrapbooks titled "Tracts on Slavery in the United States, and on the U.S. Constitution and Organic Laws." They contain manuscript writings, printed pamphlets and tracts, and newspaper clippings on the subject of slavery and abolitionism, with most of the material dating from the 1850s and 1860s. The original compiler is unknown. The volumes were given to Yale University from the library of Louis R. Ehrich by his son Walter L. Ehrich in 1926.

The next item is a manuscript book containing records of punishments administered to slaves in a South American mining camp. 177 slaves are named, the reason for their punishment are given, and the method of punishment is listed. The records, which are kept in English, cover the years 1836-1847. The volume was given to Yale University by Stuart W. Jackson in 1937.

The following folder contains twenty deeds for slaves, dating from 1783 to 1848. They were acquired by the University from a variety of sources. The deeds come from North Carolina, Maryland, Kentucky, Alabama, and Tennessee. The next folder contains nine newspaper clippings from the 1840s through the 1860s relating to the anti-slavery movement in Kansas, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The final item is a manuscript book containing the census of slaves in Chester County, Pennsylvania, from 1780 to 1815. This was given to Yale University by Abel Cary Thomas in 1936.

Collection Contents

	"Tracts on Slavery in the United States, and on the U.S. Constitution and Organic Laws"	[ca. 1850-1860]
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Vols. 1-2	
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U reel 2U	Vols. 3-4	
b. 1, f. 3reel 2U	Vols. 5-6	
b. 2, f. 4reel 2U	Vol. 7	
b. 2, f. 5reel 3U	Manuscript book of punishments administered to slaves in a South American mining camp	1836-1847
b. 2, f. 6reel 3U	20 slave deeds	1783-1848
b. 2, f. 7reel 3U	9 newspaper clippings concerning slavery	1842-[1860?]
b. 3, f. 8reel 3U	"A Census of the Slaves in Chester County, Pennsylvania English A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1780-1815

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.

Subjects

African Americans
Slavery
Slavery -- United States

Geographic Names

Chester County (Pa.)
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Genres / Formats

Slave records