

Christian A. Fleetwood Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2004

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75020784>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009252>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009
Revised 2023 July

Collection Summary

Title: Christian A. Fleetwood Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1797-1945

Bulk Dates: 1860-1907

ID No.: MSS20784

Creator: Fleetwood, Christian A. (Christian Abraham), 1840-1914

Extent: 400 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 1 linear foot

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm75020784>

Summary: Soldier and civic leader. Correspondence, diaries, legal documents, scrapbook, printed material, memorabilia, and photographs pertaining to Fleetwood's military and civilian career during and after the Civil War, education, nursing, and slavery, and other civic and social concerns of the African-American community. Material relates chiefly to the District of Columbia where Fleetwood held various government and business positions. Includes papers of his wife Sara Iredell Fleetwood, a nurse, and correspondence of other family members.

Online Content: A diary for 1864 in the Christian A. Fleetwood Papers is available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009252.001>.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Fleetwood family--Correspondence.

Fleetwood, Christian A. (Christian Abraham), 1840-1914.

Fleetwood, Sara Iredell Sara Iredell Fleetwood papers.

Organizations

United States. Army. Colored Infantry Regiment, 4th (1863-1866)

Subjects

African Americans--Education.

African Americans--Social conditions.

African Americans--Washington (D.C.)

Medal of Honor.

Nursing.

Slavery--United States.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--African Americans.

Titles

Christian Abraham Fleetwood papers

Occupations

Civic leaders.

Soldiers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Christian A. Fleetwood, soldier and civic leader, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Edith Fleetwood, in 1947-1948.

Processing History

The papers of Christian A. Fleetwood were processed in 1974 by Thelma Queen. The finding aid was revised in 2003 by Patrick Kerwin.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Christian A. Fleetwood is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Christian A. Fleetwood are 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Online Content

A diary for 1864 in the Christian A. Fleetwood Papers is available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009252.001>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Christian A. Fleetwood Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1840, July 21	Born, Baltimore, Md., to free Negroes in the household of John C. Brune
circa 1854	Clerk, Maryland Colonization Society, Baltimore, Md.
1856	Visited Liberia
1857-1860	Student at Ashman Institute (now Lincoln University), Lincoln University, Pa.
1860	Founded, with others, the <i>Lyceum Observer</i>
1863-1866	Sergeant-major, 4th Regiment, United States Colored Volunteer Infantry
1865	Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for services at Chapin's Farm, Va.
1869	Married Sara Iredell

1881-1914	Clerk, War Department, Washington, D.C.
1887	Commissioned major, Washington Cadet Corps of the National Guard
1914, Sept. 28	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Christian Abraham Fleetwood (1840-1914) span the years 1797-1945, with the bulk of the material dating from 1860 to 1907. The papers chiefly relate to Fleetwood's activities as a soldier and a leading African-American citizen of Washington, D.C. Included are papers relating to the activities of his wife, Sara Iredell Fleetwood, correspondence of other family members, and miscellaneous material.

The collection contains diaries, correspondence, and official papers concerning Fleetwood's service as a Union soldier during the Civil War, a copy of his Medal of Honor award in 1865, his commission as major in the National Guard in 1887, biographical material, and numerous photographs, including photographs of African-American recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. There is also a copy of the *Lyceum Observer*, dated 5 June 1863, edited by Fleetwood and others.

Sara Fleetwood's papers include her diploma as a registered nurse, confirmation of her appointment to the Nurses' Examining Board of the District of Columbia, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,185

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diaries, 1862-1864 (3 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fleetwood, Ann Maria, 1863-1865
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fleetwood, Charles, 1837-1867
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fleetwood, Edith, 1904-1945
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fleetwood, Sara, 1868-1907
BOX 1 REEL 1	General correspondence, 1860-1907
BOX 1 REEL 1	Subject file
BOX 1 REEL 1	Biographical material
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fleetwood, Charles, book of first aid instructions, 1829
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fleetwood, Sara, speech and memorabilia, 1877, 1907-1908
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln University, Lincoln University, Pa., 1903-1911
BOX 1 REEL 1	Military affairs, Union Army, Medal of Honor and miscellany, 1863-1908
BOX 1 REEL 1	Testimonial concert, 1889
BOX 1 REEL 1	War Department clerk, 1881-1913
BOX 1 REEL 1	Washington Cadet Corps, 1882-1888
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miscellany
BOX 1 REEL 1	Speech, 1894, Aug. 2
BOX 1 REEL 1	Biography of Fleetwood, 1939
BOX 1 REEL 1	Brune, John C., dispatches, 1857
BOX 1 REEL 1	Brune, William Henry, passport, 1853
BOX 1 REEL 1	Burr, Aaron, biographical sketch
BOX 1 REEL 1	Commissions <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	General
BOX 1 REEL 1	<i>Lyceum Observer</i> , 1863, June 5 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Manumission, letters of, 1797-1806
BOX 1 REEL 1	Newspaper clippings
BOX 1 REEL 1	Printed matter
BOX 2 REEL 1	Photographs <i>See also Oversize</i> (8 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings
BOX OV 1 REEL 1	Oversize
BOX 2	Photographs, African-American Medal of Honor recipients (Container 2)
BOX 2	Subject file
BOX 2	<i>Lyceum Observer</i> , 5 June 1863 (Container 1)
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Commissions (Container 1)