

# **William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2009**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083434>

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Revised 2024 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1773-1987

**Bulk Dates:** 1861-1865

**ID No.:** MSS83434

**Collector:** Gladstone, William A., collector

**Extent:** 500 items

**Extent:** 5 containers plus 4 oversize

**Extent:** 3.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083434>

**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).

**Online Content:** The William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection is available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000062>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available. A transcription dataset from the William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection is available online at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/gdcdatasets.2021387727>.

## 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

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.

### Titles

*William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection at the Library of Congress*

*William A. Gladstone papers*

### Occupations

Collectors.

## Acquisition Information

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

## Online Content

The William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection is available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000062>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.* A transcription dataset from the William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection is available online at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/gdcdatasets.2021387727>.

## 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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