Small Collections and Records of Enslavement and Sharecropping in FSU Special Collections & Archives

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Collections Exploratory Project

Diagram:

1. Define Scope
2. Research
3. Search Term Creation
4. Collection Identification
5. Physical Review
6. Description and Metadata Remediation
7. Digitization
8. Preservation
9. Instruction
Collection Identification

• Initial List:
  • 46 Manuscript Collections
  • 23 Oral Histories
  • 30 Rare Books
Search Term Creation

- Inclusive Dates- 1790-1930
  - Covers Slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow
- Search Terms:
  - Enslaved, Slave(s), Negro
  - Local Counties and Towns
  - Plantation(s), Family Names, Farm, Agriculture, Cotton, Tenant Farming, Sharecropping, Store
Description and Access Barriers

“...while slaves are usually called only by first name...their identity-whether as legal, social, spiritual, or economic entities- as seen through the eyes of the persons who wrote the records, is defined by their association with the slaveowners.” – David E. Paterson

- Records documenting marginalized groups are often filtered twice by:
  - Creator of the record
  - Archivist that created the finding aid
The Winthrop Family Papers

Scope and Contents

Business, personal, family and military papers, correspondence, orders, bills, pictures, publications, engineering diagrams and blueprints. This collection contains the business papers of John S. Winthrop and Mrs. Susan Winthrop, including correspondence, plantation records, bills, orders, mortgages, tax information and bookkeeping records. There are also personal and family papers of the Winthrop family, including pictures of persons such as Sindey Alder and members of the Winthrop family, as well as the military papers for Captain Guy L. Winthrop. The collection contains a set of eight blueprints and designs, the business papers of Francis B. Winthrop, and a map of Burrow Hill Place.

Information about the Winthrop Family Tree is on four photocopied sheets as follows:

1. Adam Winthrop. Lavenham, Suffolk in 1498, to Guy Louis, died 1663.

Includes MSS 0:267, MSS 1-04 and MSS 79-6. See less

Online Copies Available Select materials from the Winthrop Papers have been digitized and are available through the FSU Digital Library.

Dates

- Created: 1592-1770
- Other: Majority of material found in 1841-1941
- Other: Date acquired: 12/01/1969
Record Types Prioritized

• Legal Records
  • Wills
  • Probate
  • Deeds (Conveyance and gift)

• Financial
  • Inventories
  • Taxation
  • Bills of sale
  • Accounting

• Correspondence
Articles of Agreement (Sharecropping Contract)- Winthrop Family Papers
Van Brunt Business Records

Scope and Contents
The Van Brunt records contain 16 journals, ledgers, "cotton seed books;" two tenant farmer agreement contracts, a typed letter by Mr. Clifton Parsley to Mr. N. Owné Rush, dated August 17, 1909, and a seven-page typescript of Mr. Parsley's interview on July 5, 1909, with a daughter of Mr. Van Brunt, Mrs. Jack Gregory, of Quincy, Florida. The business records, besides reflecting the economic conditions of the era and the customary manner of conducting a merchandising and tenant farming business, has considerable genealogical value. See less

Dates
- Created: 1902-1911
- Other: Date acquired: 08/07/1959

Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open to all researchers.

Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to quote, publish, broadcast or otherwise reproduce from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Special Collections & Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Florida State University Libraries as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher. See more

Biographical or Historical Information
Mr. R. F. Van Brunt, lamonia, Leon County, Florida, owner of the ancestral Van Brunt plantation located east of "Tall Timbers Plantation," the Beadel place. Mr. Van Brunt also owned a general merchandise store at lamonia from about 1902 to 1911 when he sold the store and moved to Micoosukee, Leon County, Florida. He operated another general merchandise store there and was postmaster until a rural route was established in 1908-1909.

Mr. Van Brunt was born at the family plantation home at lamonia in 1862. He died December 1914 and was buried on the Van Brunt plantation at lamonia. See less
1911 Day Book - Van Brunt Business Records

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### Small Collections Review

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<th>Boxes</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| **Box 515** (Olin-Norwood – MSS 0-192; Bank of Florida Letter - NOS Box 516 (Dr. F.A. Byrd – MSS 0-42); (El Destino and Chemonie Plantation Papers – MSS 0-85); (The Gregory Notebook - MSS 76-1 -- this is not in box--has LC call # CS71 .G74 1781-1888, Vault); (J.S. Lester Plantation Papers – MSS 0-67); (Walker Papers MSS 0-254) | Kristin finished on 10/2/19
|                                                                      | Kristin finished on 10/9/19 |

-MSS 1968-42 (FA Byrd) removed old finding aids from all folders
-Folder 1: interleaved some fragile documents, bound notebook is not in good condition
-Removed MSS 0-254 Walker papers to their own box
Preserving the Lewis Bank Papers
Preserving the Lewis Bank Papers
Bill of Sale- F.A. Byrd Papers
Enslavement and Sharecropping in Florida

Special Collections & Archives

Spaces are closed to the public at this time. For latest updates on SCA public services, please visit our Services Page or contact us at lib-specialcollections@fsu.edu.

Online
lib.fsu.edu/specialcollections
lib-specialcollections@fsu.edu
FSU Library Catalog
fsu.catalog.fsu.edu
Use Advanced Search to limit location to "Strozier Special Collections"
Finding Aid Database
archives.lib.fsu.edu
FSU Digital Library
digital.fsu.edu/digital_library

What's in this guide?

This guide includes primary sources of enslavement and sharecropping created during the 19th and 20th centuries in Florida that can be found in FSU Special Collections and Archives. The goal of this guide is to aid both historical and genealogical research within the Tallahassee locale and surrounding counties.
Instruction within FSU SCA

• Synchronous and asynchronous virtual instruction supported through Canvas
• Worked with instructors to embed content into course sites
• Since April 2020
  • 21 modules
  • 50 virtual sessions
Using the Materials in Instruction

Narrative Stitching
Based on an active-learning technique from Dartmouth’s Librarians Active Learning Institute

1. Student becomes “10-minute expert” on their item
2. Students introduce their items to their group (4) and the group answers some guiding questions to develop a narrative connecting the materials
3. Groups present out to the entire class

Delivered synchronously through the use of breakout rooms in Zoom
Using the Materials in Instruction

Sharecropping in Primary Sources: The Economy that Slavery Built

Preview Details Version notes

Student activity interacting with primary source documents to develop a narrative regarding sharecropping and its connection to the system(s) of slavery.

Author(s)
Rachel Duke

Account
Florida State University

Grade/Level
10, 11, 12, Undergraduate, Graduate

Tags
active learning, archives, digital humanities, enslavement, manuscripts, plantations, primary sources, rare books, slavery, special collections
Conclusion and Future Work

- 26 collections on the final list
  - 8 “hidden” collections identified and described
- Conscious Editing initiative
  - Addressing unequal and harmful description and metadata of collections
- Instruction
  - New digital platforms outside of Canvas to reach a wider audience
  - Marketing of existing module on division website and within the university
  - Continuing to use physical materials during the future shift back to in-person instruction sessions
References


References


• Lewis Bank Papers, Special Collections, Florida State University Libraries, Tallahassee, Florida.

References


References


• “1911 Day Book,” September 16 and October 6, 1911, Van Brunt Business Records, Special Collections, Florida State University Libraries, Tallahassee, Florida.

• Van Brunt Business Records, Special Collections, Florida State University Libraries, Tallahassee, Florida.

• Whitfield Notebook, MSS 0-261, Florida State University Special Collections & Archives.

• Winthrop Papers, Special Collections, Florida State University Libraries, Tallahassee, Florida. http://purl.fcla.edu/fsu/MSS_0_266.