

A Guide to the Freedman's Village and Reconstruction Collection, 1857-1996

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A Collection in Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History RG 103
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Title Statement

A Guide to the Freedman's Village and Reconstruction Collection, 1857-1996

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 103

Language

English

Extent

4 boxes.

Repository

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Roberta (Bobbi) Schildt in 2000.

Preferred Citation

Freedman's Village and Reconstruction Collection, Collection # RG 103, Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Other records related to H-B Woodlawn are in [RG 370, H-B Woodlawn Collection](#). There are also several collections on Black history in Arlington, such as [RG 11, Edmond C. Fleet Collection](#), [RG 328, Lomax AME Zion Church Records](#), [RG 307, Papers of George Richardson](#), and [RG 349, Dorothea Hamm Papers](#), amongst others.

Historical Information

Freedman's Village was founded in 1863 on the lands along Arlington Heights, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Originally a temporary camp for freedmen, it became a permanent community for freed slaves, first under the direction of the War and Treasury Departments, and later of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. In the 1880s the land became a military reservation, and the villagers had all moved to other parts of Arlington by 1900. Most of the land which made up the village is now contained in the area of the Arlington National Cemetery.

Scope and Content

Record Group 103 consists chiefly of copies and transcripts of materials collected by teacher Roberta (Bobbi) Schildt in the course of her research on Reconstruction and specifically Freedman's Village, in Arlington, Virginia. She used the collections of the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Freedom and Southern Society Project at the University of Maryland, among other repositories. A smaller portion of the collection consists of copies of newspaper clippings collected by Dusty Horowitz, her former student, during his research on the integration of Arlington schools in the 1950s and 1960s.

The collection measures approximately 2.5 linear feet and contains photocopies and transcripts of documents, and copies of graphics and maps, originally from 1857-1900. More recent notes, publications, and copies of articles date from 1930-1996. The donation included nineteen books, which have been removed from the collection (see list in File 103-1-37).

Ms. Schildt, a teacher in the H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington, worked with her seventh grade students to produce the 1984 book (and 1992 reprint), *Freedman's Village: Arlington, Virginia, 1863-1900*.

In 1992, Ms. Schildt received a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to study the Reconstruction era with Dr. Ira Berlin at the University of Maryland. In 1996 she produced a teachers' resource book to be used with the exhibit, "America's Reconstruction," held at the Virginia Historical Society in 1996.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Freedman's Village (Arlington County, Va.)

Arlington (Va.)

Arlington County (Va.)

Arrangement

Record Group 103 is divided into three series. *Series 1* contains Freedman's Village materials. *Series 2* concerns the "America's Reconstruction" exhibit held in 1996 at the Virginia Historical Society. *Series 3* contains copies of articles and some exhibit posters concerning integration in Arlington.

Contents List

Series 1: Freedman's Village

File 1: Freedman's Village: Arlington, Virginia, 1863-1900, 2nd ed. 1992

Box 1

File 2: Series of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, n.d. (1)

File 2: Copies of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, n.d. (1)

Box 1

File 3: Copies of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, n.d. (2)

Box 1

File 4: Copies of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, n.d. (3)

Box 1

File 5: Copies of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, 1863-1887

Box 1

File 6: Copies of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, 1946-1970

Box 1

File 7: Copies of Articles about Freedman's Village and Slavery, 1975-1992

Box 1

File 8: Reissues of "Harper's Weekly," 1861-1865

Box 1

File 9: Civil War Era Correspondence and Documents: Copies and Transcripts, n.d., 1857-1865

Box 1

File 10: Freedman's Village Correspondence and Documents, Copies, 1866

Box 1

File 11: Freedman's Village Correspondence and Documents, Copies, 1867-1889

Box 1

File 12: Civil War and Reconstruction Era Graphics: Copies, n.d.

Box 2

File 13: Civil War and Reconstruction Era Graphics: Copies, 1860-1869

Box 2

File 14: Freedman's Village Graphics: Copies, n.d.

Box 2

File 15: Arlington and other African American Graphics: Copies, 1 1863-1868

Box 2

File 16: no file 16

File 17: Copies and Transcripts from the Freedom and Southern Society Project, n.d., 1861-1863

Box 2

File 18: Copies and Transcripts from the Freedom and Southern Society Project, 1864

Box 2

File 19: Copies and Transcripts from the Freedom and Southern Society

Project, 1865-1868, 1888

Box 2

File 20: Articles and Notes about Closing of Freedman's Village, n.d., 1864-1981

Box 2

File 21: "Preliminary Inventory of Records of the Field Officers of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (fragment), 1974

Box 2

File 22: National Archives Pamphlets: "Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869," and "Records of the Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872"

Box 2

File 23: Pages from The Black Experience, edited by Carter Smith. New York: Facts on File, 1990 (1)

Box 2

File 24: Pages from The Black Experience, edited by Carter Smith. New York: Facts on File, 1990 (2)

Box 2

File 25: Pages from The Black Experience, edited by Carter Smith. New York: Facts on File, 1990 (3)

Box 2

File 26: "Plain Counsels for Freedmen" by Clinton Fisk, 1866

Box 2

File 27: Literacy Rates, 1870-1896

Box 2

File 28: Copy of Inventory of G.W.P. Custis Estate, 1858

Box 2

File 29: Freedman's Village Web Sites

Box 2

File 30: Transcripts of Interviews with Arlington African Americans

Box 2

File 31: Transcript of Interview with Martha Gray Gillem, 1963

Box 2

File 32: Freedmen's Legacy Project Proposal, 1985

Box 2

File 33: Freedmen's Village Foundation Constitution and Bylaws

Box 2

File 34: Memorials for African Americans of the Civil War, 1986, 1992

Box 2

File 35: Articles about and photographs of Arlington Churches

Box 2

File 36: "Freedman's Village: Arlington, Virginia, 1863-1900" by Roberta Schildt

Box 2

File 37: List of Books Removed from the Collection

Box 2

File 38: NEH Grant Application for Roberta Schildt, 1991

Box 3

File 39: Notes of Meetings with Dr. Berlin, 1992

Box 3

File 40: Articles on Reconstruction Read While Working with Dr. Berlin, n.d., 1939-1989 (1)

Box 3

File 41: Articles on Reconstruction Read While Working with Dr. Berlin, n.d., 1939-1989 (2)

Box 3

File 42: "Federal Policy Towards Freedmen: Roadblocks to Freedom" by Roberta Schildt, n.d.

Box 3

File 43: Disk with Documents, n.d.

Box 3

Series 2: "America's Reconstruction" Exhibit

File 1: Notes, Proposal, and Captions for "America's Reconstruction," n.d., 1992, 1995

Box 3

File 2: Reconstruction: Copies of Pictures, Articles, Bibliographies, Notes, n.d. (1)

Box 3

File 3: Reconstruction: Copies of Pictures, Articles, Bibliographies, Notes, n.d. (2)

Box 3

File 4: Reconstruction: Copies of Pictures, Articles, Pamphlets, 1860-1865

Box 3

File 5: Reconstruction: Copies of Pictures, Articles, Pamphlets, 1866-1869

Box 3

File 6: Reconstruction: Copies of Pictures, Articles, Pamphlets, 1870-1900

Box 3

File 7: Reconstruction: Copies of Articles, 1930-1982

Box 3

File 8: Copies of "Valentine News," 1992

Box 3

Series 3: "Arlington's Fight for Educational Equality" Exhibit

File 1: Copies of articles used for exhibit, n.d., 1947-1955

Box 3

File 2: Copies of articles used for exhibit, 1956

Box 3

File 3: Copies of articles used for exhibit, 1957-1959

Box 3

File 4: Copies of articles used for exhibit, 1960-1964

Box 3

File 5: Copies of articles used for exhibit, 1965-1996

Box 3

Oversize Box

File 1: Posters (12) from exhibit and Arlington Map, 1983 (from Series 1, File 16)

Box 3