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Guide to Resources on Women's Suffrage

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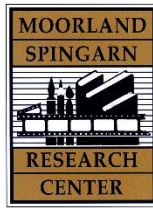
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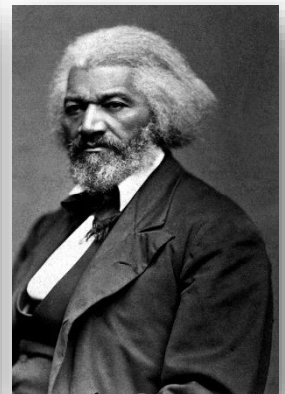
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The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center



Guide to Resources on Women's Suffrage

Prepared by:
Mekhi Closson
April 2020

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Preserving The Legacy of the Black Experience **The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center**

Since early in its formative years, Howard University has collected materials related to people of African descent. Established in 1973 as a separate administrative unit, the Moorland- Spingarn Research Center continues to maintain that tradition of service. Moorland is recognized as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of Black people in the diaspora. As one of the University's major research facilities, the center collects, preserves, organizes and makes available for research a wide range of resources chronicling the Black experience.

The Center is named for Dr. Jesse E. Moorland and Arthur B. Spingarn, two benefactors whose collections provided the foundation for later development. Following the re-organizing of the collections as the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in 1973, separate Library and Manuscript Divisions were established, followed by the creation of the Howard University Museum in 1979 and the Howard University Archives in 1980.

While the Library Division expands the Center's extensive collection of books, newspapers, journals, and printed materials, the other units are an integral part of the Center's program to redefine approaches to documentation and research into the complexities of Black history and culture. MSRC's combined resources emphasize the identification, acquisition, preservation, research and exhibition of both primary and secondary material which transforms the existing special collections into one of the world's premier research facilities.



Members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated on the campus of Howard University. Many members of the sorority were very active in the women's suffrage movement as students at Howard University.

Manuscript Division Collections

[Bustill-Bowser-Asbury Family](#)

Collection [1732-1941]

3.5 linear feet

Scope Note:

The Bustill-Bowser-Asbury Collection spans the time period of 1732 - 1941. The collection contains a biographical sketch of Cyrus Bustill, one of the founders of the African Free Society (1787). A large amount of the material in this collection concerns activist, artist and Black Businessman David Bustill Bowser, grandson of Cyrus. It also contains material related to John Asbury a noted civil rights activist, community leader and advocate for the aged and infirm. The bulk of the material in this collection, however, spans the years 1840-1926. The collection measures approximately 3½ linear feet. The collection contains genealogical, biographical, legal, and commemorative items, as well as photographs and memorabilia, belonging to Bustill, Bowser, and Asbury family members. The collection has a number of documents which are of unique historical value. Documents related to women's suffrage include newspaper articles and a photograph of a young black woman voting.

[Carter, Jeanette](#)

Collection [1927 – 1964]

Scope Note:

The Jeannette Carter Collection was donated to Howard University by Mrs. R.T. Ward in 1965. The collection is a sampling of items documenting the activities of Jeannette Carter. Miss Carter resided in Washington, D.C. most of her career. She was very active in politics, particularly in relation to the Republican party and women's suffrage. She was founder and President of the National Political Study Club; and served as first editor and manager of the Women's Voice, a national women's magazine published in the interest of the Republican policies. Miss Carter was also active in women's rights, campaigning avidly for women's suffrage. In 1918 she served as President of the Woman's Wage Earner's Association.

[Cary, Maryann Shadd](#)

Collection [1844-1884]

½ linear ft

Scope Note:

Mary Ann Shadd Cary was an American-Canadian anti-slavery activist, journalist, publisher, teacher, and lawyer. She was the first Black woman publisher in North America and the first woman publisher in Canada. The Mary Ann Shadd Cary Papers (1844 - 1884) are contained in one box measuring ½ linear feet. Included in the papers are correspondence, articles, speeches, editorials, reports, documents, printed material, and programs relating to Mary Ann Shadd Cary's activities in the U.S. and Canada as editor of the Provincial Freeman, as a strong supporter of Women's Suffrage and as an army recruiter. These papers were donated to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in 1971 by Vanetta Willis.

[Davis, John Warren \[1888-1980\]](#)

Collection [1905-1970s]

18 linear ft or 18 cubic ft

Scope Note:

The papers of John Warren Davis (1888 - 1980), educator, administrator, scientist, author, civil rights activist and international representative, document his personal life, his career at Morehouse College, as well as at West Virginia State College, his role as U.S. Director Technical Cooperation Administration to Liberia, and his affiliation with the NAACP's Legal Defense & Educational Fund. These papers date from circa 1905 through the 1970's, and were acquired by Moorland-Spingarn in 1983 from Ethel Davis, wife of John W. Davis. There are approximately 28 linear feet or 18 cubic feet of materials. The collection contains writings by Davis on Women's Suffrage.

[Douglass, Frederick \[1817-1895\]](#)

Collection [1790-1943]

6 linear ft

Scope Note:

The Frederick Douglass Collection totals six linear feet, spanning the period 1790 - 1943, focusing from 1874 - 1895. The collections include documents related to his work in the abolitionist movement, women's suffrage and black rights. The nucleus of this collection was donated to Howard University by Frederick Douglass' great-grand daughter, Mrs. Anna Weaver Teabeau, in the 1960-61 fiscal year. Over the years, a few additional items were given by various donors, and were added to further enhance the collection.

[Gregory, Thomas Montgomery \[1887-1971\]](#)

Collection

8 linear ft

Scope Note:

Thomas Montgomery Gregory was a dramatist, educator, social philosopher and activist, historian and a leading figure in the National Negro Theatre Movement. The Thomas Montgomery Gregory Collection is a cumulative collection from the libraries of Thomas M. Gregory, his father, James Monroe Gregory, and his brother, Eugene Monroe Gregory. The personal papers of Thomas M. Gregory are also included. The collection which spans 8 linear feet was donated by Thomas M. Gregory in 1967. The collection consists of books, pamphlets, narratives, periodicals, manuscripts, documents, posters, photographs, scrapbooks, and clippings. The subject areas of these materials cover the spectrum of Black history including pamphlets and writings related to women's suffrage.

[Grimke, Archibald \[1849-1930\]](#)

Collection

23 linear ft

Scope Note:

The Archibald H. Grimke Papers contain materials that reflect his career as a lawyer, editor, author, lecturer, politician and diplomat. These papers include early correspondence with members of the Grimke-Weld and Grimke-Stanley families, other personal, general and organizational correspondence, legal files, Santo Domingo records (which contain official documents regarding his United States Consulship from 1894 to 1898), financial records, manuscripts, articles, addresses, newspaper clippings, photographs memorabilia, artifacts, and bound publications. There are numerous writings, manuscripts and clippings related to Women's Suffrage held in the collection. The Archibald H. Grimke materials were acquired in July 1960 by Mrs. Dorothy, Porter. The collection is approximately 23 linear feet in size.

[Hunt, William](#)

Collection [1898-1941]

6 linear ft

Scope Note:

William Henry Hunt was an African-American diplomat, one of the few black people in the United States diplomatic corps during the 19th century. The William Henry Hunt Papers extend from the years 1898 to 1941 measuring approximately 6 linear feet including several rolls of wrapped

documents. The bulk of the material is the correspondence of his wife, Ida Gibbs Hunt. Also included, however, are manuscripts, programs, invitations, announcements, photographs, and cards arising out of their diplomatic and organizational activities. There is a scrapbook and miscellaneous newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Hunt's diplomatic career, as well, as several documents relating to his various appointments as Consul in the Foreign Service and efforts to help women gain the right to vote internationally. The collection also contains the diplomas of Ida and Hattie Gibbs.

[Omnium Gatherum](#)

Collection

Scope Note:

This collection consists of a variety of materials dating from the mid-17th century to the 1970's, all relating to peoples of the African Diaspora. This is a growing collection; items are added to it frequently; therefore, the images depicted here represent a major part of the collection, but not its entirety. The materials that comprise this collection are so varied and unusual that the typical description "Individual Manuscripts" does not apply. The name we have given it is Omnium Gatherum, a Latin term meaning "a miscellaneous collection of persons or things." There are letters; documents related to slavery, manumission, rebellions, and the Civil War and Reconstruction; broadsides, flyers, speeches, diaries, manuscripts, stamps, buttons, poetry and songs, pamphlets, printed programs, logbooks, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, minutes of meetings, photographs, magazine and journal articles, reports, and maps. There are originals and some photocopies. All items were either donated or purchased. There are numerous broadsides, writings and manuscripts related to women's suffrage in the collection.

[Payne, Ethel \[1911-1988\]](#)

Collection [1917-1980]

12 cubic ft

Scope Note:

The papers of Ethel Payne (1911 - 1998) commonly known as the "First Lady of the Black Press," reflect her personal and professional life as a journalist, White House correspondent and civil rights activist. The papers range from 1917 to 1980, and cover Ms. Payne's early life growing up in Chicago through her 30 plus year career as a journalist for the Chicago Defender and other news outlets. The bulk of the material in these papers span the late 1940s to the early 1970s. The papers include eight series; personal papers, family papers, correspondence, writings by Ethel Payne, writings by others, subject files, photographs and oversized items. Within the writings are documents that discuss the women's suffrage movement.

[Rapier Family](#)

Collection [1836-1883]

2 linear ft

Scope Note:

The Rapier family papers, a gift from Dr. & Mrs. James R. White, span two linear feet. The majority of the collection is correspondence between James Thomas Rapier, (1837-1883), (U.S. Representative from Alabama), John H. Rapier, Sr., John H. Rapier, Jr., (journalist, surgeon, and world traveler), Henry K. Thomas; James P. Thomas; Sarah Thomas. The correspondence dates from 1836 to 1883 and reflects the activities and travels of this family from Florence, Alabama to Western Canada, Jamaica British West Indies, and many cities in the United States during this period. Information related to women's suffrage can be found in Rapier's manuscripts and correspondence.

[Ruffin Family](#)

Collection [1823-1936]

1.5 linear ft

Scope Note:

This collection was donated by Florida Ruffin Ridley, daughter of George Lewis Ruffin in 1942 and 1943. It spans the years 1823 - 1936 and is contained in three boxes measuring 1 ½ linear feet. Included in the collection are the papers of several members of the Ruffin Family, among them John Lewis, George W. Ruffin, George Lewis Ruffin and Florida Ruffin Ridley. The bulk of the papers, however, arises from the activities of George Lewis Ruffin, prominent Boston lawyer, member of the Massachusetts Legislature, and Municipal Court Judge of Charlestown District, Massachusetts. The collection consists of letters, documents, manuscripts, speeches, scrapbooks, photographs and clippings, family and general correspondence. There are also papers of persons unrelated to the Ruffin Family. Records of particular interest include documents related to suffragette and activist Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and clippings related to the political work of the family.

[Smith, Gerrit](#)

Collection [1843-1871]

Scope Note:

The Gerrit Smith collection contains printed circulars written by him during the period 1843-1871. Smith, son of a wealthy landowner, used his wealth for philanthropic purposes. He was active in social reformation, especially women's suffrage, prison reform and the abolition movement. The

circulars in the collection reflect his involvement with these social endeavors. He was active in social reformation, especially women's suffrage, prison reform and the abolition movement.

[Terrell, Mary Church \[1863-1954\]](#)

Collection [1888-1976]

11.5 linear ft

Scope Note:

The Mary Church Terrell Collection totals 11½ linear feet, spanning the period 1888 to 1976. Terrell was a noted civil rights activist, suffragette and leader. She was also one of the first African-American women to earn a college degree. Mrs. Phyllis Terrell Langston donated the first installation of the Mary Church Terrell Collection to Howard University in the 1955-56 fiscal year. Consisting primarily of writings by and about Mary Church Terrell, the collection includes typescripts, published articles, newspaper clippings and materials related to her autobiography, A Colored Woman in a White World, and a play, Phyllis Wheatley, a Pageant. Complementing these writings are programs, broadsides and flyers documenting the numerous events in which Mrs. Terrell participated. Throughout the collection are documents related to Terrell's extensive work in the women's suffrage movement.

[Williams, Ethel James \[1915-2003\]](#)

Collection [1867-2002]

12 cubic ft

Scope Note:

Ethel James Williams is a prominent activist serving women and children in the District of Columbia. The Ethel James Williams Papers document Williams' career and various political causes, as well as her personal life. The collection contains scrapbooks, photo albums, and speeches given by Williams, as well as family files. Also included are subject files and correspondence from organizations Williams belonged to, including Club Twenty, DC Commission for Women, and the National Association of Commissions for Women, among others. His collection measures 12.0 cubic feet. Included in her collection are documents related to the work of the African Methodist Church and other affiliated organizations in support of women's suffrage in the years following the Civil Rights Movement.

Digital Objects Related to Women's Suffrage

The following objects and digital collections are available via Moorland-Spingarn's Digital Howard institutional repository. The documents are held in both the Manuscript Division and Howard University Archives.

Howard University Yearbooks:

[Howard Year Book: 1916](#)

Author: Howard University

Publication: [Howard University Yearbooks](#)

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[The ΠΙΠΙΩΜΕΝ:1916](#)

Author: Howard University

Publication: [Howard University Yearbooks](#)

[Download](#)

The Howard University Journal:

The Howard University Journal was the first student newspaper published by the students of Howard University. It covers various events happening in and around the campus from 1895-1920.

[HU Journal, Volume 2 Issue 7](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 02](#)

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[HU Journal, Volume 2 Issue 23](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 02](#)

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[HU Journal, Volume 3 Issue 17](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 03](#)

[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 3 Issue 18](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 03](#)

[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 4 Issue 3](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 04](#)

[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 4 Issue 8](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 04](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 6 Issue 21](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 06](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 6 Issue 27](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 06](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 7 Issue 6](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 07](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 7 Issue 21](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 07](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 7 Issue 24](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 07](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 8 Issue 5](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 08](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 8 Issue 15](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 08](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 8 Issue 17](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 08](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 9 Issue 10](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 09](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 9 Issue 17](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 09](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 9 Issue 26](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 09](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 9 Issue 28](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 09](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 10 Issue 7](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 10](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 10 Issue 10](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 10](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 10 Issue 15](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 10](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 10 Issue 16](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 10](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 11 Issue 13](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 11](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 13 Issue 10](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 13](#)
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[HU Journal, Volume 13 Issue 12](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 13](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 13 Issue 14](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 13](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 14 Issue 21](#)

Publication: The Howard University Journal [Volume 14](#)
[Download](#)

[HU Journal, Volume 15 Issue 5](#)

Publication: [Volume 15](#)

[Download](#)

The Howard University Record:

The Howard University Record was the official organ of Howard University.

[HURecord, Vol. 2, No. 1](#)

Publication: [The Howard University Record](#)

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[HURecord, Vol. 12, No. 7](#)

Publication: [The Howard University Record](#)

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[HURecord, Vol. 14, No. 4](#)

Publication: [The Howard University Record](#)

[Download](#)

[HURecord, Vol. 19, No. 5](#)

Publication: [The Howard University Record](#)

[Download](#)

The Howard University Studies in History:

[The Negro in the District of Columbia During Reconstruction](#)

Author: William Hazaiah Williams

Publication: Howard University Studies in History

[Download](#)

Manuscript Division Digital Objects:

[Green, Constance Winsor McLaughlin, 1897-](#)

Publication: The Omnium Gatherum Collection [Manuscripts, Publications and Other Written Work](#)

[Download](#)

[International Council of Women](#)

Publication: The Mary Ann Shadd Cary Collection [Programs](#)

[Download](#)

[The Right of Women to Exercise the Elective Franchise, under the 14th Article of the Constitution](#)

Publication: The Mary Ann Shadd Cary Collection [Speeches](#)

[Download](#)

[Scrapbook No. 3 undated](#)

Publication: The Anna Julia Cooper Collection [Scrapbooks and Albums](#)

[Download](#)

[Toward Pure Legal Existence: Blacks and the Constitution](#)

Author: J. Clay Smith Jr.

Publication: The J. Clay Smith Jr. Collection [Selected Speeches](#)

[Download](#)