

THE CARRIE BURTON OVERTON COLLECTION

Papers, 1870 - 1970
(Predominantly 1900 - 1970)

5 linear feet

Accession Number 340
L.C. Number

The papers of Carrie Burton Overton were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in 1969, 1971, and 1973 by Mrs. Overton and were opened for research in January of 1974.

Mrs. Overton was born in Laramie, Wyoming, on July 20, 1888. After receiving training as a secretary in Laramie, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she was both enrolled as a student and employed at Howard University. In 1913, she was married to George W.B. Overton, a teacher. In 1923, the Overtons moved to New York City.

In addition to her education at Howard, Mrs. Overton studied music at the Juilliard School and English literature at Columbia University. For short periods of her life, she was employed as a secretary by the Vanguard Press, the Community Church of New York, the NAACP, the National Urban League, and the Eastern Division of Colored Voters (or "Colored Bureau", later simply the "Colored Division") of the Democratic Party.

Mrs. Overton's personal papers (Series I) reflect her years of employment and education, her management of her parents' and husband's estates, and her involvement in numerous community activities. The Democratic Party papers, (Series II) are mostly from the files of Julian D. Rainey, who was director of the Colored Division. The Community Church papers (Series III) include correspondence with prominent individuals who were invited to give lectures at the church. The last four files of the collection (Series IV) are papers of the family of Oscar J. Smith of Reno, Nevada. How these came into Mrs. Overton's possession is not known.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Democratic Party, Division of Colored Voters
Voting patterns of the Negro electorate
The Community Church, New York
Civil rights of Negro Americans

Among the correspondents are: (an index to the location of these letters will be found on the last page of the guide)

Mortimer J. Adler	Harold L. Ickes
Thurman Arnold	James Weldon Johnson
Stuart Chase	Fiorello H. LaGuardia
Frank Damrosch	Henry Goddard Leach
Clarence Darrow	Herbert H. Lehman
Oscar De Priest	Edwin Markham
Will Durant	Harry Allen Overstreet
James A. Farley	Julian D. Rainey
Dorothy Canfield Fisher	Aurelia Henry Reinhardt
Zona Gale	John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Mohandas K. Gandhi	Vilhjalmur Stefansson
Huntington Gilchrist	Anna Strong
Fanny Hurst	Walter White

Contents

10 manuscript boxes

Series I, Boxes 1-5
Personal papers.

Series II, Boxes 6-9
Democratic Party.

Series III, Box 10
The Community Church, New York.

Series IV, Box 10
Oscar J. Smith family papers.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately 25 photographs relating to Mrs. Overton's career have been placed in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collections.

Series I
Boxes 1-5

Correspondence, documents, and miscellaneous material concerning the lives of Mrs. Overton, her husband, and their families. The files are arranged in chronological order by topic or type of material and cover the period from 1870 to 1970.

Box 1

1. Resumes
- 2-6. Early training
- 7-12. Thomas Price pension claim
- 13-18. Washington, D.C., employment
- 19-21. NAACP
22. Vanguard Press
23. Opportunity
24. Centro-Vision Institute
- 25-40. Music interests, 1894-1939

Box 2

- 1-31. Music interests
- 32-40. YWCA

Box 3

- 1-7. YWCA
8. AAUW
- 9-14. Committee on Educational Exchange
- 15-16. Community Council of Greater New York
17. Grand Jury Association
18. National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses
19. National Council on Negro Women
- 20-23. Women United for Civil Action
- 24-40. Columbia University

Box 4

- 1-13. Columbia University
- 14-30. Miscellaneous personal and family papers

Box 5

- 1-26. Miscellaneous personal and family papers

Series II
Boxes 6-9

Correspondence, documents, and miscellaneous material from Mrs. Overton's work with the Democratic Party. The files are arranged in chronological order and cover the period 1935 to 1960.

Box 6

- 1-22. General office files, 1935-1936
- 23-28. New York City
- 29-36. Washington, D.C.
- 37-38. California
39. Colorado
40. Connecticut

Box 7

1. Delaware
2. Florida
3. Georgia
4. Idaho
- 5-7. Illinois
- 8-9. Indiana
10. Iowa
- 11-12. Kansas
13. Kentucky
- 14-15. Maryland
- 16-17. Massachusetts
- 18-19. Michigan
20. Minnesota
21. Mississippi
22. Missouri
23. Montana
24. Nebraska
25. Nevada
26. New Hampshire
- 27-28. New Jersey
29. New Mexico
30. New York State
31. North Carolina
32. North Dakota
33. Ohio
34. Oklahoma
35. Oregon

Box 8

- 1-5. Pennsylvania
6. Rhode Island
7. South Carolina
8. Tennessee
9. Texas
10. Utah
11. Vermont
12. Virginia
13. Washington State
- 14-15. West Virginia
16. Wyoming
- 17-35. General office files, 1938-1940

Box 9

- 1-15. General office files, 1938-1940
- 16-21. Correspondence, 1941-1960
- 22-31. Miscellaneous materials

Series III

Box 10

Correspondence and miscellaneous material from Mrs. Overton's work with the Community Church of New York. The files are arranged in chronological order and cover the period 1915 to 1959.

Box 10

- 1-20. Correspondence, 1915-1937
- 21-27. Miscellaneous, 1928-1959 and undated

Series IV

Box 10

Oscar J. Smith family papers.

Box 10

- (cont.) 28-31. Letters and memorabilia, 1879-1915

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