
NMAH.AC.1260
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Solomon A. Card, Jr. United States Army Chaplain Papers
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1260
Date: undated
1938 - 1975
Extent: 1 Cubic foot (4 boxes)
Creator: Card, Solomon A., Jr., 1921-1975
Language: English
Summary: Papers documenting the career of Chaplain Solomon A. Card, Jr, a United States Army chaplain, who served tours of duty in Korea and in Vietnam. He remained in the Army for 20 years and died just three months after retiring at Fort Hood, Texas.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
The papers were donated to the Archives Center by Nancy L. Card in 2011.

Processing Information
Processed by Marian Tatum-Webb, volunteer and Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2012.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
The collection is open for research. Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs, negatives, and slides.

Conditions Governing Use
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Biographical / Historical

Solomon Ackley Card, Jr. was a United States Army chaplain. He was born on November 28, 1921 to Solomon Ackley Card, Sr. and Jennie Louise Mudge in New York. He attended public schools in New York graduating from Leonardsville High School in 1939. Card attended Cazenovia Seminary and Junior College in 1941. In August 1942, he married Lavina Coral Gates and from this union four children were born; James, David, Diana, and Nancy. Card earned a Bachelors of Divinity degree from Syracuse University in 1943 and his Masters of Divinity degree from Drew University. He was ordained in 1946. Upon graduation he was appointed pastor of the Black River Methodist Church in New York in May, 1946, and in 1950 was assigned to the Clayton Church of Christ. He also served parishioners at Felts Mills, Omar and St. Lawrence in New York. Card joined the United States Army Reserves as a chaplain with the rank of first lieutenant in 1950. He was promoted to captain in July 1952. For five years he was chaplain of the 314th military police battalion with headquarters in Ogdensburg, New York. During the Korean War he was called in for several brief tours of active duty at Camp Drum and Murphy Army General Hospital in Waltham, Massachusetts. He also served tours of duty in Europe, Korea and Vietnam. In 1966, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for disarming a distraught soldier who had fired seventeen rounds from an M-16 rifle near the heavily populated Di An base camp in Vietnam. While serving in Da Nang, Vietnam, as chaplain for headquarters of the Army Support Command, he was promoted to, rank of colonel. Card remained in the Army for twenty years. He died December 4, 1975, just three months after retiring at Fort Hood, Texas, at the age of fifty-four.

Scope and Contents

The collection primarily documents the military career of Chaplain Solomon A. Card, Jr. It includes postcards, correspondence, photographs, slides, newspaper clippings and articles. There is a substantial amount of photographic materials relating to his tours in Korea and Vietnam. These images document the social activities of the military, chapels, orphanages and the landscapes of the two countries. There is a small amount of material relating to his personal life, primarily his education. Other personal papers include wedding documents and photographs and his death certificate. The materials are arranged into three series.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

**Series 1: Personal Papers, 1938-1976**

**Series 2: Correspondence, 1956-1971**

**Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1939-1975, undated**

Subseries 3.1: Photographs, 1939-1975, undated

Subseries 3.2: Slides, 1957, undated
Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Clergy
- Military chaplains

Types of Materials:
- Clippings -- 20th century
- Diplomas
- Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century
- Postcards
- Slides (photographs) -- 20th century

Names:
- United States. Army
Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1938 - 1976

The materials consist primarily of documents relating to Solomon Card's education and personal life. Included among these materials are a transcript of his birth, diplomas, newspaper clippings, articles, retirement documents and his death certificate. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1  Transcript of birth, 1964
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 2  High school documents, 1938 - 1939
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 3  Junior college diploma, 1941
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 4  Wedding documents, 1942
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 5  Syracuse University documents, 1943
                 Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 1  Syracuse University, Bachelor of Divinity degree, 1946

Box 1, Folder 6  Drew University, Master of Divinity degree, 1946
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 7  Newspaper clippings, 1952 - 1956
                 Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 2  Newspaper article, 1956

Box 1, Folder 11 National Day of Prayer brochure, 1959 - 1960

Box 4, Folder 3  National Day of Prayer report, 1959

Box 1, Folder 15 Retirement, 1975
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 16 Death certificate, 1975 - 1976
                 Image(s)
Series 2: Correspondence, 1956-1971

The materials cover most of Solomon Card's military career and are arranged in chronological order by date.

Box 1, Folder 8 General, 1956
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 9 General, 1957 January to 1957 April
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 10 General, 1957 May to 1957 December

Box 1, Folder 12 General, 1965 September to 1966 March

Box 1, Folder 13 General, 1966 April to 1966 December

Box 1, Folder 14 General, 1971
Image(s)
Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1939 - 1975

Photographic materials are arranged into two subseries. Subseries one are prints documenting Card's personal and professional life. There are high school images along with photographs of Card's wedding to Lavina Coral Gates. Photographs documenting Card's military career include social activities, promotion and retirement ceremonies and Korea. These materials are arranged in chronological order. Subseries two are slides of Korea and Vietnam and are arranged by location and then subject.

Subseries 3.1: Photographs, 1939-1975

Box 2, Folder 1  High school, 1939
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 2  Wedding, 1942
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 3  Army, Korea, undated
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 4  Promotion to colonel, 1971
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 5  Army, social activities, undated

Box 2, Folder 6  Retirement ceremony, 1975

Box 2, Folder 7  Burial at Arlington Ceremony, December 1975
  Image(s)

Subseries 3.2: Slides, 1957

Box 3, Folder 1  Chapels located in Korea, 1957

Box 3, Folder 2  Orphanages located in Korea, 1957

Box 3, Folder 3  Countryside in Vietnam, undated

Box 3, Folder 5  Leprosarium located in Vietnam, undated

Box 3, Folder 6; Box 3, Folder 6  Soldiers in Vietnam

Box 3, Folder 7  Chapel of the flags in Vietnam, undated

Box 3, Folder 8  Aerial photographs of Vietnam, undated
Box 3, Folder 9  
Vietnam, first tour, undated

Box 3, Folder 10  
White Buddha statue located in Vietnam, undated

Box 3, Folder 11  
Orphanage in Vietnam, second tour, undated

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