



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

Guide to the Solomon A. Card,  
Jr. U.S. Army Chaplain Papers

NMAH.AC.1260

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Personal Papers, 1938 - 1976.....	4
Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1939 - 1975.....	6

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Solomon A. Card, Jr. United States Army Chaplain Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1260
<b>Date:</b>	undated 1938 - 1975
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Cubic foot (4 boxes)
<b>Creator:</b>	Card, Solomon A., Jr., 1921-1975
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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

Solomon A. Card, Jr. United States Army Chaplain Papers, 1938-1975, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

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

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	High school documents, 1938 - 1939 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	Junior college diploma, 1941 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	Wedding documents, 1942 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	Syracuse University documents, 1943 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 1	Syracuse University, Bachelor of Divinity degree, 1946
Box 1, Folder 6	Drew University, Master of Divinity degree, 1946 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	Newspaper clippings, 1952 - 1956 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
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 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	Death certificate, 1975 - 1976 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

## 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 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	General, 1957 January to 1957 April <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
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 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## 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 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 2	Wedding , 1942 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 3	Army, Korea, undated <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 4	Promotion to colonel, 1971 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
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 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

### 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



*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*