



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Solomon A. Card, Jr.
United States Army Chaplain Papers

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
Date:	1938-1976
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1260
Creator:	Card, Solomon A., Jr., 1921-1975 (Creator)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (4 boxes)
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 twenty 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

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.

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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 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 Da Nang base camp in Vietnam. While serving in Da Nang, Vietnam, as chaplain for headquarters of the Army Support Command, he was promoted to the 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, photographs, and a 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

Scope and Contents: The materials consist primarily of documents relating to 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
Box 1, Folder 2	High school documents, 1938-1939
Box 1, Folder 3	Junior college diploma, 1941
Box 1, Folder 4	Wedding documents, 1942
Box 1, Folder 5	Syracuse University documents, 1943
Box 4, Folder 1	Syracuse University, Bachelor of Divinity degree, 1946
Box 1, Folder 6	Drew University, Master of Divinity degree, 1946
Box 1, Folder 7	Newspaper clippings, 1952 - 1956
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
Box 1, Folder 16	Death certificate, 1975-1976

Series 2: Correspondence, 1956-1971

Scope and Contents: Materials include both incoming and outgoing communications during most of Solomon Card's military career and are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 8 [General, 1956](#)

Box 1, Folder 9 [General, 1957 January to 1957 April](#)

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](#)

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Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1939-1975, undated

Scope and Contents: 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 by subject.

Subseries 3.1: Photographs, 1939-1975, undated

Box 2, Folder 1	High school, 1939
Box 2, Folder 2	Wedding to Lavina Coral Gates, 1942 Image(s): Wedding
Box 2, Folder 3	Army, Korea, circa 1950-1953
Box 2, Folder 4	Army, promotion to colonel, 1971 Image(s): Promotion to colonel
Box 2, Folder 6	Army retirement ceremony, 1975
Box 2, Folder 7	Burial at Arlington Ceremony, December 1975
Box 2, Folder 5	Army, social activities, undated

Subseries 3.2: Slides, 1957, undated

Box 3, Folder 1	Chapels, Korea, 1957
Box 3, Folder 2	Orphanages, Korea, 1957
Box 3, Folder 3	Countryside, Vietnam, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Leprosarium, Vietnam, undated
Box 3, Folder 6; Box 3, Folder 6	Soldiers, Vietnam, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Chapel of the flags, Vietnam, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Aerial views, Vietnam, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	First tour of duty, Vietnam, undated

Box 3, Folder 10 Buddha statue, Vietnam, undated

Box 3, Folder 11 Second tour of duty, orphanage, Vietnam, undated

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