

# **Calvary Presbyterian Church Oral History Collection**

## **AUD003**

**Finding aid prepared by Clenton Weston Jr.**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History  
2010 July 20  
315 East Warren Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan, 48201  
313-494-5800

## Table of Contents

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<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	6
<u>Interview Notes and Background Materials</u> .....	6
<u>Audio Tapes</u> .....	19

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
<b>Creator - Depositor</b>	Mitcham, James A., Rev., Pastor
<b>Title</b>	The Calvary Presbyterian Oral History Project
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1965-1967
<b>Extent</b>	0.8 Cubic feet 1 Archives Box, 2 Halfsize archives boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Calvary Presbyterian Church Oral History Project contains interviews of first generation slave descendents. These stories and descriptions focus on the lives of former slaves and their children during and after the years of Reconstruction. Pastor James A. Mitcham led the oral history project before donating the collection to the Museum. The collection contains interview notes, a project description, and the audio recordings. All materials are arranged alphabetically, by last name, and indexed by subject when possible. Access to the recordings are currently restricted due to the lack of playback equipment.</p>

## Scope and Contents note

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The Calvary Presbyterian Oral History Collection are interviews focused on stories and descriptions of the lives of former slaves and their children during and after the years of Reconstruction. The subjects and stories discussed in many of these interviews pertain to the following topics: Agriculture, Birth, Childhood, Civil war, Education, Life in the North, Life in the South, Marriage, Race relations and many others.

The collection is organized in two series, INTERVIEW NOTES and BACKGROUND MATERIALS and AUDIO TAPES. The INTERVIEW NOTES and BACKGROUND MATERIALS are arranged alphabetically by last name. These files contain notes written by the interviewer, however, only a small number of interviews contain such notes. Additionally in this series is a *Project File* that contain background material for the project including "methods and procedures" as well as outlines for the goals of the project. The AUDIO TAPES are all reel-to-reel recordings, some of which contain multiple interviews and are also arranged alphabetically. Transcriptions, if created, were not found with the collection and access to the reels are currently restricted due to the lack of playback equipment.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History 2010 July 20

### Conditions Governing Use note

Restrictions: Access to audio tape reels is currently restricted due to the lack of playback equipment.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Canada.
- Colorado

- Detroit (Mich.)
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- Wyoming

### **Occupation(s)**

- Blacksmiths.
- Education.

### **Subject(s)**

- Agriculture.
- Birth.
- Childhood.
- Children.
- Civil war.
- Cooking.
- Cotton.
- Discrimination.
- Emancipation
- Freedom.
- Grandparents.
- Great Migration
- Hoodoo (Cult)
- Influenza.
- Ku Klux Klan (1915- )
- Lynching
- Marriage.
- Oral history
- Plantation life.
- Race relations.
- Slavery.
- Spirits.
- Underground Railroad.
- Wages.
- World War I

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

## Collection Inventory

## Interview Notes and Background Materials 1965-1967

Barnett, Mary 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	1

**Biography**

Mary Barnette was born in Comer, Georgia. She was 80 years old at the time of her interview.

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

- Georgia

**Occupation(s)**

- Education.

**Subject(s)**

- Civil war.

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

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- Cotton.
- Marriage.

Coachman, Susie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	2

### Biography

Mrs. Susie Coachman was born in the State of Georgia. At the time of her interview she was 100 years old.

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Occupation(s)

- Education.

#### Subject(s)

- Church.
- Cooking.
- Slavery.
- World War I

Coggan, Blanche 1965-1967

Interview Notes and Background Materials

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	3

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

- Colorado

**Subject(s)**

- Freedom.
- Underground Railroad.

Cole, Rosa (Rosie) 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	4

**Biography**

Mrs. Rosie Cole was born in the State of Mississippi.

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

- Mississippi

**Subject(s)**

- Birth.
- Church.
- Cooking.
- Cotton.
- Freedom.
- Marriage.
- Parents
- Race relations.
- Singing.
- Slavery.
- Spirits.

Flowers, Essie 1967-1969

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	5

Harold, Kemper 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	6

Johnson, Jennie 1965-1967

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	7

Jones, G.D. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	8

## Controlled Access Headings

## Subject(s)

- Marriage.

Kelly, Florence 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	9

Lovett, James Block 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	10

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

**Controlled Access Headings****Subject(s)**

- Ku Klux Klan (1915- )

Mahoi, Moses 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	11

Parker, Robert 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	12

Peterson, Mrs. Julius 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	13

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

**Interview Notes and Background Materials**

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- Battle Creek (Mich.)
- Detroit (Mich.)
- Tennessee

**Occupation(s)**

- Education.

**Subject(s)**

- Civil war.
- Grandparents.
- Marriage.
- Parents

Robinson, David Raymon 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	14

Scott, Minnie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	15

Simmons, Charlie 1965-1967

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	16

**Biography**

Mr. Charlie Simmons was born in the State of Mississippi. At the time of his interview he was 100 years old.

**Controlled Access Headings****Subject(s)**

- Church.
- Race relations.

Simmons, Charlie and Wife 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	17

**Controlled Access Headings****Occupation(s)**

- Education.

**Subject(s)**

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

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- Church.
- Hoodoo (Cult)
- Marriage.
- Plantation life.
- Race relations.
- Slavery.

Spencer, John 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	18

### Biography

Mr. John Spencer shares stories of his father, Benjamin Franklin Spencer, who was the first black man to receive a teaching certificate in the State of Kentucky on March 6, 1880. The interview was conducted by Blanche Foster.

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Occupation(s)

- Teaching.

#### Subject(s)

- Grandparents.

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

Sumlar, Mrs. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	19

### Biography

Mrs. Sumlar was born in the State of Tennessee. During her early years, her father migrated to Detroit, Michigan and eventually to Chatham, Ontario where the rest of the family soon joined him.

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Geographic Name(s)

- Canada.
- Detroit (Mich.)

#### Occupation(s)

- Education.

#### Subject(s)

- Slavery.

Thompson, W.A. 1965-1967

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	20

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

- Tennessee

**Subject(s)**

- Childhood.
- Race relations.
- Weather.

Trenholm, Portia 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	21

Vincent, Hattie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	22

**Biography**

## Interview Notes and Background Materials

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Hattie Vincent was born in Dresden, Mississippi on Christmas Day in the year 1883. Her family later relocated to the State of Tennessee. Although her parents and grandparents were ex-slaves, they were very instrumental in establishing black schools within the area.

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Geographic Name(s)

- Tennessee

#### Subject(s)

- Cotton.
- Grandparents.
- Parents

Ward, Mrs. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	23

### Biography

Mrs. Ward was born in the State of Mississippi, moved to Tennessee, and eventually onto Indianapolis, Indiana.

### Controlled Access Headings

Interview Notes and Background Materials

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**Geographic Name(s)**

- Mississippi
- Tennessee

**Subject(s)**

- Birth.
- Church.
- Civil war.
- Discrimination.
- Slavery.

Warren, Charlie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	24

**Biographical/Historical note**

Mr. Charles Warren discussed Agriculture, Birth, Children, Church, Cotton, Detroit, Education, and Race Relations.

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

- Detroit (Mich.)

**Audio Tapes**

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- Georgia

**Occupation(s)**

- Education.

**Subject(s)**

- Birth.
- Church.
- Cotton.
- Lynching
- Marriage.
- Slavery.

Project File 1970-1990

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	25

**General note**

This file contains background information for the entire project including "methods and procedures" and outlines for the goals of the project.

**Audio Tapes 1965-1967**

## Audio Tapes

Barnett, Mary 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	8
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	6

**Related Archival Materials note**

Mary Barnett's interviews can be found on the same audio reels of James Block Lovett and Charles Warren.

Coachman, Susie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	8

**Related Archival Materials note**

Mrs. Coachman's interview can be found on the audio reel of James Block Lovett.

Coggan, Blanche 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	3

## Audio Tapes

**Related Archival Materials note**

The interview of Mrs. Blanche Coggan can be found on the same reel of Jennie Johnson.

Cole, Rosa (Rosie) 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	6
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	1-2

**Related Archival Materials note**

In addition to her own separate tape reels, other interviews of Rosa Cole can also be found on the audio tape of Charles Warren.

Eason, Mother 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	7

**Related Archival Materials note**

Mother Eason's interview can be found on the same audio tape of Florence Kelly.

Flowers, Essie 1965-1967

## Audio Tapes

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	4

Kelly, Florence 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	7

**Related Archival Materials note**

The audio reel containing the recordings of Florence Kelly also holds the interview recordings of Mother Eason.

Johnson, Jennie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	3

**Related Archival Materials note**

Jennie Johnson's interview can be found on the same audio tape of Blanche Coggan.

Jones, G.D. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	5

## Audio Tapes

**Controlled Access Headings****Subject(s)**

- Marriage.

Lovett, James Block 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	8-9

**Related Archival Materials note**

The James Block Lovett audio reel also contains separate audio recordings of Mary Barnett, Susie Coachman, David Raymon Robinson, Charles Simmons, and Mrs. Ward.

Mahoi, Mr. and Mrs. Moses 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	10

Parker, Robert 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	11

## Audio Tapes

Peterson, Mrs. Julius 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	12

Robinson, David Raymon 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	8

### Related Archival Materials note

David Raymon Robinson's interview can be found on the audio reel of James Block Lovett.

Scott, Minnie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	13

Simmons, Charlie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	8

## Audio Tapes

**Related Archival Materials note**

Charlie Simmons interview can be found on the James Block Lovett Reel.

Simmons, Charlie and Wife 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	6

**Related Archival Materials note**

The interview's of Charles Simmons and his wife [name not mentioned] can be found on the audio reel of James Block Lovett.

Spencer, John 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	2	14

Sumlar, Mrs. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	2

**Related Archival Materials note**

## Audio Tapes

The Sumlar audio reel also contains the recordings of Mrs. W.A. Thompson

Thompson, W.A. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	2

### Related Archival Materials note

The interview of Mrs. W.A. Thompson can be found on the audio reel of Mrs. Sumlar.

Trenholm, Portia 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	1

Vincent, Hattie 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	3-4

Ward, Mrs. 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
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Audio Tapes

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Audio	2	8
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	5

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**Related Archival Materials note**

Mrs. Ward's interview can be found on the audio reel of James Block Lovett.

Warren, Mr. Charles 1965-1967

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Audio	3	6

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**Related Archival Materials note**

The Charles Warren audio reel also contain the interviews of Mary Barnett, Rosie Cole, and Charles Simmons.