

Guide to the Florida Negro papers, 1936-1948

Descriptive Summary

- Title :** Florida Negro papers
- Creator:** United States. Florida Works Progress Administration.
- Dates :** 1936-1948
- ID Number :** F37
- Size:** 9 boxes
- Abstract:** The Florida Negro Papers consist of photocopied correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, and interviews with African-American, Native American, and Hispanic American residents of Florida. Originally intended for publication, these materials were generated by the Federal Writers' Project under the Works Progress Administration in an effort to document Florida folk life and culture. The oral history interviews, folktales, songs, and other ethnographic materials gathered by fieldworkers provide first-hand accounts of daily life in Florida during the Civil War era.
- Language(s):** English
- Repository:** Special Collections
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Administrative Summary

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- Processing History:** processed
- Preferred Citation:** *Florida Negro papers, Special Collections Department, Tampa Library, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.*
- Related Material:** Florida Folklife Collection, Florida State Archives, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Florida Slave Narratives, Special Collections Department, Tampa Library, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. Stetson Kennedy Papers, Special Collections Department, Tampa Library, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. Zora Neale Hurston Papers, Special and Area Studies Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Information about related materials is available at <http://guides.lib.usf.edu/content.php?pid=69536&sid=1385257#>

Biographical Note

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was created in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of the New Deal program. The primary function of the WPA was to create jobs for the millions of Americans unemployed as a result of the Great Depression. Through a series of projects called Federal One, the WPA became the largest federal relief program, employing nearly one-third of the nation's jobless. WPA Projects included the Federal Arts Project, Federal Music Project, Federal Theater Project, and the Federal Writers' Project. During World War II, the focus of the WPA shifted toward national defense and, eventually, into war preparation. WPA agencies were closed in 1943. Brewer, Jeutonne P. *The Federal Writers' Project: A Bibliography*. Metuchen, New Hampshire: Scarecrow Press, 1994. McDonald, William F. *Federal Relief Administration and the Arts*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1969. Penkower, Monty N. *The Federal Writers' Project: A Study in Government Patronage of the Arts*. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1977. Powell, Evanell K. *WPA Federal Writer's Project with Emphasis on the Florida Writers and Carita Doggott Corse*. Lake Panasoffkee, Florida, 1990. Schoyer's Books. *The American Guide Series: Works by The Federal Writers' Project*. Pittsburg: Arthur Scharf, 1990. Tidd, James Francis. *The Works Progress Administration in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, 1935 to 1943*. M.A. Thesis. University of South Florida: Tampa, Florida.

Scope Note

Topics covered include religion and social life, customs and celebrations, civil rights and legal status, language and literature, education, folklore, music, and song. Other subjects include occupations, labor, and the Reconstruction. Highlights of the collection include interviews with formerly enslaved African Americans in Florida conducted by field workers between 1935 and 1939.

Arrangement Note: Alphabetically by subject and type of material.

Arrangement

Alphabetically by subject and type of material.

Subject Headings

Corporate Names: Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Florida

Subject Terms: African Americans -- Florida -- Religion
African Americans -- Florida -- Social life and customs
African Americans -- Marriage -- Florida
Hispanic Americans -- Florida -- Religion
Hispanic Americans -- Florida -- Social life and customs
Hispanic Americans -- Marriage customs and rites -- Florida
Indians of North America -- Florida -- Religion
Indians of North America -- Florida -- Social life and customs
Indians of North America -- Marriage customs and rites -- Florida
Music
Occupations -- Florida
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- Florida
United States. Works Progress Administration

Genre/Form Terms: African Americans -- Florida -- Folklore
African Americans -- Florida -- Interviews
Hispanic Americans -- Florida -- Folklore
Hispanic Americans -- Florida -- Interviews
Indians of North America -- Florida -- Folklore
Indians of North America -- Florida -- Interviews
Slaves -- Florida -- Interviews

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