

Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

Finding Aid: Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Joan Campbell, SL

LHC17.B

Date Range: 1970-2008

Creator: Sr. Joan Campbell, SL

Extent: 4.75 linear feet

Language: English

Access Restrictions: Access to materials in the Loretto Heritage Center archives are granted at the discretion of Heritage Center staff and the Loretto Community.

Copyright: Sisters of Loretto

Citation: LHC17.B Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Joan Campbell, [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Creator of Material Biography: Sr. Joan Campbell, SL, was born on July 1, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois, but grew up in Denver, Colorado. Her parents, both originally from Colorado, moved the family there when Campbell was six months old in search of work stability and family support during the Great Depression. Campbell attended public school through the fifth grade and then Catholic schools through college, graduating from Loretto Heights College in Denver in 1950. After working for a year at Continental Oil Company, she felt called to be a priest, but because women cannot be priests in the Roman Catholic Church, she decided to become a nun. Campbell entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Loretto in 1951 and was received into the order on April 25, 1952. She taught English at high schools in Alabama and Missouri before returning to her alma mater, Loretto Heights College, to teach in 1962. She earned an MA in English at the Catholic University of America and a Ph.D. in English at the University of Iowa. She then returned to the Deep South to teach, first at Bethune-Cookman College in Florida and subsequently at Jackson State College in Mississippi. In 1974, Campbell moved to Detroit, Michigan to organize a Task Force of the Ordination of Women and instigated the organization's first conference the following year. After the conference, she decided to switch careers and became an agent for New York Life Insurance Company at their office in New Orleans, Louisiana. She later became an executive for the company, after earning a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) degree from American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. While living in New Orleans, she discovered that the Sisters of Loretto had been in Louisiana in the early 19th Century. She researched her order's history in the state, culminating in a 45-page monograph she wrote in 1987 entitled "Loretto In Louisiana." Campbell retired from New York Life Insurance in 1994, but stayed in Louisiana for more than a decade, conducting research for a book about the Sisters of Loretto's early history. During her research, she discovered that a number of slaves worked at the Motherhouse in the 19th Century and were buried in an unmarked grave in its cemetery, information that led to the creation of a slave memorial in 2000 to honor those unnamed slaves. In 2006, Campbell's malfunctioning autonomic nervous system led her to move to the Loretto Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and later to the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary. She died in Spring View Hospital in Lebanon, Kentucky, on December 31, 2007. After her death, several sisters fulfilled her wishes and completed the unfinished manuscript she left behind, which ultimately became the 2015 book *Loretto: An Early American Congregation in the Antebellum South*.

Description: Material created by, collected by, or about Sr. Joan Campbell, SL. Included are research materials collected by Joan, mostly about 19th Century American religious history, regional Kentucky and Missouri history and the history of slavery and the Civil War. The series also contains Joan's correspondence (both personal and business-related) as well as the manuscript left unfinished at the time of her death, and the drafts from friends who completed the book for her posthumously. The collection represents nearly four decades of research by Joan Campbell on the role of women of color in the history of the Sisters of Loretto. First prompted in the 1970s to explore the two unidentified black women who began the process of joining the order in 1824, Joan over time argued that many of the early women of the order were mulattos and active abolitionists, and that racial activism therefore constituted the founding spirit of the Sisters of Loretto. When Joan presented her research to the community in 1994, she received criticism for lack of sources to substantiate her claims. Afterward, Joan strived to collect sources that proved her founding spirit theory. Joan intended to complete her controversial research for the 2012 Jubilee Celebration of the Sisters of Loretto, but she died in 2007 prior to the completion of the manuscript. Sisters Cecilia Skees, SL, Rose Colley, SL, Barbara Barbato, SL and Loretto Co-Member Annie Stevens, CoL gathered Joan's research materials, looked for additional sources, and edited and published Joan's manuscript entitled, *Loretto: An Early American Congregation in the American South*, in 2015.

Related Materials: Joan's personnel file (LHC04); for more on the Slave Memorial, see also: RG III-14, Box 55; see slave and census research in Jane Boyer, CoLs personnel file (LHC04); personnel file of Sr. Mary Rhodes, SL (LHC04); Black History and Rhodes Family Genealogy files in the Research Room files

Arrangement

Series was arranged into sub-series and files. The donors arranged the majority of the items before the archive acquired the collection

Sub-series 1: LHC17.B.a Biographical Material, Early Writings, and Correspondence

Description: Written work and correspondence by and about Joan Campbell. It includes biographical and autobiographical material about Joan, research for and a copy of Jane's book *Loretto in Louisiana*, and correspondence. Correspondence in the sub-series primarily relates to Joan's work on the early history of Loretto and genealogy research for the slave memorial. Also found in correspondence are corrections to an early manuscript of what would later become *Loretto: An Early American Congregation in the Antebellum South*.

Box 1: LHC17.B.a.01

Folder 1: Biographical Materials

Folder 2: Early Materials Written by Joan

Folder 3: Materials Related to "Loretto in Louisiana"

Folder 4: General Correspondence, part 1

Includes correspondence to and from university and state archives pertaining to research for Loretto: An Early American Congregation and correspondence regarding research for the Slave Memorial

Folder 5: General Correspondence, part 2

Includes genealogical research information about the names for the slave memorial, research requests for Loretto: An Early American Congregation in the Antebellum South.

Folder 6: Correspondence with Kate Misbauer, SL Regarding Research

Folder 7: Correspondence Regarding Copyright Permissions

Folder 8: Correspondence Regarding Editing and Publishing Joan's Book

Folder 9: After Joan's Death

Includes correspondence between the Sisters editing her book after her death.

Sub-series 2: LHC17.B.b Research Materials

Description: Research materials gathered by Joan for her book about early Loretto history. Materials mostly relate to 19th Century American religious history, slavery, the Civil War, and history of locations in Kentucky and Missouri. The materials in Box 1 are largely copies of primary and secondary sources. Most of the sources were not annotated by Joan, and thus, are not particularly useful in attempting to retrace Joan's research steps. Copies of Kentucky census records for 1820-1880 can be found in Box 2. Box 2 also contains Joan's research and plans for the Slave Memorial installed in the Loretto Motherhouse Cemetery, as well as her "Lost Document" reports, in which she describes her efforts to find sources she believed had gone missing. These lost document reports were annotated by archivist Sr. Kate Misbauer, SL (around 2008). Listed on each of the file folders are the topics covered or title of the resources found within.

Box 1: LHC17.B.b.01

Folder 1: Research File 1

List of footnote sources

Folder 2: Research File 2

Abolition Intelligencer and Missionary Magazine; Bishop Francis Asbury Journal; St. Mary of the Barren's Parish

Folder 3: Research File 3

Inculturation and Jesuit slaveholding; The Jesuit missions of St. Mary's County, MD; Thomas Hart Benton articles and genealogy; Bethlehem Convent, Perryville, MO

Folder 4: Research File 4

"The Troublesome Parish," White Sulphur, KY; Sisters nursing in Civil War; "Maryland: A Middle Temperament"; "A Roman Critique of the Pro-Slavery View of Bishop Martin of Natchitoches, LA"

Folder 5: Research File 5

"The Slave Catchers," Cedar Grove, Louisville, KY; "KY: A Bicentennial History," Arkansas Churches; Religion and the Civil War; History of KY: Anti-Slavery Movement

Folder 6: Research File 6

Third Haven Quakerism; Civil War pamphlets of slavery; Badin and Nerinckx

Folder 7: Research File 7

"The American Dominicans"; "Historic KY"; "Pioneer History of Washington County, KY"; Cornbread Mafia; Darkesville, WV; History of KY: Anti-Slavery Movement

Folder 8: Research 9

Rev. Gabriel Richard; Article about Jefferson and slavery; "From Slavery to Freedom"; "Jesuits of the Middle US"; The Catholic Catechism; Genealogy of Lewis and Warner

Folder 9: Research File 9

Gethsemani postcards; racism in Catholic colleges; Felix Grundy bio; antislavery movement in KY; Bishop Flaget's diary; Gallatin County, IL

Folder 10: Research File 10

Biography of Flaget, vol. 1 and 2

Box 2: LHC17.B.b.02

Folder 1: Research File 11

Biography of Flaget, vol. 3

Folder 2: Research File 12

Journal of Negro History, several articles

Folder 3: Research File 13

"Gentlemen, Swords, and Pistols"; KY General Assembly 19th Century; David Knight research; Cape Girardeau, MO; Cairo, IL; Father Elisha Durbin; Lincoln birthplace materials; statute law of KY; Fredrickstown Civil War; anti-slavery movement in KY; Catholic Church on KY frontier

Folder 4: Research File 14

Slavery and the Catholic Church; fugitive slaves; life of Thomas Hart Benton; Perry County, MO; Perryville and Cape Girardeau, MO

Folder 5: Research File 15

Motherhouse slaves research, Rules of Loretto Society, 1849-1896; Nerinckx research

Folder 6: Research File 16

"Loretto on the Old Frontier, 1812-1824"; Shakerism in South Union, KY; MD resources; Perry County, MO

Box 3: LHC17.B.b.03

Folder 1: Research File 17

Marylanders to KY; St. Clare/ poor churches in America; Portier, missionary in New Orleans; Propaganda Fide documents; racism and school integration; Thomas Rankin letters on American slavery; Illinois history; servants and slave records of St. Clare County; Cardinal Joseph Ritter

Folder 2: Research File 18

History of KY Baptists, 1769-1885; Ste. Genevieve, MO materials; "Rise and Fall of the Slave Power in America" (1872); forced removal of African-Americans from rural KY; Arkansas fugitive incidences

Folder 3: Research File 19

Underground Railroad materials

Folder 4: Research File 20

"Our Lead Belt Heritage"; "Gender and the Medieval Beguines"; "Carter Tarrant: Baptist and Emancipationist"; will of Father Lewis Tucker; Catherine Pratt Valle documents

Folder 5: Research File 21

"Kentucky Presbyterians"; "Free Frank: Black Pioneer on the Antebellum Frontier"; Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery; "Freedom at Risk: Kidnapping of Free Blacks in America"

Folder 6: Research File 22

Miscellaneous photocopies and research notes

Box 4: LHC17.B.b.04

- Folder 1: Research File 1
Images, maps, diagrams, and other illustrations
- Folder 2: Research File 2
More images, maps, diagrams, and other illustrations
- Folder 3: Research File 3
Father Nerinckx materials
- Folder 4: Research File 4
Rhodes family, Roster of Sisters of Loretto in 19th Century; Bethlehem Academy annals; research on ghosts/spirits at Loretto
- Folder 5: Research File 5
Ancestors of SLs who were Civil War Soldiers
- Folder 6: Research File 6
"The District of St. Genevieve" [MO]
- Folder 7: Research File 7
"History of St. Anthony Parish, 1812-1987"; funeral statistics, St. Mary's, Perryville, MO; St. Joseph Parish, Apple Creek, MO
- Folder 8: Research File 8
Lost Document Reports

Sub-series 3: LHC17.B.c Drafts

Description: Drafts of Joan's book about early Loretto history, which her friends reworked and posthumously published. The early drafts were written entirely by Joan, with editing comments from friends. At least some (perhaps all) of the middle drafts also appear to have been put together by Joan. The later drafts were written by sisters who turned Joan's drafts into the 2015 book *Loretto: An Early American Congregation in the Antebellum South*. The chapter numbers in these later drafts correspond to the chapter numbers in the final book.

Box 1: LHC17.B.c.01

- Folder 1: Early Drafts
Original title was Loretto, the Slaves: An Account of the Founding Spirit of the Little Society of the Friends of Mary under the Cross of Jesus April 25th, 1812 and the Suppression of their Rule in 1824
- Folder 2: Early Drafts
- Folder 3: Early Drafts
- Folder 4: Early Drafts
- Folder 5: Early Drafts
- Folder 6: Middle Drafts

Box 2: LHC17.B.c.02

- Folder 1: Middle Drafts
- Folder 2: Middle Drafts
- Folder 3: Middle Drafts
- Folder 4: Middle Drafts

Folder 5: Middle Drafts
Folder 6: Middle Drafts
Folder 7: Middle Drafts
Folder 8: Middle Drafts

Box 3: LHC17.B.c.03

Folder 1: Middle Drafts
Folder 2: Middle Drafts
Folder 3: Later Drafts (Chapters 1-2 of final book)
Folder 4: Later Drafts (Chapters 3-4 of final book)
Folder 5: Later Drafts (Chapters 5-6 of final book)
Folder 6: Later Drafts (Chapters 7-8 of final book)
Folder 7: Later Drafts (Chapters 9-10 of final book)
Folder 8: USB Drives
Later drafts of the book