

Captain Harry Dean papers
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Finding aid prepared by T.J. Szafranski and Elise Zerega

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DuSable Museum of African American History
January 18, 2012
Chicago, IL

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Summary Information

Repository	DuSable Museum of African American History
Title	Captain Harry Dean Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1909-1934
Date [inclusive]	1817-1973
Extent	3.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Captain Harry Dean papers spans from 1817-1973 with the bulk of material from 1909-1934. Dean was an African-American sailor who supported the Pan-Africanism movement. Dean spent the majority of his adolescent and adult years sailing throughout Europe and Africa. In 1900, he purchased a ship, "The Pedro Gorino," which he captained before coming back to America, circa 1920. The collection largely consists of personal materials including Dean's diaries from 1920-1934, personal correspondence and a partial autobiography. The collection also includes photographs, material related to Liberia, and secondary biographical information about Dean that was created after his death.</p>

Biographical Note

Captain Harry Dean (1864-1935) was an African-American sailor who supported the Pan-Africanism movement. Born to a prominent family in Philadelphia in 1864, Dean was the great grandson of Paul Cuffee, an abolitionist and sea captain who helped colonize Sierra Leone. Dean spent the majority of his adolescent and adult years sailing throughout Europe and Africa. In 1900, he purchased a ship, "The Pedro Gorino," which he captained before coming back to America, circa 1920. During the 1920s he set up a nautical school for African-Americans in San Francisco, California. Dean believed that mastery of nautical science and international shipping was a way for African-Americans to gain economic freedom.

Scope and Content Note

The Captain Harry Dean papers spans from 1817-1973 with the bulk of material from 1909-1934. It is arranged into seven series: "Diaries," "Autobiography," "Correspondence," "Liberia," "Photographs," "Biographical Documents," and "Nautical School." The collection documents the life of Dean through his own writings. Of note in this collection is his vast collection of diaries, his partial autobiography, and a few documents pertaining to Dean's formation of the first all African-American nautical school. Other documents include official reports and documents regarding Liberia, newspaper clippings, photos, and research by John Burger concerning Captain Harry Dean.

Researchers interested in African-American history, Pan-Africanism, or nautical science and history will find this collection useful.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DuSable Museum of African American History January 18, 2012

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Burger, John S.
- Cuffee, Paul
- Dean, Harry, 1864-1935

Subject(s)

- African American Ship Captains
- International Shipping
- Liberia
- Nautical Science
- Pan-Africanism

Series I: Diaries

Collection Inventory

Series I: Diaries 1920-1930

Scope and Contents note

“Diaries” include 121 of Captain Harry Dean’s handwritten diaries. Folder 1 contains some typed excerpts from Dean’s diaries. The series also includes some of Dean’s personal books and maps. The diaries are fragile and should be handled with care. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Typed Excerpts from Harry Dean Diaries, 1920-1930	1	1
2 Diaries, 1920	1	2
3 Diaries, 1920	1	3
3 Diaries, 1920	1	4
2 Diaries, 1921	1	5
3 Diaries, 1921	1	6
3 Diaries, 1921	1	7
3 Diaries, 1922	1	8

Series I: Diaries

3 Diaries, 1922	1	9
3 Diaries, 1922	1	10
2 Diaries, 1923	1	11
3 Diaries, 1923	1	12
3 Diaries, 1923	1	13
3 Diaries, 1923	1	14
3 Diaries, 1923	1	15
3 Diaries, 1924	1	16
3 Diaries, 1924	1	17
3 Diaries, 1924	1	18
2 Diaries, 1924	1	19
2 Diaries, 1924	1	20
3 Diaries, 1924	1	21
3 Diaries, 1925	2	22

Series I: Diaries

3 Diaries, 1925	2	23
3 Diaries, 1925	2	24
3 Diaries, 1925	2	25
3 Diaries, 1925	2	26
3 Diaries, 1925	2	27
2 Diaries, 1926	2	28
3 Diaries, 1926	2	29
3 Diaries, 1926	2	30
3 Diaries, 1926	2	31
3 Diaries, 1927	2	32
3 Diaries, 1927	2	33
3 Diaries, 1927	2	34
4 Diaries, 1928	2	35
3 Diaries, 1928	2	36

Series I: Diaries

3 Diaries, 1928	2	37
3 Diaries, 1929	2	38
4 Diaries, 1929	2	39
3 Diaries, 1930	2	40
3 Diaries, 1930	2	41
3 Diaries, undated	2	42
2 Diaries, undated	2	43
Maps, undated	2	44
		Box
Unidentified Book, undated		2
Book-The Mission of Death; A Tale of New York Penal Laws, 186[3]		2

Bibliography

Walworth, Tracy Mansfield. The Mission of Death; A Tale of New York Penal Laws. New York: D&S Sadlier, 186[3?].

Book

Book-Specifications for Steel Single-Screw, Single-Deck, Shelter-Deck Cargo Steamer to be Built by Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, LTD. (Union Plant) San Francisco,		2
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Series II: Autobiography

Cal. for Emergency Fleet Corporation 1918 Hull Numbers 1682 to 1687, inclusive Yard Numbers 5275 to 5280, 1918

Bibliography

Kohn and Pollack, edited. Specifications for Steel Single-Screw, Single-Deck, Shelter-Deck Cargo Steamer to be Built by Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, LTD. (Union Plant) San Francisco, Cal. for Emergency Fleet Corporation 1918 Hull Numbers 1682 to 1687, inclusive Yard Numbers 5275 to 5280. Baltimore: Kohn and Pollack Inc., 1918.

Book

Book-The Commercial Relations of England and Portugal, 1907

2

Bibliography

Chapman, Wallace and V.M. Shillington. The Commercial Relations of England and Portugal. New York: George Routledge and Sons LTD, 1907.

Book

Series II: Autobiography undated

Scope and Contents note

“Autobiography” includes a draft of Captain Harry Dean’s autobiography, “Pedro Gorino,” written by Harry Dean with the assistance of Sterling North.

	Box	Folder
Outline for Book: “Pedro Gorino,” undated	3	45
Preface for Book: “Pedro Gorino,” undated	3	46

Series II: Autobiography

Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 1, undated	3	47
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 1, undated	3	48
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 2, undated	3	49
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 3, undated	3	50
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 4, undated	3	51
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 5, undated	3	52
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 6, undated	3	53
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 7, undated	3	54
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 8, undated	3	55
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 9, undated	3	56
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 10, undated	3	57
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 11, undated	3	58
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 12, undated	3	59
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 13, undated	3	60

Series III: Correspondence

Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 14, undated	3	61
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 16, undated	3	62
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 18, undated	3	63
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 19, undated	3	64
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 20, undated	3	65
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 21, undated	3	66
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 22, undated	3	67
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 23, undated	3	68
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 26, undated	3	69
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 27, undated	3	70
Manuscript for Autobiography Chapter 28, incomplete, undated	3	71

Series III: Correspondence 1815-1817, 1915-1934**Scope and Contents note**

Series III: Correspondence

“Correspondence” includes photographs of letters written by Paul Cuffee, Dean’s great-grandfather, as well as other general correspondence to and from Dean. Some of the material is original and some is photocopied. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Photographs of Paul Cuffee Letters, 1815, 1816	3	72
Letter Dated 6 mo. 5, 1817 from Samuel R. Fischer, 1817	3	73
Correspondence, 1915	3	74
Correspondence, 1919	3	75
Correspondence, 1920	3	76
Correspondence, 1921	3	77
Correspondence, 1922	3	78
Correspondence, 1923	3	79
Correspondence, 1924	3	80
Correspondence, 1925	3	81
Correspondence, 1926	3	82
Correspondence, 1927	3	83

Series IV: Liberia

Correspondence, 1928-1929	3	84
Correspondence with Harold Ickes (Lawyer), 1929-1930	3	85
Correspondence, 1930-1931	3	86
Correspondence, 1933	3	87
Correspondence, 1933	4	88
Correspondence (Envelopes 1929-30)-Rent Receipts, 1934	4	89
Correspondence, 1934	4	90

Series IV: Liberia 1887-1950**Scope and Contents note**

“Liberia” primarily contains government documents and reports concerning the formation and politics of Liberia. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Report to Robert M. McLane from T.F.Bayard of the Dept. of State (U.S), March 22, 1887	4	91
Inaugural Address by President of Liberia, 1908	4	92

Series IV: Liberia

Letter from Daniel E. Howard, Sec. of Treasury, Liberia, to Dr. Blyden, January 29, 1909	4	93
Diplomatic Report from The American Legation, Monrovia, Liberia, February 10, 12, and April 6 1909	4	94
Report to the U.S. Secretary of State on Crisis in Liberia by E. Lyon, February 15, 1909	4	95
Republic of Liberia, Dept. of State, re: Mutiny at Camp Johnson, February 24, 1909	4	96
The American Legation, Monrovia, Liberia, Reply to Cablegrams, March 2, 1909	4	97
Diplomatic Report from The American Legation, Monrovia, Liberia, March 3, 1909	4	98
History of the dispute "In the Matter of Anglo-Liberian Boundary," April 3, 1909	4	99
Liberian Railway System Concession, March 6, 1910	4	100
Address of Paul Robeson to the National Labor Conference for Negro Rights, June 10, 1950	4	101
"An Act Granting to Allen Forbes the Use of Alternate Blocks of Public Land," undated	4	102

Series V: Photographs

Maps of Liberia, undated	4	103
Series V: Photographs undated		
Scope and Contents note		
“Photographs” contains about 30 undated and unidentified photograph negatives and postcards.		
	Box	Folder
Photographic Negatives, undated	4	104
Postcards and Photographs, undated	4	105
Series VI: Biographical Material 1965-1973, undated		
Scope and Contents note		
“Biographical Material” contains primary documents about Captain Harry Dean, documents created by John Burger while writing his Master’s thesis at Roosevelt University in 1973, and correspondence related to the Captain Harry Dean Collection. Folder 115 is an inventory of the collection that was found within the collection. This inventory appears to be accurate.		
	Box	Folder
Flyers for His [Captain Harry Dean] Lecture, undated	4	106
Biography, undated	4	107
Clippings, undated	4	108

Series VII: Nautical School

Thesis by J. Burger, Roosevelt U, An Introduction to Harry Dean pg. 1-50, January 1973	4	109
Thesis by J. Burger, Roosevelt U, An Introduction to Harry Dean pg. 51-103 & Bibliography, January 22, 1973	4	110
Thesis by J. Burger, Roosevelt U, An Introduction to Harry Dean pg. 1-20, 1973	4	111
An Introduction to Harry Dean by John Burger, undated	4	112
Correspondence related to Collection, 1965	4	113
Collection Related Correspondence, 1965 June 17	4	114
Collection Inventory, undated	4	115

Series VII: Nautical School undated

Scope and Contents note

“Nautical School” contains documents related to the Dean’s attempt to establish a nautical school in California. It contains documents relating to Dean’s life and some photocopied clippings from newspapers.

	Box	Folder
Nautical School and Photocopies, undated	4	116