

A Guide to the Albert Durant Photography Collection, 20th century

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Descriptive Summary

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Abstract

Collections consists of the photographs of Albert Durant, chauffeur, entrepreneur, and photographer of Williamsburg, Va. Photos chiefly depict the social, religious, and economic activities of African- Americans in Williamsburg and the surrounding area from the 1930s through the 1960s.

Creator

Albert Durant.

Extent

34 boxes (14 linear ft.)

Repository

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Publication Rights/ Restrictions on Use

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Acquisition Information

Purchase, 1991.

Processing Information

In processing this collection, an effort has been made to preserve the organization Durant used for his photographic materials. Negatives arrived in good order, filed in metal cabinets with index tabs identifying broad subject categories and individual identifications on negative envelopes providing more specific information. This arrangement is recorded in the computerized negative log, which was prepared by taking negatives from the drawers in consecutive order and entering their identifications into the computer.

Photoprints, slides, and oversize prints arrived in boxes in a less discernible order. They have been sorted and filed according to the subject categories Durant used for his negatives. Framed photos were removed from their frames except for those which were fused to the glass. Most photos were also removed from acidic mats, unless the mats were considered to have artifactual significance. In instances where there more than two copies of the same image in a particular format, the two images in the best condition were selected for retention and the others were returned to the donor. Slides, negatives, and prints which were extremely deteriorated were also weeded out of the collection.

Preferred Citation

Albert Durant Photography Collection, AV Collection AV-92.1, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Other Finding Aids

Biographical/Historical Information

Albert Wadsworth Durant was born on February 2, 1920 in New York City to Samuel and Bessie Durant. His mother was a native of Williamsburg who moved with her husband to New York and worked as a domestic servant for a family. After the death of her husband, who was originally from the West Indies, Bessie Durant and her children re-located to Williamsburg, Virginia in 1929.

At age 36, Durant married Elsie Lucille Ferguson on August 18, 1956. They raised three sons, Albert W. Durant, Jr., Byron Murphy, and Roderick Ferguson and two daughters, Yvette Durant and Deanna Ferguson.

Albert Durant ran his own chauffeuring and limousine business in the Williamsburg area, providing services to many distinguished visitors to the city, including the Queen Mother of England, the Prince of Japan, and various chief justices. He often took his customers on excursions to local historic sites, including Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and the James River plantations. Through course work at the College of William and Mary, Durant acquired a background in American history which enabled him to provide historical commentary as he drove customers through the countryside.

Durant's contacts at the College of William and Mary sparked his initial interest in photography and once he had obtained equipment and training, Durant began creating his own historical record of the Williamsburg area. As the first city licensed black photographer in Williamsburg, Durant produced hundreds of portraits documenting the families and activities of African-American residents and also documented significant events, places, and person in and around Williamsburg.

In addition, Albert Durant worked to improve the conditions for African-Americans in Williamsburg by serving in various positions in the city's government. He acted as the first black Justice of the Peace and Bail Commissioner in Williamsburg and served as the first black magistrate of the General District Court from his

appointment in 1962 until his retirement in 1975.

Albert Durant died at age 71 on April 14, 1991.

Scope and Content Information

The Albert Durant Photography Collection encompasses photoprints, negatives, slides, and personal papers which document the photographic production of Williamsburg's first black city-licensed photographer, Albert Durant. In addition, these materials offer a visual archive of the African-American experience in Williamsburg between the 1930s and 1960s.

African-American family life is documented in both formal and informal family portraits and portraits of infants and children. Family events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, funerals, and holiday celebrations, are also represented in formal group portraits and candid shots of events taking place.

The collection provides a fascinating glimpse into African-American social life in Williamsburg during the 1940s and 1950s. Durant captures the atmosphere of local jazz and nite clubs through scenes of performers singing and dancing and audiences socializing. Many different taverns and clubs are represented, including Yorkie's Tavern in Lightfoot, Va., the Hillside Cafe Beer Garden, and various clubs in West Point and Hampton. Entertainers pictured in the images include Grant's Trio, Mell-O-Tones, and the Atomic Swingsters. Since Durant occasionally took trips to New York to meet members of well-known blues and jazz bands, the collection also features a few portraits of such musicians as Count Basie.

Durant also acted as photographer for many African-American clubs and organizations. Along with taking formal group portraits, he documented these groups through informal shots of meetings, dinners, and special events. Many African-American women's clubs dedicated to social reform, as well as women's missionary circles, are documented in these photos. The series of club portraits also encompasses occupational groups, such as hairdresser's clubs and doctor's conventions, as well as garden clubs, musical performance groups, hunting and fishing clubs, and community service groups. Several African-American organizations dedicated to fighting for civil rights are also represented, including the Yorktown Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

African-American student life during the late 1940s and early 1950s is also featured in this visual archive. Durant acted as a portrait photographer for Junior-Senior Proms at local black high schools and also documented the sports teams, marching bands, choirs, students, and faculty at Bruton Heights School in Williamsburg. The series of images he categorized as relating to "School Affairs" encompasses Homecoming parades and assemblies, football and basketball teams, theater productions, graduation portraits, and group portraits of classes, clubs, and faculty at various high schools. His negative identifications for this series indicate that he photographed students at Frederick Douglas School, James Weldon Johnson School in Yorktown, Charles City School, Bruton Heights School, Mathew Whaley School, and at various schools in Isle of Wight and Charles City counties.

Various clubs and student organizations are featured in images of parades in Williamsburg and Smithfield. Among the parades represented are the College of William and Mary's Homecoming parades, a Shriner parade, and a parade celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Williamsburg. These photos show various floats prepared by such groups as the Puritan Club, the Junior Women's Club, the Smithfield Players, and college glee clubs and fraternities and sororities.

A popular summer recreational area for Williamsburg's African-Americans in the 1940s and 1950s was Log Cabin Beach. Durant took dozens of souvenir portraits of men, women, and children at this beach along James River. The collection includes numerous examples of these souvenir portraits, some of which are still in their original mats with the Log Cabin Beach inscription.

African-American spiritual life is also well-documented by the collection. Durant photographed church groups, such as choirs and missionary circles, as well as individuals participating in rituals, at many different black churches in the Williamsburg area. Included in this collection are negatives and photoprints of members of the congregations of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Grove, Va., New Zion Baptist Church in Lightfoot, Va., First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Va., and several other Baptist churches in the area. A series of photos also captures Baptist ministers performing full-immersion baptisms in a river.

Occupations, working conditions, and business opportunities for African-Americans in Williamsburg are also documented in this collection. The photos show African-Americans working in restaurants, beauty and barber shops, stores, offices, dry cleaners, and gas stations. Since he often picked up customers at the Williamsburg Inn and Williamsburg Lodge, Durant enjoyed photographing other chaffeurs and taxi drivers waiting at the hotels, as well as African-American porters and bell captains who were stationed at the entrances. African-American costumed interpreters at Colonial Williamsburg are also captured in some of his informal portraits.

Durant compiled a photographic record of the white community in Williamsburg in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s as he fulfilled commissions for wedding pictures, school portraits, businesses, nightclubs, organizations, and special events. Since he chauffeured many distinguished visitors around Williamsburg,

Durant had opportunities to capture the visits of such heads of state as Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain and the Prince of Japan. In addition, Durant photographed various members of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s family at Bassett Hall and at various sites around the Historic Area.

Colonial Williamsburg's buildings, employees, and programs are also featured in many photos. As part of his photography business, Durant prepared Christmas photo cards with snow scenes of the Historic Area. In addition, he took a series of color slides which document the filming of "The Story of a Patriot," the official orientation film still in use at Colonial Williamsburg's Visitor's Center. Durant also took many posed portraits of both white and African-American costumed interpreters who worked in the Historic Area.

Crime, accidents, and disasters in Williamsburg were also recorded on film by Durant, who appears to have provided photographic services to the Police Department. A series of photos provides a graphic visual record of a fire at the Brick House Tavern in the Historic Area. Durant also recorded automobile accidents and police investigations.

Other local events commemorated in Durant's photos include the trial run of the S.S. United States, a ship built by the Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Co. (now known as Newport News Shipbuilding.) This series of photos documents staff on board the ship, as well as the interiors of various rooms and the exterior of the ship. Durant also compiled photographic documentation of the groundbreaking for the Anheuser-Busch plant and of the Bicentennial at Yorktown in 1976.

Although this collection provides little documentation of Durant's personal life, it does include one box of personal papers relating to Durant's limousine business and to his activities as a member of the city government. Some of these papers were removed for preservation purposes from a scrapbook and are retained in their original order in a folder. They include certificates, correspondence, news clippings, and photos documenting Durant's activities as a magistrate, notary public, and chauffeur. Durant's concern about equal opportunities for African-Americans is reflected in news clippings about housing discrimination, as well as a letter from President Johnson's secretary personally thanking Durant for his comments on the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The scrapbook materials also include several letters from satisfied customers who enjoyed Durant's driving and historical commentary.

Index Terms

Persons:

Basie, Count, 1904-

Elizabeth, II, Queen of Great Britain, 1926-

Durant, Albert Wadsworth, 1920-1991.

Subjects:

Accidents--Virginia--Williamsburg-- Photographs.

African American photographers--Virginia--Williamsburg.

African American students--Virginia-- Photographs.

African American students--Virginia--Williamsburg--Photographs.

African Americans--Virginia--Social life and customs--Photographs.

African Americans--Virginia--Williamsburg--Social life and customs--Photographs.

Crime--Virginia--Williamsburg--Photographs.

Disasters-- Virginia--Williamsburg- -Photographs.

Titles:

Story of a patriot.

Corporate Names:

Atomic Swingsters (Musical group)

Brick House Tavern (Williamsburg, Va.)

Bruton Heights School (Williamsburg, Va.)

Charles City School (Charles City, Va.)

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

First Baptist Church (Williamsburg, Va.)

Grant's Trio (Musical group)
Hillside Cafe Beer Garden.
James Weldon Johnson School (Yorktown, Va.)
Mell-O-Tones (Musical group)
Mt. Gilead Baptist Church (James City County, Va.)
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People--Yorktown, Virginia Branch.
New Zion Baptist Church (Lightfoot, Va.)
Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.
United States (Ship : 1952)
United States. Voting Rights Act of 1965.
Yorkie's Tavern (Yorktown, Va.)

Geographical Names:

Virginia--Religious life and customs--Photographs.
Williamsburg (Va.)-- Religious life and customs--Photographs.

Organization

This collection has been organized into 5 series:

Series 1. Photoprints

Series 2. Negatives

Series 3. Slides

Series 4. Oversize Prints

Series 5. Personal Papers

Contents List

Series I: Photoprints.

Box-folder 1:1-14a:16

Scope and Content

Contains black and white and color photoprints ranging in size from wallet-sized snapshots to 8 x 10 inch prints.

Arrangement

A group of these photoprints have been arranged in sub-series to correspond with the arrangement devised by Durant to organize his images. This arrangement was derived from notations on the envelopes housing negatives. Most of Durant's negatives were filed in envelopes having a numeric series designation and a subject. Since not all of the series were represented on the envelopes received with the photoprints, the sub-series below are not always consecutively numbered. Instead, they reflect the numeric designation originally assigned by Durant to a particular series.

Sub-series I: Portraits.

Box-folder 1:1-3:4

Extent 21 folders.

Scope and Content

Consists of black & white and color portraits of male and female African-Americans. Most of the prints are carefully posed portraits, although some of them appear to be candid shots taken of the subject involved in an activity. A group of male portraits within this sub-series has been identified as faculty portraits for the Surry County Training School. Some of the female portraits appear to have been taken for a special occasion, such as a prom, engagement or birthday. A few of the female portraits date from the very early twentieth century, showing African-American women in Edwardian attire.

Arrangement

Arranged by gender into male and female portraits.

Female Portrait: exhibit photo with Yorkie's Tavern mat.

Box-folder 1:1

Female Portraits: color.

Box-folder 1:2

Female Portraits: black and white.

Box-folder 1:3-1:9 (Folder)

Female Portraits: black and white.

Box-folder 2:1-2:8

Male Portraits.

Box-folder 3:1-3:4

Sub-series II: Weddings.

Box-folder 3:5-4:13

Extent 16 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes black and white formal portraits of African American couples and their wedding parties, as well as photos of the bride and groom, the wedding party, and guests at the wedding ceremony and reception.

Weddings: African Americans.

Box-folder 3:5-3:8

Weddings: African Americans.

Box-folder 4:1-4:13

Sub-series III: Single Baby/Children.

Box-folder 5:1-5a:5

Extent 14 folders.

Scope and Content

Contains formal black and white photos of African American infants and children. These photos range in size from snapshots to 5x7 and 8x10 inch prints. Most of the baby pictures are of the infant alone, although a few also feature the parents. This sub-series includes formal portraits of siblings and of parents with their children. In addition, it features some informal portraits of children playing or participating in special events, such as birthday parties. A few of the pictures appear to be of a kindergarten class graduation ceremony.

Arrangement

Arranged into Single Baby and Children categories.

Single babies: African American.

Box-folder 5:1-5:9 (Folder)

Children: African American.

Box-folder 5a:1-5a:4

Childrens' birthdays.

Box-folder 5:5

Sub-series V: Family Portraits.

Box-folder 6:1-6:8

Extent 6 folders.

Scope and Content

Consists of formal black and white portraits of African American families posing in their homes or gathered for a special event, such as Christmas.

Family Portraits.

Box-folder 6:1-6:5

Family Portraits-Christmas.

Box-folder 6:6

Proms/Formals.

Box-folder 6:7-6:8

Sub-series VIII: Dances.

Extent 2 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes 5x7 and 8x10 inch black and white photos of African American couples and groups at formal dances during the 1950s.

Sub-series IX: Death.

Box-folder 6:9

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Contains 5x7 and 8x10 inch black and white photos of African American funerals, as well as of dead adults and babies in their coffins.

Sub-series X: Club Portraits.

Box-folder 7:1-7:12

Extent 12 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes black and white portraits of groups of individuals participating in the meetings and events of a wide variety of social, religious, occupational, and community service clubs for African Americans. Clubs represented include usher boards at churches, church choirs, church missionary circles, Park Social Club, Eastern Stars, Carver Garden Club, Peninsula Undertakers, Just Us Club, Beautician's Club, Williamsburg Baseball Team, Elks Club, Ironbound Rd. Quartet, Barley Corn Quartet, Smithfield Hunt Club, and the Yorktown Chapter of the NAACP. Many other groups are still unidentified.

Arrangement

Arranged by type of club.

Clubs.

Box-folder 7:1-7:8

Church circles.

Box-folder 7:9

NAACP.

Box-folder 7:10 (Folder)

Scout Troups.

Box-folder 7:11

Singing Groups.

Box-folder 7:12

Sub-series XI: Accidents.

Box-folder 7:13

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Consists of black and white record photography Durant took for the Police Department of automobile accidents.

Sub-series XII: Couples.

Box-folder 7:14-7:16

Extent 3 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes 5x7 and 8x10 inch black and white prints of African American couples. Many of these pictures appear to have been taken to commemorate an engagement or wedding anniversary.

Couples: African American.

Box-folder 7:14-7:15

Couples: Anniversaries.

Box-folder 7:16 (Folder)

Sub-series XIII: Business.

Box-folder 7:17-7:22

Extent 6 folders.

Scope and Content

Consists of 8x10 inch black and white prints of African American businesses, including barber and beauty shops, a dry cleaning shop, restaurants, groceries, and offices. In addition, this sub-series contains images of African Americans working in various occupations.

Barber and Beauty Shops.

Box-folder 7:17 (Folder)

Lion's Club Fair.

Box-folder 7:18

Miscellaneous.

Box-folder 7:19

Offices.

Box-folder 7:20

Restaurants.

Box-folder 7:21

Stores.

Box-folder 7:22

Sub-series XIV: School Affairs.

Box-folder 8:1-8:17

Extent 15 folders.

Scope and Content

Contains black and white 5x7 and 8x10 inch prints of African American students participating in activities

at various schools in the Williamsburg area, including Bruton Heights School. These images document Homecoming courts, parades, and dances, sports teams and cheerleaders, singing groups, graduations, Junior/Senior Proms, marching bands, theater productions, and faculty members. Some of the faculty portraits have been identified as staff of the James City County Training School and the Hampton Institute. A few photos are also present of the exterior of Bruton Heights School and Frederick Douglas School.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically in broad subject categories.

Basketball.

Box-folder 8:1

Faculty.

Box-folder 8:2

Football.

Box-folder 8:3-8:4

Graduation.

Box-folder 8:5

Homecoming.

Box-folder 8:6-8:8

Huntington Band.

Box-folder 8:9 (Folder)

Isle of Wight Homecoming.

Box-folder 8:10 (Folder)

Marching Band.

Box-folder 8:11

Miscellaneous.

Box-folder 8:12

Parades.

Box-folder 8:13

School Buildings: Bruton Heights.

Box-folder 8:14

Shool Buildings: Frederick Douglass.

Box-folder 8:15

James City County Training School.

Box-folder 8:16

James Weldon Johnson School.

Box-folder 8:17

Sub-series XV: Pic Copying.

Box-folder 9:1-9:2 (Folder)

Extent 2 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes black and white copy prints Durant made from old photographs for various clients. Although these images are not as crisp as direct prints, they do provide some interesting examples of early twentieth century African American portraits and reveal another facet of Durant's photography business.

Portrait of an African American soldier.

Box-folder 9:1

Extent + oversize negative.

Old portraits of African Americans copied by Durant.

Box-folder 9:2

Sub-series XVI: Williamsburg Scene.

Box-folder 9:3-9:8

Extent 5 folders.

Scope and Content

Contains black and white and color prints in various sizes recording events in and around Colonial Williamsburg, as well as community events organized by the city of Williamsburg. This sub-series encompasses a few photos of buildings in the Historic Area and also features photos of both white and African American costumed interpreters. In addition, it includes aerial views of Williamsburg and scenes of homes and neighborhoods throughout the city.

Aerial Views.

Box-folder 9:3

Historic Area-Snow Scenes.

Box-folder 9:4A

Colonial Williamsburg.

Box-folder 9:4 (Folder)

Costumed Interpreters: color.

Box-folder 9:5A (Folder)

Costumed Interpreters: black and white.

Box-folder 9:5 (Folder)

Miscellaneous.

Box-folder 9:6-9:7 (Folder)

8 Common Glory/Story of a Patriot.

Box-folder 9:8

Sub-series XVII: White People.

Box-folder 9:8-10:a

Extent 30 folders

Scope and Content

Consists of black and white and color prints in various sizes of white people. Durant placed in this category all photography featuring white people, whether the images were of families or of a business or organization. The sub-series encompasses portraits and special events, parades and other activities at the College of William and Mary, and white people working at businesses, participating in clubs, or socializing at nightclubs.

This sub-series also includes photos of the Queen Mother's visit to Williamsburg on November 12-14, 1954, as well as visits of Queen Elizabeth and the Prince of Japan. In addition, it contains black and white and color photos of various members of the Rockefeller family during visits to Williamsburg. Durant also

placed some of his record photography of policemen performing investigations in this category.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically in broad subject categories.

Distinguished Visitors to Williamsburg.

Box-folder 9:8-9:9

Prince of Japan.

Box-folder 9:10

Queen Elizabeth.

Box-folder 9:11 (Folder)

Queen Mother.

Box-folder 9:12-9:13

Rockefeller Family: color.

Box-folder 9:14

Rockefeller Family: black and white.

Box-folder 9:15

Rockefeller's Physician.

Box-folder 9:16

Baby Portraits.

Box-folder 10:1

Cars.

Box-folder 10:2A

Scope and Content

White people with their cars.

Businesses.

Box-folder 10:2

Celebrations.

Box-folder 10:3 (Folder)

Miscellaneous.

Box-folder 10:4

Nightclubs.

Box-folder 10:5

Organizations.

Box-folder 10:6

Parades.

Box-folder 10:7-10:11

Smithfield Parade.

Box-folder 10:12

Police.**Box-folder** 10:13**Police: Brick House Tavern Fire.****Box-folder** 10:14 (Folder)**Portraits.****Box-folder** 10:15-10:18**School Affairs.****Box-folder** 10:19**Weddings.****Box-folder** 10:20**Framed Color Photos.****Box-folder** 10a (Box)**Scope and Content**

Three framed photos. The first shows the Rockefellers at the door fo Bassett Hall. The second and third show three people on the steps of the President's House, College of William and Mary.

Sub-series XX: Churches.**Box-folder** 11:1-11:5**Extent** 5 folders.**Scope and Content**

Includes 5x7 and 8x10 inch black and white prints of African American churches in Williamsburg, Grove, Lightfoot, Grafton, Smithfield, and other communities. These prints record such rituals as baptisms and communion, as well as ministers preaching and interacting with congregations. In addition, they include many group portraits of choirs, usher boards, Sunday school classes, and women's missionary circles. Churches and groups which have been identified include First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Grove, New Zion Baptist Church in Lightfoot, Oak Tree Church, St. John's Church, the Shiloh Church Choir, the Lily of the Valley Club, and the Smithfield Church Club.

Rev. Banks baptizing at the river and other river baptisms.**Box-folder** 11:1 (Folder)**Sunday School classes, choirs, and other church groups; pastors and laity speaking or performing spirituals.****Box-folder** 11:2-11:5**Sub-series OO: Night Clubs.****Box-folder** 12:1-125**Extent** 5 folders.**Scope and Content**

Consists of 5x7 and 8x10 inch black and white prints of African American night clubs in the Williamsburg area. These prints capture both audiences conversing at tables and performers giving floor shows at such places as Yorkie's Tavern, Aberdeen Garden, and the Hillside Cafe Beer Garden. Since Durant often traveled to other locations to photograph jazz musicians and singers, this series includes a few portraits of such well known jazz performers as Count Basie.

Unidentified nightclubs.**Box-folder** 12:1 (Folder)**Yorkie's Tavern, ca. 1950s.****Box-folder** 12:2

Performers.

Box-folder 12:3 (Folder)

Ft. Eustis Band.

Box-folder 12:4

Atomic Swingsters.

Box-folder 12:5

Sub-series 01: Anheuser-Busch.

Box-folder 13:1

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Includes 8x10 inch color prints of what appears to be the ground-breaking ceremony for the Anheuser-Busch plant in Williamsburg in 1969.

Sub-series 02: Animals.

Box-folder 13:2

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Consists of black and white prints of cats and color prints of turkeys.

Sub-series 03: Autos.

Box-folder 13:3

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Contains black and white photos of individuals posing with their automobiles or driving in parades.

Sub-series 04: Bicentennial at Yorktown.

Box-folder 13:4

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Includes color snapshots of a Bicentennial celebration at the Yorktown Victory Center in 1976.

Sub-series 05: Hunting and Fishing.

Box-folder 13;5-13:6

Extent 2 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes black and white and color prints of African American men hunting and fishing. Most of the hunting photos are formal portraits of hunting clubs displaying the game they caught. The fishing photos are candid shots of groups engaged in fishing on boats or along rivers.

Sub-series 06: Jamestown.

Box-folder 13:7-13:8

Extent 2 folders.

Scope and Content

Consists of color prints of costumed interpreters and visitors at the reconstructed Jamestown fort and of the monument on Jamestown Island.

Sub-series 07: Log Cabin Beach.

Box-folder 13:9-13:10

Extent 2 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes souvenir portraits of African Americans taken at Log Cabin Beach on the James River. A

includes souvenir portraits of African Americans taken at Log Cabin Beach on the James River. A selection of these portraits are still in their original mattes.

Portraits of individuals at Log Cabin Beach in original mattes.

Box-folder 13:9 (Folder)

Portraits of individuals at Log Cabin Beach.

Box-folder 13:10

Sub-series 08: Minstrels.

Box-folder 13:11

Extent 1 folder.

Scope and Content

Contains one 8x10 inch black and white photo of performers in a minstrel show.

Sub-series 09: Christmas Cards.

Box-folder 13:12-13:15

Extent 4 folders.

Scope and Content

Consists of black and white Christmas photo cards featuring scenes of Colonial Williamsburg, family portraits, and jazz performers.

Arrangement

Arranged into broad subject categories.

Christmas Cards: Colonial Williamsburg.

Box-folder 13:12 (Folder)

Christmas Cards: Jazz Performers.

Box-folder 13:13

Christmas Cards: Portraits.

Box-folder 13:14-13:15

Sub-series 10: S.S. United States.

Box-folder 14:1-14:4

Extent 4 folders.

Scope and Content

Contains 8x10 inch black and white prints of the S.S. United States during a trial run. These photos include portraits of kitchen and wait staff on board the ship, as well as interior and exterior views of the ship.

Sub-series 11: Copy Prints.

Box-folder 14a:1-14a:16

Extent 16 folders.

Scope and Content

Includes 8x10 inch black and white copy prints of photos drawn from various sub-series which were exhibited at the Williamsburg Regional Library in October 1993.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Businesses.

Box-folder 14a:1

Children.

Box-folder 14a:2

Churches.

Box-folder 14a:3

Clubs.

Box-folder 14a:4

Couples.

Box-folder 14a:5

Dances.

Box-folder 14a:6

Death.

Box-folder 14a:7

Family Portraits.

Box-folder 14a:8

Hunting/Fishing.

Box-folder 14a:9

Log Cabin Beach.

Box-folder 14a:10

Nightclubs.

Box-folder 14a:11 (Folder)

Portraits.

Box-folder 14a:12

School Affairs.

Box-folder 14a:13

S.S. United States.

Box-folder 14a:14

White People: Brick House Tavern Fire.

Box-folder 14a:15

White People: Rockefellers.

Box-folder 14a:16

Series II: Negatives.

Box-folder 15-31

Extent 17 boxes.

Scope and Content

Consists of 5,188 original negatives and 125+ copy negatives which are individually described in a negative log. Each negative has been assigned a negative number. The copy negatives correspond to the copy prints in Series I, Sub-series 11.

Arrangement

Arranged in negative number order

Arranged in negative number order.

DUR 1-344.

Box 15

DUR 345-595.

Box 16

DUR 596-899.

Box 17

DUR 900-1243.

Box 18

DUR 1244-1566.

Box 19

DUR 1567-1869.

Box 20

DUR 1870-2195.

Box 21

DUR 2196-2534.

Box 22

DUR 2535-2889.

Box 23

DUR 2890-3204.

Box 24

DUR 3205-3534.

Box 25

DUR 3535-3862.

Box 26

DUR 3863-4210.

Box 27

DUR 4211-4519.

Box 28

DUR 4520-4829.

Box 29

DUR 4830-5188.

Box 30

DUR 5189-CN - DUR 5359-CN

Box 31

Series III: Slides.

Box 32

Extent 1 Box.

Scope and Content

Includes color 35mm slides of a wide variety of subjects similar to those featured in the series of photoprints. Of particular interest is a group which documents the filming of "Story of a Patriot" at Colonial Williamsburg. The slides also record a brick-laying ceremony for First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, sports teams and Homecoming celebrations at Bruton Heights School in Williamsburg, distinguished visitors to Williamsburg, and several plantations along the James River.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Accidents.

Page 1

Anheuser-Busch groundbreaking. 1969.

Page 2

Business.

Page 3

Children.

Page 4-5

Churches: brick-laying ceremony at 1st Baptist, Williamsburg.

Carton 6 (Page)

Fishing.

Page 7-8

Jamestown.

Page 9-12

Miscellaneous.

Page 13

Monuments.

Page 14

Parades.

Page 15

Portraits.

Page 16

School Affairs: Bruton Heights football team, cheerleaders, homecoming.

Page 17-18

S.S. United States?

Page 19

Virginia Architecture: Shirley, Westover, and Evelynton Plantations.

Page 20

Williamsburg Scene: Filming of "The Story of a Patriot."

Page 21-22

Williamsburg Scene: Chauffeurs and taxi drivers.

Page 23

Williamsburg Scene: Flowers and gardens.

Page 24

Williamsburg Scene: Historic Area.

Page 25

Williamsburg Scene: Colonial Williamsburg hotels.

Page 26-29

Williamsburg Scene: Merchant's Square.

Page 30

Williamsburg Scene: Colonial Williamsburg staff.

Page 31

Williamsburg Scene: Carter's Grove.

Page 32

Williamsburg Scene: College of William and Mary.

Page 33

Williamsburg Scene: Old Courthouse?

Page 34

Williamsburg Scene: Eastern State Hospital demolition?

Page 35

White People: Rockefeller Family.

Page 36

White People: Distinguished visitors to Williamsburg.

Page 37-38

White People: Tours.

Page 39

Stereographs.

Page 40-41

Scope and Content

Stereographs of landscapes, a wedding, a church, and a monument.

Series IV: Oversize Prints.

Box 33

Scope and Content

Contains large-format black and white color photoprints of a variety of subjects, including the Queen Mother of England visiting Williamsburg, nightclub performers, a high school band, graduation and wedding portraits, and church groups.

Series V: Personal Papers.

Box-folder 34:1-34:10

Extent 10 folders.

Scope and Content

Consists of correspondence, newsclippings, pamphlets, and memorabilia relating to Durant's career and personal life. Some of the materials in this series were removed from a scrapbook compiled by Durant. Several portraits of Durant are also present.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by format.

Church activities, 1949.

Box-folder 34:1

Correspondence, ca. 1970-1981.

Box-folder 34:2 (Folder)

Limousine business, ca. 1930-ca. 1979.

Box-folder 34:3

News clippings, n.d.

Box-folder 34:4 (Folder)

Public service, 1975-1976.

Folder 34:5

School memorabilia, ca. 1930-ca. 1949.

Box-folder 34:6

Scrapbook material, ca. 1950-ca. 1989.

Box-folder 34:7

Loose items from scrapbook, ca. 1950-ca. 1989.

Box-folder 34:8 (Folder)

Portraits of Durant, n.d.

Box-folder 34:9

Negative identification, ca. 1950-ca. 1959.

Box-folder 34:10