



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Henry Plummer Cheatham collection

1912-1941

Summary

Creator: Cheatham, Henry Plummer, 1892-1940

Title: Henry Plummer Cheatham collection

Date: 1912-1941

Size: 2 file folders

Source: Gift, Armstead-Johnson, Helen, 06/--/1999

Abstract: This collection contains personal correspondence to Cheatham's siblings (Mamie and Charles) describing his military experience while serving in the Philippine Islands as well as correspondence relating to military regulations during World War I. Also included in the collection is correspondence pertaining to funeral arrangements for Cheatham addressed to his brother Charles Cheatham. There are also programs, an obituary for Cheatham, a speech (possibly by former Congressman Cheatham), and announcements/flyers for an appearance by the congressman.

Preferred citation: Henry Plummer Cheatham collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Henry Plummer Cheatham (1892-1940) was born in Henderson, North Carolina to ex-Congressman (1889-1890) and superintendent of the Colored Orphanage at Oxford, North Carolina, Henry P. Cheatham and his wife Louise Cherry. The younger Cheatham was educated in the public schools of Washington, D.C. and later graduated from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1925) where he received a law degree with honors. Prior to attending Temple University, Cheatham enlisted in the United States Army (c. 1912).

Cheatham served with the 24th infantry in the Philippines Island for almost the entirety of his enlisted years and earned the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. After serving in the Philippines he resided in New York at which time he enlisted in the 15th New York City Infantry. When the United States entered World War I, the 15th was taken over by the War Department and became the 369th United States Infantry. Cheatham served with the 369th in France, later, he was transferred to the 370th Infantry.

Cheatham graduated with honors from Temple University Law School, class of 1925. After he was admitted to the Bar, he opened offices in Philadelphia where he practiced law until a few months prior to his death.

Scope and Content Note

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Arrangement: I. Correspondence, 1913-1941; II. Programs; III. Writings

Key Terms

Subjects

African American lawyers

African American soldiers

World War, 1914-1918 -- African Americans

World War, 1914-1918 -- Campaigns -- Philippines

Names

Cheatham, Henry Plummer, 1892-1940

Cheatham, Charles

Cheatham, Mamie

United States. Army