Americana (Brazil) Oral History Project collection, 1978

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
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404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Title: Americana (Brazil) Oral History Project collection, 1978
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 740
Extent: 1.25 linear ft. (3 boxes), 1 oversized paper (OP), AV Masters: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes), and 3.31 MB born digital materials (41 files)
Abstract: The Americana (Brazil) Oral History Project collection includes transcripts of interviews, audiocassette and reel-to-reel recordings of interviews, photographs and slides, genealogical charts, clippings, printed material, and collected material relating to the ancestors of Confederate exiles in Americana, Brazil.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access
Access to processed born digital materials is only available in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (the Rose Library). Use of the original digital media is restricted.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source
Gift, 1993, with subsequent additions.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Americana (Brazil) Oral History Project collection, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Barbara J. Mann, December 1998.
Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Brenna Edwards, 2020. Forensic disk images were created from two 3.5” floppy disks using Kryoflux and from the optical disc the using GuyMager. Individual files were extracted using FTK Imager and scanned for viruses.
using McAfee’s anti-virus software; none were found. Duplicate and system files have been removed, and files were scanned for personally identifiable information; none were found. Text-based files were migrated to PDF using Adobe Acrobat. File dates have been changed from the original creation date.

This finding aid may include language that is offensive or harmful. Please refer to the Rose Library’s harmful language statement for more information about why such language may appear and ongoing efforts to remediate racist, ableist, sexist, homophobic, euphemistic and other oppressive language. If you are concerned about language used in this finding aid, please contact us at rose.library@emory.edu.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

After the Civil War ended, many Confederate soldiers returned to their homes and found that nothing was left. The Old South as they knew it, no longer existed. Dom Pedro II, emperor of Brazil, offered the Confederates a solution. Dom Pedro saw the possibility of developing a cotton industry in Brazil and needed the know-how of the Confederates. He promised them land at twenty-two cents an acre.

The exact number of Confederates who emigrated is not known, but at least a few thousand went through the port of Rio de Janeiro. Most of the settlements failed, probably due to tropical disease, insufficient money supplies, poor lands and roads. The settlement that became Americana did survive and flourish.

In ca. 1866, Colonel William Hutchinson Norris and his son, Robert, of Perry County, Alabama, went to Brazil. Norris purchased a 500 acre tract of land on the undeveloped Machadinho Estate near Santa Barbara D’Oeste in San Paulo State. Here, the climate, soil, and topography were quite similar to that of Perry County. When the experiment proved successful, they wrote to family and friends and urged them to join them in Brazil. Family members and ca. ninety other Confederates came to the area in ca. 1867.

As other settlements failed, those who remained in Brazil also came to Americana. The population grew to almost two thousand. The Southern way of life continued. In 1869 a school was established near Campinas. A church and Masonic lodge were also established. The homogeneity of the settlers and the leadership of Norris helped to make this the happiest and most successful group.

In the 1870’s, the railroad in San Paulo was completed. The Confederates began building homes near the station and the area became known as Estacao (the station). It was referred to by the Brazilians as Villa American. The area was incorporated as Villa Americana in 1900. In 1938 this was changed to just Americana.

Fraternidade Descendencia Americana was chartered December 4, 1955. This organization of descendants of the Confederates meets four times a year. They own and maintain the Confederate cemetery in Santa Barbara D’Oeste, which is unique in Brazil. Because Brazil is ninety percent Catholic, the Confederates, who were Protestant, were not allowed to be buried in the Catholic cemeteries.
The materials in this collection were created or collected by Dr. Eugene D. Carlisle as part of an oral history project to document this settlement. Sources used to compile this administrative history include clippings and articles found in the collection itself, *The Lost Colony of the Confederacy* by Eugene Harter (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1985), and "Confederate Emigration to Brazil" by Blanche Henry Clark Weaver, *Journal of Southern History* (Southern Historical Association, v. 27, 1961).

**Scope and Content Note**
The Americana (Brazil) Oral History Project Collection includes transcripts of interviews, audiocassette and reel-to-reel recordings of interviews, permission forms, photographs and slides, computer disks and printouts of directories, genealogical charts, clippings, printed material, and collected material.

The transcripts, audiocassettes, reel-to-reel tapes, permission forms, computer disks and printouts, and address list all concern interviews Professor Carlisle conducted in 1978 with descendants of the original emigrants. All of the interviews have been transcribed verbatim. They are arranged in the order designated by Professor Carlisle. The master copies of the audiocassettes and reel-to-reel tapes are housed separately. For aid in using the transcripts and the audiocassettes, the corresponding folder or audiocassette is included with each entry in the container list.

A master listing of the photographs and slides is included (Box 3: folder 8). The photographs and slides are of Americana, the interviewees, and of then Governor of Georgia Jimmy Carter's and his wife, Rosalyn's, visit to Americana in 1972 (Box 3: folders 9-11).

Also included is a genealogical chart, "Localizacao das Familias em 1875" (Box 3: folder 12), clippings about some of the interviewees, Jimmy Carter, and about Americana (Box 3: folders 13-16, OP 1). Collected material includes a bibliography of literature on Brazil, correspondence, typescript photocopy, in English, of *Soldado Descansa* by Judith MacKnight Jones, a typescript photocopy of "The American Colonies Emigrating to Brazil 1865" by Bellona Fergusson Smith, and a recording of "City of Americana Centennial" May 17, 1978 (Box 3: folders 17-25).

Born digital material contains interview transcripts.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged by record type.
### Container List

**Transcripts**

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<td>Carr, Eduardo King, June 19, 1978</td>
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Schwarzenbeck, Alice June MacKnight, June 5, 1978
Steagall, Jessie Thomas, May 30, 1978
Steagall, John Homer, May 30, 1978
Thomas, Arlino, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews)
Vassao, Anita MacKnight, June 20, 1978
Vaughn, Charles, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews)
Wheelock, Catherine Bookwalter and Rosa Bookwalter Carr Conti, May 31, 1978
Williamson, Carl, May 27, 1978

Audio recordings
AV2 - Becker, Callie Daniels, January 31, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6whk]
AV1 - Brechmacher, Helen Steagall, June 6, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6bdh]
AV1 - Carr, Eduardo King, June 19, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6b6p][Digital/
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AV2 - Cataloging Cemetery, July 7-8, 1978 (reel 1) [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6w9r][Digital/
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AV2 - Cataloging Cemetery, July 7-8, 1978 (reel 2) [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Cataloging Cemetery, July 7-8, 1978 (reel 3) [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6wgf][Digital/
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AV2 - Cataloging Cemetery, July 7-8, 1978 (reel 4) [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6wf9]
AV1 - Charlie MacFadden Homes, June 3, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6r2c]
AV1 - Coimbra, Esther Smith and Lillian Mercedes Smith, July 1, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6pdj][Digital/
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AV1 - Coimbra, Esther Smith and Lillian Mercedes Smith, July 1, 1978 (7 inch reel)
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AV1 - Coimbra, Esther Smith, June 6, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Conti, Rosa Bookwalter Carr, May 31, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
AV2 - Davidson, Jenny Thomas, June 7, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Fraternidade de Descendencia Americana, July 9, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Harris, Mary MacKnight and Alice June MacKnight Schwarzenbeck, June 5, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Jones, James R., May 20, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Jones, Judith MacKnight, May 17, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Jones, Judith MacKnight, July 9, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Jones, Judith MacKnight, July 9, 1978 [original: open reel tape] (7 inch reel)
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AV1 - Jones, Judith MacKnight, July 11, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6r5s]

AV1 - Jones, Judith MacKnight, July 11, 1978 (7 inch reel) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Lane, Lydia MacKnight, June 20, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Lokofsky, Marion Williamson, May 27, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Lozano, Dora Pyles, June 7, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - MacFadden, Bessie Ruth Ferguson, May 26, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - MacFadden, Charles B., May 24, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - MacKnight, Elizabeth McAlpine, May 20, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - MacKnight, Lia Gomer, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - MacKnight, Morris Gomer, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - MacKnight, Patti Jones, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - MacKnight, Prudente Orlando, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Mathews, Sara Belle, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Moog, Clodomir Vianna, June 27, 1978 (7 inch reel) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Moog, Clodomir Vianna, June 27, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Oliveira, Betty Antunes de, June 28-29, 1978 (7 inch reel) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Oliveira, Betty Antunes de, June 28-29, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Pfaffenbach, Elsie MacKnight, May 24, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Pyles, Florence Bookwalter and Roberto, June 5, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Pyles, Ross Emery, June 3, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Raines, Marie Workman, Winter 1977 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6wbw]

AV2 - Steagall, Jessie Thomas, May 30, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Steagall, John Homer, May 30, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Thomas, Arlino, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Vassao, Anita MacKnight, June 20, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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AV1 - Vaughn, Charles, July 9, 1978 (Campo Interviews) [original: open reel tape]
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AV2 - Wheelock, Catherine Bookwalter and Rosa Bookwalter Carr Conti, May 31, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id d6023]

AV2 - Williamson, Carl, May 27, 1978 [original: open reel tape]
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### Project files

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<td>Computer disks (ASCII file format) and printout of directories</td>
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### Clippings

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<td>&quot;Pour Que Carter Veio Ao Brasil&quot;, Manchete, 8 April 1978</td>
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### Collected Material

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<td>Reference list general information on Brazil</td>
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<td>Typescript: Soldado Descansa by Judith MacKnight Jones in English (given to Carlisle in 1978) (incomplete photocopy)</td>
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