William Parker scrapbook, 1910
MC.975.04.012
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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March 29, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository  
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Title  
William Parker scrapbook

Date  
1910

Extent  
0.04 Linear feet

Language  
English

Preferred Citation

William Parker scrapbook (MC.975.04.012), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

William Parker (ca. 1822- 1891) was born into slavery circa 1822, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland on the Rowdown plantation, the son of Louisa Simms. His father may have been a white man, though the identity of his father is not conclusively known. His mother died while Parker was young, and he was raised by his grandmother. In his late teens, Parker escaped slavery and settled in Christiana, Pa., where he married Eliza Ann Elizabeth Howard, with whom he had three children. Parker was a part of the Lancaster Black Self-Protection Society, and occasionally secretly housed slaves on the run. In 1851, while Parker was harboring runaway slaves, a group, including slaveholder Edward Gorsuch and a U.S. marshal, arrived at Parker's farm searching for runaway slaves. Parker, his wife, and their anti-slavery neighbors confronted Gorsuch's group. Gorsuch was killed and another member of his group was wounded.

Scope and Content note

This collection is composed of the single volume scrapbook which is comprised of clippings of an article on the Christiana Riot, published in 1910 by the Atlantic Monthly, but originally published in 1866. The article, "The Freedman's Story," was written by William Parker, a former slave who escaped slavery and became an abolitionist and activist in Pennsylvania, and was a key actor in the Christiana Riot, and described his memory of the event. It is not known who compiled the scrapbook.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections September 2015

Use Restrictions
Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition
The William Parker scrapbook was donated to Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, in 1933 by Walter L. Moore.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Kara Flynn; completed September 2015.

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**Controlled Access Headings**

Genre(s)

- Scrapbooks

Personal Name(s)

- Parker, William, 1822?-

Subject(s)

- Abolitionists
- Abolitionists -- United States -- 19th century
- African Americans
- Antislavery movements -- United States
- Christiana riot, 1851
- Slavery--United States.
## Collection Inventory

| Scrapbook 1910 |