

Lorenzo Johnston Greene

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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K. Craig, Lisa R. Madison, and Sheila R. Day**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

1994

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Manuscript Division, 2001**

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Latest revision: 2006 March

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Lorenzo Johnston Greene

Span Dates: 1680-1988

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1933-1972)

ID No.: MSS77480

Creator: Greene, Lorenzo Johnston, 1899-

Extent: 44,100 items; 101 containers plus 3 oversize; 40.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: African-American historian, educator, editor, and civil rights and social activist. Chiefly academic files documenting Greene's career as a professor of history and pioneer in the field of African-American studies at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Greene, Lorenzo Johnston, 1899-

Anderson, Marjorie E.

Aptheker, Herbert, 1915-

Bacote, Clarence Albert, 1906-

Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975

Blue, Cecil A.

Brimmer, Andrew F.

Brooks, Mary E.

Cromwell, Adelaide M.

Davis, Gerald L.

Dreer, Herman, b. 1889

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963

Dunn, William L., 1919-

Dymally, Mervyn M., 1926-

Eppse, Merl R. (Merl Raymond), b. 1893

Fleming, John E. (John Emory), 1944-

Florence, Charles W.

Frank, James, 1930-

Franklin, John Hope, 1915-

Goggin, Jacqueline Anne, 1953-

Greene, Thomasina T. (Thomasina Talley), 1913-

Hartshorn, H. Hadley (Herbert Hadley), 1909-

Heermance, J. Noel

Jackson, Harvey H.

Jackson, Luther Porter, 1892-1950

Jason, W. B.

Johnson, Charles Spurgeon, 1893-1956

Jones, Harold J.

Jones, Lois Mailou

Kellogg, Peter

Klotzer, Charles W.

Lee, Ulysses

Logan, Rayford Whittingham, 1897-

McAfee, Wilbur C.

McStallworth, Paul
Mehlinger, Louis R.
Meier, August, 1923-
Miller, M. Sammye
Parsons, Edward Alexander, 1878-1962
Quarles, Benjamin
Reddick, Lawrence Dunbar, 1910-
Risk, Richard E.
Robinson, William P., 1911-
Romero, Patricia W.
Shepperson, George
Shulimson, Bert
Smythe, Mabel M. (Mabel Murphy)
Strickland, Arvarh E.
Thomas, Charles W., 1926-
Tynes, Harcourt A.
Wesley, Charles H. (Charles Harris), 1891-1987
Woodson, Carter Godwin, 1875-1950
Wilson, Raleigh
Wright, Marion Manola Thompson, 1904-1962
Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, inc.
Institute for Drop-Out Prevention and Teacher Orientation (Kansas City, Mo.)
Institute to Facilitate Desegregation in the Kansas City, Mo., Public Schools
Lincoln University (Jefferson City, Mo.)
Missouri Association for Social Welfare
Missouri Commission on Human Rights
Parting Ways, the Museum of Afro-American Ethnohistory (Plymouth, Mass.)
United States Commission on Civil Rights. Missouri Advisory Committee

Subjects:

African American periodicals
African Americans--Civil rights
African Americans--History
African Americans--New England
African Americans--Study and teaching
Discrimination in housing
Dropouts--Missouri--Kansas City
Ethnological museums and collections--Massachusetts--Plymouth
Multiculturalism
Pianists
School integration--Missouri--Kansas City
Sharecroppers--Missouri

Occupations:

Editors
Educators
Historians

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Lorenzo Johnston Greene, historian and African-American educator, were given to the Library of Congress in 1990 by his wife, Thomasina T. Greene.

Processing History:

A description of the Greene Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1988*, pp. 17-20.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Video and audiotapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Lorenzo Johnston Greene Papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lorenzo J. Greene is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C).

Restrictions:

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Lorenzo Johnston Greene Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1899, Nov. 16	Born, Ansonia, Conn.
1924	B.A., Howard University, Washington, D.C.
1926	M.A. in history, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1928-1933	Field representative and research assistant to Carter G. Woodson, director, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Washington, D.C.
1930	Published with Carter G. Woodson <i>The Negro Wage Earner</i> (Washington, D.C.: Associated Publishers. 388 pp.)
1931	Published with Myra C. Callis <i>The Employment of Negroes in the District of Columbia</i> (Washington, D.C.: Associated Publishers. 89 pp.)
1933-1972	Instructor and professor of history, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo.
1942	Ph.D. in history, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. Published <i>The Negro in Colonial New England, 1620-1776</i> (New York: Columbia University Press. 404 pp.) Married Thomasina Tally
1955	Chairman, program committee, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History annual meeting, Los Angeles, Calif.
1947-1956	Editor, <i>Midwest Journal</i> , Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo.

1964	Chairman, program committee, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History annual meeting, Detroit, Mich.
1959-1961	Chairman, SubCommittee on Education, Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights
1965-1966	President, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History
1971	Honorary L.H.D., University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
1971-1972	Director, Institute for Drop-Out Prevention and Teacher Orientation, Jefferson City, Mo.
1972-1974	Director, Institute to Facilitate Desegregation in Kansas City Public Schools, Kansas City, Mo.
1980	Published with Antonio F. Holland and Gary Kremer <i>Missouri's Black Heritage</i> (St. Louis: Forum Press. 195 pp.)
1988, Jan. 24	Died, Jefferson City, Mo.
1988	Posthumous publication of <i>Working with Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, a Diary, 1928-30</i> (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 487 pp.)

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lorenzo Johnston Greene (1899-1988), pioneer in African-American historical studies and multiculturalism, editor, and civil rights and social activist, span the years 1680-1988, with the bulk of the material documenting Greene's thirty-nine year career (1933-1972) at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, and as a professor emeritus at that historically black institution from his retirement in 1972 to his death in 1988. Before coming to Lincoln University, Greene was a field representative for the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) and a close associate of Carter G. Woodson, the founder of the organization and the "father of Afro-American history." As an educator, Greene was an early advocate of the introduction of multicultural content into grade school and college texts nationwide. He wrote numerous monographs and articles, including *The Negro In Colonial New England, 1620-1776*, and edited the *Midwest Journal*, sponsored by Lincoln University. Greene's community service, in which he stressed open housing and school desegregation, included helping to found the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and chairing the human rights committee of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare and the education subcommittee of the Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. His papers are organized into five series: [Family](#), [Academic](#), [Professional Organizations](#), [Public Interest Organizations](#), and [Speeches and Writings](#).

Greene maintained a long-term correspondence with family members, childhood friends, and friends cultivated in New York and Washington, D.C., during graduate school at Columbia University and field work with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Correspondence, biographical material on Greene, and subject files concerning family members are available in the [Family](#) series. The largest file in the series concerns Greene's wife, concert pianist Thomasina T. Greene, and includes Greene's correspondence as her tour manager and material on her father, Thomas W. Talley, a chemistry professor and pioneering African-American folklorist who wrote *Negro Folk Rhymes*.

The [Academic](#) series documents Greene's career at Lincoln University and is organized into [Administrative](#), [Correspondence](#), [General](#), [Midwest Journal](#), and [Research](#) subseries. The [Administrative](#) subseries includes files related to African-American studies courses and curricula, academic committees, and student affairs. Large files in the subseries relate to the Institute for Drop-Out Prevention and Teacher Orientation and to the Institute to Facilitate Desegregation in Kansas City, Mo., Public Schools, headed by Greene during 1971-1974.

Correspondents prominent in the [Correspondence](#) subseries of the Academic File include Herbert Aptheker, Gerald L. Davis, Herman Dreer, W. E. B. Du Bois, William L. Dunn, Mervyn M. Dymally, Merl R. Eppse, John E. Fleming, Charles W.

Florence, James Frank, H. Hadley Hartshorn, J. Noel Heermance, W. B. Jason, Charles S. Johnson, Harold J. Jonas, Peter Kellogg, Charles L. Klotzer, Wilbur C. McAfee, Mabel M. Smythe, Arvarh E. Strickland, and Marion Manola Wright.

Documentation of Greene's study of the African-American experience in his home region includes a substantial file in the [General](#) subseries of the Academic series relating to his work as a consultant for the Parting Ways Museum of Afro-American Ethnohistory in Plymouth, Massachusetts, an institution focusing on black history in New England. This file contains correspondence with Marjorie E. Anderson, founder and long-time director of the museum. Also documented in the General subseries is Greene's participation with his students in the sharecroppers' roadside demonstration movement during 1939-1940 in southern Missouri, a precursor to the activist stage of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

The [Midwest Journal](#) subseries relates to Greene's editorship during 1947-1956. The *Midwest Journal* under Greene was a magazine of research and creative writing with an international reputation, emphasizing, but not limited to, African-American writers and issues. Material on the journal includes an editorial file containing biographical material on contributing writers, draft articles, correspondence with publishers, and a general correspondence file containing letters largely to and from contributing writers. General correspondents of the *Midwest Journal* subseries include Herbert Aptheker, Thomas Hart Benton, Cecil A. Blue, Lois M. Jones, and George Shepperson.

The [Research](#) subseries of the Academic File contains files concerning public records on African Americans in several New England states, including copies of documents related to the 1781 *Jennison v. Walker* case, a major factor in the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts, and copies of payrolls (1778-1779) and invalid accounts (1790) of the black First Rhode Island Regiment of the Continental Army. Material on the African-American experience in Missouri contained in the Research subseries of the Academic series includes correspondence related to a county by county survey conducted by Greene of black marriages in the state during 1865-1900, a 1936 interview with former slave Dilcey Ann Patterson, a file on African-American public schools during the era of segregation, and material on the Sixty-Fifth and Sixty-Eighth regiments, United States Colored Troops, whose members founded Lincoln University after the Civil War.

Historical material on black Americans in the [Research](#) subseries of the Academic series, however, is not limited to the New England region and Missouri. Greene conducted correspondence spanning 1934-1983 with libraries and archives throughout the United States inquiring about manuscript resources on African Americans. An example of the wealth of material he uncovered through this process is correspondence from the Washington State Historical Society on George W. Bush and William O. Bush, father and son African-American pioneers and civic leaders in the Pacific Northwest.

The [Research](#) subseries also documents Greene's efforts starting in the 1930s to introduce African-American studies and multiculturalism into textbooks and curricula nationwide. A project in 1964 to chart the representation of African Americans in over 150 history and social science textbooks spanning 1941-1964 is especially well documented.

Greene's commitment to the development of African-American history as both a branch of the historical profession and as a means of black consciousness-raising is reflected in the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) file of the [Professional Organizations](#) series. Greene was active in the ASNLH, which in 1976 changed its name to the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), throughout his career, twice serving as program committee chair for annual meetings and, during 1965-1966, as president of the organization. Of special interest is correspondence with Carter G. Woodson, long-time executive director of the ASNLH, and Charles H. Wesley, president of Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio. Other ASNLH and ASALH file correspondents include Clarence Bacote, Andrew F. Brimmer, Herman Dreer, Mervyn M. Dymally, Merl R. Eppse, John Hope Franklin, Jacqueline Goggin, Adelaide C. Gulliver, Harvey Jackson, Luther P. Jackson, Ulysses G. Lee, Rayford W. Logan, Paul McStallworth, Louis R. Mehlinger, August Meier, M. Sammye Miller, Benjamin Quarles, Lawrence Dunbar Reddick, William P. Robinson, Patricia W. Romero, Charles W. Thomas, Harcourt A. Tynes, and Raleigh Wilson.

The [Public Interest Organizations](#) series documents Greene's civil rights and social activism and includes files on the Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW), and the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Correspondents represented in MASW file of the series include Mary E. Brooks, Edward Parsons, Richard E. Risk, and Bert Shulimson.

Developed from research at Columbia University, Greene's *The Negro in Colonial New England 1620-1776*, first published in 1941, is still considered a definitive work on the subject and has been republished in several editions. His thesis and dissertation versions of this work are filed with related correspondence spanning 1941-1980 in the [Speeches and Writings](#) series. Also included in the series are drafts and correspondence related to the unpublished "Abolition of Slavery in New England

1688-1776" and speeches and articles by Greene on African Americans in New England, including an especially strong file of writings on black soldiers, sailors, and military units of Revolutionary War era Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Missouri material in the Speeches and Writings series includes files on *The Negro in the Making of Missouri and Missouri's Black Heritage*, monographs cowritten by Greene. Greene's service between 1928-1933 as a research assistant and field representative to Carter G. Woodson is documented in several versions of Greene's transcribed diaries filed in the Speeches and Writings series.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Family File, 1913-1988, n.d.](#)
- [Academic File, 1680-1990, n.d.](#)
- [Professional Organizations, 1933-1988, n.d.](#)
- [Public Interest Organizations, 1931-1988, n.d.](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1924-1988, n.d.](#)
- [Oversize, 1863-1964](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-7

Family File, 1913-1988, n.d.

Correspondence, address books, clippings, biographical material, legal papers, printed matter, concert programs, and miscellaneous material.

Organized alphabetically by name of person, subject, or type of material.

BOX 7-65

Academic File, 1680-1990, n.d.

BOX 7-24

Administrative File, 1925-1988, n.d.

Memoranda, minutes of meetings, announcements, vitae, reports, grant proposals, correspondence, clippings, case files, constitutions, course and curricula development material, and miscellaneous material relating largely to Lincoln University.

Organized alphabetically by type of material, organization, subject, or activity.

BOX 24-36

Correspondence, 1928-1988, n.d.

Correspondence sent and received with attached and related material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization.

BOX 36-47

General, 1929-1990, n.d.

Correspondence, bibliographies, fliers, reports, newsletters, newspapers, news releases, clippings, publishers' catalogs and brochures, student writings, yearbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Organized alphabetically by name of organization, activity, subject, person, or type of material.

BOX 48-60

Midwest Journal, 1945-1973, n.d.

Correspondence, manuscript articles, short stories, poems, transcriptions of archival documents, biographical material, galley proofs, subscription and circulation lists, brochures, and miscellaneous material. Later material relates to reprint permissions and microfilming projects.

Arranged into administrative, correspondence with publishers, editorial, general correspondence, and *Lincoln University Research Journal* (predecessor of the *Midwest Journal*) files.

BOX 61-65

Research File, 1680-1987, n.d.

Reports, correspondence, topical files, photostats of archival documents, draft books, statistical material, legal documents, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, person, subject, activity, or type of material.

BOX 66-76

Professional Organizations, 1933-1988, n.d.

Correspondence, minutes, reports, proposals, constitutions, financial statements, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, subject, activity, and type of material.

BOX 76-91

Public Interest Organizations, 1931-1988, n.d.

Correspondence, minutes, plans, newsletters, press releases, reports, statements, membership lists, clippings, draft legislation, directories, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Organized alphabetically by name of organizations.

BOX 91-101

Speeches and Writings, 1924-1988, n.d.

Interviews and panel discussions arranged chronologically; drafts of speeches by Greene arranged alphabetically by title and those by others organized chronologically; drafts and published versions of articles, books, dissertations, diaries, poems, and song lyrics, mostly by Greene, with correspondence, reviews, plans of work, and related material arranged alphabetically by type of material and then by title.

BOX OV 1-OV 3

Oversize, 1863-1964

Charts related to a project tracking references to African-Americans in textbooks and United States Colored Troops muster roll fragments.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	Family File, 1913-1988, n.d. Correspondence, address books, clippings, biographical material, legal papers, printed matter, concert programs, and miscellaneous material. Organized alphabetically by name of person, subject, or type of material.
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BOX 3	Greene, Lorenzo J., 1941-1978 Piano concert tour management (by Lorenzo J. Greene), 1941-1946 (4 folders)
BOX 4	1947-1983, n.d. (3 folders) Sympathy cards and letters, 1988 A-O (2 folders)

Family File, 1913-1988, n.d.

Container

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Music education material, 1935, 1950, n.d.
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BOX 6

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Speeches and writings, 1941-1964, n.d.
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Folktale, 1955, n.d.
Miscellaneous, 1943-1956, n.d.
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Greene, Willis H. (father), 1937, n.d.

BOX 7

Miscellaneous, 1937-1983, n.d.
Monroe, Helen L., 1937-1938, 1977-1986, n.d.

BOX 7-65

Academic File, 1680-1990, n.d.

BOX 7-24

Administrative File, 1925-1988, n.d.

Memoranda, minutes of meetings, announcements, vitae, reports, grant proposals, correspondence, clippings, case files, constitutions, course and curricula development material, and miscellaneous material relating largely to Lincoln University. Organized alphabetically by type of material, organization, subject, or activity.

BOX 7

Afro-American studies
Black Studies Paperback Book Project, 1969, n.d.
Miscellaneous, 1966-1985, n.d.
Announcements
Institutes and organizations, 1940-1987, n.d.
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BOX 8

1953-1988, n.d.
Miscellaneous colleges and universities, 1954-1986, n.d.
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Cluster program, 1969-1972, n.d.
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Academic File, 1680-1990, n.d.

Container

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	Public Relations Committee, 1939-1940, n.d.
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	Case files, 1965-1968
	Constitutions and rules, 1955-1956, 1968, n.d.
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	Meetings, 1943, 1964-1969, n.d.
	Memoranda, 1944, 1961-1972
	Miscellaneous, 1953-1969, n.d.
	Reports, 1944, 1965-1968
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	Faculty
	Directories, lists, and rosters, 1947-1959, 1970-1972, 1985, n.d.
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	Miscellaneous, 1942, 1973, n.d.
	Publications, 1944-1975, n.d.
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	Clippings, 1972-1978, n.d.
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Academic File, 1680-1990, n.d.

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BOX 22	Surveys and questionnaires, n.d. University placement services, 1970-1973, n.d. (2 folders) Vitae and applications for academic employment "A-Do" miscellaneous, 1946-1984, n.d. (3 folders)
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Academic File, 1680-1990, n.d.

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