

# Hunter College Libraries

## Archives & Special Collections

Leon & Toby Cooperman Library, 2nd Floor  
695 Park Avenue, East Building  
New York, NY 10065  
(212) 772-4149  
archives@hunter.cuny.edu

### Guide to the LaWanda Cox papers, 1930-2002

#### Accession: #2008-01

#### **CREATOR**

Cox, LaWanda C. Fenlason

#### **EXTENT**

Linear Feet: 20 linear feet

Number of Containers: 43 boxes

#### **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

The LaWanda Cox papers (1930-2002) document the historian and Hunter College professor's scholarly contributions to the field of Reconstruction History. Cox's research files and drafts demonstrate the depth of her research, particularly into the Freedmen's Bureau and her correspondence (especially with other historians) adds to the understanding of historiography at the time. Cox's work on Hunter College and CUNY PSC committees is also represented.

#### **LANGUAGES**

English

#### **PROCESSING ARCHIVIST**

Susan M. Kline, 2019

#### **SUBJECTS**

City University of New York -- Faculty.

Hunter College. Department of History.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)-- History.

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands-- History.

United States -- Historiography.

Women historians-- United States.

## Collection Details

### Biographical Note

LaWanda Fenlason Cox (1909-2005) was an American historian and professor at Hunter College who advanced a new understanding of the Reconstruction era following the American Civil War.

Born September 24, 1909, in Aberdeen, Washington, Cox graduated from the University of Oregon, received a master's degree from Smith College in 1931 (where she was a research assistant to Merle Curti, an early social historian) and began doctoral studies in 1934 at the University of California. Cox presented her original research about agricultural labor in her dissertation "Agricultural Labor in the United States 1865-1900, with a Special Reference to the South."

Cox met John H. Cox (1907-1975) when they were students at the University of Oregon. Both pursued PhDs in history at the University of California; the historians married in 1935 and later collaborated on writing projects. After receiving her PhD in 1941, Cox worked at Northeast Missouri State Teachers College. Cox and her husband ended up in New York when he was appointed Assistant Professor at City College. Female academics at the time faced hiring discrimination and women's colleges frequently provided the most viable opportunities for employment. Cox was no exception and joined the faculty of Hunter College in 1942.

During John Cox's military service overseas LaWanda Cox taught at Goucher College in Baltimore from 1944 to 1946. Upon his return, John Cox rejoined City College and she returned to Hunter College. At Hunter she served on the Executive Committee of the Faculty, (chair from 1967-1968) and the Advisory Board on Plant Development, which was involved in Hunter College's building expansion projects. Cox received tenure in 1963 and the CUNY Graduate Center gave her a joint appointment when it opened in 1964.

Cox became known for her contributions to a revisionist history of Reconstruction and her belief in a long view of the Reconstruction, lasting until the turn of the century. She argued that President Andrew Johnson refused to compromise with Republicans on civil equality for former slaves and was critical of 20th century historians who viewed Reconstruction through a presentism lens of the civil rights movement.

Newly available archival resources including the Freedmen's Bureau records were a boon to Cox's research and revisionist themes. LaWanda and John Cox addressed northern politics in their 1963 monograph, *Politics, principle, and prejudice, 1865-1866; dilemma of Reconstruction America*. Cox and her husband edited the documentary volume regarding the freedmen in Reconstruction, *the Negro, and the New South* (1973).

After retirement in 1971 Cox remained connected to CUNY, representing CUNY PSC retiree concerns, especially health care reform and federal long term care legislation. In 1979 she established the annual Symposium on Emancipation and Its Aftermath (held until 1989). Her declining eyesight forced her to limit her participation in scholarship but her long in the works Abraham Lincoln volume was published in 1981.

The Cox spent their summers in Bethel, Connecticut, where John died in 1975. LaWanda Cox died in New York City on February 2, 2005.

### **Collection Description (Scope and Contents)**

The LaWanda Cox papers date from 1930 to 2002 and consist primarily of correspondence, research files, and writings. Researchers can gain insight into her historical methodology, her interactions with other historians, and her participation in and views on issues affecting Hunter College.

Series I: Correspondence (1930s-2002) contains professional, personal, and general correspondence. Part of Cox's correspondence is arranged by year and the remainder consists of files for individual correspondents (typically other scholars).

Series II: Professional Activities is the largest portion of the collection and spans 1930 to 2002 and provides an overview of her career as an educator and historian.

In the Hunter College section, a few syllabi exist for classes taught by Cox, but most of the Hunter College materials pertain to her committee work. Cox's strong opinions are reflected in this committee correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports. One box is dedicated to Cox's advocacy efforts in response to long-term care legislation its impact on her and other CUNY retirees.

Cox's research materials and writings (including her undergraduate and graduate coursework) consist of drafts, notes, research related correspondence, and transcripts and photocopies of primary source documents obtained from various archival repositories.

Cox's writings are arranged alphabetically by title and consist of typed drafts, clippings, and reprints of her published book reviews (over 30), articles, and monographs. Some drafts are marked with edits. Drafts for Cox's unfinished book on perception are included.

Her research files are arranged alphabetically by topic. Cox studied newly available archival sources at the National Archives, including the Freedmen's Bureau records. From her interpretation of these primary sources, Cox's revisionist arguments emerged and she challenged the prevailing historiography of Reconstruction. The Freedmen's Bureau and agent James F. McGogy files are extensive and contained in six boxes; other heavily represented topics are Andrew Johnson, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and agricultural labor.

Cox's participation in the Southern Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association involved planning and reporting on sessions, commenting on papers panelists planned to deliver at conferences and presenting her own research; these activities are represented in this series. The Symposium on Emancipation and Its Aftermath, founded by Cox in 1979 and the Lincoln 175 Gettysburg conference are also represented.

Series III: Personal (1930s-1990s) contains awards, biographical information and curriculum vitae, photographs, and poems written by Cox. Some items pertaining to John H. Cox, most notably two files of condolence letters, two sound recordings of his memorial, a typed copy of his PhD dissertation, and a handful of letters exchanged between the couple from 1950 to 1952.

## **Arrangement**

The LaWanda Cox papers are arranged in three series and processed at the folder level. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Professional Activities

Series III: Personal

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The collection was donated by LaWanda Cox to the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center in 1993. The University of Wyoming transferred the collection to Hunter College in 2008.

## **Using the Collection**

### **ACCESS STATEMENT**

Access to all materials (except audio cassettes) is unrestricted.

### **RIGHTS STATEMENT**

Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **PREFERRED CITATION**

LaWanda Cox papers, Archives & Special Collections, Hunter College Libraries, Hunter College of The City University of New York

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1930s-2002

The first part of the correspondence is arranged in general chronological order. These files include a mix of personal (much of which is addressed to both Cox and her husband), professional, and general correspondence. The remainder consists of files for individual correspondents, arranged alphabetically and a handful of letters from Cox's former students.

The individual correspondents tend to be other historians (especially those of the American South) and scholars including Eric Foner, Donald Nieman (editor her Collected Writings), Peyton McCrary, Glenn Linden, Richard O. Curry, Gerald (Jerry) T. White. The historians shared ideas and commented on each other's works. Cox's close rapport with her friend, former professor, and colleague historian Merle Curti is evident in letters spanning 1949 to 1996. Another correspondent of note is socialist Travers Clement.

Please note, letters from some of the correspondents with their own files may also appear in the chronological correspondence.

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
1	1	1930s-1940s		
1	2-8	1950s-1960s		
2	1-7	1968-1978		
3	1-8	1977-1983		
4	1-8	1983-1989		
5	1-4	1987-1993		
5	5	2001-2002		
5	6	Belz, Herman	1980, 1989	
5	7	Berry, Trey	1987	
5	8	Bleser, Carol	1981-1983	
5	9	Blodgett, Geoffrey	1974	
5	10	Bowen, David	1979-1980	
5	11	Burov, Michael	1970-1991	Moscow guide.
5	12-13	Burton, Vernon	1980, 1988	Includes critique of Burton's work.
5	14	Clement, Travers	1949-1976	
6	1	Cohen, William	1980-1987	Black migration.
6	2	Crouch, Barry	Circa 1980s	
6	3	Curry, Richard	1973-1986	
6	4-6	Curti, Merle	1949-1996	
6	7	Davis, Ronald	1975-1982	
6	8	Dykstra, Robert	1984-1987	
6	9	Engerman, Stan	1978-1984	

6	10	Fields, Barbara	1982	
6	11	Fohrenbacher, Don	1984	
6	12-14	Foner, Eric	1981-1987	
6	15	Former students	1960-1968	
6	16	Franklin, John Hope	1964, 1981	
6	17	Higgs, Robert	1975	
6	18	Horowitz, Bob	1979-1984	
6	19	Hume, Richard	1969-1975	
6	20	Kaczorowski, Robert	1973-1982	
6	21	Lewis, W. Arthur	1980	
6	22	Linden, Glenn	1974-1976	
7	1-3	McCrary, Peyton	1974-1988	
7	4	McFeely, William	1966, 1983-1985	
7	5	Meier, August (Augie)	1974, 1981-1985	
7	6	Miller, Wilbur	1985	
7	7	Neely, Mark	1982-1984	
7	8-12	Nieman, Donald	1975-1990	
7	13	Ransom and Sutch	1974-1975	
7	14	Robinson, Armstead	1979	
7	15	Rothstein, Morton	1980	
7	16	Thorton, J. Mills	1982	
7	17	Trefousse, Hans L.	2001	
7	18-19	Wall, Bennett	1978-1993, 2001	See also Southern Historical Association.
8	1-2	Woodman, Hal	1974-1983	Includes critique of Woodman paper.
8	3	Wright, Gavin	1974-1978	
8	4	Wright, Gavin	1983	Regarding David Carlton.

## Series 2: Professional Activities, 1930-2002

The Professional Activities series documents Cox's career as an educator and scholar from her time as an undergraduate student to her final years and unfinished projects.

The majority of this material is grouped into several categories. In the **Hunter College** section, a few syllabi exist for classes taught by Cox, but most of the Hunter College materials pertain to her committee work. Cox's strong opinions are reflected in this committee correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports and her healthcare advocacy for CUNY retirees.

Cox's **Writings and Research** cover her earliest scholarly projects as a student through the unfinished "Perception" book she worked on in later decades. These files consist of drafts (some with edits), notes, research related correspondence, and transcripts and photocopies of primary source documents obtained from various archival repositories.

Cox's writings are arranged alphabetically by title. The Reviews folders contain book reviews (typed drafts and published copies) written by Cox from the 1960s through 1980s.

Her research files are arranged alphabetically by topic. Researchers can consult the notes she took on primary sources and in many instances transcripts of photocopies of the original documents. The Freedmen's Bureau and agent James F. McGogy files are extensive and contained in six boxes; other heavily represented topics are Andrew Johnson, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and agricultural labor.

The **Professional Organizations** section represents through correspondence with session participants and conference papers written by Cox and others her long participation in the Southern Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association. The Symposium on Emancipation and Its Aftermath, founded by Cox in 1979 and the Lincoln 175 Gettysburg conference are also represented.

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
8	6	Blacks in Southern History Symposium	1975	Cox's paper "Reconstruction: A Lost Opportunity?"
8	7	Coalition to Save Our Documentary Heritage	1980s	
		Coursework Completed by Cox		
8	8	"Criminal Syndicalism in California"		
8	9-10	Dissertation- "Agricultural Labor in the United States 1865-1900 with Special Reference to the South"	1941	
8	11	"Dr. John McLoughlin: An Estimate of His Character and Influence"	1930	University of Oregon thesis.
8	12	"Entrance of Russia into the United Nations"	1936	
9	1	"Roosevelt and the Affairs of Peace"	1932	Smith College master's thesis.
9	2	CUNY Graduate Center "New History" Seminar	1976	
9	3	Cuomo, Mario- Lincoln and Democracy	1989-1990	
9	4	E-book Project Publishing Agreement	2002	American Council of Learned Societies
9	5	Emancipation Proclamation Symposium	1985	Albany, New York.
9	6	Fellowship	1950	
9	7	The First and Second Reconstructions Conference	1978	Cox's conference paper.
9	8	Goucher College	1945	Photographs and note.

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
		<b>Hunter College</b>		
9	9-10	Advisory Board on Plant Development	1961-1965	Includes Advisory Committee for the Sciences
10	1-2	Advisory Board on Plant Development	1965-1969	
10	3	American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship	1964-1965	Application.
10	4	Appointment Letters and Salary History	1943-1963	
10	5	Open Admissions	1968-1970	
10	6	Scholarship Named for Cox	2001-2002	LaWanda Cox Undergraduate Scholarship
10	7	Successor (Cox's replacement)	1970	
10	8	Teaching -- Chronology of the Civil War	1968-1969	
10	9	Teaching -- HIST 743 Graduate Seminar	1959-1968	
10	10	Teaching -- HIST 772 Syllabus	1966	
11	1-2	Tenure	1963	Copies of Cox's publications for her promotion to full professor.
11	3	Institute for Research in History	1976-1978	
11	4-5	Lectures	1966-1967	Including one about her personal experience with historical research.
11	6-8	Lincoln 175 Gettysburg Conference	1984-1985	
12	1	Lincoln 175 Gettysburg Conference	1984-1988	
12	2-7	Long-term Care	1987-1994	Comprehensive health care legislation. Cox's response to Pepper Commission
12	8	Long-term Care in New York	1993-1994	Includes her own design for universal health care
12	9-11	Long-term Care CUNY PSC Retirees	1988-1994	CUNY PSC Task Force on Catastrophic long-term health care. CUNY PSC Retirees Chapter. Ad hoc committee on health insurance.
13	1	Louisiana State University Walter Lynwood Fleming Lecture in Southern History	1987	
13	2	Morison & Commager's <i>The Growth of the American Republic</i>	1966	Critique.
13	3-5	New York Public Library History Room Closure	1980-1982	Correspondence and minutes of meetings between NYPL and the Historians' Committee to Save the American History Room.
13	6	New York State University Teachers (NYSUT) Award	1994	
13	7	<i>New York Times</i> Letter to William Safire's Editor	1986	
		<b>Professional Organizations</b>		
13	8	American Historical Association	1979-1981	



Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
13	9	American Historical Association	1986	
13	10	Organization of American Historians	1975	
13	11	Organization of American Historians	1979	
14	1	Organization of American Historians	1983	
14	2	Organization of American Historians Oral History Project	1983-1985	
14	3-10	Southern Historical Association	1971-1983	
15	1	Southern Historical Association	1989	
15	2	Southern Historical Association Committee on the Status of Women	1982-1984	
15	3	Southern Historical Association Gift	2001	Donation by Cox.
15	4-9	Symposium on Emancipation and Its Aftermath	1978-1989	Organized by Cox.
15	10	Teacher Pensions	1976-1978	Regarding proposal to use pension funds for New York City.
15	11	Television Projects	1983-1984	Lancit Media Productions.
15	12	University of Illinois Randall Distinguished Professor of History Search Committee	1972-1974	
		<b>Writings and Research</b>		
		<b>Writings</b>		
16	1-2	Agricultural Labor in the United States	1942	Typed draft.
16	3-4	Andrew Johnson and His Ghost Writers	1960-1962	
16	5	Articles	1940s-1960s	Published copies.
		Collected Writings see Freedom, Racism, and Reconstruction: Collected Writings		
16	6	Encyclopedia of Southern History	1975-1976	
16	7	Freedmen's Bureau Liedtke		
16	8-10	Freedom, Racism, and Reconstruction: Collected Writings	1990s	
16	11-12	From Emancipation to Segregation National Policy and Southern Blacks	1981-1989	
17	1-3	General O.O. Howard and the "Misrepresented Bureau"	1952-1954	Written with John Cox.
17	4	Introduction to America: An Interpretation of American Democracy For Use in the Public Schools by Candidates for Naturalization	1944	Published copy written by Merle Curti with Cox.
17	5-10	Lincoln and Black Freedom	1979-1996	
18	1	Lincoln, Johnson, and the Freedmen's Future: Reflections on Presidential Leadership and the Failure of Reconstruction with Documents	1970s?	LaWanda and John Cox. Drafts. Louisiana State University Press version.
18	2	Negro Suffrage and Republican Politics	1967	Published copies.
18	3	New York Times Op-Ed on Lincoln	1981	Unpublished.

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
18	4	No Land for the Freedmen		Typed draft with edits.
18	5-6	Perception (unfinished book)		Drafts of preface and chapters about James F. McGogy.
18	7	Politics, Principle, and Prejudice	1962	Contract.
18	8	Politics, Principle, and Prejudice	1991	Copyright.
18	9	Politics, Principle, and Prejudice	1961-1962	Correspondence.
18	10	Politics, Principle, and Prejudice	1964-1965	Dunning Prize.
18	11-12	Politics, Principle, and Prejudice	1960s	Footnotes.
19	1	Politics, Principle, and Prejudice	1962-1969	Reviews.
19	2-3	The Promise of Land for the Freedmen	1957-1958	
19	4	The Promise of Land for the Freedmen / Negro Suffrage and Republican Politics	1958	Published copies.
19	5-9	Reconstruction, the Negro, and the New South		Drafts and notes.
19	10	Reconstruction, the Negro, and the New South	1970s	Reviews.
20	1	Reconstruction, the Negro, and the New South	1967-1973	Correspondence.
20	2-6	Reviews by Cox	1960s-1980s	Drafts and published copies.
20	7	Tenancy in the United States, 1865-1900: A Consideration of the Validity of the Agricultural Ladder Hypothesis	1944	Reprints.
20	8	Tenancy Articles	1943-1948	Correspondence with publications about possible articles derived from Cox's dissertation.
		<b>Research</b>		
21	1-9	15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment		
21	10	1869 Georgia State Agricultural Convention		
21	11	Agricultural Periodicals List		
21	12-14	Andrew Johnson Papers		
22	1	Census Agricultural Schedules 1860, 1870, 1880		
22	2-3	Civil Rights Bill		
22	4	Connecticut Election 1866		
22	5-12	Correspondence	1948-1960	With libraries and archives.
22	13	Correspondence	1974-1980	Documents not located.
22	14	Correspondence and Progress Report	1948-1951	
22	15	Frederick Douglass		
23	1-3	Economics		
		Freedmen's Bureau		
23	4-7	Untitled		
23	8	Agents		

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
23	9	Attorney General		
23	10	Attorneys List		
24	1-3	Carpenter's Research		John Carpenter 40 agents.
24	4	Carse, George		
24	5	Hopkins, Marcus S.		
24	6	House and Senate		
24	7	Land Division		
24	8	Land Problem Notes		
24	9	Letter Transcripts		
		McGogy, James F.		
24	10-13	Alabama		
25	1-4	Alabama		
25	5	Army Records		
25	6	Henry Witherby Case		
25	7-12	General O.O. Howard		Mostly transcripts.
25	13-16	Greenville		
25	17	Houghey, Thomas		
26	1-3	Indiana		
26	4-7	Iowa		
26	8	Mississippi	1986	
26	9	Mississippi and Louisiana		
26	10	Notes		Lists of letters.
26	11	Pension File		
26	12	Washington Notes		
26	13-14	Miscellaneous		
27		Miscellaneous		
28	1	Medical Activities		
28	2	National Archives		
28	3	<i>New York Herald</i> Clippings		
28	4	<i>New York Times</i> Clippings		
28	5	Savannah		
28	6	Secondary Sources		
28	7-8	Seward, William Henry		
28	9-10	South Carolina		
28	11	Southern Newspapers		
28	12-16	Swayne, Wager		
29	1	"The Ten"		
29	2	Veto		
29	3	Hayes, Rutherford B.		

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
29	4	In Progress		
29	5	International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences		
29	6	Jamaica		
29	7	Latin America		
29	8	Louisiana		
29	9-10	Mississippi		
29	11-12	Moore (William G.) Shorthand Diary		Transcript.
30	1	Moore (William G.) Shorthand Diary		
30	2	National Archives	1940s	
30	3	Negro Suffrage	1965-1966	
30	4	"New South"		
30	5-18	Notes		Book reviews, notes on sources, chronologies, Congress, and Doolittle.
39		Notes		Index cards.
40		Notes		Index cards.
41		Notes		Index cards.
42		Notes		Index cards.
43		Notes		Index cards.
31	1-6	Perception Book	1970s-1980s	Psychological concepts of justice and injustice. Book was never finished. See writings section for drafts.
31	7	Pettigrew		
31	8	Plantation Diaries and Accounts		
31	9	Plantation Owner Views		
31	10	Political Science		
31	11	Radical Theory		
31	12	Richardson & Watson		
32	1	S.L.M. Barlow Papers	1959-1960	
32	2	Seymour, Horatio 1864 Letter Transcript		
32	3	Smith, Gerrit		
32	4	Smith Brady Report		
32	5	Sources (Published 1880s-1890s)		
32	6	South Carolina		
32	7	Supreme Court Decisions		
32	8-9	War Department		
32	10	Weed, Thurlow		
38		Microfilm		

### Series 3: Personal, 1930s-1990s

This series contains awards, biographical information and curriculum vitae, photographs, and poems written by Cox. Some items pertaining to John H. Cox, most notably two files of condolence letters, two sound recordings of his memorial, a typed copy of his PhD dissertation, and a handful of letters exchanged between the couple from 1950 to 1952.

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)	Notes
33	1-5	Awards and Honors	1970s-1990s	
33	6	Biographical and Curriculum Vitae	1940s-1980s	
33	7	Clippings		
		<b>John H. Cox</b>		
33	8	Clippings	1950s-1970s	
34	1-2	Condolence Letters	1975	
34	3	Correspondence with LaWanda Cox	1950-1952	
34	4	Dissertation		"Organizations of the Lumber Industry in the Pacific Northwest 1889-1914" Typed copy.
34	5	Eulogy	1975	
34	6	Memorial and Observations by LaWanda Cox	1975	Audio recordings (2 cassette tapes)
34	7	CUNY Graduate Center Tribute	2001	
37		Diplomas	1937, 1941	John and LaWanda Cox University of California.
34	8	Passports	1960s-1970s	
34	9	Poems by Cox		
35		Photographs	1960s-1970s	Includes one album assembled by Cox after her husband's death.
36		Photographs	1960s-1970s	
37		Photographs	1960s-1970s	
34	10	Professional Record	1963	