



Special Collections Finding Aid

Quander Family Papers

MS 0986

Kiplinger Research Library
DC History Center
DCHistory.org
801 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20001
(202) 516-1363 x302
library@dchistory.org

Reference Code: MS 0986

Title: Quander Family Papers

Name of Creator(s): Rohulamin Quander, Quander Family United Inc.

Subject(s):

African American families

African Americans—Genealogy

Black American experience

Black Colleges

Family history

Family reunion

Enslaved persons

Enslaved persons Virginia Mount Vernon (Estate)

African American churches Washington (D.C.) History

Omega Psi Phi

Speeches and addresses

Slavery – Virginia

Date: 1858 –2022 (bulk 1980s)

Name and Location of Repository:

Kiplinger Research Library

DC History Center

801 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

(202) 516-1363, library@dchistory.org

Description Control: Description based on DACS, Processors: Autumn Kalikin and Saleana Copeland, May 2025.

Administrative/Biographical History: The Quander Family Papers reflect the history of the oldest documented African American Family in the United States. Tracing their family lineage to the Fanti Tribe in Ghana, the Quander surname is the result of a mistranslation between the Ghanaian Egya Amkwandoh and his enslavers. This

misunderstanding resulted in the anglicized Quando/Quander name used to trace this family through the centuries. The family tree is comprised of three primary branches based in D.C./ Virginia, Maryland, and Philadelphia, and has held regular family reunions since 1926. Throughout the generations, many members of the Quander Family have made significant impact on American history, especially in the D.C. area. The lineage includes lawyers, educators, clubwomen, military personnel, entertainers, historians, artists, and humanitarians. However, the family's most impactful legacy is perhaps, how their existence has become a reflection of the triumphs of the African American journey.

Rohulamin Quander, is an author, retired Administrative Judge for Washington D.C., and president of the Quander Historical Society. A multi-generational Washingtonian, Quander is a two-time graduate from Howard University (BA '96, J.D. '99) and a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. As an author, Judge Quander has written extensively on aspects of African American history and culture within and outside of his historic family. In addition to his many roles in the field of history, Judge Quander also acts as a city history tour guide, disseminating D.C's unique African American history.

Scope and Content: The Quander Family Papers, 1858–2022 (bulk 1980s) consists of the personal collection of Rohulamin Quander. Most of the papers are related to the history and legacy of The Quanders, the oldest documented African American family in the United States. This collection includes photographs, correspondence, legal documents, reports, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, deeds, bills of sale, programs, maps, publications, memorabilia, and awards. Due to the many subject intersections of the Quander Family legacy, researchers are encouraged to investigate multiple series in this collection for the most robust results.

Organized in six series, the items in this collection reflect the categorization preferences of its donor, Rohulamin Quander. Series I: The Quander History Series includes foundational Quander documents like birth and death certificates, land deeds, bills of sale, manumission

records, and genealogical records. Information of specific members of the Quander Family Tree are also included, namely James W. Quander, Nellie Quander, Nancy Carter Quander, Elizabeth "Sis" Quander, Mark Quander, Paul Quander, Carmen Torruella-Quander, Sukey Bay, Vincent Brooks, and Gladys Quander Tancil. Series II: The Family Reunion Series holds planning records, programs, memorabilia, photos, and correspondence sent in preparation for the family's Tricentennial Reunion in 1984. Series III: International Quanders consists of correspondence between U.S Quanders and Ghanaians, either related to the Quander lineage or interested in the family's Pan-African efforts. Series IV: The Mount Vernon Series is an assemblage of programs, awards, appearances, speeches and schematics related to the George Washington and Quander connection, including the development of several exhibits about enslaved people at Mount Vernon. Series V: Churches covers the family's history of devout Catholic and Protestant faith practices and involvement in the creation of Black churches in the DMV area. Series VI: The Omega Psi Phi includes extensive history records for the Divine Nine organization, including an archive of its magazine publication, *The Oracle*, between the years (1925-2022), along with event programs and information on some of its leaders.

A small amount of the papers include non-Quanders, who made an impact on the family despite being of no direct relation. Many of these individuals can be found in correspondence and funeral programs. This collection is generally arranged by subject and chronologically, with exceptions for miscellaneous files and undated material.

System of Arrangement: Arranged in six series: I. Quander History; arranged in seven subseries: i. General History, ii. Genealogy, iii. Prominent Quanders, iv. Memorials and Eulogies v. Quanders in Print and Media, vi. Speeches and Remarks, and vii. Quanders by Location; II. Family Reunions; III. International Quanders; IV. Mount Vernon V: Churches VI. Omega Psi Phi arranged in four subseries: i. History, ii. Publications, iii. Programs and Events, iv. Notable Alumni.

Custodial History: Material collected and initially organized by Rohulamin Quander. A list of related Quander records housed at Moorland-Spingarn at Howard University can be found in the last folder in the collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Rohulamin Quander, 8/8/2023, donation.

Extent: 9.65 cubic ft. (21 containers) and 1 OS folder

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: CL 001, Unit 19, Bay 4; OS, CL 001, Unit OS 4, Bay 1, Box 6

Technical Access: N/A

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

Languages and Scripts of the Material: English, Swedish (translated)

Finding Aids: A folder-level container list is available.

Appraisal, Destruction, and Scheduling Information: Duplicates of materials beyond three copies returned to donor.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Copies:

Publication Note:

Notes:

General Note:

Specialized Notes: Box 7, Folders 1 & 2 include material used in the "Precious Memories" exhibit at the Anacostia Community Museum in 2002. These objects include primary source material, original correspondence from the early 20th century, correspondence between Ro Quander and relatives in Ghana, original vital statistics, newspapers, and family reunion ephemera. Their inclusion together reflects the donor's original order.

Conservation:

Citation: [Item Identifier], Quander family papers (MS 0986), DC History Center.

Processing Information: This collection was processed in 2025 with the support of the Delmas Foundation, Research Libraries Grant.

Related Archival Materials:

MS 0766 – Loretta Carter Hanes collection

MS 0872 – Quander Family oral history interviews

CS71 .Q15 2021 – The Quanders, Rohulamin Quander, 2021.

E185.97 .Q39 Q39 2008 – Nellie Quander: an Alpha Kappa Alpha peral, 2008.

RC660 .Q54 2006 – The Quander quality: the life of James W. Quander, Rohulamin Quander and James W. Quander, 2006.

P 0162 – The Quanders United tricentennial celebration, 1684–1984.

Separately Cataloged Materials Physically Maintained with the

Collection: This refers to items that are part of and are *physically maintained with the collection* but are also assigned individual object IDs. Some but not all of these items may be individually cataloged as well.

ID: CHS 16646 – Photo Album, Quander Family Reunion 1984 and Tricentennial Celebration, MS 0986, Box 10.

Separately Located Cataloged Materials: This refers to items that were received as part of the collection and are *stored separately* from the manuscript collection.

ID: Quander Family Tree, series I, subseries B, CL 001/U OS 4/B 1/Box 6

Container List

Quander Family Papers

Folders numbers correspond with individual boxes to allow space for accruals.

Series I: Quander History

Subseries i: General History

Box 1

Folder 1: Quander Facts (1994-2009)

Folder 2: Ro Quander Research Files: Early Quander History (1619-1862)

Folder 3: Ro Quander Research Files (1914-1987)

Folder 4: Ro Quander Research Files (1990-2021)

Folder 5: Ro Quander Research Correspondence (1999-2010)

Folder 6: General Primary Sources (1886-1994)

Series I: Quander History

Subseries ii: Genealogy

Box 2

Folder 1: Quander Manumission Records (1861-1871)

Folder 2: Quander Registration as Free Men (1858-1903)

Folder 3: Foundational Quander Records (includes birth and death records, vital statistics, manumission records)

Folder 4: Quander Family Tree Research: Early Records (1860-1865)

Folder 5: Quander Family Tree Book

Folder 6: Quander Family Tree Book

Folder 7: Quander Family Tree Drafts

Folder 8: Quander Family Tree Research (1830-2007)

Folder 9: Quander Family Tree Research (1975-1986)

Folder 10: Quander Family Tree Research (2012)

Folder 11: Quander Family Tree Research: Cemeteries

Folder 12: Quander Family Tree Smithsonian Research**Series I: Quander History****Subseries iii: Prominent Quanders****Box 3:****Folder 1:** Prominent Quanders**Folder 2:** Quanders in the Military**Folder 3:** Evelyn Quander**Folder 4:** Sukey Bay**Folder 5:** Nellie Quander**Folder 6:** Professor Henry Robinson Research on Quanders**Folder 7:** Awards of Assorted Quanders**Folder 8:** Awards of Rohulamin Quander (1966-2020)**Folder 9:** Rohulamin Quander Personal Files**Series I: Quander History****Subseries iv: Memorials and Eulogies****Box 4:****Folder 1:** Funeral Programs (1965-1999)**Folder 2:** Funeral Programs (2000-2004)**Folder 3:** Funeral Programs (2005-2009)**Folder 4:** Funeral Programs (2011-2015)**Folder 5:** Funeral Programs (2016-2019)**Folder 6:** Funeral Programs (2020-2022)**Box 5:****Folder 1:** Eulogies and Birthdays (2000-2003)**Folder 2:** Eulogies and Birthdays (2004-2005)**Folder 3:** Eulogies and Birthdays (2007-2023)**Series I: Quander History**

Subseries v: Speeches and Remarks

Folder 4: Speeches and Remarks (1978-1987)

Folder 5: Speeches and Remarks (1988)

Folder 6: Speeches and Remarks (1993-1994)

Folder 7: Speeches and Remarks (1996-1997)

Folder 8: Speeches and Remarks (2000-2005)

Box 6:

Folder 1: Speeches and Remarks (2007-2008)

Folder 2: Rohulamin Quander Speeches and Lectures (2009-2023)

Folder 3: Quander Family Newsletters'

Series I: Quander History

Subseries vi: Quanders in Print

Folder 4: Quanders in Print (1970-1979)

Folder 5: Quanders in Print (1980-1989)

Folder 6: Quanders in Print (1990-1999)

Folder 7: Quanders in Print (2000-2023)

Box 7:

Folder 1: Artifacts from "Precious Memories" exhibit at Anacostia Community Museum

Item Level:

1. Copy of Quander Family Tree
2. Souvenirs from family reunion (fan and bag)
3. Photo of John Thomas Quander (1905)
4. Mirror weekly newspaper, Dec 10, 1983
5. Certificate of Marriage, Vincent Thomas Quander to Judonne Young Carpenter, 1963
6. Seven (7) letters from Accra, Ghana to Quander family
7. Photos of Quanders (copies)
8. Photo of Quander family home, (copy)

9. Three (3) letters from Richard Quander (1901)
10. Letter from John Thomas Quander
11. Photo, KamKamboon Africa
12. Letter from Louis M. Washington
13. Army discharge notice, Vincent Quander
14. Letter from Italy, Vincent Quander
15. Drawing by Carmen Torrevella Quander (framed)

Folder 2: Tote Bag, "Precious Memories" exhibit at Anacostia Community Museum

Folder 3: Material marked "African American Cultural Center"

Series I: Quander History

Subseries vii: Quanders by Location

Folder 4: History of DC (1498-1986)

Folder 5: Quander Place, Street, Alley

Folder 6: Quander Place, Street, Alley

Folder 7: Quanders on North Brentwood (Jeremiah Hawkins)

Box 8:

Folder 1: Prince George's County

Folder 2: Upper Marlboro, MD

Folder 3: Fairmount Heights, MD

Folder 4: Fairfax, VA

Folder 5: Northern VA

Series II: Family Reunions

Folder 6: Quander Reunion Minutes (1926-1976)

Folder 7: Quander Reunion Minutes (1980-2003)

Folder 8: Quander Guestbook (1974-1976)

Folder 9: Quander Family Reunion Additional Materials (1984-2010)

Box 9:**Folder 1:** Quander Family Reunion Reflections (1993-1999)**Folder 2:** Quander Family Reunion Reflections (2000-2004)**Folder 3:** Quander Family Reunion Reflections (2007-2018)**Folder 4:** Quander Family Reunion Programs (1976-1994)**Folder 5:** Quander Family Reunion Programs (1998-2004)**Folder 6:** Quander Family Reunion Programs (2007-2018)**Box 10:****Folder 1:** Tricentennial Reunion Correspondence, 1984**Folder 2:** Photo Album, Quanders United Inc Picnic, 1983**Folder 3:** Photo Album, Tricentennial, June 22-24, 1984**Folder 4:** Photo Album, Tricentennial, June 24, 1984**Series III: International****Folder 5:** Amkwandoh to Quander Correspondence (1983-1984)**Folder 6:** Emmanuel Dankwah Correspondence (1988-1991)**Folder 7:** Ghana Travel Research (1991)**Folder 8:** Amkwandoh Photographs ca 1980s**Folder 9:** Amkwandoh Quander Family Tree**Folder 10:** Correspondence, Ghana (1983-2008)**Box 11:****Note:** Correspondence in this box was grouped by the donor and remains in original order.**Folder: 1:** Correspondence, Ghana (1983-1984)**Folder: 2:** Correspondence, Ghana (1983-1984)**Folder: 3:** Correspondence, Ghana (1983-1985)**Folder: 4:** Correspondence, Ghana (1991)**Folder: 5:** Correspondence, Ghana (1984-1987)**Folder: 6:** Correspondence, Ghana (1984-1985)

Folder: 7: Correspondence, Ghana (1990–1998)

Folder: 8: Correspondence, Ghana (1981–2001)

Series IV: Mount Vernon

Box 12

Folder 1: West Ford and the History of Gum Springs

Folder 2: Virginia History

Folder 3: Fairfax Chronicles

Folder 4: Mount Vernon Genealogical Symposium

Folder 5: Rohulamin Quander Statements, Mount Vernon

Folder 6: Photograph, Rohulamin Quander at Mount Vernon

Folder 7: Enslaved Descendants List (includes Loretta Carter Hanes' notes)

Folder 8: Washington and Custis–Lee Enslaved Remembrance Society, Inc.

Folder 9: Slave Memorial Programs and Events, (1990–2000)

Box 13

Folder 1: Slave Memorial Programs and Events, (2001–2016)

Folder 2: Slavery in the Age of Washington Exhibition, 1994

Folder 3: Thirteenth Anniversary of the Slave Memorial and George Washington's Barn Dedication, 1996

Folder 4: Footsteps: Slavery at Mount Vernon, 2000

Folder 5: Ford Orientation Center, 2006

Folder 6: Enslaved Quarters Rededication Ceremony, 2010

Folder 7: Lives Bound Together Planning File 2014–2016

Folder 8: Slavery Exhibition Development Notes 2016

Folder 9: Articles, Podcasts, and other Written Publications (1783–2022)

Box 14

Folder 1: Mount Vernon Research File (folder reflects material ordered and numbered by Ro Quander)

Folder 2: Mount Vernon “Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today”

Folder 3: The Fred W. Smith National Library

Folder 4: Washington Book Prize Commemorative Manuscripts

Folder 5: Research Notes (including court house and census records)

Folder 6: Correspondence

Folder 7: Pamphlets and Brochures, Virginia Plantations

Series V: Churches

Box 15

Folder 1: Alfred Street Baptist Church

Folder 2: St. Augustine

Folder 3: St. Benedict the Moor

Folder 4: Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Folder 5: St. Cyprians

Folder 6: Darnall’s Chance

Folder 7: St. Dominics Parish

Folder 8: Holy Rosary

Folder 9: Holy Redeemer, Peter Mercer Quander

Folder 10: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church, Program

Box 16:

Folder 1: Immaculate Conception

Folder 2: St. John’s Anglican, Broad Creek

Folder 3: St. Joseph Catholic Church

Folder 4: Knights of St. John and St. Mary’s Beneficial

Folder 5: St. Mary’s Beneficial

Folder 6: St. Mary’s of Upper Marlboro

Folder 7: St. Peter’s Capitol Hill

Folder 8: Sacred Heart DC

Folder 9: Sacred Heart, White Marsh

Folder 10: Woodlawn United Methodist

Folder 11: Black Catholics

Folder 12: Catholic Resources

Folder 13: The Quander family and church communities

Series VI: Omega Psi Phi

Subseries i: History

Box 17:

Folder 1: A History of the Third District

Folder 2: Robert Gill, History Book

Folder 3: History of the Mother Pearl

Folder 4: Omega History Book, 2020

Folder 5: Alpha Omega Centennial 2022 History Book, Source Material

Folder 6: Alpha Omega Centennial 2022 History Book, Interviews

Folder 7: Alpha Omega History Book Draft

Folder 8: Alpha Omega History Book Planning documents (agenda, minutes, planning documents, subcommittee meetings)

Folder 9: Historical extracts

Box 18:

Folder 1: History of the Second District

Folder 2: Third District Chapter Histories

Folder 3: Extracts for Alpha Omega Third District History

Folder 4: Third District Representation

Folder 5: Fourth and Sixth District History

Folder 6: Omega International HQ Archival Research

Folder 7: Omega Memoir Documents

Series VI: Omega Psi Phi

Subseries ii: Publications

Folder 8: Omega News Bulletin

Folder 9: Inventory of Oracles Held

Folder 10: The Oracle (1925-1931)

Folder 11: The Oracle (1934-1946)

Box 19:**Folder 1:** The Oracle (1950–1969)**Folder 2:** The Oracle (1971–1979)**Folder 3:** The Oracle (1980–1987)**Folder 4:** The Oracle (1991–2005)**Folder 5:** The Oracle (2012–2018)**Folder 6:** The Oracle (2020–2022)**Folder 7:** Articles (2008–2011)**Series VI: Omega Psi Phi****Subseries iii: Programs and Events****Folder 8:** Programs (1975, 2011–2018)**Box 20:****Folder 1:** Alpha Chapter Charter Day, Dec 15, 2011**Folder 2:** Banneker Memorial Sundial**Folder 3:** 1924 Omega Photo Naming Project and 13th Annual Conclave**Folder 4:** 50th Anniversary Grand Conclave**Folder 5:** 75th Anniversary Grand Conclave**Folder 6:** 90th Anniversary Celebration, Nove 2, 2015**Folder 7:** International Artifacts and Memorabilia Committee 2016
Grand Conclave Report**Folder 8:** Pre-Centennial Correspondence**Folder 9:** Omega Pre-Centennial Documents**Folder 10:** Omega Pre-Centennial Documents**Series VI: Omega Psi Phi****Subseries iv: Notable Alumni****Folder 11:** Omega Psi Phi Awards**Folder 12:** Springarn Medal Winners**Box 21:**

Folder 1: Memorials and Funerals

Folder 2: Founder Ernest E. Just

Folder 3: Nu Phi Chapter Lampados Club, Virginia State College, 1947

Folder 4: Photograph, Brother Hiram Jones, White House, late 1952 – early 1953 (copy)

Folder 5: Omega Psi Phi Members

Folder 6: Photographs 1940-1950s, Alpha Chapter (Howard, Gamma Chapter (Hampton)

Folder 7: Mr. Frank Bolden

Folder 8: Herman Dreer, Historic Site Application

Folder 9: Dr. Joseph Pearson Quander Jr. MD Interview

Folder 10: Cross Section 2011, Leadership Profile

Folder 11: Ro Quander Omega Statement Drafts and Misc Notes

Folder 12: Remarks

Folder 13: Quander Archival Info – Other Repositories