

**REGISTER OF THE ROBERT STANTON PAPERS
1962-2006**

Robert George Stanton, 1940-

**Mss 295, 19 boxes (6.65 cubic feet),
80 video tapes and 1 DVD,
18 photographs, and 5 oversize folders**



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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of the personal papers of Robert Stanton which predominantly documents the period when he was the Regional Director of the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., and Director of the National Park Service, as well as his career after leaving the National Park Service in 2001.

Robert Stanton donated his papers to Clemson University in July 2005. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. The collection was processed and the register was completed by Laurie Varenhorst in 2008. The collection consists of the accession 05-74.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert "Bob" George Stanton was born on September 22, 1940 to Alvin Herbert and Bethel Lee Blackburn Stanton in Fort Worth, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical science (primarily chemistry and mathematics) from Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas in 1963. Stanton did graduate work at the School of Mass Communication and Public Relations at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts from 1963-1964 and Administrative Management at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 1968. He worked as a seasonal park ranger at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming during the summers of 1962 and 1963. From 1964 to 1966 Stanton was the Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs at his alma mater, Huston-Tillotson College. In June 1966 he became the Personnel Management Specialist in the Division of Personnel at the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. In April 1968, in the same division, Stanton took the position of Personnel Staff Specialist. From 1969 to 1970 Stanton worked as the Management Assistant of the National Capital Parks–Central, Washington, D.C. He served as the Superintendent of the National Capital Parks–East, Washington, D.C and Maryland, from 1970 to 1971. In 1971 Stanton became the Superintendent of the Virgin Islands National Park. He was promoted to Deputy Regional Director of the Southeast Region of the National Park Service in Atlanta, Georgia in 1974. In 1976 he transferred to the National Park Service's headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he served as the Assistant Director of Resources Management and, later in the same year, he became the Assistant Director of Park Operations. In 1978 Stanton took the position of Deputy Regional Director of the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., where he served until 1987 when he became the Assistant Director of Operations of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.

Stanton became the Regional Director of the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., in 1988 where he worked till his retirement on January 3, 1997. President Bill Clinton nominated Stanton on June 26, 1997 to serve as Director of the National Park Service. His nomination was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on July 23, 1997, and was confirmed by the full U.S. Senate on July 31, 1997. Robert Stanton was sworn in as the 15th Director of the National Park Service on August 4, 1997, and served in that position till January 20, 2001. Robert Stanton is the first African American in the history of the agency to hold that position.

After his long career with the National Park Service, Stanton worked as a private conservation consultant specializing in policy, planning and management. From 2001 to 2003 he served as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' World Commission on Protected Areas ambassador for the Fifth World Parks Congress held in September 2003 in Durban, South Africa. In the fall of 2002, Stanton was a Professor of the Practice of Conservation (Dorothy S. McCluskey Visiting Fellow for Conservation) at the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Since that time he continues as a research affiliate with the university. Since the fall of 2004, Robert Stanton works as a Visiting Adjunct Professor (Senior Fellow) in the Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, where he heads the Leadership and Diversity Initiative, a program which focuses on minority and underrepresented communities relating to resource conservation and recreation, as well as how park services can promote involvement in conservation and historic preservation. In 2005 and 2007 he was a Visiting Professor in the Department of History-Public Program at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Stanton has actively participated as a member in a variety of organizations during his lifetime. He represented the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior on the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Board of Trustees, Wolf Trap Performing Arts Board of Directors, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, and the National Park Foundation. Other past participation with organizations include Chairman of the Advisory Commission, Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; Roundtable Associates, Inc.; and serving on the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society and the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine. Stanton's current affiliations with organizations include being a Fellow of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; a Council Principal of The Council for Excellence in Government; Co-founder and Chairman Emeritus The African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation; and Life Member of the Employee and Alumni Association of the National Park Service. In addition, Stanton serves on the Board of Directors of the Student Conservation Association, Inc., the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Environmental Law Institute, the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, the Natural Resources Council of America, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Foundation, as well as the Board of Trustees of the Freedom Forum and the Advisory Councils of the Lady Byrd Johnson Wildflower Center and the Potomac Conservancy, and Honorary Trustee of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Stanton has received numerous awards for outstanding public service, conservation leadership, youth development, and diversity in employment and public programs. Some of the awards

include: The Meritorious Service Award, the U.S. Department of the Interior, 1982; The Distinguished Service Award, the U.S. Department of the Interior's highest award, 1987; The President's Rank of Distinguished Senior Executive Award, Office of the President of the United States, 1993; The Walter Cox Environmental Leadership Award, Clemson University, 1997; the Presidential Award, Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, Inc., 1997; and the Cornelius Amory Pugsley National Medal Award, American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, 2003. In addition, Stanton has received four honorary degrees: Doctor of Public Policy, Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, December 1998; Doctor of Environmental Stewardship, Unity College, Unity, Maine, May 2000; Doctor of Science, Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Texas, October 2000; and Doctor of Letters, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, August 2007.

Robert Stanton married Janet Milijoyce Moffatte, of Chester, South Carolina, on July 27, 1968 in Washington, D.C. They have two children: Braniff Lamont and Rhonda Lynn.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Robert Stanton Papers contains appointment books, articles, brochures, charts, clippings, correspondence, handbooks, job descriptions, memoranda, press releases, reports, resumes, speeches, statements, a strategic plan and testimonies. Also included in the collection are photographs, video tapes and a DVD. Oversize materials can be found here, too.

Materials in this collection cover the period 1962 to 2006. The bulk of the materials dates from 1994 to 2002, and documents Robert Stanton's long career with the National Park Service.

The Stanton Papers are divided into three series: National Park Service, Post-National Park Service, and Visual Materials. The first two series are arranged alphabetically by folder title, and chronologically within each folder. The Visual Materials Series is arranged chronologically because some of the video tapes have more than one subject on them. The DVD is placed at the end of the video tapes.

This collection emphasizes Stanton's tenure as the Regional Director of the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C. (1988-1997) and Director of the National Park Service (1997-2001). It also contains materials relating to his career as a private conservation consultant specializing in policy, planning and management and visiting professor at various universities after his second retirement in 2001. The papers reflect his interest and expertise in developing diversity in the national parks and the conservation organizations, involving youth in the conservation movement, and African-American history.

Information pertaining to parks, historic sites, memorials, and trails are filed in the collection, as are materials which document other areas of the National Park Service which were important to Stanton – diversity, cultural resources management, connecting people to the parks in the 21st Century, natural resources management, and youth development in the conservation movement. There are materials regarding issues and challenges facing the National Park Service and those that describe his responsibilities as the Regional Director of the National Capital Region, his first retirement from the National Park Service in 1997, and his nomination, confirmation, swearing-in

and resignation as Director of the National Park Service can be found here, too. The materials relating to Stanton's work as a private conservation consultant and a visiting professor at various universities include information concerning his efforts as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' World Commission on Protected Areas ambassador for the Fifth World Parks Congress held in September 2003 in Durban, South Africa, and those relating to his work as a visiting adjunct professor at the Yale University School of Environmental Forestry and Environmental Studies and Texas A&M University Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences. General biographical information about Robert Stanton can also be found in the collection.

The collection contains audio-visual materials documenting Robert Stanton and the National Park Service, including his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate and speeches or introductory remarks at events, visits to parks and historic sites, interviews. Other individuals on the video tapes include President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman, historian and author David McCullough, and National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy. Topics documented on the video tapes include the national parks, historic sites, issues facing the national parks system, diversity, minorities, and African American history.

A small group of photographs can be found in the collection. The majority of the photographs show Stanton meeting First Lady Barbara Bush, posing on the steps near the Lincoln Memorial, standing with a group of people that includes Colin Powell, and attending a reception for his second retirement. In addition, there are photographs relating to the Kings and Queens of Africa Cultural Heritage Program.

This collection is indexed under the following terms in the University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Subjects:

African Americans–History
Children and the environment
Conservation of natural resources
Diversity in the workplace–United States
Heritage resources management
Historic sites–Conservation and restoration
Historic sites–Conservation and restoration–United States
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
National parks and reserves–Government policy–United States
Minorities–Employment–United States
National parks and reserves–United States
National parks and reserves–United States–Management
National parks and reserves–United States–Planning
Natural resources–Management
Nature conservation–Economic aspects–Congresses
Protected areas–Management–Congresses

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Teenagers and the environment–United States
Texas A&M University. Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences
United States. National Park Service
United States. National Park Service–Officials and employees
World Parks Congress (5th: 2003 : Durban, South Africa)
Yale University. School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
Youth–employment–United States