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SOCIETY OF MISSISSIPPI ARCHIVISTS *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*

Image courtesy of McCain Library & Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi

“Freedom Summer Digital Collection at Wisconsin Historical Society”

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Introduction

The Wisconsin Historical Society is home to more than 350 manuscript collections relating to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The strength of these collections lies in the documentation of organizations and individuals working at a grassroots level. Personal papers from activists like Daisy Bates, Staughton Lynd, Ella Baker, Amzie Moore, Carl and Anne Braden, Howard Zinn and many others are available, as are organizational records from CORE, MFDP, COFO, the Highlander School, and local NAACP and SNCC chapters.

The Freedom Summer Digital Collection, and related projects, are an effort to share these collections with researchers, teachers, and students. This article will describe how the Wisconsin Historical Society created the Freedom Summer digital collection, the many challenges we faced, and the ways that the collection sparked new ideas for us.

Collecting 50 years ago

Civil rights collections were first brought into the Wisconsin Historical Society half a century ago, just a few years after Freedom Summer. We are often asked what these collections are doing in Madison, Wisconsin, hundreds of miles away from Mississippi. Here’s how it happened.

Bob Gabriner, a University of Wisconsin graduate student in History, brought the idea of actively collecting these materials to Les Fishel, the Director of WHS in Dec. 1964. Fishel endorsed a plan to use young people at the University who were active in the civil rights movement to travel to the South and collect records from groups and individuals involved in civil rights. The principal students involved were Alicia Kaplow, Bob Gabriner, Vicki Gabriner, Gwen Gillon, Mimi Feingold and Leah Johnson.

The Gabriners and Feingold traveled different routes through Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi in the summer of 1966, using their connections, talking to locals and collecting records wherever possible. Kaplow

worked in Madison with archivist Russell Gilmore, soliciting donations from the CORE offices, Freedom Summer volunteers and their parents, and individuals such as Lucille Montgomery, Elizabeth Sutherland, and Carl and Anne Braden. Leah Johnson and Gwen Gillon joined the collecting team in 1967 and, with Gillon's friend Hollis Watkins, scoured the Delta for records while the Gabriners worked in Georgia and Alabama. By July 1967 the group had brought in 232 accessions of movement manuscripts, including large and important files from the MFDP, COFO's legal counsel, the Fourth Congressional District CORE office, the Freedom Information Service, the Delta Ministry, and dozens of individual activists.

The 50th Anniversary

In 2012, Matt Blessing, Wisconsin state archivist, was inspired to share Freedom Summer-related manuscripts with the public. His idea was to get materials into an online digital collection by summer 2014 so other institutions could utilize them for the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer. Time was too short to apply for an NEH or IMLS grant so work began by using revenue from sales of genealogical documents. The project got underway in the summer of 2012 with two full-time staff members, volunteers, and several student workers.

Selection

Materials for the Freedom Summer Digital Collection were selected in three ways. Collections were identified by searching subject terms, names, and keywords through the Wisconsin Historical Society's catalog, ArCat. Once collections were identified, the EAD encoded finding aids and contents lists were searched for likely folders. Staff then inspected the physical boxes and folders. About 750 folders were examined, and 350 were selected for inclusion. Initial metadata was created at the time the paper records were first handled.

Since several part-time students were doing the majority of selecting and tagging for digitization, a form was created to keep the process standardized for each folder. This form contained fields like title, description, copyright issues, priority, featured documents, and number of pages. In this way, the selection and description processes were streamlined, saving time later on.

Copyright

The collection consists of published and unpublished works: newspaper clippings, magazine articles, organizational records, circulars, personal letters, diaries, notes, and essays. Because the digital archive was created for non-profit educational purposes, staff relied heavily on the copyright law's fair use provisions when deciding what to publish online.

Newspaper clippings, article offprints, and small sections of periodicals were generally considered to fall under the fair use provisions. The majority of monographs were pamphlets published by SNCC and COFO. Since these organizations are no longer in existence, these materials were considered copyright orphans.

Similarly, unpublished organizational records of these defunct organizations, including works created by their paid staff, were assumed to be orphaned.

The papers of private individuals make up about 15% of the online collection, and these copyright issues took the most effort to settle. Staff flagged these materials during selection, and inspected content as it was scanned to identify unpublished works of significant length or value. The archives catalog, lead files, and deeds of gift were then searched for any restrictions or other creator information. Staff then contacted individuals who might hold copyright, might have placed restrictions long ago, or might simply deserve to be notified out of courtesy. Only one out of 37 individuals refused permission to include their letters or diaries, and several felt excited to learn about the project and proud to have their unpublished materials included.

Scanners were instructed to keep an eye out for social security numbers or any other personally identifiable information, which was suppressed. Emergency contact cards, job applications, personal statements and the like were retained, as the information was 50 years or more out of date.

The mandatory copyright law notification is displayed on every page where copyright protected works are accessible. Contact information for any party who would like their materials taken down is also present on the collection landing page and the search page.

Scanning and Building

Capturing the selected records for the Freedom Summer Digital Collection took several months of student work at two flatbed scanners. Documents and photographs were scanned in color at 300dpi, and microfilm was scanned as well. The resulting TIFFs were uploaded to CONTENTdm where jpg2000 and machine-readable PDFs were generated. The first 20,000 pages were scanned in the first seven months of the project. After these materials were captured, the work was cut back considerably for the next year but staff are still discovering and uploading content at a slower rate.

When designing the architecture in CONTENTdm, Staff decided that the folder would be the basic unit rather than the collection, box, or page. They assumed that most individual pages would be OCRed and users would be able to search the full text. Folders were tagged with modified Dublin Core fields including creator, collection, location, subjects, etc. A professional indexed volunteered to write an abstract for the description field of each folder. The main exception to the folder-level tagging rule was photographs, which received metadata at the item level so they could be individually retrieved in searches. All of the thought behind the architecture of the collection was keeping users in mind, putting their information needs first. For this digital collection, the point was not to reproduce a physical collection online, but to turn the civil rights collections inside out, getting to the documents that users want to view online.

In April 2013, the Wisconsin Historical Society contacted schools, institutions, and authors around the nation to let potential users know that the Freedom Summer Digital Collection was available for use. Researchers and faculty all over the country have accessed the collection, including filmmakers for the PBS American Experience documentary "Freedom Summer" and the National Civil Rights Museum.

Unanticipated Problems and Mistakes

As the collection grew, staff realized some initial assumptions had been mistaken. For example, folders created by Freedom Summer workers usually lacked the intellectual integrity found in organizational records. The miscellaneous nature of the folder contents made it difficult for users to browse, so it was important to improve access within each folder. It also became clear that the OCR was less accurate than staff had initially assumed. The large amount of handwritten documents, carbon copies, and other

unreliable typed pages made the OCR very spotty. More time and labor was required to clean up OCR than had been anticipated.

User Interface

The user interface consists of two parts, the Freedom Summer homepage, designed by the web development team, and the customized CONTENTdm landing page. A few elements of the homepage were specifically designed to engage users with the events of 1964. Some ways that the web team tried to mediate the huge digital collection for users include a Historical Essay on Freedom Summer, and a "Key Documents" section, linking to some of the most important manuscripts. Teachers using the collection can find assistance in the Freedom Summer Sourcebook, which is over 350 pages of the most important Freedom Summer primary sources, downloadable for free. Other tools include an introductory set of powerpoint slides, a timeline of events, and list of Freedom Summer participants, all designed to help users get a background in the events of 1964 and prepare to use the digital collection.

The CONTENTdm landing page shows many options to search and browse the collection. When searching the collection, the user is given the option of searching the entire digital collection, or limiting to photographs. There is also a brief introduction to Freedom Summer, as well as a description of how the digital collection is organized. At the top of the screen, there is a simple search box, with the option of an advanced search.

Spinoffs

It was decided early on that the project should have its own social media presence, separate from the main WHS account. Facebook was a platform that staff was comfortable with, and already had a following through the main WHS page. Images, documents, and stories are selected for inclusion on daily posts, linking directly back to the digital collection. The Facebook page has around 450 likes and receives as many as 18,000 page views per post.

The digital collection enabled the Wisconsin Historical Society to create other products for the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer. Michael Edmonds edited an anthology of 44 original documents called *Risking Everything: A Freedom Summer Reader* published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. A traveling exhibit, also named "Risking Everything," was created to educate Wisconsin young people about the Freedom Summer project and its influence

on Civil Rights history. The exhibit consists of eight double-sided pop-up banners telling the story of Freedom Summer 1964, using scans of photographs and original documents found in the digital collection. A Minneapolis design company DigiGraphics LLC designed and fabricated the exhibit for less than \$10,000.

A second copy of the exhibit was produced to travel throughout the U.S., starting in April 2014, especially aimed at libraries and museums. It will travel to a dozen locations from Denver to Princeton during 2014.

A Web companion to the traveling exhibit was mounted at: <http://fsxbt.tumblr.com/>. It is intended to give users a digital representation of the traveling exhibit, with extra information and context for each image or document. Staff also wanted a place to share resources like related links, teacher's guides, photos, and a calendar of events. Tumblr's option of editing HTML and CSS made it easy to add these features into a simple navigation scheme, usable on computers and mobile devices.

The most anticipated event of the Freedom Summer Anniversary was a week long symposium in April 2014. The original "Freedom Summer Archivists" who collected the manuscripts 50 years ago were invited to come to Wisconsin for a week to share their experiences and recollections of their civil rights activism and the importance of their work as collecting archivists. Panel discussions, class talks, meetings, and book signings were arranged for the six civil rights veterans with audiences totaling over 500 participants. The events were enormously successful, capturing the interest of Madison and Milwaukee adults and students. It was an excellent example of the many ways that an archives can connect with and serve its community.

"Finding Freedom: the Civil Rights Collection in the Western College Memorial Archives"

Jacqueline Johnson
Western College Memorial Archives
Miami University

Abstract

Archives have always been an important part of academic libraries. Our role to preserve and promote materials within our collections is enhanced when we have unique collections.

First, we will discuss the history of Western College and the institutions long tradition of independence and commitment to social justice and civil rights.

Second, we will discuss the establishment of the Western College Memorial Archives and the importance of these unique collections to academic libraries.

Finally, we will discuss the history of Freedom Summer and the civil rights materials located within the Western College Memorial Archives. During the summer of 1964 Western College for Women opened its campus to civil rights activists for training of college students to register African Americans voters in southern states. This training, now known as the Freedom Summer Project, was organized by a coalition including the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Student for Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The Freedom Summer documents collection consists of journals, diaries, posters, photographs, newspaper clippings, recorded oral transcripts, and other ephemera related to this historic training.

Introduction

Western College in Oxford, Ohio was the site of the Freedom Summer's training site in 1964. President Herrick Young and the Western College Board of Trustees made the bold and controversial decision that allowed civil rights workers to train on the campus. The materials telling this amazing story are now housed within the Miami University Libraries; the Mississippi Freedom Summer Collection is part of a broader collection known as the Western College Memorial Archives. It reveals stories of college administrators, as well as the Freedom Summer teachers, students, volunteers, and the local community's involvement as well. This decision made the civil rights movement a part of the lives of this small town and catapulted it into the midst of a struggle for equality. This decision would bring even national attention to Western College. From June 14-27, 1964, Western's campus was the site of orientation and training for an estimated 700 young idealistic

volunteers mostly from northern states, as well as some adults, preparing to go to Mississippi to work for civil rights. All of those involved were people of courage. The students and workers who came to the training had to face fears which were certainly real as was witnessed within two weeks of the start of Freedom Summer when James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman disappeared and were rightly assumed dead. They were among the trainees in Oxford, Ohio.

These materials have a wide applicability to a broad range of the humanities and can be used to study the Mississippi Freedom Project. The information can impact the following disciplines: history, anthropology, jurisprudence, ethics, photography, print journalism, religion, media studies, psychology, women's studies, African-American studies, music, education, social justice and religious studies. Because of this close association near the inception of Freedom Summer, Western College Memorial Archive contains a number of revealing materials that provide a direct link to the past. The Mississippi Freedom Summer Collection contains: 150 photographs, 120 oral history interviews both in transcripts and recordings, 450 newspaper articles, 170 pieces of correspondence, 77 administrative documents, 10 newsletters, 7 pamphlets, 18 flyers, and 2 journals. These materials are particularly significant because they narrate Ohio's involvement in the civil rights movement making this collection unique to the state of Ohio and therefore of national importance as well. Some examples of primary documents are show below.

Journals

There are a number of student journals where the young participants share their fears and emotions about the training at Western College, the interaction between the two different races represented in the interactions and the work in Mississippi. These honest and reflective narratives allow researchers to learn about the challenges, injustices, social justice issues, customs and mores of the times. One journal by Ellen Barnes, a college student at Miami University is a powerful narrative chronicling the events that occurred at Western College during the training sessions in 1964. Her firsthand account offers a realistic glimpse of the nonviolent techniques that were being taught on the Western campus.

Image courtesy of Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University.

A portion of Ellen Barne's Journal

Newspaper Articles and Newsletters

Newspaper articles are also an important part of the collection. They show the various moods in the country and represented the view, opinions and event of Freedom Summer across the United States. A newspaper article that appeared in the Oxford Press on June 4, 1964 informs local residents about the scheduled training at Western. It provides detailed information about the intention of The National Council of Churches and the pending activities. The community of Oxford was also engaged in the Freedom Summer activities as this newspaper article indicates. Oxford also had a "Friends of the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project", a grassroots group of diverse residents of Oxford, Ohio who raised funds to support volunteers while in Mississippi. The Oxford citizens were by no means left out of this significant portion of our national history.

OXFORD PRESS

6/4/64

Western C. To Host Civil Rights School

The National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race will conduct a two-week instructional program at Western College for Women, June 12-27, President Herrick B. Young announced today.

College students from Yale, Harvard, Oberlin, the University of Illinois, and the University of North Carolina, among other institutions, will be prepared for a civil rights program to be conducted this summer throughout the South.

In making this announcement, President Young stated, "We have made our facilities available for this training program upon the request of the Council. As an institution with a Christian emphasis and an integrated student body, the Western campus is an appropriate setting for such a program."

The students participating in the program will be trained in two groups of three hundred each. The duration of each session will be one week. A staff of approximately fifty lawyers, social workers and educators will conduct the program.

The program will emphasize skills-training, in such matters as voter education, voter registration, remedial reading, how to teach, citizenship education, and the development of community centers.

The students will also be trained to work in Negro community centers in recreation, crafts and other areas to interest persons in their community and in voting.

Many of the students will be going to Mississippi to work with the Council of Federated Organizations there.

One-third of those recruited and trained will work in community centers and another third will teach such subjects as reading in summer schools. The rest will work in voter education and registration.

The students also will be trained in nonviolent discipline, because in many cases they may be called on to work under adverse circumstances, a spokesman of the National Council of Churches said.

The week-long course will also screen out those who should not be sent into situations that could become tense, the spokesman said.

on voter right and other problems and the ministers will act as counselors.

Image courtesy of Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University.

Portion of article from Oxford's Newspapers

FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI SUBSISTENCE PROJECT

No. 4
Oxford, Ohio
November 18, 1964

DESPERATE

ELECTION IS IMPORTANT BUSINESS AT MEETING MONDAY NIGHT

Election of new officers will be among the main items of business at the next general meeting of FMSP November 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

The nominating committee will present its slate of new officers for consideration by the group. The slate includes:

Leonard Confar	Chairman
Anne Fulton	Vice Chairman
Clerk Crennell	Treasurer
Wendy Kiskon	Secretary

Miami University and Western College students and other members of the community are invited to attend.

BLACK LIKE ME AUTHOR SAYS: SUPPORT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN MISSISSIPPI

Says Oxford Has Favorable
Civil Rights Image
Oversens

The main hope for civil rights success in Mississippi is through outside intervention by private individuals, organizations like FMSP, and the federal government. That is what John

FOURTEEN MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM WORKERS DEPEND ON FMSP FOR WINTER SUPPORT

Treasury Running Out of Funds,
Immediate Contributions
and Pledges Needed

Fourteen volunteers working in ten Mississippi communities will depend on FMSP members for moral and financial support during the next 30 months.

However, FMSP funds are desperately low and immediate contributions are needed to meet the commitment to the volunteers, Mel Bloom, treasurer, reports.

The names of volunteers, which appear on page 5, were sent to the FMSP executive committee after the last general meeting by agencies coordinating winter projects in Mississippi.

At the last general meeting the group changed its name from the Friends of the Mississippi Summer Project to Friends of the Mississippi Subsistence Project.

"The change of 'summer' to 'subsistence' means that we wish to continue our moral and financial support of Mississippi freedom workers throughout the winter months," William Peabody, chairman, said.

(Please turn to Page 2, see Freedom.)

GENERAL MEETING! YOU'RE INVITED!
**FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI SUBSISTENCE
PROJECT**
 Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m., at Holy Trinity
 Episcopal Church

Image courtesy of Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University.

Friends of the Mississippi Summer Project Newsletter

Administrative Documents

Among the administrative documents is an editorial written by Phyllis Hoyt, Dean of Students at Western College in 1964. She discussed the training and gave glimpses into the administrative decisions that led to Western College hosting the training. These are important documents that allow researchers to peer into the decisions of the administrators at Western College.

THOUGHTS ON CIVIL RIGHTS ORIENTATION OXFORD, OHIO

In a New York Times magazine article in November 1963, there was an article reporting on the mood of students. Questions were asked of eight editors of college newspapers across the country from the East to the West coasts. One of the questions was "Do undergraduates care about issues in the outside world?" Five of the eight editors seemed to believe that the present generation of college students was interested in the immediate future, their own personal lives, a place of security, a personal niche, detachment and personal achievement, and a philosophy of individualism. Three of the editors are quoted as saying that there was an increasing concern for the world outside the university, that students were as interested in Vietnam as they were in the football team, and that the university was a place to question and to probe.

The Western College campus has been the scene of an orientation for approximately 700 students and some adults from college campus across the United States and Canada who are interested in working for Civil Rights in the state of Mississippi. The orientation period was organized by the Commission on Race and Religion of the National Council of Churches at the request of COFO. COFO is the title given to the Council of Federated Organizations in the state of Mississippi which is working for Civil Rights for the Negroes in that state. In addition to representatives from the National Council of Churches and COFO, there have been leaders from the National Training Laboratory on Human Relations to work with the students.

In the winter issue of the Alumnae Bulletin, I wrote of the interest which Western College students seem to be showing to an increased degree in matters concerning the world. One of the factors which led me to the conclusion that Western College students were not isolated on this beautiful campus and removed from the major trends of present day society was the fact that there was discussion and thought and questioning about the matter of Civil Rights. Many evenings I sat at table in the Alexander Dining Hall with students who were talking about volunteering their services to work in the Freedom Schools in Mississippi this summer to teach remedial reading to the young people who came out of the cotton fields. As I listened to them talk about the need to do something at home as was being done overseas by the Peace Corps, I sensed a real identification with the rights of individuals. I also listened to students talk about the need to do something in the United States to better the image which the world has of us and the way in which we deal with our domestic problems. I was alarmed as I imagined thousands of students from many campuses of the United States migrating to the state of Mississippi during the summer months. I thought of them being there without supervision, without instruction, without a frame of reference, without support, and I was frightened by the implication of what seemed to be their own spontaneity and good will and good intentions without direction. Therefore, it was with an enormous sense of relief that I heard the request from the Commission on Race and Religion of the National Council of Churches that the Western College campus be rented this summer for two weeks to this group for an orientation period for students who were going to Mississippi. It seemed to me that at last adult leadership had caught up with the students and that an attempt would be made to provide them with the proper kind of orientation for their belief in the rights

Image courtesy of Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University.

A Portion of Dean Hoyt's Editorial

Photographs

Mark Levy a student at Queens College, attended the training at Western and then traveled to Mississippi where he served as a teacher in the Freedom Schools. He donated The Mark Levy Collection to the Western Archives. These photographs were primarily taken while he was in Mississippi. They capture images of segregated Mississippi and offer a realistic offer images of segregation.

Image courtesy of Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University.

Photograph of Mark Levy at Freedom School in Mississippi

Oral History Interviews

There are oral history interviews by local activists which include:

- Rick Momeyer a former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee staffer who trained students and volunteered in Mississippi who would later become a professor of Philosophy at Miami University;
- Donald Nelson, Director of International Studies at Miami University;
- Jane Strippel a local school teacher

The last two on this list also visited Western during the training sessions and were also members of the Friends of the Mississippi Summer Project.

Ephemera

The ephemera answer specific questions related to the training sessions such as:

- Who were the volunteers and staff members of the Mississippi Summer Project?
- What motivated the volunteers and staff members to get involved?
- How did the volunteers train to go down to Mississippi?
- What precautions did they take prior to traveling to Mississippi?
- How did the interracial group of students interact with one another?
- How many volunteers and facilitators were on the campus of Western College?

Although these materials document the events of the civil rights training we must look at them in a broader sense in that they inspire us and allow users to reflect upon and explore issues essential to democratic values and heritage. These types of collections challenge us to think about moral education and what it means to be a citizen of the United States.

The Mississippi Freedom Summer Digital Collection is accessible online at:
<http://digital.lib.miamioh.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/fstxt/>

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Friends of the Mississippi Summer Project Newsletter, November 18, 1964, no.4

"A Chronicle of Freedom: Freedom Summer Collections at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History"

Dorian Randall

Researcher

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Abstract

The Mississippi Summer Project of 1964, better known as Freedom Summer, propelled the state and nation closer to racial equality. Organizers are currently preparing for the fiftieth anniversary commemorations, hosted by cities around the state this summer. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) holds collections chronicling that summer's events. Although there are many from which to choose, this article will discuss several that are representative of the photography, manuscripts, and personal experiences of summer volunteers and the established activist leadership.

Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission Records, Series 2515, 135,000 images

http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/sovcom/colldesc.php

Image courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Group of volunteers viewing items on ground at COFO volunteer orientation

The Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission Records comprises the digitized records of the defunct organization, which functioned as the state's official counter civil rights agency from 1956-1973. The Commission acted as a clearinghouse for information about segregation and local civil rights activities and national legislation. The collection includes investigative reports on specific individuals and organizations, and overviews of communities and various counties around the state. In addition to the paper-based records, the original collection included two audio recordings and over nine hundred photographs, some of which pertain to the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project.

Sovereignty Commission records are online as part of MDAH's digital archives.

Mississippi Freedom Summer Project Collection, Z/1946.00/S. 0.28 cubic feet

The Freedom Summer project was a massive civil rights effort centralized in embattled Mississippi. The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), made up of the top civil rights organizations of the time, organized the event to secure the black vote. The project was inspired by the 1963 "Freedom Vote" campaign in which white Stanford and Yale college students assisted local activists in registering approximately 83,000 black voters for a mock gubernatorial election. The campaign garnered major press coverage. COFO leadership desired to branch out into other counties to uplift the black community and ensure fair voter registration procedures. By summer's end, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), an interracial alternative to the state's Democratic Party, challenged the seating of the all-white delegation at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The major item in the collection is the project prospectus, which outlines COFO's purpose and goals. Also included are copies of the *Mississippi Free Press* and other civil rights publications, as well as posters, news clippings, and correspondence between activist Reverend Ed King and P.S. Bowles, a former president of Alcorn State University.

Council of Federate Organization Records, Z/1867.000/S, 0.66 cubic feet

COFO was originally formed in the spring of 1961 to secure the release of incarcerated Freedom Riders. Civil rights leaders Aaron Henry, Medgar Evers, and Bob Moses were instrumental in reactivating the organization in January 1962 after brief inactivity. COFO became a confederation including the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and local groups such as the Holmes County Voters League and the Ruleville

Citizenship Organization. COFO organized the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964 to assist blacks in voter-registration and education.

This collection contains typed and handwritten affidavits and depositions for voter registration and other activities. The affidavits and depositions, in particular, document harassment, brutality, bombing, terror, and murder workers witnessed or withstood. Many of the affidavits and depositions were later edited and published in the *Mississippi Black Paper* in 1965.

Thomas Foner Freedom Summer Papers, Z/2312.000/S, 0.34 cubic feet <http://mdah.stat.ms.us/arrec/digital/archives/series/fooner>

~~snatched~~ snatched into
one of the SNCC workers
when he was driving and
~~blamed~~ arrested him.
The police also head-
supped a Negro gentleman
who had attempted to register
a few days ago and shot him
dead!!! Three SNCC staff
workers two white and one
Negro (the ~~last~~ one) had
become good friends with
all three in Ohio, one was
my room-mate) have
disappeared for the last
three days and the police
don't have them so the K.K.K.
must have killed them!
If they didn't kill them
did, you must have heard
about this by the time
of searching this time
letter gets to you!

Image courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

**Foner's letter mentions the
three missing COFO workers
(Chaney, Goodman, and
Schwerner)**

Image courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

**Four young men standing
arm-in-arm, two girls
playing in the background in
Mississippi**

Thomas Foner was born on January 27, 1946, into a family of political activists. While a sophomore at New York University, Foner applied to volunteer during the summer project. He arrived for training at the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, on June 14. While there, he befriended James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. The three men were later murdered for their activism. Foner served as a COFO escort for the FBI during the investigation. He was assigned to voter registration canvassing in Canton and was arrested for distributing project leaflets. He was later reassigned to Neshoba County where he served as a project leader.

The collection consists of correspondence, a voter registration plan, photographs, news clippings, and Foner's personal letters detailing the conditions volunteers faced during that summer, including the fears and frustrations stemming from violence and intimidation.

The collection is also online as part of MDAH's digital archives.

Ed King Collection, PI/1984.0018

Reverend Ralph Edwin King was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi and worked with civil rights leaders such as Medgar Evers and Robert "Bob" Moses in the 1960s. A Methodist minister and chaplain at Tougaloo College, King, was also one of the founding members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

The Ed King collection contains forty-three black and white photographs that document aspects of Freedom Summer including the MFDP state convention, COFO and SCLC leadership, and Freedom School activities.

Christopher T. Hexter Mississippi Freedom Summer Project Papers, Z/2293.00/S, 0.33 cubic feet

Image courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Freedom School students outside

Christopher T. Hexter was born about 1944 and became active in civil rights as early as 1960. He was a member of the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in St. Louis, Missouri. At age nineteen, Hexter volunteered as a teacher in the Freedom Schools in Indianola and Ruleville, Mississippi. These schools were an alternative to educate black children and adults throughout the state. The curriculum included lessons on black history, foreign languages, state politics, and mathematics. Twenty-five schools were scheduled to open, but over forty were established by the end of the summer with 2,500 students enrolled.

This collection contains school materials, photographs, miscellaneous papers, and printed materials. Of note are written declarations of various civil rights organizations and photographs of the project's events.

John R. Warner Mississippi Freedom Summer Project Papers, Z/2297.000/S, 0.58 cubic feet

Image courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

A Freedom School in Gluckstadt

John R. Warner, Jr., was born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1936. While in seminary, Warner and Ed King were roommates. King introduced Warner to the Civil Rights Movement and encouraged his volunteerism. In 1964, Warner attended the National Council of Churches orientation in Jackson, Mississippi, to assist in the summer's efforts. For two weeks, Warner was a minister and driver for twenty-one people assigned to work on voter registration and at a Freedom School.

The Warner Papers are composed of several scrapbooks containing articles, news clippings, pamphlets, photocopies, photographs, and correspondence about his participation that summer. The collection contains several articles and papers, which span Warner's reactions to his time in Mississippi and his reflections on the twenty-fifth anniversary of Freedom Summer.

Tougaloo College Civil Rights Collection, approximately 600 cubic feet

In a collaborative partnership with Tougaloo College, an institution that played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement in Jackson, MDAH houses thirty-eight collections that comprise the Civil Rights Collection, documenting the black experience in Mississippi. One in particular is the Fannie Lou Hamer Collection, which contains documents and images detailing her life, activism, and role during the Freedom Summer Project and in the MFDP.

Tracy Sugarman Logbooks, Z/2296.000/S, 0.25 cubic feet

Tracy Sugarman was born in November 14, 1921, in Syracuse, New York. He graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and pursued a career as a graphic artist and illustrator. While on assignment for *Fortune* magazine in 1962, Sugarman witnessed the poverty and oppression of black Mississippians. He became a supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and later participated in the Freedom Summer Project.

The logbooks are diaries documenting the artist's experience as an informal reporter for CBS during Freedom Summer. In 1966, he wrote and illustrated *Stranger at the Gates: A Summer in Mississippi*.

Conclusion

These materials at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are invaluable to understanding the contributions of civil rights volunteers and leaders, specifically during the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964. These collections offer a glimpse into the struggles and triumphs, fear and courage, conflict and determination of that summer.

"Documenting the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi: An Overview of the Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi"

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Abstract

Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi houses a variety of civil rights materials documenting all aspects of the movement. In addition to detailing the activities of civil rights volunteers in the 1960s, in particular Freedom Summer, the collection also maintains collections of those attempting to prevent equal rights. For example, Southern Miss has the papers of Theodore G. Bilbo, a former Mississippi governor and US senator, who actively fought to prevent African Americans from achieving rights similar to the white citizens of the state. His collection, which starts in the early 20th century, provides a glimpse at the other side of the struggle. Bilbo's papers and other collections relating to segregationist groups like the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission and the White Citizens Council, provide the context in which the civil rights movement existed. By coupling the collections of over 100 civil rights activists with materials pertaining to those wanting to deny equal rights, the civil rights collections at the University of Southern Mississippi provide a comprehensive look at the civil rights era.

Introduction

In Mississippi, the civil rights movement represents a defining feature of the state's history. With the anniversary of Freedom Summer this year, the importance of volunteers, both national and local, and their work highlights the sacrifices and accomplishments of these organizers and volunteers. [Special Collections](#) at the University of Southern Mississippi contains collections that highlight the work of civil rights workers during the movement in Mississippi especially during Freedom Summer. In addition, the library holds collections from those who fought integration and were the very people the volunteers battled. This article will highlight the manuscripts and books relating to the civil rights movement as well as people and groups who opposed equal rights for African Americans.

Freedom Summer Manuscript Collections

The University of Southern Mississippi has over 120 manuscript collections from volunteers and local activists participating during the Freedom Summer initiative of 1964 and other civil rights activities. [These collections](#) contain correspondence, brochures from civil rights organizations, photographs,

clippings, curriculums for the Freedom Schools, ephemera, realia, and a slew of other materials pertaining to the movement. The civil rights collections are the most frequently used materials in Special Collections with researchers, documentarians, students, and others requesting access to the papers regularly.

Photographs are some of the most popular items requested from the collections. The [Herbert Randall Freedom Summer Photographs](#) are extremely popular with the local community as well as those wanting to see what the civil rights movement looked like in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His photographs document events ranging from the activities of the organizers, local volunteers and supporters of the movement, and the work of volunteers who established Freedom Schools and helped teach voting rights.

Segregationist Collections

When researching the civil rights movement, some researchers often overlook materials emphasizing the segregationist perspective that created the need for the movement. By acknowledging the context of race relations in the state, the work of the activists and volunteers becomes more significant. Special Collections provides access to a number of collections that represent the segregationist perspective of the era.

The collections containing anti-integration materials range from items representing the activities and beliefs of the local, state, and national governments. The [Hattiesburg Municipal Records](#) provide an insight into local civil rights complaints and how the mayor responded. Requests for equal rights by the African American community include action to prevent toxic chemical dumping in the waterway passing through the black neighborhood as well as moving to employ African American bus drivers, policemen, and department store workers in the city. Demands submitted by the local NAACP chapter with handwritten notes by the mayor provide an insight into how the local government hoped to respond to the requests. Even more telling is a copy of the original response to the NAACP which were altered in tone over the initial responses noted in the handwritten document.

On the state level, the papers of politicians illustrated the emphasis to prevent integration in Mississippi. The [Paul B. Johnson Family Papers](#) includes the materials of Paul B. Johnson Sr., Paul B. Johnson Jr, and other members of the family. Johnson Jr. was the governor in Mississippi in the 1960s during the most visible years of the civil rights movement. As governor, he was copied on correspondence from the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, the state agency designed to keep track of civil rights activities and prevent integration in the state. The collection includes materials documenting the actions of civil rights volunteers including some documents by "Operator 79," an undercover agent reporting to the Commission about civil rights organizing.

Besides the documentation relating to the civil rights movement, there are other items that illustrate the extent of segregation in Mississippi. In 1964, Edgar and Randy Williamson were eight and nine years old and had never attended school because there was debate about their racial background.

Image courtesy of McCain Library & Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi

Edgar and Randy Williamson; 1964

In an era when one drop of African American blood defined a person as black, the Williamson brothers were fighting the claims that they were 1/16 or 1/32 African American even with a Mississippi law stating that 1/8 African American ancestry or less defined a person as white (a startling law to begin with). The letters in the collection discuss their struggle to become enrolled in school which eventually occurred.

Highlighting national sentiments, Special Collections owns the papers of some national politicians that include materials discussing race relations in the country. The [Theodore G. Bilbo Papers](#) include records pertaining to his career from 1910-1947. Bilbo, a staunch segregationist, not only worked to prevent integration by, among many things, proposing a repatriation act, but he also drew others with similar values to him. His correspondence and collections contain his work with black nationalists, politicians, Mississippians, and citizens worldwide who sympathized with this beliefs.

The library also includes collections pertaining to the history of community organizations opposing integration. Relevant documents are found in the Bilbo Papers covering national groups, but there are also collections

representing local groups such as the White Citizens' Council. The [Citizen's Council/Civil Rights Collection](#) contains materials collected by historian and Bancroft Prize winner Neil McMillen for the research conducted for his book *The Citizens' Council: Organized Resistance to the Second Reconstruction, 1954-1964*. The collection includes correspondence from Citizens' Council members, Ku Klux Klan publications, and other items from segregationist and conservative groups.

The [L. E. Faulkner Papers](#) illustrate the fine line between segregationists and anti-communists in the south. His papers illustrate how the president of the Mississippi Central Railroad became heavily involved in the anti-communist movement in the 1940s and 1950s, and how aspects of his work was directly related to the segregationist movement. The [William D. McCain Pamphlet Collection](#) supplements the Faulkner Papers by providing a large collection of ephemeral publications produced by the Citizens' Council and groups with similar agendas around the United States.

Images courtesy of McCain Library & Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi
Letter, John E. Rankin to L.E. Faulkner; 30 August 1950

Books

At Southern Miss, Special Collections acquires books representing the history of Mississippi and the people in the state. As part of the collection, the curator seeks to collect books relating to the civil rights movement including fiction and nonfiction titles. In addition to collecting recently published books, the curator also collects monographs from the civil rights era. These books may be somewhat rare or expensive to obtain, but the library does have some items created by civil rights organizations in the 1960s.

One particular book created during the movement was *Today*, a picture book representing the success of an early Head Start Program in Holly Springs and Durant, Mississippi. The book, written by children in the program, was published in dialect. When creating this book, there was discussion about whether to retain the language used by the children or to change the text to adhere to grammatical rules.

Image courtesy of McCain Library & Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi

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In addition, the Mississippiana book collection contains publications created by segregationist groups like the White Citizens Council. These pamphlets or small books with titles such as *What Taxpayer's [sic] want for Schools in Mississippi: a Program for Education, Forced Integration is Communism in Action*, and *The Invasion of Mississippi* were tools used by the Council to promote their anti-integration beliefs. These publications were distributed around the state, but more importantly, they were circulated to Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and businesses across the country in an effort to promote their beliefs on the separation of races.

Images courtesy of McCain Library & Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi

Assorted Titles from the Mississippiana Book Collection

Digital Collections

To provide additional access to collections, Special Collections digitizes select items from the collections make those images [available online](#). In 1999, the library started work on the Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive by digitizing and making accessible a selection of oral histories relating to activists as well as segregationists. Three years later, with the help of an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant, Special Collections was able to add images of additional civil rights holdings to the digital archive. Since that time, the library has continued to [add civil rights materials](#).

The civil rights era collections in Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi cover many aspects of history surrounding the equality movement. From the civil rights volunteers and activists to the politicians who fought them, the library works to provide resources that provide insight into the history of the movement and the beliefs of the time. Much of the information may be emotionally difficult to review, but knowing that the activists came out the other side makes the research worth it.

SPOTLIGHT ON...STEPHEN HALLER

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University Libraries welcomes Stephen Haller, curator of historical manuscripts and archives, who began work on August 1. Although still in the process of relocating to Hattiesburg, Steve already feels at home at McCain Library and Archives thanks to the “passionate and dedicated” staff within Special Collections.

Steve has more than 30 years of archival experience at nonprofit organizations and historical societies in three states. Before coming to Southern Miss, he was the senior director of collections and library at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis. While there, he increased online digital collections and managed a new award-winning digital exhibit program. Prior to that, Steve served as director of archives and records at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia, where he designed an archives and records program to support the Foundation’s educational, historic property, public relations and development goals.

Steve grew up in the Midwest and has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in history from Miami University of Ohio. His research interests include military history, the Revolutionary War period, the early republic and early 20th century America. He is the author of *William Washington: Cavalryman of the Revolution*, published by Heritage Books in 2001.

While a graduate student, Steve interned with the Ohio Historical Society. He enjoyed the experience so much that when an archivist position became available there the following spring, he was quick to apply for it. Among his many contributions to the profession, Steve has taught college and adult education classes and has held leadership roles in local and regional professional organizations. He is also a certified records manager (CRM).

Steve's next steps as curator involve becoming more familiar with the local community so that he can preserve its history, and with the university environment, which he describes as a "welcome challenge." Steve is eager to promote Special Collections to Southern Miss students and the community at large, and he has always enjoyed working with student interns and is looking forward to interacting with students again to support their research needs. Preserving and making historical materials accessible have always been priorities in his career. To meet these objectives in his current role, Steve intends to rely on his experience to facilitate the efficient processing of collections, new and old. He will also need to make important decisions about which university records to retain and how to make best use of limited space.

Steve is married and has two adult children, both of whom live in the South. He has been heavily active within community nonprofits, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and adult literacy programs, and would like to get involved with similar organizations in Hattiesburg. Furthermore, as a Vietnam veteran, Steve is interested in reaching out to student veterans.

Recent Manuscript Acquisitions from Around Mississippi

Natchez National Historical Park

- **Davis Kelly Collection**, Donation of family papers from descendants of the Davis family that owned Melrose for over 100 years. The papers will become part of the *Davis Kelly Collection*, an archival collection started by the park with donations from the family over the past several years. The collection spans over 165 years and contains a variety of materials including personal letters and post cards; business correspondence, invoices, and receipts; legal documents and maps; sheet music; and photographs and negatives. The most recent acquisition contained over 100 letters, postcards, and telegrams from George Malin Davis Kelly.

Delta State University Archives (as of June 2014)

- **Chinese Peddler Scales**; donated by Jean Lee
- **King's Daughters Hospital Manuscript Collection**; donated by the Kings Daughters & Sons Circle #2, President Brenda Kretschmar
- **Robbins-Kerr Photograph Collection**; donated by Jane Robbins-Kerr
- **Jew (Jue) Family History Collection**; donated by Betty Jew-Jue Dickard
- **Quon & Seu Family Collections**; donated by Frieda Seu Quon
- **Pi Kappa Delta Honor Society materials**; donated by Dr. Andrew Jones
- **Oral History of Hugh Ellis Walker**, 2014

University of Southern Mississippi, Historical Manuscripts & Archives (April 2013-2014)

- **Boney Family Collection**, AM13-22 additions: 21 items including family Masonic certificates, photograph and *Hattiesburg American* newspapers from the day President Kennedy was assassinated and the week following.
- **Camp Shelby History Collection**, AM14-01 additions: panoramic photograph of soldiers' labeled "278th QM Co. - Refrigeration (Fixed) - Camp Shelby, Miss. - Sept. 1943". All men are numbered in the photograph and a corresponding list of last names is written on back; handwritten letter by a prisoner of war held at Camp Shelby to someone in Switzerland, dated March 22, 1946.
- **Civil Rights in the South, AM13-12/M406 addition**: DVD of the Civil Rights Conference held on USM campus in October 2010.

- **Connor (Peggy Jean) Papers**, AM13-14; 6 items added including a proclamation by the Committee on Services and Resources for Women, a copy of the plaque given to Conner and the documents of media coverage of the events celebrating renaming USM research grant for her because of her legacy of activism.
- **Gandy (Edythe Evelyn) Collection** M367/AM13-09 addition: 4 cubic feet including photographs, newspaper clippings, programs, scrapbooks, VHS tapes, oral history interviews, mini DVDs, a pair of Ms. Gandy's shoes (white dress pumps).
- **Gonzalez (Candy Brown) Freedom Summer Photographs**, AM13-18: started new collection with 58 items, 45 photographs and 13 JPEGs, donated by Candy Gonzalez taken during the summer of 1964 in the South Mississippi and Hattiesburg area.
- **Gulf Park College for Women Collection**, AM13-20 addition: *Gulf Park by the sea* newsletters from Gulf Park College for Women for September 2012, February 2013, and May 2013.
- **Hattiesburg Historical Collection**, AM13-08 additions: photograph taken in 1924 in the office of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad in Hattiesburg; 2 items from the Hattiesburg High Pre-Christmas Tournament (basketball) held in December 1961; 2.5 cu. ft. of material about USM History, Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera, First Baptist Church, Newspapers, Twentieth Century Political Matters, and L'Amitie Literary Club of Laurel (Yearbook).
- **Hattiesburg Review Club Records**, M449/AM13-19 addition: items documenting the club's centennial celebration.
- **Lincoln Collection** M13/AM13-17 addition: 3 items.
- **McCain (Dr. William D.) Travel Journals**, AM13-15; started new collection with 23 travel journals written by Dr. William D. McCain.
- **McCleskey Architectural Drawings** AM13-07 addition: CD containing copies of blueprints of Main Street Baptist Church, now Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, in Hattiesburg, MS, (for the purpose of repairing Mt. Carmel Baptist Church after the February 2013 tornado).
- **Mystic Krewe of Zeus of Hattiesburg Records**, AM13-13 addition; memorabilia from the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 coronation festivities.
- **Ogletree (Powell G.) Papers**, AM05-32 additions: VHS tapes of USM's 75th Anniversary and the Independence Bowl, MSC memorabilia, USM 1979 commencement program, 2 *Talons*, and photograph of an unidentified Military Police unit, circa 1940.
- **Riley (Jas. D., Inc.) Collection**, AM14-06: small collection of business records of Jas. D. Riley, Inc., in Newhebron, Mississippi; of interest is a 1915 letter requesting payment of \$16.25 for transporting 2 prisoners from Hattiesburg to Newhebron to stand trial for robbing the Hebron Bank.
- **Scarborough (Dr. William K.) Papers**, AM14-10 addition, 13 cu. ft. of professional papers, including files from committees and councils he was a

member and/or president of during his time at USM, ranging from the 1960's – 1990's. Also contains files on USM policies.

- **Sojourner (Henry and Sue [Lorenzi]) Papers**, AM14-03, 04, 05, and 07 additions: more than 2 cu. ft. of documents and photographs covering the Southern Rural Research Project and the Southern Rural Research Project during the Civil Rights Movement in Holmes County, Mississippi.
- **Southern Tourism Collection** M448/AM14-13 additions: 8 brochures from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and items related to Hattiesburg.
- **University Archives additions to record groups** (less than 1 cu. ft. unless shown): Alumni Affairs, Athletics, Bureau of Institutional Research (12 cu. ft.), College of Arts and Letters, College of Business, Demonstration School, Gold Leaf Society: Graduate School (101 items), Greek Life, Registrar's Office, Oral History (170 vols.), Office of the President (2 cu. ft.), Provost's Office (2 cu. ft.), School of Mass Communication and Journalism, School of Music, *Southerner*, *Southern Quarterly* (112 items), Speech and Hearing, Student Government Association, Student Organizations: Theses and Dissertations (124 volumes), University Buildings and Features, University Committees, University Libraries (2 cu. ft.), University Union & Student Activities, USM Foundation, USM General History, and USM Memorabilia.

University of Southern Mississippi, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection (April 2013-2014)

- **Kathi Appelt** (additions to existing collection)
- **Susan Goldman Rubin** (additions to existing collection)
- **Angela Johnson** (new)
- **Lee Bennett Hopkins** (additions to existing collection)
- **Phil Bildner & Kevin Lewis** (new)
- **Charlotte Zolotow** (additions to existing collection)
- **Ted & Betsy Lewin** (additions to existing collection)
- **Jennifer & Matthew Holm** (new)
- **Ame Dyckman** (new)
- **Nancy Winslow Parker** (additions to existing collection)