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Volume 21

Number 1

The Primary Source

A Semiannual Publication of *The Society of Mississippi Archivists*

The Primary Source
A Semiannual Publication of
The Society of Mississippi Archivists

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State Sovereignty Commission Materials
In the Paul B. Johnson Family Papers
In the Archives of the University of Southern Mississippi

Overview and
State Sovereignty Commission Reports
January - June 1964 and Undated Reports

Bobs M. Tusa
USM University Archivist

As Lieutenant Governor and Governor of the state, Paul B. Johnson received copies of regular reports prepared by the director of the Sovereignty Commission. These reports comprise nine boxes of the Paul B. Johnson Family Papers and cover the period from 1964 to 1968. The reports were clearly identified but scattered throughout the Johnson Family Papers in no order. There is much overlap between materials in the Sovereignty Commission series and those in the Highway Patrol series, since the two organizations worked together to monitor Civil Rights activities in the state from 1960 to 1968.

The collection number is M 191. Reports are arranged by date; other materials by subject.

Editor's comments: This calendar for Box 135 of the Paul B. Johnson Papers (M191) is an item-level content listing. Box 135 is part of the Sovereignty Commission Series and this list represents a sample of Sovereignty Commission materials available at McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi.

STATE SOVEREIGNTY COMMISSION REPORTS
JANUARY - JUNE 1964 AND UNDATED REPORTS

BOX 135 Sovereignty Commission Reports, Undated - June 1964

Folder 1 Undated

Telegram from pastor of United Church of Christ, New York City to Governor Johnson concerning arrest in Canton of Church member engaged in assisting Negro citizens in voter registration.

Observations and Recommendations Made by Director, Sovereignty Commission to Business and Professional Leaders of Carthage, Mississippi.

Schedule of Violations Which Can Be Used With General Affidavit (noted Sent to sheriffs, Sent to circuit clerks — E.J.).

Unidentified newspaper clippings "Red Probers Hit in Tougaloo Talk," "Tougaloo Defends Visit of Nathan."

"Grin and Bear It" cartoon by Lichty.

Notice of the beginning of the "Black Belt Project" (Negro voter registration) in Canton, Valley View, Carthage, Hattiesburg, and Laurel.

Copy of (front) letter to Dear Fellow Attorney from National Lawyers Guild Committee for Legal Assistance in the South, (reverse) copy of U.S. House Document No. 393 *Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications*, p. 121 with section on National Lawyers Guild circled.

Blank State of Mississippi general affidavit form.

Address by Erle Johnston, Jr.

Copy of court document in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, Greenville Division, United States of America, plaintiff, against Cecil C. Campbell, Circuit court clerk and registrar of Sunflower County alleging discrimination in voter registration on the basis of race.

Copy of court document in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, Greenville Division, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer et al. vs. Cecil C. Campbell, Circuit court clerk and registrar of Sunflower County et al. seeking an injunction from holding general municipal elections in Sunflower County as scheduled

United Front handbill addressed to White Mississippians encouraging them to register to vote in the [1964] Presidential election.

Unidentified newspaper clipping "Citizens' Council Alerted About Bi-Racial Threat."

Officers of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations.

Memo from Erle Johnston, Jr. (Public Relations) to Albert Jones, Director and Members of the State Sovereignty Commission, subject Operation: The Message from Mississippi.

Special Report, on Civil Rights activities in Hattiesburg.

Newspaper clipping "Interfaith Fellowship Sets First Public Meet."

Mississippi State Hospital Out Patient Notes about a patient.

Folder 2 January 1960 - December 1962

Letter of April 26, 1960 with attachments from E.J. Grisham regarding employment.

Memo of May 30, 1960 to All Commission Members from SSC Director Albert Jones, announcing date of rescheduled meeting.

Letter of May 31, 1960 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from Albert Jones, thanking him for selecting him SSC Director.

Letter of June 7, 1960 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from Albert Jones, covering enclosed minutes of May 19 and May 24 meetings and proposals from Erle Johnston, SSC Public Relations Director.

Minutes of SSC meeting, May 19, 1960.

Minutes of SSC meeting, May 24, 1960.

Memo from Erle Johnston, Jr. (Public Relations) to Albert Jones, Director and Members of the State Sovereignty Commission, subject Operation: The Message from Mississippi.

Organization and Administration State Sovereignty Commission.

SSC Report, June 20, 1960, title Investigation of NAACP Activities in Clay County, Mississippi.

Letter of September 7, 1960 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from SSC Director Albert Jones, covering address by Mississippi Southern College President Dr. W.D. McCain to the Pro-American Forum in Chicago on September 9, 1960.

Announcement dated September 8, 1960 of an informal supper to be held September 10, 1960 at Roosevelt State Park Lodge.

SSC Report, February 14, 1961, title NAACP Activity - Neshoba County.

Letter of October 2, 1961 on Congress of Racial Equality stationery to Dear Friend from James Forman, seeking funds to support CORE's voter registration activities.

Letter of April 25, 1962 on Tougaloo Southern Christian College stationery to Dear Friend from Planning Committee, inviting attendance at reorganization meeting of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations to be held at Tougaloo on May 3.

Proposed Statement of Purpose for the Mississippi Council on Human Relations.

Newspaper clipping "Resognition [sic], Consideration Urged to Retain State Racial Harmony," annotated Scott County Times, 5-30-62.

Newspaper clipping "Not Afraid of the Communists — But the CC's, Oh My!," annotated Hazel Brannon Smith, 5-31-62.

Newspaper clippings "Just Who is Erle Talking About?" in Tom Ethridge's column "Mississippi Notebook" in *The Clarion-Ledger*, June 4, 1962 and "Johnston Reports / 'Segregation' Speech Reaction Excellent" by Lewis Lord, United Press International.

Newspaper clippings "Letter from Erle Johnston, Jr." in Tom Ethridge's column "Mississippi Notebook" in *The Clarion-Ledger* (Johnston letter dated June 4, 1962) and "Fails to Answer Big Question," annotated 6/6/[].

Newspaper clipping "Says Erle Hit Citizens' Council" and others in Tom Ethridge's column "Mississippi Notebook" in *The Clarion-Ledger*, June 7, 1962.

A Report by Carl Braden on a Field Trip Through Mississippi, July 13-19, 1962.

Letter of September 6, 1962 on SSC stationery to Dear Commission Members from Mrs. Harry Scrivner regarding report by Tom Hayden "Revolution in Mississippi."

Newspaper clipping "An Open Break?," in *Birmingham News*, October 21, 1962.

Folder 3 January - June 1963

Page 3 of typescript apparently by the Governor referring to SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] and a letter dated January 15, 1963 calling on "all Mississippians to treat these outsiders with traditional southern courtesy until they violate our laws."

Comments on Yesterday's Constitution Today, A Textbook [sic] Taught at the University of Mississippi.

A Resolution Stating the Policy of the Mississippi Association of Methodist Ministers and Laymen on Racial Integration within the Church.

A Resolution Supporting Democratic Christian Freedom and Opposing its Antithesis of "One World, One Church, One Race."

A Resolution of Rededication to the Commandments of God, to the Teachings of Jesus Christ and to the Apostles' Creed.

A Resolution Urging Preservation of the Methodist Church and Recommending Specific Action by Each Local Church in Mississippi toward that End.

Newspaper clippings dated April 11, 1963 and an amendment concerning the above resolutions passed by the Mississippi Association of Methodist Ministers and Laymen on March 21.

SSC Report, April 25, 1963, title Investigations of Buford Posey, white, male, Philadelphia, Mississippi; suspected of NAACP activities.

SSC Reports, May 1, 1963, from four SSC investigators, subject Activity Report for Month of April, 1963.

Letter of May 10, 1963 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, Jr., reminding him of meeting on May 16.

Memo of May 24, 1963 to SSC members from SSC Director Erle Johnston, Jr, covering his letter "Forced Integration Will Fail" to the editor of the *New York Herald Tribune*, dated May 21.

Letter of June 14, 1963 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, Jr., reminding him of meeting on June 20.

Memo of June 27, 1963 to Governor Ross Barnett and SSC Members, subject Conferences in Washington, DC.

Expenditures as Compared to Proposed Budget through June 30, 1963, with Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 1963.

Folder 4 July - December 1963

Rough Memorandum Concerning Preparation for Work of the Committee to Defeat the Civil Rights Act of 1963, dated July 17, 1963.

Collection of Material Concerning Formation and Activities of the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms in Opposition to the Civil Rights Act of 1963, refers to meeting held July 11.

Letter of July 19, 1963 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, referring to enclosed copy of his report to SSC dated July 18.

Agenda for Sovereignty Commission Meeting July 18, 1963.

Minutes [of July 18 meeting of] Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, dated July 19, 1963.

Suggestions Made at Meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms Held July 26, 1963.

Memo of August 1, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, covering investigators' activity reports for July 1963.

Work Schedule for Washington Office - August 5 - August 16 inclusive.

Memo of August 9, 1963 to John C. Satterfield from John J. Synon, subject Activities for W/E August 9, 1963.

Memo of August 9, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, reminding them of meeting on August 15, with agenda attached.

Report to Sovereignty Commission on action of Board of Trustees for Institutions of higher Learning in response to Sovereignty Commission's resolution asking for an i

investigation of remarks made by student, James Meredith, referring to telephone call on August 15, 1963.

Memo of September 5, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, covering Investigators' activity reports for August 1963.

Memo of September 30, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, regarding activities of Washington office of the Co-Ordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms, with pamphlet enclosed.

Newspaper clipping "Eastland Involved in Scrap Over Judge's Confirmation," *Jackson Daily News*, September 30, 1963.

Memo of October 8, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, covering Investigators' activity reports for September 1963.

Memo of October 10, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, reminding them of meeting on October 17.

Letter of October 28, 1963 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from SSC Vice-Chairman Joe T. Patterson, reporting on SSC meeting of October 17.

Hattiesburg Police Department Identification Bureau report dated 10-29-63, concerning Civil Rights activities of Brenda Lambert Howard.

Letter of November 1, 1963 to Lieutenant Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, covering report dated October 29, 1963 on Aaron Henry for Governor Rally in Hattiesburg, with election handbill attached.

Memo of November 8, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, covering Investigators' activity reports for October 1963.

Letter of November 17, 1963 on Mississippi Education Association letterhead stationery to Governor-Elect Johnson from Mrs. Marianna Brannon regarding possible replacement of SSC Director Erle Johnston with Senator John McLaurin.

Material concerning Lane Bryant Annual Awards for Distinguished Volunteer Service in 1962, presented November 21, 1963, in New York City.

Expenditures as Compared to Proposed Budget through November, 1963.

Letter of December 2, 1963 to Tom Tubb, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning from SSC Director Erle Johnston regarding University of Mississippi professor James Silver.

Page from *The Presbyterian Outlook* of December 2, 1963, containing marked letter to editor regarding the death of Medgar Evers.

Report dated December 7, 1963 of the Steering Committee of the National Action Council.

Memo of December 9, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, referring to enclosure of the House Judiciary Committee Report on the Civil Rights Acts.

Letter of December 12, 1963 to Jack Tubb, State Superintendent of Education, and F. Gordon Lewis, Jasper County superintendent of Education, from SSC Director Erle Johnston regarding Louvenia Knight's desire to enroll her two sons in the all white Stringer school.

Memo of December 16, 1963 to SSC Members from Director Erle Johnston, announcing that the meeting scheduled for December 19 has been cancelled.

Letter of December 17, 1963 to Governor-Elect Johnson from Greenville attorney Howard Dyer, Jr. regarding the sentence of Frank Bell, Jr.

Letter of December 17, 1963 to Governor-Elect Johnson from Greenville attorney Howard Dyer, Jr. regarding employment of Albert Tackett.

Director's Report to Sovereignty Commission Members - December 1963.

Folder 5 January 1964

Memo of January 6, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Louvenia Knight.

Summary of Minutes of the COFO staff Executive Committee meeting, January 10, 1964.

[Student Nonviolent ?] Coordinating Committee press release dated January 18, 1964, Hattiesburg "Freedom Day" Set for January 22.

Letter of January 22, 1964 to Governor Johnson on Lane Bryant Annual Award stationery from Director Jerome E. Klein soliciting nominations for the award.

Letter of January 23, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Sovereignty Commission Appointments.

[Letter ?] of January 30, 1964 to President Lyndon B. Johnson and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy from David Dennis, Assistant Program Director, Council of Federated Organizations demanding investigation of police harassment against Civil Rights workers in Canton.

Telegram of January 31, 1964 to Chief of Police, Hattiesburg, from Deacon of Woodland Chapel, Decatur, Illinois regarding Mr. Hattoon.

Letter of January 31, 1964 from Claude E. Fike, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi, regarding summer institute on cold war education for teachers.

SSC Report, January 31, 1964, title Supplemental Report - Forrest County - Hattiesburg Voter Registration Demonstrations.

Folder 6 February 1964

Memo of February 3, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, referring to an enclosed report on demonstrations in Hattiesburg. [Report not present.]

Letter of February 4, 1964 to Frank D. Barber, Special Assistant to the Governor from SSC Director Erle Johnston, regarding USM Dean Claude E. Fike's letter [of January 31] about an anti-communism institute for teachers.

Telegram of February 5, 1964 to Chief of Police, Hattiesburg, regarding Decatur, Illinois minister.

Memo of February 6, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, regarding SSC funding.

Page 4 of *Life*, February 7, 1964, containing editorial "Words Make News in Mississippi."

Report of February 10, 1964, subject Student Non-violent Co-ordinating [sic] Committee's plans for Summer 1964.

Memo of February 11, 1964 to Herman Glazier, Governor's Administrative Assistant, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, regarding Lane Bryant Awards.

Article "Dr. Logan Returns from Hattiesburg" in *Good News* (First Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Illinois) dated February 13, 1964.

Memo of February 11, 1964 to Herman Glazier, Governor's Administrative Assistant, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, regarding SSC funding.

SSC Report, February 13, 1964, title Hattiesburg Demonstrations (continuation).

Memo of February 14, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Louvenia Knight (Williamson) and her two sons, with photograph of the boys.

Supplement dated 1/19/64 to report submitted 1/18/64 - Miami Window Co. (strike).

Report dated 1/19/64 regarding arrests in Canton.

Newspaper clipping received February 19, 1964, "Eyes on Mississippi / Sovereignty Unit Helps Lobby in Fight on Bill" by W.F. Minor, with annotations and attachments.

Letter of February 20, 1964 to Rev. Robert L. Waller [?] in Rand [?], Illinois from Rev. William J. Stanway of Hattiesburg.

Letter of February 21, 1964 to Mayor Stanley Matthews of Canton from SSC Director Erle Johnston, regarding boycott of stores in Canton.

SSC Report, February 21, 1964, title Sunflower County - Ruleville, Mississippi.

Copy of front page of *City Bulletin* (Natchez, Mississippi) of February 22, 1964.

Memo of February 24, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Report of the General Legislative Investigating Committee concerning the Occupation of the Campus of the University of Mississippi.

Memo of February 25, 1964 to Governor Johnson et al. from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College.

SSC Report, February 25, 1964, title Information regarding planned demonstration in Canton on Friday, February 28, 1964.

Report dated February 27, 1964, about Civil Rights activities in Gluckstadt and Camden.

Report dated February 27, 1964, about status of strike at Maimi [sic Window Co., Meridian, Mississippi.

National Council of the Churches of Christ program for general board meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on February 27, 1964.

Report [of February 27, 1964] about revocation of Robert Gene Davenport.

Folder 7 March 1964

Letter of March 1, 1964 from Leo J. Scanlan, Jr., M.D. regarding autopsy of Clifford Walker.

Letter of March 1, 1964 to Dean Allen, superintendent, Canton Separate School System, from The Students of Rogers High about their dissatisfaction with conditions at the school.

Memo of March 2, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Louvenia Knight Williamson and her two sons.

Memo of March 2, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject film "Oxford, U.S.A."

Memo of March 2, 1964 to Mississippi Southern University President William D. McCain from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject John Frazier.

Memo of March 2, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Canton Demonstrations, with 4 February reports and 2 Civil Rights handbills attached.

Memo of March 2, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject

Demonstrations in Canton and Hattiesburg.

SSC Report, March 3, 1964, title Investigation of the planned and anticipated demonstration in Canton by Negroes on Friday, February 28, 1964.

Report of March 3, 1964 by Charles E. Snodgrass, Investigator, Identification Division, entitled Racial Disorders.

Letter of March 4, 1964 to Governor Johnson from John C. Satterfield, proposing two national organizations.

Reports of March 4, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Canton and the Mississippi Student Union, with Freedom School application form attached.

Report of March 5, 1964 about radio broadcast in Fairfax, Virginia regarding Civil Rights plans of National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches.

SSC Report, March 9, 1964, title Continuation of investigation at Canton, Madison County, Mississippi.

Memo of March 9, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Canton Boycott.

Memo of March 9, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Laws re Communism, with copy of Louisiana law attached.

Memo of March 9, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Boycott in Liberty, Mississippi.

SSC Report, March 9, 1964, title Voter Registration - Canton, Madison County, Mississippi.

Letter of March 10, 1964 to Mayor Stanley Matthews of Canton from SSC Director Erle Johnston, referring to enclosed report. Report not present?

Letter of March 10, 1964 to Governors McKeithen, Wallace, Johnson, and Faubus on Paul Revere Associated Yeoman, Inc. stationery from H.S. Riecke, Jr., Founder, supporting the work of the state sovereignty commissions.

Memo of March 10, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College Report (No.1).

Letter of March 11, 1964 to SSC Director Erle Johnston from Frank D. Barber, Special Assistant to the Governor, requesting Johnson to answer attached letter from Carver High School in Birmingham, Alabama about Negroes employed in government positions.

Letter of March 12, 1964 to Albert Jones from Kenneth Stewart, Special Assistant to Governor Johnson, thanking him for his attached letter of February 27 regarding appointment as SSC Director.

Report of March 14, 1964 regarding Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Second report of March 14, 1964 regarding Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Third report of March 14, 1964 regarding Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Report of March 15, 1964 regarding Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

SSC Report of March 16, 1964, title Voter Registration Drive - Canton, Mississippi. Date of investigation March 9 through March 12, 1964.

SSC Report of March 16, 1964, title Voter Registration Drive - Canton, Mississippi. Date of investigation March 12 through March 16, 1964.

Received March 17, 1964, Salaries of SSC staff.

Letter of March 18, 1964 to Governor Johnson from *San Francisco Chronicle* Librarian,

covering copy of *Chronicle* story of December 7, 1963 "Militant Plan to Create Crisis in Mississippi."

Letter of March 18, 1964 to Dear Student from Hellen O'Neal, inviting student to state-wide conference at Tougaloo College to be held April 25.

SSC Report of March 19, 1964, title Canton, Mississippi.

Memo of March 19, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Harvard Crimson, covering editorial "Invasion" in the issue of March [13?].

Memo of March 19, 1964 to Governor's Administrative Assistant Frank Barber from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tally House Coffee Shop.

Memo of March 20, 1964 to Governor's Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Jackson Boycott, with attached report of March 19, 1964, subject Retaliatory measures against Negroes who purchase on Capitol Street in downtown Jackson.

Note to Governor Johnson on *The Jackson Advocate* stationery from Percy, covering issue of March 21.

Report of March 17, 19, 21 on Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

SSC Report of March 19, 1964, title Harrison County.

Memo of March 24, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Report on Canton, etc.

Memo of March 24, 1964 to Governor Johnson et al. from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College.

Letter of March 25, 1964 to Governor Johnson from John C. Satterfield, covering audit of the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms.

Letter of March 25, 1964 to Governor Johnson from John C. Satterfield, covering articles in *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines.

Memo of March 26, 1964 to Governor Johnson et al. from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College Report (No. 2).

Letter of March 26, 1964 from Governor Johnson to New York financial donor.

Memo of March 27, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Honorable Jack Rogers and Col. Fred Alexander, Baton Rouge, La.

Report referring to March 27, 1964 about the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF).

ASPECT - March Bulletin.

Folder 8 April 1964

Letter of April 1, 1964 to Governor Johnson from John C. Satterfield, regarding the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms.

Letter of April 1, 1964 to Governor Johnson from John J. Synon, Director, Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms, regarding the work of John C. Satterfield, with enclosures.

Report of April 2, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.
 SSC Report, April 3, 1964, title Leflore County.
 SSC Report, April 3, 1964, title Grenada County.
 Newspaper clipping "National Council of Churches Plans to 'Liberate Mississippi'" in *Amarillo Daily News* of April 4, 1964, attached to April Disbursements.
 Letter of April 5, 1964 to Dan Shell from John regarding Vice-President of Southern Association of Colleges Mayo.
 Report of April 7, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Canton.
 Report of April 9, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.
 Memo of April 7, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Clarke M. Eichelberger.
 Memo of April 7, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston about NAACP.
 Memo of April 7, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Canton Boycott.
 Memo of April 7, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, referring to attached report on Liberty. Report not present.
 Letter of April 9, 1964 to Dr. E.R. Jobe, Executive Secretary, Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning, from Robert Q. Marston, M.D., Director and Dean, University of Mississippi Medical Center, in response to his request for information about an alleged assault in the hospital on April 5.
 Memo of April 13, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College.
 Memo of April 13, 1964 to SSC Director Erle Johnston from Investigator Andy Hopkins about Civil Rights activities in Madison County.
 Letter of April 13, 1964 to Kenneth Stewart from Department of Public Safety Commissioner T.B. Birdsong, covering announcement of Gulf Coast Jamboree to be held April 4 by Armed Forces Equality Co.
 Memo of April 13, 1964 to Governor Johnson et al. from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Youth Court Act.
 Letter of April 13 to resident of Pullman, Washington from SSC Director Erle Johnston about activities of Lois Chaffee.
 Memo of April 16, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Canton Boycott.
 Mississippi Bureau of Identification case report of April 15, 1964, title Continued Investigation of Clifton Walker Murder Case.
 Memo of April 17, 1964 to Dr. W.A. Hotchkiss, Trustee, Tougaloo College, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College.
 Memo of April 17, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Dr. W.A. Hotchkiss.
 Report of April 17, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.
 Letter of April 20, 1964 to Gus Noble, President, Canton Citizens Council from SSC Director Erle Johnston about Canton boycott.
 SSC Report, April 20, 1964, title Continued Investigation of the Racial Situation in Canton and Madison County.

Report of April 22, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Canton.

Report of April 23, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) report of Case Studies of Intimidation, with statements attached, one dated April 23, 1964.

Letter of April 23, 1964 to Herman from SSC Director Erle Johnston, referring to enclosed prospectus for Mississippi Freedom Summer. Prospectus not present.

Letter of April 23, 1964 to John C. Satterfield from Charles C. Jacobs, Jr., about President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Report of April 23-May 9, 1964 about CORE and COFO in Jackson.

Memo of April 24, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College Trustees.

Report of April 26, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Newspaper clipping annotated April 27, 1964 "Tougaloo President Resigning."

Memo of April 28, 1964 to Public Service Commissioner Norman Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Amos McLaurin, colored male, Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Memo of April 28, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Tougaloo College, enclosing report on meeting with Tougaloo College trustees in New York on April 21.

Editorial cartoon "Ugly Spot on Mr. Hoover's X-Ray Picture" annotated *Jackson Daily News*, April 28, 1964, with undated clipping "Subversives Accused in Ohio Strife."

Memo of April 28, 1964 to Commissioner from Public Relations - Gilmore and Richardson, subject Use of Publicity in Summer Months This Year, with attached Holmes Alexander's column "CR Violence Red-Instigated", *Jackson Daily News*, April 27.

Letter of April 19, 1964 to SSC Director Erle Johnston, thanking him for his letter of April 28 concerning Amos McClelland [sic].

Letter of April 30, 1964 to Oxford Sheriff Boyce G. Bratton from SSC Director Erle Johnston, about SSC presence at meeting of law enforcement personnel.

Report of April 30, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

SSC Report, April 30, 1964, title Panola County.

SSC Report, April 30, 1964, title Marshall County.

Folder 9 May 1964

Letter of May 1, 1964 to Rev. William A. Gamble, Jackson, from Henry A. McCanna, Executive Director, Division of Home Missions, about the Delta Ministry.

Letter of May 1, 1964 to Tom Riddell, Jr., Champion Chemical Company, Canton, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, about Canton boycott.

SSC Report, May 1, 1964, title Organizational meeting of the Hinds County Chapter of the "Americans for the Preservation of the White Race" at the Hinds County Court House on Tuesday night, April 28, 1964.

Special Report of May 1, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Weapons into Mississippi.

Letter of May 4, 1964 to Dr. James A. Millard, Atlanta, Ga., and Judge John A. Fulton, Louisville, Ky., from W.A. [Gamble?] regarding McCanna's May 1 letter to him.

Memo of May 5, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Dr. A.D. Beittel, Tougaloo College.

Report of May 5, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

SSC Report, May 5, 1964, title Lafayette County.

Memo of May 5, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject John Van Etten Family, with attached SSC Report, May 5, 1964, title Continued investigation to determine if Marie Van Etten is white or colored.

SSC Report, May 7, 1964, title Bombing Activity in McComb, Mississippi.

Report of May 7, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Mississippi Bureau of Identification, case report of May 8, 1964, title Investigation of Mr. John Fox and his Relation to Three White Males and Two Negroes at Oxford, Miss. Lafayette County.

Letter of May 12, 1964 to Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, New York, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, about Tougaloo College.

Letter of May 12, 1964 to U.S. Senator John C. Stennis from SSC Director Erle Johnston, thanking him for his attached letter of May 5 and its enclosure of Stennis' proposed amendment to the Civil Rights Act in the *Congressional Record*.

Letter of May 12, 1964 to Dr. J.H. White, President, Mississippi Vocational College, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, about funding band trip.

Report of May 12, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson and Canton.

Letter of May 13, 1964 to A.D. Morgan, Administrative Assistant, Highway Patrol, from Patrolman James C. Felder, reporting on patrols of Civil Rights meeting in McComb.

Report of May 13, 1964 about COFO files of summer volunteers.

Report of May 14, 1964 about infiltrating COFO office in Jackson.

Memo of May 14, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Shipment of Weapons, referring to attached report. Report not present.

Report of May 14, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Oxford.

Mimeographed document of May 16, 1964 entitled The Jackson Advocate / Stop Helping Build the Walls of Hatred / By Percy Greene / (an Editorial).

Memo of May 18, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Robert Tyler.

Letter of May 18, 1964 to William J. Simmons, Jackson Citizens Council, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, about grant request.

Memo of May 18, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Informant "Y".

Article from May 21, 1964 issue of *The Reporter* magazine, "It Will Be a Hot Summer in Mississippi" by Richard Woodley.

Newspaper clipping with internal dates of April 16 and 21, "Minister Describes Experiences in South."

Letter of May 22, 1964 to William J. Simmons, Jackson Citizens Council, from SSC Director Erle Johnston, about grant request.

Report of May 22, 1964 about Jackson COFO office.

Telegram of May 25, 1964 to SSC Director Erle Johnston from Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. about gift of stock.

Report of May 25, 1964 about Jackson COFO office.

SSC Report, May 26, 1964, title Continued investigation of the racial situation in Canton and Madison County, Mississippi.

Report of May 26, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Letter of May 28, 1964 to Herman Glazier from B.F. Smith, Executive Vice President, Delta Council, covering article "Mississippi Summer" in *Wall Street Journal*, May 25.

Letter of May 28, 1964 to Dr. Riley from Lois Chaffee, Community Centers Program, Council of Federated Organizations, covering COFO's Prospectus for the Summer.

Report of May 28, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Memo of May 28, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject APWR [Americans for the Preservation of the White Race], with APWR's An Open Letter to All Businesses attached.

Memo of May 28, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Walter Craig, w/m Selma, Alabama, with attached report of May 18, 1964, subject Walter Craig, w/m.

Report of May 29, 1964 about Jackson COFO office.

Memo of May 29, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Mississippi Summer Project.

Report of May 29, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Canton.

Report of May 19, 1954, about Canton.

Report of May 30, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Jackson.

Folder 10 June 1964

Report of June 1, 1964 by R.L.M. about Civil Rights activities in Jackson County.

SSC Report, June 1, 1964, title Continued investigation of Voters' Registration Applicants and the racial situation in Canton.

Report of June 1, 1964 about Jackson COFO office.

Handbill for election on June 2, 1964 of Mrs. Victoria Gray to Congress.

Handbill for election on June 2, 1964 of Mr. James Houston to Congress.

Letter of June 2, 1964 to Governor Johnson from H.H. Kizilbash, Assistant Professor, Tougaloo College, complaining of assault.

Report of June 2, 3, 4, 1964 about CORE [Congress of Racial Equality] office (no city given).

Report of June 3, 1964 about CORE office in Jackson.

Memo of June 5, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Anonymous Gift of \$50,000.

Copy of SNCC's *The Student Voice* newsletter of June 9, 1964.

Memo of June 9, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Rust College.

Note received June 12, 1964 to the Governor from L.R.H., covering newspaper clipping "Lawyers Will Aid Dixie Rights Drive."

Department of Public Safety Information Bulletin of June 19, 1964, Handling of Prisoners.

Letter of June 20, 1964 to Fellow Attorney from George W. Crockett, Jr., Co-Chairman, National Lawyers Guild, Committee for Legal Assistance in the South, Detroit, Michigan, soliciting participation in Mississippi Freedom Summer.

Letter of June 22, 1964 to James M. Williams, Chairman, Natchez Chapter, APWR from SSC Director Erle Johnston, thanking him for attached letter of June 20 criticizing Johnson for making derogatory remarks about the APWR.

Ten telegrams of June 23 to Governor Johnson from persons in various parts of the U.S., demanding search for missing Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman and protection for Civil Rights workers in Mississippi.

Report of June 24, 1964 about COFO orientation session in Oxford, Ohio.

Seven telegrams of June 24 to Governor Johnson from persons in various parts of the U.S. demanding search for missing Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman and protection for Civil Rights workers in Mississippi.

Report of June 24, 1964 about Civil Rights activities in Moss Point.

Eight telegrams of June 25 to Governor Johnson from persons in various parts of the U.S. demanding search for missing Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman and protection for Civil Rights workers in Mississippi.

Report of June 25, 1964 about Andrew Goodman.

Memo of June 25, 1964 to File from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject National Lawyers Guild.

Four telegrams of June 26 to Governor Johnson from persons in various parts of the U.S. demanding search for missing Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman and protection for Civil Rights workers in Mississippi.

Memo of June 26, 1964 to Governor Johnson from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Allen Dulles.

Report of June 26, 1964 about COFO orientation session in Oxford, Ohio.

Report of June 26, 1964 about COFO office in Jackson.

Telegram of June 27 to Governor Johnson from person in Columbus, Ohio, demanding search for missing Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman.

Memo of June 29, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject Freedom Schools.

Report of June 29, 1964 about second COFO orientation session in Tennessee.

Report of June 29, 1964 about COFO office in Jackson.

SSC Report, June 29, 1964, title Investigation of the disappearance of three civil rights workers after they were released from the Neshoba County jail on Sunday, June 21, 1964, at 10:30 p.m.

Mississippi Summer Project Workers in State as of June 29, 1964.

Letter of June 30, 1964 to Doctors from Joseph H. Brenner, M.D., Medical Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Robert Coles, M.D., Health Services, Harvard University, in charge of medical services for Civil Rights workers at COFO orientation session in Oxford, Ohio, requesting continued medical care while workers are in Mississippi; with attached responding letter of July 6, 1964 from A.J. McIlwain, M.D.

Memo of June 30, 1964 to Administrative Assistant Herman Glazier from SSC Director Erle Johnston, subject COFO.

Letter of June 30, 1964 to Dan H. Shell from Kenneth Stewart, Special Assistant to the Governor, about Shell's recommendation of individual for employment.
Report of June 30, 1964 of Civil Rights activities in Jackson.
The Crusader newsletter, May-June 1964.
SSC appropriations, June 30, 1962 - June 30, 1964.

Processing the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission Records

Sarah Rowe-Sims and David Pilcher¹

In a state whose historical image is inextricably linked with racism, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission is surely one of its most sinister manifestations. In existence from 1956 to 1977, this state agency spied on civil rights activists, acted as a clearing-house for information on civil rights legislation from around the nation, funneled money to pro-segregation organizations, and disseminated right-wing propaganda. Ironically, although its loudest proponents championed themselves as on a crusade against the insidious "red menace," the Commission was the embodiment of "Big Brother." Approximately 132,000 pages of remaining agency records document the Commission's dubious quest. Included in these records are names of close to 87,000 individuals, the majority of whom were victims of Commission surveillance.

After the agency was legally disbanded in 1977, an intense and protracted legal battle for access to the files ensued. As legal custodians of the records since 1977, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) was charged with the maintenance of this collection. MDAH was also required to process the records pursuant to the May 1994, United States District Court opinion and order in the case of American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi v. Kirk Fordice, et. Al., Cause No. J77-0047B. Project supervisor David Pilcher, and project staff Ashley Koostra and Sarah Rowe-Sims spent nearly four years preparing the records for the court ordered opening on March 17, 1998. Due to the privacy-sensitive nature of the collection, security was paramount. The archivists worked in a locked basement room known affectionately as "The Chamber." Project staff were also required to take an oath not to reveal any information about the records in their charge.

¹ This article is adapted from a two-part paper presented by Rowe-Sims and Pilcher at the Mississippi Library Association, Special Libraries Section, October 30, 1998, where Rowe-Sims addressed Commission history and the legal battles over the files and Pilcher addressed MDAH compliance with Court instructions and the actual work of the project to prepare the files for opening.

Although a small number of records still remain sealed by the court, it is now permissible to discuss not only the bulk of open Commission records, but also their processing by MDAH archivists. This paper describes the processing of the Commission records by MDAH. In order to explain why these records have generated so much controversy, the creation and functions of the agency will be highlighted. Next the protracted legal battle to open the files is addressed. Having established the context for MDAH's involvement, the processing itself is detailed. Finally, the opening and public response to the records is discussed.

The Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission was created by an act of the Mississippi legislature in March 1956. The agency was spawned by the landmark May 1954, *Brown v. Board of Education* school desegregation ruling. To orchestrate the state's response to *Brown*, the legislature established the Legal Education Advisory Committee (LEAC) "to devise ways to preserve segregation." In September 1955, LEAC outlined a six-point-plan, which included the establishment of a "permanent authority for the maintenance of racial segregation," which provided the blueprint for the Commission that was voted into existence the following March.² The new segregationist agency consisted of eleven members. The Governor was appointed ex-officio chairman of the Commission. Other ex-officio members were as follows: the president of the Senate, who was vice-chairman of the Commission; the attorney general; and the speaker of the House of Representatives. In addition, the Commission comprised the following members: three citizens appointed by the governor from each of the Supreme Court Districts; two members from the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate; and three members from the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker. The governor, attorney general, and legislators served on the Commission during their tenures in office. The three members appointed by the governor served for the duration of his term.³

The act creating the Commission made no mention of race. The Commission was defined purely in the rhetoric of states rights, its stated purpose being to "do and perform any and all acts and things deemed necessary and proper to protect the sovereignty of the state of Mississippi, and her sister states . . .," from a perceived "encroachment thereon by the Federal Government or any branch, department or agency thereof; to resist the usurpation of the rights and powers reserved to this state and our sister states by the Federal Government or any branch, department or agency thereof."⁴ The act thus loosely defined the Commission's objectives. Not surprisingly the agency performed a myriad of different functions. However, although varied, the commission's duties can be divided into three basic categories: investigative, advisory, and public relations.

Perhaps the most infamous of the Commission's functions was investigation. From its inception the Commission likened itself to the FBI and armed services intelligence agencies "during times of war seeking out intelligence information about the enemy and what the enemy

² *General Laws of the State of Mississippi*, 1954, Chapter 420, 585-587; Hodding Carter III, *The South Strike's Back* (New York: Doubleday & Co. Inc., 1959), 23, 36-37; *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, September 22, 1955; *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, September 22, 1955.

³ *General Laws of the State of Mississippi*, 1956, Chapter 365, 520-524.

⁴ *Ibid.*

proposes to do."⁵ Commission investigators traveled around the state and compiled reports on civil rights activities. They would often focus on what they termed as "hot spots" and would also respond to specific requests from local law enforcement, the governor, and members of the legislature, as well as members of the public. The Commission was a small agency, which even at its zenith under Governor Ross Barnett never mustered more than three full-time and a couple of part-time investigators. Consequently, the agency relied heavily on informants and detective agencies to supplement its investigators. Informants were utilized throughout the entire existence of the agency. For example, a 1970 director's report indicated that the agency's primary "external" contacts in order to fulfill its "mission" were the "use of confidential informants as is customary in any investigative agency."⁶

The aim of investigations was to hinder civil rights progress and discredit activists. Hard evidence of "racial agitation" was not necessary to warrant their attention. The rumor mill and the race-baiters fed the Commission, and anyone who appeared to transgress the racial lines or who espoused a vaguely liberal perspective might be brought to their attention. Common targets of investigations included African-American applicants for notary public, owners of cars parked outside alleged civil rights meetings, individuals earmarked as "race agitators" as well as their families, and the babies of reported inter-racial relationships. Invariably the information gathered was intimate and slanderous in nature and often based on little more than local gossip and hearsay.

In performing their advisory function, the Commission acted as a clearing-house for information on civil rights activities and legislation, not just in Mississippi, but around the nation. The agency would provide information upon request from politicians and members of the public alike. The Commission also advised local officials on how to handle a variety of situations. This advice included, how to dispense with people who participate in voter registration drives, how law enforcement should handle the influx of Freedom Summer activists in 1964, and even whether the Mississippi Library Commission should allow Ezra Keats' *The Snowy Day* to circulate. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Commission advice focused on how to circumvent federal legislation and maintain segregation in public facilities, a policy it termed "voluntary segregation."

The primary objective of the public relations function was to promote a positive image of Mississippi to the rest of the nation. This was not just a matter of damage control. The Commission was proactive. In 1960 the Commission initiated a Speakers' Bureau to travel the nation and present the Mississippi perspective. The Commission also sponsored a film entitled "Message from Mississippi," which described segregation in glowing terms.⁷ Following the integration debacle at the University of Mississippi, the Commission sponsored and distributed a movie on the subject entitled "Oxford USA."⁸ In addition, the agency also funneled tax money

⁵ unsigned S.C. speech, filing date July 13, 1958, Sovereignty Commission Records, document identification number (SCR #) 7-0-1-56-2-1-1.

⁶ Burke, report, [Jan. 1970], SCR # 7-0-11-189-1-1-1 to 4-1-1; *New Orleans, Times Picayune*, March 7, 1971.

⁷ *Jackson State Times*, December 16, 1960; *Clarion-Ledger*, January 13, 1961.

⁸ General Legislative Investigating Committee, letter to Gov. Barnett, August 12, 1963, SCR # 7-0-8-36-1-1-1; "Oxford USA proposed contract December 10, 1962, SCR # 10-102-0-2-1-1-1 to 2-1-1-1; memo Johnston, February 4, 1964, SCR # 99-36-0-87-1-1-1.

to the pro-segregation white Citizens' Council. In 1960 the Commission voted a grant of \$20,000 to the Council Forum, the propaganda arm of the Citizens' Council.⁹ From this point until December 1964, the Commission documented monthly grants to the Citizens' Council propaganda machine of between \$2,000 to \$5,000, amounting to a total of \$198,500.¹⁰

After the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Commission's aim was to show that Mississippi was law abiding and in compliance with the new federal legislation. Image control was vital to this scheme, and the Commission assumed the task of creating Mississippi's new persona. The Commission director also took measures to clean up the agency. In memos in February 1965, he requested the removal of all "incriminating" reports indicating that the Commission had aided county registrars to stop African Americans from registering to vote.¹¹ In March 1965 the Commission removed "Oxford USA" from circulation as it was considered "out of step with the governor's 'new image' policies."¹² Reports also began to use the term "subversive" rather than "race agitator," and the director asserted that the Commission was "not a super snooping agency trying to crack down on any Negro who raises his hand."¹³

Although the Commission was not officially dissolved until 1977, it ceased functioning in 1973 when Governor William Waller vetoed its appropriation.¹⁴ Following the veto, the Commission limped on, hopeful that the 1974 legislature would override Waller's actions.¹⁵ However, faced with the specter of imminent closure, the Commission voted to seal and transfer their files to the Secretary of State for safekeeping. Although members made plans for future meetings, the Commission officially closed its doors on June 30, 1973. The status of the agency remained unresolved until March 1977 when it was legally disbanded. The act of dissolution ordered the records sealed at MDAH until 2027. This decision followed a heated debate in the legislature over whether the records should be destroyed. Thankfully, the preservationists triumphed and the records were secured at the Archives.

Coinciding with the preservationists' fight to save the records, the Mississippi branch of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU/M) now sued for access. In February 1977, the ACLU/M filed a class action suit charging the state with illegal surveillance of its citizens and demanding the files be opened. Thus began the twenty-one-year-long battle in the courts. As the case evolved, the pivotal issue was balancing the demands of public access with the rights of privacy protection. In 1984, U.S. District Judge William Barbour Jr. granted the plaintiffs access to the records for means of discovery.¹⁶ Subsequently, after viewing the files, plaintiffs Edwin King and John Salter distanced themselves from the access advocates. Reclassified by Barbour in 1987 as "privacy plaintiffs," King and Salter claimed that unrestricted access would

⁹ Albert Jones letter to Commission members concerning Governor's press release, July 7, 1960, SCR # 7-0-1-148-2-1-1.

¹⁰ Report, "Citizen Council Grant" SCR # 99-30-0-46-1-1-1 to 2-1-1.

¹¹ Johnston memo, February 8, 1965, SCR # 99-62-0-33-1-1-1; Johnston memo, February 11, 1965, SCR # 99-62-0-196-1-1-1.

¹² Johnston memo, March 5, 1965, SCR # 99-34-0-6-1-1-1.

¹³ Johnston memo, SCR # 99-34-0-14-1-1-1.

¹⁴ *New York Times*, April 22, 1973.

¹⁵ *Daily News*, June 8, 1973.

¹⁶ Calvin Trillin, "State Secrets," *The New Yorker* (May 1995), 58; *Daily News*, October, 30, 1984, November 29, 1984.

further violate the privacy rights of victims of illegal surveillance.¹⁷ In July 1989, Judge Barbour declared the 1977 act sealing the records unconstitutional and he ordered the files opened.¹⁸

Barbour's ruling was immediately stayed pending an appeal by the privacy plaintiffs to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

¹⁹ In September 1990, the 5th Circuit ruled that Judge Barbour's ruling did not adequately meet the privacy needs of the individuals named in the files, and they charged the District Court to devise a plan to accommodate privacy interests.

²⁰ Negotiations ensued amongst the litigants. In September 1993, an evidentiary hearing was held to explore the issues raised. Litigants, including MDAH, outlined their recommendations for opening the files. In those hearings, and in post-hearing briefs, MDAH officials had presented three alternatives for the copying and indexing of the files: photocopying, microfilming, and imaging. In the Department's analysis, imaging emerged as the most efficient way to accomplish the job. On May 31, 1994, Judge Barbour released a Memorandum Opinion and order, which declared the records opened and established a procedure for their opening. In the order Judge Barbour stated:

*Defendants have asserted that the most cost-effective method of dealing with the documents in the Commission files is by using a computer imaging system. The Court offers no opinion concerning whether this system or some other system should be used. This is a matter for the defendants to decide, so long as the system chosen will allow the defendants to comply with the orders of this Court.*²¹

Having had no working experience with imaging, staff of MDAH's Official Records Section embarked on a crash course. Staff members spoke to and corresponded with people who did have experience with imaging, gathered published information on the topic, viewed government imaging systems in action, and attended vendor demonstrations. To facilitate procurement of an imaging system, MDAH technical staff formulated a request for proposal for review by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS). The technical staff met several times with the archival staff who would be doing the actual work of the project, seeking input and review. The request for proposal was virtually complete by the time Judge Barbour issued his order of May 31, 1994.

Judge Barbour's order allowed MDAH one year to scan and index the files. His timetable was altered by the ongoing appeals. While waiting for a vendor to be named and

¹⁷Memorandum Opinion and Order, American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi, et al., vs. Kirk Fordice, et al., United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division, Civil Action No. J77-0047B, May 31, 1994, 3.

¹⁸American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi Inc., Delta Ministry, Owen Brooks, and Ken Lawrence on Behalf of Themselves and a Class of Others, vs. Ray Mabus, as Governor of the State of Mississippi, et. al., Civil Action No. J77-0047 (B), July 27, 1989, 24-39.

¹⁹Order Staying Effect of Order of District Court Entered 27 July 1989 As to Plaintiff Subclass (Second) Pending Appeal, ACLU et al., vs. Ray Mabus et al., United States District Court For the Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division, Civil Action No. J77-0047(B), July 27, 1989.

²⁰ACLU et al., vs. State of Mississippi et al., vs. Edwin King and John Salter, Plaintiffs Subclass Second-Appellants, No. 89-4647, United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, September 14, 1990.

²¹ Memorandum Opinion and Order, May 31, 1994, 15.

then for equipment and software to be funded and installed, the project team was assembled and began initial prep work on the files to prepare them for scanning. Obstacles such as metal staples and paper clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. In addition to the physical prep work, project staff thoroughly surveyed the makeup of the records, noting paper types, paper sizes, color contrasts, and the presence of bound volumes and photographs. Since the records could not be removed from their secure location, project staff gathered examples of like records from other archival collections of the same time period, including browned Thermo-Fax copies, transparent onionskin paper, black and white photographs, newspaper clippings in varying shades of yellow and brown, and light pencil and pen handwritten documents. Upon selection of SysCon Imaging Systems of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as project vendor, these examples were taken to SysCon offices to determine how well they could be scanned.

Project staff also studied the Sovereignty Commission's filing system and worked with SysCon to theorize how input, retrieval, and access should work within the database. The Commission's file numbering system, centering on its thirteen-category file classification system, was used. The categories are as follows:

1. Race Agitators
2. Integration Organizations
3. School Integration
4. Civil Rights - Elections
5. Civil Rights - Violence
6. Miscellaneous - Inquiry Concerning
7. Administrative - Office
8. Administrative - Personnel
9. Administrative - Informants
10. Publicity - General
11. Criminal Cases
12. Speeches
13. Subversion

Due to the inclusion among the records of many unnumbered files, three additional classifications were created: one for unnumbered financial records, one for the Commission's original card file index, and one for unnumbered miscellaneous files.

Each page within each file in the system has a unique seven part number assigned at the time of scanning and consisting of:

1. Classification number
2. File number within that classification
3. Volume number (some files have multiple volumes)
4. Document number (a document being a letter, report, newsletter, newspaper article, etc.)
5. Page number within the document
6. Part number (if an oversized item such as a poster had to be scanned in parts)
7. Version number (if the condition of the original required that it be scanned at more than one resolution setting to ensure that all information is legible). The need for part and version was discovered during the system testing period immediately after installation.

SysCon proposed to develop and install in three phases a custom application for project use. The first phase would address the scanning, storage, and partial indexing of documents. The second phase would address the complete indexing and redaction of scanned documents. The third phase would provide for search, retrieval, and printing of pages. SysCon delivered and installed the hardware and initial software in November 1994. The database, which runs on Oracle and is Windows based, was customized for project purposes by SysCon President Bob Wilson and has been modified and upgraded as necessary by him throughout the project.

The system operates as a local area network completely separate from the main Archives network. The system originally consisted of a server, server monitor, hub, ups, and three workstations, each with HP 486 66 mhz microprocessors and 17" Cornerstone Dual-Page monitors. Two of the workstations were connected to Fujitsu 3097E scanners. The network also included two HP Laser jet 4SI printers, as well as four Pioneer compact disc changers capable of holding six discs apiece and daisy-chained together with SCSI cables.

Eventually twelve compact discs were filled with images. However, later in the project problems arose with discs jamming when retrieving images sequentially from separate discs within the same changer, causing work delays. Therefore it became necessary to convert the images on the discs back onto two 4.3 gigabyte hard drives which SysCon installed on the server. This greatly increased speed and responsiveness during the period of searching and printing following the inquiry period. A writable compact disc drive was added to one of the workstations at this time. It was used first in restoring information to the hard drive and later to produce compact discs for the public access version of the system.

A fourth workstation, identical to the other three, was added to be used for index quality control during the period when all three project staff members were engaged in indexing the images. Due to time constraints, outside assistance with index quality control was sought. Project staff members were joined part-time in the project room by three rotating Official Records Section staff members.

During the scanning phase of the project, two staff members scanned full-time while the third performed quality control checks on each image. The automatic feeders on the scanners were used when practical but the existence of varying paper sizes and conditions necessitated the regular use of scanner flatbeds. Scanning was begun in early December 1994 and was completed with the exception of the Commission's financial records in late May 1995. The financial records were scanned several months later, bringing the total of images

within the database to approximately 132,700. On average, roughly 1000 images were scanned and checked per day.

Project staff experimented in the beginning with different types and shades of paper, recorded the best resolution setting for each, and made adjustments as necessary. Speed was, of course, a constant underlying concern, however, the primary goal was to attain the best quality images possible.

There was no time for extensive training on the front end. Bob Wilson of SysCon introduced project staff to the system and made initial modifications on-site. As we discovered the need for further modifications, SysCon would upload requested changes via the modem. This was very common early on. Project staff quickly discovered the need for the attachment of explanatory comments to appear on-screen with images, similar to the use of target sheets in microfilming. Six pre-set, commonly occurring comments were established to choose from, along with a free-form field for the entry of more specific comments.

The system included a separate table for quality control viewing of images as they were scanned. Pages were rescanned as necessary. As images were scanned they were stored on the network drive until sufficient volume of 655 megabytes was available to create a compact disc. The images were then exported to a single data file and one index file. These two files were then recorded on digital audio tape and copied to a compact disc using a recording unit. A second disc was made for backup. The contents of the disc were then compared with the images still stored on the network drive. If they compared exactly, the image files were removed from the network drive.

Judge Barbour's order required that MDAH compile an index of all personal names within the files. Each name had to be assigned a status as either a Victim - someone who was spied on, or a State Actor - a Commission member, employee, or someone who provided information to or requested information from the Commission. The indexing of the scanned images was done within a separate indexing table which allowed the calling up of the image and name entry forms side by side onscreen and the indexing and classification (as Victim or State Actor) of each name within. Images disappeared from the indexing queue as completed.

The quality control table could also be used to check for indexing errors, with a separate table available as well for making corrections. Eventually all three project staff members were engaged in indexing full-time, with the aforementioned additional staff members brought in to assist with indexing quality control. The indexing and quality control period lasted approximately one year and two months. A manual index of approximately 87,000 unique names, comprising nearly 300,000 occurrences, was compiled, with each name classified as a Victim or State Actor.

Judge Barbour's order established a disclosure process and time frame whereby the public could assert their privacy rights by requesting copies of records, reviewing them, and then, depending on their status, requesting that their name and/or identifying information be redacted from records, requesting that their personal file (if extant) be sealed, or submitting rebuttal information. Although the Judge established a time frame for this procedure, he acknowledged that he expected there would be further appeals which would delay the implementation.

The privacy plaintiffs appealed the 1994 ruling. In June 1996, the 5th Circuit Court upheld the Judge's ruling and in November 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a further

appeal. With all avenues of appeal exhausted, the Judge's disclosure process timetable went into effect.

In January 1997, in accordance with the court order, MDAH ran advertisements in USA Today, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and all Mississippi daily newspapers. MDAH mailed questionnaires to the nearly 1000 people who responded to the ads. 700 completed questionnaires were returned within the specified time. Based on the identifying information provided in the questionnaires, nearly 360 of these individuals were located in the files and mailed copies of the salient documents. This mailing amounted to roughly 25,000 pages.

Judge Barbour's order required that MDAH redact the names of other respondents from the printed documents mailed to respondents. The system has the ability to attach an unlimited number of rectangular overlays to a name and to activate and deactivate as needed to redact the name and identifying information. When activated, the redactions appear as black boxes on the image.

Upon reviewing their records, the majority of individuals chose full disclosure. However, 42 individuals chose some kind of privacy option and to date their privacy requests are still being adjudicated by Judge Barbour. In addition, the status of the records of three deceased individuals who initiated an inquiry and then died before the process was completed, remains to be decided. In January 1998, Judge Barbour ruled that all non-contested records should be opened to the public.

Judge Barbour eventually set March 17, 1998, as the date for release of all records with exception of those containing the names of individuals still awaiting the Judge's decision in their cases. To that end, project staff created a new set of compact discs with each block of data run through a purge program to remove the contested images completely. Approximately 7700 pages remain sealed. Names of contested individuals were removed from the index.

The public access system in the library Search Room originally consisted of a second server, server monitor, hub, ups, two seven-slot LanRedi compact disc towers containing a total of thirteen discs, three workstations and two printers, one of which was moved from the project room. The system has since been scaled back to two workstations and one printer. The thirteenth disc is partially filled and contains images remaining on the network drive after creation of the twelfth disc.

The Sovereignty Commission files may be searched by name of individual or by file title. Users can select a name and pull up all documents in which that name was indexed or pull up a file and go through it page by page. There is no redaction present in this version. The contested images simply do not exist in this version.

The entire staff of the Archives Library Division, as well as the Department's Public Relations Office, put forth quite an effort to prepare for the opening of the files in March 1998. The Official Records Section compiled procedures and instructions for assisting system users and for handling mail requests, and worked to prepare the reference staff to help meet the anticipated demand.

The opening day was indeed a media event, with over seventy-five press representatives on the scene. Public response was heavy for three or four weeks following the opening and then steady for the next two or three months, both in the Search Room and through the mail. As long as demand necessitated, users were required to sign up for one-hour time slots and a standby list was maintained for those desiring to wait for a spot. Printed copies of the name

index and file title lists were also made available in the Search Room beginning on March 17.

According to Archives and Library Division statistics, between March 17 and March 31, approximately twenty-five people per day used the three workstations in the Search Room. Many more people came in to check the printed indexes or to ask questions about the records. Also during this two week period, the reference staff received 175 telephone inquiries about the records, over 300 name search requests were received through the mail, and 3900 pages of information were printed by users. Activity has since gradually slowed. During the month of April the number of written requests for name searches dropped to 200, then to 56 in May, 49 in June, and 37 in July.

MDAH is presently awaiting a decision by Judge Barbour on the documents that remain sealed. Once the public access status of these documents has been determined, an additional public version (or versions) will be released as instructed by Judge Barbour.

Here They Come Again! My Two "Archival Encounters" with records of the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission

Sandra Boyd

Little did I realize in the 1960s and 1970s, when reports of the Sovereignty Commission activities were in the news, that I would be involved with the Commission records in two different institutions. The "encounters" have been different, representing two ends of the spectrum in archival work today, but they have been interesting and challenging.

In October 1986, after completing my MLS in the Library School at the University of Southern Mississippi, I joined the staff of McCain Library and Archives in the position of Assistant Archivist in the Special Collections Department. That department of the University library, housed on the third and fourth floors of the William David McCain Library and Archives building, had a staff of ten, and included the Mississippiana, Genealogy, Rare Books, Walen Civil War, and de Grummond Children's Literature collections along with the Manuscripts area. My work in the manuscripts area focused on processing and describing the backlog of unprocessed manuscript collections with later emphasis on creating MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) records for our holdings.

One of the unprocessed manuscript collections in the library holdings was the Johnson Family Papers which had been donated in December 1981. That original donation consisted of 86 cubic feet with two small groups of papers (under 1 cubic foot each) added later. Dr. Claude E. Fike and Dr. William McCain were responsible for the preliminary contacts and work with the family that brought the collection to the University. Included in the 86 cubic feet were books, correspondence, photographs, newspapers and clippings, office files, family financial

materials, campaign materials, artifacts and memorabilia spanning the years 1917-1970. At the time of the 1981 donation, there was an oral agreement or at least an implicit understanding that the papers were to be closed until the death of Governor Johnson. The papers were stored in the closed stack collection storage room, and only a small portion of the papers, those relating to Paul B. Johnson, Sr., were available for research use before 1989.

By the mid-1980s, Terry Latour, director of McCain Library, was aware of the growing interest in the Johnson papers, especially since the case involving the Sovereignty Commission records at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History was moving so slowly through Federal court. Discovery had been granted in 1984, but the plaintiffs were still repositioning themselves for further appeals in the case. Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr. had died on October 14, 1985, so that any unwritten agreement to keep the papers closed during his lifetime was no longer applicable. However, Terry did not want to open the papers without having a clear legal basis for access. In March 1989, on the same day that Leesha Cooper, a writer for *The Clarion Ledger*, came to McCain Library to do research in the papers, Terry sent a memo to University Legal Counsel Dr. Michael Clay Smith, asking whether the order to seal the official records of the Sovereignty Commission applied to records in a private collection.

In the fall of 1988, knowing that there were seven boxes that contained Sovereignty Commission records and about twice that number that contained Highway Patrol reports, Terry asked me if we would begin sorting the identified boxes with student help. I agreed and we began the task. One student was hired initially and then a second one was added near the end of the fall semester.

The papers were totally unorganized. Most boxes looked as if someone had simply dumped contents of file drawers and then added whatever loose correspondence lay around. Each box had to be reviewed for the types of documents included and then directions given to the student who was sorting that box. Some boxes included material with similar date spans; other boxes mixed papers of Paul B. Johnson, Sr. with those of Paul B. Johnson, Jr. The work required a box by box sorting and was tedious and demanding. Students worked no more than four to five hours per day, but when they worked they required the use of nearly all of the processing space in our fourth floor office.

Although we began work initially on the boxes containing Sovereignty Commission and Highway Patrol records, I soon realized that reports and correspondence from the two agencies were actually scattered throughout many other boxes. So we moved on to other boxes, sorting, stacking, interfiling and foldering items. I worked with the more fragile documents and newspapers from the 1920s-1940s, which covered the political career of Paul B. Johnson, Sr. Two staff and some student assistants did the conservation work so that items would be preserved, deacidifying and encapsulating many documents and newspapers. By April 17, 1989, when the formal request to see the Johnson Papers was made under the Mississippi Public Records Act, the Sovereignty Commission records and Highway Patrol reports were arranged in chronological order and foldered in about twenty boxes. However, much work remained to be done on the balance of the collection.

The question of access to the Johnson Papers was finally answered in a phone call on July 28, 1989, from a staff member of the Attorney General's office. Staff of the Attorney General's office had represented the University in Hinds County Chancery Court where *The Clarion-Ledger* had sought a court ruling on access to the records. Judge Stuart Robinson

ruled that the papers of Paul B. Johnson were public records and that they should be made available for research. On that afternoon, the staff of McCain Library wheeled a cart of boxes filled with records into the Cleanth Brooks Reading Room where reporters and researchers began searching through and copying from them.

Meanwhile, work on the remaining boxes continued into 1990 before all documents were cleaned, foldered, and identified. When I left McCain Library and Archives to work on a cataloging project at the Department of Archives and History (MDAH) in November 1991, there was a rough finding aid to the Johnson Papers, and I thought I was through with any work relating to the Sovereignty Commission.

But they came back again - this time after I had been at MDAH for three years. At that time the department had an opening for the position of Section Head in Official Records, the section which handles the transfer and preservation of state government records, and the one responsible for the Sovereignty Commission Records. I accepted the position, knowing that there was an excellent staff in the section and that whatever was required of us in the Sovereignty Commission project, it could be done as a team.

Shortly after I became head of the Official Records Section, we held a series of meetings to establish the criteria we needed in the imaging system required for the Sovereignty Commission records. By the date of Judge Barbour's ruling in Federal District Court (May 31, 1991), we had nearly completed details of the RFP (request for proposal) which would be circulated to potential vendors. Details of the project are contained in another article in this issue. My role in the project, from December 1994 through the current time, has included keeping up daily with the progress of scanning and indexing, looking at any means possible to streamline the workflow, and when necessary, joining the project team in "the Chamber" to do indexing and quality control. In all phases of the project, I was a backup if a project staff member got sick, and I was frequently called upon to establish procedures needed to accomplish a particular phase of the court-ordered process. We had to "draft" several other Archives & Library staff members for some phases of the project, and when that was necessary all of them helped willingly, realizing that the deadline was not of our own making.

Each "encounter" has had its own unique set of problems and challenges. In working with the Johnson Papers at USM, there was the archival challenge of bringing order to a collection in complete disarray and preserving the paper documents for future research use. With the Sovereignty Commission papers at MDAH, the challenge was, first, to meet the demands of the court while making the documents available for research use in a format where standards and preservation practices are still being developed. Nevertheless, being able to work with both collections and to contribute to the preservation of the information in them has been gratifying. I'm glad I have had the opportunity to have both of these "archival encounters."

Spotlight on Mississippi Archives

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY HENRY T. SAMPSON LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTION/ARCHIVES

The Special Collections/Archives Division is located on the 5th floor of the Henry T. Sampson Library. Hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Materials are non-circulating. The following types of materials are maintained in our collection:

University records and publications; 6,500 books by and/or about African-Americans; manuscripts; 1,200 theses and/or dissertations; 100,000 photographs; scrapbooks; music scores; 6 oral history collections; sound and video recordings of University events; movie film; slides; microfilm; and, special collections donated by University Administrators, faculty/staff, and alumni. Some of our special collections include:

GIBBS/GREEN MEMORIAL - 1970-1996 (M-009) 10 cubic feet.

This collection covers documentation of the shooting incident on Jackson State College campus on May 15, 1970 whereby two young men, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green, were killed by Mississippi law enforcement officers. In 1999, this collection was microfilmed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. It includes the following:

- Part I: Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Photographs, etc. of the original incident and its aftermath.
- Part II: Transcripts of the Mayor's Bi-Racial Committee, Jackson Police Radio Tapes, and Mississippi Highway Patrol Radio Station Logs.
- Part III: FBI Reports, FBI References, and Trial Transcripts.
- Part IV: 1996 Gibbs/Green Conference Proceedings (awaiting publication).

MISSISSIPPI BIG "8" CONFERENCE - 1935-1970 (M-074) 1.5 cubic feet.

The Mississippi Big Eight Conference was organized in 1934, under the name "Negro Prep Big Eight Athletic Conference." In 1952, the name was officially changed to the "Mississippi Big '8' Conference. The purpose of this conference was to promote the physical and mental welfare of the students in high schools. Activities which were part of the Conference included: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Tract, and Dramatics. Charter Members included: Brookhaven, Forest, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Laurel, Louisville, Magnolia's Pike County Training School, and Meridian. Associate Charter Members was Prentiss Institute. The collection contains the Conference constitution, correspondence, minutes, and financial reports.

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT - 1962-1965 (M-076) 1 cubic foot.

This collection contains copies of selective documents surrounding 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer. It primarily focuses on reports by workers of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). It documents their work with the Freedom Schools, Voter Registration, and Public Accommodations in Madison County.

OPERA/SOUTH - 1971-1990 (RG-6C) 18 cubic feet.

Administrative records, music scores, sound recordings, photographs, etc. of Opera/South which was chartered in 1971 and sponsored by traditionally Black colleges of Jackson State College, Tougaloo College, and Utica Junior College, which was originally formed under the name "Mississippi Inter-Collegiate Opera Guild." Opera/South was one of only three professional Black opera companies in America--the others being Opera/Ebony in Philadelphia, and Opera/North. Opera/South was based on the Jackson State University campus. Opera/South would bridge the gap between classroom and stage by allowing students work in a professional company, would showcase young American artists, and introduce opera to new audiences. The philosophy behind Opera/South was basic: good opera, intelligibly and beautifully sung in English, and with an exciting stage presentation. Opera/South presented over 20 operas, eight of which were world premiers by Black American composers such as, William Grant Still and Ulysses Kay.

Tougaloo College withdrew in 1975 and Utica Junior College withdrew in 1983 leaving funding to Jackson State University and various grants.

RICHARD H. BEADLE

A photographer who began his professional career in 1910 in a tent at Capitol and Roach Streets in Jackson, later moving his studio to a Farish street location where he continued to operate a thriving business for more than fifty-four years. This collection contains 57 photographs of his family, community leaders, and events in Jackson, Mississippi.

TRACY SUGARMAN - 1964-1992 (M-003)

An artist whose reportorial art has documented many facets of American corporate and institutional life. He covered the Civil Rights Movement in the South during the 1960s. This collection contains 95 photographs from the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer covering orientation of students in Oxford; Churches & Freedom Schools in Ruleville; Demonstrations in Drew & Greenville; and voter registration in Indianola & Mound Bayou. Also included are 89 blown-up sketches from his book, "Stranger at the Gate," which was published in 1966 and was his personal record of the racial revolution he observed in Mississippi.

Do you have a person, project, or institution you would like to highlight in a future issue of the journal? Contact the editor at irmgard.wolfe@usm.edu

Web in Progress

Sites will be added periodically

Societies and Organizations, National:

Society of American Archivists <http://www.archivists.org/>

Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) <http://www.uwm.edu/Library/arch/aca/index.htm>

National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators
<http://www.nagara.org/>

Societies and Organizations, Regional:

Society of Alabama Archivists
http://www.auburn.edu/academic/societies/soc_ala_archivists/

Society of Tennessee Archivists <http://www.arkay.net/tnarchivist/>

Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA)
<http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/lama/lama.htm>

Society of Southwest Archivists <http://lib-04.lib.uh.edu/ssa/ssa.htm>

Repositories in Mississippi:

Delta State University Archives
<http://www.lib.deltast.edu/aboutlib/departments/archivesinfo.html>

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History <http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/index.html>

University of Southern Mississippi Archives <http://www.lib.usm.edu/archives/>

Jackson State University Archives / Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center
<http://stallion.jsu.ms.edu/~mwarc/home.htm>

Mississippi State University Archives <http://nt.library.msstate.edu/spcohome.htm>

University of Mississippi Archives
http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/archives/index.html

Preservation:

CoOI Conservation Online <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/>

Northeast Document Conservation Center <http://www.nedcc.org/>

Solinet Preservation Services <http://www.solinet.net/presvtn/preshome.htm>

ALA Rare Books And Manuscript Section
<http://www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/rbms.html>

Comprehensive sites:

National Archives and Records Administration <http://www.nara.gov/>

Library of Congress <http://lcweb.loc.gov/>

For More Listings of Sites:

Comprehensive List of Archives on the Web (Arranged by Country and State):

Repositories of Primary Sources
<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

Directory of Regional, State and Local Archival Organizations in the United States
<http://sophia.smith.edu/~pnelson/regionals/>

Listservs and Newsgroups:

ARCHIVES@LISTSERV.MUOHIO.EDU <http://listserv.muohio.edu/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE>

Conservation DistList consdist@lindy.stanford.edu

Listing of all Listservs:

CataList <http://www.lsoft.com/catalist.html>

Accessions:

1998-1999

Mississippi Department of Archives and History Manuscript Collection

BARKSDALE FAMILY PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1960-1998. 0.33 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of the Barksdale family of Jackson, Mississippi, consists primarily of correspondence between Emily Woodson Barksdale Humphrey and her sister, Therese Hawkins Barksdale of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Also included are an occasional photograph and program, social papers, and materials relating to family history. Presented by Therese Hawkins Barksdale Vinsonhaler, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

CLARK (CHARLES) PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1968-1973. 7.50 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of Charles Clark of Jackson, Mississippi, consists of case files, correspondence, memoranda, and publications documenting a portion of his career as chief justice of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The case files in this accretion primarily concern school districts in southern states; among the issues addressed is desegregation. Presented by Charles Clark, Jackson, Mississippi.

COURTLAND PLANTATION (ADAMS COUNTY, MISS.) JOURNAL. 1854-1855. 0.20 c.f.

This journal from Courtland plantation, Adams County, Mississippi, records slaves' names, daily tasks, amounts of cotton picked, and daily weather at the plantation from January, 1854, through the middle of July, 1855. Presented by Gale M. Butler, Jackson, Mississippi.

COURTLAND PLANTATION (ADAMS COUNTY, MISS.) JOURNAL. 1857-1859. 0.50 c.f.

This journal from Courtland plantation, Adams County, Mississippi, records slaves' names, daily tasks, amounts of cotton picked, and daily weather at the plantation from February, 1857, through the beginning of June, 1859. Presented by Charlotte Detillo, Olive Branch, Mississippi.

DAVIS (JEFFERSON) AND FAMILY PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1869-1895. 0.20 c.f.

This accretion consists of four books. These include a copy of *The Veiled Doctor* by Varina Anne Jefferson Davis; a novel and a book of poetry by Richard Henry Savage; and a phrenology manual by O. S. Fowler containing a phrenological analysis of Jefferson Davis. Presented by Barbara P. Webb, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

DELAY FAMILY PAPERS. ca. 1852-1871. 0.50 c.f.

The papers include original correspondence, a will, and tintype photographs of members of the Delay family. The correspondence consists primarily of the letters of William Delay of Oxford, Mississippi, and his wife Kate, some of which were written during his service as a captain in the Confederate army during the Civil War. A letter to William Delay's son, Charles Douglas Delay, contains genealogical information on the family. Presented by Byron Howells, Birmingham, Alabama.

KING (W.) LETTER. 1850. 0.10 c.f.

This letter from W. King of Pontotoc, Mississippi, to his daughter, Mary Leonora King, in Red Sulphur Springs, Hardin County, Tennessee, contains information on the King family, friends, daily life, and farming activities at the family home in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. Presented by Michael Hennen, Jackson, Mississippi.

MONROE (GUSTAVUS L., JR.) DIPLOMATIC PAPERS. 1907-1911. 0.50 c.f.

These papers consist of correspondence, a special passport, and certificates of appointment concerning Gustavus L. Monroe, Jr., of Mississippi, who served as secretary of the United States legations at La Paz, Bolivia, and San Jose, Costa Rica, where he also served as chargé d'affaires. Several of these documents bear the signatures of United States presidents William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. Presented by Lorraine Wallach, Chicago, Illinois.

MUIRHEAD (JEAN DENMAN) PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1988-1998. 1.83 c.f.

This accretion contains correspondence, photographs, social papers, programs, and newspaper clippings documenting the career of Mississippi state senator and judge Jean Denman Muirhead. There is considerable material in the collection concerning Muirhead's aunt, the poet Annie Denman, at that time resident in Jackson, Mississippi. These papers include correspondence from Denman, poems by her, and a photocopy of her book, *Voices In The Quiet Hour*. Presented by Jean Denman Muirhead, Falls Church, Virginia.

NEWCOMERS' CLUB (JACKSON, MISS.) RECORDS, ACCRETION. 1982-1998. 0.15 c.f.

This accretion consists of yearbooks and newsletters of the Newcomers' Club of Jackson, Mississippi. The yearbooks contain lists of officers, members, and copies of the club's constitution and by-laws, while the newsletters contain summaries of meetings, programs of club activities, and reports of club officers. Transferred from the library of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

SWAIN (MARTHA) PAPERS. ca. 1976-1991. 0.10 c.f.

The papers of Martha Swain of Starkville, Mississippi, are composed principally of correspondence to her from Albert Y. Woodward, Jr., of Arlington, Virginia, concerning Swain's historical research and biography of Woodward's mother, Ellen Sullivan Woodward, of Oxford, Mississippi. Included with the correspondence are social papers, and a photocopy of an obituary of Albert Y. Woodward, Jr. Presented by Martha Swain, Starkville, Mississippi.

UNIDENTIFIED NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, COLLECTION. ca. 1875-1908. 0.10 c.f.

This collection consists of a miscellany of materials salvaged from a bricked-up coal fireplace at 524 Franklin Street, Natchez, Mississippi. The collection includes photographs, postcards, an invitation, a receipt, and several advertisements. Presented by Lee Sturdivant, Natchez, Mississippi.

WINTER (WILLIAM F.) PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1985-1998. 8.15 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of Mississippi governor William F. Winter includes files of correspondence, photographs, speeches, reports, programs, and publications. These materials document Winter's activities in several organizations concerned with the economic development of the South; his work on the President's Advisory Board on Race; and his service as president of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Presented by William F. Winter, Jackson, Mississippi.

Delta State University Archives

BOYD-WALTERS-BOBO FAMILY PAPERS. 1852-1996. Eight volumes and 2.3 c.f.. Family, plantation scene, and riverside photographs, Civil War and World War I letters, records of the Concordia Masonic Lodge and the operation of Boyd Lane Plantation (Gunnison, Bolivar County, Miss.) and clippings relating to the life of James Ed Bobo.

PETER R. BRANTON PAPERS. 1889-1913. 7 vols. 0.1 c.f.

Records the establishment and operation of Peter R. Branton's plantation Isola, located near Leland, Miss. Includes transcribed correspondence between Branton and his parents in Virginia, discussing setting up the plantation, family news, and land sales. A time book, cotton receipt book, commissary and plantation ledgers and daybooks are also included.

CHARLES W. CAPPS, JR. PAPERS. 1955-1997. 0.3 c.f.. Correspondence, photographs, and clippings from Capps legislative career. Also included is a 1996 oral history with Capps.

HILL-CASSIBRY-SMITH FAMILY PAPERS. 1895-1964. 10 vols. and 0.6 c.f.. Letters, reports, clippings, and printed items relating to the Hill, Cassibry, and Smith families of Cleveland, Miss., pioneers of the town. Photographs, ledgers, letters, clippings, and ephemera, record early Cleveland businesses, service of Napoleon Cassibry, Sr., in World War I, establishment of Delta State Teachers' College, and the courtship of Ivy Graham and Edward Bibb Hill.

CROSSTIE ARTS COUNCIL RECORDS. 1974-1995. 5 c.f.

Minutes, correspondence, and photographs of the Crosstie Arts Council, an organization dedicated to promoting the arts in Bolivar County and the surrounding area, and which sponsors an annual arts festival.

JERRY DALLAS DELTA FARM COOPERATIVE COLLECTION. 1936-1956, 1986-1989. 0.3 c.f.. Includes newspaper clippings, pamphlets, magazine articles, correspondence, and interview notes gathered by DSI History Professor Jerry Dallas in researching his journal article about the Delta Farm and Providence Cooperatives. Also included is a photocopy of the farm's guest register, 1936-1941.

JOSEPH J. KING FAMILY PAPERS. ca. 1917-1950. 7 c.f. and approximately 20 vols. This collection records the operation of the King cotton and cattle plantation near Swan Lake, Miss., Tallahatchie County. Also included are letters from sons serving in World War II and items documenting King's involvement in local and civic affairs.

EUGENE LEFTWICH COLLECTION. 1846-1997. 5 c.f.. Clippings, ephemera, manuscript histories, photographs, and deeds recording Gunnison, Bolivar County, local families, churches, and organizations.

LUCY SOMERVILLE HOWORTH PAPERS. ca. 1920, 1935-1997. 5 c.f.. Personal and professional correspondence from her activities in Washington, D.C. in the thirties and forties, photographs, publications and ephemera from the AAUW and other women's groups, especially relating to women in the workforce during World War II and their return to domestic work after the war. Personal correspondence from her later years are also included, as are items relating to Monteagle, North Carolina, a church retreat camp.

RULEVILLE HOMETOWN MOVIES. ca. 1940. 1 VHS tape. Copy of home movies taken in downtown Ruleville on a Saturday, showing businesses, downtown scenes, and residents.

Mississippi State University Archives

JANOS RADVANYI COLLECTION. 1947-present. ca. 8 c.f.. Papers, publications, and photos of Radvanyi, former diplomat in Communist Hungary who defected and is currently a retired History Department Faculty member at MSU. He is the first holder of the Radvanyi Chair in International Studies; he was the founder and director for 14 years of the MSU Strategic and International Security Center. Partially restricted.

CONGRESSIONAL COLLECTION: RUBEL L. PHILLIPS COLLECTION. 1950s-1980s. ca. 2 c.f. Correspondence, photos, and memorabilia of Phillips, pioneer in the modern Mississippi Republican Party. Restricted.

WILEY CARTER COLLECTION. 1930s-1990s. ca. 14 c.f.. Papers, photos, and memorabilia of Carter, deceased aide to Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran and Mississippi public servant in a variety of areas. Closed pending processing and consultation with family.

DAVID BOWEN COLLECTION, ACCRETION. 1970s-1990s. ca. 20 cu. ft.. Files, photos, campaign materials, memorabilia of Bowen, U. S. Congressman from Mississippi, Second

District, 1973-1982; also items pertaining to Bowen's activities as a playwright. Collection open except for unprocessed material and case files.

G. V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY COLLECTION, ACCRETION. 1980s-1990s.ca. 200 c.f.. Files, photos, memorabilia of Montgomery, U. S. Congressman from Mississippi, Third District, 1967-1997. Closed except for public series material, photos and memorabilia.

Jackson State University Special Collections/Archives

GIBBS/GREEN MEMORIAL COLLECTION. Recent additions to this collection contain the FBI Reports, FBI References, and Trial Transcripts.

JSU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE. 5,000 photographs covering University events over the past 20 years. The majority of these photographs were taken by local photographer Newton Handy.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT. 20 c.f. Transferred departmental records.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH. 10 c.f. Transferred departmental records.

Call for Papers

The editors of The Primary Source are seeking articles and reviews for upcoming issues of the journal. Submit articles etc. in hard copy and diskette form or as e-mail attachments in WordPerfect (5.0 +) or Microsoft Word (3.1 +).

Please address questions about submitting articles and other materials to be published to

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e-mail: iwolfe@ocean.otr.usm.edu

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