

JOHN C. COLEMAN COLLECTION
Mss. 3711
Inventory

Compiled by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size	1 linear foot
Geographic Locations	Mississippi; Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1856–1971, undated
Bulk Dates	1861–1968
Languages	English
Summary	Various materials such as correspondence, campaign materials, flyers, pamphlets, brochures, and other printed materials collected by John C. Coleman relating to Mississippi politics, politicians, integration, and segregation. Collection also contains Confederate materials such as letters and Confederate veterans publications. Photographs in this collection are mostly of Mississippi governors along with three presidential photographs of Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Eleanor Roosevelt.
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	None
Citation	John C. Coleman Collection, Mss. 3711, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	1:55, OS:C

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Carrington Coleman was born in North Carolina on September 11, 1907 and passed away December 27, 1986. He served as a municipal judge and also as mayor of Vaiden, MS into the 1980s for two-and-a-half terms after resigning halfway through his second term and then getting reelected through special balloting. Before becoming mayor, he worked for the Works Project Administration as a construction project supervisor in North Carolina (1940 census) and then worked different jobs at a daily newspaper in Jackson, MS (the 1950 census lists him as an advertising salesman). He also worked on the publication of the Mississippi State Fair catalog for a number of years. He married his first wife, Beatrice Elgin Young (June 7, 1907–October 19, 1972), on December 23, 1936 in Winston-Salem, NC. His second wife, Anne Gertrude Coleman was born February 21, 1914 and passed away January 20, 2005; she and John C. Coleman are buried side by side in Vaiden Cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Coleman Collection consists of various materials collected by John C. Coleman, mostly relating to Mississippi. Several Mississippi governors such as Theodore Bilbo, Paul B. Johnson, and James P. Coleman among others are represented through correspondence, campaign materials, and photographs. Coleman also collected Civil War materials such as letters by Confederate soldier Milton Smith and printed materials from various Confederate Veterans associations. This collection contains segregationist/white supremacist and anti-communist materials in the form of pamphlets, brochures, newspapers, flyers, and books. Several miscellaneous materials from Mississippi are included, such as college catalogs and a broadside poster for Christine and Millie McKoy, conjoined African Americans twins who went on to become well-known entertainers as the “Two-Headed Nightingale.” Coleman’s collection also has photographs of politicians such as Mississippi governors and Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt along with a portrait photograph of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Oversized materials are housed in a custom-made oversized box (Box 2) containing a top level that can be pulled out to access larger materials underneath. Folder numbers begin with the folders on the left, then continue on the right side and then the larger oversized folders under the top layer. The oversized box contains all of Series VI: Photographs as well as oversized items from other series.

[Content Warning: Many materials in this collection contain white supremacist, antisemitic, and racially offensive language and depictions.]

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Mississippi Politics, 1856–1964, undated

Subseries 1. Mississippi Politicians, 1915–1964, undated

Subseries 2. Mississippi Constitutional Convention Delegates, 1856–1911, undated

Series II. Printed Items, 1952–1971, undated

Subseries 1. Segregationist Publications, 1955–1968, undated

Subseries 2. Anti-Communist Publications, 1952–1971

Subseries 3. Political Publications, 1962–1968, undated

Subseries 4. George Wallace Materials, 1968, undated

Series III. Civil War and Confederate Materials, 1861–1932, undated

Series IV. Mississippi Miscellaneous, 1867–1936, undated

Series V. Miscellaneous Papers, 1923, undated

Series VI. Photographs, 1905–1963, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Mississippi Politics, 1856–1964, undated

Subseries 1. Mississippi Politicians, 1915–1964, undated

This subseries contains various materials collected by Coleman pertaining mostly to Mississippi governors. Correspondence between Governor and Senator Theodore Bilbo and his executive secretary John L. Smith and his wife Kate Smith touch upon domestic life; Bilbo's dog, Jake; and Bilbo's declining health before and during his tenure as senator from Mississippi. The last two letters are written by Bilbo's secretary, Mattie. The John L. Smith materials include several op-eds written by him on various political topics as well as his work as Bilbo's executive secretary highlighting Bilbo's achievements in the United States Senate for Bilbo's 1940 re-election campaign. Governor Lee M. Russell's correspondence denounces Bilbo and Vardaman while also detailing his financial problems. A letter by Governor John Bell Williams in 1968 talks about increasing revenue support for Mississippi's highway system.

Campaign pamphlets and flyers from Governors James P. Coleman and Paul B. Johnson pertain to ongoing integration issues in Mississippi during the 1960s and contain attacks by Coleman against Johnson for allowing African American James Meredith to attend the University of Mississippi while Johnson claims he successfully stood up to federal government efforts to integrate the University of Mississippi despite Meredith ultimately being able to attend. Other campaign materials include an inauguration postcard and "Flood Control" poster for Governor James K. Vardaman and an inaugural luncheon and dinner program for Governor Hugh L. White.

Subseries 2: Mississippi Constitutional Convention Delegates, 1856–1911, undated

This subseries contains materials about two Mississippians, William McCorkle Compton and William Clements Wilkinson, who were delegates to state constitutional conventions. William McCorkle Compton (1833–1878) was a physician who served as a surgeon during the Civil War, Superintendent of the Mississippi State Hospital (known at the time as the Mississippi State Lunatic Asylum), a founding member of the Mississippi State Board of Health, and a renowned psychiatrist at the time of his death. He was voted to the state legislature in 1861 and served as a delegate at the state constitutional conventions in 1865 and 1868. His materials chiefly consist of correspondence between him and his family and outside parties about domestic affairs and travel.

W.C. Wilkinson was an Irish immigrant who joined the Louisiana Guards from New Orleans when the Civil War broke out and was personally commissioned as lieutenant by Confederate President Jefferson Davis in 1863. He settled in Crystal Springs, Mississippi in 1865 and was unanimously selected to be a delegate for the 1890 Mississippi Constitutional Convention. Materials include a eulogy of W.C. Wilkinson given by Reverend W.B. Lewis, an 1897 certificate signed by Governor Anselm J. McLaurin appointing Wilkinson treasurer of Crystal Springs, and proceedings of a 1910 meeting of the surviving members of the Constitutional Convention. Also included is a letter from an unidentified writer advising Lily Wilkinson

Thompson (who collected these materials and was W.C. Wilkinson's daughter) on how to become a better writer and a written description of James K. Vardaman by Lily Wilkinson Thompson as part of her practice writing exercises suggested by the writer.

This series and its subseries are arranged alphabetically by last name and then chronologically within the folders.

Series II. Printed Items, 1952–1971, undated

[Content Warning: Many materials in this series contain white supremacist, antisemitic, and racially offensive language and depictions.]

Subseries 1. Segregationist Publications, 1955–1968, undated

This subseries contains printed materials espousing white supremacy and the implied inferiority of other races. Brochures by Marvin Mobley from Decatur, Georgia selectively quote several leading political figures such as President Abraham Lincoln, Mississippi Governor Theodore Bilbo, and Georgia Senator Benjamin H. Hill alongside blurbs by Mobley on the need to resist racial integration efforts. *The Blackamoor of Oxford* by Elmore Douglass Greaves includes a foreword by Congressman John Bell Williams and is a rebuttal to Attorney General Robert Kennedy's attempts to integrate Mississippi, especially the University of Mississippi and the fallout from the attendance of its first African American student, James Meredith. Frank L. Britton's *American Nationalist* pamphlets are scathing antisemitic and anti-Black tabloid-style publications. Also in this subseries are assorted brochures and pamphlets against integration and the supremacy of white people over others by organizations such as White Citizens' Councils, the Mississippi Republican Party, the Mississippi State Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Christian Educational Association.

Subseries 2. Anti-Communist Publications, 1952–1971

This subseries contains materials dealing with the hysteria against communism that swept the United States beginning in the 1950s. *McCarthyism: The Fight for America* by Senator Joseph McCarthy is McCarthy's book documenting his testimonials in the Senate about the threat of communism to the United States as well as McCarthy's naming of suspected communist party members. Coleman also collected 11 issues of "America's Newspaper against Communism," *Common Sense*, spanning from 1960 and 1963 as well as a single issue of *The Woman Constitutionalist* (1971).

Subseries 3. Political Publications 1962–1968, undated

This subseries includes single issues of *Jackson Times* (1962); *The Southern Review* (1964); *The Conservative News* (1967), the official publication of the John Bell Williams for Governor campaign; and *The Republican Southern Challenge* (1968) that deal with a spectrum of political and social issues at the time of printing.

Subseries 4. George Wallace Materials, 1968, undated

This subseries contains one issue of *The Wallace Record*, the official publication of the Wallace-For-President campaign (1968); an undated issue of *Wallace Labor Action*, a newspaper created and produced by Organized Labor members for the Wallace Campaign; and a bumper sticker from George Wallace's 1968 presidential campaign.

This series and its subseries are arranged chronologically.

Series III. Civil War and Confederate Materials, 1861–1927, undated

Of special note in this series are eleven letters written by Confederate soldier Milton Smith to his family back in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Smith's letters range from 1861 to 1864 as he moves around the country, including from Virginia to Alabama, and details his life as a soldier and love of coffee to his father, mother, and sister Sue.

Printed publications include a brochure for an 1890 reunion of The Association of the Blue and Gray in Vicksburg, the excerpt "Ballad of the Chickasaw" from the 1948 novel *Land of Fadeless Stars* by Edwin Arnold, and the 1927 Soldiers' Home of Georgia Annual Year Book [**Content Warning: The 1927 Soldiers' Home of Georgia Annual Year Book contains references to the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacy.**]

Sons of Confederate Veterans' 1924 "Talking Points" by W. McDonald Lee expounds on the need for younger generations to uphold their confederate soldier fathers' legacies while *A Protest Against Provincialism* is the Text Book Committee of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' 1932 report pointing out "sins of omission" in David S. Muzzey's early 20th century history textbook, *An American History*.

This series also contains an oversized broadside flyer for the 15th reunion of the United Confederates Veterans Association in 1905 and a number of card-sized portraits taken in the late 1800s by photographers from the lower Mississippi area.

This series is arranged chronologically.

Series IV. Mississippi Miscellaneous, 1867–1936, undated

Mississippi Miscellaneous contains ephemera and various unrelated items from around Mississippi. College catalogs include the catalog for Southern Female College in West Point for 1897–1898, the catalog for West Point Male Academy and Commercial College for 1896–1897, the Alumnae Roll for Whitworth College in Brookhaven for 1860–1921, and the catalog of officers and students at Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs for 1935–1936. Also contains a Prohibition rally program at Ethel Baptist Church given by Adam Clarke Bane in 1916., a valedictory address given by J.L. Wilson in Crystal Springs on July 17, 1867, a menu from the DeLuxe Café and Bar-B-Q in Vicksburg (possibly from the depression era) and an

undated newspaper clipping of a photograph of the 1905–1906 first grade class of West Jackson Elementary School

One item of interest is an oversized broadside advertising an appearance by conjoined African American twins Christine and Millie—spelled “Milly” on the broadside—McKoy, at Kosciusko on April 26 (no year given). (For more on the lives of Christine and Millie McKoy see *Biographical Sketch of Millie Christine, the Carolina Twin. Surnamed the Two-Headed Nightingale and the Eighth Wonder of the World* and *The History of the Carolina Twins: "Told in Their Own Peculiar Way" by "One of Them"*).

This series is arranged chronologically.

Series V. Miscellaneous Papers, 1923, undated

This series consists of one folder containing letters by Mrs. Eric M. Pugh from Copenhagen, Denmark back to family in Louisiana detailing life in Denmark such as attending Christmas parties and the differences between Denmark and Louisiana.

This series is arranged chronologically.

Series VI. Photographs, 1905–1963, undated

Coleman’s photograph series focuses mainly on Mississippi governors, containing photographs of Mississippi Governor Theodore G. Bilbo during his governorship in his office, with his staff, as well as a photograph of a crayon drawing of Bilbo done by an unnamed African American woman in his home in 1927. Photographs also show James P. Coleman and Paul B. Johnson Jr. campaigning for the Mississippi governorship around 1963. There are also several portrait photographs of Mississippi governors Ross Barnett, Martin S. Conner, Hugh L. White, and John Bell Williams as well as a photograph of Governor Henry L. Whitefield in front of the Mississippi State House.

Notable inclusions include presidential photographs. One is an original photograph presented to Coleman by an Associated Press member showing President Herbert Hoover in Boston campaigning on October 26, 1928. The other two photographs relate to President Franklin D. Roosevelt: one showing him smiling with his granddaughter sitting on his lap and another portrait photograph of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt dressed for an inaugural event in 1936.

Other Mississippi-related photographs include a West Jackson Elementary School class in 1905, an undated photograph of the West Jackson Fire Department, and a photograph of James Meredith being escorted by U.S. Marshal James J.P. McShane in 1962 to attend the University of Mississippi.

This series is arranged alphabetically by the last name for the person or first letters for the folder title if not a person. Photographs within folders are arranged chronologically.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

African Americans--Segregation.	I, II, III
Anti-communist movements--United States.	II
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Meredith, James, 1933-	I, II, VI
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Publications (documents)	II
Racism against Black people.	I, II, III, VI
Sons of Confederate Veterans (Organization)	III
White supremacy movements--United States.	I, II, III, VI

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
Series I. Mississippi Politics, 1856–1964, undated			
Subseries 1. Mississippi Politicians, 1915–1964, undated			
1:55	1	1	Theodore G. Bilbo correspondence, 1927, 1934, 1939, undated
		2	James P. Coleman campaign materials, undated
OS:C	2	11	James P. Coleman campaign poster, undated
1:55	1	3	Paul B. Johnson Jr. campaign materials, October 8, 1963, 1964
OS:C	2	11	Paul B. Johnson Jr. bumper sticker, undated
1:55	1	4	Lee M. Russell correspondence, 1926–1927
		5	John L. Smith materials, 1915, 1937–1940, undated
		6	Edward C. Walthall materials, June 6, 1890, undated
		7	Hugh L. White inaugural luncheon and dinner program, January 17, 1936
		8	John Bell Williams materials, May 3, 1968, undated
		9	James K. Vardaman, undated
OS:C	2	11	James K. Vardaman “Flood Control” campaign poster, 1922
Subseries 2: Mississippi Constitutional Convention Delegates, 1856–1911, undated			
1:55	1	10	William McCorkle Compton papers, 1856, 1861–1865, 1870, undated
		11	Lily Wilkinson Thompson materials, 1911, undated
OS:C	2	12	W.C. Wilkinson Treasurer of Crystal Springs appointment certificate, January 9, 1897
Series II. Printed Items, 1952–1971, undated			
Subseries 1. Segregationist Publications, 1955–1968, undated			
1:55	1	12	Marvin Mobley brochures, 1955, undated
		13	Assorted brochures and pamphlets, October 1962, 1963, 1968, undated
		14	<i>The Blackamoor of Oxford</i> (by Elmore Douglass Greaves), 1963
		15	Citizens’ Councils brochure <i>Racial Facts</i> , May 1964
		16	<i>American Nationalist</i> pamphlets, undated
Subseries 2. Anti-Communist Publications, 1952–1971			
		17	<i>McCarthyism: The Fight for America</i> (by Joseph McCarthy), 1952
OS:C	2	13	<i>Common Sense</i> newspaper, December 15, 1960–September 1, 1963

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
OS:C	2	13	<i>The Woman Constitutionalist</i> newspaper, Vol. 8 No. 3, November 6, 1971
		Subseries 3. Political Publications, 1962–1968, undated	
		13	<i>Jackson Times</i> newspaper, September 20, 1962
		13	<i>The Southern Review</i> newspaper Vol. 1 No.1, September 15, 1964
		13	<i>The Conservative News</i> newspaper Vol. 2, August 1967
1:55	1	18	<i>The Republican Southern Challenge</i> , October 1968
		Subseries 4. George Wallace Materials, 1968, undated	
		19	George Wallace campaign bumper sticker, 1968
OS:C	2	13	<i>The Wallace Record</i> , Vol. 2 No. 1, 1968
		13	<i>Wallace Labor Action</i> , undated
		Series III. Civil War and Confederate Materials, 1861–1932, undated	
1:55	1	20	Milton Smith letters, 1861–1865
		21	Small, card-sized portraits, 1886, undated
		22	1890 Association of the Blue and Gray reunion in Vicksburg brochure, 1890
OS:C	2	12	United Confederate Veterans Association 15 th Reunion broadside flyer, June 1905
1:55	1	23	Sons of Confederate Veterans publications, 1924, 1932
		24	Confederate Soldiers' Home of Georgia Annual Year Book, 1927
		25	"Ballad of the Chickasaw" excerpt from <i>Land of Fadeless Stars</i> (by Edwin Arnold), undated
		Series IV. Mississippi Miscellaneous, 1867–1936, undated	
		26	J.L. Wilson valedictory address, July 17, 1867
		27	Mississippi colleges catalogs, 1897, 1921, 1936
		28	Ethel Baptist Church, Adam Clarke Bane Prohibition rally program, 1916
OS:C	2	12	Christine Millie McKoy broadside, undated
1:55	1	29	DeLuxe Cafe and Bar-B-Q menu, undated
		30	Newspaper clipping of photograph of 1905–1906 first grade class at West Jackson Elementary School, undated
		Series V. Miscellaneous Papers, 1923, undated	
1:55	1	31	E.M. Pugh (Mrs. Eric Pugh) letters, 1923, undated
		Series VI. Photographs, 1905–1963, undated	
OS:C	2	1	Theodore G. Bilbo photographs, 1914–1916, 1927

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
OS:C	2	6	James P. Coleman and Paul B. Johnson Jr. campaign photographs, 1963, undated
		7	Herbert Hoover campaigning in Boston photograph, October 26, 1928
		8	James Meredith and U.S. Marshal James J.P. McShane at University of Mississippi photograph, 1962
		9	Mississippi Governors photographs, undated
		2	Franklin Delano Roosevelt with grandchild on his lap photograph, undated
		3	Eleanor Roosevelt dressed for an inaugural event photograph, 1936
		4	West Jackson, MS Elementary School class photograph, 1905
		5	West Jackson, MS Fire Department photograph, undated
		10	Henry L. Whitfield in front of MS State House photograph, undated