

Guide to Karen Haberman Trusty Collection of Mississippi Freedom Project

JWJ MSS 384



by Gladys García

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: JWJ MSS 384

CREATOR: Haberman, Karen

TITLE: Karen Haberman Trusty Collection of Mississippi Freedom Project

DATES: 1963-2022

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.3 linear feet (3 boxes) + 1 oversize box

LANGUAGE: All materials are in English.

SUMMARY: The collection chronicles Habermann Trusty's involvement in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) between 1963-1964 and commemorative SNCC and civil rights-based events between 1980's-2010's. The collection contains administrative files, periodicals and clippings, ephemera, and audiovisual material. The collection contains materials related to other SNCC organizers and civil rights activists. Such as Dr. Endesha Mae "Cat" Holland, Dorothy Height, Matthew Jones, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Mardon Walker, Betty Garman, and Dr. Robert Coles.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/habermantrusty>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/habermantrusty>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Walter Jennings Memorial Fund, 2023.

Conditions Governing Access

Materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.

Preferred Citation

Karen Haberman Trusty Collection of Mississippi Freedom Project. James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Archival Description Unit Processing Manual.

Related Materials

50th Anniversary Conference of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) [videorecording] : April 15-18, 2010, Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina (E185.61 .F358 2011 DVD (LC)); Clippings file of the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection (JWJ MSS 89); Anna Strunksy Walling papers (MS 1111); Langston Hughes papers (JWJ MSS 26); and Leon F. Litwack collection of Berkeley, California, protest literature (WA MSS S-2616).

Biographical / Historical

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was a civil rights organization and served as the youth and autonomously run branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It was founded with the support of Ella Baker in April 1960 at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. SNCC was focused on racial desegregation and voting rights for the Black community in the American South. SNCC was active between 1960-1970, with the height of their political activity between the early to mid-1960's. This included the Mississippi Freedom Summer project of 1964, co-organized by the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), and SNCC. Approximately 1,000 (or more) white college students, from the American North, volunteered to organize and teach in approximately 40 Freedom Schools across the American South. The Freedom Schools focused on voter registration, the establishment of a new political party, history, and other subjects Freedom School students were interested in.

Karen Haberman Trusty (born 1945) attended Spelman College, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), in the Fall of 1963 through the National Student Association Spelman Exchange Program. She was one of very few white students to participate in the program. At Spelman, Haberman Trusty was recruited by James Forman into the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Haberman Trusty was active with SNCC between 1963-1964 participating in many sit-in demonstrations, non-violent protests, Mississippi Freedom Summer, and other organizing activities. She was arrested three times, including a Fourth of July arrest in 1964. Her and three Black SNCC organizers, including Matthew Jones, a civil rights

and Southern Freedom Movement singer, were beaten and arrested after non-violently protesting at a Ku Klux Klan (KKK) rally at Stone Mountain in Atlanta, GA by rally participants. She served as support staff for the Mississippi Freedom Summer project in 1964 at the SNCC Atlanta, GA and Greenwood, MS offices. During that summer, she worked on the Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) line in Greenwood where she co-collected reports of racially motivated hate-crimes. After organizing with SNCC and returning to Connecticut, she transferred and completed her BA at Harvard University's Department of Social Relations. She went on to organize poor white communities in Detroit, MI and across Appalachia. In 2010, she co-created with then Portland State University student, Conci Althouse, the documentary *In Rarefied Air* on her organizing experiences with SNCC and the legacy of racism in the U.S.

"Exchange: Three White Women Students at Spelman, 1962-1964, A Discussion," Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, Civil Rights Movement Archive Inc., accessed March 7, 2024. <https://www.crmvet.org/disc/spelman.htm>.

"About Karen," *In Rarefied Air*, accessed March 7, 2024. <https://www.inrarefiedair.com/about-karen.html>.

Scope and Contents

The collection chronicles Habermann Trusty's involvement in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) between 1963-1964 and commemorative SNCC and civil rights-based events between 1980's-2010's. The collection contains administrative files, periodicals and clippings, ephemera, and audiovisual material. The collection contains materials related to other SNCC organizers and civil rights activists. Such as Dr. Endesha Mae "Cat" Holland, Dorothy Height, Matthew Jones, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Mardon Walker, Betty Garman, and Dr. Robert Coles.

Racist, anti-Black language is present throughout the collection. Including images and descriptions of carceral violence, police violence, sexual harassment by police, and physical beatings and assault. The Wide Area Telephone (WATS) Line reports folder contains descriptions of racially motivated hate crimes, police harassment/violence, Ku Klux Klan (KKK) intimidation, church bombings, death threats, beatings, false allegations of sexual assault and rape, unlawful arrests/detainment, and disappearances of SNCC fieldworkers.

Arrangement

Materials are organized into five groupings; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Mississippi Freedom Summer project (1964-2014), Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland, *From the Mississippi Delta* related materials (1995), Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon related materials (1997, undated), Printed ephemera and newspaper clippings (1978-1981), and *Spirit of Freedom* CD (2019). Within these groups, materials are further grouped by function and arranged chronologically therein.

Collection Contents

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Mississippi Freedom Summer project

Racist, anti-Black language is present throughout the collection. Including images and descriptions of carceral violence, police violence, sexual harassment by police, and physical beatings and assault.

b. 1, f. 1	Administrative files and press releases	1964
b. 1, f. 2	Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) Line Reports The Wide Area Telephone (WATS) Line reports folder contains descriptions of racially motivated hate crimes, police harassment/violence, Ku Klux Klan (KKK) intimidation, church bombings, death threats, beatings, false allegations of sexual assault and rape, unlawful arrests/detainment, and disappearances of SNCC fieldworkers.	1964 June–1964 August
	Recruiting materials	
b. 1, f. 3	Promotional material and summer application	1964
b. 1, f. 4	Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) pinback buttons	circa 1964
b. 2, f. 1	Posters	1964
	Publications and clippings	
b. 1, f. 5	<i>Songs of the Southern Freedom Movement</i>	1963
b. 1, f. 6	<i>The Student Voice</i>	1963–1964
b. 1, f. 7	<i>The Atlanta Inquirer</i>	1964
b. 2, f. 2	Civil rights and arrest related clippings	1964, 2003
b. 2, f. 3	Reproductions and laminates	1964, 2022
	Commemorative events	
b. 3, f. 1-3	Conference programs and related materials	1980, 2005-2014, undated
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 1	Posters	1980, 2012
	Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland, <i>From the Mississippi Delta</i> related materials	
b. 3, f. 4	Ephemera	1995
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 2	Poster	1995
b. 3, f. 5	Dr. Bernice Reagon Johnson related materials	1997, undated
b. 3, f. 6	Printed ephemera and newspaper clippings	1978-1981

b. 3, f. 7

Spirit of Freedom

2019

1 Audio Disc (CD) 01:02:30 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)

Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African Americans -- Civil rights
Civil Rights movements -- Mississippi -- History
-- 20th Century
Civil Rights movements -- United States
Civil Rights movements -- United States --
History -- 20th Century
Civil rights workers
Civil rights workers -- United States
Protest movements -- United States -- 20th
Century
Social movements -- United States

Geographic Names

Mississippi -- History
United States -- Economic conditions -- 20th
Century
United States -- Politics and government --
20th Century
United States -- Race relations
United States -- Social conditions -- 20th
Century

Corporate Body

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
(U.S.)

Contributors

Haberman, Karen
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
(U.S.)
Holland, Endesha Ida Mae, 1944-2006
Reagon, Bernice Johnson, 1942-