



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Civil rights collection**

1960-1977

Sc MG 388

## Summary

**Collector:** Yancy, Roberta

**Title:** Civil rights collection

**Date:** 1960-1977

**Size:** 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of Roberta Yancy, May 1989.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** Roberta "Bobbi" Yancy attended Barnard College in 1959, one of only two Black students in her class. She often volunteered at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's New York office headed up by Jack O'Dell. During her sophomore year, Yancy helped organize, and chaired, a Race Relations Committee on campus. In late 1961, she spearheaded a regional civil rights action conference that laid the groundwork for continued northern student activism. Yancy's involvement with the Race Relations Committee taught her invaluable administrative and organizing skills that she brought south when she started working as a campus coordinator for the YWCA in 1962. She joined Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's staff in 1963, serving as both a campus coordinator and a conference organizer. One of her first SNCC tasks was to organize a three-day leadership training institute at Howard University. The conference focused on the economic exploitation of poor Black southerners. Yancy's role in SNCC was largely administrative, but she also participated in direct action protests in Atlanta, including a sit-in at SNCC's Atlanta office objecting to the fact that women almost always took the minutes at organizational meetings. Yancy also helped stage a sit-in at a Toddle House Restaurant in Atlanta, where she and other protesters were refused service and jailed. The protests gained national attention, and within weeks, the Dobbs Corporation (the restaurant's parent company) agreed to desegregate its businesses. In 1964, James Forman asked Yancy to head up SNCC's fundraising efforts in New York City, where she remained until 1968. She later went on to hold a leadership position at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City. The Roberta Yancy Civil Rights collection contains material generated by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and other organizations. The collection contains historical data; correspondence; reports; writings; speeches by Stokely Carmichael, James Forman and John Lewis; and publications, manuscripts of freedom songs, and calendars produced by the SNCC. Also included is printed material from the Child Development Group of Mississippi (1966-67), Council of Federated

Organizations (1964), Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (1964), and the Southern Education and Research Institute (n.d.); a list of "Black Elected Officials in the Southern States" compiled by the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council (1969); and a "National Roster of Black Elected Officials" from the Joint Center for Political Studies (1971).

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Civil rights collection, Sc MG 388, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Berlena Robinson, May 1991.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: artifact.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

**Related Materials:**

Related collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

Child Development Group of Mississippi collection, Sc MG 265

(Catherine Clarke) Civil rights collection, Sc MG 95

Iris Greenberg/Freedom Summer collection, Sc MG 94

Jack O'Dell papers, Sc MG 497

Robert and Anita Stein papers, Sc MG 138

Ruth Schein. Mississippi Freedom Summer Project collection, Sc MG 113

## **Creator History**

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in Atlanta, where she and other protesters were refused service and jailed. The protests gained national attention, and within weeks, the Dobbs Corporation (the restaurant's parent company) agreed to desegregate its businesses. In 1964, James Forman asked Yancy to head up SNCC's fundraising efforts in New York City, where she remained until 1968. She later went on to hold a leadership position at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Roberta Yancy Civil Rights collection contains material generated by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and other organizations. The collection contains historical data; correspondence; reports; writings; speeches by Stokely Carmichael, James Forman and John Lewis; and publications, manuscripts of freedom songs, and calendars produced by the SNCC. Also included is printed material from the Child Development Group of Mississippi (1966-67), Council of Federated Organizations (1964), Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (1964), and the Southern Education and Research Institute (n.d.); a list of "Black Elected Officials in the Southern States" compiled by the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council (1969); and a "National Roster of Black Elected Officials" from the Joint Center for Political Studies (1971).

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American college students  
African American politicians  
African American student movements  
African American women civil rights workers  
African Americans -- Civil rights  
African Americans -- Education  
Civil rights movements  
Civil rights workers  
Race relations -- United States

### **Names**

Carmichael, Stokely, 1941-1998  
Forman, James, 1928-2005  
Lewis, John, 1940-2020  
Yancy, Roberta  
Child Development Group of Mississippi  
Council of Federated Organizations (U.S.)  
Joint Center for Political Studies (U.S.)  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party  
Southern Institute for Education and Research  
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)  
Voter Education Project (Southern Regional Council)

## Container List

### Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee 1960-1968

b. 1 f. 1 Formation 1960

b. 1 f. 2 Staff list undated

#### Writing

b. 1 f. 3 Forman, James 1960-1967

b. 1 f. 4 Carmichael, Stokeley 1966

b. 1 f. 5 Speeches 1963-1967

Includes speeches by John Lewis, Stokeley Carmichael, and James Forman.

b. 1 f. 6 Music manuscripts of freedom songs 1963

b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence 1965-1966

b. 1 f. 8 Yancy, Roberta 1964

b. 1 f. 9 International information 1964-1968

b. 1 f. 10 "Life with Lyndon in the Great Society" 1965

b. 1 f. 11 Reports, memos, and a research paper 1965-1967

b. 1 f. 12 Freedom Schools report and book list undated

b. 1 f. 13 Education 1966

#### Student Voice publications

b. 1 f. 14 1965-1967

b. 1 f. 15 Atlanta's Black paper and Philadelphia's Black paper 1966

#### Printed matter

b. 1 f. 16 1966

b. 1 f. 17 Calendars 1967-1968

b. 2 f. 1 "Black Elected Officials in the Southern States" compiled by the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council 1969

b. 2 f. 2 "National Roster of Black Elected Officials" from the Joint Center for Political Studies 1971

b. 2 f. 3 Child Development Group of Mississippi 1966-1967

b. 2 f. 4 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party 1964

b. 2 f. 5 Southern Education and Research Institute undated

b. 2 f. 6 Chisholm, Shirley undated

#### Printed matter

b. 2 f. 7 1963-1969

b. 2 f. 8 1970-1977