



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

Guide to the

***The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow* documentary research collection**

1995-2002

Sc MG 742

Processed by Janice Quinter, September 12, 2012.

Summary

Title: *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow* documentary research collection

Date: 1995-2002

Size: 3.42 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Gift of Richard Wormser, September 2004.

Abstract: The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow documentary research collection documents some aspects of the production of the PBS television series, and most notably consists of over a hundred transcripts of interviews.

Preferred citation: [Item], The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow documentary research collection, Sc MG 742, 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: Processed by Janice Quinter, September 12, 2012.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow is a four-part television series that tells the story of the African American struggle for freedom during the period of segregation in the South, 1880-1954. The series aired on PBS in 2002. The programs were produced, directed, and written by the team of Richard Wormser, Bill Jersey, and Sam Pollard.

The four episodes are organized chronologically. The central theme of Episode 1 (1865-1896) illustrates

the conflict between the efforts of African Americans to achieve the promises of emancipation of full civil and political rights and the demand by whites for segregation and political exclusion. Episode 2 (1896-1917) explores the dramatic rise of a successful Black middle class and the determination of white supremacists to destroy this fledgling Black political power. The third episode (1918-1940) chronicles the years between World Wars I and II, a time of increased mob violence, lynchings, and massacres of Blacks. Episode 4 (1940-1954) examines the surge of Black activism that occurred after World War II.

Scope and Content Note

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow documentary research collection documents some aspects of the production of the PBS television series, and most notably consists of over a hundred transcripts of interviews conducted with academicians and individuals, many of whom lived in the South during the era of Jim Crow.

For the online version, there are content outlines, narration, and an overview and a rough script for episode III. Of particular use is a detailed overview of each of the four episodes of the series. There are scripts for the first three episodes and limited production records. The most significant part of the collection is the 112 transcripts of interviews conducted primarily by Richard Wormser, with some conducted by Bill Jersey and Sam Pollard. Fourteen interview transcripts discuss the Elaine race riot in Elaine, Arkansas, in 1919, during which a large number of black sharecroppers were killed by whites following a union meeting. The interviewees had relatives who grew up in Arkansas (a few had been sharecroppers themselves) and some were able to talk about the racial and working conditions in the early to mid-twentieth century. The several historians who were interviewed provide a scholarly perspective on the race riot.

The five interviewees who focused on elections primarily discussed politics, their experiences in voting and family life, in addition to lynchings and education, primarily in Georgia. Thirteen people were interviewed concerning the lynching of two married couples near the Moore's Ford Bridge in Georgia in 1946. This incident involved a white mob who grabbed the couples (both women were pregnant), tied them to a tree and shot them to death. The transcripts of two witnesses to the murders and a relative of one of the victims are included in the collection, as are those of former aides to President Truman, a former FBI agent, a Klansman, and Stetson Kennedy, who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan in the 1940s. In the Georgia Veterans files, six men and women, veterans of World War II, discussed their experiences before and after military service. Two journalists (Evelyn Cunningham of the *Pittsburgh Courier* and George Stoney of the *Survey Graphic*) described what it was like reporting in various states in the South. Several of the ten Mississippi veterans described both positive and negative encounters they experienced overseas while former state senator of Mississippi, Henry J. Kirksey, spoke about his upbringing in a log cabin and incidents while stationed in Asia. Lewella Newsome discussed her training on bases in the North and South, and former Mississippi Governor William Winters touched upon social problems from the 1940s-1960s.

Two other Mississippi citizens spoke: Miburn Crowe explained the history of Mound Bayou, an independent African American town founded by former enslaved persons; and Charles Evers, brother of Medgar Evers, who related his childhood experiences, how he learned of his brother's death, and the way he (Charles) became the field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Mississippi.

There are sixteen interview transcripts discussing the students who organized a strike in 1951, for a better school than their own, the segregated Robert Russa Moton High School, in Farmville, Virginia.

Many former students and their parents, along with former teachers, described their childhood in the segregated small town of Farmville, the school building itself, and how ill-prepared the students were for college.

Forty-seven transcripts of academicians, primarily historians, provide an intellectual and historical background for the Jim Crow era. Among the individuals interviewed are: Ralph Cassimere, Margaret Clifford (granddaughter of Booker T. Washington), Paula Giddings (discussing Ida B. Wells), Glenda Gilmore (discussing Charlotte Hawkins Brown), Kenneth Goings, Jacqueline Dowd Hall, Charles Houston, Jr. and Charles Houston, III (discussing Charles Hamilton Houston), David Levering Lewis, and Leon Litwack.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American civil rights workers
African American historians
African American intellectuals
African American students -- Virginia -- Farmville
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Education (Secondary)
African Americans -- History -- 1877-1964
African Americans -- Segregation
African Americans -- Segregation -- Southern States
African Americans -- Social conditions
Journalists -- United States
Lynching -- Georgia
Lynching -- Southern States
Lynching -- United States -- 1940-1950
Race relations
Television -- Production and direction -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Interviews
Scripts

Geographic Names

Mound Bayou (Miss.)
United States -- Race relations

Names

Cunningham, Evelyn, 1916-2010
Dobbs, John Wesley, 1882-1961
Evers, Charles, 1922-
Evers, Medgar Wiley, 1925-1963
Houston, Charles Hamilton, 1895-1950
Kennedy, Stetson
Kirksey, Henry J., 1915-2005
Stoney, George C.
Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915
Wells-Barnett, Ida B., 1862-1931
Ku Klux Klan (1915-)
Robert Russa Moton High School (Farmville (Va.))

Container List

- Financial records 1995-1998
 - b. 1 f. 1 Carnegie Corporation of America proposal draft
 - b. 1 f. 2 Grants 1995-1998
 - b. 1 f. 3 National Endowment for the Humanities 1995-1998
Includes proposal evaluations, interim performance reports, etc.
- Correspondence 1996-2002
 - b. 1 f. 4 On research 2001-2002
Includes notes.
 - b. 1 f. 5 On production 1996-2002
 - b. 1 f. 6 Franklin, John Hope 2000
 - b. 1 f. 7 Overview of series
 - b. 1 f. 8 Staff
 - b. 1 f. 9 Permissions 1996-2002
Includes photographs and letters.
 - b. 1 f. 10 Interviewees and research contacts
 - b. 1 f. 11 Research and correspondence on stills, stock, and footage 1997-2001
- Production 2001-2002
 - b. 1 f. 12 Shoot itinerary for Atlanta and Dallas 2001 October 5-8
 - b. 1 f. 13 Shooting schedule and contacts for Pennsylvania 2001 November
 - b. 1 f. 14-15 Shooting schedule for Edisto Island, South Carolina and North Carolina 2001
November-December
Also includes props and finances.
 - Shoot and crew, Episode II: "Promises Betrayed" 2001 December-2002
 - b. 1 f. 16-18 Narration 2002
 - b. 1 f. 19 Notes
 - b. 1 f. 20 Music 1997-2002
 - b. 1 f. 21 Appearance releases 2002 January
 - b. 1 f. 22 Use of archival photographs and quotes 2002 March
 - b. 1 f. 23 Narration 2002 March
 - b. 1 f. 24 Financial 1998-2000
 - b. 1 f. 25 Notes
- Publicity
 - b. 1 f. 26 Overview
 - b. 1 f. 27 Post production, intergenerational guide
- Web video production 2002
 - b. 1 f. 28 Content outline
 - b. 1 f. 29 Narration and general outline
 - b. 1 f. 30 Episode I, "Promises Betrayed", narration
 - b. 1 f. 31 Episode II, "Fighting Back", outline
 - b. 1 f. 32 Episode III, "Don't Shout too Soon", overview
 - b. 1 f. 33 Episode III rough script (typescript) 2002 May 3

Scripts 1993-2002

- b. 1 f. 34-35 **Episode I**
Includes first draft.
- b. 1 f. 36-40 **Episode II 2002**
Includes draft dated June 12 (no year) and another draft dated June 29, 2002, among others.
- b. 1 f. 41-43 **Episode III**
Includes first draft, among others.
- b. 1 f. 44 **Comments from academicians 1993-2000**

Interviews

Arkansas, Elaine Race Riot

- b. 1 f. 45 **Branton, Wiley, Jr. (federal judge)**
- b. 1 f. 46 **Dillard, Tom (archivist, University of Arkansas)**
- b. 1 f. 47 **Dougan, Michael (historian, Arkansas State University)**
- b. 1 f. 48 **Fairley, Dr. (physician in Arkansas Delta)**
- b. 1 f. 49 **Fendler, Oscar (attorney in Arkansas Delta)**
- b. 1 f. 50 **Gill, Dezzie (former resident of Marvel, Arkansas)**
- b. 1 f. 51 **Gordon, Fon Louise (historian)**
- b. 1 f. 52 **Howe, Otis (lumber baron of Phillips County, Arkansas)**

Jacksons

- b. 1 f. 53 **Jackson, Hattie**
Arkansas sharecropper and Mose Jackson's wife.
- b. 1 f. 54 **Jackson, Mose**
Arkansas sharecropper.
- b. 1 f. 55 **Jackson, Mose and Ruth**
Ruth was Mose Jackson's aunt.
- b. 1 f. 56 **Miller, Robert (Arkansas physician)**
- b. 1 f. 57 **Scott, Elmo (former resident of Elaine, Arkansas)**
- b. 1 f. 58 **Skyes, Curtis (local historian in Arkansas)**

Elections

- b. 2 f. 1 **Cook, Samuel DuBois (former President of Dillard University)**
- b. 2 f. 2 **Dobbs-Butts, June, Dr. (resident of Atlanta, Georgia)**
- b. 2 f. 3 **Dobbs, Mattiwilda (John Wesley Dobbs's daughter)**
- b. 2 f. 4 **Law, W. W. (civil rights leader, Savannah, Georgia)**
- b. 2 f. 5 **Mackey, James (former political worker, Atlanta, Georgia)**

Georgia, Moore's Ford

- b. 2 f. 6 **Adams, Clinton 1998**
White sharecropper and witness to murder.
- b. 2 f. 7 **Boss, Bobby and Wendell**
Residents of Walton County, Georgia. Interviewed by Bill Jersey.
- b. 2 f. 8 **Dorsey, Ruby**
Relative of murdered soldier.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Elsy, George**
Former aide to President Harry Truman.

Interviews (cont.)

Georgia, Moore's Ford (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 10 **Garrett, Don**
 Campaign worker for Eugene Talmadge.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Heckler, Ken**
 Former aide to President Harry Truman.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Howard, Bobby**
 Witness to murder and civil rights activist.
- b. 2 f. 13 **Howard, Lamar**
 Witness to murder.
- b. 2 f. 14 **Hutchinson, Lou**
 Former FBI agent.
- b. 2 f. 15 **Kennedy, Stetson**
 Infiltrator of Ku Klux Klan, Atlanta, Georgia.
- b. 2 f. 16 **Parks, Gordon**
 Klansman and white supremacist in Georgia. Interviewed by William Jersey.
- b. 2 f. 17 **Wayman, Martin**
 Farmer's son, Georgia.
- b. 2 f. 18 **Wellborn, Annie**
 Sharecropper, Walton County, Georgia.

Georgia veterans

- b. 2 f. 19 **Butler, Frank**
- b. 2 f. 20 **Cunningham, Evelyn**
 Former journalist at *Pittsburgh Courier*.
- b. 2 f. 21 **Landers, Willie**
- b. 2 f. 22 **Mapp, Annie and Clarence**
 Residents of Walton County, Georgia.
- b. 2 f. 23 **Stoney, George**
 Former journalist and filmmaker.
- b. 2 f. 24 **Williams, Reverend**

Mississippi, war veterans

All of the interviewees were veterans of World War II, except for James Nix, who was a veteran of the Korean War.

- b. 2 f. 25 **Burks, Matthew**
- b. 2 f. 26 **Hopkins, Elbert**
- b. 2 f. 27 **Jackson, Sam**
- b. 2 f. 28 **Jackson, Yernell**
- b. 2 f. 29 **Jones, James**
- b. 2 f. 30 **Kirksey, Henry J**
 Former state Senator.
- b. 2 f. 31 **Newsome, Lewella**
 Former WAC.
- b. 2 f. 32 **Nix, James**
- b. 2 f. 33 **Pickett, Roscoe**
- b. 2 f. 34 **Winters, William**
 Former governor of Mississippi.

Mississippi

- b. 2 f. 35 **Crowe, Milburn and Mound Bayou**

Interviews (cont.)

Mississippi (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 36 **Evers, Charles**
Civil rights activist and brother of Medgar Evers.

Virginia--Farmville

All interviewees are former students at Robert Russa Moton High School unless otherwise noted.

- b. 2 f. 37 **Allen, Carl**
b. 2 f. 38 **Allen, Vera**
Parent of former student at Robert Russa Moton High School.
b. 2 f. 39 **Bledsoe, Edna Allen**
b. 2 f. 40 **Brown, Hodges**
b. 2 f. 41 **Isaac, Edwilda**
b. 2 f. 42 **Jackson, Kennell**
b. 2 f. 43 **Lancaster, John**
Resident and concerned parent.
b. 2 f. 44 **McVay, Irene Taylor**
Student at Robert Russa Moton High School.
b. 2 f. 45 **Rawlins, Connie**
Former teacher at Farmville High School.
b. 2 f. 46 **Shirley, Dean**
Ned Cobb's granddaughter.
b. 2 f. 47 **Shepperson, Willie**
b. 2 f. 48 **Smith, R. C**
Historian of Farmville.
b. 2 f. 49 **Stokes, John**
Student leader at Robert Russa Moton High School.
b. 2 f. 50 **Watson, John**
b. 2 f. 51 **Williams, J. Samuel, Jr**
b. 2 f. 52 **Williams, J. Samuel, Jr. and Joan Cobb**
b. 2 f. 53 **Transcript notes and excerpts**

Intellectual background

- b. 2 f. 54 **Anderson, James D**
Professor of History of Education.
b. 2 f. 55 **Bauerlein, Mark**
Historian, Emory University; focus on Atlanta's history.
b. 2 f. 56 **Blackman, Charles**
North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.
b. 2 f. 57 **Borders, Florence**
Local historian from New Orleans.
b. 2 f. 58 **Burns, Tracy**
Director, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Gibsonville, North Carolina.
b. 2 f. 59 **Cassimere, Ralph**
Historian, University of New Orleans.
b. 2 f. 60 **Clifford, Margaret**
Booker T. Washington's granddaughter.
b. 2 f. 61 **Cripps, Thomas**
Historian of African Americans in Motion Picture Industry.

Interviews (cont.)

Intellectual background (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 62 **Daniels, Pete**
Historian of Southern history.
- b. 2 f. 63 **Davis, Ken**
Resident of Wilmington, North Carolina.
- b. 2 f. 64 **Davis, Leroy**
Historian of Atlanta history.
- b. 2 f. 65 **Gatewood, Willard**
Historian of Spanish-American War.
- b. 2 f. 66 **Giddings, Paula**
Historian, Smith College; discusses Ida B. Wells.
- b. 2 f. 67 **Gilmore, Glenda 2001**
Historian, Yale University.
- b. 2 f. 68 **Goings, Kenneth**
Historian, Ohio State University.
- b. 2 f. 69 **Goodwill, Marquette**
Discusses Edisto Island, South Carolina.
- b. 2 f. 70 **Goodwin, Jeanne**
Fisk University, Class of 1927.
- b. 2 f. 71 **Goodwin, James**
Jeanne Goodwin's son.
- b. 2 f. 72 **Hale, Grace**
Historian, University of Virginia.
- b. 3 f. 1 **Haley, John**
Historian, University of North Carolina at Wilmington.
- b. 3 f. 2 **Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd**
Historian, Southern Women Against Lynching, 1930s.
- b. 3 f. 3 **Hamilton, Kenneth M**
Historian, Southern Methodist University; discusses Isiah Montgomery.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Heckler, Ken**
Aide to Harry Truman in the 1940s.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Holtzclaw-Lee, Hershel**
William Holtzclaw's grandson.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Houston, Charles H., Jr**
Son of Charles Hamilton Houston, NAACP Chief Counsel, 1930s.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Houston, Charles Hamilton, III**
Grandson of Charles Hamilton Houston, NAACP Chief Counsel, 1930s.
- b. 3 f. 8 **Janken, Kenneth Robert**
Biographer of Walter White.
- b. 3 f. 9 **Jarrett, Vernon**
Journalist.
- b. 3 f. 10 **Kelley, Robin D. G**
Historian, Columbia University.
- b. 3 f. 11 **Lewis, David Levering**
Historian, biographer of W.E.B. DuBois.
- b. 3 f. 12 **Litwack, Leon**
Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley.

Interviews (cont.)

Intellectual background (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 13 **McLaurin, Melton**
Historian, University of North Carolina at Wilmington.
- b. 3 f. 14 **McNeil, Genna Rae**
Historian and biographer of Charles Hamilton Houston.
- b. 3 f. 15 **Manley, Ida**
Alex Manley's daughter-in-law.
- b. 3 f. 16 **May, Emma L**
Ned Cobb's daughter.
- b. 3 f. 17 **Meade, Elizabeth**
Former student at Palmer Memorial Institute.
- b. 3 f. 18 **Painter, Nell**
Discusses Jonathan Solomon Lewis.
- b. 3 f. 19 **Palmer, Rose**
Walter White's niece.
- b. 3 f. 20 **Raeburn, Bruce**
Curator at Hogan Jazz Archives.
- b. 3 f. 21 **Rosengarten, Dale (historian)**
- b. 3 f. 22 **Rosengarten, Theodore**
Author of *All God's Dangers* about Ned Cobb.
- b. 3 f. 23 **Sitkoff, Harvard**
Historian of New Deal.
- b. 3 f. 24 **Stevenson, Bryon**
- b. 3 f. 25 **Sullivan, Patricia**
Historian of New Deal.
- b. 3 f. 26 **Todd, Bertha**
Resident of Wilmington, North Carolina.
- b. 3 f. 27 **Totten, Ruth**
Former teacher at Palmer Memorial Institute.
- b. 3 f. 28 **Wooley, Robert H**
Historian, Mansfield College, Pennsylvania.
- b. 3 f. 29 **Resumes for individuals not interviewed**
- b. 4 **Diskettes and zip discs**