



# Guide to the Joseph A. Sinsheimer Papers, 1962-1987

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This collection guide was produced in **October 2013**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Joseph A. Sinsheimer papers, 1962-1987

**Creator:**

Sinsheimer, Joseph Andrew, 1962-

**Abstract:**

Joseph A. Sinsheimer graduated from Duke University in 1987 with an A.B. in History. He recorded oral histories of the Mississippi civil rights movement between 1983 and 1987, with grant support from the Lyndhurst Foundation. Collection includes audio recordings and transcripts of oral history interviews and speeches regarding the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Mississippi in the 1960s, with brief summaries. Focus is on the "Freedom Summer" of 1964. Notable interviews include Robert Parris Moses, Sam Block, Hazel Palmer, Jesse Jackson, Gray Evans, Frank Smith, and many more. Collection also contains a small amount of manuscript materials from the civil rights era, including clippings, reports, scrapbooks, and correspondence.

**Extent:**

5 Linear Feet (689 items)

**Language:**

Materials in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.10056

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m14q0r>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Joseph A. Sinsheimer Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

The collection chronicles the work of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and its involvement with resident civil rights activists in Mississippi. Materials consist primarily of recorded oral histories and their transcriptions, but also extend to speeches and unpublished papers. The records date from 1962 to 1987, and were compiled and collected by Duke University alumnus Joseph A. Sinsheimer with the support of a fellowship from the Lyndhurst Foundation.

Local activists represent their experiences in a series of twenty-five interviews that were conducted at movement centers throughout Mississippi, including McComb, Jackson, Greenwood, and Clarksdale. Leading SNCC activists Samuel Block, David Dennis, and Silas McGhee are also represented in interviews conducted between 1983 and 1987. There are also four extensive interviews and transcribed speeches of noted SNCC activist and leader of the Mississippi civil rights movement Robert Moses, as well as interviews of community leaders C.C. Bryant and Hazel Palmer, conducted by Moses himself. The collection also features unpublished speeches and papers given in the 1960s; additionally, transcripts of exchanges at academic conferences extend the scope of the collection to reconstructions of events by historians in the 1970s and 1980s. The collection also contains court records and correspondence to national leaders like Hubert Humphrey and Robert Kennedy, which report on the use of organized violence in the counter-efforts of segregationists.

Sinsheimer's records have already been cited by historians Taylor Branch and William Chafe, and played a significant role in the 1994 documentary "Freedom on my Mind." Although Sinsheimer's published articles on the Mississippi Movement have focused on the resistance of SNCC to segregationists policies and organized violence, the documentation of this collection sheds light on a wider range of concerns. The interviews detail the role of the black church in organizational activities; sexism within the movement; the establishment of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964; black nationalism and the role of white student workers in the civil rights movement after the "Freedom Summer;" as well as the significance of national media in the struggle.

### Biographical/Historical

Joseph A. Sinsheimer graduated from Duke University in 1987 with an A.B. in History. He recorded oral histories of the Mississippi civil rights movement between 1983 and 1987, with grant support from the Lyndhurst Foundation.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Access Restrictions**

Access restricted. Original audio materials are closed to use. Use copies on audiocassette are available.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

The Joseph A. Sinsheimer Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1987.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by RL Staff, 1999

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, October 2013

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## Names and Subjects

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- Civil rights -- Mississippi
- Mississippi -- Race relations
- Mississippi -- Ethnic relations
- Minorities -- Mississippi -- History
- Civil rights workers -- Mississippi -- History
- Civil rights -- Alabama
- Voter registration -- Mississippi
- Harris, David, 1946-
- Payne, Bruce L.
- Evers, Medgar Wiley, 1925-1963
- Moses, Robert Parris, 1888-
- Lowenstein, Allard K.
- Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- Jenkins, Tim
- Zinn, Howard, 1922-2010
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)
- Emmerich, John
- Council of Federated Organizations (U.S.)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Interviews and speeches, 1963-1987

**Physical Description:** 6 Linear Feet

157 items, 8 single-row cassette boxes, 2 paige boxes

#### Scope and Contents

The oral history interviews in this collection were largely conducted and collected by Joseph Sinsheimer. The materials have been arranged by interview, and also include some speeches and occasional interviews by other historians, such as Howard Zinn, Clayborne Carson, and John Dittmer. Some transcripts do not have accompanying audiocassettes; likewise, some audiocassettes do not include a transcript. Sinsheimer's interviews were often accompanied by a memorandum in which he offered a brief biographical note on the interviewee and detailed the subjects covered in the interview. These notes have been included below when present in the collection.

#### Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Original audio materials are closed to use. Use copies on audiocassette are available.

Adams, Victoria Gray interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1987 August 23 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Victoria Gray Adams interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer \(text only\)](#)

**Scope and Contents note**

Leading civil rights activist in Hattiesburg, MS. Interview with Sinsheimer. Gray discussed: Vernon Dahmer's leadership in the local civil rights campaign; her first encounter with SNCC field secretary Hollis Watkins; economic reprisals directed against black civil rights workers by the local white community; lack of adult leadership in Mississippi movement; Lawrence Guyot's role in the Hattiesburg campaign.

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Transcript

Box 1

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Adams, Victoria Gray interviewed by John Dittmer, 1989 May 8

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette

Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0062

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Use copy audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0011

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Allen, Emma interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1986 May 5 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Emma Allen interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Local civil rights activist in Greenwood, MS. Interview with Sinsheimer. Allen discussed: Robert Moses' leadership role in the movement; the role of different black churches in supporting the Greenwood movement; black Greenwood's economic boycott of Slim Henderson's store in 1964; the difficulty of attempting to register to vote in Greenwood.

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Original audiocassette

Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0052

**Physical Description:** 72 minutes

Transcript	Box 1
Use copy audiocassette	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0001

Block, Sam interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1986 December 12 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Sam Block interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

SNCC's lead organizer in Greenwood, MS, 1962-1963. Interview with Sinsheimer. Block discussed: his childhood experiences with racism in Mississippi; his "recruitment" into the civil rights movement by Amzie Moore; developing a voter registration campaign in Greenwood; Cleveland Jordan's role in developing the Greenwood movement; Rev. Aaron Johnson's decision to open the First Christian Church to the movement; working with SNCC field secretary Willie Peacock in Greenwood; developing a voter registration campaign in Itta Bena, Mississippi; Bob Moses' role in the Mississippi campaign; the role of SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman in the Mississippi movement; the difficulty in getting black churches to open their doors to the movement; SNCC's relationship with the NAACP in the state; the psychological effects of the March on Washington in 1963; the need for greater staff education in the Mississippi movement.

Original audiocassette, 1 of 3	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0053
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Original audiocassette, 2 of 3	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0054
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Original audiocassette, 3 of 3	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0055
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette, 1 of 3	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0002
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Use copy audiocassette, 2 of 3	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0003
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Use copy audiocassette, 3 of 3	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0004
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Bryant, C.C. with Robert Moses, 1983 July 9

### Scope and Contents

Branch president of the McComb, MS, NAACP, 1954-1985. Transcript of Bryant and Robert Moses at the Mississippi Voices of the Civil Rights Movement Conference, McComb, MS.

### Access Restrictions:

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript

Box 1

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Bryant, C.C. interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1985 February 7 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [C.C. Bryant interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

### Scope and Contents

Branch president of the McComb, MS, NAACP, 1954-1985. Interview with Sinsheimer. Bryant discussed: Amzie Moore's role in sending Robert Moses to McComb; voter registration classes in McComb and Amite County in 1961; the murder of Herbert Lee; working with Robert Moses during the 1961 voter registration campaign; civil rights activity in McComb during the 1964 Freedom Summer project; McComb's reaction to white civil rights workers in 1964; the role of the U.S. Justice Dept. in MS civil rights activity.

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Original audiocassette

Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0056

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Transcript

Box 1

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Use copy audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0005

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Coles, Robert interviewed by Joseph  
Sinsheimer, 1983 November 19 (online item  
available)

**Digital Object:** [Robert Coles interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

### Scope and Contents

Author of the Children of Crisis series; advisor to SNCC, 1963-1964. Interview with Sinsheimer. Coles discussed: the intense media scrutiny of the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project; the tension between SNCC staff and student volunteers; recollections of Dennis Sweeney; the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) challenge to the all-white delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

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Original audiocassette (Bob Moses interview starts at 30 minutes on side 2) Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0057

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Transcript Box 1

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Use copy audiocassette Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0006

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Criss, Sarah interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1986 May 8 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Sarah Criss interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Reporter for the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, 1956-1980. Interview with Sinsheimer. Criss discussed: the pressure on white Southern newspaper reporters; the presence of the Ku Klux Klan in Greenwood; the role of various white officials in Greenwood, including former City Attorney Hardy Lott and former mayor Charles Sampson; reaction to the Beckwith trial (for the murder of Medgar Evers); the membership of the White Legal Defense Fund formed to support Beckwith; Hardy Lott's influence on the Greenwood Citizens Council; Greenwood's reaction to the 1964 Civil Rights Act; the tension between large plantation owners and other civic leaders in Greenwood over the issue of recruiting manufacturing jobs to the town in the late 1940s and 1950s.

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Original audiocassette Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0058

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Transcript Box 1

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Use copy audiocassette Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0007

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Emmerich, John, 1985 July 16 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [John Emmerich interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer \(text only\)](#)

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Transcript Box 1

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Dennis, David interviewed by John Dittmer, 1983 July 12

**Scope and Contents**

Head of CORE in Mississippi during the 1960s. Interview with John Dittmer. Dennis discussed: the development of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi; the development of the civil rights movement in Jackson, MS; the movements "failure" after 1964; his reaction to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, 1964; the role of

the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party after 1964; the rise of black nationalism in Mississippi; the role of white students in the movement.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript

Box 1

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Evans, Gray interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1985 July 10

**Scope and Contents**

Leader of the moderate white community in Greenwood, MS; prosecuting attorney for Greenwood during most of the early 1960s. Interview with Sinsheimer. Evans discussed: his relationship with U.S. Congressman Frank Smith and other federal officials; negotiating on the telephone with Robert Kennedy; his relationship with U.S. Justice Dept. official John Doar; Hardy Lott's influence on Greenwood officials.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette

Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0059

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Transcript

Box 1

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Use copy audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0008

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Evans, Gray interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1986 May 5

**Scope and Contents**

Leader of the moderate white community in Greenwood, MS; prosecuting attorney for Greenwood during most of the early 1960s. Interview with Sinsheimer. Evans discussed: tensions between Greenwood city officials, 1963-1964; a fistfight between Buff Hammond and Charlie Sampson that sprung from integration efforts at the Leflore Theatre; race relations in Greenwood in the late 1950s; leaders of the Greenwood Citizens Council.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0060
Transcript	Box 1
Use copy audiocassette	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0009

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Frank, Barney interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1983 November 14 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Barney Frank interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Student volunteer for the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, 1964; member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Massachusetts, 1981-2013. Interview with Sinsheimer. Frank discussed: how he was recruited to the project by Al Lowenstein; his experiences that summer in Jackson, MS; Al Lowenstein's reaction to the MFDP's Atlantic City challenge.

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Original audiocassette	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0061
Transcript	Box 1
Use copy audiocassette	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0010

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Greene Family interviewed by Clayborne Carson, 1978 September 16

**Scope and Contents**

Active in the civil rights movement in Greenwood during the 1960s. Interview with Clayborne Carson.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript	Box 1
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Group interview (Charles Smith, William Jenkins, Joe Martin, Rev. Harry Bowie, Edith Moore, L.B. Butler, and Jessie Devines) interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 February 16 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [McComb, Mississippi Civil Rights Activists by Joseph Sinsheimer \(text only\)](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Participants include Charles Smith, William Jenkins, Joe Martin, Rev. Harry Bowie, Edith Moore, L.B. Butler, and Jessie Devines, all civil rights activists in McComb, MS. Interview with Sinsheimer. Participants discussed: their childhood in the segregated South; black role models in the segregated South; leadership of C.C. Bryant in McComb race relations; the creation of the Pike County Voter's League in the 1940s; a school walk-out by a group of black Burgland High School students in the fall of 1961; changes in the movement from 1961 to 1964; role of Robert Moses in the Mississippi campaign.

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Transcript

Box 1

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Guyot, Lawrence interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1987 May 4 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Lawrence Guyot interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

SNCC field secretary from Mississippi. Interview with Sinsheimer. Guyot discussed: Amzie Moore's role in the Delta civil rights movement; development of Greenwood, MS voter registration campaign, 1962-1963; arrest of the Greenwood SNCC staff in 1963 by white authorities; the role of Ed Cothran in the Greenwood campaign; the role of black women in the Mississippi movement; the role of Tougaloo College in the development of civil rights activity in Hattiesburg, MS, 1962-1963; the success of the Freedom School program in Hattiesburg; the credential challenge by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964; SNCC's focus or lack of focus on economic issues in Mississippi in the mid-1960s; the correlation between information and power; the development of the Delta Ministry in Mississippi; how to avoid movement "burnout"; the 1988 presidential election.

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Original audiocassette, 1 of 2

Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0063

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Original audiocassette, 2 of 2 (June Johnson on side 2)

Box 6 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0064

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Transcript

Box 1

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Use copy audiocassette, 1 of 2	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0012
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Use copy audiocassette, 2 of 2	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0013
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Gwin, Arnold "Bo" interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1986 May 7 (online item available)  
**Digital Object:** [Arnold "Bo" Gwin interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Former legal associate of Hardy Lott. Interview with Sinsheimer. Gwin discussed: the role of the Greenwood Citizens Council in civic affairs; the black community's boycott of Greenwood's white merchants, 1967-1968; Hardy Lott's relationship to U.S. senators Eastland and Stennis; the leadership of the Greenwood Citizens Council; Lott's relationship with U.S. Federal District Judge Clayton; relationship between Judge Clayton and U.S. Justice Dept. representative John Doar; Lott's role as city attorney; Greenwood's white community support of Beckwith after Evers' murder; members of the White Legal Defense Fund set up to support Beckwith.

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Original audiocassette	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0065
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0014
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Harding, Vincent - speech, 1964

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this speech have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of a speech delivered by Harding to the student volunteers participating in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, 1964. Harding discussed: history of the African American experience in America; sexual tension that some volunteers would face in Mississippi; potential black racism in the project; the need for volunteers to try to help build local leadership during the summer.

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Audiocassette copy	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0066
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0015
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Holland, Ida Mae interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1987 March 14 (online item available)  
**Digital Object:** [Ida Mae Holland interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

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Original audiocassette, 1 of 2	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0067
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Original audiocassette, 2 of 2 (Edwin King material duplicates content on RL10056-CS-0072)	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0068
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Use copy audiocassette, 1 of 2	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0016
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Use copy audiocassette, 2 of 2	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0017
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Jackson, Jesse - speech, 1985 June 27  
**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of a speech delivered by Jackson at the 21st Anniversary memorial service for James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner at the Goodway Baptist Church in Philadelphia, MS.

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Original audiocassette	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0069
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**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this speech have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 3 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0018
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Johnson, Rev. Aaron, interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, undated (online item available)  
**Digital Object:** [Aaron Johnson interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Former pastor at the First Christian Church in Greenwood, MS. Interview with Sinsheimer. Johnson discussed the development of the Greenwood campaign, 1962-1963.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0070
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0019
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Johnson, June interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1987 May 5 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [June Johnson interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Leading civil rights activist in Greenwood, MS, during the 1960s. Interview with Sinsheimer. Johnson discussed: her recruitment to the movement by Robert Moses; her beating at the Winona, MS, bus stop; family's reaction to her civil rights activity; Stokley Carmichael's leadership style; the role of Father Nathaniel Machesky in the Greenwood movement; Silas McGhee's sit-in attempts in Greenwood; the boycott of Slim Henderson's store after he beat a local black woman; civil rights activity in Greenwood in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

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Original audiocassette (Lawrence Guyot on side 1)	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0064
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Original audiocassette	Box 6 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0071
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0020
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Jordan, David interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 June 13 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [David Jordan interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer \(text only\)](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Son of Greenwood civil rights activist Cleveland Jordan. Interview with Sinsheimer.

Transcript	Box 1
<p>King, Edwin interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1987 February 23 (online item available)  <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Edwin King interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer</a></p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>Aaron Henry's running mate during the 1963 Freedom Vote campaign; heavily involved in the Jackson, MS, civil rights movement for more than twenty years; served as MFDP delegate to the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Interview with Sinsheimer. King discussed: civil rights activity at Tougaloo College, 1961-1962; role of Mrs. Doris Allison in the Jackson movement; John Salter's role in the Jackson movement; development of student leadership at Tougaloo; interaction between SNCC staff and Tougaloo students, 1962-1963.</p>	
Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0072
Transcript	Box 1
Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0021
<p>Ladner, Dr. Joyce interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1986 May 23 (online item available)  <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Joyce Ladner interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer</a></p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>Active in the Mississippi civil rights movement through the 1960s, particularly in Hattiesburg. Interview with Sinsheimer. Ladner discussed: her reaction to the Freedom Rides coming to MS in 1961; relationship with Medgar Evers before he was assassinated; her reaction to the murder of Emmitt Till as a child; her analysis of Robert Moses' leadership style; friction between college-educated Northern SNCC staffers and the Mississippi staff members; the issue of sexism in the civil rights movement.</p>	
Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0073
Transcript	Box 1
Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0022
<p>Lott, Hardy interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1986 May 6 (online item available)  <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Hardy Lott interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer</a></p>	

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**Scope and Contents**

Former city attorney for Greenwood, MS; leader of white opposition to the civil rights movement in Mississippi; defense counsel for Bryan de la Beckwith during his first trial for the murder of Medgar Evers. Interview with Sinsheimer. Lott discussed; the role of Mayor Sampson and Police Commissioner Buff Hammond in city politics; the role of Police Chief Curtis Lary in responding to civil rights demonstrations; how white leaders in the Delta responded to various economic boycott efforts; the role of the Mississippi Power and Light Company in recruiting industry to the Delta; negotiations with John Doar at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Dept.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0074
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0023
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Lowenstein, Allard - speech, 1979

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of a speech delivered by Lowenstein at Millsaps College in either 1978 or 1979. Lowenstein discussed: his involvement in the civil rights movement; his recollections of the 1963 Freedom Vote campaign; his recollections of the Mississippi civil rights movement in general.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this speech have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0075
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0024
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Lynd, Staughton and Alice, interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 December 30 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Alice Lynd and Staughton Lynd interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

### Scope and Contents

Staughton Lynd served as the Director of the Freedom School Program during the 1964 Freedom Summer Project. Interview with Sinsheimer. The Lynds discussed: planning for the Freedom School program; Moses' impact on the summer volunteers in Oxford, Ohio training sessions for the Summer Project; SNCC staff dynamics; successful elements of the Freedom School program; Moses' opposition to the Vietnam War and his ability to connect it with Mississippi; the development of the Assembly of Underrepresented People; the liberal-left split inside the civil rights movement; the issue of movement "burnout".

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0076
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Transcript	Box 1
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0025
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Machesky, Nathaniel interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 June 26 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Nathaniel Machesky interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer \(text only\)](#)

### Scope and Contents

Catholic priest in Greenwood during most of the 1960s; founder of the St. Francis Center in the heart of black Greenwood; active supporter of the civil rights movement. Interview with Sinsheimer. Machesky discussed: Dick Gregory's effort to bring food to black Greenwood in the winter of 1962-1963; the formation of a weekly newsletter, The Center Light, to serve black Greenwood; the relationship between Greenwood's white Catholics and black community; development of economic boycotts in Greenwood, 1967-1969; the formation of a credit union in Greenwood to serve the town's black population; the role of various white leaders in Greenwood, 1962-1963.

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Transcript	Box 1
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McGhee, Silas interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1987 February 25 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Silas McGhee interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

### Scope and Contents

Civil rights activist in Greenwood, MS. Interview with Sinsheimer. McGhee discussed: his reaction to the Freedom Rides and the North Carolina sit-ins in 1960-1961; his attempt to integrate the Leflore Theater in Greenwood in 1963; speaking at a mass meeting in Clarksdale, MS; working to organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in the state; the organization

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of a SNCC "folk festival" on his family's property in 1963 that featured a performance by Bob Dylan; reaction to Medgar Evers' shooting in Greenwood.

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Original audiocassette Box 7 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0077

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Transcript Box 1

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Use copy audiocassette Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0026

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McLemore, Dr. Leslie interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 February 14 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Leslie McLemore interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Vice-chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, 1964. Interview with Sinsheimer. McLemore discussed: his work for the MFDP during the summer of 1964; leadership qualities of Robert Moses; Moses' relationship with Amzie Moore; leadership qualities of Fannie Lou Hamer; Martin Luther King's role at the 1964 Democratic National Convention; Aaron Henry's role at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

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Original audiocassette Box 7 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0078

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Transcript Box 2

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Use copy audiocassette Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0027

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Moore, James interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 June 18 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [James Moore interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Prominent civil rights activist in Greenwood, MS. Interview with Sinsheimer. Moore discussed the development of the Greenwood campaign, 1962-1963.

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Original audiocassette Box 7 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0080

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Transcript Box 2

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Use copy audiocassette Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0029

Moses, Robert - speech, 1980 February 3

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of Moses' comments at the Conference on Ethics and Morality: Voices of the Civil Rights Movement in Washington, D.C.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this speech have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0081
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0030
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Moses, Robert interviewed by John Dittmer,  
1983 August 15

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with John Dittmer. Moses discussed: his voter registration work in Southwest Mississippi in 1961; the statewide organization of white resistance to civil rights work; his feelings following the MFDP challenge at the 1964 Democratic National Convention; Amzie Moore's role in the Mississippi movement; the NAACP in Mississippi; the role of white students in the 1964 Freedom Summer Project; tensions between different civil rights groups working in Mississippi; a proposed literacy project in Mississippi in 1964-1965.

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Transcript	Box 2
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**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Moses, Robert interviewed by Joseph  
Sinsheimer, 1983 November 19 (online item  
available)

**Digital Object:** [Robert Moses interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, interview 1](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with Sinsheimer.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0082
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0031
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Moses, Robert interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1984 April 11 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Robert Moses interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, interview 2](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with Sinsheimer.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0084
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0033
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Moses, Robert interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1984 December 5 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Robert Moses interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, interview 3](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with Sinsheimer.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0085
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0034
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Moses, Robert - speech, 1987 June 8

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of a speech delivered at the Organizers Training Center 15th Anniversary Dinner, San Francisco, CA. Discussed the role of Ella Baker, Hazel Palmer, and Fannie Lou Hamer. Also references the Duke Leadership Program from 1985.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this speech have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0086
Transcript	Box 2
Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0035

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Palmer, Hazel interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 June 19 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Hazel Palmer Interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Local activist from Jackson, MS, who became active in Mississippi in the early 1960s; went on to become a MFDP delegate to the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Interview with Sinsheimer.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0088
Transcript	Box 2

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Palmer, Hazel interviewed by Robert Moses, session 1, 1985 October 26

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with Robert Moses as part of a Duke Leadership Program.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0087
Transcript	Box 2
Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0036

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Palmer, Hazel interviewed by Robert Moses, session 2, 1985 October 26

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with Robert Moses as part of a Duke Leadership Program.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0037
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Palmer, Hazel interviewed by Robert Moses,  
session 3, 1985 October 26

**Scope and Contents**

Interview with Robert Moses as part of a Duke Leadership Program.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Original audiocassette, 1 of 2	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0089
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Original audiocassette, 2 of 2 (unidentified interviewee on side 2)	Box 7 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0079
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0038
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0028
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Payne, Bruce interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1983, March 18 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Bruce Payne interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, interview 1](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Student at Yale University and one of the first northern white students to volunteer in Mississippi. Interview with Sinsheimer. Payne discussed: Allard Lowenstein's role in recruiting students to the Mississippi movement; Robert

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Moses' leadership style; the importance of the 1963 Freedom Vote in the Mississippi campaign.

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Original audiocassette Box 8 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0090

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Transcript Box 2

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Use copy audiocassette Box 5 > Audio-cassette  
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Payne, Bruce interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1983, October 24 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Bruce Payne interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, interview 2](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Student at Yale University and one of the first northern white students to volunteer in Mississippi. Interview with Sinsheimer. Payne discussed: Allard Lowenstein's role in recruiting students to the Mississippi movement; Robert Moses' leadership style; the importance of the 1963 Freedom Vote in the Mississippi campaign.

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Original audiocassette Box 8 > Audio-cassette  
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Transcript Box 2

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Use copy audiocassette Box 5 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0040

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Peacock, Willie interviewed by Joseph  
Sinsheimer, 1985 February 8 (online item  
available)

**Digital Object:** [Willie Peacock interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

SNCC field secretary in Mississippi, 1962-1965; particularly active in Greenwood during the 1963 voter registration campaign. Interview with Sinsheimer. Peacock discussed: the development of the NAACP chapter at Rust College in 1961 following the Greensboro sit-ins; meeting Robert Moses in Fall 1961; renewal of the Marshall County Voter's League, 1962; Amzie Moore's relationship with Robert Moses and other young SNCC organizers; formation of a SNCC singing quartet with Peacock and Hollis Watkins; working on voter registration activity in Sunflower County with Fannie Lou Hamer; assassination attempt on Jimmy Travis and Robert Moses outside Greenwood in 1963; problems in the 1964 Freedom Summer Project.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0092
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0041
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Pilcher, Mattie interviewed by Howard Zinn,  
1963 August 15

**Scope and Contents**

Active in the 1963 civil rights demonstrations in Greenwood. Interview with Howard Zinn. Pilcher discussed: her personal family history in Greenwood; changes in Greenwood's race relations as a result of civil rights activity; the arrival of SNCC coordinator Samuel Block in Greenwood; attendance at a SNCC mass meeting featuring comedian Dick Gregory; attendance at SNCC-sponsored voter registration classes; her son's decision to attend Tougaloo College.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript	Box 2
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Rustin, Bayard - speech, 1963 December 1

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of a speech delivered at the Fourth Annual SNCC Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript	Box 2
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Sellers, Cleveland interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 March 30 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Cleveland Sellers interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Former SNCC field secretary. Interview with Sinsheimer. Sellers discussed: his tenure at Howard University as a student and a civil rights activist; class

divisions among the student population at Howard; his first encounters with Malcolm X during the summer of 1963; the impact of Emmett Till's murder on his political development; tensions between SNCC staff and the summer volunteers at Ohio training sessions for the 1964 Freedom Summer Project; Robert Moses' leadership role at the Ohio training sessions; searching for the bodies of the three "missing" civil rights workers in Philadelphia, MS; working in Holly Springs, MS, during the 1964 Freedom Summer Project; John Doar's efforts to protect civil rights workers in Mississippi; sexual tensions between black SNCC staffers and white volunteers; his role in coordinating MFDP activities at the Democratic National Convention; internal discussions among MFDP leaders in response to the Johnson administration's proposed "compromise."

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Original audiocassette, 1 of 3	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0093
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Original audiocassette, 2 of 3	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0094
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Original audiocassette, 3 of 3	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0095
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette, 1 of 3	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0042
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Use copy audiocassette, 2 of 3	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0043
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Use copy audiocassette, 3 of 3	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0044
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Sitton, Claude interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 January 21 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Claude Sitton interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Former reporter for the New York Times based in Atlanta; covered many major civil rights stories in Mississippi during the early 1960s. Interview with Sinsheimer. Sitton discussed: the disappearance of three civil rights workers during the 1964 Freedom Summer Project; violence associated with SNCC's voter registration activities in McComb, MS; response of the U.S. Justice Dept. to major events in Mississippi.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0096
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0045
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Transcript	Box 2
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Smith, Frank interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer,  
1986 May 23 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Frank Smith interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Former SNCC field secretary from Mississippi. Interview with Sinsheimer. Smith discussed: his civil rights activities in Holly Springs, MS; Moses' leadership role in Mississippi; the role of white students in the Mississippi civil rights movement; SNCC's efforts in Greenwood, MS; his reaction to the assassination of Medgar Evers; his experience in organizing voter registration drives in Hattiesburg, MS; James Forman's influences on SNCC staff in Mississippi; Aaron Henry's role in the Mississippi campaign.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0098
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Transcript	Box 2
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Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0047
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Smith, Rev. R.L.T. interviewed by Joseph  
Sinsheimer, 1985 February 12 (online item  
available)

**Digital Object:** [Robert L.T. Smith interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Prominent civil rights leader from Jackson, MS; ran for U.S. House of Representatives in 1962 in a campaign managed by Robert Moses. Interview with Sinsheimer. Smith discussed: his relationship with Amzie Moore; Robert Moses' influence on the movement; his decision to run for Congress in 1962; campaigning in rural Mississippi; the role of moderate newspapers in the state.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0099
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Transcript	Box 2
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Box 5 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0048

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"Story of Greenwood, Mississippi" - recording,  
1963

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of recording produced for SNCC by Guy Carawan, Folkway Records, NY. Includes Robert Moses, Dave Sanders, Fannie Lou Hamer, Cleveland Jordan, Willie Peacock, Alice Blackman, Hollis Watkins, Dick Gregory, Medgar Evers, and Rev. Barber.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this interview have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript

Box 2

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Taylor, Lola and Laura interviewed by Joseph  
Sinsheimer, 1985 June 18 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Laura Taylor and Lola Taylor interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

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Original audiocassette

Box 7 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0080

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Transcript

Box 2

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Use copy audiocassette

Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0029

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Thomas, Norman - press conference, 1963  
November

**Scope and Contents**

Transcript of the SNCC Press Conference at the Fourth Annual SNCC Conference, Washington, D.C. Features Julian Bond, Norman Thomas, Robert Moses, James Forman, Bill Hanson, and Frank Smith.

**Access Restrictions:**

Rights to this item have not been shared with the donor or the Rubenstein Library. Please contact the Rubenstein Library for further information on accessing this resource.

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Transcript

Box 2

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Thrasher, Sue interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1983 November 11 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Sue Thrasher interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

One of the first white students to get involved with the Southern civil rights movement; founder of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC); student volunteer in Biloxi during the 1964 Freedom Summer Project. Interview with Sinsheimer.

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Original audiocassette	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0100
Transcript	Box 2
Use copy audiocassette	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0049

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Watkins, Hollis interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer, 1985 February 13-14 (online item available)

**Digital Object:** [Hollis Watkins interviewed by Joseph Sinsheimer](#)

**Scope and Contents**

SNCC field secretary. Two interviews with Sinsheimer.

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Original audiocassette, 1 of 2	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0101
Original audiocassette, 2 of 2	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0102
Transcript	Box 2
Use copy audiocassette, 1 of 2	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0050
Use copy audiocassette, 2 of 2	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0051

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Unknown, undated

Original audiocassette, mislabeled "Robert Moses, November 19, 1983"

Box 7 > Audio-cassette  
RL10056-CS-0083

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Use copy audiocassette, mislabeled "Robert Moses, November 19, 1983"	Box 4 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0032
Original audiocassette, mislabeled "Frank Smith, June 28, 1985"	Box 8 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0097
Use copy audiocassette, mislabeled "Frank Smith, June 28, 1985"	Box 5 > Audio-cassette RL10056-CS-0046

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### **Accompanying Materials, 1962-1993**

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

**Scope and Contents note**

Original correspondence, research files, scrapbooks, and supplemental information collected by Sinsheimer in support of his oral history project.

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Scrapbooks, 1962-1964 Box 9

**Physical Description:** 2 Volumes

**Scope and Contents note**

Two scrapbooks with photocopied/photostat newspaper clippings covering the civil rights movement. Clippings include some articles written by Robert Moses. Articles cover voting rights, poll taxes, violence against and jailing of African Americans, and Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) activities, many of them in Mississippi.

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Robert Moses interview transcript and materials, 1964-1982 Box 10

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes a Smithsonian article on Moses, transcripts of his remarks at the National Museum of American History and a 1982 interview, and a reprint of a 1964 speech.

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Robert Moses transcripts, 1963, 1978, and undated Box 10

**Scope and Contents note**

Amzie Moore's funeral, Nov. 1963; 4th Annual SNCC Conference, Feb. 1963; Atlanta SNCC Conference, 1978; Ella Jo Baker's birthday; and interview with John Dittmer.

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John Dittmer papers, 1964-1985 Box 10

**Scope and Contents note**

"The Movement in McComb (1961-1964)" and "In the Name of Freedom: The Politics of the Mississippi Movement, 1954-1964."

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Court Records and letters to Senator Hubert Humphrey and John F. Kennedy, 1963 Box 10

Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1963-1985 Box 10

**Scope and Contents note**

Clippings regarding civil rights in the South from Human Organization, The Reporter, and others. Also includes "Revolution in Mississippi," a publication from Students for a Democratic Society.

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Manuscript for book on Robert Moses by Eric R. Burner, 1993 Box 10

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter and manuscript for book to be published by New York University Press.

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Speeches, letters, interviews, and surveys, 1963-1977 Box 10

**Scope and Contents note**

Lengthy correspondence from Henry Aronson and Stephen Bingham; speech entitled "The Sense and the Use of History by Mississippians in the Movement Struggles;" 1977 Interview with Allard Lowenstein; 1963 Report from SNCC Field Secretary; and "Reflections on Martin Luther King Jr.--And Us," among other materials.

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"Freedom Summer" Tougaloo College conference proceedings, 1979 Box 10

Photographs: MFDSP State Convention and Voter Registration, 1963-64 Box 10

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Miscellaneous publications, 1981-1983

Box 10

**Scope and Contents note**

Signs and Cities by Elizabeth Sewell, Mississippi Folklore Register, and Southern Exposure: Stayed on Freedom, 1981

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