

BROWN, THOMAS WATSON, 1934-2007.

Leo Frank research files, circa 1914-2004

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Brown, Thomas Watson, 1934-2007.
Title: Leo Frank research files, circa 1914-2004
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1252
Extent: 4 linear feet (4 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Material collected by Tom Watson Brown while conducting research on the Leo Frank murder case, including printed material, correspondence, and legal records. Also included are some of Brown's writings about the case.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Special restrictions apply: Due to preservation concerns, OP1 is restricted from use.

Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance for access to audiovisual material in this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Related Materials in This Repository

Leo Frank collection

Source

Gift, 2013.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Leo Frank research files, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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Processing

Unprocessed collection.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

Leo Max Frank (1884-1915), a Jewish businessman, helped his uncle, Moses Frank, establish the National Pencil Company factory in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1908. Frank served as the company's superintendent and vice president. When thirteen year old factory employee Mary Phagan was murdered in 1913, Frank, who had been the last person to see her alive, was arrested. He was convicted and sentenced to be hanged, and a series of appeals going all the way to the United States Supreme Court failed to overturn the conviction. Lingering doubt about Frank's guilt, however, eventually led Governor John M. Slaton to commute the sentence to life in prison on June 20, 1915. Outrage in the community and concern for Frank's safety led officials to transfer him from Atlanta to a prison farm outside Milledgeville, Georgia. On the night of August 16, 1915, a mob kidnapped Frank from the prison; he was found in Marietta, Georgia, the next morning, hanged from a tree. On March 11, 1986 the State Board of Pardons and Paroles granted a posthumous pardon to Leo Frank on the grounds that the State failed to adequately protect his life and chance for further appeal.

Thomas Watson Brown (1934-2007), Georgia businessman, lawyer, and philanthropist, was born in Washington, D.C. He attended Princeton University and Harvard Law School before moving to Atlanta. Brown was the owner of Spartan Communications, a company founded by his father, Walter "Red" Brown. He supported numerous philanthropic causes, including several Georgia universities and historical societies, as well as numerous political causes. Brown was also the great-grandson of Georgia Senator Thomas E. Watson, who had been an ardent believer in Leo's Frank guilt during the trial and whose publications, *Watson's Magazine* and *The Jeffersonian*, published numerous editorials provoking public opinion against Frank.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of Thomas Watson Brown's research files relating to the Leo Frank murder case including printed material, legal records, and correspondence. Printed material is primarily comprised of newspaper and magazine articles written about the case many years after the trial. Legal records include copies of briefs and other documents contemporary to the case, as well as material relating to the posthumous pardon of Leo Frank. Correspondence is primarily between Brown and others, and reflects Brown's research. Also included in the collection are some of Brown's own writings about the case including "Notes on the Leo Frank Case and Its Aftermath" (1982) and other speeches. Finally, the collection contains one sound recording: an interview with Jack Lemmon about his role as Governor John Slaton in the TV miniseries *The Murder of Mary Phagan* (1988).

Arrangement Note

Unprocessed collection.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	-	Miscellaneous articles
1	-	State Board of Pardons and Paroles brief amicus [includes correspondence], circa 1980s
1	-	House bills, 1979
1	-	Hugh M. Dorsey argument
1	-	Tom Watson Brown, critique one and two of <i>The Murder of Mary Phagan</i>
1	-	Tom Watson Brown, Inquiry Club speech, 2005
1	-	Tom Watson Brown, "Notes on the Leo Frank Case and Its Aftermath", 1982
1	-	Clippings about <i>The Murder of Mary Phagan</i> , circa 1988
1	-	Edgar Hutchinson Johnson, "The Leo Frank Case," Florida State University thesis, 1965
1	-	Mary Phagan-Kean correspondence, circa 1987-1988
1	-	Correspondence, clippings and articles, circa 1980s
2	-	Tom Watson Brown brook reviews
2	-	Tom Watson Brown, Leo Frank speech, 1982
2	-	Tom Watson Brown, "Notes on the Leo Frank Case and Its Aftermath," 1982
2	-	Tom Watson Brown, "Summary of Leo Frank Case and Its Aftermath"
2	-	Correspondence, 1986
2	-	Correspondence, circa 1987-1988
2	-	Correspondence, 1988
2	-	Correspondence and articles, circa 1994
2	-	Mary Phagan-Kean scrapbook items
2	-	Reuben R. Arnold's address on the motion for a new trial
2	-	<i>Supreme Court Reporter</i> , Leo Frank case
2	-	Research on criminal defendant testimony at trial
2	-	Edgar J. Neely, Jr.'s file
2	-	Research/Carol Meadows, 1967-1968
2	-	[Unfolded notebook and articles]
2	-	Burton Rascoe, "The Case of Leo Frank," 1947
2	-	[Unfolded correspondence and articles]
2	-	Leo Frank case, Celestine Sibley
2	-	Leo Frank case, extra copies
2	-	Leo Frank case, <i>Marietta Journal</i>
2	-	Henry Bowden's paper
2	-	Newspaper and magazine articles, 1967
2	-	Newspaper and magazine articles, 1975

- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1976
- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1978
- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1982
- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1983
- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1984
- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1985
- 2 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1986
- 2 - Newspaper articles, 1987
- 2 - Atlanta Bar Association, circa 1988
- 2 - Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc., general correspondence, circa 1979
- 2 - Television tape transcript, posthumous pardon announced, 1986]
- 2 - Clark Jack Freshman, "Beyond Pontius Pilate and Judge Lynch: The Pardoning Power in Theory and Practice as Illustrated in the Leo Frank Case," honors thesis, Harvard University, 1986
- 2 - Larry McMurtry, "The Ballad of Mary Phagan" parts one and two, 1986
- 3 - "Ballad of Mary Phagan" teleplay script part one, 1986
- 3 - Georgia legal history seminar, November 17, 1988
- 3 - Edgar Hutchinson Johnson, "The Leo Frank Case," Florida State University thesis, 1965 [blue binder]
- 3 - Tom Watson Brown, essay on the Leo Frank case
- 3 - Tom Watson Brown, Marietta (Georgia) Golden K Kiwanis Club speech, 2001
- 3 - Tom Watson Brown, "Notes on the Leo Frank Case and Its Aftermath", 1982
- 3 - Tom Watson Brown, "Profiles in Courage," 1964
- 3 - Tom Watson Brown, WGST-AM guest editorial, 1988
- 3 - NBC/TV *Guide*/Jack Lemmon correspondence
- 3 - Articles, 1914-1915
- 3 - Newspaper and magazine articles, circa 1974-2004
- 3 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1990
- 3 - Newspaper and magazine articles, 1998
- 3 - Newspaper and magazine articles and correspondence
- 3 - Newspaper and magazine articles and Tom Watson Brown responses
- 3 - Leo Frank case research
- 3 - Georgia Legislature, 1977-1978
- 3 - Tom Watson/Mary Phagan-Kean
- 3 - *American Mercury* article
- 3 - Executive minutes, Governor Slaton
- 3 - Leo Frank pardon, 1986
- 3 - Mary Phagan-Kean, "Little Mary Phagan" first half, 1987
- 3 - Mary Phagan-Kean, "Little Mary Phagan" second half, 1987
- 3 - Printed material and photo of Leo Frank lynching

- 3 - *Watson's Magazine*, October 1915
 - 3 - Correspondence, 1987
 - 4 - Unsorted printed material and correspondence
 - 4 - Leo Frank lynching postcard
 - 4 - Microcassette: Jack Lemmon interview
 - OP1 1 *The Detroit News*, August 17, 1915 [RESTRICTED]
 - OP1 1 *Macon Daily Telegraph*, May 25, 1913 [RESTRICTED]
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