

**BROWNING, JOAN C.**  
**Joan C. Browning papers, 1961-2006**

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Browning, Joan C.  
**Title:** Joan C. Browning papers, 1961-2006  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 821  
**Extent:** 21.5 linear feet (22 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (OP)  
**Abstract:** Papers of activist Joan C. Browning regarding her involvement as a Freedom Rider and in the Albany Movement in Georgia.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Source**

Gift, 1998.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Joan C. Browning papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Anne Thompson, 1999.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Joan C. Browning grew up in rural South Georgia, graduated from Lumber City High School, and was the first in her family to attend college. She started college in 1960 at Georgia State College for Women (Milledgeville, Ga.) and was asked to leave after worshipping at a black church. She moved to Atlanta in 1961 and became involved with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. On December 10, 1961, Browning was among eight Freedom Riders who traveled on a segregated Georgia Central Railroad from Atlanta to Albany, Georgia. Upon their arrival in Albany, the Freedom Riders were arrested, incarcerated, and eventually charged with unlawful assembly.

She continued to work in human relations and anti-poverty programs throughout the 1960s and helped organize the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Browning eventually earned her Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia State College and became a free-lance writer.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Joan C. Browning from 1961-2006. The papers include correspondence, writings, and other materials pertaining mostly to her involvement as a Freedom Rider in the Albany Movement in Georgia. The Albany Movement/Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee materials consist of Browning's letters from jail in Albany, Georgia, to her friend, Faye Powell, who resided in Atlanta. Browning writes about jail conditions, the importance of non-violent protest, the police officers in charge, her hunger strike, and the other individuals who were arrested. Also available are several letters or notes written by her fellow civil rights workers, mainly James Forman, Lenora Taitt, and Per W. Laursen, who were incarcerated with her. A large number of newspaper articles describing the events in Albany are included, on some of which Browning has written comments. There are also newsletters and news releases regarding the Albany Movement, a copy of Browning's Grand Jury arrest record, and two letters from her lawyer, C.B. King, of Albany, Georgia. A small notebook contains mainly notes she took while attending civil rights meetings and discussion groups from 1961-1962. Among these are notes she took at a town meeting at Atlanta University held on October 12, 1961 at which Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a talk. King's original autograph, which was secured by Ms. Browning on the evening of the talk, is on a separate page.

The incoming correspondence contains letters from various friends, including several from Jim McManus who edited *The Spokesman*, journal of the inmates of Georgia State prison. There are a few letters concerning other aspects of the civil rights movement, including a letter from Browning to Lester Maddox concerning a black woman who no longer wanted to be an American due to racism.

Writings by Joan Browning include various published articles and copies of her columns, the "Reader's Corner" and "History Lesson." Other materials include awards and certificates she received from 1956-1969, a signed Harry Belafonte program, and a few other printed items.

Unprocessed additions to the collection consist mainly of subject files and printed material documenting Browning's life and work in West Virginia. Included are files relating to her involvement with the Greenbrier County Commission on Aging and Greenbrier County school districts; files relating to her campaign for the West Virginia House of Delegates; and files

that contain her writings. Also present are nine files consisting of recordings and transcripts of interviews with civil rights figures such as Constance Curry and Faye Powell, among others.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Albany Movement/Student NonViolent Coordinating Committee

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence, Joan Browning to Faye Powell, December 11-28, 1961 [with transcriptions attached]
OP1	1	Correspondence, Joan Browning to Faye Powell, December 16, 1961 [with transcription attached]
1	2	Correspondence and notes between civil rights workers in jail
1	3	Correspondence, C.B. King to Joan Browning, 1962
1	4	Grand jury arrest record
1	5	News releases, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 1961
1	6	Newsletters and flyers, November 15-December 11, 1961
1	7	Newspaper articles, December 1961 [photocopies]
1	8	Newspaper articles, December 1961 [originals]
1	9	Notebook [civil rights meetings and discussion groups], 1961-1962

### Correspondence

1	10	Incoming correspondence, 1961-1962
1	11	Incoming correspondence, 1962-1996
1	12	Incoming correspondence, n.d.
1	13	Outgoing correspondence, 1962-1963

### Writings by Joan Browning

1	14	Article, "The Stranger at Our Gate-Our Neighbor," ca. 1962
1	15	Article, "Notes to the North," <i>SCORR Newsletter</i> , Student Committee on Race Relations, Ohio Wesleyan University, October 25, 1962
1	16	Articles, various, <i>Journal of Greenbrier Historical Society</i> , Vol. VI, No. 2, 1993
1	17	Article, "Trends in Feminism and Historiography. Invisible Revolutionaries: White Women in Civil Rights Historiography," <i>Journal of Women's History</i> , Vol. 8, No. 3, 1996
1	18	Article, "West Virginia on the Calendar and at Emory University," <i>Mountain Messenger</i> , March 3, 2007
1	19	Columns, "History Lesson," <i>West Virginia Daily News and Greenbrier Valley Ranger</i> , 1995-1996
1	20	Columns, "Reader's Corner," <i>West Virginia Daily News</i> , 1993-1995

### General material

1	21	Awards and certificates, 1956-1969
1	22	College course notes, n.d.
1	23	Speaking engagements, 1996-1997

**Printed material**

- 1 24 Atlanta-Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert, Program, 1961
- 1 25 Belafonte, Harry, autograph on partial program
- 1 26 Savery Library, Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, Brochure, n.d.
- 1 27 Clipping about Browning

**Unprocessed additions**

- 2 - American Association of University Women
- 2 - Alderson, West Virginia
- 2 - Bolling School (Lewisburg, West Virginia)
- 2 - Carnegie Hall, West Virginia
- 2 - Family Refuge Center
- 2 - *The Greenbrier*
- 2 - Greenbrier (West Virginia) Chamber of Commerce
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Building Commission
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging, 35 years film and events
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging, "Countyopoly" fundraiser
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging, trivia game fundraiser
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging newsletters
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging proposals
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) comprehensive plan
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Convention and Visitors Bureau
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) literacy
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Recreation Center
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) public library
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) schools, general
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) schools, facilities improvement committee, 2000
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) schools, bond issue, 2004
- 2 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) schools, Western Greenbrier Junior High School bond issue
- 2 - Greenbrier Historical Society/North House Museum
- 2 - Greenbrier Hometown Heroes
- 2 - Greenbrier Housing Authority
- 2 - Greenbrier Valley Medical Center
- 2 - Greenbrier Volunteer Fire Departments

- 2 - Greenbrier Valley Theatre
- 2 - High Rocks for Girls
- 2 - Holy Week Breakfast Bunch
- 2 - Horton Park
- 2 - Lewisburg (West Virginia) Business and Professional Women
- 2 - Lewisburg (West Virginia) farmer's market
- 2 - Lewisburg (West Virginia) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 2 - Lewisburg (West Virginia) United Methodist Church
- 2 - Monroe County (West Virginia) Historical Society
- 2 - *Monroe Watchman*
- 2 - Obituaries
- 2 - Old Stone Presbyterian Church (Lewisburg, West Virginia)
- 2 - Pocahontas County (West Virginia)
- 2 - Ronceverte Development Corp.
- 2 - Second Creek (West Virginia)
- 2 - Shepherd Center
- 2 - State Fair of West Virginia
- 2 - State Fair of West Virginia Dairy Goat Department
- 2 - Wellspring of Greenbrier, Inc.
- 2 - Western Greenbrier Co-generation Project
- 2 - Williamsburg (West Virginia) Historical Foundation
- 3 - SNCC 50th anniversary conference (Raleigh, North Carolina), 2010
- 3 - Southern Historical Association committee on women
- 3 - Southern Regional Council Lillian Smith Book Award committee
- 3 - Tamarack Foundation (Charleston, West Virginia)
- 3 - Truth and reconciliation
- 3 - University of Georgia Press
- 3 - Virginia Tech, civil rights and literature
- 3 - West Virginia Business and Professional Women, "Women Mean Business"  
Business Woman of the Year, 2002
- 3 - West Virginia Center for Civic Life
- 3 - West Virginia Commission on the Arts, The Great American Novel proposal
- 3 - West Virginia Department of Education, 21st Century Learning Center Program
- 3 - West Virginia elder economic standard
- 3 - West Virginia Governor's Civil Rights Day
- 3 - West Virginia Graduate College
- 3 - West Virginia Human Rights Commission
- 3 - West Virginia Humanities Council, New Books for New Readers
- 3 - West Virginia Library Commission
- 3 - West Virginia Power Company

- 3 - West Virginia Press Women
- 3 - West Virginia slavery
- 3 - West Virginia State College
- 3 - West Virginia State College, Philosophy 299, Contemporary Ethics
- 3 - West Virginia State College, report cards
- 3 - West Virginia State College, Sociology 299
- 3 - West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, fatality review committee
- 3 - West Virginia University, Center for Women's Studies
- 3 - West Virginia Women's Commission, Mountaineer Spirit Award
- 3 - West Virginia Women's Commission, Mountaineer Spirit Award, 2004
- 3 - West Virginia Governor's Service Award
- 3 - West Virginia Patriots for Peace
- 3 - West Virginia Civil Rights Day, 2004
- 3 - West Virginia Women's Commission
- 4 - Resumes, etc.
- 4 - Publicity campaign materials
- 4 - Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley (West Virginia), homemade history class
- 4 - Riverbend Antique and Auction (Anderson, West Virginia)
- 4 - SNCC
- 4 - SNCC, II
- 4 - SNCC 40th reunion (Raleigh, North Carolina), 2000
- 4 - Organization of American Historians
- 4 - Open Door Community (Atlanta, Georgia)
- 4 - One West Virginia in the 21st Century initiative
- 4 - King [Martin Luther, Jr.] papers, Stanford University
- 4 - Institute for Supported Living, Inc.
- 4 - Writings by Browning: "History Lesson," West Virginia Daily News
- 4 - Georgia Association of Historians
- 4 - Flag Day (Lewisburg, West Virginia)
- 4 - Anti-inauguration, 2000
- 4 - AARP correspondence
- 4 - Clients: writings, miscellaneous
- 4 - King Center (Atlanta, Georgia)
- 4 - Writings by Browning: "Plain Faces and Common Sense," *The Mountain Messenger*
- 4 - SNCC history
- 4 - Fisk University (Nashville, Tennessee)
- 4 - Ashley, Joyce Browning, interview transcript and cassette tapes
- 4 - Browning, Joan, interview transcript [interviewed by Maureen]
- 4 - Browning, Wayne, interview transcript and cassette tapes

- 4 - Curry, Connie, interview transcript
- 4 - Hudson, Cecil and Faye Powell, interview transcript and cassette tape
- 4 - Livingston, Ruth B. and Bobby Browning, interview transcript and cassette tapes
- 4 - Powell, Faye, interview transcript and cassette tapes
- 4 - Powell, Faye and Connie Curry, interview transcript, cassette tape and CD
- 4 - Rabun, James "Jack" Z., interview transcript and cassette tapes
- 4 - SNCC women writing group, interview transcript
- 5 - Publishing correspondence and printed material
- 5 - House and Garden Club (Lewisburg, West Virginia)
- 5 - Writings by Browning: Bimbo Coles story
- 5 - Wal-Mart
- 5 - Women's prisons
- 5 - Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
- 5 - Shenandoah [Valley] Regional Studies Seminar, other scholars' drafts
- 5 - Lynching
- 5 - Koinoia
- 5 - Georgia history, miscellaneous
- 5 - Church programs, miscellaneous
- 5 - Equal Employment Opportunity conference (Wheeling, West Virginia), 1999
- 5 - Flags, confederate
- 5 - Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (Old Salem, North Carolina)
- 5 - National Women's History Project
- 5 - U.S. National Park Service
- 5 - Black history tourism
- 5 - Books, research on the south and JCB [Joan C. Browning]
- 5 - Civil rights
- 5 - Writings by Browning: "E. Pluribus Unum"
- 5 - Printed material
- 5 - Writings by Browning, various
- 5 - Historical societies
- 5 - Writings by Browning: "Freedom is a Constant Struggle"
- 5 - Southern Association for Women Historians
- 5 - West Virginia Division of Culture and History, ploughshare archaeology
- 5 - Teaching: Ethics, Greenbrier Community College Center of Bluefield State College (Bluefield, West Virginia)
- 5 - "Creating a Caring Community," Eastern Greenbrier Junior High School
- 5 - Organization of American Historians membership committee
- 5 - Georgia Association of Historians, annual meeting, 2000
- 5 - Appalachian Studies Association
- 5 - Southern Historical Association



- 5 - Roads, US 219 bypass
- 5 - "Writers that I steal from"
- 5 - "Writings ideas and reference"
- 5 - West Virginia Coalition for West Virginia Women
- 5 - Neighborhood Investment Program participants, 1997
- 5 - The Hamer Institute
- 6 - Greenbrier County (West Virginia) school facilities
- 6 - Western Greenbrier Junior High School bond
- 6 - Lewisburg Elementary School (LES) bond, 2005
- 6 - Joan C. Browning Community Service Scholarship
- 6 - Ethics West Virginia
- 6 - Film: *Where Credit is Due*
- 6 - Film: Liz and Mitch Scott
- 6 - Film: Greenbrier County (West Virginia) Commission on Aging, *Managing your Medication*
- 6 - Film: Gwen Clingman
- 6 - Film: Charles Mundy
- 6 - Film: Reverend Carl W. Renick
- 6 - Greater Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation
- 6 - Greenbrier Caring Community
- 6 - Greenbrier Rosie the Riveter project
- 6 - Bolling, Inc.
- 6 - Governor's Civil Rights Day
- 6 - West Virginia Human Rights Commission
- 6 - West Virginia Human Rights Commission
- 7 - Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (Salem, North Carolina)
- 7 - Writings by Browning: "Invisible Revolutionaries," *Journal of Women's History*, Fall 1996
- 7 - Ethics West Virginia, business ethics fellowship
- 7 - Freedom Ride
- 7 - Freedom rider 40th reunion
- 7 - Legal documents
- 7 - Loose papers and printed material
- 8 - Loose papers and printed material
- 9 - Clippings, video recordings
- 10 - West Virginia House of Delegates campaign, 2006 [1 of 3]
- 11 - West Virginia House of Delegates campaign, 2006 [2 of 3]
- 12 - West Virginia House of Delegates campaign, 2006 [3 of 3]
- 12 - Standing on Holy Ground [original: DVD]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rqwgt]

- 13 - Subject files; correspondence
  - 14 - Writings; subject files
  - 15 - Correspondence; writings; audiovisual material; subject files
  - 16 - Subject files; correspondence; writings
  - 17 - Subject files
  - 18 - Subject files
  - 19 - Subject files
  - 20 - Subject files
  - 21 - Subject files; correspondence; printed material
  - 22 - Subject files; correspondence; printed material
  - OP1 2 Printed material
  - OP2 - Poster
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