

GRIFFIN, JOHN A.

John Griffin papers, 1930-1994

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Griffin, John A.
Title: John Griffin papers, 1930-1994
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 767
Extent: 60 linear ft. (59 boxes, 2 oversized papers (OH)), and AV Masters: 1 linear foot (1 box)
Abstract: personal and professional papers of John A. Griffin from circa 1930s-1990s. The papers include correspondence, subject files, personal files, arbitration files, organizational records, teaching files from Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology, photographs, and audiovisual material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Gift, 1995, with subsequent additions in 2000.

Citation

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

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Processing

Unprocessed collection.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

John A. Griffin (1912-1997) educator, labor arbitrator, and civil rights activist, was born in Monroe, Georgia, on July 3, 1912, the son of William Hull Griffin. He received undergraduate and master's degrees from Emory and a doctorate in sociology and agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin.

Griffin, long known as a conciliating figure in race relations, was a founder of the Southern Regional Council, formed in 1944 to bring white and black Southerners together.

Griffin worked at Emory University for fifteen years (1944-1959) as assistant to the president, associate professor of sociology, and creator of the Evening at Emory continuing education program in the 1940s. While at Emory he worked with the Ford Foundation on its study of segregated Southern schools, which is credited with influencing the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Aside from the Southern Regional Council, he is perhaps best known for research that he helped bring together but, characteristically, never took credit for. While teaching at Emory, he helped organize a Ford Foundation study of the South's segregated schools. This project led to the book *The Negro and the Schools* by the journalist Harry Ashmore, which is credited with having influenced the Supreme Court when it formulated policies for the desegregation of public schools after the 1954 *Brown* decision declaring segregation illegal.

He also taught at Georgia Tech and Florida State University. While at Georgia Tech, he began a lengthy career as a part-time labor arbitrator.

He was active in civil rights issues, particularly those affecting education, throughout the 1950's and 1960's. During part of that time he was associate director for conciliation with the United States Community Relations Service, working to resolve volatile racial crises in places like Selma, Alabama; McComb, Mississippi, and Houma, Louisiana.

From 1965 to 1978, he was executive director of the Southern Education Foundation, which supports historically black colleges and universities and other educational programs for disadvantaged youth.

Dr. Griffin's first wife, Wallace Lillard Lyons, died in 1960. He then married the former Anne Ryland Ricks of Atlanta in 1968. He died at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia on January 25, 1997.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of John A. Griffin from circa 1930s-1990s. The papers include correspondence, subject files, personal files, arbitration files, organizational records, teaching files from Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology, photographs, and audiovisual material. The collection documents his education; career as a professor and as an labor arbitrator; his work with the Southern Regional Council, Wage Stabilization Board, Southeastern Public Education Program of the American Friends

Service Committee, Southern Education Foundation and other organizations; and school desegregation.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1		Southern Regional Council, Southeastern Public Education Program, Emory and other organizational work, 1980s-1990s
2		Arbitration cases
3		Southern Education Foundation, 1960s-1970s
4		Wage Stabilization Board expenditures, 1950s
5		Emory University, Wage Stabilization Board, Community Education Service, teaching, 1950s
6		Foundation work, correspondence, boards, 1960s-1970s
7		Teaching at Emory and Georgia Tech, childhood, 1930s-1950s
8		Subject files I, 1960s-1970s (1 of 2)
9		Subject files I, 1960s-1970s (2 of 2)
10		Subject files II, 1970s (1 of 2)
11		Subject files II, 1970s (2 of 2)
12		JAG's education (University of Wisconsin), adult education, 1950s
13		Subject III, 1980s (A-I)
14		Arbitration cases, 1980s
15		JAG's education, early career, foundation work, 1930s-1980s
16		Foundation work, 1970s-1990s
17		JAG's birth certificate copy, foundation work, personal correspondence, arbitration cases
18		Arbitration cases
19		Foundation work
20		Wage Stabilization Board, 1950s
21		Arbitration cases
22		Foundation work and arbitration cases
23		Correspondence
24		JAG's education, foundation work
25		Foundation work, arbitration cases, 1970s-1980s
26		Arbitration cases
27		JAG's address book and unidentified
28		Subject files
29		JAG's address books, daily calendars (1940s-1970s), monthly calendars
30		JAG's unidentified and rolodex
31		JAG's correspondence to be sorted, information about William H. Griffin
32		Foundation work
33		Arbitration cases, 1980s
34		Arbitration cases, 1970s

- 35 Arbitration cases, 1980s
- 36 JAG's education, teaching, Emory, Southern Regional Council, community organizations, 1950s
- 37 Atlanta University Board (1970s), personal correspondence (1960s)
- 38 JAG's education, early career (1940s), Southern Regional Council (1940s), Atlanta University (1980s), foundation work
- 39 Arbitration cases, 1970s-1980s
- 40 Emory alumni (1980s-90s), Southern Regional Council (1980s), Southeastern Public Education Program (1980s), personal correspondence
- 41 Arbitration cases, 1980s
- 42 Arbitration cases, continuing education (Emory, Florida State), 1950s
- 43 Arbitration cases, 1970s-1980s
- 44 Atlanta University, Southern Regional Council, 1970s-1980s
- 45 Audiovisual: reel-to-reel audio recordings, VHS tapes, dictaphone recordings
- 46 Audiovisual: audio cassette tapes (JAG, Popham seminar, interviews, other)
- 47 William H. Griffin correspondence, personal correspondence, Wage Stabilization Board, 1930s-1960s
- 48 Arbitration cases, 1980s
- 49 Photographs, Emory diploma
- 50 Florida State University, correspondence, writings, Southern Regional Council, pamphlets, 1950s-1960s
- 51 Correspondence, reports, minutes, arbitration cases, 1970s-1980s
- 52 Southern Regional Council, Southeastern Public Education Program, subject files, 1970s-1980s
- 53 Southern Regional Council, subject files, personal/biographical files, 1930s-1980s
- 54 JAG's personal files, subject files, arbitration cases, notes, 1970s-80s
- 55 School situation, Atlanta 2000, foundation work, Southern Regional Council, Southern Education Foundation, 1960s-1970s
- 56 Arbitration cases, fundraising, correspondence, 1980s
- 57 Foundation work, correspondence, 1960s-1970s
- 58 Florida State University committee work, correspondence, 1960s, 1980s
- 59 Florida State University, professional activities, Emory, University of Wisconsin, legal docs, Atlanta University, 1950s-1970s
- OP1-2 Oversized papers
- AV1 - Dr. John Griffin, Southern Educational Foundation (Director), "The Importance of Maintaining Public Education," Mississippi Council on Human Relations with panel discussion, no date (2 hours, 14 minutes) [original: open reel tape] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rxd7t][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rxd24]

- AV1 - "Is there a New South?" panel, Claude Sitton, Harold Fleming, Harry Ashmore, John Popham, Ralph McGill, John Griffin (moderator), April 4, 1964 (27:17)
[original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rxd38]
- AV1 - "The Importance of Public Education (1 of 3), no date [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rxd6p]
- AV1 - "The Importance of Public Education (2 of 3), no date [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rxd4d]
- AV1 - "The Importance of Public Education (3 of 3), no date [original: open reel tape]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rxd5j]
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