

**PATCH, PENNY.**  
**Penny Patch papers, 1962-2010 (bulk 1962-1965)**

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Patch, Penny.  
**Title:** Penny Patch papers, 1962-2010 (bulk 1962-1965)  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1269  
**Extent:** 1.25 linear ft. (3 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Papers of civil rights activist Penny Patch documenting her work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) including correspondence, SNCC administrative records, and printed material.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Special restrictions apply: The collection contains some copies of original materials held by other institutions; these copies may not be reproduced without the permission of the owner of the originals.

**Source**

Gift, 2013.

**Citation**

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

**Processing**

Sarah Quigley, September 2013.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

Penelope ("Penny") Patch (1944- ) is a civil rights activist and former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worker. The daughter of an American diplomat, Patch was raised in China, Czechoslovakia, and Germany until the age of thirteen, when the family returned to the United States permanently. She enrolled at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 1961, where she joined the Swarthmore Political Action Committee (SPAC) and began to work with other civil rights student activists. In 1962, she was arrested for the first time while conducting sit-ins in Maryland. In June of that year, Patch joined SNCC and moved to Georgia, where she became the first white woman to work on a SNCC field project in the Deep South. She worked to register and educate voters in what became known as the Albany Movement through 1963.

In early 1964, Patch transferred to the Jackson, Mississippi, Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) office to help manage the application process for the Mississippi Freedom Project. In September, she moved to Panola County, Mississippi, where she worked with COFO to register voters and support African American candidates for the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee, a federal program that decided each farmer's cotton allotment for the year. In April 1965, Patch resigned from SNCC and left the South for California where she worked briefly in the anti-war movement and with Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). She eventually moved to Vermont, where she currently lives and worked as a nurse midwife. She now teaches and speaks on behalf of civil and human rights.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Penny Patch from 1962-2010 and primarily documents Patch's work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s. The collection includes personal papers, SNCC records, and printed material. Personal papers contain correspondence written by Patch and sent to her family and friends, as well as hate mail received by her parents. Personal papers also include copies of the files kept on Patch by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, as well as a brief report written by her parents Frances and Isaac after a visit to Mississippi and a small number of photographs.

SNCC records include correspondence and memoranda; reports from field staff in both Georgia and Mississippi; program proposals; manuals; a security handbook for the Mississippi Freedom Project; and various other program planning documents. Printed material includes numerous clippings about SNCC as well as Patch herself. There are also fliers, pamphlets, brochures, newsletters and other printed items from civil rights organizations such as SNCC, the Highlander Research and Education Center, the Council of Federated Organizations, and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Personal papers

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence, 1962-1965
1	2	Correspondence, 1988-2010
1	3	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) file, 1962-1964 [1 of 4] [includes correspondence, 1994-1998]
1	4	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) file, 1962-1964 [2 of 4]
1	5	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) file, 1962-1964 [3 of 4]
1	6	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) file, 1962-1964 [4 of 4]
1	7	Hogan, Wesley, interview with Penny Patch, transcript, 1999
1	8	Minutes, meeting of former SNCC workers, December 9-10, 1978
1	9	Mississippi Sovereignty Commission file, 1964-1965, 1997-1999
1	10	Patch, Frances and Ike, "Notes from Mississippi," July 24-August 1, 1964
1	11	Patch, Penny, SNCC panel remarks, SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference, 2010
2	1	Photographs, circa 1963
2	2	"Transcript of tape recorded by Penny Patch after leaving the South," 1965

### Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) records

2	3	Americus, Georgia, fact sheet, 1963
2	4	Bennett, Fay, "The Condition of Farm Workers in 1964," report to the Board of Directors of [the] National Sharecroppers Fund, 1964
2	5	"Coming events in New York," 1963
2	6	Constitution [incomplete], March 1964
2	7	Correspondence and memoranda, 1962-1967
2	8	Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), 1964
2	9	Field secretary expenses, no date
2	10	Form letters, circa 1963-1964
2	11	Free Southern Theatre proposal, no date
2	12	Freedom registration form, 1964
2	13	Freedom Schools, 1964
2	14	"Legal Peace Corps" responsibilities, no date
2	15	Manual, "You Can Help Supports Programs for SNCC," 1963
2	16	Materials needed for Mississippi Summer Project, circa 1964
2	17	Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, circa 1964
2	18	Mississippi Project Parents Committee, 1964
2	19	Mississippi state legislation, 1964
2	20	Panola County, Mississippi voter registration form, circa 1964
2	21	Personnel rosters, circa 1964

- 2 22 Program proposal, Operation Mississippi, circa 1963
- 2 23 Reports, circa 1962-1965
- 2 24 Security handbook for Mississippi, 1964
- 2 25 "A Suggested Program of Support for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," circa 1963

**Printed material**

- 2 26 Clippings, no date
- 2 27 Clippings, 1962-1963
- 2 28 Clippings, 1964
- 2 29 Clippings, 1965-1967
- 2 30 Clippings, 1997
- 2 31 Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), brochure and newsletter, 1964
- 2 32 FLUT Publications flier, no date
- 2 33 Free Southern Theatre presents Purlie Victorious by Ossie Davis and Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett, program, no date
- 3 1 Highlander Research and Education Center brochures and fliers, 1963-1966
- 3 2 Ku Klux Klan, "The Freedom Fighter," December 1963
- 3 3 Ku Klux Klan, "The Klansman," 1963
- 3 4 Mississippi Freedom Assembly (Bergen County, Mississippi) information packet, 1964
- 3 5 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party fliers, 1964
- 3 6 Mississippi Project Parents Committee newsletter, August 1, 1964
- 3 7 NAACP Legal Defense Fund fundraising circular, circa 1963
- 3 8 National Sharecroppers Fund, flier for "A Conference on a Better Life for Mississippi Farm Families," 1964
- 3 9 "NOW! The Voice of Freedom," newsletter, May 4, 1964
- 3 10 Panola County (Mississippi) Student Union, "Panola County Freedom Reader," March 26, 1965 [photocopy]
- 3 11 SNCC, articles reprinted and distributed by SNCC to garner support, circa 1963-1964
- 3 12 SNCC fliers, circa 1963-1964
- 3 13 SNCC, Hands on the Freedom Plow," advertisement, circa 2010
- 3 14 SNCC information sheet, circa 1963
- 3 15 SNCC newsletters, December 1962-May 1963
- 3 16 SNCC pamphlets, 1963-1964
- 3 17 SNCC press releases, circa 1962-1964
- 3 18 SNCC, special mailing regarding Birmingham (Alabama) bombing, September 16, 1963