

Brooks, John Mitchell, collection of NAACP files

John Mitchell Brooks collection of NAACP files
1957-1960, 1978

Title Statement

Brooks, John Mitchell, collection of NAACP filesA Guide to the John Mitchell Brooks collection of NAACP files M 296

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 296

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/577

Unit Date

1957-1960, 1978

Language

English .

source

Brooks, John Mitchell, 1917-1980

Creator

Brooks, John Mitchell, 1917-1980

source

Eanes, K.

Extent

.84 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by K. Eanes in May 1992.

Processing Information

The collection was originally processed in 1992, with the content retaining the original order in which they were found. The finding aid was revised in 2000. In 2019, the collection was rehoused and files were relabeled to bring into accordance with current best practice and to better reflect contents, while also respecting original order.

Preferred Citation

John Mitchell Brooks collection of NAACP files, 1957-1960, Collection # M 296, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical Information

John Mitchell Brooks was a civil rights activist and director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) voter registration and education program. Born in Braddock, Pennsylvania in 1917, Brooks moved to Richmond in 1931. As a teenager, he became one of the first black Eagle Scouts in Virginia. He attended Virginia Union University and West Virginia State College. Brooks served for three years as a lieutenant in the US Army and received the Bronze Star Medal for combat medical work in World War II. After the war, he became a partner at Millie's Grill and manager at Troy's Department Store in Richmond.

Brooks began his work with the NAACP in 1957 where he was hired as an assistant to W. Lester Banks, Executive Secretary of the NAACP. In 1958, Brooks became the director of the NAACP national voter registration and education program, coordinating the voter registration programs of state branches. The initiative under Brooks created pamphlets and publications to educate voters and promote registration drives. Brooks served as political action director for the NAACP Virginia State Conference. He also assisted in the formation of the Crusade for Voters in Richmond with William S. Thornton and William Ferguson Reid. He remained the director of the voter registration program until 1975. After his retirement, Brooks remained active in state and local politics as a lobbyist for civil rights issues until his death in 1980.

Scope and Contents Information

The John Mitchell Brooks collection of NAACP files, 1957-1960, is a collection of administrative paperwork and correspondence used by John Mitchell Brooks during his initial years as director of the national voter registration and education program of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The materials primarily consist of files regarding the state branches of the NAACP across the United States. These branch files contain correspondence and statistical reports from the officials in charge of each state's voter registration initiative. The files show methods that the different branches incorporated to maximize the effectiveness of their individual voting initiatives. Additionally, some branch files include examples of promotional material created by each branch to ignite public interest. The materials were sent to Brooks for approval and feedback.

The collection also includes correspondence between Brooks and various individuals and groups involved with the NAACP's voter registration program. Individuals with whom he corresponded include the famous civil rights activist Henry Lee Moon, who was operating as the public relations director of the NAACP. Additionally, the collection contains correspondence with Ruby Hurley, often referred to as the "queen of civil rights," who was operating the Atlanta, Georgia NAACP regional office at the time. The collection also consists of administrative correspondence with various branch presidents and members regarding the production of NAACP literature.

Keywords

African Americans -- Virginia

Southern States -- Race relations.

Voter registration -- Southern States.

Brooks, John Mitchell, 1917-1980
Eanes, K.

Custodial History

The materials were kept by Brooks during his activities as the NAACP director of voter registration and education in the south. The collection was donated by K. Eanes in May 1992. The materials were found in the basement of 1900 S. Meadow Street, Richmond, Virginia when the house was sold to the donor.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

The collection was maintained in its original order though a few files of similar materials were combined and miscellaneous materials were given more descriptive labels. Some newspaper clippings were disposed of but the citations to those articles are listed under the entry for Newspaper Clippings and are held by the library on microfilm.

Description of Subordinate Components

Branch Files - Arkansas

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60175

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Florida

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60176

Unit Date 1958-1960

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Georgia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60177

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3-4 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Louisiana

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60179

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Maryland

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60180

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Mississippi

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60181

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Midwest (Ohio, Illinois, Oklahoma, Michigan)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60182

Unit Date 1958-1960

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - New York

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60183

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - North Carolina

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60184

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - New Jersey

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60185

Unit Date 1960

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Pennsylvania

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60186

Unit Date 1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - South Carolina

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60187

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Tennessee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60188

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Texas

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60189

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60190

Unit Date 1957-1960

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2-3 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Virginia - Richmond

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60192

Unit Date 1958-1960

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - Washington, DC

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60193

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Branch Files - West Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60194

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence - Branch Presidents

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60195

Unit Date 1958-1960

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence - Hurley, Ruby

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60196

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence - Moon, Henry Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60197

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence - National Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60198

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence - re: Publications

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60199

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60200

Unit Date 1959, 1978

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

The following clippings were removed, but are available via microfilm.

Richmond Afro-American, 1/2-7/78 pp. 5-8

Richmond Times Dispatch, 4/11/78 section B

Washington Post, 5/20/78 pp. A3-A4

Richmond News Leader, 2/17/78 pp.13-26

Washington Post, 1/8/78 pp. D1-D8

Washington Post, 1/15/78 B7-B8

Richmond Afro-American, 3/25/78 entire

Richmond Afro-American, 4/22/78 pp.15-28

News Releases

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60201

Unit Date 1959

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English.

Regional Reports

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60202

Unit Date 1958-1959

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English.