

A Guide to the Papers of Dr. John Kern 1986-2011

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A Collection in Roanoke Public Libraries 2010.1.04

Roanoke Public Libraries

2014

History

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Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

2010.1.04

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

4 record storage boxes

Repository

Roanoke Public Libraries

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Dr. John Kern

Preferred Citation

Papers of Dr. John Kern, Accession #2010.1.04, Roanoke Public Libraries, Roanoke, VA

Biographical Note

John Kern was born on January 28, 1940 in Iowa City, Iowa. After earning his bachelor's degree at Swarthmore College in 1961, he served two years in the Peace Corps in Tunisia. He earned his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1968, and he became interested in black history while earning his doctoral degree in American history at the same institution in 1976. He came to Roanoke in 1989 to become the regional director of Virginia's newly created Department of Historic Resources. The office nominated many Southwest Virginia historic sites and areas to state and national registries. Some of his accomplishments include the successful nomination of the Historic Gainsboro District to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and the placement of the Pearisburg Downtown Historic District on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. He taught courses in black history at Hollins University until 2008. He has published work in Dictionary of Virginia Biography, Florida Memorial College Academic Review, Notes on Virginia, From Here to There, and Delaware History. One of his former Hollins students, Arleen Ollie, said of Kern, "John is much like one of the treasures he has resurrected."

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