

Gardner, Thomas N. papers

Thomas N. Gardner papers
c. 1966-2008

Title Statement

Gardner, Thomas N. papers Thomas N. Gardner papers MSS 16732

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Publication Statement

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Notes

Related to MSS 11192 which has not been uploaded to AS.

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-11 16:26:37 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16732

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1436

Unit Date

c. 1966-2008

Mixed Materials [X032669247]

1 (box)

Language

English

Creator

Gardner, Thomas N.

Extent

1.75 Cubic Feet 3 document boxes, 1 half legal document box half legal box contains 19 audiocassette tapes and a handwritten guide to the tapes

Extent

19 audiocassettes

Extent

32.00144 Gigabytes 1 floppy disk, 1 5 1/4 floppy disk, 1 USB flash drive No information could be removed from 5 1/4 floppy disk.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. Original digital media (floppy disks, zip disks, thumb drives, born digital files, etc.) and other media formats such as LPs, audiotapes, reel-to-reels, videotapes, films, CDs, and DVDs cannot be handled directly by patrons.

Please contact Special Collections via our online Reference Request form, <https://small.library.virginia.edu/services/reference-request>, to request access to these materials.

Please be aware that additional actions may be required to make these items available. Items will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis before access can be made. Depending on the size of the request, it may take some time to make them available for use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was a gift from Thomas N. Gardner to the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on March 10, 2022.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16731, Thomas N. Gardner papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Thomas N. Gardner a University of Virginia alumnus, was active in the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) during his time as a student and served on the National Student Association's Southern Project in Atlanta. He continued his leadership role in the Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF) and the Union of Concerned Scientists (USC). He was born in New Orleans in 1946, and grew up mainly in the South. He became involved in the student movement in 1964 during his first year at the University. From 1967-1969 he served as Chairman of the SSOC and steered the organization toward greater involvement against the Vietnam War (during a Summer Project organized out of Cambridge University). He finished his degree in Sociology and completed two master's degrees, one in journalism at the University of Georgia and the second at the Kennedy School of Government in 1985. He was an activist during the civil rights movement and was one of the brave protesters who was arrested during a peace movement in Florida. Since 2001, he has been associate professor of communication at Westfield State University. He was formerly managing director of the Media Education Foundation of Northampton, Massachusetts, public affairs officer for Harvard Divinity School, senior editor at the Harvard Institute for International Development, and director of communications for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Content Description

Content Description

This collection contains the papers of Thomas Gardner, an alumnus of the University of Virginia, a leader in the Southern civil rights and national peace movements of the '60s and '70s, and Professor of Communication at Westfield State University.

The collection documents Gardner's social and political activism and involvement with civil rights, labor, anti-war, and anti-prison movements through different organizations such as the Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF), the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC), and the Union for Concerned Scientists (USC).

The documents date from the 1960s-1980s and include materials such as the *Virginia Weekly* clippings and drafts, informational pamphlets, agendas, memos, notes (taken by Gardner about meetings, to-do lists, goals, and ideas), handbooks, prospectus, correspondence, pamphlets, reports, proposals, and invitations for meetings, to the causes of the different organizations Gardner served.

Mentioned are specific cases involving unfair treatment of African Americans by the police and justice department including Snake Jones of Charlottesville, Virginia in 1970 and the Thomas Wansley case (falsely charged with rape based on an incorrect eyewitness account) in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1963, which gained national attention and was overturned after Wansley served 5 years in prison.

There are also political newspapers including *Right On*, *Black Community News Service* of the Black Panther Party, *The Call*, *The Red Worker* of the Communist Party in Georgia, and *The New South Student*.

There is also more recent work with the Union of Concerned Scientists from the 1980s. The collection includes topics on nuclear weapons, the prison reform system, unions and worker movements, and strikes.

The collection also documents Gardner's work on an unpublished book about Edgar Daniel Nixon, a union leader who played a critical role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Included are interviews on audiocassettes, transcripts, photographs, correspondence, research, newspaper articles, and drafts of Gardner's unpublished book. The interviews with Nixon cover a variety of topics including the Bus Boycott, the Brotherhood, the NAACP, bombings at Montgomery, E.D. Nixon's early life and life as a porter, and his community work since 1957.

Related Materials

MSS 11192

Keywords

Civil rights -- Virginia

Civil rights -- United States

African Americans -- Civil rights

Labor unions -- United States

Labor laws and legislation -- United States

Student activism

Nixon, Edgar Daniel

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Thomas Gardner activism (and organizations)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221515

Language English

Scope and Contents

Southern Student Organizing Committee, Southern Conference of Education Funds, Union of Concerned Scientists, Black Panther Party, Virginia Council on Human Relations-Jefferson Chapter, and the *Virginia Weekly*

Thomas Gardner

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221517

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Letter from Brigadier General Hugh Hester to Tom Garland about arrangements for his Vietnam address

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221518

Unit Date 1968 January 19

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Thomas Gardner review of article about the draft in the Virginia Weekly

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221519

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Virginia Weekly reports

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221520

Unit Date 1971

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Snake Jones interview transcription for the Virginia Weekly

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221521

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Political Education meeting minutes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221522

Unit Date 1971 September 19

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Union of Concerned Scientists

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221523

Unit Date 1987

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Union of Concerned Scientists Printed materials

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221524

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Southern Council Educational Fund (SCEF)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221525

Unit Date 1971

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Southern Council Educational Fund

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221526

Unit Date 1973

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Southern Council Educational Fund

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221527

Unit Date 1974

Mixed Materials [X032669247] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Report on Thomas Wansley case

Southern Council Educational Fund notes on kidnapping

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221528

Unit Date [1973]

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Southern Council Educational Fund reports about kidnapping

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221529

Unit Date 1973

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Southern Council Educational Fund Printed materials

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221530

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Southern Student Organizing Committee

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221531

Unit Date 1967-1979

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Southern Student Organizing Committee Printed literature

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221532

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Printed materials including the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE), Workers World, The Red Worker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221533

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Printed materials including The New South Student and War Resisters League Southwest newsletter

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221534

Unit Date 1967-1969; 1979

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Literature about Thomas Wansley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221535

Unit Date 1973

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Series 2. Thomas Gardner unpublished book on Edgar Daniel Nixon

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221516

Edgar Daniel Nixon "Father of the Civil Rights Movement" pin

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221536

Mixed Materials [X032669248] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Edgar Daniel Nixon interview transcription with Tom Gardner part 1

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221537

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Edgar Daniel Nixon interview transcription with Tom Gardner part 2

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221538

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Edgar Daniel Nixon interview transcript with Thomas Gardner

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/222446

Digital Archival Object

Transcribed interviews of Edgar Nixon by Thomas Gardner for his book

Digital Archival Object

Copies of transcribed interviews with Edgar Nixon by Thomas Gardner

Language English

Flashdrive and 3 1/4 floppy disk (content transferred)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/223647

Floppy_disks [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Edgar Daniel Nixon interview transcript by Bill Edwards

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221539

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Interview for "Eyes on the Prize" Documentary of Montgomery Bus Boycott

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221545

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Gardner notes on the Bus Boycott

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221540

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Correspondence: controversy over Nixon's role

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221541

Unit Date 1987

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Negatives and photographs (including proofs) of Edgar Daniel Nixon

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221542

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Articles about Edgar Daniel Nixon and research for unpublished book by Gardner

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221543

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Invitations and events for Edgar Daniel Nixon

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221544

Mixed Materials [X032669249] 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Series 3. Audiocassette tapes of Thomas Gardner and Edgar Nixon interviews

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221546

Processing Information

Could not remove information from Floppy 5 3/4

audiocassettes of interviews

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241970

Mixed Materials [X032669278] 4 (box)