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## Gloria Xifaras Clark Papers

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1962-2015

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Gloria Xifaras Clark was working as an elementary school teacher in her home town of New Bedford in 1964 when she answered the call to enlist in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project. A recent graduate of Wheelock College, she was assigned to teach in the Benton County Freedom School in Holly Springs for several months, and stayed on to help organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and to teach literacy and Negro history in Benton, Tippah, and Union Counties. She continued on the activist path after returning to Massachusetts, devoting her energies to economic justice initiatives and work with the Friends of SNCC and the NAACP, and diving headlong into the antiwar movement as head of the Greater New Bedford Draft Information Center. After spending three years in England with her family in 1972-1975, she resumed her civic and educational work in New Bedford, eventually earning appointment as head of the Commonwealth's Office for Children under Michael Dukakis in 1983. With a keen awareness of the historical importance of the civil rights struggle, Clark became a key organizer of an oral history project during the 1990s that included her fellow veterans of the civil rights movement in northern Mississippi. The results are available digitally through the University of Southern Mississippi.

Documenting the evolution of one activist's career, the Clark Papers offer valuable information on the Freedom Summer and Freedom Schools in northern Mississippi, particularly in Tippah and Benton Counties, and civil rights activism more generally. The collection includes communiques among civil rights workers in the region, a variety of correspondence, pamphlets, newsletters, and ephemera, plus a small, but noteworthy collection of photographs. Of particular significance among the later materials is a thick body of material from the Draft Information Center in New Bedford (1967-1968), the Vietnam Summer project (1967), and relating to Clark's role in the Harvard Strike of 1969.

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**Antiracism**

**Civil rights**

**Massachusetts (East)**

**Peace**

**Social justice**

**Vietnam War**

**Women and feminism**

## **Background on Gloria Xifaras Clark**

From the Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964 to the antiwar movement and her work in community development in New Bedford, Gloria Clark has lived her activist principles. Born Gloria Maravell in Fitchburg, Mass., the granddaughter of Greek immigrants, Clark was raised with three constants in life: education, music, and a passion for social justice.

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1959 and entering Wheelock College, Maravell's family relocated to New Bedford, where she has made her home ever since. Although she entered college at a time when the civil rights movement was capturing the imaginations of northern students, little in her college life marked her as a future radical. An education major who flirted briefly with a career as a singer, she married an attorney from New Bedford, John Xifaras, during her senior year in 1963. That fall, she began teaching in an elementary school in Dartmouth, Mass. Yet despite having just begun a new life and new career, Clark stepped out of her familiar surroundings into the struggle for civil rights in the deep South.

Like many young northerners, Clark was attracted to the movement through Mississippi Freedom Summer, a project organized by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which included both the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). As a key component of what was essentially a massive voter registration drive in Mississippi, activists envisioned a network of schools around the state that would both educate and activate. Eventually numbering more than forty, these "Freedom Schools" supplemented traditional elementary and high school curricula with units in African American history, a radical exploration of the socioeconomic and political context of race relations in



Gloria Clark and student, 1964

America, and a call for political engagement.

Clark trained for Freedom Summer in Memphis, Tenn., and was assigned to work in Holly Springs during the summer 1964. While teaching in the Benton County Freedom Schools, she became an organizer for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, expanding her scope from Benton to Tippah and Union Counties, and she traveled to the Democratic National Convention that fall in Atlantic City, N.J., to support the Party. Despite witnessing the violence of the backlash against the movement, including the burning of a Tippah County church whose pastor allowed it to host a speech by Fannie Lou Hamer, Clark remained in Mississippi until January 1965, teaching literacy and African American history, working for SNCC, and organizing the Freedom House Library.

When she finally returned home to Massachusetts, Clark's commitment to the movement stayed true to course. In addition to working for the Friends of SNCC in Cambridge and Boston, she led the newly-formed youth chapter of the NAACP in New Bedford from 1965-1968 and was active in the city in civil rights and voter registration work. As opposition to the War in Vietnam took on an increasing urgency in 1967 and 1968, she immersed herself in the antiwar movement, helping to organize the Vietnam Summer and becoming a leader in the Greater New Bedford Committee to End the War in Vietnam and the Greater New Bedford Draft Information Center. Her return to school to pursue a master's degree in education at Harvard barely impeded her: at Harvard, she took part in the iconic strike of 1969, when students organized by the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) occupied University Hall, eliciting a furious response from the university president, who demanded their expulsion and arrest, and an even more furious response from the police.

In 1972, Clark moved to England with her new (second) husband Edward Clark and her two young children. In some ways, her three years abroad marked a turning point, though hardly a lessening of her social commitments. Returning home after working as a research assistant in Oxford and an adult education teacher in London, she turned her energies toward community development, working through -- and for -- the city and state governments. Her career included a stint under Governor Michael Dukakis as the Commissioner of the Office for Children in Massachusetts (1983-1986); service as Assistant for Human Services to the Mayor of New Bedford and Director of the Drug Free Community Partnership (1987-1992); and a lengthy term as Executive Director of the Advocacy Resource Center of Greater New Bedford (1992-2005), advocating for the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. As a consultant since, Clark has provided a wide range of services for non-profit organizations, including support in fundraising, grant writing, community needs assessment, and organizational and managerial policy.

As the thirtieth anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer wound down in 1995, Clark and several fellow veterans of the civil rights movement organized a large-scale project that resulted in over 50 oral history interviews documenting the movement in northern Mississippi.

## Scope of collection

The papers of Gloria Xifaras Clark are an exceptional legacy from a life of civil rights and antiwar activism. Documenting the evolution of one activist's career, the Clark Papers offer valuable information on the Freedom Summer and Freedom Schools in northern Mississippi, particularly in Tippah and Benton Counties, and civil rights activism more generally. The collection includes communiques among civil rights workers in the region, a variety of correspondence, pamphlets, newsletters, and ephemera, plus a small, but noteworthy collection of photographs. Of particular significance among the later materials is a thick body of material from the Draft Information Center in New Bedford (1967-1968), the Vietnam Summer project (1967), and relating to Clark's role in the Harvard Strike of 1969.

## Series descriptions

### Series 1. Mississippi

1964-2015

4 boxes

While serving as coordinator of the Benton County Freedom School in Holly Springs, Miss., during the Mississippi Freedom Summer, 1964-1965, Clark accumulated a wealth of correspondence, communiques, and other materials documenting the civil rights work in which she and her colleagues in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Council of Federated Organizations were engaged. Of particular note are materials connected with her work in the Freedom School, including lesson plans and curricula; materials relating to the organization of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and a number of reports from other colleagues and schools operating in northern Mississippi. After leaving the south early in 1965, Clark also maintained a substantial correspondence with colleagues and friends in the movement, northern and southern, and since the 1990s, she has been involved in several reunions.

The series also includes letters and ephemera relating from Clark's friend and Civil Rights colleague, Marjorie Merrill, including newsletters from Freedom Summer, a flier for a talk at Antioch Church by Fannie Lou Hamer, and newsclippings and other material relating to Antioch Church after it was burned to the ground to prevent Hamer's talk.

To supplement the series, we include links to digitized oral histories conducted by Clark between 1995 and 2003 with fellow veterans of the civil rights movement. The original recordings are held in the Oral History Archives at the University of Southern

Mississippi.

### Series 2. Post-Mississippi activism

1965-1983

6 boxes

The materials in Series 2 document Clark's work in community organizing, education, and particularly, her work in opposition to the War in Vietnam. The series reflects Clark's activity in Cambridge and New Bedford, and includes exceptional content documenting Vietnam Summer, the Greater New Bedford Draft Information Center, the Greater New Bedford Committee to End the War in Vietnam, and similar organizations. As a graduate student in education at Harvard, Clark was also an ardent participant in the Harvard Strike of 1969, and the series includes important, though less thorough documentation of her activity in the feminist movement, with the Job Corps in New Bedford (1965-1966), and some of her political work in the 1960s.

Documentation of Clark's career after her return from England in 1975 is comparatively sparse, however there are some record of her work with the Office for Children and her consultancies for community organizations in New Bedford.

### Series 3. Personal

1958-1983

6 boxes

Series 3 consists primarily of correspondence between Clark and several friends from high school and college, along with miscellaneous records of her education at Wheelock College and Harvard.

### Series 4. Photographs

1954-2000

1 box

During her time in Mississippi, Clark took a number of photographs of the Benton County Freedom School in Holly Springs, her students, and fellow civil rights workers, as well as an important series of images of the attempts to get delegates of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party seated at the Democratic National Convention in 1964. Also included are images of Clark from high school and College through her work with the Massachusetts Office for Children.

The series also includes 34 images from Clark's colleague and friend, Marjorie Merrill, during Mississippi Freedom Summer.

### Series 5. Printed material

1962

3 boxes

Series 5 contains a small assortment of published works kept by Clark relating to the civil rights movement, antiwar activism, and other areas of interest.

## Inventory

### Series 1. Mississippi

1964-2015

Gloria Xifaras Clark material

1964-2015

#### **Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service elections: depositions and contact information**

1965

Box 1: 1

#### **Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service elections: Marshall County**

1965

Box 1: 2

#### **Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service elections: Marshall County election reports, by Larry Rubin**

1964 Dec.

Box 1: 3

Alabama: English, Edward, "This is America" [Alabama SNCC]

ca.1965

Box 1: 4

Alabama: Join the County Freedom Organization

ca.1966

Box 17: 1

Alabama: Lowndes County Freedom Organization

ca.1966

Box 1: 5

Alabama: news clippings

1966

Box 1: 6

Alabama: news clippings

1991

Box 1: 7

**Alabama: voter information**

1966

Box 1: 8

**Allen, Pamela Chude**

1994-2000

Box 1: 9

**Allen, Pamela Chude: essays on Mississippi Freedom Summer**

ca.1992

Box 1: 10

Allen, Pamela Chude: Freedom School report [copy]

1966 July 18

Box 1: 11

**Allen, Pamela Chude: letters from Mississippi [transcripts]**

1964

Box 1: 12

**Beyond Mississippi: A One-Year Perspective**

1994-1995

Box 1: 13

Burner, Eric R.: "And gently he shall lead them: Robert Parris Moses and Civil Rights in Mississippi, pp. 1-135

1993

Box 1: 14

Burner, Eric R.: "And gently he shall lead them: Robert Parris Moses and Civil Rights in Mississippi, pp. 136-268

1993

Box 1: 15

**Christmas in other lands... Mississippi [Christmas card]**

ca.1964

Box 1: 16

**Church burnings**

ca.2000

Box 1: 17

**Church burnings: Carpenters for Christmas correspondence [copies]**

1964

Box 1: 18

Church burnings: news clippings [copies]

1964

Box 1: 19

Church burnings: news clippings [copies]

2015

Box 1: 20

Church burnings: Scott, Burrell et al., "The rebuilding of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Blue Mountain, Mississippi"

1998

Box 1: 21

**Cieciorka, Frank: Holly Springs: Activity Report**

1964 October

Box 3: 3

**Civil Rights Act**

1964

Box 1: 22

**Civil Rights: miscellaneous reading**

1998-2000

Box :

Clark, Gloria Xifaras: Notebook

1964

Box : 4

Clark, Gloria Xifaras; Koenig, Ruth; Yancey, Wayne: Holly Springs: Accomplishments

1966 July 20

Box 3: 2

Clark, Gloria Xifaras: Oral history with Judith Hudson

1999

Box :

Colom Report [newsletter]

2000

Box :

Correspondence: Alexander, Burne L.

1964

Box 2: 1

Correspondence: Bond, Julian

ca.1965

Box 2: 2

Correspondence: Clark, Gloria Xifaras

1966

Box 2: 3

Correspondence: Coldman, David B.

1965

Box 2: 4

Correspondence: Colom, Wilbur

1967-1994

Box 2: 5

Correspondence: Flick Ash, J. M.

2000

Box 2:

Correspondence: Futorian, Aviva

1964

Box 2: 6

Correspondence: Hill, Charleana Cobb

1964-1994

Box 2: 7

Correspondence: Hill, Myrtle

1966

Box 2: 8

Correspondence: Hillegas, Jan

1994

Box 2: 9

Correspondence: Johnson, Mary E.

1964

Box 2: 10

Correspondence: Jones, Mrs. L.

1965

Box 2: 11

Correspondence: Klein, Gerald

1965

Box 2: 12

Correspondence: Maravell, Eva

1964

Box 2: 13

Correspondence: Merrill, Marjorie

1964-1994

Box 2: 14

Correspondence: Miscellaneous

1965

Box 2: 39

Correspondence: Nolan, Maggie

1966

Box 2: 15

Correspondence: Nunnally, U. Z.

ca.1964

Box 2: 16

Correspondence: Parks, Douglas G.

1964

Box 2: 17

Correspondence: Pettyjohn, G. G.

1964

Box 2: 18

Correspondence: Polk, Delois

1965

Box 2: 19

Correspondence: Pollack, Fern

1965

Box 2: 20

Correspondence: Reaves, Imogene

1965-1971

Box 2: 21

Correspondence: Reberio, Barbara

1966 Jan.

Box 2: 22

Correspondence: Reynolds, Modena

1965 May

Box 2: 23

Correspondence: Roberson, Diana

1966

Box 2: 24

Correspondence: Rutherford, Linda Fay

ca.1965

Box 2: 25

Correspondence: Scudder, Ken

1965-1966

Box 2: 26

Correspondence: Sellers, Cleveland

1994-1996

Box 2: 27

Correspondence: Siddell, Leaunzia

1965

Box 2: 28

Correspondence: Siegel, Ruth

ca.1966

Box 2: 29

Correspondence: Smith, Louise D.

1965

Box 2: 30

Correspondence: Stevenson, James

1966

Box 2: 31

Correspondence: Strong, Laura

1965-1995

Box 2: 32

Correspondence: Sunderman, Ellie

1964

Box 2: 33

Correspondence: Tishman, Ralph

1967  
Box 2: 34  
Correspondence: Walker, Rita  
1965-1966  
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Correspondence: Walker, Sid  
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Box 2: 36  
Correspondence: Xifaras, John  
1964  
Box 2: 37  
Correspondence: Young, Carl  
1964  
Box 2: 38  
Correspondence: Zellner, Bob  
1965  
Box :  
Council of Federal Organization  
ca.1964  
Box 17: 2  
Council of Federated Organizations (COFO)  
1964-1965  
Box 2: 40  
Council of Federated Organizations (COFO): Parker, Ron K., "SSOC starts Christmas project"  
1964  
Box 2: 41  
Fan depicting Martin Luther King. Foster and Son Funeral Home, Ripley Miss.  
ca.1994  
Box 17: 6  
Fan, "Family Devotion" depicting African-American parents and daughter, southern funeral home  
ca.1964  
Box 17: 7  
Flynn, Deborah: Mississippi Summer Project  
1964  
Box 2: 42  
Flynn, Deborah: "Seeds of Freedom" [play]  
1964  
Box 17: 3  
Freedom Democratic Club of Illinois: A platform for freedom  
1964  
Box 2: 43  
Freedom Information Service: Mississippi: Public Welfare in Mississippi  
ca.1964  
Box 2: 40  
Freedom Schools  
1964-1967  
Box : 44  
Freedom Schools curriculum: Introduction, mathematics, citizenship, poor white and poor negroes, the Movement  
1964  
Box 2: 48  
Freedom Schools: Books and films needed for Mississippi libraries  
1964  
Box 2: 45  
Freedom Schools: COFO memorandum to Mississippi Community Center workers  
1964  
Box 2: 46  
Freedom Schools: COFO, profiles of typical freedom schools (Hattiesburg, Meridian, Holly Springs, Ruleville)  
1964  
Box 2: 47



Freedom Schools: Curricula: The American Revolution  
1964  
Box 17: 4  
Freedom Schools: Curricula: What you should know -- American Negro History  
ca.1964  
Box 17: 5  
Freedom Schools: curriculum: Guide to Negro history  
1964  
Box 2: 49  
Freedom Schools: guide for Benton County seven to ten year olds, by Gloria Xifaras Clark  
1964  
Box 2: 50  
Freedom Schools: lesson plans for the unit of Mississippi politics  
1964  
Box 2: 51  
Freedom Schools: reports, by Gloria Xifaras Clark  
1964 July  
Box 2: 52  
Freedom Schools: Rooks, Walter, "The three who are missing" [poem by 12 year old student]  
1964  
Box 2: 53  
Gavin, Joanne: Memo to COFO Personnel Committee  
1965 Feb. 27  
Box 2: 54  
Hillegas, Jan [New Mississippi Newsletter]  
1998-2000  
Box :  
Holly Springs  
1964-1966  
Box 3: 1  
Holly Springs: The Bearcat [Rust College]  
1964 July 29  
Box 17: 8  
Holly Spring Black Business Directory  
2000  
Box :  
Holly Springs: COFO News Release: Testing and Arrest at Holly Springs  
1965 Jan. 08  
Box 3: 5  
Holly Springs: District Conference and Missionary Institute [program]  
1964  
Box 3: 6  
Holly Springs: Freedom Day in Holly Springs  
1964 July 25  
Box 3: 7  
Holly Springs: Freedom News  
1966 Feb. 21  
Box 3: 8  
Holly Springs: The Gang Letter to "Fellow Warriors"  
ca.1964 August  
Box 17: 9  
Holly Springs: Holly Springs Project: Letters from Cleveland Sellers  
1964 Dec. 01  
Box 3: 9  
Holly Springs: Holly Springs since Letter to a "Friend"  
1966 Aug. 14  
Box 3: 10  
Holly Springs: key to the city  
undated

Box 18:

**Holly Springs: Marshall County Mississippi Freedom Union**

1965

Box 3: 11

**Holly Springs: miscellaneous**

2000-2002

Box 3: 12

**Holly Springs: Petition to the Attorney General of the United States et. Al.**

1965

Box 3: 13

**Holly Springs: Petition to the Mayor of Holly Springs**

1965 Nov. 13

Box 17: 10

**Holly Springs: Press Coverage [copies]**

1964/1965

Box 3: 14

**Holly Spring reunion**

2003

Box :

**Holly Springs: Tippah County Report on Supporters**

ca.1965

Box 3: 15

**Jackson State University, 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Lecture Series**

1995

Box 3: 18

**Jencks, Christopher: Mississippi: From Coercion to Conversion [New Republic]**

1964

Box : 32

**Jomo Kenyatta, Prime Minister of Kenya (sketch)**

ca.1966

Box 3: 19

**Jordan, Elsie: Senior thesis (Yale University) re: civil rights in northern Mississippi**

ca.2003

Box :

**Kendall, David: FBI file**

2003

Box :

**Kendall, David: Holly Springs: Activity Report for Tate County**

1964 July 25

Box : 4

**Koenig, Ruth**

undated

Box 17: 11

**Koenig, Ruth Diary**

1966

Box 17: 12

**Koenig, Ruth: Notes from Training in Memphis**

1964

Box 3: 20

**Martin Luther King. . . at Communist Training School from Alert Americans Association**

1936

Box 3: 21

**Nasif, Marian: Holly Springs**

ca.1965

Box 3: 12

**Mississippi articles on Freedom Summer**

1994

Box 3: 22

**Mississippi Brochures**

1965  
Box 3: 23  
**Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party**  
1960-1964  
Box 3: 25  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge Reports  
1965  
Box 3: 29  
**Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: Keith Hastings Correspondence**  
1965  
Box 3: 27  
**Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: Massachusetts Ad Hoc Committee**  
1968  
Box 3: 28  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: Massachusetts Ad Hoc Committee  
1965  
Box 17: 16  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: Massachusetts Ad Hoc Committee Newsletter  
1965  
Box 17: 17  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: MFDP Washington Report on the Challenge  
1965  
Box 17: 18  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: The Voting Record of the Challenged Congressmen from Mississippi  
ca.1965  
Box 3: 31  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: Tippah County Meeting Notes [copy, original location unknown]  
1965/1967  
Box 17: 19  
**Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge: Union County Workshop**  
1964-1968  
Box 3: 30  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Press Release: Clifton R. Whitley Candidate for US Senate  
1966  
Box 3: 32  
Mississippi Freedom Project: What You Can Do  
1964  
Box 3: 31  
Mississippi Humanities Council grant: "Holly Springs and North Mississippi celebrate Civil Rights"  
2001-2003  
Box :  
Mississippi Information  
ca.1964  
Box 17: 13  
Mississippi News clippings  
1964-1965  
Box 3: 38  
Mississippi: Power Structure  
ca.1964  
Box : 36  
Mississippi Printed Material  
1963  
Box 3: 39  
Mississippi Revisited  
1996  
Box 3: 41  
Mississippi Security Handbook

1964  
Box 3: 42  
Mississippi: A Message from Mississippi: Help us Unseat the "Congressmen" We Never Voted For  
1964  
Box 3: 35  
Mississippi: Council of Federated Organizations; Mississippi: Handbook for Political Programs  
1964  
Box 3: 24  
**Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge**  
1964-1965  
Box 3: 26  
Mississippi: Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge  
1964/1965  
Box 17: 15  
Mississippi: Genocide in Mississippi  
ca.1964  
Box 3: 33  
Mississippi: Information  
ca.1964  
Box 3: 34  
Mississippi: miscellaneous  
1964-1998  
Box 3: 45  
Mississippi: Printed Material  
1963/2002  
Box 17: 20  
Mississippi: The Medical Committee for Human Rights (Tougaloo Conference Report)  
1964 August 16  
Box 17: 14  
**Mississippi: Unit VII Part 2 Mississippi Politics and COFO's Political Program in Mississippi**  
ca.1964  
Box 3: 43  
Mississippi: Voter Registration Laws in Mississippi: Subversion of the Fifteenth Amendment in Mississippi  
ca.1964  
Box 3: 44  
Muste, A.J.: Mississippi: "Rifle Squads of the Beloved Community" Liberation  
1964  
Box : 37  
Newsletters: Benton-York Project Monthly Newsletters  
1964/1965  
Box 17: 21  
Newsletters: Boston County Freedom Train 1:1, 1:2, 2:2, 2:3  
1964  
Box 4: 1  
**Newsletters: Freedom News 1:1, 1:3**  
1964  
Box 4: 2  
Newsletters: Voices of Tippah  
1965  
Box 4: 3  
**North Mississippi Civil Rights Project**  
1998  
Box 4: 4  
North Mississippi Oral History and Archives Project, Rust College  
1997-2000  
Box :  
North Mississippi Oral History and Archives Project, Rust College: Mississippi Humanities Council frant  
2000-2001  
Box :

North Mississippi Oral History and Archives Project, Rust College: proposal to Wil Colom

2000

Box :

**Obsequies of the Late Mr. Symiel Taylor Nero, Sv.**

1975

Box 4: 5

**Oral History Project**

1995/2001

Box 4: 6

Cieciorka, Bobbi: Rape of Justice [cartoon]

ca.1964

Box : 23

Register to Vote on Freedom Day

ca.1964

Box : 16

Remembering Dr. King: Fifth Annual Memorial Service, Foster's Chapel, Ripley, Miss.

1990

Box : 17

**Reunion: Holly Springs, Mississippi; Civil Rights Celebration**

2003

Box 4: 18

**Reunions Mississippi Homecoming**

1994

Box 4: 19

Rust College: National African American Student Leadership Conference

1998

Box 4: 20

Rust College: New Beginnings: Campaign for the New Millennium

ca.2000

Box :

SNCC de-emphasizes integration as goal [AP Wire Photo]

ca.1964 June

Box 4: 22

**Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee**

1964/1965

Box 4: 21

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

1965/1966

Box 17: 22

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: 40th anniversary

2000

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Boston Friends

1965/1967

Box 17: 23

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Case-study: statements of discipline of non-violent movements

ca.1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Circular letters

1965-1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Comments by Stokely Carmichael

1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Grass Roots Organizing Work (GROW)

ca.1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: news clippings

1963-1964

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Nitty Gritty, vol. 1, no. 1

1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: President Johnson and the right to vote

ca.1965

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: SNCC Freedom Singers

ca.1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Song sheet

ca.1966

Box :

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: "Two Incidents of Arrest and Imprisonment in Mississippi"

1964 May

Box 4: 23

Student Voice

1964/1965

Box 4: 24

**Tippah County, Mississippi**

1964/2002

Box 4: 25

University of Southern Mississippi Oral History Archives

2014

Box :

Voices of the Movement

1996

Box : 1

Walker, Rita: Holly Springs: "Life in Mississippi: Negro Motherhood"

ca.1965

Box : 16

Walker, Rita: Holly Springs: "Meeting the Freedom Workers"

ca.1964

Box : 17

Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) reports and incident reports

1964 June/1965 May

Box : 2

Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) reports and incident reports [highlighted for Holly Springs]

1964 June/1965 May

Box : 3

Yancey, Wayne

1964-

Box : 5

Young Americans for Freedom: Report on the Left

1964 December

Box : 6

Young, Carl: Essays on Mississippi: America's Only Police State [incomplete]

1964

Box : 7

Jackson, Shirley: "Charles"

undated

Box : 18

Marjorie Merrill materials

1995-2003

*Benton County Freedom* (newsletter), vol.2, no. 31-32

1965 June

2 issues

Box :

Benton-York Project

1964  
Box :  
*Benton-York Project Monthly Newsletter*, vol. 1, no. 1  
1964  
Box :  
Cieciorka, Frank: Statement on Voter Registration Project (COFO)  
1964  
Box :  
Correspondence: Clark, Gloria Xifaras  
1993  
Box :  
Correspondence: Hill, Myrtle  
1965, 1977  
Box :  
Correspondence: Johnson, Janis  
1965  
Box :  
Correspondence: Knox, Elizabeth  
1993  
Box :  
Correspondence: Maynard, Robert C.  
1964, 1988  
Box :  
Correspondence: McAfee, Kathy  
1965  
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Correspondence: Rogers, Annie  
1974  
Box :  
Freedom School poetry, by Walter Rooks, Stephen Spender  
1964  
Box :  
Hamer, Fannie Lou: Flier announcing her talk at Antioch Church (burned shortly thereafter)  
1964 Oct.  
Box :  
Hill, Charleane: Solicitation for funds to rebuild Antioch Church after arson attack  
1964  
Box :  
Kimbrough, Sallie: denial of registration to vote  
ca.1964  
Box :  
Merrill, Marjorie: Notes for talks on Civil Rights struggle in Mississippi  
undated  
Box :  
Miscellaneous  
undated  
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Mississippi Freedom Summer reunion  
1994  
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Newsclippings  
1964, 1993  
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Poetic justice (poem on Byron de la Beckwith and Roy De Berry)  
ca.1994  
Box :  
SNCC- 1966, comments by Stokely Carmichael (Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee solicitation letter)  
1966  
Box :

*Voices of Tippah*, vo. 1, no. 1 and 12 (note: two have letters written on the back by Charleane Hill Cobb)

1965

Box :

Civil Rights oral histories

1995-2003

Originals for the following oral histories conducted by Clark with fellow veterans of the civil rights struggle in northern Mississippi and included in the Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive at the **University of Southern Mississippi Oral History Collections**. The descriptive information was provided by USM.

**Allen, Pamela Chude. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Oct. 17

00:39:09

Interview conducted October 17, 2001 with Chude Pamela Allen in San Francisco, California. Chude Pamela Allen was born into an Episcopal family in eastern Pennsylvania. Though her parents were Republicans, their Christian ideology contributed to Allen's liberal foundation, as did exposure to children from more progressive families in school. Allen went to Spellman College, where she became politically active in her freshman year, and was recruited to volunteer for Freedom Summer by SNCC. She trained in Oxford, OH before being sent to Holly Springs, MS in 1964, where Allen became a teacher at the Freedom school in Holly Springs. During the summer, Allen encountered both racial violence and sexism. After Freedom Summer, Allen continued her political activism as part of the secular Left. She became active in the women's liberation movement in the mid-1960s and moved to San Francisco, CA in 1968 where she would organize women's liberation groups. Allen worked for The Guardian and continued her activism throughout the 1970s. Despite a decline in her political activity in the early 80s, Allen began writing about her experiences as a volunteer during Civil Rights Movement. She helped organize the 25th anniversary reunion for Freedom Summer in 1989, as well as the 30th anniversary reunion in 1994. Allen has since then worked to help volunteers of the Movement cope with any trauma they may have endured.

**Beck, Alva. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2003 Jan. 16

00:47:27

Interview conducted January 16, 2003 in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Alva Beck was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi. After graduating high school, Beck attended Rust College and began volunteering for the advancement of civil rights in the area of voter registration. He met many of the major figures in the Civil Rights Movement, Stokely Carmichael among them. Beck was involved in protesting the 1968 Republican National Convention in Miami, Florida. After graduating from Rust College with a B.S. degree in business administration, Beck went to work as an investment analyst in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; he would later move to Cincinnati, Ohio and continue expanding his business ventures. Beck moved back to Holly Springs to care for his mother.

**Caldwell, David. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2003 Jan. 16

00:47:23

David Caldwell was born in Lavaca, Arkansas where he stayed and worked on his uncle's farm, and attended segregated schools. He dropped out of school and worked in a number of jobs, including for a furrier. Caldwell joined the military and served in Japan during and after World War II. He also served in Korea and Germany. After being discharged from the Army, he came to Holly Springs, Mississippi, where he first experienced racist intimidation. He became involved with the civil rights workers in Holly Springs during the summer of 1964.

**Carver, Ron. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Apr. 26

00:47:48

Ron Carver was born in 1946 in Boston and was in high school when he became aware of the struggle for civil rights going on in Mississippi. After graduation, he decided to get involved and he volunteered as an assistant to Julian Bond in the SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) office in Atlanta, Georgia. At the end of the summer, he decided to go to Mississippi. Carver canvassed from door to door in black communities, working primarily in North Mississippi, assisting black citizens in registering to vote, organizing mass meetings, identifying issues deemed important by local people, recruiting for the Freedom Democratic Party, taking part in Freedom Days, and other civil rights activities. Carver left Mississippi to matriculate as a freshman at Columbia University.

**Cobb, Charlaena. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

1995 Dec. 14

00:31:01



Interview conducted December 14, 1995 in Blue Mountain, Mississippi, at Cobb's home. She discusses growing up during the civil rights movement, memories of Freedom Summer, and the battle over school integration. She also discusses her introduction to and continued involvement in civil rights activism.

**Colom, Wilbur. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

1995 Dec. 12

00:31:06

Interview conducted on December 12, 1995 in Ripley, Mississippi, at the home of Gwendolyn Colom. He discusses coming of age during the civil rights movement and how he came to civil rights activism. In particular, he locates specific activist efforts, including integrating the Ripley Theatre and swimming pool. Colom discusses his continued involvement in activism and how it changed over time through the 1970s.

**Fullilove, Robert. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2002 Feb. 9

Robert Fullilove was an activist in SNCC in 1964 and 1965. Born into a middle class African American family, he attended college at Colgate University where he was introduced to the Civil Rights Movement. During his time in SNCC he travelled to several areas in Mississippi including Jackson, Marshall County, and DeSoto County where he spearheaded Freedom Day events to register voters. He developed close relationships with many of the activists of the time including Stokely Carmichael and Ivanhoe Donaldson. He later became a professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia University and worked as Associate Dean of Community and Minority Affairs.

**James, J. Q. C. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2000 Nov. 3

00:47:16

Interview conducted on November 3, 2000. Reverend J. Q. C. "Alphabet" James was a Methodist minister and civil rights leader in Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi from 1962 to 1968. Born in Jasper County, Mississippi, Reverend James was a graduate of Rust College and pastored churches in Grenada, Ripley, Columbus, and Greenwood. As pastor of St. Paul's Church in Ripley, James was a leader in the integration of the local hospital, schools, and restaurants. He also facilitated NAACP and civil rights movement meetings in Ripley, and he was also present at the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party meeting at Antioch Baptist Church in Blue Mountain the night before it was burned.

**Jeffries, Howard. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2000 Oct. 29

00:47:31

Interview conducted on October 29, 2000. Howard Jeffries was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi on January 16, 1943. Jeffries was active with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Initially, attending nightly meetings at the Freedom House in Holly Springs, Mr. Jeffries eventually participated in voter registration and school integration drives and other civil rights events including the March on Washington, the James Meredith March, and events that occurred during the Selma to Montgomery marches. While he was unharmed during the marches, Mr. Jeffries experienced an aggressive confrontation with a police officer in Senatobia, Mississippi. Other experiences with SNCC include work at field offices in Mississippi, and Alabama, and the print shop in Atlanta, Georgia. After SNCC disbanded, Jeffries relocated to Memphis, Tennessee.

**Kendall, David. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2002 Feb. 11

00:47:37

David E. Kendall was born in 1944 in Camp Atterbury, Indiana. He was influenced by his Quaker upbringing and a desire for adventure to get involved in the civil rights movement. Kendall was trained by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Oxford, Ohio to participate in Freedom Summer. His roommate, Andrew Goodman, was killed while working in Mississippi. Before leaving for Mississippi, Kendall lobbied Congress in Washington, D.C. to provide more federal marshals to protect the civil rights advocates. Originally assigned to McComb, Mississippi, Kendall ultimately ended up in Holly Springs, Mississippi to register voters. Kendall supported and organized groups of African Americans to register to vote on Freedom Days. He worked primarily with Ivanhoe Donaldson and Cleveland Sellers. Kendall attended the Atlantic City Convention as a member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegation in 1964. He then returned to Indiana, earned a law degree, and argued civil rights cases. He developed a relationship with President Bill and Hillary Clinton and later served as their attorney during the Whitewater case.

**Kunstler-Goldman, Karen. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2003 Sept. 19

00:47:31

Interview conducted September 19, 2003 in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Kunstler-Goldman was born in Tennessee and raised in New York, the daughter of prominent civil rights attorney, William Kunstler. Kunstler-Goldman recognized racial injustice from an early age, and decided in the early 1960s to contribute to Mississippi's civil rights struggle. She worked on voter registration and was a member of SNCC. She also participated in Mississippi Freedom Summer. Kunstler-Goldman also discusses her continued involvement in activism after the 1960s era of the civil right movement.

**McMillan, William Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2003 Jan. 15

00:47:32

William A. McMillan was born in Winnabow, North Carolina in 1920. He attended segregated schools and recieved a scholarship to attend Johnson C. Smith University with the aspiration of becoming a doctor. He later decided on the field of the social sciences, graduating in 1942. He worked in Detroit, and Philadelphia before being drafted into the military where he spent 2 years during World War II. He went on to complete a master's degree at University of Pennsylvania, and then a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in Psychology and History. He then taught at Wiley College in Texas. McMillan became president of Rust College in 1967.

**Moore, Arvern. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Mar. 15

00:31:48

Arvern Moore was born in Byhalia, Marshall County, Mississippi in 1936. He attended high school in Memphis, earned his college degree, and taught in Mississippi's black public schools. He was active in direct civil rights actions. When the federal government began funding Head Start, Moore was one of the leaders who fought for and grew the Head Start Program. He was involved in the NAACP, SNCC, COFO, the United League, Rust College, and cotton farming.

**Nunnally, U. Z. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Jan. 13

00:48:08

U.Z. Nunnally was born in 1945 and grew up in rural Mississippi. His civil rights activities took him out of rural Mississippi and around the southeast as well as to California and China. He grew up on a plantation, one of seven children in a sharecropping family. In high school he became involved in civil rights advocacy when Freedom Riders lived in his town. He spent time in COFO's Freedom House, in Freedom School, door-to-door canvassing for voter registration, was arrested many times for his activities, filed a lawsuit to avoid serving in the Vietnam War, and at the time of this interview was looking forward to retirement as one of San Francisco's bus drivers.

**Rogers, Amos and Sammie Lee. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

1995 Dec. 14

00:00:00

Interview conducted December 14, 1995 with Amos and Sammie Lee Rogers. This interview discerns some of the unique characteristics of the north Mississippi civil rights movement, particularly in voting and voter registration drives. The Rogers also discuss school integration in Ripley, Mississippi, and the church as a site of mass meetings.

**Rubin, Larry. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Apr. 28

00:47:35

Interview conducted April 28, 2001 in Takoma Park, Maryland, at Larry Rubin's home. Larry Rubin was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A civil rights and social justice activist, Rubin worked in Albany, Georgia, and then in north Mississippi with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He describes his early activism, the importance of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service elections to the course of the movement in North Mississippi. He also describes police harassment in Holly Springs and the development of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP).

**Scott, Ernestine Evans. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2000 Oct. 29

00:47:37

Ernestine Evans Scott was born in Benton County in 1947 to a land-owning African American family. She attended Old Salem School, and then Rust College high school and became active in civil rights work during the 1960s. She was recruited to attend a COFO meeting and began working on voter registration. Scott attended a Freedom School and her family hosted activists during Freedom Summer. In January 1965, Scott was involved in the production of the play Seeds of Freedom, and traveled to New York City for performances.

**Scott, William D. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2003 Oct. 29

00:47:27

William Scott was on faculty at Ole Miss at the time of this interview, which describes his experiences as a black man, growing up in Mississippi. He paints a verbal picture of his education, his innate tendency to question why race relations were as they were in Mississippi, the many effects from Brown v. Board, sharecropping, racism, classism, civil rights activism, Freedom Summer 1964, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, student activism at Rust College, his education, voter registration, desegregation of public schools, NAACP, and many of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

**Sellers, Cleveland, Jr. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Oct. 29

00:47:41

Interview conducted September 2, 2003 in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Cleveland Sellers was born in 1944 in rural Denmark, South Carolina. Sellers organized a college chapter of the NAACP which then became instrumental in helping the Freedom Riders. He later attended Howard University and joined the SNCC, which led to his work in Holly Springs, Mississippi with the Mississippi Freedom Project.

**Seymour, Laura S. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2000 Oct. 29

00:46:53

Laura Seymour grew up in Blue Mountain on her grandparents' farm in Tippah County, Mississippi. Seymour was active in the civil rights movement in North Mississippi and Atlanta. She began advocating when she was a teenager in high school and continued doing so until the birth of her children. Seymour's activities included voter registration, protest marches, sit-ins, integrating public accommodations, and boycotting. She was arrested in Jackson, Mississippi for marching without a permit, and she was held for several days in the Jackson Fairgrounds.

**Smith, Frank. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2001 Arp. 27

00:47:37

Frank Smith was born September 17, 1942 and raised in Newnan, Georgia. A Morehouse College Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leader, Smith came to Holly Springs, Mississippi in 1962 as a volunteer and stayed in Mississippi for six years as field secretary. He worked on voter registration and challenged police brutality, in addition he organized the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union to strike for better wages. Smith went on to serve on the District of Columbia City Council, and as founding Executive Director of African American Civil War Memorial and Museum.

**Spight, F. L. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

1995m Dec. 13

00:31:02

Interview conducted December 13, 1995 in Ripley, Mississippi at F.L. Spight's home. F.L. Spight was born in Ripley, Mississippi in 1919 and worked to bring expanded educational opportunities for African Americans to the area. He was the first principal of Ripley Colored School which later became Tippah County High School. He discusses education, Ripley Colored School, integration of schools, racial intimidation, church burning and the Ku Klux Klan. He further discusses his experience with civil rights workers from out of state, Freedom Riders, and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

**Steward, Ellie and Eugene. Oral history with Aviva Futorian and Gloria Clark**

1995 Dec. 11

00:31:04

Interview conducted December 11, 1995 with Ellie and Eugene Steward in Benton County, Mississippi, at the home of Genevera Reaves. Ellie B. Steward was born in Benton County in 1931. She is an educator and former director of Head Start. She was actively involved in the struggle for civil rights during the 1960s, housing out-of-state volunteers, and participating in meetings and efforts to achieve fair and equal treatment in education and public life. Her husband, Eugene Steward is a farmer, restaurant worker, and custodian, and also participated in civil rights efforts, which resulted in losing his job as school custodian due to his participation and support of a school boycott. The conversation also includes Genevera Reaves, in whose home it was recorded.

**Taylor, Marjorie. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2000 Sept. 2

00:57:51

Marjorie Taylor is an elementary school teacher on Long Island, New York who was recruited by the National Federation of Teachers to come to Mississippi during Freedom Summer in 1964. Taylor stayed through 1965, working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and teaching local people in a Freedom School.

**Trimble, David. Oral history with Gloria Clark**

2003 Nov. 1

00:47:37

Brookline, Mass. Trimble was born January 8, 1945, the son of self-proclaimed socialists. As a child, his parents' radical political involvement encouraged his own involvement in civil rights activism later. He worked on voter registration in Holly Springs, Mississippi during Freedom Summer. He describes his experiences of the north Mississippi theatre of the movement.

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Black Panther, vol. 2, 18

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Clark, Gloria Xifaras: Interviews Rust College (North Mississippi Oral History and Archives Program)

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Consulting Work: Daycare in the Housing Authority

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Consulting Work: Early Childhood Quality Network

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Consulting Work: New Bedford Mayor's Drug Free Community Partnership

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Correspondence: Leo, John R.

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Draft and antiwar activity

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Draft Information Center (New Bedford Mass) National Steering Committee: Resist

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Draft Information Center (New Bedford Mass) Summer Projects

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Draft Information Center: Mailing List of Organizations Opposing the War in Vietnam

1968 August

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Draft Literature: American Friends Service Committee

1966/1968

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Draft Literature: Campus Draft Opposition

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1967

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Draft Literature: Clergy and Laymen concerned about Vietnam

1968

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Draft Literature: Draft Action News

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Draft Literature: Miscellaneous

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Draft Literature: National Service Board for Religious Objectors

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Draft Literature: Providence Peace Action Committee

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Draft Literature: Students for a Democratic Society

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Draft Literature: United Veterans for Freedom

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Draft resistance: American Friends Service Committee

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ca.1968

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Peace Activities: Declaration of Conscience  
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Peace Activities: Petition to the President of the United States  
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Peace Activities: Vietnam  
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People Against Racism  
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Rhode Island Committee for Peace in Vietnam  
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Vietnam Summer: Memoranda and Circulars

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Vietnam Summer: National Contact List

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1961 Jan.-May

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1961 July-Oct.

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1960-1961

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1961

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1958-1959

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Correspondence: Gelep, Betsy  
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1959-1966

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Gloria Xifaras Clark, May 2015.

## Related Material

Clark's oral histories are among a larger collection of interviews with civil rights workers in northern Mississippi available through the Oral History archives at the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Digitized content

Selected material from the Clark Papers has been digitized and is available online through [Credo](#).

## Processing Information

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## Search terms

### Subjects

African Americans--Suffrage--Mississippi  
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Greater New Bedford Draft Information Center  
Harvard University--Student strike, 1969  
Holly Springs (Miss.)--History  
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Peace movements--Massachusetts  
Prisons--Massachusetts  
Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)  
Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)  
Tippah County (Miss.)--History  
Vietnam Summer (Organization)  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Protest movements--Massachusetts

### Contributors

Clark, Gloria Xifaras, 1942- **[main entry]**  
Colom, Wilbur  
Hill, Charlaena Cobb  
Merrill, Marjorie  
Reaves, Imogene

### Genres and formats

Photographs

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