



**CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY,
MURFREESBORO, TN**

DOUG SEROFF ALABAMA AFRICAN AMERICAN GOSPEL QUARTET COLLECTION

21-015

Creator:

Seroff, Doug (February 21, 1947 -)

Type of Material:

Manuscript Materials, Photographs, Trade Catalogs, Manuscript and Commercial Audio/Visual Materials

Physical Description:

6 linear feet of manuscript material, manuscript papers, manuscript and commercial audio/visual material:

- 4 linear feet of manuscript materials including correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings and other research materials
- 2 linear feet of audio/visual materials including,
 - 7 VHS tapes
 - 3 commercial LP discs
 - 15 commercial cassette tapes
 - 89 manuscript cassette tapes
 - 3 manuscript CDs
 - 7 commercial CDs

Dates:

1972-2018, bulk 1984-1996

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, articles and newspaper clippings, and manuscript and commercial audio-visual materials including cassette tapes, VHS tapes, 33 1/3 sound recordings relating to African American Gospel groups in Alabama. The materials were collected and created by Doug Seroff from approximately 1984 to 2018 for his own research and interest.

Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. *All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.*

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was purchased by the Center for Popular Music from Doug Seroff on May 11, 2022. Seroff collected and generated these materials throughout many years of research.

Subjects/Index Terms:

Gospel Music
Quartet Singing
Gospel Quartet
Gospel Singing Conventions
Birmingham Sunlights
Four Eagles
Sterling Jubilee Singers
Black Music
Bessemer, Alabama
Birmingham Alabama
Alabama Music
Oral History

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Doug Seroff, born February 21, 1947 in Newark, NJ, and currently residing in Greenbrier, TN, has been involved in recording, researching, and promoting African American vernacular music since the 1970s. He has written a number of books on the subject, as well as many liner notes for reissues of older music. Mr. Seroff has also been a consultant with television and radio documentaries about the gospel quartet tradition, as well as a promoter of gospel quartet performances.

Scope and Content:

This collection is comprised of 6 linear feet of materials. The materials relate to African American gospel music in Alabama collected and created by researcher and author, Doug Seroff. Correspondence, photographs, and manuscript audio materials were created by Seroff mostly between the years 1984 and 1996. Much of this research was used in publications, including the book by Doug Seroff and Lynn Abbott, *To Do This, You Must Know How: Music Pedagogy in the Black Gospel Quartet Tradition* (2013).

Arrangement:

Original order of the materials has been maintained in so far as possible. Most descriptions and folder titles were written by creator/donor Doug Seroff.

This collection consists of two series:

- Series I: Printed Matter and Original Research Materials
- Series II: Audio/Visual Materials

Collection Contents (Box/Folder List):

Box # Folder # Title / Description [from Doug Seroff]

Series I: Printed Matter and Original Research Materials

Box 1 Files by Group – “Angelic Harmonizing Chorus of Selma - Four Eagle

Folder 1 “Angelic Harmonizing Chorus of Selma”

Christmas cards with color photos of the Angelic Harmonizers
(1994, 1996)

“Thank You” card to Seroff from Roy McMillan of the Angelic
Harmonizers, 1994

Flyer from Alabama Folklife Association, 2003, for “Gathering in Selma,”
featuring the Angelic Harmonizing Chorus at Temple Mishkan Israel,
Selma, with photo of the group

Angelic Harmonizing Chorus business card, with group pictured on reverse
Copy of letter Seroff wrote, December 14, 1993, recommending the Angelic
Harmonizers for inclusion on the Toronto Jazz Festival

Folder 2 “Historic Newspaper Citations: Birmingham Jubilee Singers”

Photocopies of historical newspaper articles relating to Charles Bridges, or
the Birmingham Jubilee Singers, from *Chicago Defender*, *Baltimore Afro-*
American, *Pittsburgh Courier*, and other African-American weeklies, 1920s
to 1960s

Folder 3 “Birmingham Sunlights #1”

Letter from David Evans to Doug Seroff, May 25, 1981, passing along
contact information for the Birmingham Sunlights, who had
performed at the Beale Street Music Festival the week before

Page of typed notes by Seroff after meeting Barry and James Taylor in
Birmingham in the summer of 1981

Two typed pages of notes Seroff made at an appearance by the Birmingham
Suntlights and the Inter City Singers of Birmingham, at Highland
Heights School in Nashville, TN, on December 17, 1983

Photocopy of liner notes for an LP by the Inter-City Singers of Birmingham,
which at the time included several future members of the
Birmingham Sunlights

Form letter from National Council for the Traditional Arts, November 22,
1985, soliciting programing suggestions for the 1986 National Folk
Festival

Three-page letter from Doug Seroff to Joseph Wilson, December 13, 1985,
recommending the Birmingham Sunlights, and outlining their
qualifications

Cover letter and application to the Southern Arts Federation touring program,
prepared by Doug Seroff, January 25, 1990, in the interest of the
Birmingham Sunlights

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- Photocopy of article from the (Lowell, Mass.) Sun, July 30, 1989, relevant to the 51st National Folk Festival, headed: "Sunlights are festival stars," with photos
- Photocopy of excerpt from the 1989 National Folk Festival program booklet, with entry about the Sunlights
- Alabama Folklife News*, October 1989, with article about the Birmingham Sunlights' appearance at the National Folk Festival in Lowell
- Letter of appreciation from the National Council on the Traditional Arts to Barry Taylor, relevant to the group's participation in the National Folk Festival
- U.S.I.A. Tour of Africa itinerary sheets for the tour of August 24, 1989 to September 21, 1989
- Ticket to Birmingham Sunlights' concert at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre, Sept. 14, 1989
- Photocopies of three newspaper reviews of the Sunlights' performances in Swaziland
- Program for the Sunlights' August 27 – 30, 1989, concerts in Malawi
- Official report (8 pages) to U.S.I.A., on the Sunlights' African tour, written by Barry Taylor
- Cover letter with report (4 pages) from the Director of Arts America, "on behalf of the U. S. Information Agency," with synopsis of their tour

Folder 4 "Birmingham Sunlights #2"

- Note from U.S.I.A. staff writer to Doug Seroff, and a 3-page article she wrote subsequent to conversations
- U.S.I.A. itinerary (8 pages) for the Sunlights' January 24 – February 29, 1991 tour
- 6-page brochure for 1991 "Deep South Musical Roots Tour" tour, with a full-page capsule about the Sunlights
- "Musical Roots of the South" 22-page booklet (9 x 11), "designed to complement a series of regional tours... sponsored by the Southern Arts Federation." With an essay on the black gospel quartet tradition by Doug Seroff
- Folk Arts News*, January 1991, with an article on the "Deep South Musical Roots Tour"
- Exchange of correspondence in February 1991, between Doug Seroff and promoter Stuart Davis, concerning a potential visit to Australia by the Sunlights, and appearances at the Sydney Carnivale and Manley Jazz Festival in Sydney
- Photocopies of Australian newspaper reviews of performances by the Sunlights in October 1991

Folder 5 "Birmingham Sunlights"

- Handbill for performance by the Birmingham Sunlights at Club Carnivale, October 11 & 12, 1991
- Flyer with photo of the Sunlights, for "Musicians and Songsters Seminar,"

- Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, February 27, 1990. Note: The Sunlights did not appear on this seminar. Seroff showed a video clip of the Sunlights from "On the Battlefield" documentary as part of presentation
- Copy of the paper Seroff read at "Musicians and Songsters" Seminar. Letter of appreciation from Bruce Nemerov of CPM
- Flyer with photos for "Singing in Two Worlds" seminar at Center for Popular Music, October 2, 1990, and concert at Wright Music Hall, featuring the Birmingham Sunlights, Ladysmith Black Mambazo of South Africa, and the Princely Players of Nashville
- Flyer for "Carnegie Hall Presents... American Roots, Caribbean Crossings" concert series, the Sunlights participated, April 8, 2006
- Letters of March-April 2018, from "The Birmingham Sunlights Wives," inviting Doug Seroff to present the history of the Birmingham Sunlights at their 40th Anniversary commemoration. A printed program for this October 20, 2018, event, with color portrait of the Sunlights. Printed invitation to the event. Text Doug read at this Anniversary.
- National Endowment for the Arts booklet for this event, with two-page spread on the Sunlights, who were recipients
- 6-page printed online press release and interview, relative to receiving the National Heritage Award
- Alabama Folklife Association bulletin, with full-page photo spread on the Sunlights' National Heritage Fellowship
- Invitation to the Birmingham Sunlights 15th Anniversary, December 12, 1993
- Typed text of the history read by Joyce Cauthen for the Birmingham Sunlights' 15th Anniversary
- Invitation to the Birmingham Sunlights' Appreciation Program, December 16, 1995
- Invitation to a concert by the Birmingham Sunlights at the Harbert Center, Birmingham, October 8, 2000
- Typed text of a presentation Seroff made at the Alabama Folklife Festival in Montgomery, concerning the training relationship between the Birmingham Sunlights and the Sterling Jubilee Singers
- Newspaper clipping from the *Los Angeles Reader*, November 8, 1991, with photo, relative to the Birmingham Sunlights' performance at the "Juke Joints & Jubilee" event
- "Performer Information – 55th Annual National Folk Festival, Chattanooga, TN, 1993." Includes a paragraph on the Birmingham Sunlights.
- Business card for the Birmingham Sunlights
- Letters from Barry Taylor to Doug Seroff, September 1988

Folder 6 "Delta-Aires"

- 1985 Program for the Delta-Aires' 36th Anniversary
- 1986 Flyer/program Delta-Aires' for 37th Anniversary
- 1987 Flyer/program for 38th Anniversary

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- 1989 Flyer/program for 40th Anniversary
1989 Flyer advertising the October 9, 1989, "Homecoming Program" given to the Fairfield Four by the Delta-Aires at the Bessemer C.I.O. Hall.
Notes Seroff made at the program.
- 1991 Flyer/programs (two different) for 42nd Anniversary
1993 Program/flyer for 44th Anniversary. Admission ticket, listing many groups. A sheet of personnel information from Auguster Maul.
1994 Three copies of program/flyer for 45th Anniversary. Ticket for the event.
1995 Program/flyer for Delta-Aires' 46th Anniversary
1996 Program/flyer for 48th [sic] Anniversary
1997 Program/flyer for 49th Anniversary. Notes made at the program.
1998 Program/flyer for 50th Anniversary. Ticket for the event.
1999 Program/flyer for 51st Anniversary. Ticket for the event.
2000 Program/flyer for 52nd Anniversary. Ticket for the event. Notes taken at the event.
2001 Program/flyer for 53rd Anniversary. Notes Seroff made at the event.
2002 Program/flyer for 54th Anniversary
2003 Program/flyer for 55th Anniversary. Seroff notes from the event.
2004 Program/flyer for 56th Anniversary. Notes from this event.
2005 Two copies of program/flyer for 57th Anniversary. Ticket for the event.
Text of a statement Seroff made, and notes taken at the event.
2008 Program/flyer for 60th Anniversary
2009 Two copies of program/flyer for 61st Anniversary. Three admission tickets to this event.
2010 Program/flyer for Delta-Aires' 62nd Anniversary
2011 Program/flyer for 63rd Anniversary
2012 Program/flyer for 64th Anniversary. Two admission tickets to this event.
Notes made at the event.
2013 Program/flyer for 65th Anniversary
2014 Program/flyer for 66th Anniversary
2015 Program/flyer for 67th Anniversary. Admission ticket. Notes made at the program.
2016 Program/flyer for 68th Anniversary (2 variations). Text of statement Seroff made. Notes made at the program.
2017 Program/flyer (2 variations) for 69th Anniversary of the Delta-Aires
2018 Two copies of program/flyer for 71st Anniversary. Notes from the program.
Program/flyer for August 25, 2002 "Big Gospel Program" sponsored by the Delta-Aires at Dunbar Abrams Community Center, with handwritten notes by Auguster Maul
Two different business cards for the Delta-Aires
Christmas cards (3) from Auguster Maul and family
Funeral program for Mrs. Thelma Maul, September 10, 2017. Elaborate, full-color, 20-page, magazine format, with many photographs.

Folder 7 “Historic Newspaper Citations: Famous Blue Jay Singers”

- Photocopy of 18-page program booklet, “Ninth Annual Session, National Quartet Convention” (Oakland, CA., Aug. 9 – 14, 1955), with dozens of photos of groups and singers, including the Famous Blue Jays
- Photocopies of approximately 40 different news articles about the Famous Blue Jay Singers, from many newspapers, late-1920s to 1960
- Photocopy of letter dated June 4, 1946, from Rev. John R. Kellum, manager of the Famous Blue Jay Singers of Birmingham, Ala., to Mr. Marshal Jones, bass singer of Mobile, Alabama, attempting to recruit him to fill the bass singer role with the Blue Jays

Folder 8 “Five Blind Boys of Alabama (Happyland Singers)”

- Promotional handbill article from “American Explorer Series” (Elektra Records) on Clarence Fountain and the Five Blind Boys of Alabama [From *Songlines Magazine*]
- Four newspaper clippings / ads and articles
- Photocopies of old photos, advertising matter, and news articles

Folder 9 “Four Eagles’ Programs”

- 1984 Three copies of program for Four Eagles’ 46th Anniversary. Notes of the event.
- 1985 Program for the Four Eagles’ 47th Anniversary
- 1986 Two copies of program for the Four Eagles’ 48th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read at this event. Notes made at the event.
- 1987 Program for the Four Eagles’ 49th Anniversary
- 1988 Two copies of program for the Four Eagles’ 50th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read at this event.
- 1989 Program for the Four Eagles’ 51st Anniversary. Flyer with photo for this event. Text of the history Seroff read at the Anniversary.
- 1990 Two copies of program for the Four Eagles’ 52nd Anniversary
- 1991 Three copies of program for the Four Eagles’ 53rd Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read at the event.
- 1992 Program for the Four Eagles’ 54th Anniversary. Flyer advertising this event.
- 1993 Two copies of program for the Four Eagles’ 55th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read at the event. Notes made at the program.
- 1994 Program for the Four Eagles’ 56th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read. Notes made at the program.
- 1995 Two copies of the flyer/program for the Four Eagles’ 57th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read.
- 1996 Two copies of program for the Four Eagles’ 58th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read. Notes made at the program.
- 1998 Two copies of flyer/program for the Four Eagles’ 60th Anniversary. Notes made at the program.
- 2007 Flyer/program for the Four Eagles’ 69th Anniversary. Text of the Four Eagles’ history Seroff read. Notes made at the program.

2008 Flyer/program for the Four Eagles' 70th Anniversary. Notes made at the event.

2009 Flyer/program for the Four Eagles' 71st Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read. Notes from the event.

2010 Flyer/program for the Four Eagles' 72nd Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read.

2011 Two copies of flyer/program for the Four Eagles' 73rd Anniversary. The history Seroff read. Notes made at this program.

2013 Flyer/program for the Four Eagles' 75th Anniversary. Text of the history Seroff read at this event. Notes from the event.

2016 Flyer/Program for the Four Eagles' 78th Anniversary. Notes made at the event.

2017 Flyer/Program for the Four Eagles' 79th and final Anniversary. Notes made at the event.

Notes made at an October 8, 1995, Four Eagles' program at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Brownsville, Alabama, which featured songs from Tony Backhouse's musical tourists from Australia

Folder 10 "Four Eagle Gospel Singers Documentation"

Billboard magazine, section of "Naird '93" independent record manufacturers award nominees, which included the Four Eagles' Global Village release

Blues and Rhythm magazine review of the Four Eagles' Global Village cassette

Birmingham Post-Herald, Kudzu Magazine, article titled "Four Eagles Soar on Gospel Wings," November 17, 1989

Alabama Journal, February 13, 1991, article, with photo of NEA chairman John Frohnmayer singing "Amazing Grace" with the Four Eagle Gospel Singers

Nashville Tennessean, February 14, 1992, article describing the Four Eagles' upcoming concert at Wright Music Hall, Middle Tennessee State University

Text of the introduction Seroff read, when the Four Eagles performed at Wright Music Hall, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn., February 14, 1992

Text of the paper and introduction to the Four Eagles, Seroff read at the Alabama State Archive Building, Montgomery, for "Architreats" program, October 20, 2011

Correspondence between Doug Seroff and Michael Schlesinger of Global Village Cassettes, 1992 and 1998, relative to the Four Eagles' cassette (Global Village C227, "Traditional Gospel Quartet Singing From Alabama")

Edited copy of liner notes Seroff wrote for the Four Eagles' cassette

Correspondence with John Lawrence about the group's two trips to the recording studio at Middle Tennessee State University, February 15 and March 28, 1992

- Complete, detailed "Audio Log" of the February and March recording sessions
- Two individual sheets of membership history of the Four Eagle Gospel Singers, prepared by John Lawrence
- Flyer with photo, for the Four Eagles' "Spring Gospel Festival," April 21, 1996
- Printed program for "Black American Gospel Song – The Quartet Tradition," Smithsonian Institution, November 1981, with photo of the Four Eagles
- Article from *Notes* (Smithsonian Performing Arts publication), November/December 1981, "From the Heart of the Community," by Peter Grendysa, about the Four Eagles and Sterling Jubilees, prior to their appearance at "The Quartet Tradition" weekend
- Ten cards and letters to Doug Seroff, from Joe Watson, John Lawrence, Freeman Farris, Elorgia Coleman, and their families, covering the period 1984 to 1998
- Freeman Farris, November 9, 1988. Funeral Program
- Joe Watson, June 8, 1996, Funeral Program with newspaper obituary
- Tickets for Four Eagles' Anniversaries of 1991, 1998, 2008 & 2011 (4 different). Three of these tickets list the groups who were scheduled to perform.

Box 2 **Files by Group – Good Samaritans – Poole Brothers and Others**

Folder 1 "Good Samaritans (Lee Bell Johnson)"

- 2019 Flyer (2 versions) for the Good Samaritans' 42nd Anniversary. Notes made at this program. Note: The Good Samaritan Gospel Singers' Anniversary was on the same day (annually) as the Delta-Aires' Anniversary. Some notes which I wrote about their events, are in the Delta-Aires' documentation.
- Letter from American Gospel Quartet Convention to Lee Bell Johnson, December 28, 2019, notifying her that she will be awarded "The Alabama Treasure Award"
- Statement Seroff read at the January 22, 2020, American Gospel Quartet Convention in Birmingham, presenting the "Alabama Treasure Award" to Lee Bell Johnson
- The [Bessemer, Alabama] Western Star*, January 5, 2011, "Singing God's Praises A Cappella Style," feature article on Lee Bell Johnson, with photographs
- Letters from Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage to Lee Bell Johnson, a royalty statement for a recording of her that was used in the "Wade In The Water" CD release. Her letter to Seroff of Sept. 4, 2000, relevant to this.
- One page print-out of Good Samaritans' history, prepared by Lee Bell Johnson
- Bookmark for the Pioneer Gospel Singers. "Established April 2001... Founder: Sis. Lee Bell Johnson," "Clanka Lanka"

Cards and letters (15), from Lee Bell Johnson to Doug Seroff, 1993 – 2019

Folder 2 “Good Samaritans (Lee Bell Johnson) Programs”

- 1993 Program booklet, 7-page, bound, for the Good Samaritans’ 15th Anniversary. Advertising flyer for the program, with personal note from Lee Bell Johnson. Notes on the event on the back cover of the program booklet.
- 1997 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 19th Anniversary
- 1998 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 20th Anniversary
- 1999 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 21st Anniversary. Advertising flyer for this program
- 2000 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 22nd Anniversary
- 2001 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 23rd Anniversary. Advertising flyer for this program
- 2002 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 24th Anniversary
- 2003 Bound program for the 25th Anniversary of the Good Samaritans. Handwritten note from Lee Bell Johnson. Flyer for the program.
- 2004 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 26th Anniversary
- 2007 Bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 30th Anniversary. Advertising flyer, with handwritten note from Lee Bell Johnson
- 2008 Two copies of bound program for the Good Samaritans’ 31st Anniversary
- 2009 Program for the Good Samaritans’ 32nd Anniversary
- 2010 Program for the Good Samaritans’ 33rd Anniversary
- 2012 Program for the Good Samaritans’ 35th Anniversary
- 2015 Program for the Good Samaritans’ 38th Anniversary, with a handwritten note from Lee Bell Johnson

Folder 3 Brief History of African American Pioneers of Bessemer, AL Book (Lee Bell Johnson)

Folder 4 “Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis”

- Handwritten flyer/program for the Gospel Harmonettes’ 14th Anniversary, December 9-10, 1988
- Program for the Gospel Harmonettes’ 16th Anniversary, December 7–9, 1990. Advertising flyer for this event
- Demopolis Times*, December 5, 1990. Front page, with “Bulletin Board” announcement of the Gospel Harmonettes’ upcoming 16th Anniversary
- Handwritten autobiographical data prepared by all four members of the Gospel Harmonettes (4 separate sheets) in 1991, prior to their 17th Anniversary
- Program (2 copies) for Gospel Harmonettes’ 18th Anniversary, December 12-13, 1992. An invitation to the program. Text of the statement/history Seroff gave. Handwritten notes from the Anniversary.
- Program for Gospel Harmonettes’ 19th Anniversary, December 11, 1993.

- Notes made at the program.
- Text of an extended introduction Seroff read at the Gospel Harmonettes' February 6, 1991, performance at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- A 20-page, handwritten text of two lectures on gospel music in Alabama, Seroff gave to Dr. Stephen Martin's class at the University, February 5 and 6, 1991
- 2-page letter dated March 10, 1991, which Seroff wrote to Joe Wilson, National Council for the Traditional Arts, recommending that he consider the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis for the National Folk Festival program
- 4-page annotated "Digital Audio Log" of the recording sessions, prepared by Bruce Nemerov. December 7, 8, and 9, 1990. Seroff produced a field recording session of the Gospel Harmonettes, engineered by Bruce Nemerov, and financed by Australian gospel music lover Judy Backhouse.
- A copy of the Global Village contract between the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis, September 6, 1991; with a handwritten letter of explanation from Michael Schlesinger.
- Seroff letters to Lessie Sanders, August 19, and September 13, 1991, regarding the Global Village Music contract
- Seroff letter to Michael Schlesinger, August 19, 1991, giving thoughts concerning the Gospel Harmonettes' recording project
- Two typed drafts of the liner notes Seroff prepared for the Global Village release
- Photocopy of a review of the Gospel Harmonettes' Global Village cassette, *Blues & Rhythm* magazine (No. 67)
- The Library of Congress/American Folklife Center's American Folk Music and Folklore Recordings 1991: A Select List, includes the Gospel Harmonettes' release
- Photocopies from *Billboard* magazine, March 20, 1992. "Guide to Naird Indie Awards Nominees." The Gospel Harmonettes' cassette was nominated for an award in the Gospel category.
- One-page printed promotion sheet for the Gospel Harmonettes, prepared by Lessie Sanders and Seroff
- The (Nashville) Tennessean's* "Official Summer Lights Festival Program" – June 1995. The Gospel Harmonettes are listed on a stage with the Fairfield Four, Jonell Mosser and Steve Earle
- Nashville Banner*, clipping of June 2, 1995, Jay Orr review of the gospel stage at the "Summer Lights Festival," with critical commentary
- Seroff letter of September 16, 1993, to Lessie Sanders, subsequent to her exit from the group.

Folder 5 "Lessie Sanders (Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis) Letters"
Twelve cards and letters from Lessie Sanders to Doug Seroff, 1995 to 2013

Folder 6 “Historic Newspaper Citations: Kings of Harmony”

Photocopy of a two-page Tuxedo Records recording contract with the Kings of Harmony, 1952, with signatures
Approximately 40 pages of photocopies of newspaper articles and advertisements about the Kings of Harmony from many different papers, 1937-1961

Folder 7 “No Name Gospel Singers of Brooklyn NY (Rev Floyd King)”

Program for their 9th Anniversary, at Washington Square Church, Greenwich Village, November 17, 1990. With handwritten letter from Seroff's mother, Selma Seroff, who attended.
New York Times review, February 17, 1989, of their appearance at Town Hall, New York, with photo
14-page promo packet, regarding the No Name Gospel Singers 1988, concerts in Paris, France
Additional promotional material, including the quartet's "Bike Hike For Christ," from Brooklyn to Birmingham, Alabama, June 1985
Seven letters from group member Bill Dobson to Doug Seroff, 1983-1989

Folder 8 “Pillars”

Bound program for the Pillars' 3rd Anniversary, October 18, 2009, with color photo and individual biographies of the members
Undated letter from Joyce Cauthen, bringing the Pillars to my attention. Contains a color photo of the group.
Color photocopy, high quality, 8 x 10, of the Pillars, circa 2006, with Rev. Hobdy Moorer
Flyers (4 different) advertising Pillars events of 2009, 2011, 2016, 2018, all with good photos
Printed announcement of the Pillars' 8th Anniversary program, October 27, 2013. Notes made at this program.
Certificate of Recognition Achievement and Gratitude from the Pillars October 27, 2013 "for your commitment to gospel quartet singing"
A detailed two-page printed synopsis of the Birmingham Record Collectors monthly meeting of October 13, 2013, prepared by Pillars' bass singer, Robert Friedman, at which the group performed, and also spoke about their singing histories
Flyer for a program by the Pillars, and a celebration of radio announcer "Tall Paul" White, March 9, 2017
Photocopy of 1951 "History of McMillian Jubilee Singers of Birmingham, Alabama"
6 pages of documentation of the group Norman Wooding Jr., and Henry Burton sang with previous to forming the Pillars
Business card for the Pillars Gospel Group.

Folder 9 “Poole Brothers & Others”

Printed program for July 23-24, 1994, 41st Anniversary of the Poole Brothers,

Havana, Alabama. Four typed pages of notes made at these events.
Printed program for February 14, 1993, 17th Anniversary of the Singing
Summerlettes of Mobile. Notes made at the event.

Box 3 Files by Group –
Shelby County Big Four of Bessemer – Sterling Jubilee Singers

Folder 1 “Shelby County Big Four of Bessemer”

Three copies of a program for the 46th Anniversary of the Shelby County Big Four, February 22, 1987

Text of the history Seroff read at this program. Notes made at the event.

Five (5) letters and cards from Jobie Thomas and Willie Frank Moss, of the Shelby County Big Four, 1980 to 1986

Ticket for the Shelby County Big Four’s 55th Anniversary, February 26, 1995

Two different business cards for the Shelby County Big Four

Folder 2 “Sterling Jubilee Singers Programs and Notes”

1979 Program for the Sterling Jubilees’ 50th Anniversary. Ticket for this event.

1980 Program for the 51st Anniversary

1983 Program for the 54th Anniversary (2 copies). Separate, four-page printed history of the Sterlings (2 copies). Ticket for this event. Three typed pages of notes Seroff took at this event.

1984 Program for the 55th Anniversary. Mimeographed “Biographical Sketch” of the Sterling Jubilees. Three typed pages of notes made at this program.

1985 Two copies of the program for the 56th Anniversary. Two copies of a four-page printed history of the Sterling Jubilees. A review of this program, written by Doug Seroff, published in *Blues & Rhythm Magazine*.

Note: At this point in their history, the Sterling Jubilee Singers split into two factions, one under the management of John Alexander, the other under Henry Holston.

1986 Notes from the Easter Program, promoted by the Sterling Jubilee Singers, March 30

1986 Two copies of program for the 57th Anniversary of John Alexander’s Sterling Jubilees. Text of the history of the group that Seroff read at this program. A four-page synopsis of the program, made from Seroff’s notes.

1986 Two copies of program for the 57th Anniversary of Henry Holston’s Sterling Jubilees. Three-page printed “Biographical Sketch of Henry Holston and the Sterling Jubilees of Bessemer.” Text of the history Seroff read at this event. Three typed pages of notes Seroff took.

1987 Three copies of program for the 58th Anniversary of John Alexander’s Sterling Jubilees. Typed “Biographical Sketch” generated by the

- Alexanders. Seroff notes from the program, written on the reverse of a copy of the program.
- 1987 Program for the 58th Anniversary of Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilees. A contemporaneous handwritten letter from Daisy Ludgood giving group personnel. A ticket for this event.
- 1988 Two copies of program for the 59th Anniversary of John Alexander's Sterling Jubilees. A three-page, handwritten "Biographical Sketch" of the group written by John Alexander. A handwritten text of the group history Seroff read at this program.
- 1988 Two copies of program for the 59th Anniversary of Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilees. A three-page printed history of the group, with individual biographies of the members. Two typed pages of notes made at the program.
- 1989 Two copies of the program for John Alexander's Sterling Jubilees' 60th Anniversary. One copy has a handwritten note from Ruby Alexander with details of Tom Lacey's upcoming funeral. Text of the lengthy history Seroff read. Ticket for this program.
- Photocopy of article from *Folk Arts Notes*, Southern Arts Federation, relative to the Sterling Jubilees' Anniversary and the Birmingham Sunlights' National Folk Festival appearance, accompanied by a picture of Doug Seroff with Tom Lacey
- 1989 Two copies of program for the 60th Anniversary of Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilees. Separate four-page printed history of the group.
- 1990 Program for the 61st Anniversary of John Alexander's Sterling Jubilees
- 1990 Two copies of program for the 61st Anniversary of Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilees. A large flyer advertising the program.
- Note: This was Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilees' final Anniversary program. The remaining programs are all for Anniversaries of John Alexander's group.*
- 1991 Advertising flyer for the Sterling Jubilee Singers "Great Easter Extravaganza"
- 1991 Two programs for the 62nd Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilee Singers. Text of the history Seroff read at this program. Two pages of handwritten notes made at this event
- 1992 Two copies of program for the 63rd Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilees
- 1993 Notes Seroff made at the Easter Program sponsored by the Sterling Jubilees, April 10
- 1993 Two copies of program for the 64th Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilees. Advertising flyer for the program. Text of the history Seroff read at this program. One page of handwritten notes Seroff took at the program.
- 1994 Two copies of program for the 65th Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilees. Advertising flyer for the program. The history Seroff read at the program. Three pages of notes made at the program. Ticket for

the event.

1995 Notes Seroff made at the Easter program, sponsored by the Sterling Jubilees, April 16

1995 Two copies of program for the 66th Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilee Singers. Text of the history Seroff read at this program. Two pages of typed notes Seroff took. A ticket for the event. A contemporaneous three-page handwritten letter from John Alexander.

1996 Two copies of program for the 67th Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilees. Text of the history Seroff read at this program. One page of notes Seroff took at this, the 67th and final Anniversary of the Sterling Jubilees.

Folder 3 "Sterling Jubilee Singers" [Funeral programs and event programs]

Raymond (Sam) Middlebrooks (July 31, 1985). [Funeral program]

Tom Lacey (September 2, 1989). Two copies [Funeral program], along with notes for the statement Seroff made at the funeral.

Dock Terry (October 20, 1999). [Funeral program]

John Alexander (February 16, 2001, [Funeral program] with annotations Seroff made.

Henry Holston (November 22, 2003, [Funeral program] with annotations Seroff made.

Alabama Folklife Association Bulletin, January 2002, reporting the recent deaths of three members of the Sterling Jubilee Singers.

Printed program for the W. C. Handy Music Festival, August 1988, in which the Sterling Jubilees took part.

Printed program for "Black American Gospel Song – The Quartet Tradition," Smithsonian Institution, November 1981, with photo of the Sterling Jubilees on the cover.

Advertising flyer for "Gospel Super Bowl Production," December 27, 1992, with a photo of Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilees.

Printed program for May 12, 1988, "Black American Gospel Music" at the Smithsonian Institution, 8 pages. The program featured the Sterling Jubilees.

Two copies of program for May 1, 1999, Alabama Governor's Arts Award event, at which the Sterling Jubilee Singers were honored. A handwritten letter from John Alexander to Doug Seroff, describing the presentation.

"Certificate of Appreciation" from the Sterling Jubilee Singers to Doug Seroff, September 8, 1996.

Twenty-page program booklet for "Program in Black American Culture: Black American Quartet Traditions," November 20 – 21, 1981, with photos of all four participating groups (Sterling Jubilees, Four Eagles, Fairfield Four, Sensational Nightingales). Seroff wrote the central essay. Program is autographed by four singers.

Photocopy of *Washington Post*, November 21, 1981, review of the Black American Quartet Traditions concert.

Print out of *Pittsburgh Courier*, November 14, 1981, column discusses the "Black

American Quartet Traditions” event.

Folder 4 “Sterling Jubilee Singers”

Correspondence with Joyce Cauthen of Alabama Folklife Association, concerning the Sterling Jubilee Singers: their last appearance at City Stages, an effort to have them considered for a National Heritage Award, and their 1995 cassette on the Alabama Traditions label, for which Seroff wrote a portion of the liner notes.

A copy of the recording session log for the Alabama Traditions set.

Business cards (2) for the Sterling Jubilee Singers, early-1980s.

Spirit of Steel (book and CD) (Birmingham: Sloss Furnace Association, 1999).

Photocopy of May 16, 1940, *New York Daily Worker* article about the C.I.O.

Quartet’s appearance at Steel Workers Organizing Committee Convention in Chicago.

Photocopy of September 1973 *Steel Labor* article, “Singing Group Part of Labor History,” with photo of folklorist Archie Green and George Bester, founder of the Sterling Jubilees.

Eight different clippings from Jefferson County newspapers (1984 to 2000), concerning the Sterling Jubilee Singers, most with photographs.

Folder 5 & 6 “Letters from the Sterling Jubilee Singers of Bessemer, AL”

Approximately eighty-five (85) letters and cards from members of the Sterling Jubilee Singers to Doug Seroff. The bulk are from John and Ruby Alexander, some are from Henry Holston, and a few are from other Sterling Jubilee Singers members. Nearly all date from the 1980s and 1990s.

Box 4 Other Alabama Gospel Singing Events and Miscellaneous Research Files

Folder 1 “Miscellaneous Letters”

Two Christmas cards and a handwritten letter from Charles Bridges.

Letter from Gertha S. Staton (daughter of Silas Steele), September 21, 1979.

Letter from James Allen (Dunham Jubilee Singers, Golden Stars of Gadsden), August 25, 1980.

Letter from James A. Witherspoon of Mobile, November 10, 1982, with information about early Jefferson County gospel quartets.

Letter from music researcher Robert Pruter, November 28, 1979, relevant to his quartet research in the Chicago Defender.

Folder 2 “Gospel Groups at Festivals and Conventions”

1989 Program for Alabama Folklife Festival in Birmingham, includes photo of the Sterling Jubilee Singers, and text about “A Cappella Gospel Quartets.” Four Eagles, Gospel Harmonettes, Sterling Jubilees, and Birmingham Sunlights participated. Also a 4-page City Stages schedule.

1990 Program for Alabama Folklife Festival, held in Birmingham. Includes photos of the Four Eagles and Birmingham Sunlights, with paragraph blurbs on both groups, as well as John Alexander’s Sterlings, Gospel Harmonettes and

- Fairfield Four. Seroff was a presenter, and received additional enclosures. Handwritten text of the introductions Seroff read for various gospel groups at the Festival.
- Program for June 15 – 17, 1990, City Stages Festival, with color photo of the Birmingham Sunlights.
- 1991 Program for Alabama Folklife Festival (Montgomery). With photos and blurbs on Birmingham Sunlights, etc. Seroff was a presenter, and received additional enclosures, and the commemorative fan produced for the event.
- 1992 “Entertainment Guide” and schedule for Birmingham’s City Stages Festival. Printed promotion for June 20, “Father’s Day Gospel Program” at City Stages. Handwritten text of the introductions Seroff read at this festival.
- 1992 Alabama Folklife Festival (Montgomery), with good photos of the Sunlights and Gospel Harmonettes, and paragraph blurbs. Handwritten text of the introductions Seroff made.
- 1993 Program for City Stages, at which many Jefferson County gospel groups, including the Good Samaritans performed. Handwritten text of the introductions Seroff read at this festival.
- 1993 Program for Alabama Folklife Festival (Montgomery), with a two-page article Seroff wrote: “African-American Gospel Singing Traditions.”
- 1994 Flyers, “Guide,” printed schedules, etc., for City Stages Festival, featuring many black gospel groups.
- 1995 Promotional letter for Alabama Center for Traditional Culture concert at Gadsden Amphitheater, which included the Birmingham Sunlights, and Four Eagles. The commemorative fan for this event.
- 1996 City Stages “Festival Guide.”
- The American Gospel Quartet News*, April 1, 1996.
- Program for the American Gospel Quartet Convention, 1997.
- The American Gospel Quartet News*, October; November 1999.
- Program for the American Gospel Quartet Convention, 1999.
- 6-page promo flyer for 8th Annual Quartet Convention, 2000.
- Program for 13th Annual Quartet Convention, 2005, with ticket for the event.

Folder 3 “Birmingham Quartet Reunion Oct 12, 1980”

- Correspondences of November 19 and 28, 1979, between Doug Seroff and Henry Willett, Folk Arts Coordinator for Alabama State Council on the Arts and Humanities, initiating the project.
- The National Endowment for the Arts grant application for the two-day reunion event.
- Several pages of annotated notes regarding arrangements with singers, participants.
- Details of the complex travel arrangements for more than twenty out-of-town singers.
- A list of fees for participating groups/singers, Seroff salary, facility fees, expenses related to the “Quartet Scrapbook,” etc.
- Interview questions prepared for singers.
- Three signed letters from the office of the Mayor of Birmingham, Richard

- Arrington, Jr., regarding the Quartet Reunion.
- Lengthy newspaper articles about the "Jefferson County Quartet Reunion" in Birmingham News, and Birmingham Times, September 25, and October 6, 1980.
- A three-page log of the program that took place, prepared by Brenda McCallum; corrected and annotated by Doug Seroff.
- A 1980 article from the Cleveland Call and Post which references the Ravizee Singers' reunion at the Jefferson County Quartet Reunion.
- Seven handwritten letters and cards from members of the Ravizee Singers, who were brought to Birmingham for the Quartet Reunion.
- Two news articles about Rev. Isaac Ravizee, 1963 (not "Quartet Reunion" related).
- Text of a paper given by the Director of the National Endowment for the Arts, Bess Lomax Hawes at 1989 annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, in Cambridge, Mass.; which was revised and published in Ethnomusicology, Fall 1992, titled "Practice Makes Perfect: Lessons in Active Ethnomusicology." The paper gives her thoughts at length about the "Jefferson County Quartet Reunion" and "Birmingham Quartet Scrapbook," both funded by the National Endowment.
- Program booklet (20-pages): "Birmingham Quartet Scrapbook."

Folder 4 "Various Program Materials"

- Correspondence, advertising material, program (with photograph of the Birmingham Sunlights) for "Musicians and Songsters: A Seminar on Black Music in the South," at The Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, February 27, 1990. A typed copy of the paper Seroff read at the seminar, titled: "Gospel Quartet Singing in Jefferson County, Alabama."
- A letter from the University of Alabama to Doug Seroff, January 31, 1991, inviting Seroff to serve as Artist-in-Residence in the School of Music, February 5-7, 1991. Advertising flyer for a lecture on Alabama quartets, which Seroff gave as part of this contract; it also featured a performance by the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis.
- Printed program and promotional letter concerning a paper ("Time, Harmony and Articulation – The Old-Time Black Gospel Quartet Contests") Seroff read at Fisk University's "Black Music Seminar," February 19, 1980.
- Program booklet for an Alabama Folklife Association program of November 5, 2011, Discovery Alabama Event Center in Bessemer; Seroff read a paper on quartet training, and the Pillars and Birmingham Sunlights performed. The booklet contains an essay written by Lynn Abbott and Seroff. Three pages of notes made at the event. Correspondence from AFA Director Mary Allison Hainey; and Alabama Folklife Association newsletter, plugging the event. The paper Seroff read at the November 5, 2011 Alabama Folklife Association event.
- 4 copies of "Home of the Heroes" 20-page program booklets

Folder 5 “Flyers, various things”

- Flyers advertising Anniversary programs of the Five Silver Queens of Bessemer: 1988 (31st Anniversary); 1997; 1998; 1999; 2002; and 2016 (6 total). These flyers list dozens of participating groups.
- Flyers for Anniversary programs of the Golden Hummingbirds of Birmingham: 1999, 2000, 2004, 2012, 2015 (5 total). These list many groups.
- Flyers promoting Mose Tanksley and the Spiritual Crusaders programs of 1991, 1992, 2009 (3 total).
- Flyers promoting programs by other Jefferson County, Alabama groups: Fantastic Five Chosen (1995); Kings of Joy (1989); Bro. Melvin Square (1995); Mother Velma Griffin (1994) (4 total).
- Flyers and other promotional material concerning the popular local program mistress-of-ceremonies Mary Sue Porter Hale, 1990-1991. (4 items)
- Alabama Folklife: Collected Essays, ed. Stephen H. Martin (Birmingham, Alabama Folklife Association, 1989)
- Business cards from various Alabama gospel groups, including Mighty Kings of Harmony of Montgomery; Proverb Spiritual Singers of Tuscaloosa; Reed Harmonizers of Mobile; Mason Brothers of Uniontown; Blue Notes 5 of Huntsville; Gospel Southernaires of Birmingham.
- One page of notes taken from a review of Jefferson County, Alabama, City Directories, from research at the Birmingham Public Library main branch.
- Two typed pages, headed “Random Notes Collected in Bessemer, October 7 - 8, 1979,” summarizing conversations with C. L. Wright (Anniston DJ and member of Gabrielaires), Eunice Cooks of the Sterling Jubilees, WJLD DJ Emmanuel Fitch, and others.
- Two typed pages, headed “Random Notes from Trip to Jefferson County, Alabama, June 28 to July 1, 1983,” include data from City Directories; notes from a phone conversation with the widow of a local printer who did work for local quartets; and conversations with several quartet singers.
- Five typed pages of notes from phone calls and in-person conversations with various quartet singers and others in Jefferson County, February 8, 1979, including Jesse Whitley, Archie Wells, General Ivy, Mary K. Elsay, Nathaniel King, Willie Moore, King Chandler; and notes from my first visit to Parker High School.
- Photocopy of three-page catalog of sheet music from Famous Blue Jay Singers Studio of Gospel Music, Chicago, with photo of the group. Late-1940s.
- Promotional folder (4-page) from Dorothy Love Coates, 1980, with photo, discography and more information. D. L. Coates wrote her address and phone number on the back cover.
- Dorothy Love Coates’ obituary, *Tennessean*, April 12, 2002.
- Promotional sheet for “Birmingham Boys” LP, with photo of Jobie Thomas Alabama Folklife Association, 1981.
- Photocopy of a broadside for “‘Lead Me On’ Sung by the Mobile Jubilee Singers of Mobile, Ala.” Gives group membership, along with song lyrics.
- Photocopy of National Public Radio press release, February 14, 1991. Announces a special half-hour radio documentary by producer David Isay, “Alabama

Gospel Singers," which featured the Sterling Jubilee Singers and Four Eagle Gospel Singers.

Program for David L. Moore Appreciation, Lily Grove Baptist Church, Bessemer, January 15, 1984. Groups included Four Eagles, Delta-Aires, Silver Voices, Good Samaritans, etc.

Alabama A&M University. Notes made from review of material in the library and archives. Photocopies from the school publication *The Normal Index*.

Folder 6 "Parker High School / Industrial Birmingham"

Notes and photocopies made from review of the *Industrial High School Record*. Other documentation from historical black newspapers, concerning music at Industrial High School.

Photocopy of the book, *A Dream That Came True*, by Arthur Harold Parker.

Photocopy of article "The Industrial High School a Brief History," Juliet R. Bradford.

Folder 7 "Census Data for Alabama Singers – Courtesy of Mr. Lynn Abbott"

Photocopies of U.S. Federal Census Records of early Jefferson County quartet figures, including Charles Bridges, Charles "Son" Dunham, Eugene Strong, L. Z. Manley, and others.

Folder 8 "Reviews Of "Birmingham Quartet Anthology"

Original artwork by Gene Johnson, for the Clanka Lanka label design.

Numerous reviews of "Birmingham Quartet Anthology" from publications including the *New York Times* (Robert Palmer review, November 23, 1980), *Journal of American Folklore*, *JEMF Quarterly*, *Time Out* (London), *Blues Unlimited*, *American Music*, and other publications.

Three letters from radio stations/disc jockeys, relevant to the "Quartet Anthology." Certificate from National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Grammy Award nomination for "Birmingham Quartet Anthology," in the category of "Best Historical Album."

Folder 9 "Reviews: Repercussions"

Three reviews of the TV documentary from British newspapers and magazines. Reviews of our 2013 University Press of Mississippi book *To Do This You Must Know How*.

Box 5 **Photographs**

Folder 1 Alabama Jubilee Quartet

Cardboard original placard, ca. early-1940s, posed in front of a station wagon. Identifies members at bottom.

Folder 2 Angelic Harmonizers of Selma

Six 3x5 color snapshots. Five are by Judy Backhouse, at the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis' 1990 Anniversary program.

Folder 3 Bessemer Big Four

8x10 promo in white tuxedos, ca. mid-1940s.

Folder 4 Charles Bridges [Birmingham Jubilee Singers]

Six different 8x10 b/w In front of his apartment home in Chicago, 1980; 35 mm negative strip and contact sheet of these prints (Robert Pruter).

Folder 5 Birmingham Sunlights

Six different 5x7 of the group in performance or posed (one group photo with members of Ladysmith Black Mambazo) from 1980s-1990s.

Two color snapshots: group on-stage; James Taylor relaxing in church.
8x10 promo from the 1980s.

Folder 6 Delta-Aires

Two copies of 8x10 promo photo from the 1990s.

4x5 copy negative (no print) of 1950s-era portrait of the group, with John Alexander.

Five 3x5 color snapshots of the group or individual members, at the Gospel Harmonettes' Anniversary in Demopolis, December 1990 (Judy Backhouse).

Four 4x6 color snapshots of the Delta-Aires in performance, at the Gospel Harmonettes' Anniversary in Demopolis, December 1991 (Tony Backhouse).

Folder 7 Charlie "Son" Dunham (and the Weary Travelers of Mobile)

8x10 studio portrait, circa 1940.

Feb. 15, 2007 letter from Southern arts Federation, requesting permission to use this photograph in their traveling exhibit "Southern Music Traditions."

Folder 8 Ensley Jubilee Singers

8x10 promo print of First generation of group. "Ensley Jubilee Singers – Sponsored by Griffin Furniture Company." Circa 1950, a classic, with Nar Williams, Rufus Williams, Lon Hamler, Marshall Johnson, Floyd Speight.

Nar Williams. Five different 8x10 b/w of Nar Williams in his living room, 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).

8x10 photo [Nar] Williams Barber Shop of the shop front

4x6 color label photos (2) of their rare Hallelujah Spirituals 78rpm record.

Folder 9 Ensley Jubilee Singers

Promotional fans, circa 1960, one with a photo of the group on the front, and "Epp's" advertisement printed on reverse. A second fan has a photo of black radio preacher Rev. W. A. Clark; and a third has a photo of Taft Epstein.

Folder 10 Fairfield Traveling Stars / Wiley Barner

7x8 original cardboard placard circa 1950s, with their leader (former blues

recording artist) Wiley Barner. Members are identified on bottom text.
Small high quality copy of an early headshot of Wiley Barner.

Folder 11 Famous Blue Jay Singers

8x10 photo reprint of 1940s placard with inserts of C. D. Parnell and Silas Steele;
4 x 5 copy negative.
3x5 print of the group, cropped from the placard above. 2x3 copy negative
8x10 circa early-1950s, with Bridges, Leandrew Wauford, etc., in "T"
configuration. 4 x 5 copy negative, and a slide of this photo.
8x10 from the 1940s, with Silas Steele, in "V" configuration. The print has been
retouched to remove their manager, Rev. Kellum. 2x3 negative of the same
image, not retouched.
4x5 copy negative from a 1930s placard ("Here They Are!"); slide of this image.
Photocopies of various photos of the group
5x7 portrait of C. D. Parnell, cropped from early group placard. 4x5 negative
5x7 portrait of Silas Steele cropped from early group placard. 4x5 negative and a
slide of this image.

Folder 12 Five Blind Boys of Alabama

8x10 copy print 1950s vintage, with 4x5 copy negative.

Folder 13 Five Silver Kings of Bessemer

8x10 photoprint copy of early-1940s placard. 4x5 copy negative. (James Hill,
W. L. Richardson, King Chandler, etc.).
5x7 photoprint copy of mid-1940s placard. 4x5 copy negative.
5x7 copy of a photo of the group, circa 1943, 4x5 copy negative.

Folder 14 R. C. Foster

8x10 copy of a head shot, circa 1920s.
8x10 at October 1980, "Jefferson County Quartet Reunion" (Cheryl Thurber).
8x10 Casual shot of Foster on his porch in Bessemer, 1980 (Cheryl Thurber)
8x10 Foster and Doug Seroff casual shot on Foster's porch, 1980 (Cheryl
Thurber)

Folder 15 Four Eagle Gospel Singers

Two different 8 x 10 glossies, on stage at Jefferson County Quartet Reunion,
October 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).
8x10 on stage at Smithsonian "Black American Quartet Tradition" program,
November 1981 (Lynn Abbott).
Two different 8x10 on stage at "Black American Quartet Tradition" program
(Smithsonian Institution photographer).
Four different 5x7 in tuxedos, at Middle Tennessee State University, February 15,
1992 (Robert Cogswell).
Two contacts sheets, and (12) corresponding 35mm negative strips, from the Four
Eagles' February 1992 recording session at MTSU (Robert Cogswell, with
permission). Many of these have never been printed.

5x7 on stage at Middle Tennessee State, 1991 (Paul Wells).
5x7, early-1990s (Kim Appel).
5x7, 1990s promo, hands folded, with Norman Wooding, Jr.
5x7 on-stage shot, at Smithsonian Institution, 1981 (Lynn Abbott).
4x6 color shot of the group in white tuxedos, in a parking lot, circa early-1990s.
4x6 color of the group in tuxedos, in front of Bethel Rock AME Church,
Demopolis, Alabama, with Doug Seroff (Judy Backhouse).
Three different 3x5 color of group members, two with Doug Seroff, Tony
Backhouse, Judy Backhouse; circa late-1980s.
Four different 4x6 color taken at a rehearsal in John Lawrence's den. Doug Seroff
and David Isay in one. Circa early-1990s.
3x5 color snapshot of the group performing at the Gospel Harmonettes of
Demopolis' 1990 Anniversary (Judy Backhouse).
Four different 3x5 b/w on stage at the Smithsonian Institution, 1981 (Gospel Fritz
Muhlocker).
5x7 copy photo of group from 1940s; with a photocopy identifying the members.
Famous Blue Eagles of Bessemer, with Freeman Farris. 5x6 promotional half-
tone of the group Farris sang in before joining the Four Eagles.
Silvertone Jubilees of Lynch, Kentucky, with Joe Watson. 4x5 copy negative of a
1940s placard of an important group Joe Watson sang with before joining the
Four Eagles.

Folder 16 Four Great Wonders

Original 9x7 cardboard placard.
8x10 promotional glossy from 1940.
Four different 8x10 informal shots in Sollie J. Pugh (formerly basso of Four Great
Wonders) living room; one with Doug Seroff, 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).
8x10 informal pose of Robert Moss (formerly tenor of Four Great Wonders) 1980
(Cheryl Thurber).

Folder 17 Good Samaritan Gospel Singers and Lee Bell Johnson

Four different 4x6 two color, two black and white, spanning the period 1950s to
2010s.

Folder 18 Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis

Thirty-five different 3x5 and 4x6 color snapshots made at the group's anniversary
programs in 1990 and 1991, by Judy Backhouse and Tony Backhouse.

Folder 19 Heavenly Gospel Singers of Birmingham

Original 7x8 cardboard promotional placard, 1940s.
8x10 promo 1940s; with 4x5 copy negative
8x10 glossy promo, late-1940s.
4x5 same image as above, in original printed envelope, as: "U. A. W. Varieteers of
Local 230 of Los Angeles, CA."
4x5 Polaroid copy of 1940s placard.

Folder 20 Kings of Harmony of Birmingham

Original 7x10 cardboard placard, circa late-1930s.
4x5 Polaroid of placard, circa late-1930s.
8x10 copy of advert for Kings of Harmony 23rd Anniversary, 1946. With photo of the Kings, with Eugene Strong, Carey Bradley, Lattimore, etc.
4x5 copy negative of placard from the 1930s
Eight photocopies of different placards and promo photos.

Folder 21 L. & N. Gospel Singers of Montgomery

Original 11x7 cardboard placard, circa 1940.
8x10 photoprint copy of early placard.
8x10 glossy copy, poor quality, of photo that may be from the 1920s.
Ten photocopies of photos and placards.

Folder 22 No Name Gospel Singers with Rev. Floyd King

Three 5x7 color photos, with members identified.

Folder 23 Famous Ravizee Singers

8x9 high resolution halftone copy mounted on cardboard, placard advertising the group, circa mid-1930s, with photo. 4x5 photo group from this item
4x5 photo of the photo above, with a letter from Hattye Ravizee McClendon.
Two different 8 x 10 portraits of Rev. Isaac Ravizee seated in his living room, 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).
Rev. Isaac Ravizee and Doug Seroff. Seated on stage at the Smithsonian "Black American Quartet Traditions" event, November 1981 (Lynn Abbott). A snapshot of Ravizee, Seroff and Freeman Farris (Four Eagles) at the same event (Gospel Fritz Muhlocker).

Folder 24 Shelby County Big Four

8x10 copy photoprint 1951 of the group at the opening of McCart's Clothing Store, Bessemer; with Willie Frank Moss, John Alexander, King Chandler. 4x5 copy negative.
4x5 copy negative of damaged group photo, circa early-1950s
Two 3x5 color snapshots of King Chandler, James Hill, Doug Seroff taken at a program in Bessemer City Auditorium, February 1986
4x6 color of the group performing at a Demopolis, Alabama, church, December 1991 (Tony Backhouse)

Folder 25 South Side Spiritual Five of Birmingham

3.5x5.5 original, sepia-toned photo, late-1940s.

Folder 26 Sterling Jubilee Singers

Three different 5x10 of the Sterling Jubilees at their rehearsal, 1980, with Alexander, Holston, Johnson, Lacey, Lewis, Sam Middlebrooks (Cheryl Thurber).
Three 8x10 of Sterling Jubilees at their rehearsal, 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).

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- Three different 8x10 shots of Tom Lacey and Doug Seroff while taping an interview (Cheryl Thurber).
- 8x10 Tom Lacey in pinstripe suit, seated backstage at Jefferson County Quartet Reunion, October 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).
- 8x10 Tom Lacey and James Allen (of Dunham Jubilee Singers) backstage at Jefferson County Quartet Reunion, 1980 (Cheryl Thurber).
- 8x10 photoprint copy of the CIO/Sterling Jubilee Singers, circa 1950, with "Tiger" Thompson; with 3x2 copy negative.
- 4x6 high quality photocopy of informal shot of Sterling Jubilees members and their wives, circa mid-1960s. George Bester, John Alexander, Tom Lacey, Eunice Cooks, from John and Ruby Alexander collection.
- 4x6 color late-1980s, John Alexander's Sterling Jubilee Singers at the Four Eagles' Anniversary. With John and Ruby Alexander, Sam Johnson, W.D. Williams.
- 4x6 color, late-1980s, Henry Holston's Sterling Jubilee Singers at the Four Eagles' Anniversary.
- 4x6 color shot, singing at the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis' Anniversary, 1991 (Tony Backhouse)
- 5x7 b/w, W. D. Williams and Ruby Alexander on-stage at Birmingham City Stages, late 1980s (Kim Appel).
- Two different 5x4 b/w snapshots of the group on-stage at Baird Auditorium, Washington, D.C., November 1981 (Gospel Fritz Muhlocker).
- 3x5 color snapshot Sterling Jubilee Singers and Four Eagles, with Doug Seroff seated on-stage at Baird Auditorium (Smithsonian Institution), 1981.
- Two 4x5 color snapshots of the group in performance in Demopolis, Alabama, December 1990 (Judy Backhouse).
- 4x5 color snapshot of Seroff reading the history, on-stage at the Sterling Jubilee's 59th Anniversary, September 1988.
- Tiger Records – C.I.O. SINGERS – "The Spirit of Phil Murray" (Sterling Jubilees' only 78 record)
- 8x10 high quality photocopy of Fairfield Spirituals (With Sam Lewis, Later of the Sterling Jubilees).

Folder 27 White Rose Gospel Singers

- 8x10 photo reproduction of 1940s-era placard, with members identified.
Two photocopies of early posters

Folder 28 Various Groups – 16th Anniversary

- Approximately twenty-five (25) 4x6 color snapshots taken at the 1990 Anniversary of the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis, by Judy Backhouse. Includes Poole Brothers of Greensboro; John Griffin and the Gospel Southernaires of Birmingham (2); Miller Singers. Other groups are mostly unidentified.

Folder 29 Jefferson Cuntly Quartet Reunion

- Twenty-eight (28) 35mm negative strips, with corresponding contact sheets.
These photographs were taken backstage and from the audience at the

“Quartet Reunion” concert. They include R. C. Foster, Rev. Sam McCrary, Tom Lacey, Fairfield Four, Ensley Jubilee Singers, Four Eagle Gospel Singers, Shelby County Big Four, Ravizee Singers and others. They were taken by Cheryl Thurber in 1980, on work-for-hire terms.

Folder 30 Jefferson County Landscapes

Ten (10) different 8x10 b/w taken in 1980, depicting New Zion Baptist Church, industrial sites in Dolomite and Brighton, and street and neighborhood shots in the Bessemer-Brighton vicinity. (Cheryl Thurber)

5 x 7 b/w of the Boutwell Auditorium October 1980, with “Quartet Reunion” advertised on the marquee. (Cheryl Thurber)

5 x 7 b/w photo of Lily Grove Baptist Church in Bessemer (Joey Brackner)

Box 6 Oversize Materials

[more oversize items located in map drawer]

Folder 1 Damaged 10x11 portion of an original cardboard poster, circa 1930, with photos of the members of Tuskegee Institute Quartette on their 1926-27 Victor recordings.

Folder 2 Mark Gooch photographs

14x11 b/w portrait of Four Eagle Gospel Singers, 1980, by J. Mark Gooch.

14x11 b/w studio portrait of the Ravizee Singers, 1980

14x11 b/w Shelby County Big Four portrait by Mark Gooch

14x11 b/w Sterling Jubilee Singers portrait by Mark Gooch (1980)

Folder 3 *Goldmine* magazine, February 1980, with Seroff written feature article on Charles Bridges.

Box 7 Oral History transcriptions [accompanying audio tapes in Series II]

Folder 1 James Allen

Notes from a follow-up phone conversation of April 9, 1979 (1 page).

Folder 2 Carey Bradley

Interviewed over the telephone, March 9, 1982.

Interviewed over the telephone, March 26, 1982.

Interviewed over the telephone, April 29, 1982.

Folder 3 Charles Bridges

Interviewed November 24, 1978, in Chicago.

Interviewed December 6, 1979, in Chicago by Robert Pruter, with questions Seroff provided.

Interviewed by Ray Funk, January 9, 1981

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Folder 4 King Chandler

Telephone interview by Lynn Abbott, June 7, 1983 – handwritten transcript

Folder 5 Thomas Delaney

Interviewed by telephone, November 12, 1980.

Interviewed in Atlanta, June 27, 1981.

Folder 6 Clarence Driskel

Notes from three phone conversation of July, August, and September 1980.

Folder 7 R. C. Foster

Interviewed July 24, 1980, in Bessemer.

Interviewed October 23, 1981, in Bessemer

Folder 8 Four Eagle Gospel Singers

Interview with members, conducted by Doug Seroff and Brenda McCallum (at Jefferson County Quartet Reunion weekend), October 11, 1980.

Interview with Four Eagles' members John Lawrence, Joe Watson, Sam Bell, John Pettie, James McDuffie, and Dell Coleman, at City Stages Festival, Birmingham, June 20, 1992.

Folder 9 A. D. Gibbs

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, July 1, 1983, in Mobile

Folder 10 Marcellus "Tiller" Giles

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott, April 2, 1983, in Mobile.

Phone interview conducted by Lynn Abbott, August 21, 1982

Photocopy of early photo of the group

Folder 11 John Griffin

Interviewed June 30, 1983, in Birmingham

Folder 12 Mac Hall

Interviewed October 8, 1979, in Brighton, AL

Folder 13 Henry Holston

Notes from telephone conversation, September 15, 1979.

Interview in Bessemer, January 1984, for "On The Battlefield" documentary

Folder 14 Lee Bell Johnson

Interviewed November 24, 2019.

Additional notes from phone conversations of December 2 and 10, 2019, January 9, 2020, and other conversations.

Folder 15 Sam Johnson

Interview June 30, 1983, Bessemer

Folder 16 Marshall Jones

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Ray Funk, Mobile, May 10, 1982.

Folder 17 Arleana Kelly

Interviewed August 20, 1979, in Westfield, AL.

Folder 18 Henry King

Interviewed October 24, 1981, in Birmingham

Folder 19 Tom Lacey

Tom Lacey and Henry Holston, February 5, 1979, with an additional page of information gathered from a follow-up phone call the next day.

Tom Lacey and Sam Middlebrooks, August 19, 1979.

Interview July 24-25, 1980. (1 page)

Interview October 23, 1981.

Interview August 1, 1983.

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott, August 2, 1983.

Interview November 28, 1983.

Tom Lacey and HENRY HOLSTON, January 9, 1984.

Interview Bessemer, January 1984, in connection with "On the Battlefield" documentary.

Interview January 19, 1984.

Notes from conversations with Tom Lacey, Henry Holston, Barry and James Taylor, Auguster Maul and Joe Watson, relative to the filming of "On The Battlefield" documentary, January and February 1984.

Notes from conversations with Tom Lacey, L. T. Smoot, Freeman Farris (4 Eagles), and John Alexander, Easter Sunday, 1984 (1 page).

Notes from telephone conversation with Tom Lacey, undated (1 page).

Biographical fact sheet on Tom Lacey.

Folder 20 Sam Lewis

Interview April 16, 1990

Folder 21 Joe McAllister

Interviewed by telephone by Lynn Abbott, February 26, 1983.

Folder 22 Hattye Ravizee McClendon

Interviewed August 19, 1979, in Birmingham.

Folder 23 Willie Madison (Mobile Jubilee Singers)

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott, June 26, 1983 in Mobile.

Folder 24 Aulston Molton

Interviewed October 8, 1979, Brighton, AL.

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Folder 25 Willie Moore

Interviewed August 20, 1979, in Dolomite, Alabama.

Folder 26 Walter Patton

Interviewed June 28, 1983, in Bessemer.

Folder 27 Ralph Powe (Golden Eagles)

Interviewed in Mobile, by Lynn Abbott and Ray Funk, May 10, 1982.

Folder 28 Sollie Pugh and Robert Moss

Interviewed February 6, 1979, in Birmingham.

Undated interview ("2nd trip")

Interviewed July 25, 1980 in Birmingham.

Folder 29 Rev. Isaac Ravizee

Undated interview (late-1970s, "Tape 1").

Undated interview (late-1970s, "Tape 2"), in Birmingham, and notes from conversation with Sollie Pugh.

Interviewed October 24, 1981, in Birmingham.

Rev. Isaac Ravizee and Hattie Turner Coleman interviewed in Bessemer, circa 1978 (1 page)

Notes from conversations of February 6, 1979, July 23, 1980.

Folder 30 Shelby County Big Four

Members interviewed October 11, 1980, in Birmingham, by Brenda McCallum and Doug Seroff, as part of the "Jefferson County Quartet Reunion."

Folder 31 Aldridge "Cap" Stanfield

Interview, undated (early-1979), in Nashville.

Interviewed March 16, 1979.

Folder 32 Gaines Steele

Interviewed over the telephone, January 28, 1980.

Folder 33 Lorenzo Stevens

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, July 1, 1983, in Mobile.

Folder 34 Birmingham Sunlights and Sterling Jubilee Singers

Training Session, December 2, 1983, transcription of the conversations.

Folder 35 James Alex Taylor

Interviewed in Birmingham, early-1984

Folder 36 Steve Taylor

Interview October 2, 1989, shortly after the Sunlights' return from Africa

Folder 37 Arnett Tillis and Hoover Jones

Interviewed by Lynn Abbott, April 2, 1983, in Mobile.

Folder 38 Arthur Lee Turner

Notes from phone conversations of March 24, April 16, 1979.

Arthur Lee Turner. Notes from interview conducted by Bob Eagle, April 1972.

Folder 39 Joe Watson

Notes from a phone conversation of August 7, 1980 (1 page).

Interviewed April 22, 1984.

Interviewed early-1984.

Folder 40 Annie Wilks

Interviewed December 8, 1990

Folder 41 James "Nar" Williams

Interviewed February 26, 1980, in Birmingham.

Interviewed by telephone, November 17, 1978.

Notes from a conversation with him in Ensley, July 23, 1980.

Folder 42 Norman Wooding Jr.

Interviewed by Robert Friedman and Doug Seroff, January 7, 2012, in Birmingham.

Map Drawer Oversize Posters

22x12" Poster, for "Black American Quartet Traditions" weekend event at the Smithsonian (Baird Auditorium, D.C.), November 20-21, 1981, with photos of all four participating groups (Sensational Nightingales, Fairfield Four, Sterling Jubilee Singers, Four Eagle Gospel Singers).

14x22" cardboard poster, for "Jefferson County Quartet Reunion," Birmingham, October 12, 1980. With photos of the Fairfield Four and Sterling Jubilee Singers.

18x23" cardboard poster for a "Lunch time concert series," in Old Alabama Town, Montgomery, Alabama, summer of 1990. There are four pictures: Birmingham Sunlights; Sand Mountain Boys; Albert Macon & Robert Thomas; James Bryan & Tom Jackson

11x17" color poster for the Bessemer event, with photo of Ladysmith Black Mambazo – other quartets also performing

Series II: Audio Visual Materials

[For a full song list of these recordings, please ask Archivist for list. Letter identifies tape.]

Box 1 Oral History Interview Cassette Tapes

All interviews were conducted by Doug Seroff, except those noted otherwise.

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There are complete, typed transcripts of all the interviews located in Box 7. These are original cassette tapes; CD copies of original cassettes (originals are archived elsewhere) are noted.

James Allen (Dunham Jubilee Singers) interviewed early-1979, in Gadsden.

Carey Bradley (Kings of Harmony) interviewed over the telephone, March 9, 1982.

Carey Bradley interviewed over the telephone, March 26, 1982.

Charles Bridges (Birmingham Jubilee Singers, Famous Blue Jays) interviewed November 24, 1978, in Chicago.

Charles Bridges interviewed December 6, 1979, in Chicago by Robert Pruter, with questions [Seroff] provided.

Charles Bridges interviewed by Ray Funk, January 9, 1981 [other interviews on this cassette are with Chicago quartet veterans Lucille Henderson and C.H. Pennington, not Alabama-related].

William Collier and Daniel Webster Andrews, Jr. interviews are found in the Fisk Jubilee Singers' files of the Doug Seroff Tennessee African American Gospel Quartet Collection. Collier was a native of Trinity, Alabama, and sang with a quartet there, before coming to Fisk and becoming a member of the Fisk University Jubilee Quartet. Andrews, from Montgomery, Alabama, sang with the University Quartet while a student at Tuskegee Institute. He later joined Mrs. James A. Myers Famous Jubilee Singers in Nashville.

Thomas Delaney (Heavenly Gospel Singers) interviewed by telephone, November 12, 1980.

Thomas Delaney interviewed in Atlanta, June 27, 1981.

R. C. Foster (Foster Singers of Bessemer) interviewed July 24, 1980, in Bessemer.

R. C. Foster interviewed October 23, 1981, in Bessemer.

Four Eagle Gospel Singers. Interview with Four Eagles' members John Lawrence, Joe Watson, Sam Bell, John Pettie, James McDuffie, and Dell Coleman, at City Stages Festival, Birmingham, June 20, 1992.

Isaac Freeman, Willie Love, James Hill, and Rev. W.L. ("Preacher") Richardson, of the Fairfield Four, were all Jefferson County natives. who sang with gospel quartets in Bessemer and Birmingham, before coming (individually) to Nashville to join the Fairfield Four. Interviews with them are found in the Doug Seroff Tennessee African American Gospel Quartet collection.

A. D. Gibbs (L & N Quartet) interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, July 1, 1983, in Mobile. [Reverse of this tape is from interviews with Joe Holmes and Belle (sister of Hambone Vinson), conducted in the Mississippi Delta, not Alabama-related.]

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John Griffin (Gospel Southernaires) interviewed June 30, 1983, in Birmingham.

Mac Hall (Sunset Four of Dolomite) interviewed October 8, 1979, in Brighton, AL.
A portion of an interview with "Cap" Stanfield is on the same CD. [CD copy]

Henry Holston, interviewed in Bessemer, January 1984, for "On the Battlefield"
documentary. Reverse is Sterling Jubilees' business meeting and rehearsal, raw
footage from the documentary.

Lee Bell Johnson (Good Samaritans), interviewed November 24, 2019.

Sam Johnson (Sterling Jubilee Singers), June 30, 1983, Bessemer. [CD copy]

Arleana Kelly (Mourning Doves) interviewed August 20, 1979, in Westfield, AL.

Henry King (McMillian Jubilee Singers) interviewed October 24, 1981, in Birmingham.

Tom Lacey, Sam Middlebrooks And John Alexander (Sterling Jubilee Singers)
November 9, 1978.

Tom Lacey and Henry Holston, February 5, 1979, with an additional page of information
gathered from a follow-up phone call the next day.

Tom Lacey and Sam Middlebrooks, August 19, 1979.

Tom Lacey, October 23, 1981.

Tom Lacey, August 1, 1983.

Tom Lacey, Bessemer, January 1984, in connection with "On the Battlefield"
documentary.

Sam Lewis (Sterling Jubilee Singers) April 16, 1990.

Hattye Ravizee McClendon (Ravizee Singers) interviewed August 19, 1979, in
Birmingham.

Aulston Molton (Woodward's Big Four) interviewed October 8, 1979, Brighton, AL.

Willie Moore (Dolomite Jubilee Singers, Sterling Jubilee Singers) interviewed August 20,
1979, in Dolomite, Alabama.

Walter Patton (Bessemer Melody Four) interviewed June 28, 1983, in Bessemer.

Sollie Pugh and Robert Moss (Four Great Wonders, Bessemer Big Four) interviewed
February 6, 1979, in Birmingham.

Sollie Pugh & Robert Moss undated interview ("2nd trip")

Sollie Pugh & Robert Moss interviewed July 25, 1980 in Birmingham.

Rev. Isaac Ravizee. Undated interview (late-1970s, "Tape 1").

Rev. Isaac C. Ravizee (Ravizee Singers), interviewed October 24, 1981, in Birmingham.

Rev. Isaac Ravizee and Hattie Turner Coleman (sister of Jimmie Hollingsworth of the Blue Jays), interviewed in Bessemer, circa 1978

Aldridge "Cap" Stanfield (Heavenly Gospel Singers), interview, undated (early-1979), in Nashville.

Aldridge "Cap" Stanfield interviewed March 16, 1979.

Gaines Steele (Jericho Singers, brother of Silas Steele), interviewed over the telephone, January 28, 1980.

Birmingham Sunlights and Sterling Jubilee Singers, Training Session, December 2, 1983, transcription of the conversations. The tape located is in music field recordings box.

James Alex Taylor, interviewed in Birmingham, early 1984.

Steve Taylor (Birmingham Sunlights). Interview October 2, 1989, shortly after the Sunlights' return from Africa. (This interview is on a cassette with a Sunlights' rehearsal of October 2. The reverse of the cassette has the Four Eagles' WENN radio show of October 9, 1989. The tape is with the music field recordings)

Joe Watson. Interviewed early-1984. [CD copy]

James "Nar" Williams (Ensley Jubilee Singers) interviewed February 26, 1980, in Birmingham.

Norman Wooding Jr. (McMillian Jubilee Singers, Pillars) interviewed by Robert Friedman and Doug Seroff, January 7, 2012, in Birmingham.

Box 2 Field Recording Cassette Tapes

- A February 7, 1979: Sterling Jubilee Singers' rehearsal
- B July 22, 1980: Sterling Jubilee Singers' rehearsal
- C December 1980/February 1981: Four Eagle Gospel Singers' rehearsal of December 7, 1980/Sterling Jubilee Singers' rehearsal of February 24, 1981. Recorded by Brenda McCallum.
- D April 1981: Four Eagle Gospel Singers' rehearsal, recorded by George Neirenberg
- E September 15, 1981: Ensley Jubilee Singers' rehearsal, recorded by Brenda McCallum
- F November 27, 1983: Delta Aires' 34th Anniversary, C.I.O. Hall, Bessemer. Four Eagles Gospel Singers, Sterling Jubilee Singers, Mt. Hebron Male Chorus
- G November 29, 1983: Sterling Jubilee Singers' rehearsal, November 29, 1983 (continued from previous cassette)
- H December 2, 1983: Conclusion of Birmingham Sunlights and Sterling Jubilee Singers' first training session

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- I December 1983: A brief portion of Shelby County Big Four rehearsal, Bessemer
- J January 10, 1984: Joint rehearsal and training session, the Sterling Jubilee Singers and the Birmingham Sunlights, Lily Grove Baptist Church, Bessemer
- K January 15, 1984: "David L. Moore's 43rd Appreciation Program," at Lily Grove Church
- L January 16, 1984: Training session between Sterling Jubilee Singers and Birmingham Sunlights, Tom Lacey's home, Bessemer
- M January 28, 1984: Dress rehearsal/sound check for the concert portion of "On the Battlefield" TV documentary, taped at Friendship Baptist Church, Brighton, AL
- N December 1985: Birmingham Sunlights, self-produced cassette
- O April 8, 1988: Easter Program at Bessemer City Auditorium
- P September 9, 1988: Birmingham Sunlights' rehearsal, Barry Taylor's home. Singing and carrying on with Sunlights' family members, Tony and Judy Backhouse, and Doug Seroff. Recorded by the Backhouses
- Q September 11, 1988: Sterling Jubilee Singers' 59th Anniversary, Bessemer City Hall Auditorium (part one)
- R September 11, 1988: Sterling Jubilee Singers' 59th Anniversary (part two)
- S September 13, 1988: Sterling Jubilee Singers' rehearsal. Reverse is Rev. Claude Jeter at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. by Tony and Judy Backhouse
- T March 24, 1989: Four Eagles Gospel Singers' rehearsal
- U March 25, 1989: Easter Program at Bessemer City Hall Auditorium
- V September 10, 1989: Excerpts from Sterling Jubilee Singers' 60th Anniversary Bessemer City Hall Auditorium
- W October 2, 1989: Short interview with Steve Taylor, and Birmingham Sunlights' rehearsal at Barry Taylor's home in Birmingham
- X October 7, 1989: Fisk "Jubilee Day," October 6, 1989/Four Eagle Gospel Singers' rehearsal, October 7, 1989
- Y October 8, 1989: Fairfield Four "Homecoming," C.I.O. Hall, Bessemer. Four cassettes recorded by Bruce Nemerov. Tape #1: Opening of program by Auguster Maul.
- Z October 8, 1989: Fairfield Four "Homecoming," C.I.O. Hall, Bessemer. Four cassettes recorded by Bruce Nemerov. TAPE #2: "Homecoming" Program continued
- AA TAPE #3 "Homecoming" Program, continued
- BB TAPE #4 "Homecoming Program" concluded
- CC November 19, 1989: Four Eagle Gospel Singers' 51st Anniversary, at Bessemer City Hall Auditorium
- DD Dinwiddie Colored Quartet (Victor 17815, 7" disc) – Poor Mourner
Dinwiddie Colored Quartet (Victor 1716, 7" disc) – Steal Away
April 14 1990 – Birmingham Sunlights rehearsal, April 14, 1990
- EE April 15, 1990: Easter Program, Bessemer City Auditorium
- FF September 29, 1990: Vocal harmony workshop, part of "Home of the Heroes" project, Sardis Baptist Church, Birmingham. The Birmingham Sunlights and

Ladysmith Black Mambazo of South Africa
GG September 30, 1990: "Home of the Heroes" Concert – Tape #1. Recorded by
Marika Partridge for NPR "Afro Pop"

Box 3 Commercial & Manuscript Audio/Visual Materials

Commercial Cassette Tapes

- Good Samaritan Gospel Singers (all self-produced)
 - "I Can See So Much" (Prestige 93-104)
 - "I Found The Answer" (Prestige 95-105)
 - "Jesus Is The Door" (Prestige 00-02)
- Silver Voices (self-produced)
 - "The Good Old Days" (Sound of Birmingham, 2001)
- Birmingham Sunlights
 - "Back Home" (self-produced, 1989)
 - "For Old Time's Sake" (Flying Fish 90588, 1992)
- Four Eagle Gospel Singers
 - "Traditional Gospel Quartet Singing From Alabama" (Global Village 227, 1992)
 - "The Four Eagles" (self-produced, 1996)
- Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis
 - "The Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis, Alabama" (Global Village 224)
- Sterling Jubilee Singers
 - "John Alexander's Sterling Jubilee Singers" (Alabama Traditions 105)
- Delta-Aires
 - "Wait On You Jesus" (self-produced, 1993)
- Angelic Harmonizing Chorus of Selma
 - "Angelic Harmonizing Chorus" (Backwoods Studio 111956)
- Rev. Floyd King and No Name Gospel Singers
 - "Live in Paris" Vol. 1 (self-produced, 1989)
 - "Live in Paris" Vol. 2 (self-produced, 1989)
 - "New York Grassroots Gospel" (Global Village, 1987)

45rpm Single Records

- Good Samaritan Singers "Something on My Mind" (Prestige 78-096, 1978)

LP Records

- Four Eagle Gospel Singers – "Fifty Years" (SRS 1293)
- Various Artists – "Birmingham Boys" (Alabama Traditions 203023X)
- Various Artists – "Birmingham Quartet Anthology" (Clanka Lanka 144,001/2)

CDs

- Pillars of Birmingham – "Reflections" (self-produced, 2007)
- Pillars – "In Rehearsal 2005-2010"
- Lee Bell Johnson and the New Pilgrim Voices – "Preserving Our Heritage" (Sound of Birmingham, 2013)
- Lee Bell Johnson and the New Pilgrim Voices (Sound of Birmingham)
- Four Eagle Gospel Singers – "The Best of the Four Eagles" (self-produced, 2008)

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Angelic Harmonizers of Selma – “God Will Do It” (self-produced, 2016)
Inter-City Singers of the South – “The Life I Live” (“master” circa 1980, with three future members of the Birmingham Sunlights).

Video Cassettes

VHS copy (original generation) “Lord, I Know You’ve Been So Good.” (In 1988 Seroff worked on a grant-funded video documentary of the Four Eagles, marking their 50th Anniversary of singing. Seroff was “co-producer,” with Nashville Gospel Ministries (Tommy Lewis and Teresa Hannah).

Two VHS tapes of the unedited footage shot in Birmingham and Bessemer for the Four Eagles project.

VHS tape with WSM-TV studio filming sessions (music plus interviews) with Four Eagles Gospel Singers, and Birmingham Sunlights – both circa 1988.

VHS tape of performances by the Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis, Four Eagles Gospel Singers, Henry Holston’s Sterling Jubilees, Birmingham Sunlights, Five Silver Queens, Delta Aires, and other. Much of it filmed at the Four Eagles’ 50th Anniversary.

VHS tape recorded at the Voices of Deliverance’s 1st Anniversary, at Eastern Star Baptist Church, Demopolis, Alabama, 2004 (?) With a letter from Lessie Sanders of the Gospel Harmonettes, describing the program.

VHS copy of the Channel 4 documentary, “On the Battlefield.” (Original generation)

Materials Cataloged Separately:

No items from this collection are cataloged separately from this finding aid.

Location:

These materials are located in the manuscripts section of the archival stacks, filed chronologically by accession number.

Related Materials:

Other related materials in the Center collections include Doug Seroff African American Gospel Quartet Collection (10-026); Doug Seroff Black Gospel Disc Collection (89-009); Doug Seroff Collection of Negro Harmony Singing (89-031); Doug Seroff Film Collection (95-055); Doug Seroff Master Tapes of Negro Quartet Singing (94-087); and Doug Seroff Ladysmith Black Mambazo Collection (21-015). Also related are African American Easter Gospel Music Programs Audio Tapes (94-034) and Bessemer [Alabama] Black Gospel Quartets Audio Tapes (89-64), as well as commercial sound recordings and vertical files.

Collection processed and finding aid written by Olivia Beaudry, CA, October 2022.