



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

DOUG SEROFF AFRICAN AMERICAN GOSPEL QUARTET COLLECTION **10-026;
21-015; 24-003**

Creator:

Seroff, Doug (February 21, 1947 -)

Type of Material:

Manuscript Materials, Photographs, Trade Catalogs, manuscripts, and commercial audio/visual materials.

Physical Description:

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

- 194 manuscript cassette tapes
- 15 commercial cassette tapes
- 13 manuscript CDs
- 7 commercial CDs
- 15 VHS tapes
- 3 commercial LP records

Dates:

Series I TN: 1876-2011; bulk 1980-1990
Series II AL: 1972-2018, bulk 1984-1996
Series III MSC:1890 - 2010 bulk 1980-1987

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 Tennessee, Alabama and other states. The materials were collected and created by Doug Seroff from approximately 1980 to 2018 for his own research and interest.

Repository:

Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132,
(615) 898-2449

Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. Series 3 Box 9-10 is restricted until July 31, 2031. *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.*

Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Doug Seroff African American Gospel Quartet Collection 10-026, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

The majority of the items in Series I were written, recorded and assembled by historian/researcher Doug Seroff. Some of the historic Nashville images are from John Phillips' collection. Many of the 1980s-1990s quartet photos were taken by Robert Cogswell. Most of the early Fairfield Four materials come from the collection of John Battle. This collection was purchased by the Center for Popular Music from Doug Seroff in November 2010.

Series II was purchased by the Center for Popular from Doug Seroff on May 11, 2022. Seroff generated these materials through many years of research.

Series III was purchased by the Center for Popular from Doug Seroff on July 15, 2024. Seroff generated these materials through many years of research.

Subject/Index Terms:

African American gospel singers
Popular music
Fairfield Four
Spirit of Memphis Quartet
Swan Silvertones
Tennessee Quartet Singing
Tennessee Music 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
Oral history transcripts

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Doug Seroff, born February 21, 1947 in Newark, NJ, residing in Greenbrier, TN, has been recording, researching, and promoting African American vernacular music since the 1970s. He has written several books on the subject and 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 and a promoter of gospel quartet performances.

Scope and Content:

Series I is comprised of 3.8 linear feet of materials. 60 audio cassette tapes (circa 1980s) contain recordings of interviews, rehearsals and performances of gospel quartets and their individual members. 10 CD-R audio discs (circa 1940s-1980s) contain similar material as well as digitized historic recordings of gospel radio performances and unissued test pressings. 8 VHS cassette video tapes (circa 1970s-1990s) contain historic clips, quartet rehearsals, performances and TV appearances. 324 images (photo prints, negatives and photocopies of negatives for which there are no prints. These photocopies identify persons in images) dating 1870s-2000s contains historic promotional, performance, formal and informal pictures of gospel quartet performers. The remainder of the collection is manuscripts, placards, notebooks and booklets. This set of materials ranges from personal datebooks and notebooks from John Battle (Fairfield Four) as well as interview transcriptions (transcriptions for all recorded interviews in the collection as well interviews not preserved in audio), historical newspaper articles, ticket stubs, business cards, performance programs and booklets, obituaries, correspondence, etc. The collection remains in the organizational scheme as presented by Mr. Seroff.

Series II 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 Doug Seroff and Lynn Abbott's book To Do This, You Must Know How: Music Pedagogy in the Black Gospel Quartet Tradition (2013).

Arrangement:

The original order of the materials has been maintained as far as possible. Doug Seroff wrote most descriptions and folder titles.

This collection consists of three series and subseries.

Series I: Tennessee Printed Matter and Original Research Materials

Subseries 1: Tennessee Audio/Visual Materials

Series II: Alabama Printed Matter and Original Research Materials

Subseries 1: Alabama Audio/Visual Materials

Series III: Various States Printed Matter and Original Research Materials

Subseries 1: Various states Audio/Visual Materials

Materials Cataloged Separately:

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

Notes:

The first two series of this collection were processed as two separate collections when they came to the Center. In 2024, when the third series came to the Center, the collections were combined and organized into series.

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 African American Easter Gospel Music Programs Audio Tapes (94-034), Bessemer [Alabama] Black Gospel Quartets Audio Tapes (89-64)

Other related collections: Doug Seroff Black Gospel Disc Collection (89-009), Doug Seroff Collection of Negro Harmony Singing (89-031), Doug Seroff Film Collection (95-055), and Doug Seroff Master Tapes of Negro Quartet Singing (94-087) Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff Black Newspaper Collection (25-002) and commercial sound recordings and vertical files.

Original Tennessee Finding aid written by John Fabke, April 2011

Updated by Lucinda Cockrell August 2011

Reprocessed and updated by Olivia Beaudry, CA, November 2023.

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

Finding aid and processing by Olivia Beaudry, CA, January 2025. Added material and updated August 2025.

Series I: Tennessee Printed Matter and Original Research Materials

Box 1 Nashville Groups Printed Matter

Folder 1 "Fairfield Four programs and advertising"

Folder contains programs, ticket stubs and announcements spanning 1980s-1990s for a variety of events (festivals, lectures, concert series etc) that featured the Fairfield Four. Some of the program sheets contain notes by Mr. Seroff about songs performed by the group at the event.

Folder 2 "Fairfield Four-Obsequies & Obituaries"

Folder contains funeral programs and obituaries for Fairfield Four members spanning 1990s-2000s. Some programs contain detailed notes by Mr. Seroff about the funerals (attendance, singers, songs etc) maps of grave locations and copy of John Battle's birth certificate.

Folder 3 "Fairfield Four Correspondence"

Folder contains personal correspondence to Mr. Seroff, Mr. Seroff's performance notes/reviews relating to the Fairfield Four spanning 1940s-1990s.

Folder 4 "Fairfield Four Clippings"

Folder contains original and copied newspaper and magazine clippings related to the Fairfield Four 1980's-1990s.

Folder 5 "Fairfield Four Interview Transcripts"

Folder contains transcriptions of interviews of Fairfield Four members by Doug Seroff spanning 1970s-2000s. Also contains release/permission note from Isaac Freeman. Some are transcript only, others are transcriptions of audio cassette tapes in Box 7.

Interview transcripts include:

James Hill, Isaac Freeman 5/9-10/1988 (Gospel Arts Day)

Robert Hamlett 2/18/88

Harold Carrethers/Caruthers 4/10/88, 7/6/82, 7/5/82

Willie Love 5/16/82, 6/2/82

Wilson "Lit" Waters 3/7/88

Isaac "Dickie" Freeman 8/25/06, 9/30/06, 5/16/82, 7/18/80

Fairfield Four (McCrary, Freeman, Love, Hill) 10/11/80

James Hill 5/4/82, 5/4/88

Rev. Sam McCrary, late 1977

Folder 6 "Hebb Family/Bobby Hebb File"

Folder contains material spanning 1960s-2000s relating to the Hebb Family collected by Doug Seroff. Collection includes Helen Hebb interview transcription, Mr. Seroff's research notes and event reviews/notes, newspaper clippings (original and photocopies).

Interview transcripts include:

Helen Hebb 4/30/88

Folder 7- "Princely Players File"

Papers spanning 1970s-2000s relating to the Princely Players group that used a capella singing and drama to trace the history and experience of African Americans. Originally formed by former Fisk graduate and Jubilee singer German Wilson. File contains programs (and Doug's review/notes of the performance), press releases, correspondence to Doug Seroff, group member biographies, recording log.

Folder 8 "Nashville Miscellaneous"

Folder contains material relating to various gospel quartets, such as McCrary in Nashville, 1980s-2000s. Collection includes quartet business cards, Mr. Seroff's notes for his 1988 presentation at the Conference of Afro-American Culture and History, newspaper clippings, press releases, Mr. Seroff's performance reviews, and interview report forms and research notes, quartet anniversary programs. Items from this folder have been redacted for privacy, originals are in Series 3, Box 9.

Folder 9 "Nashville Various Obituaries and Obsequies"

Folder contains material spanning 1990s-2000s. Includes funeral programs and newspaper obituary clippings for former members of the Fireside Singers, Singing Tornados, bluegrass/gospel producer Jim Stanton (Rich-R-Tone/Champ) and R&B singer Gene Allison and other miscellaneous clippings.

Folder 10 "Nashville Gospel Quartet Interviews-Various"

Folder contains transcripts of in-person and telephone interviews conducted by Doug Seroff circa 1970s-1980s. Interview subjects include members of the Fireside Singers, Zion Harmonizers, Sons of Glory, Voices of Nashville, The Relief Four, Harps of Zion etc. Also includes an interview with Wesley Copeland that has information about African American string band music in the Nashville area.

Interview transcripts include:

Fireside Singers 4/12/88, 2/17/86

Thomas Gilbert 7/6/82, 4/16/88, 6/7/82

Wesley Copeland and Mamie Wells 3/8/88

William Burney, Sandis Cooper, Joseph Thompson 4/18/88

Willie Love, Tom Smith, John Phillips 4/30/83

John Phillips 3/10/88

Rev. Morgan Babb 3/5/86

Doris Gill 4/23/88

Delton Manley 6/8/88

Rev. O. D. Travis 12/19/78

Rev. F.M. Spence 12/12/78

Folder 11 Gospel Arts Day & Gordon Stoker Transcription

Contains two site visit reports for 1988 and 1989 Gospel Arts Day and the transcript of interview by Mr. Seroff with Gordon Stoker of the Jordanaires 11/19/2008.

Box 2 Fisk Jubilee Singers Printed Matter

Folder 1 "Mrs. James A Myers/Louise Davis-Fisk Jubilee Singers Misc"

Materials related to the Fisk Jubilee Singers spanning 1940s-1990s. Contains newspaper announcements and reviews, thank-you letters to Myers from a variety of sources, Mr. Seroff's detailed notes about performances, programs, singers, speeches etc. 1980s-90s Fisk Jubilee Convocation and Jubilee Day program sheets (Mr. Seroff's reviews on some events enclosed in the individual programs). Also contains letter of introduction of Myers to General Eisenhower from Cordell Hull.

Folder 2 "from Ms Louise Davis-Original documentation from Mrs. James A. Myers"

Materials related to the Fisk Jubilee Singers spanning 1920s-1950s. Includes newspaper and magazine stories about performances, tours abroad, correspondence, performance programs, Press Book with history etc of Fisk Jubilee Singers. Contains some acidic papers (newsprint etc)

Folder 3 "Fisk University Quartet Interviews"

Detailed transcripts of interviews (many from included cassettes) spanning the 1980s-2000s with Fisk University Quartet singers conducted by Doug Seroff in the 1980s. Also included are some detailed biographies of some of the interviewees as well as 1950s Fisk Singers tour itineraries.

Folder 4 "Nashville Jubilee Singers file"

Subfolder -Nashville Jubilee Singers: Papers relating to the group formed by former Fisk singer W. A. Collier. File spans the 1970s-1980s and contains programs with performance and biographical information, names and addresses of members.

Nashville Jubilee Singers (3 photos): Series of photographs taken by Robert Cogswell of singers performing at the 1989 Gospel Arts Day. Singers are NOT identified in this series.

Folder 5 "Fisk Photos also Mrs. James A. Myers' Famous Jubilee Singers"

Mrs. James A Myers photos #1 (3 photos, 1 4x5 negative): Personal photos featuring Mrs. James A Myers and others in Germany circa 1920s-1930s. Individuals are named on the back with post-it notes and the photos also have original pencil captions on back. Also contains 1 4x5 negative.

Mrs. James A Myers and Famous Jubilee Singers #2 (30 photos): Photo set (circa 1919-1980s) of Mrs. James A Myers and the Famous Jubilee Singers. Contains promotional, performance, travel (trip to India) related images. Many photos have captions and identification on back.

Mrs. James A Myers and Famous Jubilee Singers #3 (13 photos): Wide variety of large photos (circa 1871-1980s) and original promotional photos that feature the Original Fisk Jubilee Singers/Club, The Jubilee Singers, and various offshoots. Also contains photo reproductions of performance posters from the U.S. and Swedish tour (1895) and various images of Dr. Rawn Spearman.

Box 3 Memphis Groups Printed Matter

Folder 1 Spirit of Memphis Correspondence and Promotional

Materials spanning 1960s-2000s relating to the Spirit of Memphis Quartet. Folder contains ticket stubs, photocopied newspaper articles, posters for anniversary performances, list of current and former members of the Spirit of Memphis, correspondence to and from Mr. Seroff and his notes regarding the Spirit of Memphis Quartet's 50th anniversary program in 1980.

Folder 2 Spirit of Memphis Transcriptions

Transcriptions of in-person interviews with members of the Spirit of Memphis Quartet conducted by Doug Seroff in the 1970s-1980s. Contains detailed information on the quartet's personnel, history, performances, recordings, radio performances, instrumentation etc.

Interview transcripts include:

Robert Reed 6/79

Essie Wade 4/24/81, 4/26/81

Jet Bledsoe 1/31/81

Earl Malone 8/5/79

Robert Reed and Earl Malone 10/11/80

Folder 3 "Obituaries-Memphis incl. Spirit of Memphis"

Obituaries and funeral programs for gospel singers spanning the 1980s-90s with particular focus on former members of the Spirit of Memphis gospel quartet.

Folder 4 "Memphis Commemorative Booklets"

Collection of 3 booklets spanning the 1980s-90s with historical, musical and biographical information about the gospel groups The Pattersonaires and the Harps of Melody. There is also a booklet for "Observe Willie L Gordon Night". Gordon was the organizer of the Pattersonaires.

Folder 5 "Various Memphis clippings, programs and correspondence"

Collection of materials spanning-1950s-2000s relating to gospel singing groups and individuals from the Memphis, TN area. Folder contains event ticket stubs, program notes/reviews by Doug Seroff, newspaper articles, personal correspondence/ Christmas cards, photocopies of radio station bulletins (WDIA) and local magazine articles.

Folder 6 Memphis Gospel Quartet Transcriptions (Various groups)

Transcriptions of in-person and phone interviews with Memphis quartet singers conducted by Doug Seroff in the 1970s-1980s. Contains detailed information on quartet personnel, histories, repertoire, performance and practice techniques, recording, radio appearances, etc.

Interview transcripts include:

Nathaniel Peck [Brewsteraires] -1/31/81, 4/28/81

Grover Blake-4/23/81

Julia Anderson Todd, Tommie Todd 2/1/81
Mary L. Thomas, Doris Jean Gary 2/3/83
Nina Jai Daugherty 5/7/81, 5/12/81
Jack Franklin 4/25/81, 8/79

Box 4 Nashville Newspapers

Folder 1 "Souvenir Books"

Folder contains four souvenir booklets. Two are from the Nashville Gospel Arts Day (1988, 1989) one copy of the Birmingham Quartet Scrapbook from the Jefferson County quartet reunion in Birmingham, AL on October 12, 1980 and one copy of the booklet for the Program in Black American Culture presented by the Smithsonian in 1981. Booklet articles about the quartets were researched and written by Doug Seroff. Each has detailed information on the groups, individual singers, histories and many historic and current photographs of the quartets and their personnel.

Folder 2 "The Tennesseans"

This folder contains information pertaining to The Tennesseans (aka Donavin's Famous Tennesseans/The Original Tennesseans. Materials include: Photocopy of contents of "Selections of Plantation Songs" (circa 1880s) with song lyrics, melody notation, description of group etc. Includes photocopy of an account of the first commencement of Meharry Medical College (circa 1876-79) at which the Tennesseans performed. There are two pages from the Walden College Catalog (1921-22) with a history of the Tennesseans fund raising tour to raise money for a school building. One page from the Nashville Daily American (Feb. 23rd, 1883) describes a performance of the Tennesseans. Two pages of a performance review of the Tennesseans from the Chicago Evening Journal, February 17th 1874 (reprint is from February of 1941). Photocopy of Donavin's Original Tennesseans performance ad from 11/13/1880. There is also a small set of correspondence to and from Mr. Seroff regarding the history of the Tennesseans. All reprints have been highlighted to emphasize the text related to the Tennesseans.

Folder 3 "The Nashville Globe-Folder #1"

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the years 1907-1910. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr Seroff's review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 4 "The Nashville Globe-Folder #2"

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the years 1907-1913. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr Seroff's review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 5 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #3 (1917)”

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the year 1917. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr. Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 6 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #4 (1918)”

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the year 1918. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr. Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 7 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #5”

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the year 1946 although there are materials in the collection dated 1939/40. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr. Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Box 5 Memphis Newspapers

Folder 1 “The Memphis World review-folder #1”

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Memphis World. Mr. Seroff notes that Mr. Lynn Abbott reviewed the microfilm and has created the index of the materials in this collection for the years 1931-32, 1943-49 and some of 1950-53. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 2 “The Memphis World review-Folder #2”

This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Memphis World. Mr. Seroff notes that Mr. Lynn Abbott reviewed the microfilm and has created the index of the materials in this folder. The index for this material is in the previous folder. Collection spans 1948-1960. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Box 6 Photographs

Folder 1 Nashville Groups B-H

Bright Star Harmonizers (1 image): One single cardboard promotional image (circa 1940s?) of the group with names of singers, manager and telephone contact information.

Chimes of Canaan (7 photos): These promotional photos of the group are copies of

images of the Chimes of Canaan (circa 1950s-1970s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on reverse side.

CBS (McCrary) (13 photos): CBS stands for "Cousins, Brothers and Sisters" (group was formed of relatives of Rev. Sam McCrary). Series of photographs (circa 1980s-1990s) taken by Robert Cogswell of singers posing and performing. Some photos have the singers identified on the reverse side.

Fireside Singers/Fairfield Four Juniors (3 photos, 1 4x5 negative): Contains business card, 4x5 negative in envelope of promotional photo, photographs and copies of photographs. Singers named on back.

Gospel Tones (1 photo): Contains one promotional photo with names of singers on back.

Gospel Stirrers (2 photos): Two photos are copies of images of the Gospel Stirrers of Nashville (circa 1970s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on back.

Harmony Kings (1 image): One photo on cardboard (from poster/placard?) singers names noted on back.

Hall Harmonizers (2 photos): Two photographs of the same original photo held in the John Phillips collection. Singers names noted on back.

Rev **Odie Hoover Jr. (1 placard image):** One single small cardboard placard (circa 1940s-50s?) with phone and address of singer.

Folder 2 Nashville Groups I-R

Israelite Travelers (1 photo): Promotional photo of the group (circa 1950s) with singers identified on back.

Princely Players (5 photos): Series of photographs taken by Robert Cogswell of singers performing at the 1989 Gospel Arts Day. One photo has the singers identified on back.

The Psalms (1 photo): The photo is a promotional shot of the Psalms quartet of Nashville (circa 1970s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on reverse side.

1989 Gospel Arts Day Reunion Quartet (17 photos): Series of photographs taken by Robert Cogswell of singers posing and performing. One photo has the singers identified on back.

Ross Brother (2 photos): Two photographs of the original (circa 1960s), damaged photograph from the John Phillips collection. Singer's names noted on back.

Folder 3 Nashville Groups S-W

Silvertone Mixed Quartet of Nashville (1 image): One single cardboard promotional image (circa early 1940s) of the group with names of members and mailing address contact information

Skylarks (4 photos, 3 4x5 negatives): promotional photos with singer's names on back. 4x5 negatives of the promotional photos.

Tennessee Arts Commission one set of negatives dated 5/9/88 of shots of singers taken by Robert Cogswell for the TN Arts Commission.

Voices of Nashville/Voices of Love (5 photos): Two photos are copies of images of the Voices of Nashville (circa 1950s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers

identified on back. Two 8 1/2x 11" promotional photos (circa 1980s) of the Voices of Nashville with singers identified on reverse side. 1 Performance photo of the Voices of Love (1995) taken by Robert Cogswell. Singers identified on back.

Watson Grove Gospel Singers: One image on folded paper (from magazine?).

Madame L.M. Wilson (2 photos): Two photos of Madame Wilson.

Folder 4 Fairfield Four

Fairfield Four Photo Negatives (31 negatives-14@ 4x5, 17@ 35mm): Envelope contains negative images of the Fairfield Four (circa 1930s-1980s).

Fairfield Four Photos #1 (11 photos): Contains snapshots of the Fairfield Four (circa 1980s-1990s). Mostly casual images but also contains Grammy Award ceremony and history conference shots. Names of singers and photographer credits included on back.

Fairfield Four Photos #2 (17 photos): Photo set of the Fairfield Four (circa 1980s) with singers names and photo credits on the back sides of photos. Majority of shots are of performances but also contains photo of John Battle's gravesite, Fairfield Church, early Fairfield Four record.

Fairfield Four Photos #3 (2 photos): Two 8x10 promotional photos

Fairfield Four Photos # 4 (24 photos, 4 placards): historic placards (with photos, song lyrics, contact information, singer's names, advertising etc) promotional materials/photos, performance photos (circa 1930s-1980s). One contact sheet with photos of singers, 1980s era performance photos. Most images have information about singers, events, photographer credits and locations on the back.

Folder 5 Memphis Groups B-P

Brewsteraires (1 photo, 1 negative): Promotional photo of the group (circa 1965) with names of members on back. Negative is for this image.

Dixie Nightingales (1 photocopy of image on negative): Promotional photo of the group (circa 1960s) with names of members on front.

Gospel Writers (1 photo, 2 photocopies): Promotional images of the group circa 1930s-1960s with member's names included. Two negatives Gospel Writers/Elijah Jones

Harp of Melody (2 photographs): Photographic copies of promotional photos of the group (circa 1945) with names of members on back.

M.N. Gospel Singers of Memphis (1 photo): Contains one photographic copy of original image of promotional photo circa late 1940s. Singer's names are listed in the photo.

Pattersonaires (1 negative, 2 photographs): One photo is a group shot circa 1957 the second photo shows two men in radio studio. Negative is for group image. Names included on back.

Folder 6 Memphis Groups S-Z

Silvertone Gospel Singers female group (1 photograph): one photographic copy of original promotional photo of the singers.

Southern Wonders Religious Singers (2 negatives, 1 performance poster, 4 photographs, 1 photocopy of image): original performance poster (1979), four (circa

1940s-1950s) promotional photos, one photocopy of promotional photograph and two negatives for included images.

Sunset Travelers (3 photos, 1 negative): Promotional images of the group circa 1950s. Two photos are photographic copies of the original images and one 8x10 appears to be an original copy. (Negative of this image)

Songbirds of the South/Gospel Writer Junior Girls (3 photos, 4 negatives, 1 placard): Promotional images of the group circa 1950s. The photos are photographic copies of the original images (negatives are included). There is one original cardboard promotional photo of the group. Singers identified on the back.

Zion Hill Spirituals (1 cardboard image): Appears to be an original (circa 1950s-1960s) cardboard promotional photo of the group.

Folder 7 Spirit of Memphis

Spirit of Memphis Quartet photo negatives (9 negatives): Negatives of photos of the quartet.

Spirit of Memphis Quartet #1 (25 photos): Photos of the group in performance and casual settings (circa 1980s-2000s). One grouping of performance photos also has the 35mm negatives included in the collection (photo credit-Cheryl Evans Thurber). Also contained are photographs of older (1930s) promotional images. Many of the images have names of singers on back.

Spirit of Memphis Quartet photos #2 (21 photos, 3 photocopies) Contains group and individual performance and promotional photos of the singers along with other Memphis personalities (B.B. King, WDIA DJs Ford Nelson and Nat Williams, boxer Jersey Joe Walcott) circa 1940s-1990s. Folder also includes a number of original 8x10 promotional photos for the group circa 1950s. Many of the photos include singer's names on the backside. The folders also contain three photocopies of photographs of group and individual members of the quartet. Some photos appear to be originals while others seem to be photo reproductions.

Folder 8 Various Tennessee Groups

Various Tennessee Gospel Groups (3 photos): Photographic copies of originals held in the John Phillips collection. Subjects are the Major Harmonizers, Dixie-Land Singers of Jackson, TN, and the Dixie Travelers of Dickson, TN.

Southernaires Gospel Singers of Murfreesboro, TN female group (1 cardboard placard): one original placard for the group with singer's names and contact information.

Swan Silvertones (1 photocopy, 1 promotional sheet, 3 photographs): one photocopy of early (1930s-1940s) photo of the group, Specialty Records promotional handout with photo and biographical information, performance photo, promo photo and informal shot of Rev Dewey Young.

Harp of Zion Quartet of Murfreesboro, TN female group (1 image): Contains one image of the quartet (circa 1940)

Box 7 John Battle Material

Envelope #1 "John Battle Datebook"

Envelope contains John Battle's datebook for 1947 with names, addresses and performance dates and locations.

Folder #2 "Fairfield Four Notebook/Bylaws"

Official notebook of the Fairfield Four (circa 1940s) Containing detailed notes about song arrangements, bylaws, fines for member's infractions, song lyrics, finances/treasury numbers, early histories, stage introductions, minutes of meetings and news clippings on a variety of subjects (The Fairfield Four, current news, sports-boxing, poetry etc.)

Folder #3 "John Battle Notebook"

John Battle's personal notebook containing song lyrics, "thoughts for the day", Ten Commandments, poems etc.

Series I, Subseries 1: Tennessee Audio/Visual Materials

Box 1 Interview and Field Recording Cassette Tapes

Folder 1 Oversize photographs

photograph of reunited Fairfield Four for Jefferson County Quartet Reunion, 1980, contact sheet of images shot by Robert Cogswell of gospel singers, large photo of Claude Jeter of Swan Silvertones and performance placard for the Southernaires female quartet of Murfreesboro and Fairfield Four quartet. (Circa early 1940s)

Interview tapes cassette tapes

1. Interview with Wilson "Lit" Waters, March 7, 1988 [Fairfield Four]
2. Harold Caruthers 7/5/82 [Fairfield Four]
3. Harold Caruthers [Fairfield Four] April 10 1988
4. (Side 1) Harold Caruthers [Fairfield Four] 6/6/82
(Side 2) Bill Woodruff/Willie Love [Fairfield Four/Voices of Nashville] - 6/2/82
5. Robert Hamlett interview 2/18/88 [Fairfield Four]
6. W. Lawrence Richardson 4/7/82 Richardson #2 [Fairfield Four]
7. James Hill interview May 4, 1988 [Fairfield Four]
8. Isaac Freeman interview 8/25/06. [Fairfield Four]
9. Interview w/Isaac "Dickie" Freeman [Fairfield Four] Nashville, Sept, 29th 2006.
10. Thomas Gilbert [Fireside Singers] 6/7/82
11. Thomas Gilbert [Fireside Singers] Interviews April 22, 1988 both sides
12. Fireside Singers Interview April 12, 1988
13. Willie Love, Tom Smith, John Phillips [Chimes of Canaan] 5/1/83
14. John Phillips [Chimes of Canaan] interview Nashville March 10th, 1988
15. Delton Manly June 8, 1988 [Bright Stars, Spiritual All-Stars]
16. Interviews with Billy Burney, Sandis Cooper & Joe Thompson [Sons of Glory] April 18th, 1988
17. Doris Gill interview 4/24/88 [L. K. Singers]
18. Helen Hebb interview [Hebb Family Singers] 4/30/88

19. Interview w/ Wesley Copeland, Mamie Hall, Nashville March 7, 1988 -side only
20. Interview with Gordon Stoker-Brentwood, TN. Nov 19, 2008. [Jouranaires]
21. (Side A) ACP George Rooks 11/27/82 (Side B) Doris Jean Gary & Mary Thomas [Songbirds of the South]
22. Julia Anderson Todd [Songbirds of the South] and Tommie Todd [Gospel Writers]
23. Grover Blake 1/31/81 [Sunset Travelers]
24. Henry Jack Franklin [Southern Wonders]
25. Robert Reed [Spirit of Memphis] interview June 1979
26. Earl Malone interview [Sprit of Memphis] 8/5/79
27. (Side 1) Nathaniel Peck [Brewsteraires] -April, 1981
(Side 2) Essie Wade [Spirit of Memphis wife]- April, 1981
28. (Side 1) Nathaniel Peck [Brewsteraires] 1-31-81
(Side 2) Jet Bledsoe [Spirit of Memphis] 1/31/81
29. **Doug Seroff 1-27-93 2nd Quartet Interview**
No track listing or details included.
30. **Doug Seroff on the Fisk Jubilee Singers, 5-11-93**
Wade In The Water. Bernice Johnson Reagon interviews. Doug Seroff on the Fisk Jubilee Singers, 5-11-93
31. **Doug Seroff Golden Gates/Fisk 10-14-92**
Cassette insert has the note "Transcribers-Doug Seroff ends this interview by identifying himself after his chat with Bernice. Chat is not related to interview." 60 min.
32. **Willie Love's 50th Anniversary** at St. Mark's M.B.C. March 20, 1989. 90min
Song list side A:
Congregational singing-Swing Low Sweet Chariot/My Lord's Getting us Ready
Gospel Lights-Lord, You've Been So Good
Sister Mattie Lloyd-You Must Be Born Again/How I got Over
Billie Joe and the Gospel Jubilees-Just Like He Said He Would/Sending up my Timber (short portion only) Low Down Chariot
Song list side B:
Van Trees Family-Lord Show Me the Way
Sons of Glory (lead, Rev. Shannon)-He Looked Beyond My Faults/Glory, Glory (lead, Frank Newsome)
Parran (?) Choir-Stumbling Over Me
Chosen Five (of Mobile)-I'll Fly Away
Willie Love and Voices of Nashville-The Lord Loves Me
33. **Fireside Singers 45th Anniversary program** 11/13/88 (also features the Fairfield Four). 90min
Song list side A:
Fireside Singers-I Want to Rest, Noah, My Heavenly Father Watches over Me, Dr. Jesus, He's So Good To Me

Fairfield Four-Jesus, Hallelujah

Song list side B:

Fairfield Four-(in progress) Dig A Little Deeper

Gospel Jubilees(Rutherford, TN)-Just Like He Said He Would, Stand By Me, See About Me, When the Gates Swing Open

34. **The Fairfield Four** (with unknown guitar accompaniment circa 1983-84. Unknown source. Short recording (demo?))

Song list:

Be What You Are (Richardson)

Sign Me Up For the Christian Jubilee (Freeman)

Dig A Little Deeper (Hill Freeman, Richardson)

Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around (McCrary)

Love Like a River (McCrary)

35. **The Fairfield Four**-WRLT 2/7/93. 90min (no song list with tape)

36. **Harp of Melody Practice/Pattersonaires Program**

Side A: Harp of Melody practice in December, 1983. At the Memphis, TN home of Clara Anderson.

Song list side A: *Harp of Melody*-Lord Bless the Weary Soldier in Vietnam, He's My Everything, I'm a Soldier, Old Time Religion, Job, Remember Me

Pattersonaires-I Need Thee, I Don't Feel No Way Tired, I Shall See Him Face to Face (lead, Al Davis), How Great Thou Art (lead, James Shelton)

Side B: Pattersonaires program at the New Salem Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. Detailed performance notes included on separate sheet in cassette case. 90min.

Song list side B: Holding On (Willie Neal-lead), He's Worthy, He Took the Time To Save My Soul, The Old Landmark, Amazing Grace

37. **Princely Players at St. Paul's Episcopal Church** 3/20/93. Recorded for the "Wade in the Water" series.

Song list: Ride on King Jesus, Go Down Moses, We Shall Walk Through the Valley, I'm A-Rollin', Go In The Wilderness, Rise Shine, Ain't That Good News, I've Been Buked and Scorned, Roll Jordan Roll, "Slave Auction", "Slave Sermon" w/There's A Meeting Here Today, Amazing Grace

38. **Princely Players** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, March 20th, 1993. Detailed liner notes with song titles and orders enclosed in cassette case. Songs recorded for the "Wade in the Water" radio series.

Song list: *Princely Players*-Oh Freedom (Odessa Settles), Roll Jordan Roll, Steal Away, Heaven, We Shall Walk Through the Valley, Get On Board, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Ride On King Jesus

39. **Princely Players Sing Spirituals for WADE IN THE WATER**

Performance recording of the Princely Players.

Song list: Ride on King Jesus, Go Down Moses, Go In The Wilderness, Rise, Shine Light is a Coming, Ain't That Good News, I've Been Buked, Roll, Jordan Roll, Slave Auction, Amazing Grace, Oh Freedom, I Got Shoes, Gospel Train.

40. **Smithsonian Field Tape** (1986). This cassette contains field recordings made by Doug Seroff in preparation for the Festival of American Folklife in 1986. Contains Fireside Singers rehearsal and performances by Rev. Morgan Babb and the Voices of Nashville. Detailed notes enclosed in cassette case. 90 min.
Song list side A:
Fireside Singers-Lift Every Voice and Sing, Shepherd Feed My Sheep, Run On, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, In My Savior's Care, Wade In the Water, Just A Closer Walk With Thee, The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow, Gonna Live By Your Word, Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray
Rev. Morgan Babb-What A Friend We Have In Jesus, Soon Will Be Done, Pray for Me, Move On Up A Little Higher
Song list side B:
Voices of Nashville-Cool Down Yonder (lead: John Phillips), I Shall Know Him (lead: Willie Love), Let It Be Me (lead: Love), Peace In the Heaven Above (lead: Huey Brown), Release Me (lead: Love), The Lord Loves Me (lead: Love)
41. **Label title information crossed out.** Detailed liner notes enclosed in cassette case. **Side A:** California Jubilee Singers (not TN group). This is a dub of an East German LP recorded in 1964. No song list for side A. **Side B: Famous Jubilee Singers** under the direction of Mrs. James A. Myers. Recorded during South American tour circa 1956. Personnel includes Starling Hatchett (tenor). 90 min.
Song list side B:
Famous Jubilee Singers-Live A-Humble, Good News, Climbing Up the Mountain Children, Unknown Title, Deep River, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, I Got A Robe, Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, Unknown, Unknown, King Jesus is A-Listening, Every Time I Feel the Spirit, Little David, Soon Will Be Done,
Remaining tracks are by unidentified mixed group-Live A-Humble, Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, Oh Mary Don't You Weep.
42. **Gospel Harmonettes Anniversary Concert. December 13, 1992**
Cassette of Gospel Harmonettes performance. Copyright, National Public Radio. No track listing. Side 3 and 4.
43. **Gospel Harmonettes Anniversary Concert. December 12, 1992**
Cassette of Gospel Harmonettes performance. Copyright, National Public Radio. No track listing. Side 5 and 6.
44. **Gospel Harmonettes Anniversary Concert. December 13, 1992**
Cassette of Gospel Harmonettes performance. Copyright, National Public Radio. No track listing. Side 7 and 8.
45. **Fisk University Jubilee Singers**-10/6/91. Performance tape of the group recorded at Meharry Medical College. Card insert has song list and order of performance. 60min.
Song list side A: Rise Shine, Fare the Well Everybody (at City Cemetery), Gonna Journey Away, Done Opened My Mouth to the Lord.
46. Starling Hatchett 6/10/83 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
47. Starling Hatchett (tape 2) 60min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
48. Nathaniel Dickerson 6/19/89 Tape #1 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
49. Nathaniel Dickerson 6/19/89 Tape #2 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
50. Matthew Kennedy interview 1/25/89 60min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]

51. (Side B) Matthew Kennedy part two 1/25/89 (Side A) Tom Lacy's porch 90min (with noise reduction checked) [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
52. Jerome J Wright tape #1 3/22/83 60min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
53. Rev. Jerome Wright tape #2 3/22/83 60min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
54. Interview w/Wm. A Collier 3/28/83 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
55. (Side 1) Sam Johnson 6/30/83 (Side B) Nathaniel Dickerson 9/26/83 [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
56. Dr. Rawn Spearman 6/19/89 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
57. Herbert Rutherford 6/9/83 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
58. JW Whittaker interview 5/21/91 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
59. Daniel Andrews interview June 15th, 1989 90min [Fisk Jubilee Singers]
60. The Nashville Jubilee Singers-Fisk University Chapel-1979. Cassette with 10 songs and introduction to performance. Contains a list of songs and order of performance. **Song list:** Introduction, Steal Away, Shepherd Feed My Sheep, Down By The Riverside, Wade in the Water, The Lord's Prayer, Mandy Lou, Go Down Moses, Shout All Over God's Heaven, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Climbing Up the Mountain

Box 2 Compact Disc and VHS Recordings

1. **CD-R recording of two groups, Fairfield Four and Harps of Melody.** Fairfield Four recorded by Bruce Nemerov at the 8th Annual TN Grassroots Days Festival, 9/25/83 and Harps of Melody recorded at home of Clara Anderson during rehearsal, 8/20/84. Detailed song list in case. Volume and audio condition is good.
Song list:
Fairfield Four-God Shall Wipe All Tears Away (lead McCrary), Roll Jordan Roll (Freeman), I'll Rise Again (Freeman), Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around (McCrary and Hill), Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land (Freeman), I Know the Lord Will Make a Way (Richardson)
Harps of Melody-I'm Going to Sing and Make Melody, I Need Thee, The Lord Knows What I Need, I'm In His Care, Who Is That Knocking, What A Time, Jesus Will Roll All Burdens Away, Tonight, Roll Jordan Roll, Old Time Religion, I'm A Soldier.
2. **CD-R of live recordings of the Fairfield Four.** Performances include "Home of the Heroes" concert in Bessemer, AL Civic Center Auditorium (9/30/90), Nashville Summer Lights Festival (6/3/83) and a rehearsal recording in Brighton, AL (early 1984) for the "On the Battlefield" film. Sound quality and volume is good. Detailed song list in case.
Song list:
 Today, Hallelujah, Shadrach, Dig A Little Deeper, Remember Me, Hallelujah, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Jesus Is Ready, I'll Rise Again, Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around, Be What You Are, Remember Me, Hallelujah, Roll Jordan Roll, Don't You Let Nobody Turn You Around, Be What You Are.

3. **CD-R re-recording of cassette of “The Fairfield Four...Expanded”** Dig A Little Deeper/Back to Basics (Vortex #101, 1989). CD case has photocopy of original cassette insert card with song list and names of singers. Volume is good. Sound quality varies. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Hallelujah, I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, His Love Is Like a River, Talk to the Man Above, Noah, Walk This Road to Glory, Dig A Little Deeper, Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around, Leaning and Depending, You Can't Beat God Giving, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, I Thank You Jesus, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego, Roll Jordan.

4. **CD-R of various field recordings by Doug Seroff.** Recording features performances of The Voices of Nashville (2/16/86), Way Plain Travelers of Knoxville (3/1/86), The Fairfield Four rehearsal (4/30/88) and Spirit of Memphis rehearsal (7/30/83). Volume and sound quality good. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Way Plain Travelers-God Is Coming Back, Your Tears, Don't Forget to Remember, God Rode in a Windstorm, The Lord Will Make a Way, Jesus Will Fix It, Lord I Just Want to Thank You, Please Be Patient, Lord Help Me to be Strong.

Fairfield Four-My Life Will Be Sweeter Someday, I Know I've Been Changed, What Could I Do.

Spirit of Memphis-You Better Run, Happy in the Service of the Lord, Jesus Traveled This Road Before.

5. **CD-R of various field recordings by Doug Seroff.** Recording features the Harps of Melody rehearsal (8/20/84), Nashville Jubilee Singers in concert at John Wesley Church in Nashville (3/23/83) and the Fisk University Jubilee Singers sound check and convocation performance for Jubilee Day Commemoration at the Fisk University Chapel (10/6/88). Sound quality and volume is good. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Harps of Melody-He's My Everything, Two Little Fishes and Five Loaves of Bread, Walk in Jerusalem

Nashville Jubilee Singers-They Led My Lord Away, Were You There, He Never Said a Mumbling Word, God So Loved the World.

Fisk University Jubilee Singers-Steal Away, Great Day, Rise Shine, Steal Away, I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, The Gold and the Blue, Steal Away, Every Time I Feel The Spirit, Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, Rock My Soul.

6. **CD-R recording contains air checks of performances by the Fireside Singers from radio station WAMB**-Donelson circa 1982-83. Also contains two recordings of the Fireside Singers from WLAC-Nashville (circa 1950s). Tracks 8, 9 are of good quality and volume. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Nearer My God to Thee, Closing Theme, Theme, Daniel Saw the Stone, Have You Got Good Religion, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, Wade in the Water (incomplete) Gospel Train, When the Roll is Called.

7. **CD-R recordings of air checks of performances by the Fireside Singers on WAMB-Donelson** Sunday morning radio shows 1982-85. Tracks 17-24 are of good quality and volume. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Theme, In My Saviors Care, Does Jesus Care, On My Way to Heaven Anyhow, Theme, Jesus Met the Woman at the Well, Steal Away, Theme, Before This Time Another Year, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, I've Got a Witness in Heaven, Closing Theme, Does Jesus Care, Run On, Shadrach, Gonna Live By Your Word, I Made a Vow To The Lord, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Noah, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, I Made a Vow To The Lord, Anyhow, In My Saviors Care.

8. **CD-R recordings of air checks of performances by the Fireside Singers on WAMB-Donelson** Sunday morning radio shows 1982-85. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Theme (When I've Sung My Last Song), Daniel Saw the Stone, I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, Nearer My God to Thee, Theme, Lord, I've Tried, Shepherd Feed My Sheep, I Shall Not Be Moved, Theme, Daniel Saw The Stone, I Trust in God, Come in the Room, Nearer My God to Thee, Theme, Daniel Saw the Stone, I Shall Not Be Moved, Theme, Packing Up Getting Ready, I'll Rise Again, Farther Along, Theme.

9. **CD-R re-recording of 78rpm acetates that were originally recorded for airplay on WDIA-Memphis circa 1950s.** Performers include the Dixie Nightingales, Spirit of Memphis, Queen C. Anderson and Brewster Singers, Southern Wonders, Sons of Jehovah, Songbirds of the South and the Brewsteraires. Detailed song list in case. Mr. Seroff mentioned that some of the recordings in this set are available on a reissue LP of gospel music titled Bless My Bones: Memphis Gospel Radio. One is on the P-Vine label (#9051) and the second on Rounder (#2063)

Song list:

Dixie Nightingales-Music in the Air, In My Saviors Care, Living For Jesus

Spirit of Memphis-Two Little Fishes and Five Loaves of Bread, Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit, Sending Up Material, Walk of Life, The Lord Will Make a Way, Milky White Way, Savior Don't Pass Me By, I Don't Know Why.

Queen C. Anderson & Brewster Singers-Bank in the Sky, Walk Thru the Water
Southern Wonders-Anyhow, Lord Stand By Me

Sons of Jehovah-John the Revelator, On Calvary
Songbirds of the South-He is Able
Brewsteraires-So Glad

10. **CD-R "Unissued Material (Tennessee Gospel Artists)"** Disc features recordings by Rev. W.M. Anderson and the Jordan River Singers, RCA Victor test pressing of Pattersonaires, Famous Jubilee Singers, Sun test pressing of Southern Jubilees, Sun test pressing of Prisonaires, and air check recording of the Fairfield Four. Recordings circa late 1940s. Recordings are of good quality and volume. Detailed song list in case.

Song list:

Rev. W.M. Anderson and the Jordan River Singers-Jesus on the Mainline, When We Get Over
Pattersonaires-I Found the Answer, The Old Landmark
Famous Jubilee Singers (Dir. Mrs. James A. Myers)-Walkin' on the Green Grass
Southern Jubilees-There's A Man In Jerusalem
Prisonaires-Frank Clement, My God Is Real
Fairfield Four-Lord I've Tried, What Could I Do

VHS Video tapes

1. **"Clips for Doug"** T-120 VHS Cassette. Contains various video clips of The Fireside Singers (featuring Willie Frank Lewis circa 1970s), Jordanaires, Phil Harris and Jubilee 4, outdoor meeting/baptizing etc.

Box Song/scene list:

Phil Harris and Jubilee Four, children tap dancing, Daddy Grace Baptizing, children singing, unidentified male quartet skit, outdoor meeting and baptizing
Fireside Singers-Before This Time Another Year, Out Of The Depths (lead W.F. Lewis, I Shall Not Be Moved (Ben Vaughn-lead)
Deep River Boys with Kate Smith
Jordanaires-Something Within Me, Shadrack, My Journey to the Sky, Clancy Lowered the Boom, Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho, Dig A Little Deeper

2. **"Canaan Band Pre Anniversary 1992"** HQ-120 VHS video cassette. Voices of Love w/Margaret Spence. "The Lord Loves Me" around 1:40
3. **"Interview with John Phillips by Tony Ward c. 2003"** HQ-120 VHS video cassette. Interview with John Phillips.
4. **"Gospel Arts Day location shoot. July, 23rd, 1988 Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around (WSM-TV)"** T-120 VHS video cassette.

List of clips:

Fisk University Jubilee Hall exterior/interior, Interior of Appleton Room, Helen Hebb interview, Fairfield Four rehearsal, CBS Singers rehearsal, Exterior of St Mark M.B. Church, Mrs. Essie Battle at her home in Nashville, Beth Howse at Ella Sheppard's gravestone, City Cemetery-Nashville, TN.

5. **“Components for Gospel Arts Day 1988 Video Documentary /Voices of Nashville-Fairfield Four 4/5/88”** ES/T-120 VHS video cassette. Video of “Nashville Gospel” show aired on WSM TV. Featuring Voices of Nashville circa mid 1980s (with Willie Love and John Phillips) and circa early 1990s (with Willie Love), comedian J.T.Stewart, and Fairfield Four and interviews with singers Willie Love and Rev. Samuel McCrary.
WSM Nashville Gospel TV show:
Voices of Nashville-Lord I Want You to Help Me
Tommy Lewis interview with Willie Love
Voices of Nashville-The Lord Loves Me (lead, Willie Love)
J.T. Stewart (comedian)
Tommie Lewis interviews-Deborah Talley, Willie Love
Voices of Nashville-Stay With Me Jesus
Fairfield Four-Have I Given Anything Today, Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around, Be What You Are, Dig A Little Deeper, Hallelujah, Couldn’t HEAR Nobody Pray, Roll Jordan Roll, I’ve Got Jesus That’s Enough,
Teresa Hannah-Interviews Rev. Samuel McCrary
6. **“Components for Gospel Arts Day 1988 Video Documentary filmed at WSM-TV studio, Nashville”** T-120 VHS video cassette. Video tape of interviews conducted by Doug Seroff and Tommie Lewis. Interviews with: Members of the Fireside Singers (seated L to R: Albert Phillips, Thomas Gilbert, Edward Hall), Rev. James McCord of the Fireside Singers and Harold Carruthers (original member of the Fairfield Four). Also features performance by the Fireside Singers.
List of Clips:
Interviews-With members of Fireside Singers, Harold Carruthers (of Fairfield Four)
Fireside Singers performance-Run On, He’s So Good To Me, Dr. Jesus, Live By Your Word
7. **“1988 Gospel Arts Day video (w/o credits) ‘Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around’”** T-120 VHS video cassette. No accompanying notes.
8. **“Fairfield Four ‘Saturday Night Sing’ 1993 Chicago WCF TV-note gaps for commercials”** Official VHS cassette from TV 38 in Chicago, IL from the show “Saturday Night Sing” (program #421) featuring the Fairfield Four.

Series II: Alabama Printed Matter and Original Research Materials

Box 1 Files by Group - Angelic Harmonizing Chorus of Selma - Four Eagle Gospel Singers

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 a 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 Sunlights 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.

photocopy of article from the (Lowell, Mass.) Sun, July 30, 1989, relevant to the 51st National Folk Festival, headed: "Sunnights 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 our 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," The 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 The 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, Dec 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.
 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 I 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 Frohnmyer 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 "Architreasures" 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.

A 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.

A 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, 19080 (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 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 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 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 Hattie 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).
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

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 Subseries 1]

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

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 Lacy

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

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

Folder 24 Aulston Molton

interviewed October 8, 1979, Brighton, AL.

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

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, Jan 7, 2012, in Birmingham.

Series II, Subseries 1: Alabama Audio/Visual Materials

*For a full song list of these recordings, please ask the Archivist for the list. The letter identifies tape.

Box 1 Oral History Interview Cassette Tapes

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

There are complete, typed transcripts of all the interviews.

** Original cassette tapes are in-hand.

* CD copies of original cassettes (originals are archived elsewhere).

**James Allen (Dunham Jubilee Singers) interviewed early-1979, in Gadsden.
Notes from a follow-up phone conversation of April 9, 1979 (1 page).

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

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

Carey Bradley interviewed over the telephone, April 29, 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 I 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]

King Chandler (Five Silver Kings, Shelby County Big Four), telephone interview
conducted by Lynn Abbott, June 7, 1983.

William Collier and Daniel Webster Andrews, Jr. interviews are found in the Fisk Jubilee Singers' files of the "Tennessee 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.

Clarence Driskel (Ripple Rhythm Four, Heavenly Gospel Singers) notes from three
phone conversation of July, August, and September 1980.

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

**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 "Tennessee 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.]

Marcellus "Tiller" Giles (Union Stars of Mobile) interviewed by Lynn Abbott, April 2, 1983, in Mobile. Also a phone interview conducted by Lynn Abbott, August 21, 1982, with Photocopy of early photo of the group.

**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.

Henry Holston (Sterling Jubilee Singers), notes from telephone conversation, September 15, 1979.

**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.

Lee Bell Johnson, additional notes from phone conversations of December 2 and 10, 2019, January 9, 2020, and other conversations.

*Sam Johnson (Sterling Jubilee Singers), June 30, 1983, Bessemer.

Marshall "Hoover" Jones, interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Ray Funk, Mobile, May 10, 1982.

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

**Tom Lacey, October 23, 1981.

**Tom Lacey, August 1, 1983.

Tom Lacey interviewed by Lynn Abbott, August 2, 1983.

Tom Lacey, November 28, 1983.

Tom Lacey and Henry Holston, January 9, 1984.

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

Tom Lacey, 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.

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

Joe Mcallister (Soul Stirrers of Mobile, Southern Wonders) interviewed by telephone by Lynn Abbott, February 26, 1983.

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

Willie Madison (Mobile Jubilee Singers) interviewed by Lynn Abbott, June 26, 1983 in Mobile.

**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.

Robert Moss (Four Great Wonders) interviewed by telephone, April 20, 1979. (1 page)

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

Ralph Powe (Golden Eagles) interviewed in Mobile, by Lynn Abbott and Ray Funk, May 10, 1982.

**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 Ravizee. Undated interview (late-1970s, "Tape 2"), in Birmingham, and notes from conversation with Sollie Pugh.
**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 (1 page)
Rev. Isaac Ravizee, notes from conversations of February 6, 1979, July 23, 1980.

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."

**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.

Lorenzo Stevens (Mobile Soul Stirrers) interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, July 1, 1983, in Mobile.

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

Barry Taylor and James Taylor (Birmingham Sunlights) Notes from conversations, Birmingham, early-1981.

**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)

Sterling Jubilees, Four Eagles, Birmingham Sunlights. "Miscellaneous notes regarding Third Eye ("On the Battlefield") reconnaissance trip, December 1983." (1 page)

Arnett Tillis and Hoover Jones (Alabama Southernaires, Weary Travellers of Mobile) interviewed by Lynn Abbott, April 2, 1983, in Mobile.

Arthur Lee Turner (Dunham Jubilee Singers). Notes from phone conversations of March 24, April 16, 1979.

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

Joe Watson (Four Eagle Gospel Singers). Notes from a phone conversation of August 7, 1980 (1 page).

Joe Watson. Interviewed April 22, 1984.

*Joe Watson. Interviewed early-1984.

Annie Wilks (Gospel Harmonettes of Demopolis) interviewed December 8, 1990.

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

James "Nar" Williams interviewed by telephone, November 17, 1978.

James "Nar" Williams, notes from a conversation with him in Ensley, July 23, 1980.

**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.

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)
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)

Series III: Various Groups Printed Materials

Box 1 Groups Printed Matter Abyssinian Baptist Choir of Harlem - Five International Gospel Singers

Folder 1 Abyssinian Baptist Choir of Harlem (director: Alex Bradford)

4 x 5 copy negative (no print), taken in the sanctuary, with congregants, probably late-1950s.

Folder 2 Alabama-Georgia Gospel Singers of Chicago.

6 x 10 cardboard placard, 1930s

6 x 10 paper copy of a different placard, probably early 1940s, singers identified.

Folder 3 Alabama Quartette of Richard & Pringle's Georgia Minstrels.

5x7 photo, reproduced from 1900 Indianapolis Freeman.

Folder 4 American Jubilee Singers (Daniel Brown-director)

Three different picture postcards, 1908-1910. One with a message and postmark.

Copy of four-page promo booklet for Daniel Brown's Nonpareil Jubilee Singers, with photos, program, and testimonials.

Folder 5 Argo Gospel Singers of Chicago (female group)

8 x 10 b/w press photo, 1950s.

Folder 6 Ballard Chefs Jug Band of Louisville, Kentucky,

8 x 10 promo, 1930s, with instruments, in chef outfits.

Three letters from Louisville researcher Fred Cox, all from 1981, with details about the Ballard Chefs and their leader, John Smiley, who was also a gospel singer.

Folder 7 Bell Sisters Quartet of Louisville.

8 x 10 press photocopied from early-1940s vintage placard.

Folder 8 Bells Of Joy of Houston, Texas

8 x 10, sepia-toned print, early-1950s, with guitar

4 x 5 copy negative of this photo.

8 x 10 of the Bells of Joy being presented a trophy for "Let's Talk About Jesus." Don Robey is prominent.

8 x 10 print, with heads arranged in bells.

Early print, ca. 1953. W.L. "Preacher" Richardson, later of the Fairfield Four, was a group member. Singers are identified on photo reverse. "Press Manual Bells of Joy" (Spiritual Artists Agency), stamp dated April 24, 1953. Six pages, original paper
Flier with photos, for Bells of Joy program in Massachusetts, March 23, 1985.
Four-page program for "'Juneteenth' Celebration at Kennedy Center, June 19, 1991, with small photo and text about the Bells of Joy.
Four-page Texas Folklife Resources bulletin, April 1987, with photo and full page of text: "Gospel Music Profile: The Bells of Joy."
Copy of sheet music for "Let's Talk About Jesus" (Lion Publishing, n.d.). Standard cover (w/photo), lyrics and notes are transcribed by hand - not printed: "Vocal transcription and Piano Arrangements by King Curtis"
photocopies of three photos and a 1977 news article about the Bells of Jo's "comeback."

Folder 9 Biddleville Quintet

4 x 5 copy from a 1920s catalog.

Folder 10 Big Three Trio (Willie Dixon, Baby Doo Caston, Leonard Gilmore)

4 x 5 copy negative of a studio photo, with instruments, ca. 1950.

Folder 11 Bright Lights Sextette of Richmond, Virginia (James Rootsleader)

Sepia postcard, ca. 1949. Accompanying photocopy identifies the members of this Apollo recording group.

Photocopy of program cover with photograph, Naval Air Station Negro Chorus, "James H. Roots, Director." World War II era,

Photocopy of photo of James Roots in a tux, seated at piano.

News article with photo of Roots, "Jazz is revived at Hippodrome," Richmond Times Dispatch, September 4, 1983.

Newspaper obituary for Jimmy Roots, Richmond News Leader, October 31, 1986.

Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

Folder 12 Bright Moon Quartet of Durham, North Carolina.

8 x 10 copy of a powerful original print, 1936.

Folder 13 Dusty Brooks and The Four Tones.

4 x 5 copy negative of late-1940s or early-1950s promo photo.

Folder 14 Buckeye Harmonizers of Columbus, Ohio.

5 x 9 placard 1940s, two copies A blind quartet holding white canes.

Folder 15 Byrdette Gospel Singers of Detroit.

9 x 11 original placard, ca. late-1930s. gospel legend Thelma Byrd.

Folder 16 Caravans

4 x 5 copy negative (no print), 1950s.

photocopies of eight different promo photos female gospel group.

Folder 17 Sister Wynona Carr

4 x 5 copy negative of early-1950s promo.

Folder 18 Cavaliers of Oakland, CA.

4 x 5 copy negative, ca. 1950s. Members identified on attached copy

Folder 19 Chosen Five of New Orleans, also known as the Soproco Singers.

(with Lynn Abbott's permission)

8 x 10 sepia-tone early print, 1940s. One-inch tear,

8 x 10 print of the group. Members are identified at bottom.

8 x 10 print in tuxedos.

8 x 10 print from a 1940s placard. Members are identified.

8 x 10 print, excellent quality, with guitar.

8 x 10 print, with Paul Excano.

Six photocopies of photos, some are identified

Folder 20 Chosen Gospel Singers of California

Two different 4 x 5 copy negatives.

Folder 21 Christian Four Go Spel Singers of Laurel, Mississippi.

9 x 11 cardboard placard, probably 1930s, identified at bottom.

Folder 22 Christland Singers of Chicago, with R. H. Harris

Two different 4 x 5 copy negatives.

8 x 10 promo, members identified on reverse.

Three photocopies of photos, two with members identified.

Folder 23 Coleman Brothers of Newark, New Jersey.

3 x 4 cardboard cut-out from poster, ca. 1940s.

9 x 4 vintage paper promo with photo, 1940s, with writing on reverse.

Eleven different 4 x 5 copy negatives (no prints) 1930s through 1970s from Lander Coleman collection.

Three different 8 x 10 promo portraits of Lander Coleman. 1970s-1990s.

Composite 8 x 10 promo with four early photos of Lander Coleman and the Coleman Brothers.

8 x 10 paper flyer with photo, Christmas Party & Dinner, with photo of the Coleman Brothers, December 15, 1974.

Paper flyer for a concert honoring Lander Coleman, Feb. 11, 1995. With handwritten note by L. Coleman.

Three-page printed promotional document for "Lander Coleman/Coleman Brothers Career Highlights," 1994.

Four-page monograph with photos, Peter Grendysa, "Lander Coleman and the Coleman Brothers," 1979.

Two Christmas cards from Lander Coleman, 1990s.

Fifteen photocopies of photos, including the lobby of the Coleman Hotel, Coleman Bros. in Newark Airport, singers onstage in drag, etc., several with members identified. Two-sided printed Coleman Records (Newark) numerical listing with one hundred issues. 1947-49, original paper

Folder 24 Consolators of New Orleans. From Lynn Abbott.

8 x 10 copy of a 1940s placard.

Three photocopies of photos and placards.

Folder 25 Convertible Singers of Chicago. A female group.

8 x 10 copy, ca. 1950, in robes

Folder 26 Ethel Davenport

Program and flier for a tribute featuring the reunited Jubalaires, in Jacksonville, Fla., March 19 & 20, 1983.

Folder 27 Deep River Boys

8 x 10 Kriegsmann portrait, ca. 1944, with members identified on reverse.

5 x 7 promotional card, 1950s.

8 x 10 print, at CBS microphone.

Copies of 15 news articles about the Deep River

Boys' Hampton Institute years and early career 1936 -1946, some with photos.

Copy of typed letter from Hampton Institute President Arthur Howe, re. the Junior Quartet/Deep River Boys; July 28, 1936.

Copy of 5-page program, for a 1946 southern tour.

Copy of liner notes for Deep River Boys' H.M.V. EP 8133.

Copy of "RCA Record Bulletin," 1947, announcing the Deep River Boys' new release: "Bloop Bleep," with photo.

Copy of Peter Grendysa's 7-page article about the Deep River Boys, in Goldmine, July 1979.

Thirty additional photocopies, most with photographs, some with text.

Folder 28 Deep River Plantation Singers

5 x 7 copy from a composite photo. Ca. 1932.

Copy of five-page promotional brochure, ca. 1931, with three good photos, and testimonials.

Copy of four-page promotional booklet with different photos, and good biographical sketches of the members.

Copies of nineteen news articles about the Deep River Plantation Singers, 1932-1946.

Folder 29 Delta Rhythm Boys

8 x 10 sepia photo, 1943. text on reverse.

Copy of a July 26, 1938, letter from the Delta Rhythm Boys to Frederick Hall, about public response to his arrangement of the song "Dry Bones." Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

Folder 30 Dinwiddie Quartet (recorded for Victor 1901)

Three-page 1981 essay "On the Trail of the Dinwiddie Colored Quartet," which recounts Seroff's January 1979 field trip to Dinwiddie, Virginia.
Postcard from researcher Jim Walsh, 1979, regarding the Dinwiddie Quartet.
Letter with documentation from Myrtella J. Hicks in Dinwiddie, Virginia, notes on Seroff's talk at a local church.
Copy of article from Louisiana Weekly, March 2, 1929, with information about the Dinwiddie Quartet and a photo of 2nd tenor Sterling Rex.
Article copied from The Master Musician, October 1919
Copy of thirteen pages of notes and clippings about the Dinwiddie Quartet, which Lynn Abbott shared with researcher Tim Brooks in 1994.
8 x 10 label photo of Victor 1714 – Dinwiddie Colored Quartet - "Down on the Old Camp Ground"

Folder 31 Dixie Hummingbirds

4 x 7 postcard/photo of Dixie Hummingbirds in concert in New Orleans, 1980s, taken by Lynn Abbott. With Zion Harmonizers (Contact Lynn for permission to publish).
8 x 10 color promo photo, ca. 1990, identified on reverse.
8 x 10 promo copy of Kriegsmann photo, ca. 1952. Identified on reverse.
Three different 8 x 10 promo prints, Peacock promos, 1950s-1960s. 4 x 5 copy negative of one of the photos.
8 x 10 promo copy of photo, ca. 1940.
8 x 10 promo by Bill Greensmith, 1994.
Paper flyer for concert by Dixie Hummingbirds, October 15, 1989.
Obituary for Ira Tucker, Boston Globe, June 27, 2008.
78rpm record sleeve, decorated by George Moonoogian, with an early newspaper photo of the group and written notes.
20 pages copied from an undated Anniversary booklet, ca. 1960
Four copies of different photos, one with identification.

Folder 32 Duncan Brothers Jubilee Quartette of New Orleans (from Lynn Abbott)

8 x 10 photo print copy of 1930s poster, with members identified.

Folder 32 Echoes Of Zion of Atlanta

Polaroid 4 x 5 print of 1930s or early-1940s posed.

Folder 33 Evangelist Singers of Detroit

9 x 11 cardboard placard 1940s with Jimmy Bryant. Members identified.
4-page photocopy of "Tell Me Why You Liked President Roosevelt" full lyric sheet, with photo of composer Otis Jackson, and group photos of the Evangelists.

Folder 34 Excelsior Quartette of Norfolk, Virginia

4 x 4 photo copied from 1920s newspaper source.
5 x 7 copy of a weak 1920s photo, identified on reverse, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
Courtesy Vaughan Webb.
5 x 7 photo of Hiram Simmons Glee Club, ca. 1945, with Samuel Pierce of the Excelsior

Quartette.

Copies of about forty news articles mentioning the Excelsior Quartet in the black press, 1917-1958.

Folder 35 Faithful Four Quartet of Evansville, Indiana.

7 x 9 cardboard placard, early-1940s.

Paper cover (only) of "The Song Book of the Faithful Four Quartet," with photo, early-1940s—lyrics to "Jezebel" printed on the reverse.

Folder 36 Five Blind Boys Of Mississippi (Jackson Harmoneers)

8 x 10 promo Vee-Jay Records promo, ca. 1956 with 4 x 5 copy negative. Members are identified on reverse.

8 x 10 on stage, with Archie Brownlee on one knee. Members identified on reverse.

8 x 10 promo late-1950s.

Three different 8 x 10 prints from Peacock negatives, ca. 1947. Identifications on reverse.

8 x 10 promo, late-1960s.

Photocopy of another early photo, with members identified.

Five-page Herald Attractions press document for "Jackson Harmoneers (The Blind Boys of Mississippi)," ca. 1950.

Copy of five pages of legal documents regarding Don Robey's lawsuit against Checker Record Co. for breaking the Five Blind Boys contract, February 20, 1969.

Copy of obituary for Archie Brownlee, Louisiana Weekly, February 20, 1960.

Folder 37 Five International Gospel Singers of South Carolina

8 x 10 early print Group includes Gerhard Thrasher, later of the Drifters.

Folder 38 Five Jinks

5 x 7 promo copy from 1930s Bluebird catalog.

Folder 39 Five Singing Stars

8 x 10 promo, slightly damaged at corners, 1950s.

Folder 40 Five Trumpets of Atlanta

8 x 10 at WGST mike, 1950s, with 4 x 5 copy negative. Members are identified.

8 x 10 1950s, with guitar members identified. 4 x 5 copy negative

Box 2 Groups Printed Matter Florida Spiritualaires – Jubalaires

Folder 1 Florida Spiritualaires of St. Petersburg

8 x 10 promo ca. late-1950s or '60s, with 2 x 4 copy negative.

Folder 2 Flying Clouds Of Detroit

5 x 7 photoprint copy, 1940s.

4 x 5 copy negative (no print), 1940s. identified on accompanying photocopy

Seven photocopies of other photos.

Folder 3 Flying Clouds Of Pensacola

9 x 7 cardboard placard, ca. late-1940s.

Photocopy of a different photo (different group?), with members identified.

Folder 4 Four A Melody Men of St. Louis

8 x 10 promo 1940s, with 2 x 4 copy negative.

Photocopy of 4-page "Souvenir Program - 4-A Melody Men 12th Anniversary, Nov. 17, 1946

Folder 5 Four Blackbirds

8 x 10 photoprint copy (half tone print), ca. 1934.

Folder 6 Four Gospel Trumpets of Indianapolis

4 x 7 photo cut from a placard early-1940s.

Folder 7 Four Great Wonders of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

8 x 10 photoprint copy of 1930s photo, with members identified on reverse.

8 x 10 photoprint copy of 1930s placard, with members identified.

Folder 8 Four Harmony Kings

Letter from Joe Moore, British researcher, February 7, 2008, contains information about this group.

Copy of journal article, Arthur Badrock, "Ivan Harold Browning & Henry Starr," Talking Machine Review, ca. 1999.

Copies of nine newspaper articles about the Four Harmony Kings, which appeared in the English Times, 1926 - 1932 (courtesy of Joe Moore).

Five color labeled photos from British Dominion and Edison Bell Winner records.

Copies of two pages from Jazz Away From Home, with photos of the Four Harmony Kings.

Folder 9 Four Internes of Raleigh, North Carolina

8 x 10 promo, 1950s.

Photocopy of news article, "Winston-Salem Negro News," Twin City Sentinel February 24, 1945. Article identifies Eugene Mumford as a member of the Four Internes.

Folder 10 Four Jumps Of Jive

4 x 5 copy negative (no print), ca. 1940 Willie Dixon group, with instruments.

Folder 11 Four Knights

8 x 10 sepia-tone print at CBS mike, ca. 1950 with 4 x 5 copy negative.

Folder 12 Four Pennies of Norfolk, Virginia

Six different, interesting 5 x 7 copies from late- 1920s or early-1930s. One photo has members identified on reverse, courtesy of Vaughan Webb.

Folder 13 Four Southern Singers of Louisville

4 x 5 Polaroid photo, in plantation costumes.

Letter from Louisville researcher Fred Cox, with information about this combination mixed vocal group and jug band who recorded for Bluebird in 1933.

Copy of article from Chicago Defender and transcribed article from Louisville Leader

Folder 14 Four Vagabonds

Photocopies of five photos, one with members identified.

Program for U.G.H.A. 7th Annual Award Ceremony, April 12, 1997, honoring the Four Vagabonds. Photos and text.

Correspondence of January 2001 with Dr. Raymond C. Grant, son of Four Vagabonds' bass singer Ray Grant, with documentation he obtained about the group.

Copies of genealogical documentation on the Taborn family (Norval Taborn)

Correspondences, discographic data, etc., related to Document Records' CD reissue of the Four Vagabonds' recorded corpus.

Copy of six pages from "Don McNeill's Breakfast Club

Family Album," 1942, with photos of the Vagabonds, who were cast members.

Copies of two good journal articles on the Four Vagabonds, one by Charlie Horner, the other by Rick Whitesell, Pete Grendysa, and George Moonoogian.

Folder 15 Glory Bound Singers of Clarksdale, Mississippi

8 x 10 photoprint copy of ca. 1940 photo, with Percell Perkins, with 4 x 5 copy negative

Photocopy of 1 930s placard, with members identified.

Folder 16 Gloryland Singers of New Orleans

5 x 7 copy of placard, ca. 1947, members identified on reverse (courtesy of Lynn Abbott)

5 x 7 photo by Lynn Abbott of members seated at Fats Shoe Shine Parlor, early 1980s. Lynn's permission is required to publish.

Photocopies of three additional photos, all with members identified.

Folder 17 Golden Chain Jubilees of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

8 x 10 photoprint copy, possibly early-1940s.

Seven photocopies of other photos of this group, many with members identified.

Folder 18 Golden Echoes Quartet (of Louisville, female group)

9 x 7 cardboard placard, 1940s, with members identified.

11 x 7 cardboard placard, early-1940s,

9 x 7 cardboard image from a large placard.

8 x 10 photoprint copy of placard, members identified, with 2 x 4 copy negative.

Photocopy of later iteration of same group, now of Evansville, Indiana, members identified.

Folder 19 Golden Echoes (Little Axe group)

8 x 10 promo 1940s, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

5 x 7 copy, ca. 1950s.

2 x 4 copy negative (no print) studio portrait of Little Axe Broadnax, early 1950s.

Photocopy of five pages from Anniversary program ("The Life History of the Golden Echoes of Los Angeles, California"), ca. early-1950s, photos and good capsule biographies of the members.

Photocopies of five other photos.

Folder 20 Golden Gospel Singers of Atlanta

Copy of eight-page program booklet for "A Cappella Gospel Jubilee" presentation at Free For All Baptist Church, Atlanta, December 10, 1989. With photos.

Folder 21 Golden Harp Gospel Singers of Chicago (female group)

8 x 10 excellent copy of 1930s placard, members identified, 4 x 5 copy negative.

8 x 10 sepia tone print (1930s)

8 x 10 Jeanette Harris (of the Golden Harps) from Peacock negative.

8 x 10 promo, in vests, 1950s.

8 x 10 photo, "original group," 1930s, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

8 x 10 photo, late-1940s or early 1950s.

Copy of liner notes for the Golden Harps' Checker LP 10012.

Three photocopies of other photos of the Golden Harps.

Folder 22 Golden Harp Singers of Oakland, CA. (male group)

8 x 10 photoprint from a placard, 4 x 5 copy negative.

4 x 5 copy negative, early-1950s, with photocopy identifying the members.

Folder 23 Golden Star Gospel Singers of San Francisco (female group)

4 x 5 copy negative of 1940s placard, photocopy with members identified.

Folder 24 Golden Tones of Chicago

8 x 10 photocopy (laminated), late-1940s, with members identified on reverse

5 x 7 photocopy early-1940s (Optimistic Melodaires, with Norman McQueen).

8 x 10 photocopy ca. 1940 (Sunshine Melodaires, Norman McQueen).

3 x 5 label photo of the Golden Tones' Chance 78.

Folder 25 Rev. I. H. Gordon

8 x 10 promo portrait.

Folder 26 Gospelaires of Dayton, Ohio

8 x 10 print, 1950s, members are identified on reverse; 4 x 2 copy negative.

Folder 27 Gospel Four of Topeka, Kansas

2 x 5 snapshots (2 different) of the group at Niagara Falls, possibly 1950s. Courtesy of Tenyu Hamaki.

Photocopy of 6 -page "48 Year Anniversary Booklet" (1978), with several photos and lengthy text.

Folder 28 Gospel Harmonaires of Norfolk, Virginia

Three different 5 x 7 photos, 1930s - 1950s, all with members identified. Courtesy of Vaughan Webb.

Folder 29 Gospel Keynotes of Tyler, Texas

5 x 7 copy of informal snapshot, ca. early-1960s.

Folder 30 Gospel Nobleaires of Philadelphia

8 x 10 promo print, 1980s.

Folder 31 Gospel Notes of New Orleans (with Mary Thames)

11 x 14 cardboard placard, ca. 1950. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

Folder 32 Bessie Griffin and the Gospel Pearls

8 x 10 promo print, ca. 1960s.

Folder 33 Gospel Tones

Two different 8 x 10 sepia tone promo prints, probably early-1950s.

Folder 34 Gospel Voices Spiritual Singers of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

6 x 7 cardboard placard, 1940s with members identified.

Two photocopies of other photos of this group.

Folder 35 Hann's Emperors Of Harmony

Two different 6 x 8 copies of Australian newspaper advertisements with caricatures, late-1920s.

Copy of a letter to Ray Funk from the curator of the Edison National Historic Site, regarding the recordings made by Hann's Emperors of Song in 1926.

Folder 36 Harlem Harmony Kings of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

5 x 7 promo print dated 1932.

Folder 37 Harmonizing Four of Richmond, Virginia

8 x 10 portrait of Harmonizing Four bass singer Jimmy Jones, 1960s.

Copy of promotional "Biography" of Jimmy Jones.

Copies of twelve news articles 1952-2003, all from Richmond newspapers, with several photos. These include obituaries for Joe Williams, Lonnie Smith, Ellis Johnson, Tommy Johnson. Courtesy Lynn Abbott.

Photocopy of six-pages from the 1975 "48th Anniversary of the Harmonizing Four." With many photos.

Photocopies of five photos, including one with members identified.

Folder 38 Harmonizing Queens of Louisville

8 x 10 promo photo, ca. 1940s.

Folder 39 Harmony Doves of Chicago (female group)

8 x 10 cardboard placard, probably early-1940s, members identified.

Folder 40 Harmony Kings of St. Louis(?)

8 x 10 promo copy, at KXLW mike, ca. early-1950s.

Folder 41 Heavenly Five

5 x 7 promo photo, ca. 1960s. Somewhat damaged.

Folder 42 Heavenly Gospel Singers of Spartanburg, South Carolina

4 x 5 copy negative mid-1930s, with Jimmy Bryant.

Polaroid of group from Bluebird Records catalog, mid-1930s.

5 x 7 paper print, with Jimmy Bryant and William Bobo, ca. 1939, with members identified.

4 x 5 negative (no print), 1940s, with Bobo and Bob Beatty.

8 x 10 promo of the Ebonaires, with Jimmy Bryant and Providence Thomas identified, ca. 1950.

8 x 10 Kriegsmann print of the Revelaires, same personnel as Ebonaire: different pose.

Handwritten letter, October 28, 1985, from Heavenly Gospel Singers' original baritone and manager, Hendson Massey.

Folder 43 Highway Qc's of Chicago

8 x 10 Vee Jay promo, 1950s.

Two photocopies of two other photos.

Folder 44 Joe Hinton

8 X 10 promo print, ca. 1950,

4 x 5 copy negative of a different promo photo, no print.

Before his pop music career, Hinton sang with the Spirit of Memphis.

Folder 45 Humming Four of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

8 x 10 promo print, early-1930s, identified on reverse.

8 x 10 promo copy of placard, ca. 1940, with Edward Thomas.

8 x 10 prpmo photo, ca. 1950.

Copies of two additional photos, both identified.

Copy of placard, Robinson Humming Four, with members identified.

Folder 46 Imperial Quintet of Savannah, Georgia.

4 x 5 copy negative of 1920s portrait, identified.

Typed draft text by Ray Funk

Folder 47 Ink Spots

8 x 10 early 1930s photo print, on stage.

8 x 10 copy of early pose with stringed instruments, members identified.

8 x 10 promo, 1940s, members identified.

Three 4 x 5 negatives of 1950s and 1960s photos.

About forty-five pages of news clippings, adverts, etc., from an Ink Spots scrapbook.
Copy of fifteen-page article on the Ink Spots by Peter Grendysa, George Moonoogian, Rick Whitesell and Marv Goldberg, Yesterday's Memories, Issue 9 (late 1970s), with early photos.

Folder 48 Mahalia Jackson

Two 4 x 5 copy negatives from Columbia.
3-page Columbia promo sheet.
Photocopy of 20-page "Salute to Mahalia Jackson," marking her manager, Joe Bostic's 20th broadcasting anniversary, 1959. Many photos and text.
Copy of 1954 news article, Sidney Fields, "Only Human" with photo of Mahalia.

Folder 49 Jackson Gospel Singers of New Orleans (female group). Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

8 x 10 cardboard placard, 1930s, members identified.
8 x 10 promo copy, ca. 1950.
8 x 10 promo copy, 1940s, members identified on reverse.
5 x 7 promo portrait of 1984 reunion of former members in-performance, identified on reverse. Lynn Abbott's permission is required to publish
5 x 7 of four former members, 1981, identified on the reverse. Photo by Lynn Abbott. Lynn Abbott's permission is required to publish.
Two-page typed essay with photos, written by Lynn Abbott, after the 1984 murder of Mary Thames Coleman, Jackson Gospel Singers' bass voice.
Copy of an obituary for Mary Coleman written by Lynn Abbott, Wave Length April 1984.
Three additional articles and obituaries for Mary Thames Coleman from New Orleans newspapers, including Louisiana Weekly.
Copy of Mary Thames Coleman's obsequies, with photo.
Six additional photo photocopies of Jackson Gospel Singers.

Folder 50 Jubalaires

5 x 7 promo at CBS mic, from news article, mid-1940s, members identified on reverse.
Program for U.G.H.A. Award Ceremony, April 4, 1998. 20 pages, with photos and text. Jubalaires were among the honorees.
UGHA press release, "Jubalaires 1998 Honorary Inductees," with two photos.
Copy of twenty-eight-page printed essay with photos and discography on the Jubalaires, by Charlie :former and Karen Caplan, 1998.
Printed essay on the Cuff Links by Marv Goldberg. John Jennings and George McFadden of the Jubalaires later sang with this Pop vocal group.
Copy of two-page obituary with photo, of Pico Payne of the Jubalaires, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, August 3, 2002.
Photocopy of a 160-page book by Caleb N. Ginyard, III, My Names is Caleb N. Ginyard, self-published. Ginyard the father, was the original leader of the Jubalaires, and later sang with the Golden Gate Quartet and other important quartets.
Six photocopies of early photos of the Jubalaires, two with identification.

Box 3 Groups Printed Matter Kansas City Gospel Singers – Pilgrim Travelers

Folder 1 Kansas City Gospel Singers

5 x 7 copied from 1945 Houston Informer.

Folder 2 Kelly Brothers

8 x 10 promo 1950s.

Folder 3 Forbes Randolph's Kentucky Singers

Two 5 x 7 photos in plantation costumes from Australian newspapers, 1920s.

Sheet music, "Beloved" (Irving Berlin, Inc., 1928) Photo of Kentucky Jubilee Singers on cover.

Seven pages of photocopies of photos, programs, European advertisements, etc.

Folder 4 Reverend Samuel Kelsey

4 x 5 copy negative, MGM promo, early-1950s.

Folder 5 Marie Knight

8 x 10 promo, late-1940s, posed.

Folder 6 Singing Sammy Lewis

4 x 5 copy negative, Vee Jay promo portrait.

Folder 7 Live Wire Singers of Cleveland

Souvenir booklet (original paper) , "Celebrating 15th Anniversary" (1945), 10 pages,. Photos and biographical text.

Photocopy of a poster for the Live Wire Singers.

Folder 8 Loving Sisters Quartette of Chicago

8 x 10 cardboard placard, 1930s. Quite worn. Identified at bottom.

Folder 9 Masonic Kings

5 x 7 promo print.

Folder 10 Brother Joe May

5 x 7 printed paper Specialty Records promo, with photo and text on reverse. Circa 1951.

8 x 10 printed Specialty promo. Identical with above.

4 x 5 copy negative of the portrait on the promos.

Copy of three-pages from Martin and Morris's Joe May songbook, with photos and text.

Folder 11 Eugene McAdoo's Fisk Jubilee Trio (brother of Orpheus McAdoo)

Two different picture postcards, ca. 1911

Thirty-two-page souvenir booklet, 1911, with photos, specimen programs, press excerpts, 1910-1911 itinerary.

Folder 12 Orpheus M. McAdoo And His Virginia Jubilee Singers

8 x 10 photo of Orpheus McAdoo, in top hat, dated 1899.

7 x 9 portrait of Orpheus McAdoo, bareheaded, with a second 5 x 7 print of the same shot (from the Australian National Library, Melbourne)
8 x 10 composite photo of "McAdoo Minstrels in Their Cake- Walking Entertainment," 1899, with a 5 x 7 print of the same photo, from Sydney Library, Australia.
Two different 8 x 10 group shots of "Mr. O. M. McAdoo and his Georgia Minstrel Company" taken in Australia.
Four different views of Orpheus McAdoo's headstone in a Sydney cemetery. Courtesy of Gary LeGallant.
8 x 10 Mattie Allen McAdoo, wife of Orpheus and troupe member, and her son.
4 x 5 portrait of Violet McAdoo, a member of the Australia Fisk Jubilee Singers and apparently O.M. McAdoo's daughter.
Photocopy of photo of Mattie Allen McAdoo.

Folder 13 McKinney Gospel Singers of Chicago (mixed sextet)

9 x 11 cardboard placard, two small tears, at corner and side, ca. early-1940s.

Folder 14 Melody Kings

8 x 10 photo print copy promo. Mid-1960s recording group.

Folder 15 Mighty Clouds Of Joy

8 x 10 print of copy negative prmo

Folder 16 Mills Brothers

8 x 10 of the group posed with Connie Mack at ball park, early 1930s, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

8 x 10 print from news article, marvelous caricature of "Human Orchestra."

Copy of twenty-four page "Advertising Manual," for the Mills Brothers, undated, circa early-1930s.

Uncredited, ten-page essay, "Mills Brothers' Grandfather, William Eutchison Mills a Jubilee Singer? Fact or Fiction?"

Folder 17 Mitchell's Christian Singers of Kinston, North Carolina.

8 x 10 photo, ca. 1944. Original sepia tone print, with writing on the reverse, and full identification, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

Second generation 8 x 10 copy of the above.

8 x 10 copy of a different photo, ca. 1940.

5 x 7 photocopy, early 1940s.

Copy of two-page (over-size) news article, John Hammond, "From Spirituals to Swing," St . Louis Argus, February 28, 1936, with photo. Mitchell's Singers performed on "Spirituals to Swing" concert.

Folder 18 Norfleet Brothers of Chicago

8 x 10 portrait 1950s.

Copies of two Chicago Defender features on Norfleet Brothers, February 10, 1979, August 12, 1989.

Folder 19 Norfolk Jubilee/Jazz Quartet of Virginia

Original lead sheet for the Quartet's 1924 recording "Jelly Roll's First Cousin" (Paramount 12218), with music handwritten on staff paper, and full typed lyrics. Paper is somewhat brittle.

Two-page "Royalty Agreement," Chicago Music Co. Pub., June 12, 1924, signed by NJQ members Len- Williams and Otto Tuston, June 12, 1924, regarding "Jelly Roll's First Cousin. "

5 x 7 photoprint copy of 1920s photo

3 x 5 color label photo of Canadian Sun label 78 by NJQ.

Original Paramount record sleeve (late-1920s), with illustration of Norfolk Jazz Quartet and other Race artists, and discographies on the reverse.

Page reproduced from Talking Machine World, July 15, 1921, an Okeh Records ad with photo

Copy of news article with a good photo of "Four Alphabets," a spinoff of the NJQ, New York Amsterdam News, May 27, 1939.

Copy of news article, with photo of the NJQ, "Off to Do Big Time Recording," Philadelphia Tribune, July 29, 1937.

Newspaper obituary for NJQ founder Len Williams, Norfolk Journal and Guide, June 15, 1940.

Two items with photos, about the Master Keys with NJQ baritone Melvin Coldten.

Folder 20 Polk Miller And His Old South Quartet of Richmond, Virginia

In the summer of 1981, Alexander Neal of Richmond, grandson of Polk Miller, gave Seroff on loan two scrapbooks compiled by Polk Miller, mainly during his late-nineteenth-century career as Negro delineator. There are also key items from the decade when Miller and the Old South Quartet toured and recorded pioneering cylinders for Edison. Neal later donated the scrapbooks to the Valentine Historical Museum in Richmond.

8 x 10 print of Polk Miller and his banjo, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

Three 8 x 10 prints from an undated (ca. 1910) printed program, "Two Old Confederates in Old Times Down South Mr. Polk Miller, assisted by Col. 'Tom' Booker and Mr. Miller's Famous Quartet of Old Virginia Negroes."

Cover photo: Miller and Booker with compelling illustrations. "Program" page, with repertoire and commentary introducing Old South Quartet member Anderson Epes. Third page features an outstanding photo of the Quartet, headed "Genuine Negroes," with accompanying text.

4 x 5 copy negatives for two of the above photos.

8 x 10 print from a different photo of Polk Miller with banjo, ca. 1903.

8 x 10 print copied from a different photo of the Old South Quartet, ca. 1903.

8 x 10 photo copy of a January 4, 1912 Richmond Journal editorial: "Polk Miller and Negro Prejudice." With 4 x 5 copy negative.

Twelve 5 x 7 glossy prints, copied from scrapbook pages, with photos, adverts, reviews, text and song transcription in Miller's hand, tickets of admission, posters, etc. (with 35mm negative strips and proof sheets) .

4 x 5 print of box top for Edison Amberol (4-minute cylinder) 389, Polk Miller and his Old South Quartette "The Bonnie Blue Flag."

Label photo of Broadway 5031, Old South Quartette, "Pussy Cat Rag."
 Photocopy of page from a rare 1926 QRS Records catalog, with a photo of the Old South Quartet.
 Copy of two pages of a program for Polk Miller's "Old Times Down South," with two photos of Miller. Courtesy of Kevin Fontenot.
 Fair quality photocopy of a four-page program for Polk Miller, "Stories, Sketches and Songs," with photo of Miller and the Old South Quartet.
 Copy of a different photo of the Old South Quartet.
 Copy of forty-eight news articles about Polk Miller and the Old South Quartet, 1893-1928, including several 1913 obituaries for Miller
 Four pages of typed notes from my review of the Polk Miller scrapbooks.
 Three typed pages of itinerary for Polk Miller's personal appearances, May 1892 thru April 1899.
 One typed page of Miller's performance repertoire, 1894-1899.
 Seroff typed lyric transcript of "The Watermelon Party," recorded by Polk Miller and his Old South Juartette, Edison Amberol cylinder 392.
 About one hundred pages photocopied from the scrapbook, mostly 1890s newspaper reviews of Polk Miller's performances, but also advertising flyers, Miller's handwritten texts, etc.
 Copies of five journal articles about Polk Miller, or Old South Quartet member Scott Harris, including Jim Walsh's January 1960 Hobbies article, "Polk Miller and his 'Old South' Quartette."
 Letters, April 7, 2005 and December 2008, from Ken Flaherty (producer of an Old South Quartet CD, Seroff wrote the liner notes) , with dozens of newspaper and magazine reviews of the Polk Miller CD.
 Correspondence regarding Polk Miller and the Old South Quartette, some with enclosures, from Kip Lornell, Kevin Fontenot, Ken Flaherty, Norm Cohen, Elijah Wald, Lynn Abbott and others (1980s and 1990s).
 Several old journal articles relevant to Polk Miller.
 Copy of "Polk Miller's Dog Book, " 50-page magazine, 1929, with good color painting of Miller on the cover.

Folder 21 Orioles

4 x 5 copy negative of a fine Kriegsmann portrait, ca. 1950.

Folder 22 Outstanding Gospel Singers of California.

8 x 10 promo portrait, 1950s

Folder 23 Pace Jubilee Singers

Copy of the cover of their M. M. Cole songbooks, "Negro Spirituals, " with photo of the group, and also song index page.

Folder 24 Paramount Singers of Oakland

8 x 10 photo, early 195 0s, with members identified on back. 4 x 5 copy negative.
 Five other 4 x 5 copy negatives of Paramount Singers photos and posters, 1940s-1950s.

Photocopies of five additional photos, one identified.

Folder 25 Paul Quinn Gospel Singers of Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas
8 x 10 photoprint copy, mid or late-1930. Courtesy Allen Peters.

Folder 26 Pearly Gates Quartet of Norfolk
5 x 7 print of photo, ca. late-1940s, members identified.
Copy of a 1941 photo.

Folder 27 Peerless Four Quartet of Norfolk
5 x 7 copy of 1920s photo, in front of WSAP mike, with members identified on reverse.
4 x 5 copy negative.
Four 5 x 7 prints from photos dating between 1920s and 1950s, all with members identified. Courtesy Vaughan Webb.
8 x 10 of group before Mutual Broadcasting System microphone, ca. 1940s. With 4 x 5 copy negative.
8 x 10 a second pose at Mutual Broadcasting mike.
5 x 7 copy of damaged photo, possibly late-1930s, with members identified. Courtesy Vaughan Webb.
Copy of liner notes for Peerless Four Quartet LP "Many. Blessings, " Gospel 1383.

Folder 28 Pensacola Jubilee Singers
9 x 11 cardboard placard, ca. late-1930s, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

Folder 29 Pilgrim Jubilee Singers
Six different 8 x 10 promo prints, 1950s-1980s.

Folder 30 Pilgrim Travelers
5 x 7 original Specialty Records paper promo, with photo and text and discography on reverse. Early 1950s.
8 x 10 Specialty paper promo, with different photo.
8 x 10 sepia toned, 1950s, slightly wrinkled.
8 x 10 copy of slightly damaged 1930s poster.
Copy of two-page Specialty/Herald Attractions promotional booklet for Pilgrim Travelers, with photos,
Photocopies of eight photos of the group 1930s-1960s

Box 4 Groups Printed Matter Steve Gibson and the Red Caps – Soul Stirrers

Folder 1 Steve Gibson And The Red Caps
4 x 5 copy negative (no print), 1940s.
Copy of RCA Victor publicity sheet (2 pages), stamped March 30, 1953.
5 x 7 snapshot of Red Caps members David Patillo and Romaine Brown with white fans. WW II era.
Copy of six-page magazine article many photos, Our World, March 1953.

Folder 2 Reliable Jubilee Singers of Atlanta

Two different Polaroid prints of photos of the group, ca. 1940.

Four 3 x 5 snapshots of Reliable Jubilees' members Thomas Delaney and George Britt.

Folder 3 Richmond Starlight Quartette of Virginia

Photocopy of the only known photo of Richmond Starlight Quartette, and Jubilee Gospel Team, from 1928 QRS Race Records catalog.

Folder 4 Rising Star Gospel Singers of Oakland, California

Two 4 x 5 copy negatives, ca. 1950.

Photocopy of 12-page, Rising Star Gospel Singers, 3rd Anniversary Program, August 1946.

Copies of two additional photos of the group.

Folder 5 Bill "Bo Jangles" Robinson Concert Revue

Original four-page program, Ryman Auditorium, November 30, 1945 Revue included Ada Brown and the Four Knights. Photo of Bojangles on cover.

Folder 6 Rollin Smith's Rascals

Copy of article from unidentified German magazine, with a photo of Rollin Smith. On the reverse is a letter from Delilah Jackson, who was a friend of Smith's.

Discographical information about Rollin Smith's obscure recordings.

Two color photocopies of Rollin' Smith 78 on Polyphon;

Copy of Rollin Smith's March 1985 obituary, written by David Hinckley.

Letter to Seroff from Hinkley, regarding Smith.

Copies of two news articles about Rollin Smith, 1976, 1977.

Folder 7 Royal Chanters Quintette of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.

5 x 7 copy of photo from 1930s.

Folder 8 Royal Jubilee Gospel Singers of Philadelphia

Small paper cut-out from a publication, probably 1940s.

Folder 9 Royal Lights of Norfolk, Virginia. Courtesy Vaughan Webb.

5 x 7 photo, copied from Norfolk Journal and Guide, March 24, 1934.

8 x 10 copy from 1930s,

8 x 10 late photo of Royal Lights' member Rev. Albert Taylor, a second 8 x 10 from 1935 of his Paterson, N.J. church.

Folder 10 Royal Negro Choir

Postcard of male and female quartet, early twentieth century.

Folder 11 St. Andrew Gospelaires of Jackson, Mississippi
8 x 10 early-1950s. Courtesy Lynn Abbott.

Folder 12 St. Louis Chosen Four
8 x 10 photo copy of 1940s placard.

Folder 13 Scott Sisters of Indianapolis
3 x 5 half-tone cut-out on cardboard. Possibly early-1940s
5 x 7 copy of damaged photo, ca. 1950.

Folder 14 Second Zion Four of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.
8 x 10 late-1920s, members are identified on reverse.

Folder 15 Selah Jubilee Singers (Thermon Ruth)
8 x 10 The original group, early-1930s, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
9 x 4 cardboard advertisement, with a photo of the group, 1946.
8 x 10 copy of the 1946 Selah's group, identified on reverse. With 4 x 5 copy negative.
8 x 10 copy of another pose of the 1946 group, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
Seven 5 x 7 photos of Thermon Ruth in a Philadelphia radio station, 1979. Doug Seroff is with him in three photos.
6 x 6 photo of Thermon Ruth performing with a pickup group at the October 1980 "Jefferson County Quartet Reunion," participants are identified on photo reverse. Photo by Cheryl Thurber.
3 x 5 color snapshot of Thermon Ruth, Portia Maulsby and Doug Seroff on the stage at the 1981 "Smithsonian Quartet Weekend. "
4 x 6 black and white shot of Ruth, Maulsby and Seroff.
8 x 10 Kriegsmann portrait of Thermon Ruth, probably 1960s. 4 x 5 copy negative.
8 x 10 photo of the Larks, a group that spun off from the Selahs, with Gene Mumford and Orville Brooks.
Seven different 4 x 3 78rpm record label photos - Selah Jubilee Singers on seven labels, some under pseudonyms.
Copy of a news article, "To Celebrate Anniversary," New York Amsterdam News, date unknown (ca. 1936), with photo of the Selah Jubilees.
Copy of cover and liner notes for SAR LP by Bro. Thermon Ruth, "Laughs from the Pulpit."
Paper flyer advertising a tribute to Thermon Ruth, ca. 1981, with photos.
Paper flyer advertising another tribute to T. Ruth, June 28, 1982, with photos.
Paper flyer advertising "Gospel Returns to Broadway," April 30, 1994, show promoted by T. Ruth, with photo of the Dixie Hummingbirds.
Print-out of Thermon Ruth's obituary, written by David Hinckley, Daily News, September 17, 2002.
Photocopy of a signed contract between Thermon Ruth, manager of the Selah Jubilee Singers and Gotham Records, July 21, 1949.
11 x 17 color photocopy of three pages from a souvenir program for "Nationwide Gospel Train," 1952, with a full sheet photo of the Selah Jubilee Singers, and one of Clara Ward Specials, with autographs

Two typed, signed letters from Thermon Ruth to Doug Seroff, September 25, 1982 and May 30, 1984, with historical details.

Paperback book: Thermon Ruth with Linda Saylor Marchant, From the Church to the Apollo Theater (Brooklyn: T. Ruth Publications, 1995) approximately 100 pages, filled with photos of groups, and text by T. Ruth. Personally inscribed to Seroff by Ruth, with an accompanying handwritten, personal letter.

Whiskey, Women, And ... magazines, issue No. 9 and 10 (1982) with a two-part cover feature, "The Whole Truth About T. Ruth," by Doug Seroff and Charlie Horner.

Folder 16 Sensational Nightingales

Two different 8 x 10 early prints of Peacock Records promos, early-1950s, one has members identified on reverse.

8 x 10 photo, with Paul Owens, late-1940s, members are identified.

8 x 10 1970s, with members identified.

8 x 10 Nightingales on stage, 1970s, members identified on reverse. With 4 x 5 copy negative.

Two 8 x 10 of the Nightingales on-stage at the Smithsonian Institution (Smithsonian Quartet Weekend, November 20, 1981), with the four-page program booklet.

Three-page itinerary for Charles Johnson & the Revivers, July through December 1999. Johnson previously sang with the Nightingales.

Photocopy of photo and biography from King Records.

Photocopies of eight additional photos of the group.

Folder 17 Seven Musical Magpies of Cleveland

(a vocal and instrumental group who recorded for Victor in the early-1920s.)

5 x 7 print of the Magpies with saxophones, early-1920s, with copy negative. Members identified on accompanying photocopy.

8 x 10 copy of photo of the group with banjos, 1920s. With 4 x 5 copy negative. Members are identified on reverse.

8 x 10 copy of photo of nine musicians with instruments, the Musical Magpies dance band, mid-1920s, partially identified on reverse. With 4 x 5 copy negative.

3 x 5 snapshot of four members on stage (a cappella), probably 1950s. Members are identified on reverse.

4 x 5 copy negative (only) of Magpies dressed in night shirts (late edition, 1950s)

4 x 5 copy negative, the late group, with three white members and Joseph Cisco. 1950s.

Two handwritten letters from Mrs. Mildred Cisco, widow of Magpies member and manager Joseph Cisco, to Doug Seroff, Sept and Oct 1982.

One page of notes from Seroff's 1982 phone conversation with Mildred Cisco. She loaned the photos and identified the members.

Six pages photocopied from Joseph Cisco's scrapbook, with news articles about the Magpies, seemingly all from the 1920s.

Folder 18 Seven Stars of Jackson, Miss.

Copy of six-page "Souvenir Booklet 1934-1981," with photos and text.

Seven Stars recorded in the 1950s for Selective and Delta.

Folder 19 Bro. Cecil Shaw And Alpha- Omega Singers (male group) , and Union Spiritual Harmonizers (female group) of Houston, Texas.

8 x 6 cardboard placard of male group with Shaw.

8 x 10 promo portrait of Cecil Shaw, 1950s.

Photocopies of three contracts (undated, early 1950s) between Cecil Shaw's Shaw Record label and the Southland Spiritual Singers, Ever Ready Gospel Singers, and Faithful Servants, with signatures of all the members.

Six photocopies of photos of the Alpha-Omega Singers and Union Spiritual Harmonizers, one with identification.

Folder 20 Shelby Gospel Singers of Shelby, North Carolina

5 x 7 print of a 1940 photo from the Norfolk Journal and Guide. With members identified.

Folder 21 Billy Shelton Groups (Golden Tones, "Original Spaniels," and others)

8 x 10 color photo of the male quartet 11th Avenue, ca. 1980s.

8 x 10 color photo of the Golden Tones on-stage,

8 x 10 color photo of James "Pookie" Hudson & the "Original Spaniels," with Shelton, 1980s.

Ten different 8 x 10 and 4 x 5 color photos of Shelton and his group members, posed with Isaac Freeman, Wilson Waters of Fairfield Four, and Conrad Fredericks and Paul Bremby of the Golden Gate Quartet, Pookie Hudson, others, 1990s.

The National Entertainer, vol. 1, no. 1, undated. With feature on "The Fabulous Bill Shelton - Portrait of a ' Group Man."

Folder 22 Shields Brothers Gospel Singers of Cleveland

8 x 10 photo of a placard, ca. 1940.

4 x 5 copy negative of a different placard Photocopy copy with members identified.

Folder 23 Silver Leaf Quartette of Norfolk, Virginia

5 x 7 print of the group in a classic pose, ca. 1930, members identified, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

5 x 7 of the group, 1930s, with 4 x 5 copy negative. Members are identified on reverse.

Photocopy of second tenor Melvin Smith's obituary.

Copy of Melvin Smith's four-page obsequies.

Folder 24 Silver Leaf (Female) Quartet

5 x 7 copy. Members are identified.

Folder 25 Silver Quintet of Gary, Indiana.

5 x 7 copy of late-1950s

This group became associated with the Fairfield Four in 1960, and subsequently with the Voices of Nashville.

Folder 26 Silvertone Gospel Singers of Florida

8 x 10 copy of photo, ca. 1934, identifications on reverse.

8 x 10 copy of photo, ca . 1955, identifications on reverse.

8 x 10 copy of the photo, ca. 1966, identifications on reverse.

Folder 27 Singing Conquerors of New York (Mixed-race bluegrass gospel group)

8 x 10 1990s, with instruments.

Two color paper prints of the group on stage, 1996.

3-page printed promo brochure; one-page promo sheet; flyer for program in Melville, N.Y., 1994.

Three handwritten letters by Diane McKay, group member, 1994-2000, Christmas card.

Folder 28 Sirmons Jubilee Singers of Detroit

8 x 5 original cardboard placard, early-1940s, with members identified.

Folder 29 Smiling Five Gospel Singers (Smiley Bro Thers Jubilee Quintet) of Little Rock, Arkansas

Two photocopies of posters, one dated Dec. 11, 1925, the other ca. early-1940s.

Folder 30 Smith Jubilee Singers of St. Louis

3 x 5 copy of a 1940s placard, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

5 x 7 photo reproduction of a 1946 newspaper article with a photo and text

Folder 31 Sons Of Norfolk Quartet

5 x 7 photocopied from a picture in the Norfolk Journal and Guide, 1934. Identified on reverse. Courtesy of Ferrum College.

Folder 32 Soul Stirrers

8 x 10 photocopy, ca. 1940, identified on reverse.

8 x 10 print, ca. 1947. Identified on reverse.

5 x 7 photo of the group , early-1940s, with an 8 x 10 photocopy of the same

8 x 10 photocopy of photo of R.H. Harris performing, possibly 1980s.

5 x 7 photo, early-1940s

4 x 5 copy negative. Promo with Sam Cooke, 1950s.

4 x 5 copy negative. Another promo with Sam Cooke.

Six-page program booklet, photos and text, for "The Soul Stirrers Reunion Program," February 19, 1984.

Self-published paperback booklet, approximately 30 pages, with photos and text: "A Pioneer in Quartet & Gospel Singing - R. H. (Rebert) Harris," n.d., ca. 1990.

Photocopy of Soul Stirrers' 35th Anniversary booklet (1965). About 20 pages with photos and text.

Copies of two feature articles about the Soul Stirrers, by Barry Hansen and Lee Hildebrand.

Approximately twenty-five copies of other photos of the Soul Stirrers, some with members identified.

Box 5 Groups Printed Matter Southernaires - Zion Travelers

Folder 1 Southernaires

Original 4-page program for December 3, 1941 concert, with photo.

Copy of 6-page liner notes, by tenor Homer Smith, for Southernaires' Decca Album 83, with photo.

Copies of four newspaper articles, 1932-1939, all with photos.

Copy of 7-page program for a December 14, 1944 appearance by the Southernaires in Buffalo, N.Y., with photographs

Copy of Homer Q Quincy Smith's four-page funeral program, Bronx, NY, April 23, 1974.

Copy of 3- page article from Goldmine, June 21, 1985, on the Southernaires, by Ray Funk and Peter Grendysa, with photos.

Copies of 7-pages of correspondence and other material from the archives of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, all 1940s, some relevant to the Southernaires. Courtesy Lynn Abbott.

Folder 2 Southern Four (Edison Records artists)

Exchange of correspondence with Jerry Fabris of Edison National Historic Site, with copies of original documentation of the Southern Four's June 1921 recording session and photocopy portrait of the group.

Folder 3 Southern Gospel Singers of New Orleans

8 x 10 copy of early 1940s placard. Courtesy Lynn Abbott.

Folder 4 Southern Harp Singers of New Orleans (female group) (courtesy Lynn Abbott)

8 x 10 photocopy 1940s.

8 x 10 print ca. 1948, identified on accompanying Photocopy.

Copy of newspaper obituary for Southern Harps founder Alberta French Johnson, Times Picayune, July 9, 1968.

Six additional photo photocopies with identification.

Folder 5 Southern Jubilee Singers of Waco, Texas

4 x 5 copy negative of 1940s placard and photocopy identification

Folder 6 Southern Sons of Newark, N. J., and later, Little Rock, Arkansas

5 x 7 original Newark group identified on accompanying copies with 4 x 5 copy negative.

8 x 10 copy of poster mentioning Univ. of Wisconsin extension service. With 4 x 5 copy negative.

8 x 10 group with James Walker and Cliff Givens. With 4 x 5 copy negative. Identified on photo reverse.

4 x 5 copy negative, early 1950s. Identification on a copy.

8 x 10 early 1950s Kreigsmann photo of "Mr. Bass," Jimmy Jones.

Copy of a placard for a July 26, 1953 concert, with photos.

Copy of three-page document on Globe Music Corporation, Jackson, MS stationery, with full details of Trumpet Record Co. sessions, including those by the Southern

Sons. Probably compiled by Trumpet president Lillian MacMurray.
Photocopy of one additional photo, with full identification.

Folder 7 Brother Green's Southern Sons of San Francisco (Walter Green)
4 x 5 copy negative, identified on accompanying Photocopy, ca. 1950.
4 x 5 copy negative (unknown female group with Walter Green).

Folder 8 Southland Jubilee Singers of Norfolk, Virginia
5 x 7 copy from Journal and Guider Sept. 29, 1934. Members identified on reverse.
Courtesy Vaughan Webb.
Page photocopied from Okeh Record advert, with a better reproduction of the same image.

Folder 9 Spiritual- Aires of Long Beach, California
4 x 5 copy negative of early 1950s placard.

Folder 10 Spiritual Five of Indianapolis (female group)
9 x 5 cardboard placard, 1940s with members identified.

Folder 11 Starlight Spiritual Singers of Atlanta
Photocopy of photo, ca. 1960.
Two snapshots of former quartet leader, Rev. R.L. Keels, from 1981.

Folder 12 Staple Singers
8 x 10 Jay promo, with guitar, early-1950s.
Photocopies of different photos with members identified.

Folder 13 Stars Of Harmony of Los Angeles. Courtesy of Allen Peters.
8 x 10 late- 1940s, with Leo Z. Manley.
8 x 10 copy of an advertising poster for a concert (n.d., ca. 1950), by the Stars of Harmony and Nightingale Jubileers.
Photocopy of Stars of Harmony manager Roscoe Castle's WWII draft card.
Photocopy of damaged placard for Famous Friendship Gospel Singers of Los Angeles, a precursor of the Stars of Harmony.
Ten-page unpublished research article on the Stars of Harmony by Allen Peters.
Included with Mr. Peters' consent.
Two undated letters from researcher Allen Peters, with information about the Stars of Harmony.

Folder 14 Stars Of Hope
8 x 10 promo early-1950s.

Folder 15 Strings Of Harmony of Chicago (with Charles Bridges)
Program for their 37th Anniversary, Sept 15, 1974, with photo.
Copy of four-page funeral program for Glover Compton, bass singer of Strings of Harmony, July 16, 1975.

Copy of one page of notes made by Ray Funk at Strings of Harmony 46th Anniversary, Sept 18, 1983.

Folder 16 Suffolk Jubilee Quartet of Tidewater, Virginia
5 x 7 copy from Journal and Guide, August 10, 1940.

Folder 17 Sugar Hill Quartette
8 x 10 1930s sepia tone, ca. 1930s, comic pose, with string instruments.

Folder 18 Sunbeam Gospel Singers (female group)
5 x 7 print inscribed to J. H. Battle, dated 1939.

Folder 19 Sunset Gospel Singers of New Orleans. Courtesy Lynn Abbott.
Two 8 x 10 prints, ca. 1940, one photos identified at bottom.

Folder 20 Sunset Gospel Singers of Danville, Virginia
6 x 8 cardboard placard, 1940s

Folder 21 Sunny South Boys of Dallas, Texas
4 x 5 copy negative, in KRLD-TV studio, early 1950s, with photocopy

Folder 22 Supreme Angels
5 x 7 copy, ca. late-1950s.

Folder 23 Swanee Quintet of Macon, Georgia
8 x 10 early 1950s.
8 x 10 on-stage, April 1989.
Four photocopies of other photos

Folder 24 Swanee Spiritual Singers of Dothan, Alabama
8 x 10 promo, 1953.

Folder 25 Swanee River Gospel Singers of San Francisco (Walter Green)
8 x 10 copy of placard, 1940s, identified at bottom.
5 x 7 copy of 1940s placard, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
4 x 5 copy negative, identified on accompanying Photocopy.
4 x 5 copy negative, 1940s.
Copy of additional photo, with identifications.

Folder 26 Taskiana Four
Two different 5 x 7 prints, copied from 1920s Victor catalogs, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
24 pages of photocopies of news articles about the Taskiana Four, all late 1920s.

Folder 27 Tennessee Jubilee Singers (with Mme Sissieretta Jones)
Nine pages of typed notes from my review of a Tennessee Jubilee Singers' scrapbook in Fisk Library, August 1888 to January 1889, the period of this troupe's historic

West Indian tour.
Copies of three reviews from West Indian newspapers.
Letter from British researcher Richard Noblett with a dozen West Indian news reports, transcribed, and additional data about the tour.
Copies of excerpts from four journal articles about Mme Jones, including Henry Henriksen's three-part, fourteen-page article "Black Patti," Record Research, 1979. no. 16 5-172.

Folder 28 Tennesseans (of Central Tennessee College)

Copy of thirteen pages from songbook: Donavin's Tennesseans, "Selections of Plantation Songs" (Meharry University Archives)
Copy of thirteen pages from an account of the first Commencement of Meharry Medical College; the Tennesseans participated (Meharry Archives).
Four newspaper articles about the Tennesseans (1874- 1883)
Additional documents relevant to Central Tennessee College/Meharry Medical College.

Folder 29 Thankful Quartet

8 x 10 copy of Chicago Defender Okeh Race Records advert, with the group, 1927.

Folder 30 Sister Rosetta Tharpe

4 x 5 copy negative, 1940s, with guitar.
Copy of liner notes with bio
Website printed article about memorial at grave

Folder 31 Three Peppers

8 x 10 Bruno of Hollywood photo, ca. late-1930s, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
8 x 10 photo of Decca advertisement

Folder 32 Travelers Jubilee Singers of New York City

8 x 10 Vanderzee photo, 1951. Early print

Folder 33 Traveling Echoes of Indianapolis (female group)

7 x 9 cardboard placard, early 1940s.

Folder 34 True Believers Gospel Singers of Jackson, Mississippi

8 x 10 print, 1950s.

Folder 35 Trumpeteers of Baltimore

8 x 10 copy of Willing Four, Trumpeteers' precursors, mid-1940s.
8 x 10 early print of CBS Trumpeteers in front of WCAO mike.
8 x 10 two-sided original Score Records promo, ca. 1949, with photo of Trumpeteers on front, text and discography on reverse.

Folder 36 Union Melody Men of Clarksdale, Mississippi (early James Walker group)

4 x 5 copy negative of 1940s photo, ca. 1943. Members are IDed on photocopy
Photocopy of member James Walker's obituary.

Folder 37 Unidentified Groups

4 x 5 copy negative. Cleveland, Ohio quartet with John Battle, 1930s.

6 x 8 cardboard placard (6 men), corner is broken off.

7 x 10 cardboard placard, mixed group, 9 singers, 1940s.

8 x 10 sepia toned of male sextet at Station WATL (Atlanta), circa early-1930s.

8 x 10 copy, male group, ca. 1940s.

8 x 10 Male group, possibly from St. Petersburg, Florida, ca. 1962.

Folder 38 Victory Gospel Singers of Norfolk, Virginia

5 x 7 copy, IDed on reverse, ca. 1950. Courtesy Ferrum College.

Folder 39 Vocalaires of Greensboro, North Carolina

8 x 10 print, 1940s, members are identified on reverse, with 4 x 5 copy negative.

Folder 40 Western Harmonizers with James Payne

8 x 10 print, 1960s.

Folder 41 William's Gospel Singers (young female group)

7 x 8 cardboard placard, ca. late-1930s

Folder 42 Williams Singers of New Orleans. Courtesy Lynn Abbott

11 x 9 paper advertisement, with a good photo, ca. 1940.

Folder 43 Williams Jubilee Singers of Chicago

Songbook and Program, ca. 1916, about 24 pages with photos, musical transcriptions and text

Songbook/souvenir program, ca. 1920, as above, but with different photos and member biographies

Photocopies of front covers and portions of eleven different Williams Singers program booklets (1904 to mid-1920s).

Copies of concert programs 1915, 1916, 1925, with photos.

Copy of pages from Redpath Chautauqua program, 1919, with photos of Williams Jubilee Singers/Quartet.

About 50 pages photocopied from Williams Jubilee Singers' "Daily Account" ledger, covering 1910-1921, with handwritten note, itinerary, receipt, and expense record. Similar sheets for Clara Williams ("Aunt Jemi ma") and Invincible Concert Company (Rust College Archives).

Copy of page from Crisis, April 1919, with small photo of the Invincible Concert Co. (of Williams Jubilee Singers).

Copy of page from "Who's Who in the Lyceum, " with entries for Charles Peterson Williams and Clara K. Williams.

Copy of four-page, handwritten treatise, by unnamed member of the Williams company, dated October 21, 1909, "Our Trip Around the World."

Copies of nine newspaper articles, 1936 -1981, concerning Julia Mae Kennedy, former Williams Jubilee Singer and later longtime minister of music at First Church of

Deliverance in Chicago.
Copy of six pages from Sylvester W. Oliver, Jr.'s 1996 dissertation (U. of Memphis),
concerning Charles P. Williams.

Folder 44 Billy Williams Quartet
4 x 5 copy negative of MGM promo, 1950s.

Folder 45 Wilson & Watson Singers
8 x 10 sepia toned promo photo, early-1950s.

Folder 46 Windy City Quartet of Chicago
8 x 10 print, ca. 1950, with 4 x 5 copy negative.
Photocopies of two additional photos.

Folder 47 Maceo Wood Singers
8 x 10 early-1950s.

Folder 48 Wright Brothers of Dallas, Texas
4 x 5 copy negative of 1930s placard
4 x 5 copy negative, 1940s.
Photocopy of a different photo, with identifications.

Folder 49 Y. & M. V Singers of Clarksdale, Mississippi
8 x 10 photo of 1940s placard, members identified, with 2 x 3 copy negative.

Folder 51 Zion Harmonizers of New Orleans. Courtesy of Lynn Abbott.
8 x 10 print, early 1940s. Original group, identified on reverse.
5 x 7 photo of the group performing at World's Fair, New Orleans, June 1984. Photo by
Lynn Abbott. Permission to publish required.
Newspaper article, "An N.O. hitmaker from the '50s returns," Times Picayune April 16,
1982. About Chuck Carbo former member of the Zion Harmonizers and later the
Spiders R&B vocal group.
Copies of two newspaper obituaries for Zion Harmonizers' leader Sherman Washington,
March 2011.
Two additional Photocopies of group photos.

Folder 52 Zion Travelers
8 x 10 print, Dootone Records promo. 1950s.
Four photocopies of additional photos, two of them IDed.

Box 6 Groups Printed Matter Miscellaneous by state/city

Folder 1 Boston - courtesy of Matt Starr
Three informative letters from Boston gospel quartet researcher Matt Starr, 1993 - 1995.
Enclosures include copies of early photos of the Bibletone Singers and Royal Light

Quartette, two Boston gospel groups.
 Copies of flyers for Bible Tone Singers' March 30, 1958 Anniversary, and the 15th Anniversary of the Nightingale Gospel Singers of Boston with photo. Courtesy of Matt Starr.
 Boston Phoenix Feature article by Matt Starr, "A Joyful Noise- Tell the Story of Boston's great gospel music tradition" July 21, 1995 with photos
 Four additional news articles about local gospel quartet groups from Boston Herald, Boston Globe", and Boston Phoenix, 1985 - 2001 .
 Eight typed pages of discographical information concerning Boston gospel groups 1948-1969, courtesy of Matt Starr.
 Nine typed pages of unpublished text about Boston gospel groups, compiled by Matt Starr from his interview, etc.

Folder 2 Brooklyn / New York City

Tribute booklet, approximately sixty pages with many photos, marking the 20th Pastoral Anniversary, May 1972, of Bishop Frederick D Washington. Cover is signed by Bishop Washington, his wife the gospel singer Mme Ernestine Washington.
 Program of fourteen pages for "New York/Philly Gospel Caravan '92

Folder 3 Chicago

One-page letter from researcher Robert Pruter (c a . 1980), with information from his conversation with gospel quartet manager Louis Tate.
 News clipping from Chicago Defender, Oct 25, 1980 with photo of R. H. Harris and the Masonic Quintet.
 Copies of various historical sketches of Chicago musical organizations, authored by George D. Lewis circa 1940, from Chicago Public Library. They include a nine-page article on the Armour Jubilee Singers and shorter essay on Pedro Tinsley's Chicago Choral Study Club, Metropolitan Jubilee Singers, Umbrian Glee Club, James A. Mundy's Choristers, and the Federal Glee Club
 Copies of eleven different news articles describing appearances by various groups of jubilee singers in Illinois, 1875-1891 ("Negro in Illinois Papers, Chicago Public Library)
 Copies of nine printed programs, 1936 -1969, Chicago concerts by Black choral groups including Leonard De Paur's Infantry Chorus, the Choral Silhouettes, others.
 Promotional booklet, approximately thirty pages, for Leonard de Paur's Infantry Chorus, with photos and text, circa 1946.
 Copies of more than eighty Chicago Defender news articles, 1910-1973, concerning illustrious Chicago choral music director James A. Mundy and his Mundy Choristers.
 Copies of about fifty Chicago Defender news articles, 1917-1961, concerning equally famous Chicago choral director J. Wesley Jones.
 Copy of an article about Otis Clay and his early gospel quartet career in Chicago, Chicago Tribune, June 12, 1988.
 High-quality copy of a January 1925 article from The Music Trades, on Chica Go's Rialto Music Shop and their stock of QRS piano rolls, with an informative letter attached from researcher Michael Montgomery.

Folder 4 Cleveland / Detroit

Photocopy copy of complete, 44-page promotional booklet for the Elite Jewels, female quartet, with many rare photos.

Four scrapbook pages with twelve clippings from Ford News, 1923-1924, with photos and good reference matter specifically about black quartets.

Photocopies of twenty-five pages from Arthur LaBrew's 1987 essay "The Afro-American Music Legacy in Michigan."

Folder 5 Los Angeles courtesy of Allan Peters

Six typed pages of original research on Los Angeles Black gospel quartets, with capsules (including personnel) on forty different groups active in the 1940s and 1950s. With permission from Allen Peters.

Eight additional photocopies of placards and photographs of some of these L.A. quartets.

Copies of six pages from the scrapbook of Leroy Hurte, an original member of the Four Blackbirds, and later president of Bronze Record Company of Los Angeles, which made the first commercial recordings of the Soul Stirrers, among other important gospel and secular artists. Courtesy of Allen Peters.

Copies of two pages from an unidentified printed program, with small photos of nine L.A. quartets, ca. 1950s. Courtesy of Allen Peters.

Copies of two pages from another printed program, with group photos and some background data from Allen Peters.

Undated letter from Allen Peters, with good information about Los Angeles gospel quartets.

Copy of Capitol Records promotion for the Nuggets, a black pop quartet from L.A., with biographical info.

Folder 6 Louisville / Mississippi

Copies of five different notices for Nonpareil Colored Troubadours, all from the Louisville Courier Journal, September 1881. See American Jubilee Singers.

Two pages of notes by Seroff from a research visit to Rust College, Holly Springs, July 9, 1983.

Copy of six-page "Souvenir Booklet 1934-1981" for the Seven Stars of Jackson, who recorded in the 1950s for Selective and Delta, with photos.

8 x 10 promo photo of Jessie Mae Hemphill.

Obsequies for Jessie Mae Hemphill, July 30, 2006.

Folder 7 New Orleans - courtesy of Lynn Abbott

Copy of four-page "B Sharp Music Club Memorial Program for Dr. Frederick Douglass Hall," April 17, 1983, with photo.

Copy of two-page program for "Tribute to Frederick Douglass Hall," Dillard University, April 17, 1967, with photo.

Copy of four-page obsequies for James Payne, one of N.O.'s most significant quartet harmonizers, August 4, 1993.

Copy of fifteen-page program for "River Boat Excursion - Old Ship of Zion Concert -

August 16, 1960. Many photos and text.
 Advertising flier and one-page program for "Quartet Reflection 1984 - Pioneers of Gospel Singers Honorees," with text by Rev. Freddie H. Dunn.
 One-page flyer for "A Night of Quartet Reflection", whose participants included Edward Thomas of the Soproco Singers and Fairfield Four, members of the Jackson Gospel Singers, Second Zion Four and other N.O. recording quartets.
 Three pages of typed notes from the above program, by Lynn Abbott, Oct 24, 1984
 Copy of an article about the above program, written by Lynn Abbott, Wavelength, December 1984.
 Three pages of typed notes made by Lynn Abbott at Rev. Freddie Dunn's "Remember When" quartet workshop, April 30, 1986.

Folder 8 North Carolina

Three news articles about the Gospel Christian Singers, 1988, 1989, and 1992 John Pareles review of their New York show.
 Three-page, oversized photocopy of article from NC Arts, Spring 1990, "The Return of the Menhaden Chanteymen. "
 Copy of three pages from John Hammond on Record (Penguin, 1977), with comments about Mitchell's Christian Singers of Kinston, and recording the Golden Gates in Charlotte.
 Copy of news article, n.d., Lew Her□an (Carolina Room of the Main [Charlotte] Public Library), "Recording at the Hotel Charlotte."
 Copy of an (unknown) journal article, Rick Whitesel I, "The George Vereen Story," talks about the Carolina Four Kings of Harmony.
 Copy of a signed contract between Ballen Records (Gotham) and the Royal Harmony Singers of Rockingham, N.C., July 2, 1949.
 Letter to me from British researcher Bruce Bastin, August 18, 1979, with information about the gospel quartet singers he'd encountered in previous Carolina field trips.
 One page of notes by Seroff from my research visit to Spartanburg, with Ray Funk, May 10-12, 1982.

Folder 9 Miscellaneous

Twenty-five-pages of detailed, cross-referenced data on nineteenth-century black jubilee troupes and Uncle Tom's Cabin companies, compiled in the 1970s-80s by researcher Rob Bird, from his review of the New York Clipper. An extraordinary reference document
 Copies of eighteen different printed promotional brochures, most early-twentieth century, for various jubilee singing groups, including Hann's Jubilee Singers, Jackson's Jubilee Singers, Swanee Jubilee Company, and others. From the University of Iowa's "Traveling Culture" lyceum bureau website.
 Original ticket for "A Grand Negro Jubilee Concert... Southland Nightingales, " n.d., ca. early-twentieth century.
 Program for U.G.H.A. 10th Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony, 2000.
 Twenty-page photocopy of a 1976 article, "The Roots of Afro-American Gospel Music, " by David Evans, from Jazz Forschung magazine.

Folder 10 Discographic Information And Miscellaneous

Printed and bound numerical listing with color photographs and details, "Victor 23250 Race Records," courtesy Helge Thygesen. With additional printed sheets on Victor V-38500 race series and Victor 20000-22485.

Printed and bound numerical listing with sales figures and color photographs for Champion Records (1925-1935), courtesy Roger Misiewicz.

Copies of five pages from Victor Records session logs for Capitol City Four, Four Gospel Singers, Emory University Glee Club (not in Blues & Gospel Records, 4th ed.), Empire Jubilee Quartet, Morris Brown Quartet.

Letter to me from researcher Tim Brooks, with information on early black recording artists.

Copies of pages from five Columbia, U. S. Phonograph Company, New York Phonograph Company cylinder catalogs with entries by black quartets, particularly the Standard Quartette. All are from 1894- 1896. Courtesy of Tim Brooks.

Copy of printed Gennett Records catalog page listing Race Records.

Photocopies of five pages from the 1927 Okeh Records catalog with several pictures.

Copy of printed numerical advertisement for Swing Beat Records, about one-hundred listings, including Post-War blues and gospel rarities.

One two-sided page listing of gospel records on Glory and early Deluxe labels. Courtesy of researcher Bill Daniels.

Photocopy of eight-page Dot Records catalog, Fall 1953, with photos.

Sixteen pages of extensive Dot Records discographical information, including numerical, label photos, etc. Courtesy of Bill Daniels.

Two typed pages of my notes regarding a parcel of Chicago/Gary, Indiana, gospel test pressings and rare 78s from the 1950s.

A ticket of admission for an Anniversary program in Chicago, Sept. 14, 1958, is attached, groups named on ticket.

Copy of two-page contract between pianist/arranger Arthur Lorenzo Countee and the Swanee Singers ("WDAF Artists"), Kansas City, Mo., August 17, 1929.

Copy of recording contract between Ballen Records (Gotham) and the Evening Star Quartet, January 12, 1949, signed by Joseph ("Little Joe") Cook.

Copy of a four-page program for Eva Jessye's Dixie Jubilee Singers, 1931 (from the mburg Library).

Two-page news article about the 1929 King Vidor film Hallelujah! , with photo of the Dixie Jubilee Singers, who were featured in the film.

Promotional biographies (from the files of promoter Thurston Moore) for singers Jerry Butler, Dee Clark, the Four Tunes, Wade Flemons, Gene McDaniels, Clyde McPhatter, Phil Phillips, Wilson Pickett, Tony Williams, and the Isley Brothers. In each case, they sang with gospel quartets before embarking on their pop music careers. The biographies provide details.

Box 7 Oral History Transcripts

Folder 1

BOB BEATTY interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff at his home in Spartanburg, S.C., May 11, 1982.

BOB BEATTY - A brief interview conducted May 12, 1982.

BELLE VINSON. Sister of Simon "Hambone" Vinson of the original Delta Big Four, interviewed in a park in Coahoma, Mississippi, ca. July 8, 1983.

GEORGE BRITT at his home in Atlanta, June 27, 1981.

TED BROOKS interviewed on the telephone, May 5, 1982.

WALTER CABINISS (an old-time quartet supporter) interviewed in his grocery store in Shelby, N.C., by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, May 13, 1982.

CHESTER CLARK. Notes from a conversation in Durham, N.C., May 1979, and notes from Glen Hinson's interview with Clark.

MARSHALL COLE. Interviewed in New York City, December 12, 1982.

MARSHALL COLE and NORMA LYNCH COLE (both were Utica Jubilee Singers members), at their home in New York City, June 15, 1983.

LANDER COLEMAN interviewed in his bar and supper club in Newark, NJ, December 13, 1982.

MAURICE COOPER of Chicago, brief phone interview, October 9, 1981.

JAMES DOUGLAS interviewed in his home in Durham, N. C., May 1979.

JOE HALL (Rising Sun Singers of Chicago), interviewed by telephone, October 9, 1981.

ROBERT HARDY (Gospel Light Quartet of South Carolina) interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff in Spartanburg, SC, May 12, 1982.

LEWIS HERRING interviewed in his home in Kinston, NC, May 6, 1979.

CHARLES WESLEY HILL interviewed in Lander Coleman's Club in Newark, June 18, 1983. Hill's wife and Lander Coleman were both present and participated.

CHARLES WESLEY HILL, one page of notes from a phone interview.

JOE HOLMES (Delta Big 4 of Clarksdale, MS) interviewed in Johnny Skipper's barbershop, July 7, 1983.

JOHN JENNINGS of Los Angeles, interviewed over telephone, April 20, 1982.

JOHN JENNINGS interviewed over the telephone, May 3, 1982.

CHARLES JOHNSON interviewed by telephone, October 14, 1981.

JAMES B. JOHNSON interviewed in his home in Norfolk, January 23, 1979.

JOE JOHNSON interviewed February 10, 1982.

JOE JOHNSON (2nd interview, by telephone), March 7, 1982.

Folder 2

REV. R. L. KEELS interviewed at his home in Atlanta, June 27, 1981.

ROBERT KINCHLOW of Evansville, Indiana, interviewed by telephone, October 12, 1982.

HENDSON MASSEY interviewed at his home in Spartanburg, June 23, 1983. Massey's wife, one-time booking manager for this group, also participated in the conversation.

GEORGE McFADDEN of California). Notes from a telephone conversation (no recording), January 22 and 24, 1980.

LOY OLIVER of Chicago, interviewed by telephone, October 16, 1981.

PERCELL PERKINS interviewed in his home in West Helena, Arkansas, July 7, 1983.

ROSS RANDALL of Chicago, interviewed by telephone, October 9, 1981.

ARCHIE REYNOLDS (courtesy of Lynn Abbott) Handwritten transcript of interview recorded April 5, 1983. No cassette).

THERMON RUTH interviewed by DJ Charlie Horner at WXPB (Philadelphia), June 28,

1980. With my two pages of notes from my conversation with Ruth at the radio station.

THERMON RUTH notes from a phone conversation of April 2, 1982.

THERMON RUTH interviewed over the telephone, April 4, 1980.

THERMON RUTH interviewed over the telephone, December 13, 1980.

THERMON RUTH interviewed at Arenia-Ernestine Senior Citizens Center, Brooklyn, New York, August 1981.

THERMON RUTH interviewed over the telephone, August 3, 1982.

THERMON RUTH interviewed by Ray Funk, December 17, 1980, with questions Seroff supplied.

THERMON RUTH presentation he gave at Smithsonian "Quartet Weekend," November 21, 1981.

JOE SANDERSON, an old-time follower of quartets, interviewed by Doug Seroff and Ray Funk, at his home in Rock Hill, S.C., May 13, 1982.

CHRIS SCOTT (Scott Brothers of Spartanburg) interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff at his home in Spartanburg, S. C., May 12, 1982.

BILLY SHELTON, notes from phone conversations of 2006, 2009.

JOHNNY SKIPPER (Union Jubilee Singers of Clarksdale, MS) Interviewed in his Clarksdale barbershop, July 7, 1983.

MELVIN SMITH Interviewed in his home in Norfolk, January 24, 1979.

MELVIN SMITH interviewed in his home, May 1979.

REV. HARVEY SPEARS (Golden Wing Quartet of Shelby, NC) interviewed in Shelby, North Carolina, by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, May 14, 1982.

CALVIN STEWART of Baltimore interviewed March 7, 1982.

JAMES TAYLOR (Evening Four of South Carolina) interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, at his home in Rock Hill, SC, May 13, 1982.

JOE ("Jo Jo") WALLACE interviewed at his home in Durham, NC, August 24, 1981. With Seroff's notes from a program by the Sensational Nightingales, in a D.C. church, August 23, 1981.

J. V. WATKINS (Silverstone Travelers of South Carolina) interviewed at his home in Boiling Springs, S. C., by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, May 14, 1982. With an additional page of notes from a follow-up phone conversation of June 28, 1982.

JOE WILLIAMS interviewed by phone, December 8, 1980.

MAC WILLIAMS (Just Come Four of Durham, N.C.) interviewed in Durham, May 1979.

BILL WOODRUFF interviewed by telephone, June 2, 1982.

EARLY WRIGHT (Four Star Quartet of Clarksdale, and pioneer black Mississippi radio announcer), interviewed in his home in Clarksdale, July 7, 1983.

REV. DEWEY YOUNG (Swan Silvertones, Flying Clouds of D.C.) , interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, in the pastor's study of his church in DC, Nov 2, 1981.

Box 8 Oversized material

Series 3

14" x 21" poster for a "Battle of Songs" between the Golden Wings of Chester, Pa. and Central Jubilee Singers of Pottstown, Pa, September 21, 1950, with photos of both groups.

Series 1

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

Issue of Tennessee Tribune about Matthew Kennedy's 90th birthday.

Series III, Subseries 1: Various States Audio/Visual Materials

Box 1 Oral History Interview Cassette Tapes

Tape 1 - Bob Beatty interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff at his home in Spartanburg, S.C., May 11, 1982.

Tape 2 - Bob Beatty interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff at his home in Spartanburg, S.C., May 11, 1982. [Heavenly Gospel Singers of Spartanburg; Sensational Nightingales]

Tape 3 - Bob Beatty interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff at his home in Spartanburg, S.C., May 11, 1982. [Heavenly Gospel Singers of Spartanburg; Sensational Nightingales] also includes interview with W.T. Rodgers

Tape 4 - Bob Beatty- A brief interview conducted May 12, 1982. 60-minute cassette

Tape 5 – Ted Brooks interviewed on the telephone, May 5, 1982. [Jubalaires]

Tape 6 - WALTER CABINISS (an old-time quartet supporter) interviewed in his grocery store in Shelby, N.C., by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, May 13, 1982. also includes interviews with James Taylor and Rev. Harvey Spears

Tape 7 – MARSHALL COLE. Interviewed in New York City, December 12, 1982. [Utica Jubilee Singers]

Tape 8 - MARSHALL COLE and NORMA LYNCH COLE (both were Utica Jubilee Singers members), at their home in New York City, June 15, 1983.

Tape 9, 10 - LANDER COLEMAN interviewed in his bar and supper club in Newark, N. J., December 13, 1982.

Tape 11 - MAURICE COOPER of Chicago, brief phone interview, October 9, 1981. JOE HALL (Rising Sun Singers of Chicago), interviewed by telephone, October 9, 1981. ROSS RANDALL of Chicago, interviewed by telephone, October 9, 1981.

Tape 12 - JAMES DOUGLAS interviewed in his home in Durham, N. C., May 1979. [Bright Moon Quartet.] LEWIS HERRING interviewed in his home in Kinston, N.C., May 6, 1979. [Mitchell's Christian Singers]

Tape 13 - ROBERT HARDY (Gospel Light Quartet of South Carolina) interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff in Spartanburg, S.C., May 12, 1982. CHRIS SCOTT (Scott Brothers of Spartanburg) interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff at

his home in Spartanburg, S. C., May 12, 1982.

Tape 14 - OSCAR HENRY, JR. (Mrs. Myers' Famous Jubilee Singers) October 4, 1983 interview. JOHNNY SKIPPER (Union Jubilee Singers of Clarksdale, MS) Interviewed in his Clarksdale barbershop, July 7, 1983. EARLY WRIGH T (Four Star Quartet of Clarksdale, and pioneer black Mississippi radio announcer), interviewed in his home in Clarksdale, July 7, 1983.

Tape 15, 16 - CHARLES WESLEY HILL [Southern Sons] interviewed in Lander Coleman's Club in Newark, June 18, 1983. Hill's wife and Lander Coleman were both present and participated.

Tape 17 - JOHN JENNINGS of Los Angeles, interviewed over telephone, April 20, 1982. [Jubalaires] JOHN JENNINGS interviewed over the telephone, May 3, 1982.

Tape 18 - CHARLES JOHNSON interviewed by telephone, October 14, 1981. [Sensational Nightingales] LOY OLIVER of Chicago, interviewed by telephone, October 16, 1981. [Golden Tones]

Tape 19 - JAMES B.. JOHNSON interviewed in his home in Norfolk, January 23, 1979. [Peerless Four Quartet.]

Tape 20 - JOE JOHNSON (2ND interview, by telephone), March 7, 1982. [Trumpeteers] CALVIN STEWART of Baltimore, interviewed March 7, 1982. [Trumpeteers]

Tape 21-23 are restricted.

Tape 24 - REV. R L. KEELS interviewed at his home in Atlanta, June 27, 1981. [Starlight Spirituals]

Tape 25 - HENDSON MASSEY interviewed at his home in Spartanburg, June 23, 1983. Massey's wife, one-time booking manager for this group, also participated in the taped conversation. [Heavenly Gospel Singers of Spartanburg.]

Tape 26- PERCELL PERKINS interviewed in his home in West Helena, Arkansas, July 7, 1983. [Glory Bound Singers, Five Blind Boys of Mississippi]

Tape 27 – restricted

Tape 28- THERMON RUTH interviewed over the telephone, April 4, 1980. [Selah Jubilee Singers.]

Tape 29- THERMON RUTH interviewed October 11, 1980 in Birmingham. [Selah Jubilee Singers.]

Tape 30 - THERMON RUTH interviewed over the telephone, December 13, 1980. [Selah Jubilee Singers.] JOE WILLIAMS interviewed by phone, December 8, 1980. [Harmonizing Four]

Tape 31 - THERMON RUTH interviewed at Arenia-Ernestine Senior Citizens Center, Brooklyn, New York, August 1981. GEORGE BRITT at his home in Atlanta, June 27, 1981. [Reliable Jubilee Singers]

Tape 32 - JOE SANDERSON, an old-time follower of quartets, interviewed by Doug Seroff and Ray Funk, at his home in Rock Hill, S.C., May 13, 1982. JAMES TAYLOR (Evening Four of South Carolina) interviewed by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, at his home in Rock Hill, S.C., May 13, 1982.

Tape 33 - MELVIN SMITH Interviewed in his home in Norfolk, January 24, 1979. [Silver Leaf Quartette of Norfolk]

Tape 34 - JOE (" Jo Jo") WALLACE interviewed at his home in Durham, NC August 24, 1981. [Sensational Nightingales]

Tape 35 - JOE (" Jo Jo") WALLACE interviewed at his home in Durham, NC August 24, 1981. [Sensational Nightingales]

Tape 36 - J. V. WATKINS (Silvertone Travelers of South Carolina) interviewed at his home in Boiling Springs, SC, by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, May 14, 1982.

Tape 37 - J. V. WATKINS (Silvertone Travelers of South Carolina) interviewed at his home in Boiling Springs, SC, by Ray Funk and Doug Seroff, May 14, 1982.

Tape 38-44 are restricted.

Tape 45 - REV. DEWEY YOUNG (Swan Silvertones, Flying Clouds of D.C.) interviewed by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, in the pastor's study of his church in D. C., November 2, 1981.

RESTRICTED

Box 9

Golden Gate Quartet materials

"Nashville/Tennessee miscellaneous" [originally from series 1 box 1 folder 8]
interview report forms that include social security numbers. Items from this folder have been redacted for privacy.

Box 10

Golden Gate Quartet oversized materials and oral histories.