

Finding Aid to the Kansas NAACP  
Branch Office Files (MS 1386-1396)

Introduction

The records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was purchased in FY 1993 with Interlibrary Loan Development Grant funds from the Kansas Library Network Board. This microfilm is available for patron use through interlibrary. A maximum of two reels may be borrowed for two weeks. Loans will not be made directly to individuals, and an appropriate interlibrary loan form requesting material by call number must be submitted by the borrowing library to the Microfilm Loan department. Orders and inquiries should be directed to the Microfilm Department, Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612-1291

Administrative History of the NAACP (1909-Present)

The National Negro Committee (also known as the Committee of Forty), formed in 1909-10, was the forerunner of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It was organized in direct response to the race riots and lynchings that had occurred in Springfield, Ill., during August of 1908. The NAACP was incorporated in June, 1911. The founding members of the organization were specifically concerned with the racial inequalities being practiced against the Negro in United States society in the areas of political disfranchisement, vocational education limitations, and civil freedoms curtailment. At its inception, the NAACP formulated a mission of fostering equal rights and opportunities for all individuals within American society. The NAACP, then, set about to expand its overall membership and to elicit funds from those communities within the United States that displayed a deep commitment and concern with their cause.

The NAACP quickly became involved in four major activities designed to advance the Negro race. These activities included legal aid, mass meetings, investigation, and publicity into racial inequality. These activities and others helped to stimulate the mass Civil Rights movement of the fifties and sixties which finally brought about an end to the institutionalized racial inequalities being practiced within the United States. In the political and social turmoil that followed, the NAACP assumed a position of leadership in the struggle to eliminate racial inequality.

After 1911, the NAACP rapidly organized regional branches on a nation-wide basis. The first branches were established in New York City, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia. It was not until the end of 1912 that a Midwestern branch was formally established at

St. Louis. This had been prompted by two visits to the Midwest by Joel Elias Spingarn, the NAACP Board Chairman, which brought heightened interest and activity towards the creation of many more NAACP branches located throughout the Midwest.

It was not until 1913 that the NAACP branch offices for the State of Kansas became operational. In most instances, the individual Kansas branch offices experienced a difficult beginning. Several of these branches were formed in the latter half of the first decade of this century and then fell largely into inactivity because of an inadequate membership base or lack of available local leaders. The late 1930s and 1940s, however, brought a renewal to the Kansas branch offices and with it the necessary means for future long-term growth and development. By the 1950s, the Kansas NAACP had become a dynamic force heavily influencing the course of events within the State of Kansas.

#### Scope and Content of NAACP Microfilm Collection

The NAACP regional records for the Kansas branches are microfilm copies of the Library of Congress holdings. These branch files consist of the NAACP national office's working files for the various Kansas geographic branch offices. These records date from 1913 to 1965. The branches are organized into three distinct geographic categories. The first being based on individual cities in Kansas, the second being based on individual counties in Kansas, and the third being based on the regional Kansas district office (better known as the Kansas Conference).

Of the three geographic categories, the Kansas Conference records highlight most the ongoing major policy and decision making functions being performed within the State of Kansas. These records reflect in large measure the national interests and goals as formulated at the regional level and then implemented at the local level of the organization. The variety of information found in these working files is primarily composite in nature. They include such things as statistically compiled forms about individual branch growth and development, position papers on racial equality composed by national political leaders from the State of Kansas, printed itineraries of national meetings addressing racial issues, and other published matter documenting the regional concerns of the NAACP organization.

The Kansas counties branch files of the NAACP reflect expediency on the part of the parent organization. If no major city was situated in a particular county, then a county office was established to bring together a sufficient number of association members to be an effective political force within the region. It should be noted that these records contain information more related to a particular city within a given county rather than information pertaining to events occurring on a county-wide basis.

The cities branch files of the NAACP are more indicative of the metropolitan concerns generated by the individual branches in Kansas. These records include biographical sketches of key members of the city branch, newspaper clippings about racial issues affecting the given community, and copies of the organizational newsletter called the Crisis.

Another important distinction between the three geographic categories of records is that city and county branches document, in general, the routine operating functions of the organization at the local level. For example, particular attention in the county and city branches is given to organizational fund raising activities, membership drives, receipt of local branch charters, by-laws, and constitutions from the national office. Daily operational routine is clearly demonstrated in these two geographic categories of branch organization.

Similarly, the content of the Kansas NAACP branch files reveals little in the way of specific information related to major legal decisions (such as Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education) or historic events taking place in the fight towards racial equality within the State of Kansas. The records reflect more the administrative operation of the organization and chart the growing influence of this organization within American society.

This microfilm collection consists of eleven rolls. The roll numbering begins with MS 1386 and extends to MS 1396. Some of the microfilm rolls contain other state branch files besides Kansas. These non-Kansas branch files include the states of Kentucky and Iowa on rolls MS 1391, MS 1394, and MS 1395, respectively. In some instances, filing errors have occurred and one branch file may be intermixed with another branch file.

#### Supplementary Information Source Material on NAACP

Several general histories have been published about the NAACP that may be of interest to the researcher. These include the following:

Cortner, Richard C. A Mob Intent on Death: The NAACP and the Arkansas Riot Cases. Wesleyan University Press, 1987.

Finch, Minnie. The NAACP: Its Fight for Justice. Scarecrow, 1981.

Kellogg, Charles Flint. NAACP: A History of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (Vol. 1), Johns Hopkins Press, 1967-.

Meier, August, ed. Papers of the NAACP: Meetings of the Board of Directors, Conference Speeches, and Special Reports. (Pt. 1). University Publications America, 1981.

Ovington, Mary W. Walls Came Tumbling Down. Ayer Company Publishers, 1969.

Ross, B. Joyce. J.E. Spingarn and the Rise of the NAACP. Atheneum, 1972.

Vose, Clement E. Caucasians Only: The Supreme Court, the NAACP, and the Restrictive Covenant Cases. University of California Press, 1959.

Zangrando, Robert L. The NAACP Crusade Against Lynching, 1909 to 1950. Temple University Press, 1980.

In addition to this published material, the researcher may wish to contact the national office of the NAACP for further information. Their address is:

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
4805 Mt. Hope Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Index by Roll Number

MS 1386	Abilene		1935
MS 1386	Arkansas City		1923-28
MS 1386	Arkansas City		1929-39
MS 1386	Atchinson		1918-29
MS 1386	Atchinson		1930
MS 1386	Atchinson		1930
MS 1386	Atchinson		1930-39
MS 1386	Baxter Springs		1921-28
MS 1386	Baxter Springs		1924-25
MS 1386	Baxter Springs		1930
MS 1386	Baxter Springs		1931
MS 1386	Baxter Springs		1932-35
MS 1386	Baxter Springs	Youth Council	1932-39
MS 1386	Chanute		1914
MS 1386	Chanute		1924-29
MS 1386	Chanute		1930-37
MS 1386	Cherryvale		1925-30
MS 1386	Coffeyville		1922-23
MS 1386	Coffeyville		1924-35
MS 1386	Kansas City	Kansas State Conference	1931
MS 1386	Kansas City	Kansas State Conference	1938
MS 1387	Columbus		1925
MS 1387	Dodge City		1924
MS 1387	Dodge City		1933-34
MS 1387	Eldorado		1924
MS 1387	Eldorado		1930
MS 1387	Eldorado		1931
MS 1387	Eldorado		1932-39
MS 1387	Emporia		1919
MS 1387	Emporia		1926-36
MS 1387	Emporia	Kansas State Teachers College	1936
MS 1387	Ft. Scott		1917-24
MS 1387	Ft. Scott		1928
MS 1387	Ft. Scott		1929-35
MS 1387	Galena		1925
MS 1387	Garden City		1920
MS 1387	Great Bend		1925-38
MS 1387	Great Bend		1938-39
MS 1387	Hiawatha		1926
MS 1387	Hiawatha		1936
MS 1387	Hill City		1932-33
MS 1387	Hugoton		1928-36
MS 1387	Hutchinson		1926-27
MS 1387	Hutchinson		1932-33
MS 1387	Independence		1925
MS 1387	Junction City		1916-39
MS 1387	Kansas City		1913-21
MS 1387	Kansas City		1921-22
MS 1387	Kansas City		1923
MS 1387	Kansas City		1924-30
MS 1388	Kansas City		1931
MS 1388	Kansas City		1931
MS 1388	Kansas City		1931-32
MS 1388	Kansas City		1933
MS 1388	Kansas City		1934-36
MS 1388	Kansas City		1937
MS 1388	Kansas City		1938-39
MS 1388	Kansas City	Western University, Student Chapter	1921
MS 1388	Kay County		1926
MS 1388	Lawrence		1921-38

MS 1388	Leavenworth		1920-36
MS 1388	Leavenworth	National Military Home	1921
MS 1388	Manhattan		1925
MS 1388	Newton		1924-26
MS 1388	Newton		1927-30
MS 1388	Newton		1931-34
MS 1388	Newton		1935-37
MS 1388	Newton		1938-39
MS 1388	Osawatomie		1927-28
MS 1388	Osawatomie		1936
MS 1388	Oswego		1925
MS 1388	Ottawa		1927-30
MS 1389	Parsons		1919-23
MS 1389	Parsons		1924-30
MS 1389	Parsons		1931-39
MS 1389	Pittsburg		1919-20
MS 1389	Pittsburg		1924-25
MS 1389	Pittsburg		1925-30
MS 1389	Pittsburg		1931-39
MS 1389	Pleasanton		1925
MS 1389	Pratt		1924-25
MS 1389	Salina		1923
MS 1389	Salina		1927-31
MS 1389	Salina		1932-35
MS 1389	St. John		1925
MS 1389	Topeka		1913-16
MS 1389	Topeka		1917-25
MS 1389	Topeka		1926-28
MS 1389	Topeka		1929
MS 1389	Topeka		1930-31
MS 1389	Topeka		1932
MS 1389	Topeka		1933
MS 1389	Topeka		1934-35
MS 1389	Topeka		1936-39
MS 1390	Weir City		1924
MS 1390	Wichita		1919-25
MS 1390	Wichita		1926-29
MS 1390	Wichita		1930
MS 1390	Wichita		1930-31
MS 1390	Wichita		1932-33
MS 1390	Wichita		1934-39
MS 1390	Winfield		1923-24
MS 1390	Winfield		1930
MS 1391	Abilene		1946-55
MS 1391	Arkansas City		1944-45
MS 1391	Atchinson		1940-50
MS 1391	Barton County		1943-44
MS 1391	Chanute		1944-49
MS 1391	Chetopa		1941-46
MS 1391	Coffeyville		1942-44
MS 1391	Dodge City		1945-51
MS 1391	El Dorado		1942-50
MS 1391	Finney County		1949-55
MS 1391	Graham County		1948-52
MS 1392	Hutchinson		1943-54
MS 1392	Independence		1943-55
MS 1392	Junction City		1943-55
MS 1392	Kansas City		1940-44
MS 1392	Kansas City		1945-47
MS 1392	Kansas City		1947-48

MS 1392	Kansas City		1948-50
MS 1393	Kansas City		1951-55
MS 1393	Lawrence		1942-43
MS 1393	Lawrence		1942-48
MS 1393	Leavenworth		1943-55
MS 1393	Manhattan		1954-55
MS 1393	Merriam		1945-50
MS 1393	Newton		1940-44
MS 1393	Osawatomie		1945-49
MS 1393	Osawatomie		1953
MS 1393	Ottawa		1954
MS 1393	Parsons		1941-46
MS 1393	Pittsburg		1946-53
MS 1393	Pratt		1945-48
MS 1393	Salina		1945-55
MS 1393	St. Joseph		1945
MS 1394	Kansas City	Kansas State Conference	1943-47
MS 1394	Kansas City	Kansas State Conference	1948-50
MS 1394	Topeka		1940-55
MS 1394	Wichita		1941-48
MS 1394	Winfield		1951-55
MS 1395	Kansas City	Kansas State Conference	1951-55
MS 1396	Crawford County	Pittsburg	1956
MS 1396	Dodge City		1961-65
MS 1396	Emporia		1958-65
MS 1396	Finney County		1956-62
MS 1396	Hugoton		1955-56
MS 1396	Hutchinson		1956-65
MS 1396	Independence		1956-65
MS 1396	Junction City		1956-60
MS 1396	Kansas City		1956-59
MS 1396	Kansas City		1960-64
MS 1396	Kansas City	Kansas State Conference	1956-59
MS 1396	Lawrence		1963
MS 1396	Leavenworth		1956-61
MS 1396	Manhattan		1956-58
MS 1396	Merriam		1958
MS 1396	Ottawa		1956-57
MS 1396	Salina		1956-65
MS 1396	Topeka		1956-61
MS 1396	Topeka		1962-65
MS 1396	Wichita		1956-58
MS 1396	Wichita		1959-60
MS 1396	Wichita		1961
MS 1396	Wichita		1962
MS 1396	Wichita		1962-65

