

**JAMES L. STOVALL PAPERS**

(Ms. 4467)

**Inventory**

Compiled by

Sunny Stein  
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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**JAMES L. STOVALL PAPERS**  
1943-1997

**Mss. 4467**  
LSU Libraries Special Collections

**SUMMARY**

- Size.** 6.6 linear feet
- Geographic locations.** Louisiana
- Inclusive dates.** 1943-1997
- Bulk dates.** 1989-1992
- Summary.** Personal papers: correspondence, printed material, and research notes from James L. Stovall's career as a minister in Louisiana. Some papers related to special issues Stovall was involved in such as prison reform and the creation/evolution science debate are included. The bulk of the papers contain Stovall's personal files regarding the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism, of which he served as Executive Director. These items consist of memos, correspondence, press releases, and research papers. Documents regarding David Duke's past and the Coalition's attempts to fight his campaigns are present.
- Source.** James L. Stovall, 1992-1997
- Related collections.** None.
- Copyright.** Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with the U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** James L. Stovall Papers, Mss. 4467, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Stack Location.** Range 10:67-70

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

James L. Stovall was born on March 20, 1919 in Sikes, Louisiana, a town in Winn Parish. He attended Byrd High School in Shreveport before obtaining an A.B. from Centenary College in 1940 and a B.D. from the School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, in 1943.

Stovall was a World War II Navy Chaplain attached to the U.S. Marine Corps. He also served overseas in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and in Japan with the Second Marine Division from 1944-1946.

From 1946-1951, Stovall was pastor of First Methodist Church in Eunice, Louisiana. From there he went on to serve as pastor in several churches in Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Metairie, and Monroe. In 1976, he became Executive Director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference in Baton Rouge, a position he held until 1991.

A lifetime advocate for civil rights, Stovall was elected and appointed to many positions for the state of Louisiana. He did extensive work with prison reform, chairing the Governor's Pardon, Parole, and Rehabilitation Commission from 1976-1979, as well as leading the Interchurch Conference in the building of an Interfaith Chapel at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in 1981. He was chair of the Angola Educational Foundation and co-organizer of Oakdale Legal Assistance Inc. at the Federal Detention Center in 1986. He was appointed member at large for the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights in 1992.

Stovall became co-organizer and chair of the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism in 1989, an organization which evolved following the election of David Duke to the Louisiana House of Representatives. The purpose of the coalition was to provide research and accurate information in order to combat the influence of those who advocate Nazism, racism, and religious and ethnic intolerance. The coalition worked to oppose the influence of Duke, his beliefs, and the movement he represented. The organization ceased approximately three years after the 1992 gubernatorial election.

Stovall is married to the former Alice Balay Mills of Dallas, Texas and they have four children: Mary Alice Ballard, Sally Emerick, Carol Broussard III, and James L. Stovall II. After 35 years of service, he is now a retired United Methodist Minister. Stovall continues to follow the activities of David Duke.

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### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

While the collection dates from 1943-1997, most of the papers date from 1989-1992, and include electrostatic copies of original material dating from the 1970's and 1980's as well as original correspondence from the 1940's and 1950's. They consist of Stovall's personal papers such as correspondence, printed items, and research notes from his career as a minister and as Executive Director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference. Included are papers regarding his involvement in special issues such as Louisiana prisons, the creation/evolution science debate, and the Farm Crisis. Most of the collection consists of Stovall's personal files regarding the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism and related efforts to counter the influence of David Duke (The official papers of LCARN are housed at the Amistad Research Center, Tulane University). Much of the collection consists of photocopies. Items collected or produced by the Coalition include: correspondence, memoranda, information sheets, advertisement copy, press releases, transcripts of speeches, reports, research papers, copies of miscellaneous documents relating to Duke's past, newspaper and magazine clippings, ephemera, and bound resource packets. Two audio tapes (compiled by the Coalition) of excerpts from interviews with Duke in 1986 are included.

## **SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. Personal/Church Business, 1943-1997, undated** (2 linear feet)

#### **Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, 1943-1997** (.3 linear feet)

Letters of Stovall concerning personal matters as well as church business. Earliest correspondence, dating from the 1940's, consists of letters from teachers and peers at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Later correspondence includes communication from fellow ministers requesting his involvement in special projects in the community, as well as thanking him for his services. Letters from parishioners include those offering church donations, requesting his assistance or advice, and requests for letters of recommendation. Thank-you letters as well as congratulatory notes are present, including those of politicians such as U.S. Senators Russell B. Long and Mary Landrieu.

#### **Subseries 2: Writings, 1941-1990, undated** (.7 linear feet)

Majority of writings included consist of personal research notes written by Stovall on various projects with which he was involved. Although these research notes are contained in the personal/church subseries, notes from his work on all issues he was involved in (Louisiana Coalition, Prison Reform) are present. Speeches written by Stovall are present, as well as course reports written by him while in college.

#### **Subseries 3: Church Issues, 1955-1997, undated** (.2 linear feet)

Correspondence and reports regarding the business of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, of which Stovall was executive director. Newspaper and magazine articles, printed material, and newsletters relating to church and religious issues are present. Other writings on church and morality are included.

#### **Subseries 4: Farm Crisis, 1984-1992, undated** (.3 linear feet)

Materials concerning the Louisiana Interchurch Conference's involvement with farmers who lost their land or faced bankruptcy. Reports, releases, statements, agendas, and meeting minutes about the Louisiana farm crisis, as well as materials concerning farms in other states. Correspondence regarding farm crisis issues are present. Also included is legislation pertaining to farm foreclosures, newspaper articles, and other printed material.

#### **Subseries 5: Creation Science Debate, 1963-1987, undated** (.45 linear feet)

Materials concerning Stovall's involvement with the debates over the creation science law, requiring that the evolution theory be taught in all schools. Depositions from Stovall as well as legal information about creation science also included. Correspondence, newspaper articles, pamphlets, research notes, and reports also present.

**Subseries 6: Miscellaneous, 1983-1996, undated** (.05 linear feet)

Unrelated materials found in the collection, concerning politics, women's issues, and the Jungian Method, are included.

**Series II. Prisons, 1975-1981, undated** (1 linear foot)

**Subseries 1: Governor's Pardon, Parole, and Rehabilitation Commission, 1976-1981, undated** (.25 linear feet)

Minutes of meetings and agendas of the Governor's Pardon, Parole, and Rehabilitation Commission, which was a group supporting fairness of the criminal justice system. Remarks and speeches made before the commission are included, as well as correspondence to and from Stovall, who was chairman, regarding business of the commission. Bound reports produced by the commission also present.

**Subseries 2: Prison Reform, 1975-1993, undated** (.25 linear feet)

Correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles, and printed material regarding prison reform in Louisiana and other states. Reports, remarks, and statements written about prison reform by Stovall and others. Personal research notes from Stovall included.

**Subseries 3: Oakdale Detention Center, 1983-1986, undated** (.25 linear feet)

Reports, proposals, pamphlets, and articles regarding the Oakdale Detention Center. Includes materials from Stovall's involvement with the Center, which housed an Illegal Alien Detention and Deportation Center. Stovall, on behalf of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, worked to provide a chapel and chaplains for this institution. Agendas and meeting minutes are included as well as correspondence to and from Stovall concerning implementation of the program. Also included are correspondence and reports from Ecumenical Immigration Services, which established the Illegal Alien Detention and Deportation Center. Material from the Common Ground Organization, which supported legal work for refugees, is present.

**Subseries 4. Wilbert Rideau, 1978-1989, undated** (.25 linear feet)

Fact sheets, proposals, reports, research notes, and meeting minutes regarding Stovall's involvement in requests for the granting of clemency or parole to Wilbert Rideau, a prisoner at Angola State Penitentiary. Correspondence includes letters from Rideau to Governors, the parole board, and Stovall. Letters to Stovall both supporting and opposing his involvement with Rideau, are included as well as letters from Stovall asking for support. Several newspaper and magazine articles about Rideau are included. Issues of the *Angolite* Magazine, which Rideau edits, are present.

**Series III. Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism, 1969-1997, undated** (3.6 linear feet)

**Subseries 1. Board Members, 1989-1992, undated** (.2 linear feet)

Memos, correspondence, notes, and resumes of the board members of the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism, including Lance Hill, Beth Rickey, and Staci Rosenburg, in reference to scheduled meetings, reminders, research projects, fund-raising, campaign strategy, and reorganization of the board, and legal information. Minutes of board meetings as well as agendas for future meetings are included.

**Subseries 2. Business Papers, 1989-1992, undated** (.3 linear feet)

Official business of the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism, including reports, strategy statements, research proposals. Fact sheets pertaining to the Coalition are included. Legal correspondence and related materials are present, such as the Coalition's Articles of Incorporation and proposals to create a National Anti-Racist Political Action Committee.

**Subseries 3. Correspondence, 1989-1992, 1998, undated** (.3 linear feet)

Letters to Stovall regarding the Coalition from other civil rights groups, information sent to him regarding David Duke as well requests for information. Letters to Stovall both supporting and in opposition to his stand with the Coalition, including letters from Duke supporters. Correspondence from Stovall includes thank-you letters to contributors and requests for involvement in the Coalition. Letters to newspapers commenting on editorials also included, as well as requests for contributions from Stovall.

**Subseries 4: Civil Rights, 1986-1997, undated** (.2 linear feet)

Materials from various civil rights groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union. Includes drafts of an acceptance speech made by Stovall upon receiving the 1996 Ben Smith Award, the ACLU's highest recognition for the defense and advancement of civil liberties. Clippings and writings on racism and civil rights included, as well as publications from the Center for Democratic Renewal. Minutes and reports from the Multicultural Committee present.

**Subseries 5: David Duke, 1971-1995, undated** (.6 linear feet)

Anti-David Duke Campaign material and general information about Duke. Articles/material regarding candidates who ran against Duke, such as Edwin Edwards and J. Bennet Johnston. Various sources regarding biographical information about Duke include book chapters, interviews with Duke, and reports, including a book chapter written by Duke called *Finderskeepers: Finding and Keeping the Man You Want*. Information about Duke written by Jane Buchsbaum, Thomas Martinez, Kenneth Stern, John Walton, and Michael Zatarian. Also included are newsletters and other materials from groups Duke was involved with such as the National Association for the Advancement of White People (NAAWP) and the Ku Klux Klan. Information about



Duke written by former Klan members also present. Two audiocassette tapes, which contain excerpts from a 1986 interview with Duke are included.

**Subseries 6: Fund-raising, 1988-1991, undated** (.4 linear feet)

Fund-raising letters on behalf on the Coalition written by Stovall include letters to specific people as well as “Dear Friend” letters. Thank-you notes to contributors included. Memos to board members regarding fund-raising activities and progress on certain projects. Fund-raising lists, contribution lists, and mailing lists compiled by the Coalition included.

**Subseries 7: Newspaper/Magazine Articles, 1969-1997, undated** (1.3 linear foot)

All of the newspaper and magazine articles collected by the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism. Most articles included are written about Duke and his campaign. Articles written about racism and Nazism and the Klan as well as those about the Coalition and Stovall also present. Printed materials, such as pamphlets, also included. Includes some oversized materials.

**Subseries 8. Bound Material, 1989-1995, undated** (.3 linear feet)

Resource packets regarding politics and background of David Duke prepared by the Coalition. Also included are bound uncorrected page proofs of *The Rise of David Duke*, by Tyler Bridges. Teaching guides for the movie *Schindler's List* are also present.

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**CONTAINER LIST**

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|                       | 2          | 30                     | Church Issues, Farm Crisis, Creation Science, Miscellaneous, (1949-1997, undated)   |
| 10:68                 | 3          | 26                     | Governor's Pardon, Parole, and Rehabilitation Commission, Prison Reform, Oakdale Detention Center, Wilbert Rideau, (1975-1993, undated) |
|                       | 4          | 32                     | LCARN Board Member information, business papers, correspondence, civil rights material, (1986-1998, undated)                            |
| 10:69                 | 5          | 37                     | David Duke (includes two audio cassettes ), Fund-raising, (1971-1995, undated)  |
|                       | 6          | 14                     | LCARN Printed materials, newspaper and magazine articles, (1969-1997, undated)  |
| 10:70                 | 7          | --                     | LCARN Oversize Materials (1990-1992, undated)   |
|                       | 8          | --                     | LCARN Bound Materials (1989-1995, undated)  |