

Guide to the Jonathan May Collection

Descriptive Summary :

Creator: Jonathan May , 1939-

Title: Jonathan May Collection

Dates: 1935-2019

Quantity: .25 Linear Feet , 1.35 GB digital

Abstract: This collection contains digital photographs , genealogical information, published and unpublished writings by May discussing his life experience and family of origin in Greensboro, Alabama , and an oral history interview May recorded with Prof. Michael Fitzgerald in 2019 .

Accession: 720 -2019

Biographical Note :

Jonathan Bryan May, Jr. was born in Greensboro, Alabama on February 8, 1939 to Jonathan Bryan May and Annie Lee Turberville. May grew up in Sawyerville near Umbria Plantation. His mother was close friends with the last Pickens to own Umbria, Eloise Pickens Lunsford. After receiving his Master's in Library Science from Columbia University May began working in their library. He worked for Columbia in the Journalism Library then as Government Documents Librarian , for twenty -seven years before retiring to take care of his family home. He also worked part time as a postal clerk for ten years.

Scope and Content :

This collection contains digital photographs , genealogical information, published and unpublished works by May, and an oral history interview May recorded

Eloise Pickens Lun sford . The 2023 accrual [923 MB] includes images of the ruin s of Umbria taken in 1999 and numerous May family photographs in addition to copies of 2 published works, and an unpublished autobiography y title d, "Telling Stories: Essays at Aut obiography ."

Topics of note in May 's memoir include:

- The rise and fall and possible rise again of a small Black Belt community.

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Guide updated by: Deborah Gurt

Guide last updated: 7/3/2024

Related Content:

Acc. 546 -2011 The Doy Leale McCall Sr. Papers; Pickens Papers

Acc. 721- 2019 Sawyerville Oral History Project

Acc. 386 -2002 Robert Eugene Bell Papers

Content List:

1. Writings by Jonathan May :

“Childhood Memories of Umbria Plantation ” (a print copy is housed with Acc. #7 16)

A Howling in the Night

Siren Song

Rants , Raves, Ruminations, and Ramblifications : Musings from a Hamlet

Telling Stories: Fragments of a Life

Telling Stories: Essays at Autobiography (File location : X:\May, Jonathan (720))

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