Civil Rights in Dallas

Books - Articles - Videos - Collections - Oral Histories - YouTube - Websites

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Books


Harris, Edward Tex. *In the Shadow of Tex*. Texas: Edward Harris and Assoc., 2009.


Articles


Videos

Texas Trailblazer: Barefoot Sanders. KERA. 2009.


Collections

A diverse, actively growing collection, the Museum Collection contains important primary and secondary resources of photographs, archival news footage, film, oral history interviews, documents, bibliographic materials and artifacts related to the civil rights movement history in the city of Dallas and surrounding areas.

Please visit our online collections database for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or call (214) 741-6660 ext. 6646.

Oral Histories

For more information about the Oral History Collection

The Rev. Earl Allen


The Rev. Wilfred Bailey

As minister of the Casa View Methodist Church in the 1960s, Bailey served as a community leader and took a prominent position on civic matters, particularly in the area of racial integration. He was at the Trade Mart luncheon on the day of the assassination. Recorded October 15, 1999.
Clarence Broadnax

A longtime civil rights activist, Broadnax was the first African-American hairstylist hired to work at the Neiman Marcus department store in Dallas. A member of the NAACP and the Nation of Islam, he was one of the key organizers of the prominent 1964 protest of the downtown Piccadilly Cafeteria, and he was arrested on several different occasions during the civil rights movement. Recorded August 14, 2006, and June 11, 2008.

Carroll Brown

As a student at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Brown became one of the earliest civil rights activists in Dallas by organizing a 1960 drugstore sit-in. Brown, one of the few white activists in the city, played a prominent role in local protests from 1960 to 1967. Recorded August 6, 2008.

Gloria Brown

Brown was a student teacher at an all African American school in Marshall, Texas, at the time of the assassination. She moved to Dallas less than one year later. Recorded November 9, 2010.

George and Jeannette Crawford

The Crawfords were active in the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960s. They both recall Dallas as a city of hatred and anger at the time of the Kennedy assassination because of vocal right-wing extremism. Recorded June 12, 2009.

Betty Culbreath

A longtime community leader, and director of Dallas County Health and Human Services for more than two decades, Culbreath became active in the civil rights movement while attending the University of Texas in Austin. She participated in protests and sit-ins, including a filmed altercation that aired on local television. Recorded April 26, 2011.

Robert Folsom

Mayor of Dallas from 1976 to 1981, Folsom was a longtime real estate developer and served as president of the Dallas School Board during the racial integration of the 1960s. Recorded September 5, 2001.

Jody Furnish

A Dallas social worker in 1963, Furnish saw the Kennedys arrive at Dallas Love Field Airport. Throughout the 1960s, she was locally active in the civil rights movement. Recorded August 21, 2008.
Mary Greene

A longtime Dallasite, Greene served as a Kennedy campaign worker in 1960 and became involved in the civil rights movement locally throughout the 1960s. Later, she was involved in the creation of Sesame Street for PBS and served in the Carter administration. Recorded March 9, 2006.

Edward Harris

A vocal African-American activist in Dallas, Harris fought for civil rights during the 1960s with local organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In 1968, he attended the National Black Power Conference in Philadelphia. Recorded February 6 and September 6, 2006.

Princella Hartman

Interviewed around her 100th birthday, Hartman shared memories of the African-American community in Dallas. Owner of a Dallas rooming house and actively involved in voter registration drives, she was working in an elementary school cafeteria at the time of the assassination. Recorded May 9, 2006.

Bishop Mark Herbener

Herbener was pastor of the Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Dallas throughout the 1960s and 1970s, during which time he was actively involved in the civil rights movement. He held a memorial service for President Kennedy following the assassination. Recorded February 1 and September 6, 2006.

The Rev. Peter Johnson

A lifelong crusader for civil rights throughout the South, Johnson served on the staff of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He began working for civil rights in Dallas in 1969. Recorded February 23, 2006.

J. Erik Jonsson

A notable mayor in the years following the assassination (1964-71), Jonsson was a longtime community leader who is credited with helping Dallas through that traumatic period. As president of the Dallas Citizens Council in 1963, he met the presidential party at Dallas Love Field and later announced to the crowd at the Trade Mart that the president had been shot. Recorded June 30, August 17, and November 10, 1992.

Dr. Glenn M. Linden

A longtime associate professor of history at Southern Methodist University, Linden was one of the founding board members of the Dallas County Historical Foundation. A prolific writer on the Civil War, he was also the author of Desegregating Schools in Dallas: Four Decades in the Federal Courts (1995). Recorded August 4, 1997, May 24, 2006, and June 9, 2008.
Lois Louise

A social studies teacher at an all African-American school in Dallas in 1963, Louise shared insight into race relations in the city and her students’ reaction to President Kennedy's death. In 1965, Louise opened a clothing store called Dashika House, which was the first store in south Dallas owned by an African-American woman. Recorded May 18, 2007.

Al Maddox


Alphonse C. Matthews

A 32-year veteran of Southwestern Bell, Matthews recalled the telephone chaos that occurred on November 22, 1963. As an African-American living in Dallas, he also provided impressions of segregated life and race relations in the 1960s. Recorded September 25, 2002.

Soundra McDuff

McDuff worked at the Dal-Tex building in Dealey Plaza in the early 1960s. She was traveling to Dallas by bus from Oklahoma City at the time of the assassination. Later she participated in occasional civil rights activities in the downtown area. Recorded April 20, 2010.

Frances McElvaney

The wife of prominent civil rights and peace movement activist the Rev. Bill McElvaney, Frances McElvaney became involved in the women's rights movement in the late 1960s. As part of this effort, she helped organize controversial classes for young women at Northaven United Methodist Church in Dallas. Recorded January 14, 2008.

The Rev. Bill McElvaney

The founding pastor of St. Stephen Methodist Church in Mesquite, Texas, McElvaney was involved in the 1960s desegregation of the Mesquite Independent School District in Dallas County. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, he was a vocal peace activist and participated in silent protests in Dealey Plaza and other local sites. Recorded February 10, 2006.

Lu Mitchell

A Dallas-based songwriter and folk singer for more than 45 years, Mitchell performed at numerous civil rights and peace movement rallies, including vigils held in Dealey Plaza. She saw the presidential motorcade as it exited Dallas Love Field and wrote a poignant ballad that weekend in memory of President Kennedy. Recorded May 13, 2008.
Dr. Darwin Payne

A reporter for the Dallas Times Herald in 1963, Payne was in Abraham Zapruder's office shortly after the assassination and covered the events of that weekend, visiting the Texas School Book Depository and Oswald's rooming house in Oak Cliff. A prominent Dallas historian, Payne is now professor emeritus of communications at Southern Methodist University. Recorded January 20, 1995, November 21, 1999, October 23, 2003, and April 20, 2006.

Dr. Ralph H. Poteet

Poteet served as superintendent of the Mesquite Independent School District in Dallas County from 1964 to 1986. During that time, he oversaw the desegregation of Mesquite schools. He was assistant superintendent at the time of the assassination. Recorded March 10, 2006.

Bob Ray Sanders

A respected longtime newspaper, radio and television journalist in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Sanders was attending high school at an African-American school in Fort Worth in 1963. On Thanksgiving Day that year, his marching band performed a memorial tribute to President Kennedy. Sanders was later an active supporter of the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Recorded September 6, 2006, September 19, 2007, and June 11, 2008.

Jan Sanders

The wife of Judge Barefoot Sanders and a close friend of Judge Sarah T. Hughes, Sanders was with Hughes at the Trade Mart luncheon on November 22, 1963, and later traveled with her to Washington, D.C., for President Kennedy's funeral. A longtime community leader, Sanders was a civil rights and women's rights activist and was also involved in the peace movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Recorded January 31, 2006.

Ruth Sanders

An African American community leader and longtime civil rights activist, Sanders was working at the Dallas YWCA at the time of the Kennedy assassination. Recorded October 13, 2010.

YouTube

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza Channel

28 Days at the Piccadilly

A panel discussion with participants in a 1964 civil rights protest at Dallas' Piccadilly Cafeteria. The program featured Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Bob Ray Sanders and civil rights activists Clarence Broadnax and the Reverend Earl Allen.

Living History with Clarence Broadnax
An interview with Clarence Broadnax, a civil rights activist involved in a 1964 civil rights protest at Dallas' Piccadilly Cafeteria.

Living History with Reverend William McElvaney

An interview with Dallas-area pastor Reverend William McElvaney, who speaks about his involvement in the 1960s desegregation of schools in Mesquite, Texas and his participation in Vietnam War protests that took place in Dealey Plaza.

Websites

Texas State Historical Association – Civil Rights and Mansfield School Segregation Incident

Summary of African-American and Mexican-American civil rights history in Texas including the significant events and prominent people who improved the political circumstances for these groups.

Dallas Public Library

Marion Butts Collection

An African-American commercial photographer and editor of the Dallas Express, recorded events and community life in Dallas as part of a career that spanned the last half of the twentieth century. His rich body of work documents not only segregation and civil rights, but also business, civic, religious, educational, and social life, as well as visits by national leaders and celebrity entertainers. Mr. Butts graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas in 1943.

Dallas Newspaper Collections

The library provides access to the two major dailies published during the 1960s. The Dallas Morning News is available online in full text from 1885 to 1984. The Dallas Times Herald is available on microfiche from 1855 to 1991.

Dallas Municipal Archives - The John F. Kennedy/Dallas Police Department Collection

This collection was opened to researchers in 1989 when the Dallas Police Department transferred all police records relating to the assassination to the Dallas Municipal Archives in the Office of the City Secretary. It contains 11,406 documents and photographs, including homicide reports, affidavits, witness statements, newspaper clippings and correspondences. The Municipal Archives holds the original files, except those that have been permanently transferred to the federal government.

Dallas Historical Society – Various collections

Holdings include ephemera, letters and newspaper clippings from the Dallas Morning News and Dallas Times Herald. It also includes photographs from the dedication of the JFK Memorial and drawings by Jack Ruby.
Portal to Texas History – Various collections

A digital library with access to thousands primary and secondary sources including photographs, newspapers, journals, maps and books related to Dallas and Texas. Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas, The Dallas Municipal Archives John F. Kennedy/Dallas Police Department Collection and The Sixth Floor Museum Dallas Times Herald Collection are available on the portal.