

# **Henry Lewis Suggs Papers**

## **Mss.0358**

**Finding aid prepared by Created by James Cross.**

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July 01, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Clemson University Libraries Special Collections  
2014  
Box 343001  
Clemson, SC, 29634

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Clemson University Libraries Special Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Suggs, Henry Lewis
<b>Title</b>	Henry Lewis Suggs Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1979-2003
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1932, 1934, 1936, 1944, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1958-1961, 1974, 1977-2003, 2008-2009
<b>Extent</b>	2.5 cubic feet consisting of 59 folders, 58 photographs, 1 audiocassette, 1 3" floppy disk, and 15 oversize items
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

When citing materials from manuscript collections and the University Archives, use the following format: Identification of the item, folder and box number, Mss 358 Henry Lewis Suggs Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, South Carolina.

## Biographical Note

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Henry Lewis Suggs was born in 1942 in Winterville, Pitt County, North Carolina. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC in 1963 and 1968 respectively. He earned his Ph.D in American History from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA in 1976. Dr. Suggs served as an Educational Specialist in the U.S. Air Force from 1963-1967 at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX; Lajes Air Force Base in Portugal; and Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL. He was an assistant professor of history at Hampton Institute, Hampton, VA from 1968-1970, an assistant professor of history (and the university's first African American faculty member) at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC from 1974-1976, and an assistant professor of history at Howard University, Washington, D.C. from 1976-1983. Dr. Suggs joined the history department at Clemson University in 1983 as an assistant professor and in 1992 became the second African American faculty member to be promoted to the rank of full professor. He was instrumental in establishing an African American Studies minor at Clemson which was first offered in 1994. Dr. Suggs was chair of the African American Studies program 1994-2003 and president of the Clemson University Black Faculty and Staff Association 1994-1996. In 1991 he was selected as the first Jesse Ball duPont Visiting Professor for the 1991-1992 academic year at Lynchburg College in Virginia and during the 1996-1997 academic year he was a Visiting Scholar in the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University. Dr. Suggs retired from Clemson University in 2003 as a professor emeritus of American history. That same year he was appointed as scholar-in-residence at North Carolina Central University to write a history of the University. Dr. Suggs is the author of six books: *The Black Press in the South, 1865-1979*; *P. B. Young, Newspaperman: Race, Politics, and Journalism in the New South: 1910-1962*; *The Black Press in the Middle West, 1865-1985*; *Cecil Newman and the Minneapolis Spokesman: Journalism, History, and Culture in Minnesota, 1865-1985*; *James Edward Shepard: A History of North Carolina Central University (NCCU): 1875-1947*; and *The Noble Warrior: Chester Arthur Franklin and the Kansas City Call, 1919-1955*. He is the author of numerous articles on the American South, African American history and African American journalism and has given many presentations on those topics. Dr. Suggs was a recipient of the Historian Award for "Outstanding documentation of the Black Press," an honoree of the Black Press Hall of Fame, was awarded a commemorative medal for his book on P. B. Young, and was given the key to the city of Greenville, SC. He is a member of the American Historical Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. Western Carolina University established an academic scholarship in his honor in 1991.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The collection includes articles, book reviews, budgets, cards, clippings, correspondence, drafts, flyers, memoranda, minutes, pamphlets, photographs, posters, programs, publications, speeches, and other

material dating from as early as 1932 until 2009. Most of the items in the collection are from the period 1979-2003. The material in the collection was created mainly as a result of Dr. Suggs' activities as a faculty member and researcher in African American and Southern history. The collection details the creation of an African American Studies minor in 1994 (including Dr. Suggs' research on similar programs) and the activities of Clemson's African American Studies program during his tenure as chair. The files also document his interactions with Clemson University administrators, faculty, staff, and students; faculty from other colleges and universities, including Harvard University and Lynchburg College in Virginia where he was a visiting professor/scholar; editors and other professionals; and the general public. In addition, there is information about the Clemson University Black Faculty and Staff Association, particularly during the period 1994-1996 when Dr. Suggs was president of the organization. Finally, there is material pertaining to the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and his personal life, speaking engagements, writings, and research on the black press and black journalists. Correspondents include African American historians Lenwood G. Davis and John Hope Franklin; Clemson University faculty members Roger Grant, David Nicholas, and Alan Schaffer; and Robert Waller, Dean of Clemson University's College of Liberal Arts 1981-1994.

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## **Arrangement**

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The collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title with photographs filed at the end of the collection.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Clemson University Libraries Special Collections 2014

### **Donor**

Donated by Henry Lewis Suggs in 2009 as accessions 09-158 and 09-171.

### **Processing Information**

Processed and finding aid written by James Cross in 2014.

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Clemson University. African American Studies.
- Clemson University. Black Faculty and Staff Association.

### Genre(s)

- Fliers (printed matter)
- Photographs.
- Posters.

### Occupation(s)

- Clemson University--Faculty

### Personal Name(s)

- Davis, Lenwood G.
- Franklin, John Hope, 1915-2009
- Grant, H. Roger, 1943-
- Nicholas, David
- Schaffer, Alan
- Waller, Robert A., (Robert Alfred), 1931-

### Subject(s)

- African American college teachers--South Carolina
- African American journalists
- African American press.
- African Americans--Education (Higher)--South Carolina
- African Americans--History--United States
- African Americans--History.--South Carolina

- African-American studies--South Carolina
- Clemson University--Employees
- Clemson University--History

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
African-American Newspapers and Periodicals Bibliography and Union List Project 1991, 1994, 1996	1	1
African American Studies Minor Proposal 1992-1995, 2001	1	2
African American Studies Institute Proposal 2001 and undated	1	3
African American Studies Johnson Whitaker Chair Proposal circa 1997	1	4
African American Studies Program 1988-1996	1	5
African American Studies Program 1997-June 2001	1	6
African American Studies Program July 2001-2003, 2008	1	7
Biographical Material: Suggs, H. Lewis 1984-1997	1	8
Black Awareness Committee 1986-1987	2	1
Brandeis University 1997	2	2
<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> Fiftieth Anniversary 1959, 2004	2	3

Clippings: Education 1978, 1985-1987, 1992, 1995-1996, 1999-2001, 2004, 2006	2	4
Clippings: Historically Black Colleges and Universities 1936, 1986, 2004, and undated	2	5
Clippings: John Hope Franklin 1990, 1993, 1999	2	6
Clippings: Martin Luther King, Jr. 1978-1983, 1987, 2003, and undated	2	7
Clippings: "Million Man March" 1995-1996	2	8
Clippings: Rodney King Case/Los Angeles, CA Riot 1992-1993	2	9
Clippings: South Carolina Confederate Flag Controversy 1999-2000	2	10
Clemson University Black Faculty and Staff Association 1987-2003	2	11
Clemson University Black Graduate Student Association Bylaws and Constitution Undated	2	12
Correspondence 1974-1975, 1980-1990	2	13
Correspondence 1991-1997	3	1
Correspondence 1998-2001	3	2
Correspondence 2002-2003, 2009, and undated	3	3

Correspondence: North Carolina Central University 1995-1999	3	4
Correspondence: Tenure Support 1985	3	5
Griots (transparencies) Undated	3	6
Harvard University: Visiting Scholar, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute 1996-1997	3	7
Henry Lewis Suggs Award of Excellence, Western Carolina University 1991-1992, 1995, 1997, 2001-2003, 2008	3	8
History of the City of Norfolk, VA Project 1988-1989, 2005	3	9
Lynchburg College in Virginia: Jesse Ball duPont Visiting Professor of History 1991-1992	3	10
National Council for Black Studies Statement of Purpose 1983	3	11
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act 1984, 1998	3	12
Notes 1997, 2002	3	13
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 1990-1991, 1998, 2001	3	14
"On Borrowed Ground: Free African-American life in Charleston, South Carolina 1810-61" (1994) by Jason Poole 2000	4	1

Personal 1979-2004	4	2
Phone Messages 1990-2001 and undated	4	3
Research Material: African American Studies/Multiculturalism 1974, 1978, 1981, 1990-1995, 1997, 2000-2001, and undated	4	4
Research Material: Biographical circa 1955, 1971, 1976, 1978-1980, 1983, 1986-1988, 1991-1992, 1995-1998, 2000-2002	4	5
Research Material: Black Press 1934, 1938, 1946, 1950, 1958, 1966, 1984-1989, 1991, 1995-1997, 2002, and undated	4	6
Research Material: Desegregation of Clemson College 1961-1962, 1982, 2003	4	7
Research Material: Interview with Dr. Charles Battles (audiocassette) Undated	5	1
Research Material: Miscellaneous 1932, 1967, 1982, 1990, 1993, and undated	5	2
Research Material: Reconstruction 1971, 1977, 1982	5	3
Research Material: Slavery 1944, 1975, 1979, and undated	5	4
Research Sources circa 1981, 1995, 1998, and undated	5	5

Speaking Engagements 1977-2003	5	6
Student Papers 1997-1998, 2001-2002	5	7
Syllabi and tests 1994-2003	5	8
"The Upbuilding of Black Durham [NC]" (1912) by W. E. B. Du Bois 2005	5	9
Writings: Articles/Essays 1979, 2000-2002, and undated	5	10
Writings: Bibliographies 2002 and undated	5	11
Writings: Book chapter draft for <i>Harvard Guide to African American Studies</i> 1996 and undated	6	1
Writings: Book Reviews 1977, 1992-1996, 1998	6	2
Writings: Books - Announcements, Clippings, and Correspondence 1982-1983, 1987-1992, 1996	6	3
Writings: Newspaper Articles 1991, 2000-2001, 2004	6	4
Writings: Speeches circa 2000 and undated	6	5
Photographs 1994-1996, 2000-2003, and undated	6	6

## Oversize

## Oversize

## Oversize\_folder

"Black Politics, Race, and Journalism -- 1910-1960" lecture poster, Clemson University 1989	1
"Black America ... Celebration" calendar of events poster, Clemson University 1989	1
"Affirming the History and Success of the Black Press" lecture poster, University of Puget Sound 1995	1
"A Critique of Eric William's <i>Capitalism and Slavery: 50 Years Later</i> " lecture poster, Clemson University 1998	1
"Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Search for Interracial Goodwill" lecture poster, Clemson University 2002	1
"Humanistic Values during a Time of Crisis" lecture poster, Clemson University 2002	1
"The Impact of Chinese Nationalism on the African Nations of Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau" lecture poster, Clemson University 2002	1
"The 1954 Brown Decision: 50 Years Later" lecture poster, Clemson University 2002	1
"Clemson University Cultural and Religious Diversity Calendar, May 2002-August 2003" 2002	1
"You're Leaving!" greeting card 2003	1

Oversize

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"I have a dream" movie and lecture poster, Clemson University Undated	1
"Black Awareness Meeting" poster, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Clemson University Undated	1
"African American Studies Minor" pamphlet, Clemson University (annotated) Undated	1
"African American Studies Minor" poster, Clemson University (two copies) Undated	1