Guide to the Records of K. L Buford

Prepared by Dana Chandler and Cheryl Ferguson, 2009



**Tuskegee University Libraries, Archives and Museum**

# Tuskegee, AL 36088

Tuskegee University Archives

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** K.L. Buford

**Title:** Papers of K.L. Buford

**Dates:** 1957-1958

**Quantity:** .333cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** The Rev. K. L. Buford and Dr. Stanley Hugh Smith become the first black elected officials in Alabama since Reconstruction when they win seats on the Tuskegee City Council. Buford, a civil rights leader, and Smith, a sociology professor at Tuskegee Institute, defeated white incumbents in a run-off election.

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### Administrative Information

#### Preferred Citation

Papers of K.L. Buford

**Acquisition Information**

Not Applicable.

**Processing Information**

The collection was received in one box. Original order had not been preserved. A number of the documents are in a fragile state. During processing, the metal fasteners were removed. Copies were made of newspaper clippings and photos and the copies inserted in place of the originals. An artificial order was imposed and documents were sorted chronologically by box. Blank folders were assigned titles according to the contents of the folder. It is unknown if the previous attempt at processing maintained any of the original folder titles.

### Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Libraries online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations, or places should search the catalog using these headings:

### Corporation Names

### Congress of Racial Equality

### Harvard University—History

### Harvard University—Harvard Crimson The Southern Courier

### Southern Christian Leadership Conference

### Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

**Subjects:**

African American churches

African American civil rights workers

African American intellectuals -- 20th century

African Americans—Civil rights—History—20th Century

African Americans -- Economic conditions -- 20th century

African American political activists—History

African Americans—Civil rights—Alabama

African Americans -- Social conditions -- 1964-1975

African Americans -- Southern States

African Americans—Southern States—Economic conditions   
 African Americans—Southern States—Social conditions

Alabama—Politics and government

Black power—United States

Black militant organizations—United States

Civil rights demonstrations -- Southern States

Civil rights demonstrations -- United States

Civil rights movements—United States

Civil rights movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Civil rights workers -- United States

Internal security -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Lawyers -- Southern States

Lawyers -- United States

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Montgomery (Ala.)

NAACP National Conference on Black Power

Poor People's Campaign

Radicalism—United States

Right wing extremists -- United States

Selma (Ala.)

Segregation

Social justice -- United States

Social work with African Americans  
 Southern States—Politics and government

Southern States--Race relations

Southern States -- Social conditions -- 1945-.

Student movements—United States

Tuskegee (Ala.)

Tuskegee (Ala.)—Race relations  
 United States—Economic policy—20th Century   
 United States—Politics and government—20th Century

United States—Race relations

Voter registration—Alabama

Voting

**Persons:**

Abernathy, Ralph, 1926-1990

Carmichael, Stokely

Cummings, Peter

Gomillion, Charles

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968

Lottman, Michael S.

Parks, Rosa, 1913-2005

Williams, Hosea, 1926-

Biography

K.L. Buford succeeded William E. Carson as pastor of Butler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church on July 22, 1956. Buford took the appointment in Tuskegee after leaving a similar appointment at Martin Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Los Angeles, California. Buford’s distinguished career includes his work with the Tuskegee Civic Association (TCA) and was one of the first two African Americans elected to public office in the state of Alabama since Reconstruction. Buford also was chosen “Minister of the Year” at the 56th Annual Convention of the NAACP (1965) in Denver, Colorado.

### Scope and Contents

The collection consists of documents generated or received by K.L. Buford, 1957-1958. The bulk of the records date to 1957. They include correspondence, business documents and other miscellaneous documents. The records are potentially valuable to those interested in researching a history of sociological thought regarding the lives of African Americans, Democratic thought and the history of the Civil Rights Movement, particularly regarding events in Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama leading up to the landmark Supreme Court case of *Gomillion vs. Lightfoot.*

### Arrangement

Not Applicable.

### Restrictions

#### Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions on access.

#### Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

### Inventory

#### Box Folder

1 1 Announcement: “First Anniversary Celebration, Tuskegee Civic Association”, June 24, 1958

1 2 Announcement: From William P. Mitchell, Sec. Tuskegee Civic Assoc.

1 3 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Dec. 321, 1957, Feb 3, 1958 & Feb 11, 1958

1 4 Civil Subpoena in Equity, K.L. Buford

1 5 Correspondence: To K. L. Buford from Brown K. Jackson, Exec. Sec. NAACP

1 6 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Sep. 3, 1957

1 7 Announcement: “Crusade for Citizenship,” Sept. 3, 1957

1 8 Announcement: “Crusade for Citizenship,” Aug. 20, 1957

1 9 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Aug 13, 1957

1 10 Announcement: “Crusade for Citizenship,” Aug 27, 1957

1 11 Tuskegee Civic Association Roster of Officers and Committee Chairmen of the Tuskegee Civic Association for 1958

1 12 Announcement: “Tuskegee Institute Daily Activity Sheet,: Dec. 19, 1957

1 13 Announcement: Macon Theatre presents, “Bernadine”

1 14 Announcement: “Carver Court- Quality Shop”

1 15 Order of Service, Jan 7, 1958

1 16 Advertisement: “It’s Here!!! Your Quality Seed, Feed and Supply Store”

1 17 Announcement: “Crusade for Citizenship,” Dec. 10, 1957

1 18 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Dec. 10, 1957

1 19 “Annual Report of the Tuskegee Civic Association for 1957”

1 20 Roster of Officers and Committee Chairmen of the Tuskegee Civic Association for 1957

1 21 Correspondence: To K. L. Buford from Murrell Scott

1 22 Announcement: Crusade fro Citizenship,” Dec.3, 1957

1 23 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Nov. 26, 1957

1 24 Announcement: “Crusade for Citizenship,” Nov. 26, 1957

1 25 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Nov. 19, 1957

1 26 Announcement: “The T.C. A. presents Mrs. Wilma Dykeman Stokley, in a Lecture on “ The Dawn Comes Up Like Thunder””

1 27 Announcement: “Crusade for Citizenship, Nov. 12, 1957

1 28 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association, “Oct. 29, 1957

1 29 Office Memorandum: From V.A. Hospital-Conduct of V.A Employees

1 30 Copy of Telegram: To K. L. Buford from U.S. Atty. General Herbert Brownell

1 31 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Oct. 15, 1957

1 32 “A Message from the Business and Professional People of Tuskegee to you the Citizens of Macon County

1 33 Advertisement: “Crusade for Citizenship,” Oct. 8, 1957

1 34 Advertisement: “You Save by Buying Here”

1 35 Itinerary: Baltimore Branch NAACP, Sept. 22, 1957

1 36 Church Program: Sept. 22, 1957, Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church

1 37 Advertisement; “You are Invited to Join the Macon County Chamber of Commerce”

1 38 Correspondence: Roselyn Greenleaf to K. L. Buford

1 39 Correspondence: G. A. Miller to K. L. Buford

1 40 Funeral Announcement: “Joe Lewis”

1 41 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association,” Jan. 28, 1958

1 42 Church Program: Bowen Methodist Church, Jan. 26, 1958

1 43 Announcement: “Tuskegee Civic Association, Jan. 21, 1958

1 44 Misc.

1 45 Correspondence: To K. L. Buford from Sadie P. De;aney

1 46 Tuskegee Civic Association membership Card K. L. Buford

1 47 Civil Subpoena in Equity: K. L. Buford