



Rose M. Nolen Papers (C4227)

Collection Number: C4227

Collection Title: Rose M. Nolen Papers

Dates: 1873-2004

Creator: Nolen, Rose M., 1935-2015

Abstract: The papers of Rose Nolen contain clippings, research materials, and manuscript drafts of a Sedalia, Missouri, journalist. Topics include the Katy Depot in Sedalia, the Methodist Inner City Church in Kansas City, Black Panthers and the Black Power Movement, Bothwell Regional Medical Center, and Sedalia history.

Collection Size: 1.0 cubic foot
(41 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has retained copyright with the understanding that researchers are free to use and quote from the papers within the bounds of Fair Use.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Rose M. Nolen Papers* (C4227); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia[after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Rose M. Nolen on October 14, 2009 (Accession No. CA6220).

Processed by: Processed by Heather Richmond on November 20, 2015. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on November 9, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Rose Mary Nolen was a civil rights activist, writer, publisher, and award-winning journalist from Sedalia, Missouri. In addition to essays, columns, newspaper stories, and the occasional poem, Nolen wrote about African American history, civil rights, and Sedalia history.

Nolen was born June 16, 1935, in Windsor, Missouri, to Norman and Opal Willis Rhodes. She had four sisters and three brothers; her father died when she was three years old. When she was seven, her family moved to Kansas City; later they moved to Sedalia, where she graduated from the C.C. Hubbard School in 1952. She married Samuel L. Wilkerson, Jr. in Kansas City in 1955. They divorced, and she married Thomas H. Nolen in Kansas City in 1962. They had one son, Mark Nolen, in 1965, and the family lived in Kansas City through the late 1960s. By the 1970s, Thomas and Rose were no longer together, and Rose and her son moved back to Sedalia.

Nolen began her journalism career in 1983, working as a columnist and staff writer for the *Pettis County Local Times-News*. Subsequently, she worked for the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, the *Columbia Missourian*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and the *Sedalia Democrat*. She founded a publishing company, Rosemark Communications, in 1985. Nolen wrote and published several books, including *Hoecakes, Hambone, and all that Jazz: African American Traditions in Missouri*; *African Americans in Mid-Missouri: From Pioneers to Ragtimers*; *Lost on the Prairie: George R. Smith College, Methodist School for Blacks, Sedalia, Missouri: 1888-1925*; *Bothwell Regional Health Center: A Lifetime of Caring, 1930-2005* (with William B. Claycomb and Becky Carr Imhauser); *Time Out! (For Working Class Women)*; and *Sedalia's Ragtime Man: The Story of Scott Joplin's Sedalia Years*. She also published the quarterly newsletter *Mid-Missouri Black Watch* from 1992-1998.

Nolen was a member of the Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church in Sedalia, and she was involved with the Center for African-American Studies Museum. In her later years, she helped open the Rose M. Nolen Black History Library in Sedalia. She died on January 1, 2015, at the age of 79.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Sedalia History
Civil Rights

Scope and Content Note:

The collection, by no means a comprehensive representation of Nolen's work, primarily consists of her later research into Sedalia history, as well as a small amount of primary source material documenting the civil rights and black power movements in Kansas City in the 1960s and 1970s.

The **Sedalia History** series is the most substantial and includes research on a variety of subjects. The largest portion consists of research for and drafts of the book *Bothwell Regional Health Center: a Lifetime of Caring, 1930-2005*. There is also a significant amount of research accumulated in the process of developing historical materials on Sedalia and the Katy Depot on behalf of the Sedalia Heritage Foundation. This was in preparation for the Depot's reopening as a historical museum and welcome center in 2001-2003. Also included are written accounts

collected from former railroad workers and other individuals, recalling their experiences with the Katy Depot and the railroad lines that ran through Sedalia. Other materials on Sedalia history cover topics such as the history of Sedalia parks, churches, libraries, and schools; Scott Joplin; Jack Oakie; and the Pearl River. A small amount of material relating to publishing is present, as well as scattered notes and manuscripts of essays and columns. These files primarily include clippings, notes, drafts, brochures, and copies from books and periodicals. Researchers interested in the history of Sedalia as well as Nolen's writing process will find much to explore in this series.

The **Civil Rights** series, though small, is significant in that it documents grassroots activism in Kansas City's African American community in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The heart of this series is a collection of clippings and other materials relating to Kansas City's Methodist Inner City Parish, a primarily African American church, whose pastor, Reverend Philip Lawson, was a civil rights activist with ties to the Black Panther Party. Lawson also traveled to Hanoi with an anti-war message using church mission funds, causing a scandal among the larger Methodist community. In response, Lawson was removed from his position and the church was defunded. The Methodist Inner City Parish, its mission and community activism, as well as the scandal, are extensively documented through clippings and various printed materials produced by the church. Also included is a short manuscript, "The Methodist Inner City Parish Twenty Years Later," possibly written by Nolen. Other materials in this series include community action training materials from the same time period, materials discussing the Methodist Church's relationship to the Black Power Movement, and published and semi-published articles on issues of race and civil rights.

Container List:

Sedalia History Series

- f. 1 Publishing, 1997-2003, n.d.
- f. 2 Notes, n.d.
- f. 3 Column and essay manuscripts, 1997-2002, n.d.
- f. 4 Scott Joplin and George R. Smith College, n.d.
- f. 5 Whistlers – notes, n.d.
- f. 6-8 Katy Depot research, c. 1980-2001, n.d.
- f. 9-11 Katy Depot – "Train Stories" research and drafts, 1954-2002
- f. 12 Sedalia parks history – Liberty Park rose garden, 1958-2005
- f. 13 Charles Yeater, n.d.
- f. 14 Sedalia Public Library research, 2001-2002, n.d.
- f. 15 Jack Oakie research, 2002, n.d.
- f. 16 Sedalia church histories, 1927, 1988, n.d.
- f. 17 Municipal bonds, taxation, 1873-1981
- f. 18 Pearl River research, 1987-1990, n.d.
- f. 19 Sarah Elvira Cotton and Smith-Cotton High School research and notes, n.d.
- f. 20 "Naming Sedalia" research and drafts, n.d.
- f. 21 *Byline Magazine*, 2001
- f. 22 *Introduction to Civil Air Patrol*, 2002
- f. 23-34 Bothwell Regional Health Center book
 - f. 23 City Hospital #2 and desegregation, 1939-c. 2004
 - f. 24 1960s notes and research, 1960-c. 2003

- f. 25-26 1980s-2004 notes and research, 1960-2004
- f. 27 Remodeling, 1960-1985
- f. 28 Sedalia Democrat index and articles, 1997-2004
- f. 29 "Bothwell Billboard" newsletter, 1965-2003
- f. 30 Volunteers and Auxiliary, 1952-2004
- f. 31-34 Drafts and planning, 2002-2005

Civil Rights Series

- f. 35 Methodist Inner City Parish and Black Panthers, 1967-1970
- f. 36 Methodist Inner City Parish, 1970
- f. 37 Methodist Inner City Parish Twenty Years Later, 1968- c. 1980s
- f. 38 The Black church and the Kansas City movement, 1969-1991
- f. 39 Monographs – civil rights movement, 1966-1970
- f. 40 Civil rights – training material, 1967-1971
- f. 41 Black history bibliography and biographies of African Americans, n.d.

Index:

Index Terms	Folders
Authors and publishers	1-34
Bass, Tom	41
Black Action Training Center, Kansas City, Missouri	40
Black history--Bibliography	41
Black Methodists for Church Renewal	38
Black Panther Party	35-37
Black power	35-40
Blacks--Civil rights--Missouri, Kansas City	35-40
Blacks--Missouri, Kansas City	35-40
Blacks--Missouri, Sedalia	2, 4, 18, 23
Bothwell Billboard, Sedalia, Missouri	29
Bothwell Regional Medical Center, Sedalia, Missouri--History	23-34
Byline Magazine	21
Churches--Missouri, Sedalia	16
Civil Air Patrol	22
Community organization	35-40
Cotton, Sarah Elvira (1831-1930)	19
Depots--Missouri, Sedalia	6-11
First United Methodist Church, Sedalia, Missouri	16
George R. Smith College, Sedalia, Missouri	4
Giles, Gwen	41
Historic sites--Missouri, Sedalia	6-11
Hospitals--Missouri, Sedalia	23-34
Joplin, Scott (1868-1917)	4

Index Terms	Folders
Katy Depot, Sedalia, Missouri	6-11
Lawson, Philip C.	35-37
Methodist Church, Missouri West Conference	35-37
Methodist Church-Missouri, Kansas City	35-38, 40
Methodist Inner City Parish, Kansas City, Missouri	35-37
Midwest Training Network, Kansas City, Missouri	40
Missouri, Sedalia--Buildings	6-8, 14, 16, 17, 20
Missouri, Sedalia--History	2-34
Missouri, Sedalia--Library	14
Nolen, Rose M. (1935-2015)	1-41
Oakie, Jack (1903-1978)	15
Parks--Missouri, Sedalia	12
Pearl River--Missouri, Sedalia	18
Publishers and publishing	1
Railroad stations--Missouri, Sedalia	6-11
Railroads--Employees	9-11
Railroads--Missouri, Sedalia	6-11
Rawhide (Television program)	6
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Sedalia, Missouri	16
Schools--Missouri, Sedalia	2, 19
Sedalia Democrat	28
Segregation--Missouri	2, 18, 23
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sedalia, Missouri	16
Veterinarians and Veterinary Medicine--Missouri, Sedalia	3
Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Attitudes toward--Blacks	35-37
Williams, Mary Lou	41
Yeater, Charles E.	13
Yeater, Elizabeth D. (1880-1972)	2