



Nathan B. Young Papers (S0094)

Collection Number: S0094

Collection Title: Nathan B. Young Papers

Dates: 1923-1933

Creator: Young, Nathan Benjamin, 1862-1933

Abstract: This collection consists of Nathan B. Young's unpublished autobiography and related papers. The manuscript is 200 handwritten and typewritten pages with extensive annotations. Born into slavery in 1862, Young helped Booker T. Washington establish the curriculum at the Tuskegee Institute in the 1890s. Young later was a director at Georgia State Industrial College, served as the President of Florida A&M University, and was the President of Lincoln University in Missouri.

Collection Size: .15 cubic feet
(7 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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Nathan B. Young Papers* (S0094); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Saint Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Saint Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Nathan B. Young, Jr. on December 7, 1970 (Accession No. SA007).

Alternate Forms Available: Digital images of this collection are available online at the State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collections: <https://digital.shsmo.org>.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Nathan B. Young Papers can be found in the following collections:

Oral History Collection, interview with Judge Nathan B. Young, (S0829, T-0020)

Processed by: Processed by Irene Cortinovis, July 1975. Finding aid updated by Erin Purdy, August 2022.

Biographical Note:

Born in 1862 to Susan Smith, and enslaved woman, Young helped Booker T. Washington establish the academic curriculum at the Tuskegee Institute in the 1890s. In 1898 he was employed at Georgia State Industrial College as the Director of Teacher Training. Young also served as the President of Florida A&M University in 1901. After 1923, he became the President of Lincoln University in Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains the manuscript of Nathan Benjamin Young's unpublished autobiography, *Nathan B. Young: The Quest and Use of an Education*, along with accompanying materials. Consisting of 200 pages of typewritten and handwritten pages with extensive annotations, the manuscript is compiled from first and second drafts of the autobiography. Young wrote this manuscript mostly between 1923 and 1928, adding additional material until his death in 1933. The autobiographic sketch is written in the third person singular and describes Young's early life in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, his mother's biographical details including her escape from slavery, his training, and his career as a Black educator in the Jim Crow South. Also included are other drafts of the manuscript and independent chapters.

The papers in this collection that are not part of the manuscript are still related to the writing of the manuscript. The collection contains four pieces of correspondence, including two letters written to Nathan B. Young in 1928 and 1929 with information about the founding of the Tuskegee Institute, and the failed founding of another public school for Black students in eastern Alabama. The other two pieces of correspondence are from Nathan B. Young Jr. and date to the early 1940s, in which the writers discuss the possible publication of the autobiography. The articles and speeches are arranged in a single folder and include a speech about Booker T. Washington, an article titled "A Dream Fulfilled," and an article called "A Fifty-Year Jaunt Along the Educational Road." Of particular interest is a two-page handwritten memoir by Susan Smith, Young's mother, describing her experiences in enslavement and her escape to freedom.

Container List:

- f. 1 Manuscript of *Nathan B. Young: The Quest and Use of an Education*, 1923-1933
- f. 2 First draft of *The Quest and Use of an Education*, 1923-1933
- f. 3 Second draft of *The Quest and Use of an Education*, 1923-1933
- f. 4 Independent chapters of *The Quest and Use of an Education*, 1923-1933

- f. 5 Correspondence, 1928-1943
- f. 6 Articles and speeches by Nathan B. Young, 1916-1921
- f. 7 Reference photocopy of manuscript of *The Quest and Use of an Education*, 1923-1933

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
African American teachers -- Missouri.	1-7	
African Americans -- Education -- Missouri	1-7	
Education	1-7	
Fitzsimmons, Samuel	5	
Florida A & M University--president's house	6	Yes
Lincoln University (Jefferson City, Mo.)	1-7	
Smith, Susan	1-4, 6-7	
Tuskegee Institute	1-7	
Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915	1-7	
Washington, Josephine	5	
Young, Nathan B., 1862-1933	1-7	
Young, Nathan B., 1894-1993	5	