



St. Louis Unit of March on Washington Manuscript (S0170)

Collection Number: S0170

Collection Title: St. Louis Unit of March on Washington Manuscript

Dates: 1944

Creator: Grant, Louise Elizabeth

Abstract: This collection contains the unpublished thesis *The Saint Louis Unit of the March on Washington Movement: A Study in Sociology of Conflict* by Louise Elizabeth Grant. In her manuscript, Grant chronicles the creation of the St. Louis' March on Washington Movement chapter and its participation in the March on Washington Movement from 1941-1944.

Collection Size: 0.02 cubic foot
(1 folder)

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. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis Unit of March on Washington Manuscript* (S0170); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by the Social Science Library of Fisk University on April 2, 1984 (Accession No. SA2609).

Notes: The author of this manuscript used the identifier "Negro" when referring to African Americans. During the 19th and 20th centuries, most Americans considered this term a respectful way to refer to Black Americans. By the late 1960s, "Black" and "African American" became the preferred nomenclature.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the St. Louis Unit of March On Washington Manuscript can be found in the following collections:

David M. Grant Papers (S0552)

Charles Bannister Photograph Collection (S0583)

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, May 2023

Historical Note:

The March on Washington Movement (MOWM) was created by African American activists A. Phillip Randolph and Bayard Rustin in 1944 to address the issue of racial discrimination on the war front. To bring attention to the cause, MOWM planned a non-violent march on Washington D.C. In preparation for the July 1, 1941, march, local chapters of MOWM began organizing local participation. However, a week before the march, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which established the Fair Employment Practices Committee. Randolph officially canceled the event, but MOWM remained active until 1947 to advocate for desegregation in the military and equal rights across the United States.

David M. Grant and Theodore D. McNeal formed the St. Louis chapter of MOWM in response to the St. Louis location of the United States Cartridge Company laying off over 200 African American employees on May 16, 1942. McNeal sent a telegram to President Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practice urging the committee to investigate the unjust mass layoff. To bring attention to the group, the St. Louis chapter created advertisements in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* to attract attention to discriminatory employment. This advancement brought further attention from other prominent St. Louis newspapers, including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *St. Louis Star-Times*, where journalists wrote articles about the group.

The St. Louis chapter organized its first march on June 20, 1942. The demonstrators assembled at Tandy Park in St. Louis and journeyed to the United States Cartridge Company factory plant. A Cartridge Company spokesman addressed the protestors and announced plans to increase training for African Americans within the plant and a new plant specifically for African American employment. However, this did not deter the protestors as they continued down Riverview Avenue protesting employment discrimination. The protest led to increased hiring of African Americans at the plant, increased wages, and expanded enrollment in training programs. Later activities included protesting the Southwestern Bell company and segregated lunch counters. The group would continue to meet weekly until 1946.

Arrangement:

The collection has been maintained in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains the 144-page manuscript titled *The Saint Louis Unit of the March on Washington Movement: A Study in the Sociology of Conflict* by Louise Elizabeth Grant. Grant wrote the thesis for her master's through the Department of Sociology at Fisk University in 1944. Grant discusses the history of the March on Washington Movement and the origin of the March

on Washington St. Louis Chapter until 1944. In her analysis, Grant examines the movement through the sociological lens and its connection to human behavior. The manuscript has been maintained in its original order in one folder.

Container List:

- f. 1 *The Saint Louis Unit of the March on Washington Movement: A Study in the Sociology of Conflict, 1944*

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
African Americans--Civil rights--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
African Americans--Economic conditions--20th century	1
African Americans--Employment--History--20th century	1
African Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Civil rights movements--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Discrimination in employment	1
Grant, David M, 1903-1985	1
Grant, Louise Elizabeth	1
March on Washington Movement (Organization)	1
McNeal, Theodore D, 1905-1982	1
Protests and demonstrations	1
Randolph, Asa Phillip, 1889-1979	1
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Race relations	1
United States Cartridge Company (Saint Louis, Mo.)	1
United States. Committee on Fair Employment Practice	1
World War, 1939-1945	1