

J. McKinley Neal Collection (AC55)

Introduction:

The James McKinley Neal Collection contains documents and artifacts from his time in Kansas City. There are documents, photographs, and other ephemera related to his time in pharmaceutical and political work.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: James McKinley Neal
 Title: J. McKinley Neal Collection
 Date Range: 1928-1979
 Size: 5.73 Linear Feet (7 boxes)
 Collection Number: AC55

Donor Information:

Found in Collection.

Citation Note:

J. McKinley Neal Collection (AC55), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted
 Access Restrictions: Unrestricted

Biographical Sketch:

James McKinley Neal was an important pharmacist and state representative from Kansas City. He started his career as an insurance agent for Atlanta Life Insurance Company, starting his career while studying at Morehouse College. He worked for Atlanta Life Insurance Company for 15 years before marrying his wife and moving to Kansas City, working in a pharmacy with her. In 1946 he was elected to Missouri state legislature, working on five committees, and becoming the first African American to serve as the chair of a committee. He ended his term in 1964, working in a pharmacy again after.

Scope and Content Note:

Series 1: Photographs

This series is composed of different photographs in the collection.

Series 2: Correspondence

This series is composed of correspondence to and from James McKinley Neal. It comes in the form of letters, invitations to events, and other communications.

Series 3: Life Insurance Documents

This series is composed of Life Insurance documents. These documents are from when Neal was working in the Atlanta Life Insurance Company.

Series 4: Financial Documents

This series is composed of different financial documents. They include bank documents, job searching documents, and auditing documents.

Series 5: Business Cards

This series is composed of business cards. These cards came from various people and organizations. There are also some receipts, postcards, and ID cards in this collection.

Series 6: Political & Professional Documents

This series is mostly composed of documents related to Neal's professional life. They include documents related to his pharmaceutical work as well as some documents related to audits that occurred.

Series 7: Pamphlets

This series is composed of several pamphlets in the collection. They come from different parts of Neal's career.

Series 8: Morehouse College

This series is comprised of a few materials from Morehouse College, where Neal studied. The materials mostly come from after Neal had finished college.

Series 9: Social Life

This series contains various documents relating to Neal's social life. The series is contained in a few folders.

Series 10: Miscellaneous Documents

This series contains sheet music, a magazine advertisement, newspaper clipping, and various other items in the collection.

Series 11: Artifacts

This series is composed of different artifacts and objects in the collection. They include clothing, office supplies, recreational items, and items from Neal's social life.

Collection Inventory**Series 1: Photographs**

- f. 1 Photographs
- f. 2 Photographs

Series 2: Correspondence

- f. 3 Invitation
- f. 4 Letters & Envelopes
- f. 5 Various Notes, Letters & Receipts
- f. 6 Home Office Letters, F.A. Toomer
- f. 7 Various Invitations

- f. 8 Correspondence, 1933-1934
- f. 9 Correspondence, 1932
- f. 10 Correspondence, 1928-1931
- f. 11 Correspondence, n.d.
- f. 12 Letters

Series 3: Life Insurance Documents

- f. 13 Insurance Premiums
- f. 14 Insurance Ad
- f. 15 Insurance Documents
- f. 16 Insurance Memo + Letters
- f. 17 Insurance Reports
- f. 18 Cancelled Checks, Life Ins Statements & Documents
- f. 19 Atlanta Life Weekly Reports
- f. 20 Atlanta Life-Erroneous Claims Paid
- f. 21 Letters of Service from Atlanta Life Co.

Series 4: Financial Documents

- f. 22 Checks + Bank Statement
- f. 23 Audit Reports
- f. 24 Job Application + Audits
- f. 25 Marine Bank + Trust Documents + Key
- f. 26 Chattel Mortgage
- f. 27 Mercantile Bank Documents

Series 5: Business Cards

- f. 28 Various Business/ID Cards
- f. 29 Various Business Cards + Receipts
- f. 30 Various Business Cards, Calling Cards, + Postcards

Series 6: Political & Professional Documents

- f. 31 Auditing Examinations
- f. 32 Drug Store Permits, 1960-1975
- f. 33 National Association of Retail Drugstores Membership Contracts, 1950-1968
- f. 34 Registered Pharmacist Renewal Certificates, 1940-1975
- f. 35 Notary Public Appointments, 1967-1979
- f. 36 Diploma from Capitol College of Pharmacy (Note: Stored in Box 6 due to oversize)
- f. 37 License for pharmaceutical work for J. McKinley Neal (Note: Stored in Box 6 due to oversize)

Series 7: Pamphlets

- f. 38 Lincoln Pamphlet
- f. 39 Fisk Program
- f. 40 Fisk University Pamphlets
- f. 41 Appellant's Abstract of Record for Linitz v. Atlanta Life Insurance Company case

Series 8: Morehouse College

- f. 42 Morehouse Letters
- f. 43 Morehouse Alumni Record
- f. 44 Morehouse College Bulletin

Series 9: Social Life

- f. 45 Misc. Social Life Documents
- f. 46 Various Objects

Series 10: Miscellaneous Documents

- f. 47 Newspaper Clipping
- f. 48 Sheet Music
- f. 49 Magazine Ad
- f. 50 Educational Standings of Managers + Agents
- f. 51 Letter, Receipt & Weekly Report

- f. 52 Constitution/Bylaws, 2/1932 Edition of The Vision
- f. 53 Other Objects

Series 11: Artifacts

Subseries 11.1: Medical Artifacts

- f. 54 Medicinal Tablets

Subseries 11.2: Clothing/Uniforms

- f. 55 J. McKinley Neal Leather Belt with Buckle
- f. 56 Glasses Strap
- f. 57 Manhattan Mark Dress Shirt
- f. 58 Cohen Brothers Dress Shirt
- f. 59 2 Collars for Dress Shirts attached via tag
- f. 60 Aratex 14^{3/4} Collar for Dress Shirts
- f. 61 Aratex 14² Collar for Dress Shirts
- f. 62 Golden Arrow Collar for Dress Shirts
- f. 63 American Legion Uniform
- f. 64 American Legion Uniform

Subseries 11.3: Miscellaneous Artifacts

- f. 65 Binder
- f. 66 Ornate File Folder "C + C Favorite Series No. 1549"
- f. 67 HyTone Tablet
- f. 68 Original File Folder
- f. 69 Pocket Index
- f. 70 Inspection Book
- f. 71 Leather Wallet, 1932 Olympics Ticket, Insurance Application
- f. 72 Short Biographical Exhibit Blurb
- f. 73 Masonic Banner
- f. 74 Lemon Lotion Bottle
- f. 75 Cosmos Playing Cards Box
- f. 76 Dennison's Paper Fasteners Box
- f. 77 Hair

f. 78 Pencil in Shape of a Bullet

Processed by Geri Sanders, November 2017. Updated by David Rocha, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, March 2024. Updated by David Rocha, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, June 2024.

Sources:

Black Archives of Mid-America/Kansas City Public Library Oral History Collection (AC12),
Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.