

## Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman Collection (AC157)

### ***Introduction:***

The Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman Collection includes journals about Black history. Several plaques, newspaper clippings, and posters are shown in frames. Other items include Civil War lithographs, an award, magazines, cassette tapes, DVDs, a Bethel AME history booklet, and an old computer modem. Upon request, the collection also includes books under Coleman's name.

### ***Descriptive Summary:***

Creator: Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman

Title: Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman Collection

Date Range: 1976-2025

Bulk Dates: 1995-2025

Size: 0.417 Linear feet (1 box)

Collection Number: AC157

### ***Donor Information:***

Lyla R. Coleman, 7/16/25.

### ***Citation Note:***

Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman Collection (AC157), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

### ***Administrative Information:***

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Series 9: OS-Flat File #1, Drawer #2

All Framed Art: Moved to Art Till

***Biographical Sketch:***

Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman was born in Canton, Mississippi, on January 3, 1951, as the eldest son of Elvis and Margie Coleman. He had three siblings: Harold, Elvis Jr., and Stephen. Coleman graduated from Webster Groves High School and earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University. After law school, he began his legal career as a clerk for the legendary civil rights leader Benjamin L. Hooks. In 1949, Hooks was one of only a few black lawyers in Memphis and was a part of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL), and was the Executive Director of the NAACP from 1976 to 1992.

Coleman later worked for the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He made history as the first Black Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. He eventually founded the Larry Coleman Law Office, where he served as a “comprehensive attorney” for over 30 years, advocating for justice in civil rights, criminal defense, and family law in Raytown, Missouri.

Coleman was also an ordained elder at Brooks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Butler, Missouri, for several years, and served as the founding chaplain and historian of the National Bar Association’s Law and Religion Section. In 2010, Coleman married Lyla Rollins after meeting her on a New Orleans dinner cruise. They shared 15 years of marriage. Coleman was blessed with three sons earlier in life: Kemet Coleman (owner of Vine Street Brewing Co.), Imhotep Coleman, and Andre Johnson.

In his spare time, Coleman wrote the book “The Colored Green Tree” (2011), published the *Nile Review* (unknown dates), and maintained a personal blog called *Larry’s Library* (2009-2020), which focused on themes of African identity, literature, theology, and justice issues. He also had a love for sports, especially rooting for his local teams, the Kansas City Royals and Chiefs. On May 9, 2025, Rev. Dr. Larry Coleman passed away peacefully after a battle with leukemia.

***Scope and Content Note:***

Series 9: Oversized: Flat File #1, Drawer #2.

F. 1-7 removed to Art Till 1.C.3 and Art Till 1.C.4

**Series 1: Framed Newspaper Clippings**

This series contains a range of framed newspaper clippings from local firms.

**Series 2: Framed Poem**

This series contains a framed poem written by Marion Jordan, Jr., about his mother's passing and her love of a pear tree and making preserves from them.

**Series 3: Framed Portrait**

This series contains an undated portrait of Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman.

**Series 4: Plaque**

This series contains a community service plaque given to Coleman from the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church on January 17, 1999.

**Series 5: Framed Certificates**

This series contains framed certificates. In 1998, Coleman received a pastor appointment and a church elder declaration certificate.

**Series 6: Framed Award**

This series contains a “We Care About U-Professional Gratitude Award,” from The UChurch to Dr. Larry Coleman, Feb 2015.

**Series 7: Mounted Photograph**

This series contains a small photograph of rhinos on a mounted backing frame.

**Series 8: Acrylic Tower/Column Award**

This series contains an award from the Judicial Council Division of the National Bar Association in 2008.

**Series 9: Chromolithographs**

This series contains two chromolithographs by Kurz & Allison Art Publishers in Chicago, IL. One, from 1890, titled “Storming Fort Wagner,” and the other from 1892, titled “The Fort Pillow Massacre”.

**Series 10: Academic Journals & Booklets**

This series comprises journals covering diverse subjects, including the mystery of Egypt, religious poetry, Buffalo Soldiers, African folktales, and Kwanzaa. Additionally, it includes materials from a spiritual seminar and an anniversary booklet for Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church (1859-2009).

**Series 11: Law Binders & Law Journals**

This series contains law binders and law journals from the Kansas City, Missouri, Metropolitan Area from 1981 to 2007.

**Series 12: Audiocassettes**

This series includes three cassette tapes: one featuring Dr. Frederick Haynes at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Howard University, on September 26, 1999; the second with Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, “Who is He to You?” (side A), and Honorable Elijah E. Cummings (side B), on June 9, 1995; and the third with Ivan Van Sertima’s “Blacks in Science: Ancient & Modern” at Penn Valley Community College, Kansas City, Missouri, on February 27, 1983. Additionally, a cassette tape sleeve for a 2002 Vanessa Williams album is part of the series.

**Series 13: Audio/Visual**

This series contains two CDS, recorded sermons from 2008.

**Series 14: DVD**

This series contains the 2011 documentary “Freedom Seekers: Stories from the Western Underground Railroad,” by Gary Jenkins.

**Series 15: Modem**

This series contains a SpeedStream 5260 Ethernet ADSL modem.

**Series 16: Ephemera**

This series contains miscellaneous documents such as programs, written prayers, a biographical card, and a guide map.

***Collection Inventory:*****Series 1: Framed Newspaper Clippings**

- f. 1 Newspaper Clippings
  - a. "Little Acclaimed Civil War Skirmish, Butler Gaining Notoriety," *news-Xpress*, Oct 18, 2002. (AT 1C3 BACK)
  - b. "Nation is Blessed, but Work Remains, Jones Service Told," *The West Missouri Spirit Newspaper*, March 2009. (AT 1C4 BACK)
  - c. "New Leader Takes Helm at Grant Memorial," *Odds & Ends: St. Joseph South Sider*, Oct 31, 2003. (AT 1C4 BACK)
  - d. "Equity: The Disfavored Twin of Law?" *The Daily Record*, Thurs, Aug 6, 2009, Vol. 122, No. 218. (AT 1B4 Back)

**Series 2: Framed Poem**

- f. 2 "Never Forget: A True Story," by Marion Jordan, Sr. (AT 1C3 BACK)

**Series 3: Framed Portrait**

- f. 3 Larry Coleman, unknown date. (AT 1C3 BACK)

**Series 4: Plaque**

- f. 4 "The Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1999 Community Service Award: Recognizes Dr. Larry Delano Coleman, January 17, 1999." (AT 1C3 FRONT)

**Series 5: Framed Certificates**

- f. 5 Certificates

- a. "Certificate of Pastor Appointment, African American Methodist Episcopal Church, Larry D. Coleman, Oct 11, 1998." (AT 1C3 BACK)
- b. "Let It Be Known that the Rev. Larry Coleman: Has Been Ordained, An Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Oct 11, 1998." (AT 1C3 BACK)

### **Series 6: Framed Award**

- f. 6 The UChurch We Care About U-Professional Gratitude Award, Presented to Dr. Larry Coleman, Feb 2015. (AT 1C3 FRONT)

### **Series 7: Mounted Photograph**

- f. 7 Photograph of Rhinos, signed by H. Beasley (AT 1C3 FRONT)

### **Series 8: Acrylic Tower/Column Award**

- f. 8 The Judicial Council Division of the National Bar Association: In Recognition of the Contribution of Atty. Larry D. Coleman, as a Panelist at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention, The Westin Oaks Hotel, Houston, Texas, July 28-31, 2008.

### **Series 9: Chromolithographs**

- f. 9 Print Reproductions [OS]
  - a. "Storming Fort Wagner," Kurz & Allison Art Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1890.
  - b. "The Fort Pillow Massacre," Kurz & Allison Art Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1892.

### **Series 10: Academic Journals & Booklets**

- f. 10 Published Materials
  - a. Howard, Oliver Otis. Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard, Major-General, United States Army: Pt. 1 Preparation for Life | Part 2 the Civil War, Scholar's Choice, no date.
  - b. Ferris, William, H. Alexander Crummell: An Apostle of Negro Culture-The American Academy, 2014.
  - c. State of Missouri Uniform Commercial Code: Manual of Forms and Procedures, 1985.
  - d. The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army Central Territory: Employee Pension Plan, 2008.

- e. 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Booklet, Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, 1859-2009.
- f. Coleman, Delano Larry, Spiritual Seminar #33 Booklet, Aug 10, 2000 (3 copies).

### Series 10.1: Academic Journals

#### f. 10.1 Journals

- a. Jackson, John G. *The Mysteries of Egypt*. Published by L&P Enterprises, Chicago, IL, *2nd edition*, 1980.
- b. The Salvation Army. *The Salvation Army Central Territory: Employee Pension Plan*, 2008.
- c. Abel, Rick Earl & Foreword by Minister Keith Brown. *Poems of Religion & Wanting to be Free*, Abel Publishing, Kansas City, Missouri, 1991.
- d. Jackson, John G. *Pagan Origins of the Christ Myth*, The American Atheist Press, Austin, TX, 1989.
- e. *Black World: Annual Theater Issue*, Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., Chicago, IL, April 1974.
- f. Parker, George Wells. *The Children of the Sun*, Black Classic Press, Baltimore, MD, *3rd edition*, 1981.
- g. Jackson, John G. *Pagan Origins of the Christ Myth*, The American Atheist Press, Austin, TX, *2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, 1976.
- h. *Uraeus: The Journal of Unconscious Life- "High Priest, Master Mason" | Aquarian Spiritual Center*, Los Angeles, CA, *Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring Equinox Issue*, 1981.

### Series 10.2: Academic Journals

#### f. 10.2 Journals

- a. Duffy, G. Gerald, and Laura R. Roehler (Michigan State University), *Building Reading Skills: Vocabulary Development Skills, Level 2*, McDougal, Littell & Company, Evanston, IL, 1980.
- b. McClester, Cedric. *Kwanzaa: Everything You Always Wanted to Know but Didn't Know Where to Ask*, Gumbs & Thomas, NY, 1985.
- c. *Uraeus: The Journal of Unconscious Life- "Imhotep as Deity of Medicine" | Aquarian Spiritual Center*, Los Angeles, CA | *Vol. 2, No. 4, 4th issue*, 1983.

- d. Iyewarun, Samuel Adeyemi, Ph.D. African Folktales, Raytown, Missouri, 1990.
- e. The A.M.E. Church Review: Continuing A Tradition of Religious and Scholarly Excellence, Jan-Mar, Vol. CVIII, No. 349, 1993.
- f. Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth in the 1930s and early 1940s, Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 1991.

### **Series 11: Law Binders & Law Journals**

#### f. 11 Binders & Journals

- a. Jackson County Bar Association. *Directory of African American Attorneys in the Kansas City, Missouri, Metropolitan Area*, 2007.
- b. State of Missouri Uniform Commercial Code: Manual of Forms and Procedures, Published by Roy D. Blunt, 1985.
- c. Perryman, Wayne. The 1993 Trial *on the Curse of Ham*. Published by Consultants Confidential of Mercer Island, WA, July 1993.
- d. Missouri Workers' Compensation Law Book, the Ovil Bell Press, 1981.
- e. Jackson Loose Leaf Missouri Corporation Record (Corporation Law of Missouri), Published by Dwight & M.H. Jackson, Chicago, IL, 1986.

### **Series 12: Audiocassettes**

#### f. 12 Cassette Tapes

- a. Cassette Tape. Wright, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah, "Who is He to You?" (side a) & Honorable Elijah E. Cummings (side b), United Church of Christ-Central Atlantic Conference, Washington College, June 9, 1995.
- b. Cassette Tape. Haynes, Dr. Frederick, Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Howard University, Sept 26, 1999.
- c. Cassette Tape. Sertima, Ivan Van, "Blacks in Science: Ancient & Modern, Penn Valley Community College, Kansas City, Missouri, Feb 27, 1983."
- d. Cassette Tape Sleeve (no cassette). Williams, Vanessa, Light Records, 2002.

**Series 13: Audio/Visual**

- f. 13 CDs
  - a. “How to Overcome Fear!” Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell, Windsor Village UMC 8 am Service, August 3, 2008.
  - b. “How to Overcome Fear!” Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell, Windsor Village UMC 10 am Service, August 3, 2008.

**Series 14: DVD**

- f. 14 “Freedom Seekers: Stories from the Western Underground Railroad, a Documentary by Gary Jenkins,” 2011.

**Series 15: Modem**

- f. 15 SpeedStream 5260 Ethernet ADSL.

**Series 16: Ephemera**

- f. 16 Miscellaneous Documents
  - a. Official Map and Guide. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.
  - b. Biographical Card. Madison, James | Buffalo Soldier, Dist. By dorMail, Inc., Leavenworth, KS.
  - c. Notice. The State Historical Society of Missouri, Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Nov 4, 2006.
  - d. Written Prayer. “Prayer of Rejoicing,” By Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman, Sept 20, 2011.
  - e. Obituary. Wright, Nathan, Jr., *The New York Times*, by Douglas Martin, Feb. 24, 2005.
  - f. Program. The State Historical Society of Missouri: Making Him Fresh Again on Writing Yet Another Mark Twain Biography,” The State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri, Nov 4, 2006.
  - g. Program. Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City | Joe L. Mattox, Historian, Presents: “Blacks in Blue in the Civil War 1862-1865,” Mar 27, 2011.

**Processed by Kat Miller, Assistant Archivist, March 2026. Updated by Laura Darnell, Head Archivist, May 2026.**

**Sources:**

Legacy. 2025. "Larry D. Coleman Obituary (2025) - Kansas City, MO - Watkins Heritage Chapel - Kansas City." Legacy.com. Legacy. October 2025.  
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/larry-coleman-obituary?id=59709821>.

larry'slibrary. 2020. "Larry's Library." Blogspot.com. 2020. <https://larryslibrary.blogspot.com/>.