

**Jackson State University
Margaret Walker Center
Archives and Record Division**

Manuscript Collection

Collection Title: Thomas A. Armstrong Personal Papers

Dates Covered: 1984

Collection Number: AF011

Volume: 1 folder

Original (x)

Duplicate ()

Microcopy ()

Photocopy ()

Provenance:

This collection was presented to the Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center by His wife, Jackson Mississippi.

This collection was processed on May 9, 2000

Restrictions:

None

Copyright Warning: This material may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17 U. S. Code)



Biography/History:

Thomas Alonzo Armstrong, Sr. was born March 16, 1905 in Yazoo County, Mississippi. Mr. Armstrong was a distinguished champion for the civil rights. Since 1959, he worked with Johnson Publishing Company to disseminate the words and faces of African Americans to the people. Not only did he serve his community and his people, but he served his country during World War II. After he returned home from war, Armstrong continued his service to this community by participating, reporting and photographing accounts of the Civil Rights Movement. His legacy has been recorded as an oral history and is a part of the documents housed in the Margaret Walker National Research Center. His meek beginnings started with him as an entrepreneur located on Farish Street. He opened and operated his own newsstand and photography studio. Later, after Farish Street suffered economically, Armstrong refused to give up his dream. He collected his photography equipment and magazines and started transacting his business from the trunk of his car. He traveled to all the black communities of Jackson, and discovered a new audience, Jackson State University and the West Jackson Community. After years of being a prominent figure on the campus, President Peoples allowed Armstrong to set up a newsstand on the campus. The students, faculty and administrators became his prime supporters. By doing so, the news of African Americans became readily available to the West Jackson Community. This visibility helped to expand the awareness of news that affected the African American community and its development.

Scope and Content:

The papers consist of a legal document.

Series I

F1. Legal papers.

