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# SAM GEN MS 01 Jean Byers Sampson Papers Finding Aid

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**JEAN BYERS SAMPSON PAPERS  
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Susannah Clark**

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## **Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** The Jean Byers Sampson Papers were created by Jean Byers Sampson and compiled by her husband, Richard Sampson, who donated the majority of the material in 1999. Additional material was donated by Richard Sampson in 2000, and by her son, Stephen Sampson, in 2007.

**Ownership and Literary Rights:** The Jean Byers Sampson Papers are the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or her/his legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Head of Special Collections.

**Cite as:** Jean Byers Sampson Papers, Sampson Center General Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

**Restrictions on access:** The bulk of this collection is open for research. Some material has been restricted for 25, 50, or 75 years from date of item to protect privacy rights.

## **Biographical Sketch**

Jean Byers Sampson was born in Somerville, Massachusetts in 1923. She graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in History in 1944. The following year she was hired by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in New York City to research and write a special report, "A Study of the Negro in Service," sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense. Published in 1947, this report contributed to President Harry Truman's decision to desegregate the armed forces.

Sampson moved to Maine in the early 1950s with her husband, Richard Sampson, a Bates College mathematics professor, and she played a unique and critical role in the state until her death in 1996. Over the course of her life in Maine, she served as the founder of the first chapter of the NAACP in Maine, local and state chair of the League of Women Voters, a member of the Maine State Board of Education, and executive director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, among other roles. At the national level, she was founder and director of "Catalyst in Education," an organization which assisted adult women with education and training to enter the work force.

Sampson served as a member and subsequent chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. As chair of the Board in 1974, she supported the right of gay students to hold a conference on the University of Maine campus. Consequently, Governor James Longley asked all members of the Board to resign, and Sampson led the Board in refusing to do so. As a result of this action, she and the Board received the Andrew Meiklejohn Award, presented by the American Association of University Professors in recognition of an outstanding contribution to academic freedom. Sampson was also a member of the Bowdoin College Board of Overseers and Board of Trustees.

Jean Byers Sampson believed deeply in the right of all people to a free and unbiased life, and she devoted her adult life to that accomplishment. The Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine is named in honor of her commitment.

### **Jean Byers Sampson Chronology**

The following chronology of the life and activities of Jean Byers Sampson was prepared by archivist and University of Southern Maine Special Collections volunteer John D. Knowlton in 2000. The chronology is largely based on resumes by Jean Byers Sampson, with information added from the papers.

1923 June 12	Born, Somerville, Massachusetts
1944	B.A. History, Smith College
1945-1946	Research and writer, "FYI," <u>Time</u> , Inc.
1945-1946	Special Project Writer, NAACP in New York City; author of: A History of Negro Troops in World War II, Published U.S. Department of Defense
1946-1948	Assistant Director, Public Relations, National Association of Colored People, New York City
1948 July 24	Married Richard W. Sampson
1948 – 1949 Massachusetts	Executive Secretary, American Veterans Committee of Massachusetts
1948 – 1951	Board Member, League of Women Voters of Boston
1949 – 1951	Executive Secretary, Friends of Framingham Reformatory
1950	Delegate, League of Women Voters, National Convention
1952	Moved to Lewiston
1953 – 1955	First Vice President, League of Women Voters of Maine
1953 – 1955	Legislative Chairman, League of Women Voters of Maine
1955 – 1957	President, League of Women Voters of Maine
1956	Delegate, League of Women Voters, National Convention

1956	Member, Citizens Committee on the Survey of State Government
1956 – 1964	Member and Androscoggin County Chairman, Governor's Advisory Committee on Education; Chairman, State Teacher's College Study Committee
1957	Chairman, Panel on Executive Responsibility, Democratic Party Issues Conference
1958	Co-Chairman, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1958	Speechwriter, Maine gubernatorial campaign of Maynard Dolloff
1958 – 1960	Member, Lewiston City-wide PTA Curriculum Study Committee
1958 – 1960	Member, Maine Committee on Children and Youth
1958 – 1960	President, Androscoggin County Democratic Woman's Club
1958 – 1963	Member, Maine State Board of Education
1958 – 1974	Delegate, Maine Democratic Party Convention (every 2 years)
1958 – 1975	Jury Commissioners, Androscoggin County
1959	Delegate, Conference of Northeastern and Middle Atlantic Boards of Education
1960	Delegate, White House Conference on Children and Youth
1960	Chairman, Androscoggin County Subcommittee, White House Conference on Children and Youth
1960	Research Director, Gubernatorial campaign of Frank M. Coffin
1960	Co-Chairman, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1961 – 1975	Member, Executive Committee, Maine Central Branch, NAACP
1961 – 1962	Social Studies Teacher, Grant Jr. High School and North High School, Syracuse, New York
1962	Member, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1962 – 1970	National Director, Catalyst in Education Program

1964	Member, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1964 – 1968	Member, Maine Advisory Committee on Teacher Certification
1964 – 1965	Chairman, Maine Democratic Citizens Committee on Legislation
1965	Member, University of Maine Committee of 100
1965	Published <u>Part-Time Assignment of Women In Teaching</u>
1965 – 1968	Member, Maine State Board of Education
1966	Member, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1966 – 1970	President, Maine Central Branch, NAACP
1968 – 1975	Member and Vice- Chairman (to 1974), University of Maine Board of Trustees
1969 – 1971	Consultant, US Office of Education, State Grants Program, Bureau of Education Professions Development
1969 – 1975	Part-time Consultant, Recruitment Leadership and Training Institute, US Office of Education
1970 – 1973	Counselor, Lewiston Career Opportunities Program
1971 - [unknown]	Consultant, US Office of Education, The Recruitment Leadership and Training Institute
1971 – 1973	Chairman, Maine Staff Development Cooperative
1972	Member, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1974	Member, Maine Democratic Platform Committee
1975	Chairman, University of Maine Board of Trustees
1975 – [unknown]	Member, National Planning Board of the Project on Evaluation and Improvement of Statewide Planning of the Education Commission of the US
1976 – 1977	Staff Associate, Institute for Responsive Education, Boston
1976 – 1986	Member, Bowdoin College Board of Overseers

1977 – 1982	Executive Director of Maine Civil Liberties Union; and member of American Civil Liberties Union committees
1983	Legislative Researcher, staff of US Senator George J. Mitchell, Washington, D. C.
1986 – 1994	Member, Bowdoin College Board of Trustees
1996 Nov. 4	Died, Lewiston, Maine

### **Description of the Papers**

The Papers document Sampson’s professional work and community service in organizations that supported civil rights, education and academic freedom, and developing opportunities for minorities and women. They contain administrative materials and official publications related to specific organizations with which Sampson was affiliated, as well as personal correspondence, reports, and speeches written by Sampson. The Papers also document family and personal activities, largely through correspondence and extensive scrapbooks kept by Sampson. The series distinction in the arrangement of the Papers is guided by Sampson’s own separation between “professional” and “community service” involvement, as indicated by her resume. As such, organizations she participated in through salaried positions are grouped separately from those she worked with in philanthropic roles. This arrangement was also suggested by the papers as received.

The Papers include materials related to Sampson’s work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) such as correspondence and clippings related to her early study of African Americans in the military, as well as correspondence, membership lists, and other documents about the Maine branch of the NAACP in Lewiston-Auburn during the 1960s. This section includes a transcript of an interview of Sampson about her involvement with the NAACP, and the civil rights movement in Maine (Box 2, Folder 11).

From the late 1970s to the 1990s, Sampson worked with the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and the Papers include minutes, correspondence, and other internal business documents related to this organization. The Papers also include publications by the MCLU on variety of topics including prison issues, constitutional rights, and education. Sampson served on the Financial Structures Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, and materials related to this service are contained in Series 2.6.

Sampson’s work in education was multifaceted, and the Papers contain materials related to several different educational organizations that she worked with. The Career Opportunities Program (funded by the US Office of Education), under aegis of the University of Maine, trained lower income people for positions in the public school

system in Lewiston. Records consist of internal working documents, such as minutes of meetings, and printed material about this federal Program. Catalyst in Education was an organization that developed programs to train and employ women in the teaching profession. Along with the correspondence and memorandum reflecting the group's mission this section contains printed directories by Catalyst of preparatory programs and teaching opportunities. Two other sub-series, Education Profession Development Act and Institute for Responsive Education, contain documentation for education initiatives that Sampson worked for, one on the development of the education profession and the other on standardized achievement tests.

Sampson's career with the State Court Mediation Service in the Lewiston area is documented through internal correspondence, case files, and printed material. There is brief documentation on the League of Women Voters during the 1950s when Sampson was most actively involved in its Maine chapter.

A sub-series on the University of Maine System includes materials related to the Maine Management and Cost Survey of the mid-1970s, meetings of the Board of Trustees, and information about the controversial Wilde-Stein Conference of 1974, for which Sampson and the Board of Trustees defended the right of Gay and Lesbian groups to host and participate in this conference on the University campus. This series also includes clippings and correspondence regarding the opinions of James B. Longley both before and during his years as Governor. A sub-series on Bowdoin College primarily documents the workings of the Board of Trustees including their minutes for 1988-95, which appear to be fairly inclusive.

The Papers contain several manuscripts and publications by Sampson, including "A Study of the Negro in Military Service" (1950, Box 1, Folder 2), "The Part-Time Assignment of Women in Teaching" (1965, Box 8, Folder 74), "Partnerships: New Weapon Against Teacher Shortage" (1967, Box 8, Folder 77), and "A Guide for Parents on Standardized Testing" (1977, Box 4, Folder 28). Some of the most important documents in the collection reflecting her thoughts and beliefs are Sampson's notes for speeches she presented to a variety of educational, political, and civil rights groups, which are dispersed throughout the Papers.

The papers are organized into three series:

#### Series 1. Professional

This series is divided into the following seven sub-series: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Catalyst in Education Program, Lewiston Career Opportunities Program, Education Professions Development Act, Institute for Responsive Education, Maine Civil Liberties Union, and Senator George J. Mitchell Office.

#### Series 2. Community Service

This series is divided into the following nine sub-series: League of Women Voters, United States Commission on Civil Rights, University of Maine System, Maine



Department of Education, Bowdoin College, American Civil Liberties Union, Maine Court Mediation Service, Other Civic Engagement, and Awards and Honors.

### Series 3. Personal

This series contains extensive correspondence written by Jean Byers Sampson to her family, photographs of Sampson, several resumes and professional inquiries, and assorted financial materials and receipts. Folder 134 contains materials related to Smith College Reunions and class news. Folder 135 contains a short obituary and other memorial materials. Folders 136-164 contain the pages of eight scrapbooks that Jean kept during her lifetime, which include clippings, playbills, and other mementos about her life, travel, leisure, and children. For conservation reasons, newspaper clippings and other fragile papers were photocopied onto preservation bond and the scrapbooks (some of which were falling apart) were disassembled but marked to preserve their original arrangement.

### Series 4. Restricted

This series consists of materials restricted from public access to guard the privacy of individuals. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location. Materials include lists of organization members with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses; correspondence with email addresses; and personal and contact information of extended family members.

### Series 5. Oversize

This series contains materials too large or bulky to fit into regular boxes. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location. Materials are primarily related to awards and honors received by Sampson. Several folders containing scrapbook pages are also located in oversize storage.

### **Series 1.1 Professional. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1945-1992, undated)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Correspondence Regarding Special Study on the Negro in Military Service	1945-1959
1	2	Report, "A Study of the Negro in Military Service" by Jean Byers [Sampson]	1950
1	3-4	Central Maine Branch, Correspondence and Newsletters	1962-1974, undated
1	5	Central Maine Branch, Member Lists	1962-1970
1	6	Benefit Showing of "One Potato, Two Potato" [film], Promotional Materials and Correspondence	1968
1	7	Clippings	1946-1965, undated
1	8	Speeches	1947, 1948, undated

**Series 1.1 Professional. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1945-1992, undated) (cont)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1-2	9-10	Publications (14 titles)	1948-1967, undated
2	11	Transcript, Interview with Jean Sampson on Central Maine NAACP, Civil Rights Movement in Maine, etc. Charles Lumpkins, Interviewer	1990
2	12	Masters Thesis, "Civil Rights Activism in Maine from the 1940s to 1971: Black Mainers, Black and White Activists, and the Resistance Against Racism" by Charles L. Lumpkins	1992

**Series 1.2 Professional. Catalyst in Education Program (1963-1993, undated)**

2	13	Administrative Records and Newsletters	1963-1993, undated
2	14	Speeches	undated
2	15-16	Publications (9 titles)	1964, 1981-1992

**Series 1.3 Professional. Lewiston Career Opportunities Program (1969-1977, undated)**

2-3	17-19	Correspondence, Proposals, and Administrative Records	1969-1973, undated
		Observation Reports RESTRICTED	1972, undated
		Counseling Reports RESTRICTED	1970-1972
3	20	Participant Advisory Committee on Education Development, Agendas and Minutes	1970-1971
3	21	Publications (3 titles)	1970, 1971, 1977

**Series 1.4 Professional. Education Professions Development Act (1969-1972, undated)**

3	22-24	EPDA Conference and B-2 Program Advisory Panel	1969-1972
3	25	EPDA Recruitment Leadership and Training Institute	1970-1975, undated
3	26	Publications (2 titles)	1972

**Series 1.5 Professional. Institute for Responsive Education (1976-1978, undated)**

3	27	Correspondence	1976, undated
4	28	Manuscript, "A Guide for Parents on Standardized Testing" by Jean Sampson, with related correspondence	1977-1978, undated

**Series 1.6 Professional. Maine Civil Liberties Union (1964-1998, undated)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
4	29	Programs and Reports	1978-1989, undated
4	30	Correspondence, Clippings, and Project Proposal for Criminal Justice Study	1979-1989, undated
4	31	Committee on Corrections and Criminal Justice	[1981]-1988, undated
4	32	Mental Illness and Institutional Litigation	1984-1989
4	33	Budget Committee	1980-1994
4	34	Financial Reports	1983-1992
4	35	Board of Directors, Minutes	1985-1992, undated
4	36	Board of Directors, Lists	1986-1992
4	37	Nominating Committee, Minutes	1986, 1988
4	38	Development Committee	1986-1988, undated
5	39	Legal Panel, Minutes	1987-1992
5	40	Education, Legislative, and AIDS Committees	1987-1988
5	41	MCLU Bylaws	1986, 1991, undated
5	42	Clippings	1978-1993
5	43	Speeches	undated
5	44	Professional Recommendations written by Jean Sampson	1982-1983
5	45-47	Newsletters	1977-1996
5	48-49	Publications (15 titles)	1964-1998
6	50	Roger Baldwin Award (Awarded Posthumously)	1998

**Series 1.7 Professional. Senator George J. Mitchell Office (1983, undated)**

6	51	Correspondence and Reports	1983, undated
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**Series 2.1 Community Service. League of Women Voters (1954-1956, undated)**

6	52C	Correspondence; Studies on Probation and Parole in the State of Maine	1954-1956
6	53	Speeches	1956, undated

**Series 2.2 Community Service. United States Commission on Civil Rights (1964-1967, undated)**

6	54	Maine Advisory Committee, Correspondence and Reports	1964-1967, undated
6	55	Publication (1 title)	1967

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**Series 2.3 Community Service. University of Maine System (1968-1999, undated)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
6	56-57	Correspondence	1968-1976, undated
6-7	58-59	Maine Management and Cost Survey, Correspondence and Reports	1973-1975, undated
7	60	Board of Trustees, Correspondence	1973-1975
7	61	Board of Trustees, Clippings Evaluation, Donald R. McNeil RESTRICTED	1974-1975 1974
7	62	James B. Longley, Clippings	1974-1975, undated
7	63	Wilde-Stein Conference, Correspondence and Clippings	1974
7	64	Alexander Meiklejohn Award for Academic Freedom, Awarded to Board of Trustees  State of Maine, Legislature acknowledging UMS Trustees receipt of Alexander Meiklejohn Award See Oversize	1975  1975
7	65	Distinguished Service Award, University of Maine at Farmington	1978
7	66	University of Maine at Farmington Project, Ten Traits of Maine People	1980
7	67	Visiting Committee, Correspondence and Reports	1984-1986, undated
7	68	Trustee Medallion, University of Maine	1985
7	69	Memoriam, University of Maine System	1996
7	70	Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity	1996-1999, undated
7	71	Distinguished Service Award, University of Southern Maine  Broadside, "The Art of Biography" by Doris Kearns Goodwin See Oversize	1997  1997
8	72	Speeches	1971-1975, undated

**Series 2.4 Community Service. Maine Department of Education (1962-1975, undated)**

8	73	Questionnaire for Study of The Part-Time Assignment of Women in Teaching	1964
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**Series 2.4 Community Service. Maine Department of Education (1962-1975, undated)(cont)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
8	74-75	"The Part-Time Assignment of Women in Teaching," by Jean Sampson, Lawrence P. Bagley, and Hayden L.V. Anderson (2 copies)	1965
		State of Maine, Appointment to State Board of Education See Oversize	1965
8	76	Maine State Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Certification	1965-1974, undated
		State of Maine Legislature acknowledging service on Board of Education and U Maine Trustees See Oversize	1975
8	77	Article, "Partnerships: New Weapon Against Teacher Shortage" by Jean Sampson	1967
8	78	Publications (1 title)	1962

**Series 2.5 Community Service. Bowdoin College (1970-1997, undated)**

8	79	Board of Overseers, Correspondence, Minutes and Reports	1970-1996, undated
		Documents regarding the resignation of President Enteman RESTRICTED	1980
8	80	Committee on Governance, Minutes and Reports	1981
9	81	Joint Meetings of the President and Trustees and Board of Overseers, Minutes	1988-1995
9	82	Executive Committee of the Governing Boards, Minutes	1991-1996
9	83	Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, Minutes and Reports	1993-1994, undated
		Engraved Metal Tray, Bowdoin College Appreciation Award See Oversize	1994
		Bowdoin College, Legum Doctorem See Oversize	1995
9	84	Bowdoin College Honorary Degree	1994-1995
9	85	Announcement of Jean Byers Sampson Memorial Fund, Bowdoin College	1997
9	86	Publications (2 titles)	1985, 1986

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**Series 2.6 Community Service. American Civil Liberties Union (1967-1995, undated)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
9	87	Report of the Financial Structures Committee	1982
9-10	88-92	Financial Structures Committee	1990-1995, undated
10	93	ACLU Cumulative Income Charts	1989-1992
10	94	Handwritten Notes	undated
10	95	Remarks from the Memorial of Roger Baldwin, Former Director of ACLU	1981
10	96	Publications (3 titles)	1967, [1981 or 2], 1986

**Series 2.7 Community Service. Maine Court Mediation Service (1980-1995, undated)**

10	97-98	Maine Court Mediation Service, Correspondence and Reports	1983-1995
10	99	Mediation Conferences in London and New England	1986, 1987

**Series 2.7 Community Service. Maine Court Mediation Service (cont.)**

		Mediations and Evaluations RESTRICTED	1980-1990, undated
10	100	Newsletters and Memorandum	1987-1995
11	101	Domestic Violence Mediation Training Materials	1989, undated
11	102	Consulting Mediator Training Materials	undated
11	103	"Mandatory Mediation of Contested Divorces in Maine," by Rosalyne Bernstein	undated
11	104	Handwritten Notes	undated
11	105	Speeches	1985, undated
11	106	Clippings	1984-1995, undated
11	107-108	Publications	1981-1993, undated

**Series 2.8 Community Service. Other Civic Engagement (1960-1995, undated)**

11	109	Correspondence	1967-1987, undated
11	110	Speeches	1960-1974, undated
11	111	Conferences, Committees, and Resources	1962-1995

**Series 2.9 Community Service. Awards and Honors (1965-1998)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
		Achievement Award, American Association of University Women, State of Maine Division See Oversize	1965
11	112	"Jean Sampson Dinner," Recognition Dinner at Le Domaine, Hancock, ME	1975
12	113	Deborah Morton Award, Westbrook College	1979
12	114	Directory, Deborah Morton Society of Westbrook College  Plaque, Maine Civil Libertarian of the Year See Oversize	1982  1983
12	115	Tribute Book, Maine Women's Fund "Evening to Honor Maine Women and Girls"	1998

**Series 3 Personal (1934-1996, undated)**

12-13	116-129	Family Correspondence	1934-1948
13	130	Correspondence with Jack Gilbert regarding Family History	1994-1995
13	131	Photographs	1939-1996, undated
13	132	Resumes and Career Exploration	1976-1987, undated
13	133	Financial Materials and Receipts	1985-1988, undated
13	134	Smith College Class of '45, Reunions and News	1987-1990
13	135	Obituary, Memorials	1996-1997
17	136-139	Pages from Scrapbook #1 (Oversize)	1946-1954
13-15	140-164	Scrapbooks	1946-1988

**Series 4 Restricted**

16	165-166	Counseling Reports (Series 1.3)	1970-1972
16	167	Observation Reports (Series 1.3)	1972, undated
16	168	Evaluation, Donald R. McNeil (Series 2.3)	1974
16	169	Documents regarding the resignation of President Enteman (Series 2.5)	1980
16	170	Mediations and Evaluations (Series 2.7)	1980-1990, undated

**Series 5 Oversize**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
	17	o/s	Pages from Scrapbook #1 (Folders 136-139)	1946-1954
Mpcs4	Dr 33	Engraved Metal Tray, Bowdoin College Appreciation Award	1994	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	State of Maine Legislature acknowledging service on Board of Education and UMS Trustees	1975	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	State of Maine, Appointment to State Board of Education	1965	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	State of Maine Legislature acknowledging UMS Trustees receipt of Alexander Meiklejohn Award	1975	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	Broadside, "The Art of Biography," by Doris Kearns Goodwin	1997	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	Bowdoin College, Legum Doctorem	1995	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	American Association of University Women, State of Maine Division, Achievement Award	1965	
Mpcs4	Dr 33	Plaque, Maine Civil Libertarian of the Year	1983	