

# Guide to the Papers of Charles Goode Gomillion

Prepared by Dana Chandler, 2007



**Tuskegee University Archives and Museums**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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## Collection Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Charles Goode Gomillion, (1900-1995)
<b>Title:</b>	Papers of Charles Goode Gomillion
<b>Dates:</b>	1928-95
<b>Quantity:</b>	3.67 cubic feet
<b>Identification:</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b>	Dr. Charles Goode Gomillion (1900-1995) Tuskegee University educator and civil rights pioneer who sued to end gerrymandering that was preventing African Americans from voting in Tuskegee, Alabama in the late 1950s. His case, Gomillion vs. Lightfoot made it to the Supreme Court in 1960 and was instrumental in paving the way for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Tuskegee University Archives and Museums Tuskegee University Tuskegee, AL 36088 USA Phone: (334) 725-2383 Fax: (334) Email: <a href="mailto:archives@tuskegee.edu">archives@tuskegee.edu</a> URL: <a href="http://www.tuskegee.edu">www.tuskegee.edu</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Papers of Charles Goode Gomillion

### Acquisition Information

Papers were acquired by the Tuskegee Archives from the time of Dr. Gomillion's retirement from Tuskegee University in 1971 until his death in 1995.

### Processing Information

The papers were received in eleven 1/3 c.f. archival boxes. There is no evidence that original order had been preserved. During processing in 2007, metal fasteners were removed and the documents were placed in acid-free folders. Copies were made of newspaper clippings and poor quality paper documents onto acid free paper. When possible and if applicable, the file title was taken from the original file folder. All plaques were wrapped in tissue paper. Since no original order was apparent, an order was imposed and series were created according to the subject matter of the records. Original file names were preserved as they were found on the folders. Blank folders were assigned titles according to the contents

of the original folder. These artificial titles are noted in the inventory with square brackets.

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## **Index Terms**

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Libraries online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

### **Subjects:**

African American political activists—History  
African Americans—Civil rights—Alabama  
African Americans—Southern States—Economic conditions  
African Americans—Southern States—Social conditions  
Alabama—Politics and government  
Tuskegee (Ala.)  
Tuskegee (Ala.)—Race relations  
Boycotts-Alabama-Tuskegee  
Civil rights—Alabama-Tuskegee  
Civil rights movements—Alabama-Tuskegee  
Community development  
Gerrymandering  
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights  
NAACP National Conference on Black Power  
Segregation  
Social work with African Americans  
Southern States—Politics and government  
Tuskegee Civic Association  
Tuskegee University --Students  
United States—Economic policy--1933-1945  
United States—Politics and government--1933-1945  
United States—Race relations  
Voter registration—Alabama  
Voting  
White Citizens Councils

### **Persons:**

Sam Engelhardt, Jr.  
Jones, Lewis Wade, 1910-  
Gomillion, Charles G. (Charles Goode), 1900-1995

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## Biography



Charles Goode Gomillion, PhD. (1900-1995), a native of Johnston (Edgefield County), South Carolina, worked at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, from 1928-1971, as professor of Sociology, Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences, Dean of Students and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. A graduate of Howard University, Ohio State University, Tuskegee Institute and Paine College, Gomillion's sociological theories and advice on race relations firmly established him as a world renowned researcher, writer and civil rights advocate. His popularity among his peers and students is reflected in the numerous organizations he was active in, such as: the NAACP, the Alabama Council, the Southern Regional Council and the Southern Council Educational Fund, and in his numerous honors: the first Charles S. Johnson Race Relations Award, the Lyndon B. Johnson Political Freedom Award, the Sociological Practice Association Distinguished Career Award and the national Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Man of the Year Award.

Although he was well thought of in a variety of areas, it is his indomitable spirit in pushing for voting rights reform in Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama from 1957 to 1960 that caused him to have national notoriety. Gomillion sought through legal means to disallow gerrymandering as a mechanism for altering boundaries in order to minimize voting strength, thus, disfranchising African Americans. His case, "Gomillion vs. Lightfoot," centered on the city of Tuskegee, Alabama, where local government officials systematically stripped African-Americans of voting power. Although losing twice in lower courts, he nonetheless went to the Supreme Court in 1960 and received a favorable ruling, paving the way for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Among his numerous writings are: a.) "Citizenship! A Challenge to Scholarship or the Challenging South;" b.) "The Influence of the Negro on the Culture of the South;" c.) "The Challenging Civic Role of the Private Citizen in the Contemporary South;" d.) "Reply to Thoughts of a White Citizens Council Member;" and, e.) "Toward Civic Democracy in Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama, During 1964."

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of documents generated or received by Charles Goode Gomillion while working as a professor at Tuskegee Institute and serving with the Tuskegee Civic Association. The bulk of the records date between 1945 and

1995; with some dated as early as 1928. They include correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, pamphlets and other miscellaneous documents. The records are potentially valuable to those interested in researching a history of sociological thought regarding the lives of rural Southern African Americans, the history of Tuskegee Civic Association, gerrymandering, or the Civil Rights Movement.

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## Arrangement

The documents are arranged into three series.

- Series I: Personal Papers and Correspondence, 1949-95
  - Series II: Personal Research, Special Reports, Studies, and Publications by Gomillion
  - Series III: Printed Material, Reports, Studies, and Publications by Others
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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions on these papers.

### Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

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## Inventory

### Series I. Personal Papers and Correspondence, 1949-95.

#### Box Folder

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | [Autobiography] Charles Goode Gomillion        |
| 1 | 2 | [Correspondence:] 1949                         |
| 1 | 3 | Letters to/from F.D. Patterson and L.H. Foster |
| 1 | 4 | [Correspondence:] 1967-1970                    |
| 1 | 5 | [Correspondence:] 1969-1071                    |

1 6 [Correspondence:] 1972-1974  
1 7 [Correspondence:] 1975-1976

**Box Folder**

2 1 [Correspondence:] 1975-1980  
2 2 [Correspondence:] 1980  
2 3 [Correspondence:] 1981-1982

**Box Folder**

3 1 [Correspondence: 1952-1958 ]  
3 2 Letters: 1960-1969  
3 3 Letters: 1970-1971  
3 4 Letters: 1972-1974  
3 5 [Correspondence:] 1974  
3 6 Letters: 1975-1976  
3 7 Letters: 1977  
3 8 Letters: 1978-1979  
3 9 Letters: 1980  
3 10 Letters: 1981  
3 11 Letters: 1983  
3 12 Letters: 1984  
3 13 Greeting Cards  
3 14 [Correspondence:] Democratic National Committee  
3 15 Letters to be Answered

**Box Folder**

4 1 [Certificates and Awards]  
4 2 [Correspondence:] Tuskegee Mental Hygiene Society  
4 3 [Articles about G.C. Gomillion]  
4 4 [Correspondence:] Graduate Studies  
4 5 [Correspondence: N.A.A.C.P.]  
4 6 [Correspondence:] Tuskegee Civic Association  
4 7 Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree  
4 8 [Dissertation]  
4 9 [Correspondence:] Yelder, William J.  
4 10 [Articles and Correspondence:] Ohio State University  
4 11 [Articles] Gomillion and Communism  
4 12 [Poem and Clipping] Misc.

**Box Folder**

5 1 [Correspondence:] J. P. Gruzman  
5 2 [Correspondence:] H

5	3	[Correspondence:] Lillian Harvey
5	4	[Correspondence:] Raymond F. Harvey
5	5	[Correspondence:] W.B. Hill
5	6	[Correspondence:] A.L. Holsey
5	7	[Correspondence:] Institute Council
5	8	[Correspondence:] J
5	9	[Correspondence:] T.W. Jones
5	10	[Correspondence:] K

**Box Folder**

6	1	[Correspondence:] L
6	2	[Correspondence:] Labor Finance Committee
6	3	[Correspondence:] Carlton L. Lee
6	4	[Correspondence:] J.R. Otis

**Box Folder**

7	1	[Plaque: The Historical and Cultural Arts of Peoples Congregation Church UCC, Washington, D.C., February, 1985]
7	2	[Plaque: South Carolina Black Hall of Fame, Committee of 100 Black Men, June 6, 1992]
7	3	[Plaque: Certificate of Life Membership in the N.A.A.C.P., July, 1958]

**Box Folder**

8	1	[Plaque: Detroit Tuskegee and Paine Alumni Clubs, 1958]
8	2	[Plaque: The Florida Club]
8	3	[Plaque: Distinguished Service Award, National Association of Colored Women's [Clubs, Inc., July, 28, 1966]
8	4	[Plaque: Distinguished Service Award, Christian Episcopal Church, May, 7, 1982]

**Series II. Research, Special Reports, Studies and Publications by Gomillion.**

**Box Folder**

9	1	Tuskegee Soc. Progress In, C.G. Gomillion
9	2	[Civic Democracy in the South]
9	3	[Toward Civic Democracy in Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama, During 1964]
9	4	[The Role of Southern White Women in Civic Democracy in the South]
9	5	[Citizenship on the Southern Scene]
9	6	[The Influence of the Negro on Culture of the South]

9	7	[Negro Education]
9	8	[Toward Civic Democracy: Landmarks along the Way]
9	9	[Suggestions to White Americans Who Want to Improve Race Relations]
9	10	[The Civic Responsibility and Role of Negro Christian Laymen in the Social Reconstruction of the South]
9	11	[The Status and Problems of the Negro in the United States]
9	12	[Equality of Opportunity: Essence of Civic Democracy]
9	13	[Citizenship: A Challenge to Scholarship or the Challenging Role of Negro Youth in the Changing South]
9	14	[The Role of Sociologist in Community Action in the Rural South]
9	15	Democracy, Mrs. Lehman's Ten Commandments of
9	16	Questions Basic to Intelligent Civic Action
9	17	Civic Pride- Everyone's Responsibility
9	18	Signif. Factors in Contemp. Soc. Change Affecting Negroes in the South

**Box Folder**

10	1	[The Complexity of the Critical Civic Problems Affecting Negro Americans, Especially Those in the South]
10	2	[Negroes Holding Public (Governmental) Offices in Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama]
10	3	[Panel Commentary]
10	4	[Factors Contributing to the Development of Culturally Disadvantaged Children]
10	5	[First Class Citizenship: The Tuskegee Crusade for Civic Democracy]
10	6	[The Proclamations of Our Uncertain "New South"]
10	7	[New Frontiers in Social Work Ministries: In the Government Act of 1964]
10	8	[Selected Aspects of Public Education in Alabama, and in Macon County 1951-1952]
10	9	[Opportunities for the Social Scientist in Current Social Change in the South]
10	10	[Miscellaneous Notes]
10	11	[Reply to "Thoughts of a White Citizens Council Member"]
10	12	[To What Extent Should Students Be Indoctrinated in the Values of a Democratic Society]
10	13	[Higher Education as an Instrument of National Policy, Group #5]

**Box Folder**

11	1	Responsible Citizenship
11	2	[Hoe (w) the Negro Man and Woman Have Strengthened and Weakened the Negro Family]
11	3	Civic Democracy [Notes]
11	4	Tables Excerpted From a Report in Preparation
11	5	Annual Address as National President of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society
11	6	Where Do We Go From Here?
11	7	The Tuskegee Institute Student Movement (A Sociological Analysis)
11	8	The Present Status of Educational Opportunities for Negroes in Alabama in 1941



11	9	Our Educational Objectives
11	10	The Role of the NAACP in the Contemporary Sou. Community
11	11	Soc. Responsib. And Self-Develop.
11	12	Report of the Tuskegee Delegation to National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization
11	13	We Are Responses. Citizens
11	14	Socially Disadvantaged Children and Their Socio-Cultural World
11	15	Toward Civic Democracy in Macon County, Ala or Socio-Cultural Change in a Deep South Community
11	16	The Civic Responsibility and Roles of Christian Negroes in the Changing South
11	17	The Negro and His Role in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century
11	18	[Program: Mobile Council on Human Relations: "Political Effectiveness"]
11	19	1968 Democ. Nat. Convention and the Role of the AJDP
11	20	Youth Power in the Community
11	21	The Contemporary Political Status of Negroes in Alabama
11	22	Role of Teacher as Teacher
11	23	Racial Togetherness Not Separatism: The Goal of American Democracy
11	24	Ten Steps Toward Civic Democracy First Class Citizenship
11	25	Experience: The Grief Process
11	26	[Democracy in Housing: The <u>Sine Qua Non</u> of Civic Democracy]
11	27	Education and Desegregation
11	28	["Inter-Cultural Understanding"]

### Series III. Printed Material, Reports, Studies, and Publications by Others

#### Box Folder

12	1	[Highlander Folk School, Horton, Justus and Clark vs. State of Tennessee]
12	2	[Pamphlet: The Negro and the Domestic Problem by Oswald Garrison Villard]
12	3	[Pamphlet: Negro Self-Help by Hammond Lamont]
12	4	[Quarterly: Freedomways, Volume 13, No. 1]
12	5	[Pamphlet: Tom Says: Agriculturist by E.C. Thomas]
12	6	[Pamphlet: The Dilemma in Race Relations by Harry S. Ashmore]
12	7	[Brochure: Ivy Green: Famous Birthplace of Helen Keller]
12	8	[Pamphlet: Segregation by C.W. Howell]
12	9	[Pamphlet: The Negro in America: How We Treat Them and How We Should]
12	10	[Pamphlet: Race Discrimination and the Law by Carey McWilliams]
12	11	[Pamphlet: There Are Things To Do by Lillian E. Smith]
12	12	[Journal: Prophetic Religion, Fall 1947]
12	13	[Pamphlet: Contemporary Poetry of the Negro by Robert T. Kerlin]
12	14	[Article: "In the South These Children Prophesy" by Robert Coles, M.D.]
12	15	[Article: "What is Wrong With Negro Colleges" by J. Raymond Hodgkinson]
12	16	[Article: "The Future of Negro Colleges" by Richard Robbins]
12	17	[Article: "I Am Glad That I Am White But..." --- reprint of sermon published by The St. Petersburg Times]
12	18	[Article: "The South Is Playing With Fire" by Aubrey Williams]

- 12 19 [Reprint: Southerners and Schools, The New Republic]
- 12 20 [Article: "Speaking Out: The Voice of Dissent"]
- 12 21 [Report: "Citizen Participation In Revenue Sharing: A Report From The South" by Carol M. Rose]
- 12 22 [Map: City of Tuskegee, Alabama, July, 1970]
- 12 23 [Map: Macon County, Alabama, 1967]
- 12 24 Article: "The Social Anatomy of an Agricultural Community by C.J. Galpin

**Box Folder**

- 13 1 [Pamphlet: Black Studies: Myths and Realities by various authors]
- 13 2 [Pamphlet: The Critical Difference by E. Clayton Calhoun]
- 13 3 [Article: "In Defense of Black Power" by David Danzig]
- 13 4 [Article: "The Legal Status Problems and Behavior of Negroes of Macon County, Alabama by Joseph C. Johnson, Theron O. Howton and William R. Autrey]
- 13 5 [Pamphlet: James T. Rapier: Negro Congressman From Alabama by Eugene Feldman]
- 13 6 [Journal: The Quarterly Journal, July 1943]
- 13 7 [Land Development Plan, Part 1, Tuskegee, Alabama]
- 13 8 [Journal: The Freeman, Ideas on Liberty, January 1966]
- 13 9 [Journal: The Journal of Educational Sociology: Special Issue, Racial Integration, Some Principles and Procedures, October 1954]
- 13 10 [Sample, General Election Ballot, November 5, 1968]
- 13 11 [Pamphlet: Race Relations: Cultural Aids to Constructive Race Relations by Scudder Mekeel]
- 13 12 [Journal: Public Affairs, America's Promise-The Integration of Minorities, Volume 10, Number 4, May, 1946]
- 13 13 [Pamphlet: Primer in Intergroup Relations by Sterling W. Brown, Ph.D.]
- 13 14 [Pamphlet: The Road to Justice: Three Major Statements on Civil Rights by President Lyndon B. Johnson]
- 13 15 [Pamphlet: Digest of Myrdal's "An American Dilemma" by Samuel S. Wyer]
- 13 16 [Article: "Neckbones: A Short Report on a Segment of Our Disadvantaged Migrant People in Florida" by Royce W. Owens (**Contains letters from the author to Gomillion**)]
- 13 17 [Pamphlet: Facts and Figures: Macon County Public Schools, 1966-1967 by Joe C. Wilson]
- 13 18 [Pamphlet: The New Agenda for the White Southerner in His New South, Highlander Folk School Occasional Papers, August, 1960]

**Box Folder**

- 14 1 [Article: "Inter- and Intra-Racial Homicides and the Administration of Justice: Notes on the Comparative Usefulness to the Investigator of the Utilitarian-Positivist and Voluntaristic Frames of Reference in Interpreting Certain Crime Statistics" by Harold Garfinkel]

- 14 2 [Poetry: “Children Learn What They Live” by Anonymous]
- 14 3 [Song: “Hymn to the Brotherhood” by Edwin L. Clarke]
- 14 4 [Pamphlet: Race and Caste: A Distinction by Oliver C. Cox]
- 14 5 [Journal: The Crisis, Vol. 76, No. 6, June-July, 1969]
- 14 6 [“Pamphlet: Adult Education Projects Sponsored by Negro College Fraternities and” Sororities by Deborah C. Partridge]
- 14 7 [Article: “Occupational Choices of Male Students in Tuskegee Institute” by T. Rupert Broady]
- 14 8 [Essay: “Lags in the Rural Newspaper” by Virgie Rea McCoy]
- 14 9 Ressie Nesbitt, Elizabeth Ross [Essay: Economic Status, Problems and Behavior of Negroes in Macon County, Alabama in the Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century]
- 14 10 [Essay:] “Our Right to Know” by Mrs. Annie Mae Turner
- 14 11 [Essay:] “Motivations and Methods of White Power,” Martha Ragland
- 14 12 [Article: Little Known History of the Negro]
- 14 13 [Article:] Predominantly Excellent [by Herbert A. Wilson]
- 14 14 [Pamphlet: A Biographical Sketch of Henry Clayton Walker by Charles A. Brown]
- 14 15 [Journal: Frontiers of Democracy, April 15, 1940]
- 14 16 [Articles and Pamphlets:] Dubois, Dr. W.E.B.
- 14 17 [Articles:] Civil Rights- Federal Programs in the South
- 14 18 [Clippings:] The South
- 14 19 [Essay:] “Political Modernization, Public Policy and the Ghetto” [by Charles V. Hamilton]
- 14 20 [Essay:] “Delinquency of Negro Girls in Alabama” [by Vesta H. W. Lowe]