

COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER
FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Inventory of the
W. Melvin Brown, Jr. Papers, 1951 - 2005**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	W. Melvin Brown, Jr. Papers,
Dates:	1951 - 2005
Creator:	Brown, W. Melvin, Jr.
Abstract:	<p>William Melvin Brown, Jr. was born on February 19, 1934 in Charleston, South Carolina to William and Eva Taylor Brown. He graduated from Immaculate Conception High School and received a BS in Science from South Carolina State College. Brown later acquired a Master of Science from Atlanta University, a MBA from Webster College, and an Advanced Studies degree from Boston University. Brown married Juanita Washington, also a Charleston native and high school science teacher, on June 4, 1960. They had two children, Tamara Theresa Brown and William Melvin Brown, III. He taught science in Atlanta and Charleston and was Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's first black insurance consultant in Charleston-- before forming the American Development Corporation (ADCOR) in 1972. ADCOR, a defense manufacturing firm in North Charleston, is one of the largest African-American owned firms of its kind. Brown served on the boards of a number of Charleston and South Carolina institutions. In 1993, he became the first African-American to be inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame and on June 4, 1994 he was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame. Brown died on June 7, 1994 at age 60.</p> <p>The collection contains personal documents, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials relating to Brown and his family-- as well as his many professional and civic endeavors. Materials in the collection date from the early 1950s until the year 2005, with bulk dates spanning the years 1975-1994.</p>
Extent:	5.55 linear feet (10 archival boxes)
Repository:	Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
Call Number:	AMN 1119
Language of Material:	Material in English

Biographical Note

W. Melvin Brown, Jr. was born on February 19, 1934 in Charleston, SC to William and Eva Taylor Brown. He graduated from Immaculate Conception High School and received a BS from South Carolina State College. Brown later acquired a Master of Science from Atlanta University, a MBA from Webster College, and an Advanced Studies degree from Boston University.

Brown married Juanita Washington, also a Charleston native and high school science teacher, on June 4, 1960. They had two children, Tamara Theresa Brown and William Melvin Brown, III. He taught science in Atlanta and Charleston and was Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's first black insurance consultant in Charleston-- before forming the American Development Corporation (ADCOR) in 1972. ADCOR, a defense

manufacturing firm in North Charleston, is one of the largest African-American owned firms of its kind. ADCOR first appeared on *Black Enterprise Magazine's* "Top 100 Black Businesses in the U.S." list in 1978 and remained there until Brown's death in 1994.

In addition, Brown served on the boards of a number of Charleston and South Carolina institutions, including North Carolina National Bank (NCNB), Clemson University, Talladega College, the South Carolina Ports Authority, the Charleston Aviation Authority, Porter-Guad School, and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. Brown was also a life member and former president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the Athenians Social Club, as well as past chairman of the City of Charleston Election Commission.

In 1993, Brown became the first African-American to be inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame and on June 4, 1994 he was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame. Brown died on June 7, 1994 at age 60.

Collection Overview

The collection contains materials relating to the personal and professional life of W. Melvin Brown Jr. It includes personal documents, correspondence, photographs, printed materials, as well as various other materials pertaining to Brown's professional and civic endeavors. Materials in the collection date from the early 1950s until the year 2005, with bulk dates spanning the years 1975-1994.

Series 1. Biographical includes a scrapbook containing obituaries, photographs and other memorabilia from Brown and his family, as well as newspaper and magazine clippings concerning Brown and his company, American Development Corporation (ADCOR). The series encompasses Brown's many accolades, certificates and plaques, which were given to him throughout his professional career-including his induction into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, his high school diplomas and Master's degrees. Additionally, it contains visual material, such as photographs dating from Brown's high school days in the early 1950s; up until before his death in 1994, as well as a recorded interview and video profile for *Legacy of Leadership*, a 26 part series honoring South Carolina Business Hall of Fame laureates. Speeches and essays written by Brown, as well as dates books and his graduate school transcripts can also be found in the series. The series also contains items from Brown's funeral services in 1994, including memorial books and visitor's registries.

Series 2. Professional Career and Affiliations is comprised of materials dealing with Brown's work at ADCOR and various other community and professional organizations including the South Carolina State Public Service Authority, the Board of Directors of NationsBank, the Athenian Social Club, and the Board of Visitors at Clemson University.

Series 3. Financial contains fiscal records and documents, like tax receipts, home mortgages and real estate appraisals. ADCOR's consolidated financial statements and profit sharing plan can also be found in this series.

Series 4. Periodicals, Bound Items and Ephemera consists of magazines, journals, other bound items and ephemera including Brown's 1964 Master's thesis from Atlanta University, issues of *Black Enterprise* magazine, a calendar commemorating his professional accomplishments and miscellaneous identification and membership cards belonging to him and his wife.

Series 5. Correspondence is comprised of Brown's personal and professional correspondence, as well as posthumous correspondence, such as condolence letters addressed to his wife after Brown's death in 1994.

Series 6. Brown Family includes W. Melvin Brown III's report cards and a biographical sketch on the Brown family, entitled, "To Walk with Kings and Not Lose the Common Touch."

Series 7. Oversize Material contains a large banner advertising an A.M.E. church Pentacost event.

Collection Arrangement

1. Biographical, 1973-1997, undated
2. Professional Career and Affiliations, 1983-1996, undated
3. Financial Records, 1977-1995, undated
4. Periodicals, Bound Items and Ephemera, 1964-2001, undated
5. Correspondence, 1981-2005
6. Brown Family, 1975-1992, undated
7. Oversize Material, 2001

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Box nine is restricted.

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Subject Headings

African American businesspeople--South Carolina.
African American families--South Carolina.
African American fraternal organizations.
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity--History.
Atlanta University.
Brown family.
Brown, Juanita Elizabeth Washington, 1938-2006
Brown, W. Melvin, Jr., 1934-1994
Clemson University. Board of Visitor.
Defense industries--South Carolina.
Funeral rites & ceremonies.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

NCNB National Bank.

Political participation.

Scholarships.

South Carolina Public Service Authority.

South Carolina State College.

Webster College.

YMCA of Greater Charleston.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], W. Melvin Brown, Jr. Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Ardra Whitney, 09, 2012

Encoded by Ardra Whitney, 09, 2012

Bibliography

Sources consulted by Ardra Whitney

Avery Research Center preliminary finding aid: W. Melvin Brown (1934-1994) Collection

Avery Research Center vertical file folders: W. Melvin and Juanita Brown

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Biographical, 1973-1997

This series contains materials related to W. Melvin Brown, Jr.'s life and death, including a scrapbook, newspaper and magazine clippings concerning himself, his family and his company, ADCOR. Also included are speeches and essays written by Brown, as well as his many awards, certificates and plaques. Other items in the series include photographs dating from his high school days in the early 1950s; up until before his passing in 1994, a calendar and video commemorating Brown's accomplishments and visitor's books from his funeral services.

- Box 1 Folder 1 Scrapbook, 1950-1997, undated
- Contains obituaries for Brown, as well as photographs and other memorabilia from him and his family. Also included are newspaper and magazine clippings concerning Brown and his company, ADCOR.
- Box 1 Folder 2-3 Photographs, 1951-1994, undated
- Contains photographs dating from Brown's high school days in the early 1950s; up until before his death in 1994.
- Box 1 Folder 4-5 Speeches, 1973-1982, undated
- Contains several speeches given by Brown including eulogies he wrote for friends and family, high school reunion speeches, and speeches for colleges and university students as well as business and professional associations.
- Box 1 Folder 6 Graduate School Transcript, 1975-1976
- Box 1 Folder 7-8 Magazine and News Clippings, 1983-1994, undated
- Contains numerous clippings related to Brown, his family and his company, ADCOR.
- Newspaper articles from The Post and Courier concerning Brown are not in the collection, but can be found on reserve at the Charleston County Library.
- Box 1 Folder 9 Appointment Books, 1987-1988
- Box 1 Folder 10 Sacred Heart Spiritual Society Folders, 1994
- Box 1 Folder 11 Rites of Christian Burial for William Melvin Brown, Jr. Funeral Programs and Card, 1994
- Box 1 Folder 12 Visitor's Register from Harleston-Boags Funeral Home, 1994
- Box 2 Folder 1-3 Memorial Books from Harleston-Boags Funeral Home, 1994
- Box 2 Folder 4 S.M.A. Fathers Perpetual Mass Association Folder Enrolled by Knights of Columbus Memorial, undated
- Box 2 Folder 5 VHS Tape: *Legacy of Leadership*, South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, 1994
- Box 3 Folder 1-11 Honors and Awards, 1951-1994, undated
- Box 4 Folder 1-4 Honors and Awards, 1951-1994, undated
- Box 5 Folder 1-6 Honors and Awards, 1951-1994, undated

Encompasses certificates and plaques, which were given to Brown throughout his professional career-including his induction into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, his high school diplomas and Master's degrees.

2. Professional Career and Affiliations, 1983-1996, undated

This series contains materials dealing with Brown's work at ADCOR and various other community and professional organizations including the SC State Public Service Authority, the Board of Directors of NationsBank, the Athenian Social Club, and the Board of Visitors at Clemson University.

- Box 6 Folder 1 State of South Carolina, Law Enforcement Division: State Constables, 1975-1976, undated
- Box 6 Folder 2 Charleston Festival Market: Feasibility Study, 1983
- Box 6 Folder 3 Athenian Social Club: Constitution and By-Laws, Historical Report/Essay, 1983, 1991, undated
- Box 6 Folder 4 South Carolina Public Service Authority Appointment Conformation: Correspondence, Oath for County and State Officers and State of Economic Interests Form, 1983, 1993-1994, undated
- Box 6 Folder 5 Clemson University Board of Visitors: Agenda, Bios, Correspondence, Itinerary, Lists and Newsletter, 1986-1989
- Box 6 Folder 6 NCNB Corporation: Brochures, Correspondence, Questionnaires (MOVED TO RESTRICTED MATERIAL)
- Box 6 Folder 7 Santee Cooper Contact List and Portfolio, 1993
- Box 6 Folder 8 ADCOR: Bio, Business Overview, Incident Reports, Memorandum, Post Card, Product List, Resume, 1994, 1996, undated
- Box 6 Folder 9 W. Melvin Brown Scholarship Endowment Proposal for Schedule of Scholarship, 1997
- Box 6 Folder 10 Key Messages - South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, undated

3. Financial, 1977-1995, undated

This series includes fiscal records and documents, like tax receipts, home mortgages and real estate appraisals can also be found in this series-in addition to ADCOR's consolidated financial statements and profit sharing plan.

- Box 6 Folder 11 Checks, Finance Charges, Income Statements, Mortgage Loan, Receipts (MOVED TO RESTRICTED MATERIAL)
- Box 6 Folder 12 American Satellite and Television, Inc.: Consolidated Balance Sheets, Correspondence, Fact Sheet, Ownership Report, Memorandum and Receipt, 1982-1983
- Box 6 Folder 13 Title and Mortgage Documents/Records, 1986-1993
- Box 6 Folder 14 American Communications and Television, Inc.: Company History, Correspondence, Detailed and Preliminary Five Year Projection Reports, Form 10-K (Securities and Exchange Commission Reports), Form 10-Q (Securities and Exchange Commission Quarterly Report) and Press Releases, 1988-1990
- Box 6 Folder 15 Tax Documents (MOVED TO RESTRICTED MATERIAL)
- Box 6 Folder 16 MetLife Insurance Statements (MOVED TO RESTRICTED MATERIAL)

- Box 6 Folder 17-19 ADCOR and subsidiaries-Consolidated Financial Statements and ADCOR Profit Sharing Plan (MOVED TO RESTRICTED MATERIAL)
- Box 6 Folder 20-21 Appraisals, 1991-1994

4. Periodicals, Bound Items and Ephemera, 1964-2001, undated

This series consists of magazines, journals, other bound items and ephemera including Brown's 1964 Master's thesis from Atlanta University, issues of Black Enterprise magazine, a calendar commemorating Brown's professional accomplishments and miscellaneous identification and membership cards belonging to him and his wife.

Periodicals

- Box 7 Folder 1-7 *Black Enterprise*, 1924-1934
- Box 7 Folder 8 *Dollars and Sense*, 1985
- Box 7 Folder 9 The 1990 South Carolina 100, South Carolina's Top 100 Businesses Journal Compiled by Arthur Anderson (The Sixth Annual Survey of Closely Held Businesses), 1990
- Box 7 Folder 10 Charleston's Trident Black Pages, 1994-1995

Bound Items

- Box 7 Folder 11-12 Master's Thesis: *A Resource Unit in Economic Botany with Emphasis on Medicinal, Flavoring and Domestic Use*, 1964
- Box 8 Folder 1 150th Anniversary Celebration of St. Patrick's Catholic Church Souvenir Journal, 1987
- Box 8 Folder 2 Congressional Record Proceedings and Debates of the 102nd Congress (Second Session), 1992
- Box 8 Folder 3 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 41st South Atlantic Regional Conference Public Luncheon: Program,, 1994
- Box 8 Folder 4 Charleston Chapter of The Links' 4th Annual Spring Luncheon: Program, 1994
- Box 8 Folder 5 Minutes of the 69th Anniversary Convention (61st General Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.), 1975
- Box 8 Folder 6 Minutes of the 70th Anniversary Convention (62nd General Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.), 1976
- Box 8 Folder 7 Quarter Century Club of South Carolina State College's 13th Annual Luncheon Program, 1982
- Box 8 Folder 8 South Carolina African-American Role Models Calendar, 1990
- Box 8 Folder 9 USS Sierra AD 18 Decommissioning Ceremony Souvenir Journal and Photograph, 1993, undated
- Box 8 Folder 10 Junior Achievement of Greater Columbia, Inc. Annual Report, 1993
- Box 8 Folder 11 National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Brochure (Distinguished Alumni of the Year Citation, Vol. 1), undated

Ephemera

Includes identification cards, membership cards and business cards that belonged to Brown.

Box 8 Folder 12	International Dues Book of the Bricklayers, Masons, Plasterers International Union of America, 1976-1980
Box 8 Folder 12	National Defense Executive Reserve Identification Card, 1982
Box 8 Folder 12	Prayer Card from Harleston-Boags Funeral Home, Inc., 1994
Box 8 Folder 12	ADCOR Employee ID Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	ADCOR Tag, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Blue Cross, Blue Shield Preferred Personal Care Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	City Council Campaign Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Clemson Fellows Member Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Clemson University Board of Visitors Name Tag, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Corporate Member of the Association of the United States Army Decal Sticker, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Coastal Video Center, Inc. Member Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Delta Air Lines Flying Colonel Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Delta Crown Room Card Tag, 1993, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Eastern Ionosphere Club Tag, undate
Box 8 Folder 12	NCNB Place Hologram Invitation for Groundbreaking Ceremonies and Reception, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Rosary ring, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	Sheraton Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida Postcard, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	South Carolina Ports Authority Board Member ID Badge, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	South Carolina State Health Plan Identification Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 12	US AIR Frequent Traveler Program Card for Juanita and W. Melvin Brown, Jr., undated
Box 8 Folder 12	U.S. Department of Commerce Member Card, undated
Box 8 Folder 13	NAFEO's 8th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education Registration Form, 1983
Box 8 Folder 14	Official 1995 Republican Inaugural Invitation, 1994

5. Correspondence, 1981-2005

This series is comprised of Brown's personal and professional correspondence, as well as condolence letters addressed to his wife following his death in 1994.

Box 8 Folder 15	Correspondence from Fredrina to W. Melvin Brown, Jr., 1981, 1993
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Box 8 Folder 16 Correspondence from Robert D. Eggleston at South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, 1984

Box 8 Folder 17 Correspondence: General, 1984-1994

Contains Brown's personal and professional correspondence, including letters from government elected officials, board members and friends congratulating him on his induction into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame.

Box 8 Folder 18 Greeting Card with Note to W. Melvin Brown, Jr., 1986

Box 8 Folder 19-20 Condolence Letters, 1994, undated

Contains correspondence written to Brown's wife, Juanita Brown, after his death in 1994.

Box 8 Folder 21 Posthumous Correspondence, 1995, 2005

Includes correspondence from community and professional organizations addressed to either Brown or his daughter, Tamara Brown, following his death in 1994.

6. Brown Family, 1975-1992, undated

The series includes Brown's son, W. Melvin Brown III's report cards and a biographical sketch on the family, entitled, "To Walk with Kings and Not Lose the Common Touch."

Box 8 Folder 22 W. Melvin Brown III's Report Cards (MOVED TO RESTRICTED MATERIAL)

Box 8 Folder 23 Heirs of John Brown Family Reunion Drawing, Invitation and Program, 1988, undated

Box 8 Folder 24 The National Black Family Summit Brochure and Congressional Order, 1992

Box 8 Folder 25 Rites of Christian Burial for Henry Matthews Jackson Funeral Program, Program Drawings and Photographs, 1997

Box 8 Folder 26 Biographical Sketch on the Brown Family: "To Walk with Kings and Not Lose the Common Touch", 1981, 1993

Box 8 Folder 27 Anniversary Book to Parents from W. Melvin Brown III, undated

Box 8 Folder 28 Poem: "The Vacant Chair", undated

7. Oversize Material, 2001

This series contains a large banner advertising an A.M.E. church Pentecost event.

Box 10 Folder 1 African Methodist Episcopal Church Banner: "On Our Way To Pentecost", 2001