The Raymond O. Arsenault Collection

A Collection Guide by
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Shawn Reynolds, and James Schnur
Archives Assistant   Assistant Librarian

Special Collections and Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

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22 April 2008 (Third Accession)
Introduction and Biographical Information

Raymond O. Arsenault serves as the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History and Director of the University Honors Program at the University of South Florida (USF), St. Petersburg. A member of the USF faculty since 1980, he specializes in the social, political, and environmental history and historiography of the American South, though his teaching and research interests cover nearly all areas of American history, culture, and civilization.

A native of Hyannis, Massachusetts, he also lived in Virginia, Maryland, and Florida (the Pensacola, Jacksonville, and Amelia Island areas) before attending college. He completed his undergraduate education at Princeton (B.A., 1969) and finished his doctorate at Brandeis (Ph.D., 1981). In addition to his teaching and research at USF, he has also taught at the University of Minnesota, Brandeis University, and in France at the Universite d’Angers, where he served as a Fulbright Lecturer in 1984-1985. Author of two prize-winning books, The Wild Ass of the Ozarks: Jeff Davis and the Social Bases of Southern Politics and St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream. 1888-1950, Arsenault has also written numerous articles in scholarly journals. He and Gary Mormino, USF Professor of History, have collaborated as co-editors for the “Florida History and Culture” series of monographs published by the University Press of Florida. He regularly lectures at conferences and professional meetings, and has appeared on ABC’s Nightline, National Public Radio, and ABC Nightly News.

A lifelong supporter of civil rights and social justice, Arsenault has also taken leadership roles with organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, where he has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Pinellas County Chapter since 1981, as Chapter President (1985-1997), and later as President of the state ACLU in 1998.

In the summer of 1998, Arsenault donated some of his research files and miscellaneous materials to the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. In 2001 and again in 2004, he sent additional materials for preservation as part of this collection. Revisions of this finding aid will occur as the Special Collections department receives future accessions.

Some information from this biographical note originally appeared on the USF St. Petersburg Faculty Spotlight page, located at http://www1.stpt.usf.edu/faculty/vita/rarsen.shtml

Restrictions/Preservation Note

Newspaper clippings and other documents printed on acidic paper constitute a substantial portion of this collection. While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of such items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the Raymond O. Arsenault Collection, refrain from placing any additional stress on the paper fibers by folding or creasing newspapers or other materials, or by exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or
other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Raymond O. Arsenault Collection

This collection falls under the Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The materials in the Raymond O. Arsenault Collection occupy 4.5 linear feet of shelf space and reside in nine document boxes and two notebooks. Items fall within three distinct series: 1) Pre-2001 acquisitions [four document boxes and two notebooks, 2.5 linear feet], 2) 2001 Acquisitions [five boxes, 2.0 linear feet], 3) 2004 Acquisitions. Research files, clippings, memoranda, audiotape recordings, public records, photographs, and ephemera constitute the bulk of the collection. Inclusive dates for materials cover the period from the 1880s (photocopied newspaper articles) through 2001, with bulk dates falling within the period from 1980 through 2001.

Container Listing

Series 1: Pre-2001 Acquisitions (four boxes and two notebooks)

Series Scope and Contents:
This series, consisting of four manuscript boxes and two notebooks, contains materials related to the history of St. Petersburg and the city’s 1992 Charter Review Committee. Many clippings examine segments of the city, such as African Americans in St. Petersburg. Some items created prior to 1987 proved helpful for Arsenault as he wrote *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream, 1888-1950*. Professor Arsenault donated these materials to Special Collections and Archives in July 1998. Kathleen H. Arsenault, University Librarian and director of the Poynter Library, arranged and organized materials in this series.

Notebook 1
St. Petersburg—Charter Review Committee, agendas, meeting minutes, administrative information, current (as of 1992) city charter, former committees, general information (1992)
Notebook 2
“References to the *Times,*” compiled as a result of *The Times* name lawsuit, photocopy (1886-1960s)

**Box 1**

**Box 1, Folder 1**
“St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream”—Correspondence with the Donning Company (1987)

**Box 1, Folder 2**

**Box 1, Folder 3**

**Box 1, Folder 4**
“A Place in the Sun: The History of St. Petersburg” chronology by Raymond Arsenault, for Chamber of Commerce brochure (1986)

**Box 1, Folder 5**
Demographic Profile for St. Petersburg, from 1980 census (1983?)

**Box 1, Folder 6**
“The Student Protest Movement: A Recapitulation” Special Report, Southern Regional Council (September 1961)

**Box 1, Folder 7**
Nolen, John, and Philip W. Foster. “City Planning Report: St. Petersburg, Florida” (1923)
Richard E. Mussett, St. Petersburg Planning Director, to Dave Carr (1985)

**Box 1, Folder 8**

**Box 1, Folder 9**
African Americans—St. Petersburg, clippings pre-*Florida Dream* (circa 1906-1980)
Box 1, Folder 10
African Americans—St. Petersburg
“To Be Black and To Live in St. Petersburg”, special report by

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12
Webb’s City, History of, by St. Petersburg Downtown Improvement
Corporation (7 February 1983)

Box 1, Folder 13
“History of St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Established 1909,” photocopy

Box 1, Folder 14
Hooker, Robert. “100 Years St. Petersburg Times, July 25, 1884 to
July 25, 1984 : The Times and Its Times.” St. Petersburg:

Box 1, Folder 15
in St. Petersburg at the Turn of the Century.” Tampa Bay History
(Spring/Summer 1986), pp. 4-27. Photocopy

Box 1, Folder 16
St. Petersburg—Miscellaneous clippings, articles (1909, 1942, 1974,
1985, undated)

Box 1, Folder 17
Bethell, John A. Pinellas: A Brief History of the Lower Point. St.
Photocopy

Box 1, Folder 18
Wilson, Jon L. “Days of Fear: A Lynching in St. Petersburg.”
Tampa Bay History (Fall/Winter 1983), pp. 4-26. Photocopy

Box 2

Box 2, Folder 1
St. Petersburg—Downtown Redevelopment; clippings (1978, 1986-
1991, undated)

Box 2, Folder 2
Box 2, Folder 3
Pinellas County Schools, “School Times, 75th Anniversary Celebration”, vol. 1, no. 1 [4 copies] (circa 1987)

Box 2, Folder 4
Pinellas County—Historic Buildings; clippings (1978, undated)

Box 2, Folder 5
Pinellas County—Miscellaneous Local History; clippings (1979, 1986-1990, undated)

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 7
St. Petersburg Times information

Box 2, Folder 8
St. Petersburg—Elections (David Fischer/Ernest “Curt” Curtsinger Mayoral Contest: 1993); clippings, pamphlets (1993)

Box 2, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 10
St. Petersburg—Race Relations [1996 Racial Disturbances]; clippings (24 October-31 October 1996)

Box 2, Folder 11
St. Petersburg—Race Relations [1996 Racial Disturbances]; clippings and flyers (1 November-30 November 1996)

Box 2, Folder 12

Box 2, Folder 13
St. Petersburg—Race Relations [One-year retrospective of 1996 Racial Disturbances]; clippings (October 1997)
Box 3

Box 3, Audio recordings
St. Petersburg—Charter Review Committee meetings, on four audiocassette tapes (17 June 1992)

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2
Save Our St. Petersburg (S.O.S.) materials related to Bay Plaza development and the demolition of the Soreno Hotel; newsletters, brochures, ephemera (primarily 1991)

Box 3, Folder 3
St. Petersburg—Charter Review Committee; miscellaneous clippings (1989-1993, inclusive dates)

Box 3, Materials not in folders
St. Petersburg—Charter Review Committee; miscellaneous memoranda and working documents (1992)

Box 4

Box 4, Materials not in folders
St. Petersburg—Charter Review Committee; miscellaneous memoranda and working documents (1992)

Series 2: 2001 Acquisitions (five boxes)

Series Scope and Contents:
This series includes five manuscript boxes (four standard size, one at half size). Materials concentrate on various themes related to the history of St. Petersburg. Newspaper clippings (and photocopies thereof), public documents, correspondence, and historic images of the city form the bulk of this series, acquired from Arsenault in 2001. Jon Wilson—a graduate student at USF and local journalist—accessioned, arranged, and described materials in this series.

Box 5

Box 5, Folder 1
African American History—Hernando County, St. Petersburg Times;
clippings (1998-1999)

**Box 5, Folder 2**  
African American History—Northern Pinellas County; clippings  
(undated)

**Box 5, Folder 3**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Albury, Joseph;  
Photographs of Joseph Albury, Sr., photographer, and his son,  
Joseph Albury, Jr. (circa 1924, 1936)

**Box 5, Folder 4**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Alsup, Fred W., physician  
and civil rights leader; photocopy (circa 1952)

**Box 5, Folder 5**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Baseball, treatment of  
baseball players; clippings and memoranda (circa 1961)

**Box 5, Folder 6**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Black history exhibits,  
St. Petersburg Museum of History; memoranda (circa 1988)

**Box 5, Folder 7**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Churches (1988, undated)

**Box 5, Folder 8**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Clubs (1930s, undated)

**Box 5, Folder 9**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Crime (1914)

**Box 5, Folder 10**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Davis, Enoch, pastor,  
civil rights leader, author (1999, undated)

**Box 5, Folder 11**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Harper, Ruby L.;  
photograph (undated)

**Box 5, Folder 12**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Jamerson, Doug;  
campaign material (2000)

**Box 5, Folders 13 and 14**  
African American History—St. Petersburg—Olive B. McLin History
Project [including Heroes of Our Heritage]; drafts (circa 1998)

**Box 5, Folder 15**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Mercy Hospital (1994)

**Box 5, Folder 16**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Minority Relations Committee report, city government (1972)

**Box 5, Folder 17**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Mohr, Dean; official with YMCA (undated)

**Box 5, Folder 18**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Moses, J.P.; clipping (196?)

**Box 5, Folder 19**

**Box 5, Folder 20**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Police officers (early African American officers) (undated clippings)

**Box 5, Folder 21**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Politics, Effie S. Alexander campaign (199?)

**Box 5, Folder 22**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Ponder, Ernest (1958, undated)

**Box 5, Folder 23**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Recreation, General; photographs (192?, 1949)

**Box 5, Folder 24**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Recreation, Jennie Hall swimming pool at Wildwood Park (1954)

**Box 5, Folder 25**
African American History—St. Petersburg—Restaurants and Nightclubs; photograph of ‘Club 16’ (undated)
Box 5, Folder 26
African American History—St. Petersburg—Schools; photographs and newspaper clippings (undated)

Box 5, Folder 27

Box 5, Folder 28

Box 5, Folder 29
African American History—St. Petersburg—Stone, William; life story of a former slave, 5pp. typescript (1938)

Box 5, Folder 30
African American History—St. Petersburg—Swain, Olive; Dyles, Freddie; Graham, Gussie; photograph (undated)

Box 5, Folder 31
African American History—St. Petersburg—Voting (1898 citation)

Box 5, Folder 32
African American History—St. Petersburg—Williams, Hazel; photograph (undated)

Box 5, Folder 33
African American History—St. Petersburg—Wimbish, C. Bette; photograph (undated)

Box 5, Folder 34
African American History—St. Petersburg—Yeshitela, Omali [Waller, Joseph] (196?)

Box 5, Folders 35 and 36
African American History—St. Petersburg unidentified, uncategorized photographs and notes

Box 5, Folder 37
African American History—Slavery (see also: Florida—Folklore—African American Legends

Box 6

Box 6, Folder 1
Arcadia, profile of a small Florida town; photocopy (1968)

**Box 6, Folder 2**

**Box 6, Folder 3**
Elections: 1914, Pinellas County, Registrations and Wet vs. Dry issue

**Box 6, Folder 4**
Elections, 1932, National, State, and Local

**Box 6, Folder 5**
Elections: 1936, National

**Box 6, Folder 6**
Florida—Archaeology (undated)

**Box 6, Folder 7**

**Box 6, Folder 8**
Florida—Crime; newspaper article (1987)

**Box 6, Folder 9**
Florida—Executions; newspaper article (1988?)

**Box 6, Folder 10**
Florida—Folklore—African American Legends; photocopy (1938)

**Box 6, Folder 11**
Florida—Growth Management; clipping (undated)

**Box 6, Folder 12**

**Box 6, Folder 13**
Florida—Homes—Air Conditioning (1947, undated)

**Box 6, Folder 14**

**Box 6, Folder 15**
Florida—Indians—General (1929)
Box 6, Folder 16
Florida—Indians—Timucua (1976, 1984)

Box 6, Folder 17
Kudzu; clipping (1987)

Box 6, Folder 18
Miami; clipping (1987)

Box 6, Folder 19
Pinellas County—Archaeology; reports, brochures (1982, undated)

Box 6, Folder 20
Pinellas County—Desegregation of Public Schools

Box 6, Folder 21
Pinellas County—Heritage Village, Pinellas County Historical Museum

Box 6, Folder 22
Pinellas County—History—Brochures and letters (1939, 1987, 199?, 2000)

Box 6, Folder 23
Pinellas County—History, World War II-1970 (1986, 198?)

Box 6, Folder 24
Pinellas County—Homeless; photocopy of *Winter 1995 Homeless Survey*, Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless (January 1995)

Box 6, Folder 25
Pinellas County—Indians, 1500-1848; research report (undated)

Box 6, Folder 26
Pinellas County—Pinellas Trail and County Parks Department (2000, undated)

Box 6, Folder 27
Pinellas County—Prisons; photocopy of clipping (undated)
Box 6, Folder 28
Pinellas County—*Old Pinellas Press* newsletter (1992)

Box 6, Folder 29
Pinellas County—Transportation; bus route map (1999)

Box 6, Folder 30
Pinellas County—Weedon Island (undated)

Box 6, Folder 31
Pre-history—General (undated)

Box 6, Folder 32
Publications—*Tampa Bay* magazine (July/August 1999)

Box 7

Box 7, Folder 1
St. Petersburg—Albert Whitted Airport; renovation proposals (1998)

Box 7, Folder 2
St. Petersburg—Architectural and Historic Resources (undated)

Box 7, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 4
St. Petersburg—Authors—Gould, Rita; copy of manuscript draft for *Pioneer St. Petersburg* (1987?)

Box 7, Folder 5
St. Petersburg—Authors—Marston, Reb; copy of *Cruising Along* (1963)

Box 7, Folder 6
St. Petersburg—Auto Racing; brochure (1988)

Box 7, Folder 7

Box 7, Folder 8
St. Petersburg—Bay Plaza Development; reports, articles (1995)
Box 7, Folder 9
St. Petersburg—Bay Walk Development; memo, article (1998, 2000)

Box 7, Folder 10
St. Petersburg—Cemeteries; clipping (1988?)

Box 7, Folder 11
St. Petersburg—Census and Demographics; report (1993)

Box 7, Folder 12
St. Petersburg—Centennial: 1988; clippings of reprinted articles

Box 7, Folder 13
St. Petersburg—Central Avenue; clipping, image (1921, 1956)

Box 7, Folder 14
St. Petersburg—City Council activities circa 1896-1913 (undated)

Box 7, Folder 15
St. Petersburg—Coliseum; clippings (1950, 1999)

Box 7, Folder 16
St. Petersburg—Construction, Rio Vista Subdivision (1946)

Box 7, Folder 17
St. Petersburg—Demens, Peter; exhibit and symposium materials (1988, 199?, 2000, undated)

Box 7, Folder 18
St. Petersburg—Derby Lane; clipping (1988)

Box 7, Folder 19

Box 7, Folder 20

Box 7, Folder 21
St. Petersburg—Evening Independent (1906, 193?)

Box 7, Folder 22
St. Petersburg—Gas Plant; photocopy of clipping (28 January 1915)

Box 7, Folder 23
St. Petersburg—Green Benches (1986, undated)
Box 7, Folder 24

Box 7, Folder 25
St. Petersburg—History—Women

Box 7, Folder 28
St. Petersburg—Hotels; brochures, clippings, undated photograph of Rolyat Hotel, now Stetson University, College of Law (1987, 1995, undated)

Box 7, Folder 29
St. Petersburg—Job Corps (undated)

Box 7, Folder 30
St. Petersburg—Ku Klux Klan; photocopy of article (20 March 1923)

Box 7, Folder 31
St. Petersburg—Law Enforcement; clipping (25 October 2000)

Box 7, Folder 32
St. Petersburg—Mitchell, Noel; clipping and notes (1999, undated)

Box 7, Folder 33
St. Petersburg—Municipal Pier; photocopy of Don Addis cartoon (undated)

Box 7, Folder 34
St. Petersburg—Museum of History; brochures and publications (1987, undated)

Box 8

Box 8, Folder 1
St. Petersburg—Neighborhoods—Allendale Subdivision; clippings, notes, correspondence (1996, undated)

Box 8, Folder 2
St. Petersburg—Neighborhoods—Euclid
Box 8, Folder 3
St. Petersburg—Neighborhoods—General Information; reports and guide to the city’s neighborhoods (1997-1998, undated)

Box 8, Folder 4
St. Petersburg—Open Air Post Office; clipping (1999)

Box 8, Folder 5
St. Petersburg—Parking; photocopy of clipping (10 January 1950)

Box 8, Folder 6
St. Petersburg—Photographs and Images (circa 1913)

Box 8, Folder 7
St. Petersburg—Planning, First Union/Central Avenue Project, by Tim Clemmons (December 1999)

Box 8, Folder 8
St. Petersburg—Planning—Vision 2020; agendas, brochure (2001)

Box 8, Folder 9
St. Petersburg—Politics—Mayoral Race, 2001

Box 8, Folder 10
St. Petersburg—Postcards [21 individual cards] (early 1900s)

Box 8, Folder 11

Box 8, Folder 12

Box 8, Folder 13
St. Petersburg—Promotional; brochures (199?)

Box 8, Folder 14

Box 8, Folder 15
St. Petersburg—Railroads; re-enactment of the first train’s arrival, photocopy of clipping (undated)

Box 8, Folder 16
St. Petersburg—Recollections from “Old-Timers”; clipping (1987)
Box 8, Folder 17
St. Petersburg—Religions United in Action for Community [RUAC]; meeting minutes (1973-1975)

Box 8, Folder 18
St. Petersburg—Restaurants and Cafeterias (1990s?, undated)

Box 8, Folder 19
St. Petersburg—Russian Heritage; newsletters (1999-2000)

Box 8, Folder 20
St. Petersburg—Schools, late 19th and early 20th centuries; copies of typescripts, and newspaper articles (1901, 1921, undated)

Box 8, Folder 21
St. Petersburg—St. Petersburg Times; photocopies of miscellaneous front pages and articles, citations, outline of news library map

Box 8, Folder 22
St. Petersburg—Segregation; memoranda, clippings, ordinances (1921, 1936, 1946, undated)

Box 8, Folder 23
St. Petersburg—Shuffleboard Club; photocopy of clipping (1998)

Box 8, Folder 24
St. Petersburg—Snell, Perry (1999, 2000, undated)

Box 8, Folder 25
St. Petersburg—Straub, William L.; photocopies of clippings, images of the waterfront (1903, 1932, 1939, 1971, undated)

Box 8, Folder 26
St. Petersburg—Timeline, 1521-1988; pamphlet (1988?)

Box 8, Folder 27
St. Petersburg—Tourism; clippings (1921, 1947, 1999, 2000, undated)

Box 8, Folder 28
St. Petersburg—Veterans’ and Military History; photocopy of newspaper article (11 November 1932)

Box 8, Folder 29
St. Petersburg—Walking Tours, Other Historical Tours; correspondence, memoranda, brochures (1996, 2000, 2001, undated)
Box 8, Folder 30
St. Petersburg—Wallace, John B.; obituary, clipping (27 July 1987)

Box 8, Folder 31
St. Petersburg—Williams, John C. and Williams House [now relocated to USF St. Petersburg]; research reports (1974, 1975, undated)

Box 9

Box 9, Folder 1
St. Petersburg—Webb’s City; clippings (1946, 1986)

Box 9, Folder 2

Box 9, Folder 3
St. Petersburg Beach [now St. Pete Beach]—Seawalls (1948, 1997)

Box 9, Folder 4
Sports—General; photocopy of clippings (1915, 1947)

Box 9, Folder 5
Tampa—Baseball; clippings (1888, 1906, 1943)

Box 9, Folder 6
Tampa—City Characteristics; clipping (January 2000)

Box 9, Folder 7
Tampa Bay Region—Megacities Symposium, USF Tampa (1999)

Box 9, Folder 8
Tampa Bay Region—Historic/Archaeological Report (June 1988)

Box 9, Folder 9
Tampa Bay Region—Transportation—“Thrill Hill”; clipping (29 July 1987)

Box 9, Folder 10
University of South Florida—Report on Research (Close Up) (Spring/Summer 1985)

Box 9, Folder 11
University of South Florida/St. Petersburg—Academic Ephemera
[HIS 3930 “St. Petersburg History” class] NOTE: Class roster is restricted due to educational privacy guidelines (Summer 1986)

**Box 9, Folder 12**
University of South Florida/St. Petersburg—Davis, Lowell E.; clipping (1988)

**Box 9, Folder 13**
Women’s Rights; clippings (1944, 1949)

**Box 9, Folder 14**
World War II; clippings (1943, 1944, undated)