Rev. Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr.'s Civil Rights Struggle in Northeastern Louisiana

Rev. Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr. was born and raised in Lake Providence, East Carroll Parish, LA. For as long as he could remember, he was denied the right to register to vote even though he was made to pay poll taxes. In lieu of this, he, along with a group of other African Americans in the area, decided to challenge the Registrar of Voters after repeated attempts of trying to register to vote. The group eventually filed a suit and two witnesses were chosen to testify in front of a grand jury; Rev. John H. Scott and Rev. Atlas.

Following their testimony, Rev. Scott and Rev. Atlas were the subjects of economic coercion and physical violence. Eventually, the Justice Department filed a lawsuit against area businessmen regarding economic coercion and won. Rev. Atlas eventually was voted the head of the parish schoolboard and served several terms in this position.

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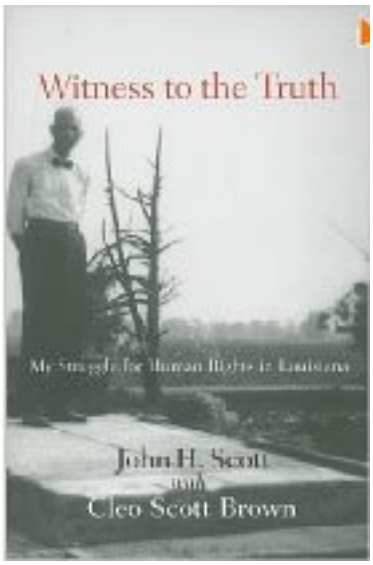
Books



"Witness to the Truth: My Struggle For Human Rights In Louisiana" by John H. Scott with Cleo Scott Bro
This book documents Rev. Scott's fight to vote as well as the fight of several family members in East Ca

Available for purchase in the aStore

Preview on Google Books

Google Books Search for Rev. Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr.

News Coverage and Documents

- September 27, 1960 - Testimony before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, New Orleans, LA
- November 1, 1960 - Letter from E. Frederic Morrow, White House
- January 20, 1961 - New York Times

- January 24, 1961 - Washington Afro-American
- February 4, 1961 - New York Times
- February 9, 1961 - Jet Magazine
- Feburary 14, 1961 - Baltimore Afro-American
- September 15, 1961 - Time Magazine (mention in an article on the Civil Rights Commission)
- July 17, 1961 - Washington Post
- July 29, 1962 - Florence, AL Times Daily (mention of 25 ellgible voters vot
- September 13, 1962 - Jet Magazine (in article on Rev. John H. Scott)
- April 15, 1965 - Jet Magazine
- November 12, 1966 - New York Times
- August 6, 2005 - Monroe News Star
- Undated - The Road to Selma (incomplete)
- Obituary of Rev. Francis J. Atlas, Sr.
- Burial Record of Rev. Francis J. Atlas, Sr.

Source Information:

- Periodicals: Genealogy Bank (Historical Newspapers), Google Books - Jet Magazine a
Google News Archive