

**Title:** Josey, J. Anthony Collection

**Manuscript numbers:** Mss-0619

**Bulk:** 000.03

**Location:** Sm Mss  
OS SM "J" (1 item)

**Abstract:** Jarius Anthony Josey was one of the most influential figures in Milwaukee's and Wisconsin's black community of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was born on January 6, 1876, in Augusta, Georgia. After he graduated from high school there, Josey moved to Atlanta at the turn of the century to co-edit the *Atlanta Independent* and to enroll at Atlanta University, a historically Black college founded in 1865. He married Chestena M. Carmichael in 1905, and they moved to Madison, where he enrolled in the University of Wisconsin Law School.

After working at odd jobs in Madison, Josey launched *The Wisconsin Weekly Blade* (later, the *Enterprise-Blade*) on June 8, 1916. The Joseys moved to Milwaukee in 1922, where he continued to challenge racial stereotypes in the mainstream press and social and economic discrimination. He also championed black businesses in Milwaukee. As editor of the state's first successful black newspaper, Josey was the voice of Wisconsin's African Americans until 1944. His influence was such that he was unofficially elected the "mayor of Bronzeville," one of Milwaukee's predominantly black neighborhoods, in 1945. Josey passed away in July 1957.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of photographs (see M-121), newspaper clippings, YMCA brochure, correspondence, inaugural posters, and telegrams. See oversize for Josey's high school diploma from Augusta, Georgia, June 15, 1894.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Administrative Note:** Processed by Emmaleigh Grady, August 2017