

# Norman, Robert Younger, Papers

Robert Younger Norman Papers

1956-1976



## Title Statement

Norman, Robert Younger, Papers Robert Younger Norman Papers, 1956-1976 Ms.2022.058

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2022.058

### Unit Date

1956-1976

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

This collection contains the papers of Robert Younger Norman, a singer, laborer, and veteran. Most materials relate to the Pilgrim Gospel Singers, a Black gospel choir active in Virginia from 1951 through the 1970s, of which Norman was a member.

### Creator

Norman, Robert Younger, 1913-1977

### Creator

Pilgrim Gospel Singers (Promise Land Baptist Church, Moneta, Va.)

### Extent

0.4 Cubic Feet 1 box

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 2021.

## Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Robert Younger Norman Papers was completed in September 2022.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Robert Younger Norman Papers, 1956-1976, Ms2022-058, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Robert Younger Norman was born to John E. Norman, Sr., and Ora Estelle Norman (nee Morgan) on August 6, 1913, in Moneta, Virginia. As an adolescent, he moved to Roanoke and began working as a chauffeur. He married Willie Mae Smith (1910-2004) on March 11, 1938, in Roanoke. During World War II, Norman enlisted in the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army from his enlistment on July 16, 1943, until his discharge on December 26, 1945. Later in life, he worked as a laborer in the gas industry in Roanoke and a farmer in Staunton.

Norman was an active member of the Pilgrim Gospel Singers, a Black gospel choir associated with the Promise Land Baptist Church in Moneta, from the 1950s onwards. The choir traveled Virginia to sing at church events.

Norman died in Roanoke on October 13, 1977, and he and his wife Willie are buried in Hurts Gate Cemetery in Moneta.

## External Sources:

U.S. Censuses, 1920-1950

"Robert Younger Norman", Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63926470/robert-younger-norman>, accessed September 7, 2023.

"Mrs Willie Mae 'Aunt Willie' Smith Norman", Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63925992/willie-mae-norman>, accessed September 7, 2023.

"Robert Younger Norman" in the Virginia, U.S., Marriage Records, 1936-2014, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/10976959:9279>, accessed September 7, 2023.

"Robert Younger Norman" in the Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/1656010:9278>, accessed September 7, 2023.

"Robert Younger Norman" in the U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/2072367:2441>, accessed September 7, 2023.

# Administrative History

The Pilgrim Gospel Singers were a Black gospel choir associated with the Promise Land Baptist Church in Moneta, Virginia, from the 1950s to 1970s.

# Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Robert Younger Norman, an army veteran, laborer, and singer. Most materials relate to the Pilgrim Gospel Singers, a Black gospel choir active in Virginia from 1951 through the 1970s, of which Norman was a member. Materials include correspondence related to performances, church programs and event flyers, financial notes, other personal notes, and other bills and official correspondence addressed to Norman.

## Keywords

African Americans -- History

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Musical groups

Religion

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged by topic.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Church Event Programs

**Unit Date** 1957-1975

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### Choir Correspondence

**Unit Date** 1956-1975

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### Records Journal

**Unit Date** undated

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

### Personal Notes and Record Scraps

**Unit Date** undated

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

### Loose Envelopes and Blank Post Cards

**Unit Date** undated

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

### Bills and Financial Records

**Unit Date** 1960-1976

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)