1973

0065: Dr. Richard Curry Papers

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RICHARD CURRY COLLECTION

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Corporate Name: N/A
Date: July 16, 2019
Extent: 2 cubic feet
System of Arrangement: This collection was previously processed, but no finding aid was created at that time, so original order/system of arrangement is unknown. Collection has been divided into work on the Civil War, Reconstruction and WV Statehood (Series 1) and Curry’s personal and professional papers (Series 2).

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
of Political Context, Timing, and Calculated Risk” and “Down Under: The Recollections of a Fulbright Lecturer in New Zealand and Australia.” While traveling in New Zealand and Australia with the United States Information Agency (USIA), Curry claimed that he was instructed to endorse then-President Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy. Curry felt that this was against the spirit of academia and free speech, and so filed complaints with his governmental representatives and wrote articles denouncing his treatment when he returned to the U.S. Curry was not the only traveling scholar with the USIA who had experienced similar treatment, and their complaints eventually led to governmental hearings on the politicization of the USIA and other programs. Curry feared that this politicization might infect the Fulbright program, as well, since the government had threatened to cut funding to the program at one point. Curry felt they might use this threat to encourage scholars/lecturers to conform to their preferred objectives. Curry passed away unexpectedly on April 19, 1997.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection consists of research materials and the personal and professional papers of historian Richard Orr Curry. The collection spans the years 1952-1983, with the bulk of material from the 1970s and early 1980s. The research material in Series 1 on West Virginia statehood, the Civil War, and Reconstruction are all copies, transcripts, and photoduplicates. The only original letters and papers are contained in Box 1, Folder 3, as described below in the finding aid. Much of the Series 2 material focuses on Curry’s anger at his treatment by the USIA, and it contains many letters and copies of published articles that Curry wrote about the 1981 incident. The majority of these letters are copies, not originals. Curry was also a professor of history at the University of Connecticut, and so Series 2 also contains correspondence and copies of works that he published as an historian. The collection was previously arranged, but no finding aid was made. Folders were labelled with incorrect information, or did not accurately describe the contents. Because original order was unknown, the folder contents were left as they were found, but the folders were renamed to better describe their contents. The collection was originally contained in five half-Hollinger and one quarter-Hollinger boxes, but was condensed to one Hollinger and two half-Hollinger boxes for easier storage. The material in Box 3 appears to have been donated at a later date than the other materials, as some of these folders were labeled “Curry addenda 11/83.” This labeling has been kept, and information added to the folder name. Other materials may have come in at separate times, as supported by letters between Curry and then-Marshall Library Director Kenneth Slack, located in Box 3, Folder 1. As the collection was processed, multiple copies of articles were found. If found together, three were kept and the rest discarded.

I. **Box 1**

**Series 1: Civil War, Reconstruction, West Virginia Statehood**

Folder 1: Curry: Boreman
Folder 2: Letters from the Conservative Democratic Union, or “White Boys”
Folder 3: Curry letter with collection items

*Curry’s letter, dated October 23, 1952, describes these items as “secure[d] from the Mathews collection,” saying they “can remain with
Marshall…since I have no real authority to donate them.” They include the following:
- letter from The Non-Medicine Cure Company
- advertisement for McElree’s Wine of Cardui and Thedford’s Black-Draught
- 1879 ledger page with various names
- petition for the free and unlimited coinage of silver
- an 1868 receipt for book keeping services from Mess Hughes & Co. to Bell & Mathews
- letter dated April 26, 1875 to R.M. Grimes, Esq. from C.R. Mathews in Nebraska

Folder 4: 1870, 1872 Photoduplicate correspondence, WV Journal of the Senate
Folder 5: Judge Kennedy and Tripplett newspaper reports on cases, 1865
Folder 6: Early WV political issues: test oath, Ku Klux Klan, former slaves, etc.
Folder 7: Early WV politics, 1869-1870
Folder 8: Test Oaths, Suffrage, Ex-Rebels
Folder 9: Goff Reconstruction Speech, Chapter on citizens in Civil War
Folder 10: Wheeling Intelligencer Index, Reconstruction Bibliography
Folder 11: Photocopies and transcripts of correspondence: Pierpont, Bennett, etc. 1860-1863
Folder 12: Photocopied Correspondence: W. T. Willey, G. D. Camden, C. D. Hubbard, and others; 1860-1863
Folder 13: Photocopied Correspondence: Cyrus Hall, Camden, Carlile, Hunt, Baker, Boggs; 1865-1868
Folder 14: Photocopied WV Laws, Acts, Authorizations, and Resolutions; 1862-1864
Folder 15: Election of 1870, Nathaniel Harrison and Greenbrier County Controversy
Folder 16: Photocopied Correspondence of Charles J. Faulkner, Political Platforms, Voting
Folder 17: Photocopied Correspondence to Colonel David Goff; 1866, 1868
Folder 18: Photocopies of Correspondence to A. F. Haymond and A. B. Fleming; 1866-1871
Folder 19: Photocopies 1884, 1888 WV Governor Election, Correspondence of Goff, Camden, and Bennett; 1868-1872
Folder 20: Photocopied Correspondence from or concerning G. D. Camden and J. M. Bennett; 1868-1872
Folder 21: Photocopied Correspondence to and from C. D. Hubbard; 1866-1869
Folder 22: Photocopied Correspondence to W. T. Willey and William Price; 1866-1873
Folder 23: Typed, photocopied correspondence to W. T. Willey; 1867-1869
Folder 24: Photocopied Correspondence: W. T. Willey, C. J. Faulkner, soldier’s letter, campaign leaflet
Folder 25: Photocopies: Acts of WV Legislature and Correspondence, W. T. Willey, G. D. Camden, etc. 1861-1865
Folder 26: Photocopied letters to and from Samuel Woods, 1872
Folder 27: Photocopied letters from soldier J. V. Young, 1864, newspaper copies, Curry notes
Folder 28: Early WV Statehood formation, Battle of Phillipi, Kanawha Valley war sentiment; copies
Folder 29: Daniel Lamb letter, Newspaper article dated May 31, 1870, Military Telegraph dated 1865; copies
Folder 30: Typed Notes, Senate Proceedings, and transcriptions on voting rights, suffrage, let-up movement, and Flick Amendment
Folder 31: Photocopies concerning Joseph Conrad, Spencer Dayton, Flick Amendment, WV State Convention
Folder 32: Election of 1870, photocopies of letters and transcripts
Folder 33: Typed notes and transcripts; early statehood politics and political parties
Folder 34: Letters and partial diaries/journals from Civil War Years 1861-1865; copies
Folder 35: Typed notes, Wheeling newspaper transcripts; 1862-1865
Folder 36: Typed and handwritten notes mostly on test oaths, voter registration, and Reconstruction; copies of Journal of the Senate and House

**Series 2: Personal and Professional Papers**
Folder 37: Congressional Correspondence, Fulbright program, 1985
Folder 38: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Newsletter, Curry statement on United States Information Agency (USIA)
Folder 39: 1985 Fulbright Alumni Association presentation, “International Education, Civil Liberties, and Domestic Politics During the 1980’s”
Folder 40: Oversight of the U.S. Information Agency Report and Correspondence
Folder 41: U.S. Information Agency Controversy; Correspondence and Publications
Folder 42: Copies of Correspondence Regarding U.S.I.A. Controversy, 1983-1984
Folder 43: Reports From Subcommittee on International Operations, correspondence on USIA Controversy, copies
Folder 44: Correspondence, articles, Curry’s testimony on USIA Controversy and Fulbright Program
Folder 45: Photocopied Correspondence, Newspaper Articles, and Newsletters on USIA Blacklist, Controversy, and Charles Wick

**II. Box 2**
Folder 1: Essays and Publications by Curry
Folder 2: Curry Correspondence 1979-1982
Folder 3: Marshall University 1982 Fifth Annual Charles H. Moffat Lecture
Folder 4: Fulbright Application, New Zealand Information, Fulbright Offer
Folder 5: University of Connecticut Materials
Folder 6: Publications, Advertisements, Flyers, and Articles Regarding Curry
Folder 7: Curry Curriculum Vita, 1982
Folder 8: Drafts: “To The Class of ’48,” “Paranoia- Reagan Style,” and “The Presidential Performance Study”
Folder 10: Copies of Correspondence, Publications, Newsletters, and materials related to USIA controversy and Fulbright
Folder 11: USIA Controversy, Fulbright Program; Correspondence, Articles, etc.
Folder 12: Published Works: Essays, Articles, Reviews
Included in this folder are copies of the following journals/magazines:

- *Ohio History* - Vol 71, No. 2 July 1962
- *Reviews in American History* - Vol 1, No. 4 December 1973
- *The West Virginia Sportsman* - Feb. 1959, April 1959, May 1959
- *The Journal of Negro History* - Vol 57, No. 1 January 1972
- *Mid-America An Historical Review* - Vol. 44, No. 2 April 1962

Single copies of the following articles/reviews:

- “The Political War Against Slavery” a review of Richard H. Sewell’s *Ballots for Freedom: Antislavery Politics in the United States, 1837-1860*
- “The Evolution of Tocqueville’s Thought” a review of James T. Schleifer’s *The Making of Tocqueville’s Democracy in America*
- “The Bushwhackers’ War: Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency in West Virginia”
- “A Reappraisal of Statehood Politics in West Virginia”
- “Documents: A Note on the Motives of Three Radical Republicans”

III. Box 3

Folder 1: Curry addenda 11/82; Correspondence and Congressional Record copy
Folder 2: Curry addenda 11/82; Transcriptions of WV Statehood documents
Folder 3: Photocopies of Articles and Correspondence, primarily concerning New Zealand/Fulbright/USIA incident
Folder 4: Copied Correspondence and Articles concerning Fulbright New Zealand trip-1981
Folder 5: Aileen Kraditor Correspondence
Folder 6: USIA Controversy; Correspondence and Article copies
Folder 7: Professional Correspondence; copies donated March 1983