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0065: Dr. Richard Curry Papers

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RICHARD CURRY COLLECTION

Accession Number: 1974/03.0065

Processed By: unknown, finding aid created by Amanda Shaver

Date Completed: unknown

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

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

Richard Orr Curry was born in White Sulphur Springs, WV on January 26, 1931 and received his BA in 1952 and his MA in 1956 from Marshall University before going on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1961. He taught at Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston, in Charleston, WV) from 1959-1960, Pennsylvania State University from 1960-1962, and the University of Connecticut from 1963 for the remainder of his professional career until he retired in 1992. He also completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Divinity School from 1965-1966. Curry was a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand in 1981. He authored *A House Divided: A Study of the Copperhead Movement and Statehood Politics in WV*, and co-edited or co-authored *Radicalism, Racism, and Party Realignment: The Border States During Reconstruction*, *The Shaping of America*, *The Abolitionists*, *Theodore Weld's American Slavery As It Is*, *Conspiracy: The Fear of Subversion in American History*, and *American Chameleon: Individualism in Trans-National Context*. Curry also published numerous articles in journals such as *West Virginia History*, *Journal of Negro History* (now the *Journal of African American History*), *Civil War History*, and *Journal of Southern History*. He was the fifth annual Marshall University Charles H. Moffat Lecturer in 1982, and gave the lectures "President Lincoln's War Against Slavery: The Problems

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
- promissory note, dated January 17, 1871 to Bell & Mathews for \$9.25 signed by Adam Lee.

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 9: Draft: "Ideology and Perception (Conspiracy Fears): Democratic and Republican Attitudes on Civil War Politics and the Statehood Movement in West Virginia"

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 Abolitionists and Reconstruction: A Critical Appraisal”

“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