

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - James W. Curran fonds (74-006)

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James W. Curran fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	James W. Curran fonds
Reference code:	74-006
Date:	1938-1967 (creation)
Physical description:	15 cm of textual records and photographs

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

James Watson Curran, newspaper editor and author, was born in Armagh, Ireland, on April 24, 1865. When he was eight years old, his family emigrated to Canada, eventually settling in Orillia, Ontario. The Curran family was in the newspaper business and James' father owned two newspapers, the Essex Chronicle and the Orillia News-Letter (1884). James became the first news editor of the latter. In 1890, James moved to Toronto to work first as a reporter for the Toronto Empire and then as city editor. In 1895, he moved on to Montreal to become the city editor for the Montreal Herald. Six years later, while passing through Sault Ste. Marie, he became so impressed with the city that he quit his job at the Herald and bought the Sault Ste. Marie Star, which at the time was a weekly newspaper. By 1912, Curran had turned the Star into a daily paper. Curran was also a promoter of Sault Ste. Marie as an author and his two books "Here Was Vinland" (1939), and "Wolves Don't Bite" (1940), are examples of his enthusiasm for the region. He married Edith Pratt and they had a number of children including Jane W. who married Judge H. Deyman. Curran died in Sault Ste. Marie on February 20, 1952 just before his 87th birthday.

Custodial history

This fonds remained within the custody of the Curran family until it was donated to Trent University.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of correspondence, copies of articles, and manuscripts relating to the book "Here Was Vinland" (Sault Ste. Marie, 1939). It also includes family papers and miscellanea. The correspondence includes letters from C.E. Brown, L. Burpee, Dr. T.P. Christensen, Dr. K. Christofferson, J.E. Dodd, A.J. Erikson, E. Greenaway, Judge A. McComber, the Smithsonian Institute, V. Stefansson, and others. The fonds is organized into 3 series: Correspondence; Articles and manuscripts; and Family papers and miscellanea.

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

The fonds was donated by the Curran family in 1968.

Restrictions on access

None.

Related material

For related records see the Trevor Lloyd fonds (87-014). More information on this material can be found in the Archives Newsletter #57 (2016): <https://digitalcollections.trentu.ca/objects/tula-7702>

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Literature and Publishing (subject)
- Indigenous Studies (subject)
- Anthropology (subject)

Series descriptions

Series 1: Correspondence

Date: 1938-1943 (creation)

Physical description: 42 folders of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
74-006/001(01)	File - A correspondence	5 Sept 1938 - 14 July 1940	
74-006/001(02)	File - B correspondence	8 Oct 1938 - 27 Jan 1942	

74-006/001(03)	File - Brown, Charles E. correspondence	15 Dec 1938 - 6 March 1939
74-006/001(04)	File - Burnett, E.K. correspondence	24 Feb 1939 - 31 March 1939
74-006/001(05)	File - Burpee, L.T. correspondence	24 Aug 1938 - 14 Aug 1939
74-006/001(06)	File - C correspondence	11 Aug 1938 - 6 Aug 1941
74-006/001(07)	File - Christensen, Dr. T. P. correspondence	27 Aug 1938 - 13 Jan 1939
74-006/001(08)	File - Christianson, M. correspondence	20 Feb 1939 - 5 April 1939
74-006/001(09)	File - Christofferson, Dr. K. correspondence	31 Dec 1938 - 3 March 1939
74-006/001(10)	File - Currelly, C. T. correspondence	17 Sept 1938 - 27 March 1939
74-006/001(11)	File - D correspondence	20 Oct 1938 - 1 Dec 1939
74-006/001(12)	File - Dashiell, G. R. correspondence	14 Nov 1939 - 17 Feb 1939
74-006/001(13)	File - Dodd, J. E. correspondence	16 Jan 1938 - 25 April 1939
74-006/001(14)	File - E correspondence	7 Oct 1938 - 22 Dec 1939
74-006/001(15)	File - Erickson, A. J. correspondence	2 April 1937 - 9 Sept. 1939
74-006/001(16)	File - F correspondence	9 Sept. 1938 - 10 March 1942
74-006/001(17)	File - G correspondence	15 Oct 1938 - 28 Feb 1939
74-006/001(18)	File - Gell, Fletcher. A partner of Dodds, the discoverer of the Beardmore Norse relics. Correspondence	9 Jan 1939 - 30 March 1939
74-006/001(19)	File - Greenaway, E. Royal Ontario Museum representative. Correspondence	4 Nov 1938 - 22 Apr 1939
74-006/001(20)	File - H - Contains W. P. Hepburn letter 13 December supporting Sir James Dunn's acquisition of the Sault Ste. Marie paper mill. Montagnais-English translations discussed with F H Hardy the Parliamentary librarian. Correspondence	7 Jan 1938 - 25 June 1941
74-006/001(21)	File - Holand, H. R. Discusses his Kensington stone book notes and their loss in a fire. Correspondence	3 Oct 1938 - 3 July 1940

74-006/001(22)	File - Hunter, W. F. correspondence	26 Oct 1939 - 15 June 1940
74-006/001(23)	File - I - Discusses the mention in Bancoroft's history of a galley found in a swamp in Panama in Cortez's time containing gold coins of the Roman Caesar Augustus. Correspondence	9 April 1940
74-006/001(24)	File - Irving, T. Correspondence	1 Sept 1938 - 10 Nov 1941
74-006/001(25)	File - J - Diamond Jenness correspondence on Montagnais dictionaries and the Beardmore relics	1 Nov 1938 - 27 July 1941
74-006/001(26)	File - K - Correspondence	15 Sept 1938 - 7 Sept 1943
74-006/001(27)	File - L - Lanctot expresses the opinion that a stone ball with cryptic symbols on it is likely more related to the French missionaries than to the Norse. Correspondence	16 Aug 1938 - 14 April 1942
74-006/001(28)	File - M - Discussions of differences between Montagnais, Cree and Ojibway. Correspondence	4 Nov 1928 - 7 Aug 1941
74-006/001(29)	File - MacKay, A. Office of the Hudson's Bay Co., Winnipeg. Correspondence	12 Sept. 1938 - 25 May 1939
74-006/001(30)	File - McComber, Judge A. Lt. Bloch's antique Norse armour possibility of their being the armour found by Dodd. Correspondence	20 Oct 1938 - 23 Feb. 1939
74-006/001(31)	File - McKern W. C. Milwaukee Public Museum-copper Indian relics. Correspondence	27 Dec. 1938 - 11 May 1939
74-006/001(32)	File - O - Norse flints used in Orkney Islands. Correspondence	14 Nov. 1939 - 8 Feb 1941
74-006/001(33)	File - Three cornered trade between North America, Norse Greenland and Iceland in timber. Correspondence	24 Aug. 1938 - 26 Jan 1940
74-006/001(34)	File - R correspondence	19 Oct 1938 - 10 Dec 1939
74-006/001(35)	File - Rumley, Wm. J. Cape Robert relics. Correspondence	5 Nov. 1938 - 27 Jan 1939
74-006/001(36)	File - S - Suspected Norse elements in Cree, Abnaki, Montagnais languages. Correspondence	6 Sept 1938 - 20 April 1942
74-006/001(37)	File - Smithsonian Institute. Discussion of old bronze axe found near Brantford of early European manufacture est 13th century. Correspondence	30 August 1938 - 24 Nov 1939

74-006/001(38)	File - Stafford, N. H. Discussion of possible Norse battle axe found near Marquette, Michigan. Correspondence	9 March 1939 - 5 May 1939
74-006/001(39)	File - Stefansson, V. Discusses publication and naming of the book on Norse presence in Hudson Bay. Correspondence	22 Aug 1938 - 15 June 1939
74-006/001(40)	File - T - Correspondence	21 Sept. 1938 - 9 July 1941
74-006/001(41)	File - U - V - W - X - Y - Correspondence	1 July 1931 - 12 July 1941
74-006/001(42)	File - Vasby, O. (Mrs.) Norse sword from Lake Michigan and spear from Sodus Bay. Correspondence	18 March 1939 - 28 April 1939

Series 2: Articles, public addresses

Physical description: 14 folders of textual records

Note [General] : Folders contain several separate articles. These are demarcated in the title with a semi-colon.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
74-006/001(43)	File - How Hudson Bay Fits the Saga; Michigan Finds a Helmet-smashing Axe		
74-006/001(44)	File - Did the Norsemen Find the Mandans?; The Open Coast Tides in Hudson Strait.		
74-006/001(45)	File - Souriquois and Cheyenne; Northern Vinland Today		
74-006/001(46)	File - Marquette gives up a copper axe; Was America known before Lief came; Norsemen knew how to build fast ships		
74-006/001(47)	File - How this book came to be written, its scope; Prehistoric Indians and Copper tools		
74-006/001(48)	File - Norse case is given to jury; Where Norse relics have been found		
74-006/001(49)	File - Pointing to the Great Lakes Location; Some reasons for believing Vinland was in Great Lakes area; Can the birds help us find Vinland		
74-006/001(50)	File - Dates in the Viking Record; How Norsemen reached Vinland; Puzzling over the early Vinland tables		

74-006/001(51)	File - Norsemen and Eskimo hostile; Winconsin's Halberd is a puzzle; Province of Ontario Canada; Whence came the word Eskimo?; Algonquin dialects resemble each other; Cooper tools; Are our Indian axes after Norse models	
74-006/001(52)	File - Notes and clippings on published articles in newspapers. Clippings which are loose but credited as to source. They have been copied from many papers but most are from the Toronto Star and the Sault Star, some are from Scandinavian papers	
74-006/001(53)	File - Public addresses. Subjects discussed include the history of Sault Ste. Marie and Norse fights with Indigenous peoples and their preference for Red cloth in trade.	nd, 1889, 1938
74-006/001(54)	File - Collected articles. Scrap-book containing clippings concerning the Sault, posters and copies of Curran's articles on the Norse published in the Sault Star	1925 - 1939
74-006/001(55)	File - Draft Manuscript for the book, Here Was Vinland: Introduction, illustrations, maps, credits	
74-006/001(56)	File - Numerous book reviews of Here Was Vinland	

Series 3: Family papers and miscellanea

Physical description: 4 folders of textual records, maps, and photographs

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
74-006/001(57)	File - Photographs and Maps. Photographs concerning the Norse and the discovery of the Sword and Shield by Dodds in the Beardmore area. Maps of the area are annotated with translations of the Indian place names	1939, n.d.	
74-006/001(58)	File - Family papers. Regarding Currans' dealings with colleagues Lists of books from father's library. Interview transcripts with Mrs. Dodds and her son Walter who was 22 years old.	1967, n.d.	
74-006/001(59)	File - Articles and other sources. Copies of articles by other scholars about the Norse in Greenland and Vinland. Cause of their extinction		

74-006/001(60)	File - Miscellaneous manuscripts, letters and clippings. Subjects include; game conservation, notes on the "Flatey Jarbok" on the history of the Greenland settlement, on Drummond Island near the Sault. Ojibway word meanings, application for copyright of an unpublished work "Here Was Vinland". Affidavits of Walter Dodd that he found the Norse Sword, Axe on claim 48TB4895 on 24 May 1930, with his father JE DODD
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