

# Trent University Archives

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

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Trent University Archives  
Trent University Library & Archives  
Archives, Room 117  
Thomas J. Bata Library  
1600 West Bank Drive  
Peterborough  
Ontario  
Canada  
K9J 7B8  
Telephone: 705-748-1011 ext. 7413  
[Email: archives@trentu.ca](mailto:archives@trentu.ca)  
<http://www.trentu.ca/library/archives>  
<http://archives.trentu.ca/index.php/74-006>

## James W. Curran fonds

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## Summary information

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

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### 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.

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## Scope and content

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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

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### 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
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## Access points

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

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### 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)	<b>File - A correspondence</b>	5 Sept 1938 - 14 July 1940	
74-006/001(02)	<b>File - B correspondence</b>	8 Oct 1938 - 27 Jan 1942	

74-006/001(03)	<b>File - Brown, Charles E. correspondence</b>	15 Dec 1938 - 6 March 1939
74-006/001(04)	<b>File - Burnett, E.K. correspondence</b>	24 Feb 1939 - 31 March 1939
74-006/001(05)	<b>File - Burpee, L.T. correspondence</b>	24 Aug 1938 - 14 Aug 1939
74-006/001(06)	<b>File - C correspondence</b>	11 Aug 1938 - 6 Aug 1941
74-006/001(07)	<b>File - Christensen, Dr. T. P. correspondence</b>	27 Aug 1938 - 13 Jan 1939
74-006/001(08)	<b>File - Christianson, M. correspondence</b>	20 Feb 1939 - 5 April 1939
74-006/001(09)	<b>File - Christofferson, Dr. K. correspondence</b>	31 Dec 1938 - 3 March 1939
74-006/001(10)	<b>File - Currelly, C. T. correspondence</b>	17 Sept 1938 - 27 March 1939
74-006/001(11)	<b>File - D correspondence</b>	20 Oct 1938 - 1 Dec 1939
74-006/001(12)	<b>File - Dashiell, G. R. correspondence</b>	14 Nov 1939 - 17 Feb 1939
74-006/001(13)	<b>File - Dodd, J. E. correspondence</b>	16 Jan 1938 - 25 April 1939
74-006/001(14)	<b>File - E correspondence</b>	7 Oct 1938 - 22 Dec 1939
74-006/001(15)	<b>File - Erickson, A. J. correspondence</b>	2 April 1937 - 9 Sept. 1939
74-006/001(16)	<b>File - F correspondence</b>	9 Sept. 1938 - 10 March 1942
74-006/001(17)	<b>File - G correspondence</b>	15 Oct 1938 - 28 Feb 1939
74-006/001(18)	<b>File - Gell, Fletcher. A partner of Dodds, the discoverer of the Beardmore Norse relics. Correspondence</b>	9 Jan 1939 - 30 March 1939
74-006/001(19)	<b>File - Greenaway, E. Royal Ontario Museum representative. Correspondence</b>	4 Nov 1938 - 22 Apr 1939
74-006/001(20)	<b>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</b>	7 Jan 1938 - 25 June 1941
74-006/001(21)	<b>File - Holand, H. R. Discusses his Kensington stone book notes and their loss in a fire. Correspondence</b>	3 Oct 1938 - 3 July 1940

74-006/001(22)	<b>File - Hunter, W. F. correspondence</b>	26 Oct 1939 - 15 June 1940
74-006/001(23)	<b>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</b>	9 April 1940
74-006/001(24)	<b>File - Irving, T. Correspondence</b>	1 Sept 1938 - 10 Nov 1941
74-006/001(25)	<b>File - J - Diamond Jenness correspondence on Montagnais dictionaries and the Beardmore relics</b>	1 Nov 1938 - 27 July 1941
74-006/001(26)	<b>File - K - Correspondence</b>	15 Sept 1938 - 7 Sept 1943
74-006/001(27)	<b>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</b>	16 Aug 1938 - 14 April 1942
74-006/001(28)	<b>File - M - Discussions of differences between Montagnais, Cree and Ojibway. Correspondence</b>	4 Nov 1928 - 7 Aug 1941
74-006/001(29)	<b>File - MacKay, A. Office of the Hudson's Bay Co., Winnipeg. Correspondence</b>	12 Sept. 1938 - 25 May 1939
74-006/001(30)	<b>File - McComber, Judge A. Lt. Bloch's antique Norse armour possibility of their being the armour found by Dodd. Correspondence</b>	20 Oct 1938 - 23 Feb. 1939
74-006/001(31)	<b>File - McKern W. C. Milwaukee Public Museum-copper Indian relics. Correspondence</b>	27 Dec. 1938 - 11 May 1939
74-006/001(32)	<b>File - O - Norse flints used in Orkney Islands. Correspondence</b>	14 Nov. 1939 - 8 Feb 1941
74-006/001(33)	<b>File - Three cornered trade between North America, Norse Greenland and Iceland in timber. Correspondence</b>	24 Aug. 1938 - 26 Jan 1940
74-006/001(34)	<b>File - R correspondence</b>	19 Oct 1938 - 10 Dec 1939
74-006/001(35)	<b>File - Rumley, Wm. J. Cape Robert relics. Correspondence</b>	5 Nov. 1938 - 27 Jan 1939
74-006/001(36)	<b>File - S - Suspected Norse elements in Cree, Abnaki, Montagnais languages. Correspondence</b>	6 Sept 1938 - 20 April 1942
74-006/001(37)	<b>File - Smithsonian Institute. Discussion of old bronze axe found near Brantford of early European manufacture est 13th century. Correspondence</b>	30 August 1938 - 24 Nov 1939

74-006/001(38)	<b>File - Stafford, N. H. Discussion of possible Norse battle axe found near Marquette, Michigan. Correspondence</b>	9 March 1939 - 5 May 1939
74-006/001(39)	<b>File - Stefansson, V. Discusses publication and naming of the book on Norse presence in Hudson Bay. Correspondence</b>	22 Aug 1938 - 15 June 1939
74-006/001(40)	<b>File - T - Correspondence</b>	21 Sept. 1938 - 9 July 1941
74-006/001(41)	<b>File - U - V - W - X - Y - Correspondence</b>	1 July 1931 - 12 July 1941
74-006/001(42)	<b>File - Vasby, O. (Mrs.) Norse sword from Lake Michigan and spear from Sodus Bay. Correspondence</b>	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)	<b>File - How Hudson Bay Fits the Saga; Michigan Finds a Helmet-smashing Axe</b>		
74-006/001(44)	<b>File - Did the Norsemen Find the Mandans?; The Open Coast Tides in Hudson Strait.</b>		
74-006/001(45)	<b>File - Souriquois and Cheyenne; Northern Vinland Today</b>		
74-006/001(46)	<b>File - Marquette gives up a copper axe; Was America known before Lief came; Norsemen knew how to build fast ships</b>		
74-006/001(47)	<b>File - How this book came to be written, its scope; Prehistoric Indians and Copper tools</b>		
74-006/001(48)	<b>File - Norse case is given to jury; Where Norse relics have been found</b>		
74-006/001(49)	<b>File - Pointing to the Great Lakes Location; Some reasons for believing Vinland was in Great Lakes area; Can the birds help us find Vinland</b>		
74-006/001(50)	<b>File - Dates in the Viking Record; How Norsemen reached Vinland; Puzzling over the early Vinland tables</b>		

74-006/001(51)	<b>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</b>
74-006/001(52)	<b>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</b>
74-006/001(53)	<b>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.</b> nd, 1889, 1938
74-006/001(54)	<b>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</b> 1925 - 1939
74-006/001(55)	<b>File - Draft Manuscript for the book, Here Was Vinland: Introduction, illustrations, maps, credits</b>
74-006/001(56)	<b>File - Numerous book reviews of Here Was Vinland</b>

### 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)	<b>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</b>	1939, n.d.	
74-006/001(58)	<b>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.</b>	1967, n.d.	
74-006/001(59)	<b>File - Articles and other sources. Copies of articles by other scholars about the Norse in Greenland and Vinland. Cause of their extinction</b>		



74-006/001(60)	<b>File - Miscellaneous manuscripts, letters and clippings. Subjects include; game conservation, notes on the "Fletey 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</b>
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