

Collection #
M 0791,
OM 0403

RUBY M. WEATHERFORD PAPERS, 1904–1970

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Processed by

Pamela Tranfield
27 February 2003
Revised 25 May 2006

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:

Manuscript Materials: 4 document cases, 2 oversize folders
Visual Materials: 11 folders of photographs, 4 oversize
graphics folders, 8 black and white cellulose acetate negatives
(120 size)
Artifacts: 1 artifact

COLLECTION
DATES:

Ca. 1904–1970

PROVENANCE:

Mrs. Larry Spangler, 13220 W. Council Road, Yorktown, IN,
47396-9782, 2 February 2001; Douglas Clanin, 4121 Montana

Way, Anderson, IN, 46013, 2 February 2001, 14 February 2001,
8 August 2002

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0313, 2001.0314, 2001.0342, 2002.0691

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ruby Mae (Buchanan) Weatherford (20 February 1889-6 November 1970) was born in Hicks, near Madison, Ind., the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Jane Means Buchanan. She married Ira V. J. T. Weatherford (d. 1968) on 17 August 1907 and the union bore twelve children: Lora (Kline), Edna (Livengood), Gale, Dennis, Elizabeth (Clanin), David, Marge (Hamilton), Roger, Jeanne (Auburger), Barbara (Burke), Betty (Crosley), and Janet (Coleman).

The Weatherford family moved from Jefferson County to Anderson, Ind., in 1923. Ruby Weatherford was a homemaker, and also sold farm products and taught music to supplement the family income. In the late 1920s she wrote advertising jingles for local businesses. She began writing poetry around 1925. A number of her works were published in local newspapers over the years. One of her pieces was published in the anthology *An Indiana Sampler* (New York: Harbinger House, 1941).

Ira Weatherford was a farmer. He later worked for Delco-Remy in Anderson, Ind. Ruby Weatherford wrote poems and prose praising the company, on behalf of her husband.

Ira and Ruby Weatherford lived in Pendleton, Indiana, during the 1950s.

Sources: Material in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection primarily consists of typescripts and drafts of original poems, fiction, and lyrics by Ruby M. Weatherford. The material is arranged in three series: Series 1: Poetry, Lyrics, and Fiction; Series 2: Buchanan and Weatherford Families; and Series 3: Pendleton and Anderson.

Folder titles were derived from the material, transcribed from Weatherford's original folder titles. Folder titles in square brackets ([]) were assigned by the processor. Weatherford's verse was rhymed, derived from personal musings,

daily activities, memories, politics, and events in the Anderson-Pendleton area. The material reflects Weatherford's opinions on topics of concern in the United States in the middle of the 20th century. These include the Cold War, Communism, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and the hardships and joys of rural life. She was fond of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and wrote poems in his honor. Weatherford wrote multiple drafts of most works, first in longhand and later by typewriter. Much of the material was published in local newspapers.

Other material in the collection includes clippings concerning Weatherford family activities and genealogy, and family photographs. The photographs include members of the Weatherford and Rogers families and views of Ruby Weatherford's childhood home in Jefferson County, Ind.

Poems associated with Weatherford family members are located in Series 1 and 2. Series 3 includes material related to Pendleton and Anderson area families and businesses. Box 4, folders 1-3 contain journal entries written by Weatherford family members caring for Ira Weatherford in the final months of his life following a stroke. Weatherford was in a nursing home, and the entries reflect the efforts of the family to make him comfortable in an institutional environment and the activities of nurses and physicians at the facility. Correspondence includes letters from Weatherford children and grandchildren during World War II and the Vietnam War. Other examples of correspondence include copies of letters from President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Mamie Eisenhower (1952-61).

Artwork in the collection includes drawings of the Buchanan family home in Jefferson County, and two watercolor paintings by Wilson Gray. One painting is a view of Courthouse Square in Anderson. The building depicted in the painting was demolished in 1971. The other painting depicts the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, which was demolished in the early 1970s.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Poetry, Lyrics, Fiction, 1925–70

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Poems Recited by the Children; I Composed in 1925	Box 1, Folder 4
[Tributes to Teachers], ca. 1925	Box 1, Folder 5
[Early Poems], 1930s	Box 1, Folder 6
[Early Poems], circa 1940s	Box 1, Folder 7
Some of the First Copies, circa 1940s	Box 1, Folder 8
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Old and New Poems of Ruby Weatherford, circa 1930s-1940s (1 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 10

Old and New Poems of Ruby Weatherford, circa 1930s-1940s (2 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 11
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<i>Yule-Tide Memories</i> , n.d.	Box 1, Folder 16
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Humorous Poems on the Kids, 1960s	Box 1, Folder 18
Poems Published in Newspapers, 1953-62	Box 1, Folder 19
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<i>Your Loss, My Gain</i> . Donation to the Republican Party, 6 Nov. 1968	Box 1, Folder 26
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<i>Battling Against Treacherous Waters</i> , 1937-40	Box 2, Folder 19
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<i>Our Greatest Mission in American Today</i> [Motherhood], ca. 1940s	Box 2, Folder 21
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<i>Katrina</i> , 1942 [Moral Lesson]	Box 2, Folder 24
<i>Prose Pieces</i> [Essays], circa 1930s-circa 1950s	Box 2, Folder 25
<i>Our Job with General Motors</i> , 1951	Box 2, Folder 26

<i>Reflections and Appreciations—To Delco Remy</i> , n.d.	Box 2, Folder 27
<i>Should American Change from Peace and Prosperity?</i> [Tribute to Dwight D. Eisenhower], ca. 1955	OM 0403, Folder 1
<i>The Changing Countryside</i> , 1960	Box 2, Folder 28
<i>How Kathleen Earned her First and Only Formal</i> , 1969	Box 2, Folder 29
<i>Morgan's Raid During the Civil War</i> , 1970	Box 2, Folder 30
<i>The Soul Awakens</i> , 5 May 1970	Box 2, Folder 31
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Mother's Day Card, Sarah J. (Means) Buchanan, ca. 1910	Box 3, Folder 26
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Last Will and Testament, Ira Weatherford [photocopy], 1962	Box 3, Folder 34
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CONTAINER

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0791).
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