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Clarke, Kenneth Wendell, 1917-2012 (MSS 635)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 635 CLARKE, Kenneth Wendell, 1917-2012

1 box. 15 folders. 98 items. 1964-1976. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1974.142.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Kenneth Wendell Clarke was born in Spokane, Washington on 6 January 1917. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Washington State University and his Ph.D. from Indiana University (1958). He taught at Washington State University, Indiana University, and at Chico (California) State College, where he met Mary Louise Washington. After their marriage in August 1960, they taught at the University of Nevada and at Indiana University's southeastern campus at Jeffersonville. In September 1964, both joined the faculty of Western Kentucky State College (now WKU), where they taught English and folklore and became the owners of a farm near Bowling Green.

The Clarks became recognized authorities on Kentucky folklore, publishing *A Concise Dictionary of Folklore* in 1965 as well as numerous articles; from 1965-1970, they were the editors of the *Kentucky Folklore Record*. Kenneth Clarke's other publications included *Uncle Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend* (1973), a study of the tales surrounding the Long family of Clark's Landing in Warren County, Kentucky; *The Harvest and the Reapers: Oral Traditions of Kentucky* (1974, co-authored with Mary Washington Clarke), profiling the work of the state's folklore collectors; and *Kentucky's Age of Wood*, (1976, co-authored with Ira Kohn), a study of pioneer tools and objects. The latter two books were published by the University Press of Kentucky as part of the Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf series.

After Clarke's retirement in June 1977, he and Mary moved to California. Mary died in 1999 and Clarke died in Benton, Washington on 13 February 2012.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of manuscripts, correspondence and related material pertaining to Kenneth Clarke's scholarly activity while at WKU, principally his two books, *Uncle Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend* and *The Harvest and the Reapers*, the latter co-authored with his wife Mary (Washington) Clarke. An inventory is in Folder 1.

Material relating to *Uncle Bud Long* consists of some field notes and informants lists and letters (Folder 6), the book manuscript (Folder 7), correspondence with the University Press of Kentucky regarding editing and publication (Folder 8), photographs, drawings and a book jacket

(Folders 9 and 10), and notices and reviews (Folder 11). Material relating to *The Harvest and the Reapers* consists of notes, drafts and outlines (Folder 12), the manuscript (Folder 13), and correspondence with the University Press of Kentucky regarding editing and publication (Folder 14).

Also included in the collection is the manuscript for the Clarkes' *A Concise Dictionary of Folklore* (Folder 2); poetry by Kenneth Clarke (Folder 3); working scripts for two "Kentucky Heritage" productions on Kentucky literature (featuring author Jesse Stuart) and the Shakers (Folder 4); Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf promotional material listing current and forthcoming publications (Folder 5); and an unbound copy of folklorist Stith Thompson's 1966 addendum to his autobiographical work *A Folklorist's Progress* (Folder 15).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Kenneth W. Clarke	1964-1976	98 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	<i>A Concise Dictionary of Folklore</i> – Manuscript	1964-1965	1 item
Folder 3	Poems by Kenneth Clarke; clipping	1967, n.d.	4 items
Folder 4	Scripts for "Kentucky Heritage: Kentucky in Literature" and "Kentucky Heritage From the South Union Shakers"	1969	2 items
Folder 5	Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf promotional literature	1974	2 items
Folder 6	<i>Uncle Bud Long</i> – Field notes, informants list, rough copy	n.d.	22 items
Folder 7	<i>Uncle Bud Long</i> – Manuscript copy	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	<i>Uncle Bud Long</i> – Correspondence	1972-1974	15 items
Folder 9	<i>Uncle Bud Long</i> – Photographs and drawings	n.d.	12 items
Folder 10	<i>Uncle Bud Long</i> – Book jacket	[1973]	1 item
Folder 11	<i>Uncle Bud Long</i> – Clippings, notices, reviews	1973-1974	17 items
Folder 12	<i>The Harvest and the Reapers</i> – Notes, outlines	n.d.	8 items
Folder 13	<i>The Harvest and the Reapers</i> – Manuscript	1974	1 item

Folder 14	<i>The Harvest and the Reapers</i> – Correspondence	1974, 1976	8 items
Folder 15	“Second Wind: A Sequel after Ten Years to ‘Folklorist’s Progress,’” by Stith Thompson	1966	3 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS CLARKE, Kenneth Wendell, 1964-1976
635 1917-2012

Manuscripts, notes, publisher’s correspondence, and photographs relating to the scholarly work of WKU English and folklore professor Kenneth W. Clarke, principally *Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend* and *The Harvest and the Reapers*.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1976 – Relating to B1,F5
Authors
Birds – Poetry B1,F3
Clark, Hazel M. (Steinestal), 1900-1986 B1,F6
Clark, William Elvis, Sr., 1898-1994 B1,F6
Clarke, Mary Louise (Washington), 1913-1999 – Relating to B1,F2,3,12-14
Coleman, John Winston, Jr., 1898-1983 B1,F8
A Concise Dictionary of Folklore (book) – Relating to B1,F2
Evansville (sternwheeler) – Photograph B1,F9
Folklore
The Harvest and the Reapers (book) – Relating to B1,F12-14
Poetry B1,F3
Poets
Schools – Warren County – Rolling Springs School – Photograph B1,F9
Shakers – South Union – Relating to B1,F4
Stuart, Jesse Hilton, 1907-1984 – Relating to B1,F4
Thompson, Stith, 1885-1976 – Relating to B1,F15
Uncle Bud Long: The Birth of a Kentucky Folk Legend (book) – Relating to B1,F6-11